

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXXIV No. 2

February, 2024



Winter, the Time of Year to Dream and Plan (and Tie)

Danferd Henke, President, Washington Fly Fishing Club

President's Riffle

I'm getting antsy. I've not fished since early November. But, spring is upon us. The crocuses and daffodils are up in my neighborhood, and that can mean only that it's nearly time to go fishing. And that means, of course, that it's time to fill in the bald spots in my fly boxes. But where to begin? Every year begins with such promise and so many opportunities. I need a tying and fishing strategy, not to mention more days to fish.



At the end of this month, the BWOs and skwalas will begin to make their appearance on the Yakima and build into March. Like the name implies, I need to tie some tiny olive-bodied flies with dun wings for the BWOs and some adult and nymph stonefly patterns for the skwalas, in olive. As we move toward April, we need to anticipate the March Brown hatch. I'll try some of Davy McPhail's Clyde-style browns for that, along with some Brindle Chutes. And the midges will be coming on in volume on the lakes. I'll need chironomids in every color and size for Pass Lake and Lone Lake.

But, wait, what about the beaches? About the same time, the chum fry will begin to come into the estuaries from the rivers, which means the searun cutthroat will be waiting for them. I'm going to need some chum fry and minnow patterns, maybe the odd shrimp. And in April I'll be heading to the Pere Marquette to tackle some Great Lakes steelhead (transplanted from here 130 year ago!) and, as much as we like to swing flies

here, it's a nymphing game back there and when in Rome, etc. I'll need some green caddis, some alevins, and some hex nymphs (preferably, Bear's Hex, one of my all-time favorite patterns, but a pain to tie).

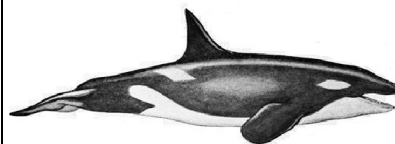
Now we're headed toward May and May means caddis. Fortunately, I've no shortage of Elk Hairs and other caddis. But late-April and early

(Continued on page 2)

February Program

Lynda Mapes on Orca Shared Waters, Shared Home

Lynda Mapes will be our February 20th dinner speaker and will present the natural history of the Orca and unique challenges for survival of the Southern Resident group that frequents Puget Sound



Lynda Mapes

Inside this Issue

- ✓ Page 1.....President's Riffle, February Program
- ✓ Page 2.....Monthly Meetings, Dues Reminder
- ✓ Page 3.....Classes, Boyd Aigner Tying Competition
- ✓ Page 4, 5...Awards Night
- ✓ Page 6, 7...Ehrich's 'On the Fly'
- ✓ Page 8.....Chile Fishing Adventure
- ✓ Page 9.....Outings, Steph Albino's 2024 Schedule
- ✓ Page 10.....Fly, Book of the Month, Odds n' Ends

(Continued from page 1)

May also will find me in Montana, trying to beat run-off and catch the late part of the March Brown hatch and the early part of the salmon fly hatch. And then Chopaka, one of my favorite places under the sun, to fish Callibaetis emergers, along with damsel nymphs (and, maybe, adults) and every-color-and-size chironomids. Can't possibly spend enough time there.

This calendar is getting kind of full.

And then, June, back to Montana. Golden stones, green drakes, the PMDs will be coming on late in the month and will last through August. And caddis all the time. (Come to think of it, maybe I don't have enough caddis.) And terrestrials. I've plenty of hoppers, but I'm going to need a lot more ants and beetles. If the water levels don't get too low and the water temperatures don't get too high and the fires don't burn too hot, this is the summer to explore Montana's streams.

Then autumn will be coming on. Back to the beach, more shots at sea-runs, including at out Hood Canal outing, more minnow-type patterns. And it's a great time to fish the Yakima. Our Washington lakes will be cool enough to fish again, after a likely hot summer and should be very productive as trout feed heavily in anticipation of winter. I won't discount Lenice as a fall destination not to mention Big Twin and Green. And in late October, early November, the chum run will round out the year. I've broken two rods on chum over the year, they will give you a fight!

There can be only one conclusion. I have to tie 24/7 for the next couple of months and then fish every day.

What a glorious plan!

Monthly Meeting Location

In 2024, the Club's monthly meetings will be held at the Seattle Tennis Club, 922 McGilvra Blvd. East, Seattle, WA 98112.

Wet Fly and fly tying commence at 5:30, dinner 6:15, with a program commencing at 7:00.

