

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXXIV No. 4

April, 2024



New Members and Mentors

Danferd Henke, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club

President's Riffle Our Club has been blessed recently with the addition of a number of new members, in large part thanks to the efforts of Shelley Scheff, Mike Nolan, Chuck Ballard and others at the recent Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue. Our presence there really paid dividends! We'd really like our new members to feel welcome and to become involved in the Club, beyond attending meetings. Their level of involvement would be up to each of them, of course, but one of the issues we addressed in our recent member survey was the prospect of starting a "New Member Mentor Program" which was perceived by most to be a good idea. Now, that sounds a lot more high falutin and involved than we actually contemplate, so don't run for the exits yet.



What we have in mind is assigning an established member or two to each new member. The role of the "mentor" would be to introduce the new member around at a couple of meetings, discuss the opportunities for involvement in Club committees, and to serve as a resource for basic gear questions. "*What weight rod should I buy first?*" for example. (The answer, by the way, in Western Washington is a 10' 6-weight. Sorry, I couldn't help myself, I had to throw a grenade. Let the controversy begin.) There would be no obligation to take the new member fishing – although you certainly could if you wished to do so – but if you found yourselves on the same Club outing, the mentor could provide advice as to flies, where to borrow a float tube or pontoon boat (I have two and sometimes three

that I'm willing to lend out), and how to fish a lake. Some experienced new members won't need that sort of help, of course, so for that member the role of the mentor might be limited to introductions. In short, the job or mentor could be as limited as introducing the new member to others at meetings or as involved as the mentor and new member mutually agreed.

(Continued on page 2)

April Program

David Williams

On Washington State Fly Fishing Opportunities

David Williams will speak to us about fly fishing Washington East to West.

It is the second of our ongoing sessions on where to fish in our state.



He is the author of "Fly Fishing for Western Smallmouth" and a frequent tyer and speaker at fly fishing gatherings.

David will demonstrate tying for us starting at 5:30 before the program gets rolling.

If you want to know where and how to fish in Washington, and see some proven patterns tied, you won't want to miss this one. Take notes.

Inside this Issue

- ✓ Page 1.....President's Riffle, April Program
- ✓ Page 2.....In Memoriam
- ✓ Page 3.....A Students, Fishing Reports
- ✓ Page 4,5..Fishing Reports (continued)
- ✓ Page 6,7..Upcoming outing—Hannan Lake
- ✓ Page 8.....Loose Ends

(Continued from page 1)

Over time, we will be seeking volunteers to fill the role of mentor. During our Covid shutdown, we saw a lot of new members join, many of whom never met another member or attended a meeting, for an obvious reason – there weren't any. There was no way to integrate all of those interested people into the Club. Now that we're back up and running at full tilt, we'd like to make sure we can integrate our new members to their and the Club's benefit. Developing the Club's future leaders can't start too early. Please consider taking on a mentorship role when asked.

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.



In Memoriam



Don Meldrum Gulliford

Long Time WFFC Member

August 18, 1939—March 11, 2024

Don Meldrum Gulliford (Mercer Island, Washington), passed away on March 11, 2024, at the age of 84, leaving to mourn family and friends.

Don was a long time member of WFFC and well known for his yearly travels to Domke Lake in North Central Washington.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, April 27th 2024 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM at the Mercer Island Community & Events Center (8236 SE 24th St, Mercer Island, WA 98040).

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Ryther League (<https://www.ryther.org>).



Creel Notes

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

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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.

WFFC Introduction to Fly Fishing Class



All Straight “A” Students!

