

Creel Notes from the



P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040



Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



MMXXIII No. 8

October, 2023

President's Riffle

Happy Autumn to All. I love this time of year. The mornings and evenings are cool and crisp, the water temperature is wonderful,



and the fish are desperate for calories. The salmon are in, so it's time to hit the beach. Fall is one of my top four favorite seasons in which to fish. I hope all of you are getting out.

In my capacity as an armchair fisherman, though, I want to let you know of some upcoming Club business and events.

Member Survey In our effort to better serve our members, and attract more new members, the Club will shortly send out a survey, via the internet, to members and former members. It will solicit your feedback about the Club's mission and how we are fulfilling it, along with your suggestions and criticisms about our meetings, programs, outings, classes, and other activities. Please take the time to complete and return the survey when you receive it and don't hold back. We want to know what you really think, as we strive to make this a better club.

Website Review ; We have begun a review of the Club's website, to determine what changes and upgrades would be beneficial to the Club and our ability to communicate with our members and the general public. If you have suggestions about how

to improve our website and especially if you've had any trouble using it, please let us know (danferd.henke@gmail.com). That website is our window to the world and the world's window to us, so periodic review is necessary.

Next Meeting - Nov. 14 (Second Tuesday, Not the Third) -- Elections

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday November 14, the second Tuesday, not the third, to avoid holding a meeting during the week of Thanksgiving. We will also elect a slate of officers for next year at that meeting, so please attend if you can. As always, you can sign up on the website.

Holiday Party and Fundraiser - December 12

Our annual celebration of all things fly fishing is coming up on December 12. This year, we'll return to the Seattle Tennis Club for our annual party and fundraiser. Jim Goedhart has pulled together really good items for both the live and silent auctions and, of course, we will continue the tradition of the raffle table and of Dick Brening's wonderful wooden fly boxes. This event is a whole lot of fun, so sign up and bring your friends and family. We hope to see you all there!

Tight Lines and Keep on Fishin',

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Fishing Reports

Manzanita Lake Fishing Report

by Mike Nolan

In September my wife and I visited both Yosemite National Park and Lassen Volcanic National Park in California. We primarily hiked in Yosemite NP and also did some hiking in Lassen Volcanic NP where we camped for five nights at Manzanita Lake Campground. I was looking forward to doing some fly-fishing at this high-elevation lake (5,850 feet) that offers spectacular views of the towering Lassen Peak, holds a fair number of rainbow and brown trout and is rated as a blue-ribbon fly fishery by the state of California Department of Fish and Game. The fishing regulations are catch and release with a single barbless fly or lure and the lake is not stocked. I was able to purchase a California 7-day fishing license online for \$58.00.

The lake has a maximum depth of 32ft. and more than two-thirds of the lake is 15ft. or less. There are areas of dense beds of submerged

aquatic plants that cover 75% to 80% of the lake. I fished the lake for 1-2 hours on two consecutive evenings using both dry and wet fly patterns without a single hookup even though there were fish surface-feeding all over the lake.

At 8:30am the next morning, I went directly to the areas in the lake that I observed the previous afternoon from my paddleboard. Again, I was able to sight-fish to cruising trout in the clear and open water. Using a 5W floating line with a 12 ft. leader tapered down to 5X tippet and a size 14 bead head PT nymph, I hooked a fish that immediately dove down into the aquatic plant structure. Luckily, I had spoken to another fly fisher earlier and he told me that the fish head for the plant structure when hooked. With this knowledge in mind, I was able to keep just enough pressure on the fish to keep it from diving deep and I brought the 16" brown trout to the net. I caught another brown trout on a size 14 Adams and a couple of smaller rainbows in fishing about 3 hours until 11:30am.

Manzanita Lake offers some of the best sight-fly fishing opportunities in Northern California and



Creel Notes

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it's very convenient to stay close by with Manzanita Lake Campground located just up the road. The campsites don't have any hookups, but there is water available. I had to drive a short distance from my campsite to launch my float tube at the lake. For me fishing Manzanita Lake was a challenge and a learning experience in trying to outsmart the trout, but that is what fly fishing is all about.