Please sign up early on the website.



2024 Dues Reminder

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
Annual Dues

2024 dues are due! You can pay online on the website at "Member Dues." Dues for 2024 are \$80 for Active Members and \$50 for Associate Members.

"If you've got short, stubby fingers and wear reading glasses, any relaxation you would normally derive from fly fishing is completely eliminated when you try to tie on a fly."
— Jack Ohman, Fear of Fly Fishing, 1988

Creel Notes

...is the official publication of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Subscription is free with membership.

President

Danfred Henke

1st Vice President (Membership)

Jim Beck

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Neal Hoffberg

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Jim Goedhart

Treasurer

Kurk Peterson

Secretary

Shelly Scheff

Ghillie 1

James Emswiler

Ghillie 2

Paul Buehrens

Trustees

Chapin Henry, Jay Deeds, Pat Becker, Deborah Katz, Mike Moscynski, John Gravendyk, Dave Spratt (Past President)

Creel Notes Editor R. Tschetter
batribble@juno.com

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.

2024 WFFC Fly Tying Class

2024 Beginning Fly Tying Class

4 Sessions beginning on March 6

WFFC is proud to announce the return of our “in person” Beginning Fly Tying Class. Our first class will be Wednesday, March 6th, 7:00pm to 9:00pm and will continue for the next three Wednesdays ending on March 27th. Location is TBD.

We will have a staff of experienced instructors to provide over the shoulder assistance to aid your learning experience.



WFFC will provide all the fly tying materials, a text-book and an instructional DVD. Tuition is \$100. This includes class materials and tools. If you have a fly tying vise you may use it. If you do not have one, we will have a loaner vise for you. It is recommended that if you do not have a vise, wait until you complete the class. This will give you a good idea of what type of vise you prefer to tie on.

We look forward to having you join us and begin your journey into the art of fly tying

2024 Beginning Fly Fishing Class

2024 Beginning Fly Fishing Class

3 Zoom Sessions—April 8th, 15th and 22nd at 7PM

WFFC is holding its 'Introduction To Fly Fishing' class beginning April 8th for three consecutive weeks.

The course will be online via Zoom, starting at 7:00pm each week. Each class is one hour in length.



The instructors are Chuck Ballard, Neal Hoffberg and Jim Goedhart. The class is free to all WFFC members and \$50 for Non-Members (which can be applied to becoming a member) who sign up to attend zoom sessions.

The course has homework exercises for participants to complete after each class session such as tying knots and viewing fly fishing instructional web videos.

Fly Tying Competition is on!

2024 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition

By Bill Neal, Awards Chairman

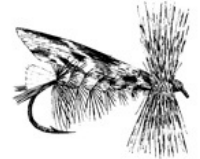
The Boyd Aigner Fly-Tying Competition for 2024 is underway. This is intended as a friendly competition to test the tying skills of Club members and those participating in Club supported activities. Judging is done by the members of the Club.

Here are this year's patterns.

Split Case PMD Nymph, size 18

Near 'Nuff Sculpin, size 6

Balanced Leech-Bruised, size 10 jig hook



We are taking a slightly different approach this year with suggested designs and materials for these flies. Information on this will be provided to participants when they sign up. The goal is to have the flies be more “standard” in general appearance so that, in the judging, comparisons among them can be more direct and objective.

Participants should note that Jerry McBride developed the “balanced” fly, and for this, the Club presented to him the Letcher Lambuth Award—see separate article in these *Creel Notes*. Jerry will be at the March Members' meeting and will be a featured tier demonstrating his technique.

Display boxes for the flies will be distributed at the February and March Members' Meetings; flies for the Competition will be due by Sunday, May 12; judging will occur at the June Members' Meeting; and results of the Competition will be announced at the July Members' Meeting.

Bob Burdick and I are the coordinators for the Competition.

Thank you to all participants and good luck!

Fly Fishing Show, Bellevue, WA

Bellevue Fly Fishing Show

February 17 and 18



A reminder that the Fly Fishing Show coming up Feb 17 & 18 at The Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

The list of tyers and speakers is now on-line at <https://flyfishingshow.com/bellevue-wa>. You can purchase tickets in advance.

Our club will be represented with a booth. The WFFC board of directors looks forward to seeing you at the show!

WFFC Awards Night

January Awards Recap

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chairman

January is awards month at the WFFC. As part of our Members' Meeting we recognized a number of individuals for their accomplishments and contributions to the Club and the community for the year 2023.