*Left to right:
Chelsea Cullen, Elize DeBoom and Suzanne Johnston attending
WFFC Introduction To Fly Fishing Class, April 6th.*



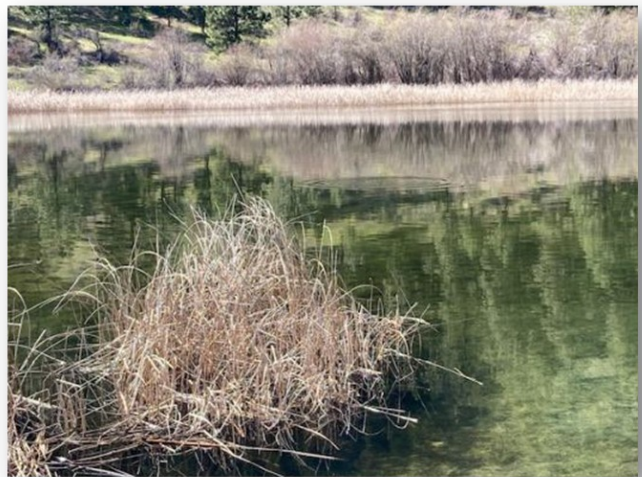
Green Lake , Omak March 29

By Chuck Ballard

Well, my first trip of the year was a good one . I fished Green lake twice and the weather was also perfect .

I rowed the entire lake initially searching with a sinking line and a wollybugger. Picked up two enroute then migrated to the southern end where a hatch of very small midges started. The planters were cooperating using a dry line and an emerger or chronimide on a indicator. The only negative is that there were no holdovers even though it was a minimum ice year. Therefore most fish were 10-12” and one about 15”.

I never had any competition as I was the only one fishing. That was worth the whole trip!



Green Lake - Ring of a rising trout!

*“God in his wisdom made the fly
And then forgot to tell us why”*

— Ogden Nash



Yakima River Float, March 25

By Hugh Clark

Fishing the upper Yakima on the last Monday in March with guide from Troutwater, my son and I had six fish, all over 14 inches and one over twenty.

All taken on nymphs below an indicator or a skwala dry. there were a few BWO's and caddis in late afternoon.

Davis Lake (Okanogan), April 10th

By Hugh Clark

On April 10th, I fished Davis Lake near Winthrop and in three hours two of us had 4 fish, all over 14 inches. There was zero hatch and there were no swallows. Black balanced leech and pheasant tail nymphs were our flies .



Davis Lake near Winthrop

Munn Lake, March 21

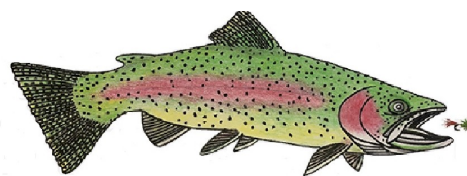
By Danferd Henke

I'm embarrassed to report that my first fish of the year came on March 21, at Munn Lake. Better late than never, I suppose.

Munn Lake is a small lake in Thurston County, not far off I-5. It's managed as a quality fishery, selec-

tive gear. Rainbows and cutts. Fishing conditions were superb. Overcast all day, light rain once in a while, very little wind, not unduly cold. Loved it. Water temperature was 53 degrees at 11 AM. As my friends Bob and Michael and I were rigging up in the WDFW parking lot, a local fly club arrived for an outing. Not too many of them, though, and how can we begrudge a club an outing? They were friendly and generous with their information, showed us their flies and how they rigged for chironomids and leeches, and where they expected fish to be, based on 15 years of fishing the lake since it went to selective gear. They were fine ambassadors for their club and our sport.

Once we got on the water, though, we didn't see anyone catching anything on chironomids and leeches. After about an hour of that, fish started to rise to good -sized midges coming off. We put on dries and had a heck of a good time. My first fish was a 15" cutt. I caught several more cutts, to 17", lost a large rainbow on the sixth jump, and finished the day with a 19" hefty 'bow, all on size 16 midge emergers (Chan's Lady McConnell). Michael and Bob did about the same on different patterns (Quigley Cripples and comparaduns). I didn't see a single one of the chironomid fishers switch to dries. Go figure.