Club Legacy

Casting a Fly Toward Careers in Fisheries

By Kevin Cody
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
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For over 20 years, the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly-Fishing Academy (academy) has been teaching not only the ins and outs of fly fishing to teenage youth, but also the importance of conservation

nician for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), his experience and the connection he made as a camper and long-time counselor at the academy opened the door to a career in fisheries.



JAKOB BENDELINK, ABOVE, POSING NEXT TO A SIGN WITH THE NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY IN 2013 WHEN HE WAS A CAMPER. HE RETURNED FOR SEVERAL SEASONS AFTER AS A COUNSELOR. PHOTO BY KEVIN CODY. PHOTOS TO THE LEFT SHOW THIS YEAR'S CROP OF FUTURE ADVOCATES FOR FISHERIES. PHOTOS BY JOHN GRAVEN-DYKE.



The academy's overarching purpose might be all things fly fishing, but it also has a much wider purpose, evidenced by its mission statement: "Our mission is to inform, equip, and inspire a new generation of conservation-minded fly fishers." It's those efforts that continue to make a difference in the lives of campers and even help open the door for careers.

science and stewardship. While not every graduate from the program will pursue a career in the sciences, all take with them an appreciation of nature and insights into how aquatic ecosystem functions.

All of us can look back to a time in our lives when an opportunity shaped our future. For Jakob Bengelink, biological science tech-



"The academy instantly impacted me as a camper, giving me better fly-fishing skills, and I enjoyed all the individuals at camp, from the directors to the counselors to the fellow campers," said Bengelink. "As a counselor, I kept coming back to give back and try to effect positive change in the young campers as I had a better grasp of

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fly fishing and conservation principles as I grew older.”

The academy teaches the intricacies of fly fishing with topics such as fly tying and casting, combining them with lessons on fish biology, entomology, fisheries conservation, invasive species, and more. Campers are introduced to real-world topics in science by professionals such as Dan Spencer, information and education specialist and angling programming director for the Service’s Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.

“Supporting partner programming such as this academy is a labor of love. It combines my passions for fishing and conservation and allows me to pay it forward for all the inspiration, support, and mentoring I received in my youth,” said Spencer.

Thanks to the connection made with Spencer, Bengelink’s path gained some clarity at the academy. Spencer encouraged him to apply to become an American Conservation Experience (ACE) internship at Quinault National Fish Hatchery. This opportunity led Bengelink

to gain valuable fish hatchery and aquatic field experience that opened the door to his current role for the Service as biological science technician.

Now a fisheries professional, Bengelink’s path has come full circle with a trip back to the academy. This time, he is representing the Service to teach the next generation of campers some of the everyday techniques used to better understand fish populations.

“It was great to explain cutting-edge aquatic tracking methods we use every day to youth who are just starting to build their interest in fish. The direct applications I presented connect fish with science and conservation,” said Bengelink.

John Gravendyk, the director of the academy, had the opportunity to meet Jakob and learn about his journey from the academy to the Service.

“It was a pleasure talking with Jakob about his matriculation from academy camper to counselor to a career with the U.S. Fish and Wild-

life Service. Providing an overview of the Service is a valuable part of our program and another differentiator between our program and others,” said Gravendyk.

Among the many projects that Bengelink is a part of with the Service, one of the most important is the work currently being done on the Elwha River to answer the questions of how dam removals affect salmon and steelhead. His efforts in helping to both tag and track fish while also serving as a teacher of fisheries techniques to interns have had a great effect on the project and all those involved.

“When we take time to teach youth and our interns, I know we are having an impact, but it’s especially rewarding when we both influence and follow the development of the next generation of conservation advocates and professionals such as Jakob. It’s the icing on the cake that Jakob is now working for our office and making meaningful contributions to our conversation mission,” said Spencer.