The Letcher Lambuth Award is the Club's most prestigious Award. A recipient must be a resident of Washington, Oregon, or British Columbia who has made significant and lasting contributions to the sport of fly fishing. We do not present it every year,

but rather when a qualified individual is identified. For the year 2023 we presented the Award to Jerry McBride, a member of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. Jerry developed the balanced fly, an innovative design that has become popular for many stillwater fishing applications.

Jerry McBride's son, David, who is a member of our Club, was present at the meeting and accepted the Award on behalf of his father. Jerry is scheduled to be at our March Members' Meeting as a guest fly tier. He will demonstrate how to tie his balanced fly and will give a presentation on fishing it.

The Empty Creel Award recognizes a member of the Club for exceptional dedication and contribution to the purposes of the Club. For 2023, we presented the Award to Jay Deeds who for many years has hosted at his home and performed associated activities for the Club's annual Hood Canal outings.

The Tommy Award recognizes a member for exceptional service to the community in the furtherance of the purposes of the Club. For 2023, we presented the

Award to John Gravendyk for his leadership role in the direction and operation of the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. The Academy conducts a week-long in residence camp for boys and girls ages 12 to 16, instructing them on the many aspects of fly fishing, ethics, and conservation.

The Awards Committee also recognized four members for their exceptional contributions to the success of the Club's Holiday fund-raising dinners. They were: Kris Kristoferson, for regularly donating to the event for many years beautiful, personally painted fly fishing art, plus recently serving as the Master of Ceremonies for these events; Pete Baird, for entertaining members and their guests for over 25 years through his recital from memory of Robert Service poems; Dick Brening, for creating for over 20 years beautifully designed and expertly hand-crafted wooden fly boxes and donating them to the Club; and Jim Goedhart, for planning, organizing, and directing the very successful 2022 and 2023 Holiday dinners and otherwise contributing to the success of these dinners and those for preceding years.



John Gravendyk

John Gravendyk for his leadership role in the direction and operation of the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



Pete Baird

Pete Baird, for entertaining members and their guests for over 25 years through his recital from memory of Robert Service poems



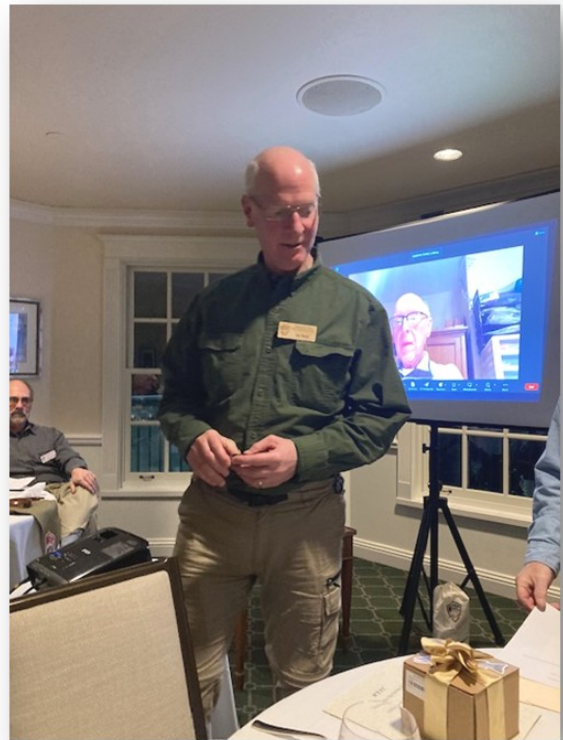
Jim Goedhart

Jim Goedhart, for planning, organizing, and directing the very successful 2022 and 2023 Holiday dinners and otherwise contributing to the success of these dinners and those for preceding years



Dick Brening

Dick Brening, for creating for over 20 years beautifully designed and expertly hand-crafted wooden fly boxes and donating them to the Club



Jim Beck

Finally, Jim Beck was recognized as the winner of the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2023. He was belatedly presented with the pin that accompanies receipt of this Award.