Nahwatzel Lake , April 3

By Bob Burdick

One of my favorite lakes in Washington is Nahwatzel. I've been fishing this 280 acre lake near Shelton, open year around, for several years drawn by the Game Department's annual plant of jumbo trout in the Spring weighing 3-6 pounds. The fishing has usually been best just after an annual plant in the Spring, although my best day on the lake a few years ago occurred in June when I landed 6 fish which I estimated were 18 to 24 inches long and weighted 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7 pounds. Since the department doesn't publish in advance when its going to make its plant, timing a visit has always been a crap shoot. This year my fishing partner and I studied the plant data for the previous 10 years (which is published on the WDFW website) and determined that there was a 80% chance

(Continued on page 5)



Pass Lake Outing Perseverance Award Winners 2024

(Continued from page 4)

that the plant would take place on Friday, March 29th. Allowing a few days for the fish to acclimate and distribute in the lake we arrived on Wednesday April 3rd anticipating a terrific day of fishing, although we saw no bird activity to indicate a midge hatch, no fish rising and no one else fishing.

Despite intensely fishing a #14 midge for several hours I was unable to elicit any interest so I switched to a leech imitation and was soon into a few smaller fish. Delicately Pumping their stomachs I noted that the few midges they had swallowed were all a surprising size #18. Switching then to that small size midge under a bobber I proceeded to land in the next several hours 6 very plump fish weighing from 1 to 3 pounds. This was my second experience with midges in this small size being the predominant prey in the Spring, contrary to the fishing literature that indicates that midges are largest in the spring (#14) and taper in size as the summer moves along.

As they say “Fool me once, shame on you, fool me twice, shame on me”

Pass Lake Outing , April 6

By Mike Nolan , Outings Chairperson

The Pass Lake Outing on 4/6/24 had members Tom Neu, Kurt Peterson, Mark Pratt, Ben Davidson, Dan and Adair, Jim Beck, Larry Karlovich, John Townsell, Josh, and me.

Fishing was challenging for most of us due to the dreary weather conditions which consisted of intermittent rain and cool temperatures.

While I didn't do a creel survey of everyone, I did hear that Mark caught a few fish and that Dan had brought two trout to the net. A brat and bun lunch were provided at 1pm along with assorted beverages.

The Fidalgo Fly Fishers were also having their Pass Lake Outing and they set up opposite us in the parking area. However, just as we got the brats on the grill, we noticed that they packed up and left.

I guess that our WFFC group won the perseverance award for toughing out the weather and for not being intimidated by the slow fishing.

Upcoming Hannan Lake Outing

Lake Hannan Outing

April 27, 2024

By Mike Nolan , Outings Chairperson

This close in favorite is open to us and our friends Saturday only, at Lake Hannan from 8:00 to 4:00. This is the lake at Camp Hamilton north and east of the Duvall, Monroe, Carnation Hwy.

If you haven't been there before, it's pretty easy. Take the Woodinville/Duvall Road to the end, turn north on the Hwy. out of town, and go past the first Cherry Valley Road, a couple miles, to the second Cherry Valley Road that slants up hill on the right. Follow the road east toward Lake Fontal, a few miles, and watch for the sign to camp Hamilton. Go through a yellow gate and follow the road to the launch area at Hannan.

This is a private lake owned by the Catholic church, who have given us permission for a day of fishing. Please respect their strict NO ALCOHOL policy. The Club provides cooked chili and will provide non-alcoholic beverages. Please bring appetizers, chili "fixings, baked cornbread, desserts, and side dishes to share! Please signup so I know who's going for the food count.

The fishing is pretty easy, with intermediate lines working small leech patterns being the go-to flies. There is an on again off again mayfly hatch among some chironomids if the weather warms, and damselfly in the shoreline weeds account for most of the brookies. The lake has a healthy population of native cutthroat, and some hybrid cutt-bows as a result of stocking over the years. This is a healthy, undeveloped, west side lowland lake. A rare treat for fly anglers.

Members, if you can take another member in your boat to fish on Lake Hannan, please acknowledge this in the "I will Assist With" sign-up, so that we can organize members to fish with you.

"Fly fishing is not a braggers game. There's no glory to win. No competition or comparison between humans. It's not about growing ego, but removing it. No fish will provide this lesson. It must come from the conscience of the angler. In the most simple explanation, fly fishing is an introspective quest to tame one's own mind. This can be shared with others, but only discovered alone."

— Daniel J. Rice

Hannan Lake History from 1967

From article: "The Book on Brookies"

From the Creel Notes March 1967

Hannan Lake (Snohomish County) T27N-R7E, Section 23; formally a fly only lake.

