

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



Member of  International Federation of
FLY FISHERS
Conserving, Restoring, Educating Through Fly Fishing



MMXXV No. 1

January, 2025



President's Riffle

Happy New Year to All! And may each of you already have caught a fish this year. Despite my best efforts, standing foolishly in 45-degree Puget Sound, I have not, but I'm going to keep after it. Winter is a great time to fish.



Happy New Year
Danferd Henke, President, Washington Fly
Fishing Club

As we start this New Year, it is appropriate to take stock of where we are and to set some goals going forward. At present, we have about 120 members. One goal might be to grow that membership. I'd like to see it grow by 10% this year, or one new member a month, net. New members bring us new ideas, new energy, and new friends to fish with. Please take a moment to consider whether you have a friend, relative, colleague or acquaintance who you think would enjoy fly fishing with our Club. Invite that person to a meeting.

Since we resurrected ourselves to active outings post-Covid, we've had low attendance at our Outings, generally with the usual suspects attending. These outings are among the best things that we do and great fun, but how can we enhance our outings to make them more attractive to our current, new, and prospective members? Take a moment to consider that and shoot me and Mike Nolan your thoughts, I'd love to hear them. The outings and how the members embraced me at them was what sold me on this Club and where I've learned more about fly fishing in the last seven years than I'd learned in the previous 45! This falls into the broader category of what more can we do to add value

for our members? Let me know your thoughts. Finally, fund raising. Our Club budget is pretty

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January Program

**Northwest Fly Fishing
Speaker: John Shewey**



Our January guest speaker will be John Shewey.

Currently, John is the Editor in Chief for Northwest Fly Fishing. Jon has written numerous books on Steelhead and Spey Flies. He has published books

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Inside this Issue

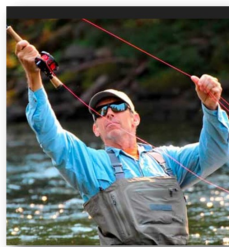
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on bird watching, including a handbook on Hummingbirds. John is a world-class photographer.

John is a true outdoorsman. If you want to know anything about the Pacific Outdoors, John is the person to talk to.

Join us for John's presentation on fly fishing opportunities in Eastern Oregon.



(Continued from page 1) Riffle

modest, but our expenses now routinely exceed the money we raise from dues and from our annual fundraiser. At our holiday party, the Club raised net \$9,600 and the Foundation slightly more than \$13,000. We'll need to do better than that in the future to avoid or at least reduce deficit spending. So, are we raising money in the best way? Should we separate fundraising from our annual party? Would a different format for a combined party and fundraiser suit us better? These are the sorts of questions that Suzanne Johnston, our VP for fundraising, have been asking ourselves. We'd like your input on the fundraising issue and with that in mind, we will hold a "pre-meeting" before our January 21 meeting to take comments and ideas on these issues. All are invited, so if you have thoughts, please attend. We'd love to hear from you.

Tight Lines.

January Meeting Note



Fundraising Meeting 4:30 January 21



We are pleased to announce that we will gather early on January 21, our first meeting of the year, at 4:30, to discuss the Club's fundraising methods and to hear your ideas about how we could improve it. Our holiday party is a great event, and it won't hurt to accept thoughts about how we could improve the fundraising aspect of it. Our dues cover only a small (but important) part of the budget for a year, which makes our fundraising critical to performing our mission of fly fishing education and conservation.

We'd like to hear from you about what we can do better. All are invited to attend at 4:30 on the 21st, before our first meeting of the year.

I hope to see you there.



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

Creel Notes

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

President

Danferd Henke

1st Vice President (Membership)

Jim Beck

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Neal Hoffberg

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

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Secretary

Coreen Wilson

Ghillie 1

Peter Schuitemaker

Ghillie 2

John Duffy

Trustees

Chapin Henry, Jerry Kindinger,
Tom Neu, Deborah Katz,
Mike Moszynski, John Gravendyk,
Dave Spratt (Past President)

Creel Notes Editor

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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.

Tying Competition Deadline

2025 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition Deadline is Approaching

From Bill Neal, Awards Chair



Accordingly, the 2025 Competition is now officially underway. The Competition is open to all Club members and to other individuals participating in programs sponsored or supported by the Club, such as Project Healing Waters.

These are the 2025 patterns for the Competition:

- **Damselfly, adult, size 14**
- **Royal Humpy, size 14**
- **Herring streamer, flatwing style, size 4—Gamakatsu B10s hook suggested**

Flies will be due by **January 31**. Judging will occur at the February members' meeting and the award presented at the March meeting. places.

Bob Burdick and I will be the Coordinators for the Competition.

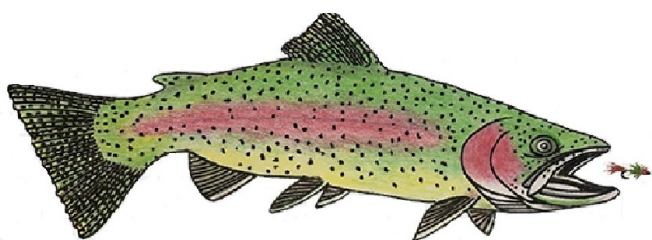
Thank you for participating and good luck!