'On the Fly'



'On the Fly'

January, 16, 2024
By David Ehrich



Back to the Seattle Tennis Club, land of pricey drinks (\$19 cocktail) and a parking lot attendant who reminds me every time, I don't really belong, at least as far as parking is concerned. In case you missed our first meeting of 2024 and have distinct memories of STC meetings, a few things have changed. We are in the anteroom (where board meetings used to take place) and the meal was buffet, but yummy and plentiful. The bar is staffed and credit card only. Beers are \$9 and include taxes and tip. Parking is still done in direct competition with people who are members. My opinion: if one is able bodied, one should park on the street and let those less able joust with the parking attendant.

Moving on to the program, Bill Neal introduced Pete Baird who awarded the Empty Creel Award. Previous recipients stood and were recognized one by one and then the 2023 recipient received kind words and a toast. For the first time in history, I joined the standing as the 2022 recipient. For 2023, he joined in 2000 and since 2010 has been the host of an important annual event on the Hood Canal. Or perhaps he has tied a few memorable flies. Or perhaps, he epitomizes sea run cutthroat. Jay Deeds! Mr. Deeds received his award on Zoom because he had a mild case of Covid, truly both a considerate and modern fellow.

After the toast, we went back to our yummy pasta, shared tall tales of fishing (or not fishing in my case), and caught up after the holidays. In the meantime, we learned one important thing: when we get going, it gets pretty loud in this room. But the gavel got things quiet.

Our speaker, Stephanie Albano, took the next segment of the meeting. She owns a company – Finatical Fly Fishing - that specializes in fly fishing travel orientated around women and their companions. Based in Idaho, we joined her on a Zoom tour of some great river systems in the Sun Valley. Specializing on prime waters – Green River, Wyoming, Henry's Fork, Idaho, and the rivers of Sun Valley – she reviewed the big picture on Henry's Fork both for guided clients and for self-sufficient anglers (at least

those with drift boats). From a novice (to Henry's Fork) point of view, it's a complex system and somewhere is always better than somewhere else and guides know this. So, you get what you pay for. Still, she was nice enough to review some areas and add some specific hints as to how we might want to approach the river. Words like "technical" and "challenging" kept coming up.

Her philosophy is to manage expectations. Some places are best approached as a place for a catching a few trophies; other sites might be best for those clients who want to haul in a full creel. Members peppered her for "peak times," getting the equivocation one would expect from such questions.

Next we moved to Wyoming, the land of restrictions. Land owners own the shore, so when we pass through private land, you need to stay in your boat. She likes late June for the Green River to avoid run off. Make sure you research water levels before you show up. The Green is not as technical as Henry's Fork and fishes dry flies well without too much drama. She pointed out lots of access points with the caveat that you will move through private ranch properties. Again, if you don't hire a guide, do your own research.

Technically, we still have the joy of Zoom presentations and the new space presented some difficulties; cross talk, hard times picking up questions, and the wonderful lag time associated with Zoom.

Lastly, Stephanie reviewed the joys of the rivers near Sun Valley. Like Henry's Fork, Silver Creek provides technical water best fished with long leaders and choice presentations. Fish and game monitor anglers using cell phone locations and limiting their access and egress to specific ramps designated. I felt the pressure of the deep state in a state that seems to hate the deep state. Again, if you don't hire a guide, do your research. Try September to avoid the jostling crowds.

The Big Wood provides easy wading freestone fishing with nice holes here and there. The Big Wood provides more access points. The Salmon near Stanley, Idaho, provides epic water. I've never connected with big fish, but I know they are out there and if I wasn't so cheap, I might find a guide to help me get it right. The women who join Stephanie on her

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6)

guided trips learn all sorts of important lessons in what sounds like productive and gentle ways.

“Is it better with a guide?” Well, sure. But Stephanie allows the fact that an experienced angler can do okay. I decode that to mean, fish on your own at your own risk. Q & A had the usual flavor of WFFC meetings, steering more toward statements than questions. Stephanie ended with a recommendation of a film, *The Rocky Mountain Fly Highway*, for a cinematic review of great rivers, good entertainment as we wait out the winter weather. She gave us some idea of next year’s planned guided trips: from the Atlantic to Idaho to Argentina to Brazil and back through Cuba. Contact her through *Finatical Fly Fishing*.

After the break, Bill Neal took the floor to celebrate members and other notables for awards. First, the Letcher Lambuth award goes to an individual who has made great contributions to the sport. From the Inland Empire Fly Fishing club, Jerry McBride was celebrated for his commitment to the club and the art of fly tying. His claim to fame is the development of the horizontal balanced leach. Critical to fishing lakes, this invention is known worldwide. Jerry was somewhere in the Zoomiverse, but his son David, a member of the WFFC, was here to accept the award. Unfortunately, Jerry was muted, so his wise words were lost to us. Fortunately, lots of experts helped by shouting at the screen in frustration.