There are a few brookies left in Hannan but those who remain are worth trying for.

A dead brook trout of about 7 pounds was found in the shallows near the outlet of the lake last spring. Rainbows also present, some holdovers to 14 inches Closes September 4.

Outing Slate

WFFC 2024 Outings Schedule

From Mike Nolan – Outings Chair

- March 24 Lone Lake
- April 6 Pass Lake
- April 27 Lake Hannan
- May 24-27 Lake Chopaka
- June 22-23 Leech Lake
- September 21 Hood Canal
- October 5-6 Big Green Lake (Okanogan County)
- October 12-13 Big Twin Lake
- November 2 Penrose Point Wet Buns

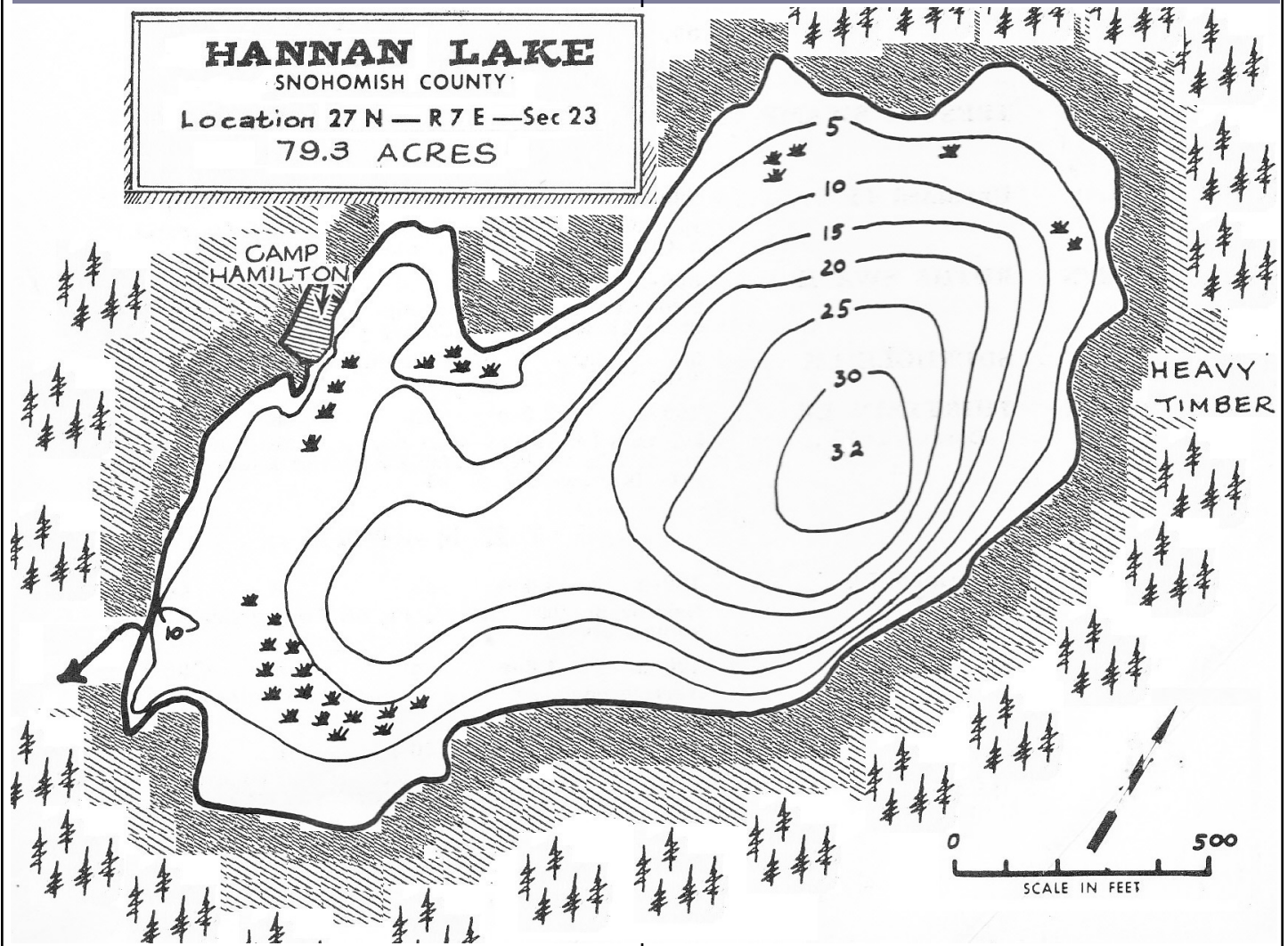


Eyestrain Size 20 —Nice Work!