2025 Club Dues

A friendly reminder that club dues are payable now.



Dues can be paid on line (preferred) through the WFFC website or by mail at P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA 98040



"Many of the most highly publicized events of my presidency are not nearly as memorable or significant in my life as fishing with my daddy"

— The Late President Jimmy Carter

2025 Outings

Outing Schedule Set for 2025

From Mike Nolan – Outings Chair



We're looking forward to you joining us on some of the club outings this year. I'll be hosting the majority of the outings, and a few members have volunteered to host other outings. I'm looking for a volunteer to assist me with hosting a river outing to the Stillaguamish River, Cedar River or the Yakima River.

Contact me if you have a fishing outing suggestion or are interested in volunteering to host an outing. I hope to hear from you soon and email me at mikes-nolan@comcast.net or call or text to (425) 754-1234.

The outings shown below will be included soon on the WFFC website and please sign up if you plan to attend.

WFFC 2025 Outings Schedule

- | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| • March 7-9 | Quincy Lakes Unit |
| • April 5 | Pass Lake or Lone Lake |
| • April 19 | Lake Hannan |
| • May 23-26 | Lake Chopaka - <i>Danferd Henke</i> |
| • June 21-22 | Leech Lake |
| • July 19 | Cooper Lake |
| • September TBD | Hood Canal - <i>Jay Deeds</i> |
| • October 4-5 | Big Twin Lake |
| • November 1 | Penrose Point Wet Buns |

Fishing Reports



None this month

The Interesting

Great Lakes Steelhead
Ocean-migrating trout adapt to
freshwater environment in 120 years
From www.sciencedaily.com



Steelhead trout, a member of the salmon family that live and grow in the Pacific Ocean, genetically adapted to the freshwater environment of Lake Michigan in less than 120 years.

Steelhead were intentionally introduced into Lake Michigan in the late 1800s in order to bolster recreational and commercial fisheries. In their native range, which extends from California to Russia, steelhead hatch in freshwater rivers, migrate to

the ocean, and return to freshwater to spawn. This migration allows steelhead to feed in the ocean, where they can grow larger and produce more eggs than if they remained in freshwater streams for their entire lives.

The steelhead introduced into Lake Michigan continue to spawn in small freshwater tributaries and streams, but now treat the entirely freshwater habitat

of the Great Lakes as a surrogate ocean. After their introduction into Lake Michigan, steelhead

began to naturally reproduce and established self-sustaining populations throughout the Great Lakes.

To examine how these fish adapted to this novel environment, a team led by Mark Christie, an assistant professor of biological sciences at Purdue University, sequenced the complete genomes of 264 fish. The team then compared steelhead from Lake Michigan to those from their ancestral range, searching for outlier regions associated with genetic adaptation.

The research, which was published in the journal *Molecular Ecology*, found that regions of three chromosomes in steelhead evolved after they were introduced in Lake Michigan, offering insight into how this ocean-migrating fish adapted to an entirely freshwater environment.

Two of the three regions on chromosomes that experienced genetic changes are critical to the process that maintains salt and ion balance across membranes in the body, known as osmoregulation. Freshwater fish actively take in ions from their environments to compensate for salts lost via passive diffusion, while saltwater fish expel ions to compensate for the uptake of salts into their bodies. Changes to regions of chromosomes that affect how this process works help explain how steelhead have survived in an entirely freshwater environment.

The third region that changed is involved in metabolism and wound-healing. This adaptation might have allowed steelhead to take advantage of alternative prey or allocate additional resources to activity in their new environment, according to the study.

Alternatively, this region might have adapted as a response to a novel threat: parasitic sea lamprey. These parasitic creatures were unintentionally introduced to Lake Michigan in the 1930s. They latch onto fish like leeches and leave large wounds, often killing large numbers of the fish they prey on.

"If you think about having an open wound in saltwater versus freshwater, the effects are more severe in freshwater because cells can rupture at a faster rate. It makes sense that steelhead might want to counteract those effects more quickly or do it in different ways," said Janna Willoughby, a postdoctoral researcher

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at Purdue and coauthor on the study. “Furthermore, parasitic lamprey occur in really high densities in the Great Lakes but rarely interact with steelhead in their native range - meaning that they may simply be a strong selective force.

The study also found that genetic diversity was much lower in steelhead in the new environment than fish from their native range. This reduced genetic diversity, sometimes called a founder effect, is common when a new colony is started by only a few members of the original population.

“Even if you have a reduced population due to an introduction event or founder effect, populations still adapt to changing environmental conditions,” said Christie. “Figuring out which populations can adapt and why remains a pressing question, particularly in the face of climate change and other conservation issues.”



Washington Fishing Licenses

2025 Fishing Licenses Available Now

WDFW has announced that 2025 fishing licenses (valid 4/1/25 – 3/31/26) are now available online and at dealers.

You can get one here online:

<https://fishhunt.dfw.wa.gov/customer/catalog?residentTypeId=2>.

Don't leave home without it.



