

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com

Member of



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President's Riffle

“Adair, why is there a beaver in the freezer?”

(And other questions raised by fly tying)



Those of us who tie frequently are asked questions by beginning tyers, attempting to figure out how to get started and sustain this hobby. And that's the first thing to understand about tying, it is its own hobby, related to but separate from fly fishing. Sure, we all start out tying flies to fish, following recipes for old standard patterns. Sooner or later, though, if you get into this hobby, you will find yourself tying to please yourself, not the fish, you will look at birds in the tree in a different way, imagining the various uses to which their feathers could be put, you will see an interesting potential material for which you have no current use but will buy a lifetime supply of it for fear that it won't be there the next day. You will become a hackle junkie. Face it, you have a rooster on your back! (In an advanced case, you may find yourself standing outside a window of the British Natural History Museum at midnight with a rock in your hand – see The Feather Thief.)

Over the years, I've developed a set of guidelines to pass on to beginning tyers, I'll list a few of them here. First, though, dispense with the notion that you

will save any money by tying your own flies, you won't. You will tie better flies and different flies than you can buy. You will tie flies designed specifically for the subspecies of bug on your water, rather than the generic fly sold at the shop. But you won't save money. With that in mind, here are the first several guidelines I convey to beginning tyers:

- Begin with the end in mind. Old mantra for life generally. What do you want this fly to do? How do you want it to appear? Are you tying for realism or are you tying to incorporate as many triggers onto that hook as you can, regardless of what it looks like? Understand what you are about, before you clamp that hook in the vise.
- Understand the qualities of your materials. You can't hope to achieve the first goal unless you understand how a particular material will behave once tied to the hook and how it will interact with

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the other materials you use. If you understand materials that work in similar fashion, you won't hesitate to substitute an aardvark rump hair for the nose hair of a leprechaun when you are out of the latter. You won't have to run to the shop or order through Amazon Prime (and you won't wind up with an entire room devoted to fly tying – do as I say, not as I do).

- Use the best quality materials and tools you can afford. Poor materials and tools will yield an all-round miserable experience and crappy flies. Thick stems will twist right off your hook, dull scissors will leave thread tags.

- Thread control, thread control, thread control. Use the smallest weight thread you can that is strong enough for the task. Use as few wraps as possible, two are better than three. Keep that thread flat, unless you have a specific reason for cording it. Thread volume sneaks up on you.

- Don't cheap out on your hooks. Why spend 10 minutes (or more) tying a fly, only to have the hook come back straight after you fooled a 37" brown trout into taking your fly?

- Store your materials properly. That leads me back to the lead in to this column. Thanks-giving Day, 2011, my wife, Adair, and sister-in-law, Frankie, were in the kitchen working on one of

the 27 side dishes for the feast. Frankie asked if we had any more butter? "Check the freezer in the basement." Frankie returned with a couple of pounds of butter, but was uncharacteristically quiet. Eventually she asked, "Adair, why is there a beaver in the freezer?" (Actually, it was a nutria pelt – Frankie is no naturalist.) Bugs in your materials are a disaster. Any natural material that comes in to my collection does a stint in the freezer, regardless of where it comes from, in the hope of killing off any adult miscreants. (Be extra wary of materials provided by hunter friends and especially of road kill.) The freezer won't kill their eggs, though. After the freezer, the material goes into a quarantine box for up to three months at room temperature, with nasty mothballs, in the hope that whatever is in there will hatch and die. If still pristine, the material gets double-bagged in sealable containers, before it goes into the general collection. After that I watch it. Periodically inspect your materials. Patience and vigilance! Other people deal with this issue differently, this is what has worked for me.

There is much more to this hobby, but make these guidelines your foundation.

CLUB VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Nominating Committee has candidates for all Club officer and trustee positions for the year 2024 except that of Second

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Ghillie.

The First and Second Ghillies function as a team. The First has primary responsibility, with the Second filling in when the First is not present or when there are additional duties, such as the Christmas Party.

The Ghillie position is an ex-

cellent one for newer members. It gives them an opportunity to become involved in Club activities and better acquainted with the members. The duties are described in the Bylaws, available on the Club's website.

The position does require that one or the other of the Ghillies be present at member meetings. The Ghillie is a Club officer and can attend and participate in Board meetings—to be held by zoom for the indefinite future.

If you are a newer member or even one of longer standing, please consider this position. Elections are November 14 so please respond at your earliest convenience. Contact any of the Nominating Committee members:

Gary Corra 425.756.4033
Ben Davidson 206.313.3531
Marcie Kindinger 206.228.1119
Bill Neal 206.245.3614

Also, our President, Dan Henke, has several Club committee positions that he is seeking to fill. Those include Creel Notes editor and Webmaster.

Please contact Dan if you are interested in either of those positions. 206.949.8187

Thank you for your help—it's greatly appreciated.