Reasonable people might wonder if it’s time to un-Zoom?

The Tommy Brayshaw Award recognizes service to the community. Mr. Brayshaw came from England and started fly fishing as a child, tying flies and then drawing and carving fish. After service in WWI, he moved to Canada, continuing his love for the sport from all angles. In 1969, the award commenced, to honor those held in high regard by his or her fellow anglers. For 2023, we recognize this individual for his service to the club, especially in the Youth Academy where young people are given experience in all aspects of the sport. This year’s award recipient examined the program and updated the curriculum. This year we honor John Gravendyke.

In recognition of those who made this year’s holiday party successful, we recognize the following four members: Kris Kristofferson, Pete Baird, Dick Bren-

ning, & James Goedhart. If you have attended the holiday party, you know how much each of these individuals has done to make the party successful.

New members and guests came last tonight. Mike Walden joined us for the first time. Finally, Dan recognized those officers who have finished their service in various capacities.

Look for a survey in your inbox and please fill it out. Returned surveys will automatically be entered in a drawing for amazing awards. Shelly Scheff is putting together a group of folks to staff the table at the Fly Fishing Show. Contact her, help out, and gain free admission to the show.

And finally, Pete Baird, took the stage to introduce new member Mark Waldin – with the usual call to action.

20/20 Vision Champ!



CDC and Biot Emerger - Trico **Size 22!**
Tied by Neal Hoffberg

Outdoor Tip

Flag Small Gear
From *Field and Stream Magazine*



While hunting, fishing or camping, I put a piece of fluorescent orange ribbon or tape on my knife and anything small that I might drop or lay down, so I can spot it against the leaves and rocks.

Fishing Chile!

Yelcho Lake and River Fishing, Chile

By Peter Schuitemaker

I recently returned from a trip to Chile to visit my 96-year-old mother and met up with my brother John in Santiago before flying south to Puerto Montt where my sister picked us up to drive us to Llanquihue. Although the purpose of the trip was to visit our mother John and I had planned a short get-away to a place near Chaiten called Teos Lodge.

This is a small fishing lodge that caters mainly to Spanish speaking clients since neither the owner nor his family speak English. The lodge can accommodate about 10 guests but John and I stayed there for 4 nights and had the place to ourselves. To reach the lodge we had to fly a small plane from Puerto Montt to Chaiten the closest airport to the lodge. The town of Chaiten was flooded with the eruption of the Chaiten Volcano in 2008 but it has been cleaned up after mud flows decimated the town. Teos lodge is about 45 minutes from Chaiten and borders lake Yelcho. The lodge is rustic but very clean with individual rooms and bathrooms and with a garden surrounded by native trees. The scenery is amazing from every room and across the lake there are high peaks with glaciers. You could hear one of the glaciers as the ice flow broke apart. The lodge is strategically located so that you have easy access to both Yelcho lake and Yelcho river which flows out from the lake to the ocean.



The day we arrived we set up our gear and walked down to the dock and Hector the owner's son who is 23 years old took us out to the lake (boat with motor) where we fished streamers as well as dry flies and boy, we were soon into large aggressive trout. The average size was about 24 inches and some larger than that. The next day we started on the Lake and similar luck with Each of us having 20 plus fish per day. John and I had 4 instances where we both had fish on at the same time and that was chaos but so much fun.

At 12:30 we returned to the lodge for lunch where we had Pisco Sours (typical Chilean drink) for a cocktail and canapes. Chef Eduardo had a three-course lunch and then back to fishing in the afternoon. The remaining days we fished

half day the lake and the other half fished the river and the fish were plentiful but smaller in size where average was about 13-15 inches. The rest of our trip was more of the same and the weather was beautiful. We hardly saw other fishermen during our stay and the scenery is truly magnificent.



2024 Outing Schedule

From Mike Nolan – Outings Chair

WFFC 2024 Outings Schedule

- March 30 Pass Lake
- April 20 Lake Hannan
- May TBD
- June 22-23 Leech Lake
- September TBD Hood Canal
- October 5-6 Big Green Lake (Okanogan County)
- October 12-13 Big Twin Lake
- November 2 Penrose Point Wet Buns



Albano Fishing Adventures Set

Steph Albano (WFFC January Speaker) Outlines Her Fishing Trips for 2024

Our January speaker, Steph Albano has sent the WFFC a list of her trips for 2024. You can have Steph set up a custom trip, too.