JAKOB BENDELINK TEACHING FLY FISHING ACADEMY CAMPERS HOW TO USE RADIO TELEMTRY EQUIPMENT AROUND A TABLE OUTSIDE. [LEFT] BENDELINK LEADING A FISHERIES SCIENCE TECHNOLOGY LESSON WITH ACADEMY CAMPERS. CAMPERS EVENTUALLY USED THE GEAR TO PLAY RADIO TELEMTRY HIDE AND SEEK. PHOTO BY CODY.



Outings & Business



Washington Fly Fishing Club
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Bob Young Passes

Bob Young passed away sometime in August. He had just moved down to California to be with his daughter.

Upcoming: Wet Buns Outing on November 4, 2023

Mike Nolan – Outings Chairperson

I remember that member Dick Stearns once told me that “Wet Buns” is actually an acronym for Winter Experience to Try Bouillabaisse Under Nocturnal Skies. However, another member, Al Pratt, told me that it means a Wet Experience to Try Bouillabaisse Under Nocturnal Skies usually when it’s raining.

Whether or not we have sun or rain, this is your chance to fish for Chums that are staging in the shallow estuaries and the resident Coho are there for those who know where to cast. The Searuns can be caught fishing from a boat or from the shore.

We will gather at the Group Camp G1 area at Penrose Point state Park, with dinner prepping starting around 4:00. Seafood stew will be prepared by Pat Becker and volunteer labor is needed to crack crabs, chop fish, shell shrimp, etc. Bring your favorite cold weather appetizer, dessert or other and some wood to burn in the fire. The bouillabaisse stew seems to warm my inside just as much as the hot fire warms my outside.

There is an option to camp overnight at Penrose State Park in our reserved group site that allows up to 10 tents. The address is Penrose Point State Park 321 158th Avenue Kp S, Lakebay, WA

Please sign up on the WFFC website or call me to attend the Outing as Pat and I will need a count for the Club provided food and beverages. For more information about the Wet Buns Outing, please click on the following

link to do so:

<https://wffc.com/event/november-4th-2023-wffc-wet-buns-outing/>

Conservation Committee Report

3 Members of WFFC -joined Kris Kristoferson -Washington State Coordinator -Cancer Recovery for an outing with 10 eager/engaged participants at Sun Mountain Lodge for retreat and 2 days of fishing the Methow south of Winthrop Group led by Kris and Program Coordinator from BC John Townsell and Greg Minaker joined Robert Thorpe Conservation Chair to assist John staying at Thorpe cabin and Greg camping at Big Twin to fish later

Program guests fished Wednesday and 10 Thursday. Robert--also member of MVFFC helped arrange for The MVFFC president Pete Speers and Conservation Chair to join the group

for Thursday. John and Greg joined Robert Wednesday evening for MVFFC annual Bar B Que at Bear Creek Golf clubhouse--about 60 attendees--They learned of program and joint club Conservation projects. For the five support casters/coaches it was an incredible, very moving experience All participants had a vest signed by previous participants, Their own rod for day and meals/retreat sessions at lodge ---Very well planned and carried out thanks to Kris and Coordinator as well as Sun Mountain staff.

For those who have been to FFI Healing Waters event they have seen how memorable those events are. Cancer Recovery is another opportunity to share an event and witness Kris’s organization and Implementation, We 4 all recommend club members consider supporting future events.



Richard Plunkett reaps the benefit of streamer fishing. Williamson River.

Club Aims and Purposes

The purpose of this club shall be:

1. To improve and increase the sport of Fly Fishing in the State of Washington.
2. To promote and work for the betterment of trout streams and lakes.
3. To encourage and advocate the conservation and increase of trout, steelhead, and salmon in state waters.
4. To promote a campaign of education against pollution in streams, lakes or Sound waters of the State of Washington.
5. To encourage and assist others — particularly young persons of high school age—to become fly fishers and true conservationists.