Gray Midge - Size 20
Tied by Neal Hoffberg

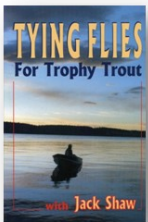
Hannan Lake Depth Contour



Book of the Month

Tying Flies for Trophy Trout

With Jack Shaw



British Columbian, Jack Shaw spent a lifetime studying trout and the insects they feed on, with the aim of creating fly designs that would attract the wildest of fish.

In this bestselling book, he tells fly fishers how they too can challenge trophy trout with homemade flies.

Jack provides information on basic equipment and materials and gives instructions on tying 16 of his finest flies plus variations, each illustrated with colour photos of both the insect and the completed fly.

This includes a section on chironomids, an important insect family in many lakes.



A good fly fisherman pays attention to
"Underwater Structure"

Mackenzie Lake East, British Columbia
Year 1999



WSCFFI Casting Fair

WSCFFI Casting Fair

From Neal Hoffberg Casting Director, WSCFFI

This year's Casting Fair will be held on May 4th, from 9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m. Once again, our lineup of classes and instructors is fantastic. Classes include women's, beginning, intermediate and advanced courses. Molly Semenik CBOGE CI MCI THMCI L-2 Examiner and Todd Somsel will conduct a spey. We will have lunchtime casting demonstrations by Don Simonson CI MCI L-2 Examiner CBOGE, Todd Somsel CI MCI THMCI L-3 Examiner and Molly Semenik, C.I. MCI Level 3, THMCI, COBG.



Classes will be taught by FFI certified casting instructors; Marion Hiller, C.I., Ruth Simms, C.I., Tom Camarrata, C.I. Pat Peterman CI MCI L-1 Examiner, Frank Koterba, C.I. and Ryan Smith, C.I. owner of Avid Angler Fly Fishing.

Have a flaw in your casting that needs fixing or want an early season tune up? Stop by the Walk-In Clinic. A certified instructor will spend time with you, free of charge.

New to our event this year is the Fly-Casting Skills Development. The FCSD is a fun way to improve your casting skills in a self-paced way. There are four levels: Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Take yourself through the different levels or better yet, come with friends and make a contest out of the FCSD. There are targets and distance markers. Work on your aerial mending, curve cast, single and double hauling. The sky's the limit! No matter your experience, play around and see how much your fishing improves by working on your skills in a fun way. The courses will have a C.I. to assist you.

Our website, wffc.org has all the information and a link to sign up.

All of us at the WSCFFI look forward to seeing you there. Tight lines, leaders & knots, Neal Hoffberg Casting Director, WSCFFI



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Fly Tying Competition

Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition Continues

Here are the three patterns:

Split Case PMD Nymph, size 18

Near Nuff Sculpin, size 6

Balanced Leech-Bruised, size 10 jig hook

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.

Extra Tip

Albolene

Lifetime Supply of Dry Fly Line and Fly-Floatant

For the sake of saving on cash and a tub of Albolene moisturizing cleanser will do the trick and keep your flies riding high and your floating line on the surface. It's a mild formula without any harsh chemicals.

Some folks cut the cream with lighter fluid or white gas to make a dip style floatant. It's a killer recipe but I'm not a big fan of dousing the lakes and rivers with gasoline.

The tubs come in several different sizes. A 12 ounce tub will do you. That's about the equivalent of 24 individual bottles you would find in the fly shop. You can break it down into smaller containers if you like.

Rub some on your dry flies and coat your floating line. They will float all day.