Green River Women's Trip

June 24-27, 2024

BigHorn River - Thermopolis, WY—1 spot left.

Sun Valley Women's Trip

September 11-15, 2024

Argentina

December 7-14, 2024

Steph has other destinations scheduled for 2024.

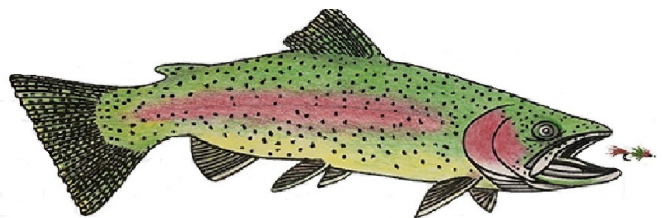


Steph Albano

Please contact her for details.

finaticalflyfishing@gmail.com

finaticalflyfishing.com - website



“He liked fishing and seemed to take pride in being able to like such a stupid occupation.” – Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

Fly of the Month

Andy's Emerger

As midges are available to trout the year around it's good to carry a few with you at all times. This is a pattern that depicts the midge that has ascended to the surface and is in the process of hatching out but can't fly away yet. Use fluorocarbon, which sinks, allowing the hook eye to sink

Hook: TMC or TFS 5263 size 18

Thread: Black 8/0

Post: White 2mm closed cell foam

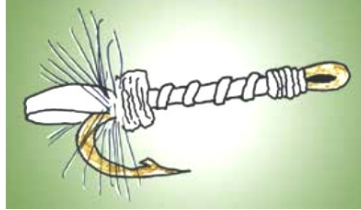
Hackle: Grizzly, sized for 16 hook

Rib: Silver Flashabou

Thorax: Grey-tan rabbit dubbing

Body: Black thread

1. Crimp barb.
2. Attach thread behind eye, wrap touching thread wraps down shank to just short of hook bend.
3. Cut foam into strip 2mm X 1mm. Tie foam to rear 1/4 of shank and to slightly around hook bend.
4. Leave 1/8" extending beyond thread wraps.
5. Prepare hackle butt with "crew cut". Tie in crew cut in-front of post. Make 5 - 6 close wraps forward. Tie off, cut excess.
6. Tie in rib, leave hanging.
7. Dub a thorax ball in front of hackle.
8. Make overlapping thread wraps forward to eye.
9. Spiral rib forward in 5 wraps. Tie off, cut excess.
10. Wrap thread butt behind eye. Whip finish, cut excess, apply Zap-a-Gap to entire body and butt

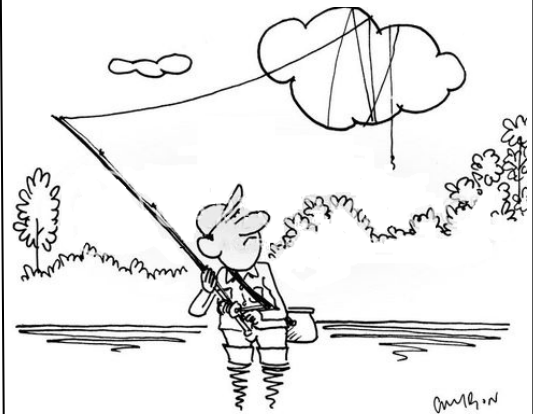


Odds n' Ends

New Trailhead Requirements

Please bring your birth certificate to insure the cougar makes a proper selection

Submitted by David Hawkinson



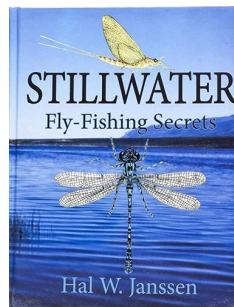
Book of the Month

Stillwater Fly-Fishing Secrets By Hal Janssen

Hal Janssen is one of the pioneers in Stillwater fishing and he has a lot of great information to share.

Whether you are new to fishing stillwaters or consider yourself an expert, there is something for you in this book.

The illustrations are good, the photos look like color copies of Polaroids and a few typos and grammatical errors. But overall, the book is very good and should be added to your library if you're a Stillwater trout fanatic



Pete Baird
Chiwaukum Lake
Scottish Lake Camp, 2012