For Sale

10 foot single seat Hopper II, fiberglass oars, anchors, anchor line and pullers, removable carpet, drain plug, custom brass oarlocks, spare oar, dual rod holders, custom sunbrella traileir cover. \$1100

8 foot Stillwater Classic (Kevlar version) fiberglass oars, anchors, anchor line and pullers, removable carpet, drain plug, custom brass oarlocks, dual rod holders. \$600

Custom designed and professionally built trailer, 14 inch wheels and radial tires, bearing buddies, trailer jack and roller, marine plywood deck with custom bunks, stern roller and dual tie downs, removable heavy duty steel

racking to accommodate two additional prams, pontoon boats, kayaks, etc. Built in steel truck box for equipment storage. Oar storage rack on trailer deck. Trailer is heavy duty and was designed for highway and backroads use. Original cost \$2500. Selling for \$1200

Will sell both boats and trailer as a package. Will sell the 8 foot pram separately. The 10 foot Hopper and trailer must be purchased together. Can arrange delivery.....Dennis Westover 206 605 0404

Dennis Westover

dwwestover@comcast.net

www.flickr.com/photos/denny-98075



Hear Ye, Hear Ye!



Bring your sweetheart, family (adults), prospective members and friends to our annual Holiday dinner and fundraiser that will be held at the Seattle Tennis Club on Tuesday, December 12th.

Happy hour starts at 5:30 pm, allowing plenty of time to visit with fellow WFFC members and friends and to view the wide selection of live and silent auction items, and raffle offerings.

Dinner will be served at 7:00 pm and will consist of either a Salmon, Rib Steak, Chicken or Vegetarian entree that will be served with wine and dessert.

As we start dessert, Kris Kristoferson, our Master of Ceremonies and Keith Robins, our auctioneer, will start the live auction. They will entertain you through the remainder of the evening to win your hearts, and dollars, to fund our social, outings, youth, outreach, and conservations activities for the upcoming New Year.

Below are some of the great auction items we have this year:

- Black Bear Upper Columbia and Klickitat Steelhead Ranch Lodging and Fishing
- Multiple Guided Fishing Trips on the Yakama River, Puget Sound, Alaska, and Montana
- A Boseman home week stay with fishing opportunities
- Exceptional Fly Fishing Rods, Gear, Casting Lessons, Watercraft, and Artwork items
- A Wine Tasting for 6 and multiple bottles of wine offerings
- 10 Raffle Fly Boxes and 14 Raffle Tables with intriguing contents

Seating is limited, so go to WFFC.com website and click on “Monthly Dinner Meetings” to sign up for the Holiday Dinner and Fundraiser event quickly!

Can't attend the Holiday Dinner but want to help fund next year's activities? Go to the WFFC.com website, click on the Dec 12 Holiday Dinner Meeting and select the \$50 donation sign-up option. All donations are greatly appreciated.

Gentlemen are requested to wear a coat, with optional tie, at the Holiday Dinner.
Thanks for your support! Jim Goedhart WFFC 3rd VP Fundraising

Outings



Washington Fly Fishing Club
P.O. Box 639
Mercer Island, WA 98040
www.wffc.com

Mike Nolan – Outings Chairperson

Big Twin Lake on October 14-15, 2023

At the Big Twin Lake Outing we had 11 people in attendance including past president Ron Mazurek and his wife Peg from Rathdrum, Idaho. The weather conditions were partly cloudy during the day with temps in the mid-60's with cool mornings and evenings.

I fished Campbell Lake on Friday afternoon where I caught 7 rainbows, with a couple measuring 16", in over an hour of fishing. Mark Pratt fished Little Twin Lake and he reported that he caught brook, rainbow and brown trout in this shallow lake.

There was supposed to be a solar eclipse on Saturday morning, but I didn't notice any of its daylight dimming effects. We all fished Big Twin on Saturday and most of us caught about a dozen fish each with some measuring up to 16". Chuck Ballard caught an 18" rainbow which surely must have been a carryover. On Saturday evening we gathered together for the steak barbecue and there were generous portions of potluck food. We had a roaring campfire, but we had some

rain on Saturday evening which forced us to find cover under Mark's canopy.

Some of the guys fished Little Twin Lake on Sunday catching brown, rainbow, brook and tiger trout. Ben Davidson reported that one of the fish that he caught at Little Twin Lake on Sunday weighed about 4 lbs.

Wet Buns Outing on November 4, 2023

With a weather forecast of 100% chance of rain and blustery winds, I was second-guessing my decision to host the Wet Buns Outing at Penrose State Park. However, if you made your decision to not attend the Outing

based on the weather forecast you were most definitely wrong. Yes, most of us experienced a deluge of rain and breezy winds in the morning, but that all changed in the late afternoon. By 4pm the rain had stopped, and the wind had become a gentle breeze.

Most of us were beach fishing with limited back casting room as a result of the incoming high tide. There were no reports of anyone catching fish from the beach. Tom Neu caught a searun from his boat and a chum was caught by Ben Davidson from his boat.

We cooked a new bouillabaisse recipe with a cioppino base that turned out to be delicious. The Club provided the beer and Jim Goedhart provided the



wine. Others provided tasty desserts including pies, cupcakes, and cookies. We had a roaring and warm campfire that lasted well into the late evening. In attendance at the Outing were me, Chuck Ballard, Ben Davidson, Jim Goedhart, Tom Neu, Mark Pratt, Jim Young.



ABOVE, THE GANG ASSEMBLES AT BIG TWIN. TOP, SOME OF THE SME SUSPECTS GATHER FOR WET BUNS, AND RIGHT, COULD THAT BE MARK PRATT WITH THE TROPHY OF THE DAY?