Bobby Knight, Fly Fishing Instructor

Ohio Fisherman Gets A Lesson!

True story. Will try to keep it short.

Have a free day off while on a business trip to Washington state. I'm from Ohio. Always wanted to fly fish. Never had. I'm totally green. Drive south one hour from Seattle to a random small river.



Rent my stuff from a fly fishing shop. Owner makes a comment about my Ohio State Buckeye ball cap and how far I am from home.

Head to the river (200 yards away) . Pick my spot . Fall down the 50 foot embankment to waters edge. See one human on the whole river. He is eyeballing me like I'm a dunce. I realize I am a dunce too. My game is a disaster. In 5-10 minutes I'm tangled. Hate fly fishing, I think. The lone human approaches looking kind of PO'd. I think I made him P.O'd. He is now to me. I'm silent. He says and I quote, “lose the hat and I will give you some pointers”. My mind is firing 1000 mph. That's coach Knight! I think that's coach friggin Knight. (Had no idea he was passionate about fly fishing) .

Long story short. Nicest guy EVER. Spent an hour on and off helping me get it right. He departed shortly thereafter and from the top of the 50 foot bank told me to be careful not to fall up the bank too.

On my children.....true story. The year but somewhere around 1995 or so. Godspeed coach. Hope your crushing them in heaven.

For those of you that don't know who Bobby Knight was..... A basketball coach known for a fiery temper hard-nosed approach to basketball, a driven style and attention to detail. He was a great coach but could also be a complete jerk. He did make sure all his players graduated and took their classes seriously. He passed away in 2023



“I look into... my fly box, and think about all the elements I should consider in choosing the perfect fly: water temperature, what stage of development the bugs are in, what the fish are eating right now. Then I remember what a guide told me: ‘Ninety percent of what a trout eats is brown and fuzzy and about five-eighths of an inch long.’”

– Allison Moir

2025 Fly Fishing Show



2025 Annual Fly Fishing Show February 15 and 16th

Meydenbauer Center
11100 NE 6th Street
Bellevue, WA 98004



Meydenbauer Center

This year's event is at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, WA.

Exhibitors, expert speakers, fly tiers, vendor representatives and most everybody that has to do with fly fishing will be there.

Our club will have the WFFC banner displayed in all its glory along with hand-outs about our programs with ways to participate and/or join.

All WFFC members are encouraged to attend.

Book Review

The Klink: The Extraordinary Fly-tying Genius of Hans van Klinken, by Hans van Klinken, Merlin Unwin Books, 2024.

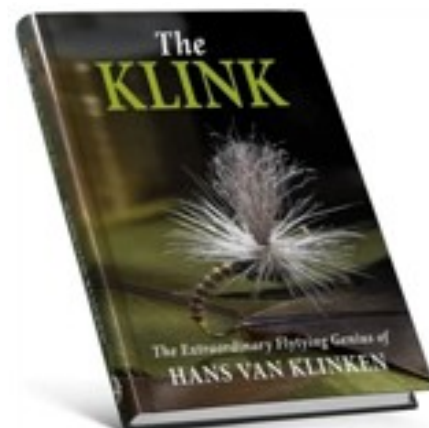
From Danferd Henke

We've all fished the Klinkhamer and its derivative emerger patterns on lakes and rivers and recognize its utility and versatility. Float the torso and wing, sink the abdomen and tail or shuck, and you have a gangbuster of a fly, successfully imitating a hatching

bug trying to break through to the surface. Easy prey for a trout. In The Klink, the originator of the pattern, Hans van Klinken, describes his personal evolution as a fisherman and tyer, along with the patterns and other tyers who have influenced that development. As such, the tome is considerably more than a pattern book, but more a discussion of one man's life passion. We all can relate to that.

Throughout that discussion the reader will find, in addition to recipes and instructions, the little nuggets of fly fishing wisdom that come from fifty years of tying and fishing. For example, van Klinken advises one to cease worrying about inconsistency in tying (the bogey man of the FFI Fly Tying Group), claiming that no Klinkhamer that leaves his vise is identical to the one before it. He doesn't care what fishermen think of his fly, only what the fish have to say. He ties his Klinkhamer all the way up to size 1 and oversizes his parachute hackle to an extreme on his larger flies, to weed out small fish. He prefers to leave his wings long, believing that the wing is the first sight that enters the trout's window and an important trigger (that long wing may account for the oversized hackle, to an extent). What permeates the book is the importance of observation in the development of patterns.

The book is a worthwhile read but requires some wading. The patterns and nuggets are interspersed through a lot of text. While I found it mildly interesting to learn that several patents had been issued for parachute flies back in the 1930s, after several pages of discussion of those patents I found that chapter to be akin in its tedium to Melville's infamous chapter on whaling. But if you can wade through the overly-long portions of the book, this volume is a good read and will improve your tying and fishing.





January Fly of the Month

Al's Trico



Al's Trico, Designed by Al Miller for the Trico hatch on Little Lehigh River in Pa.

Tied by Neal Hoffberg

Hook: Dry fly hook. #20 - 24.

Thread: Benecchi 70 denier. Black or color to match the hatch.

Hackle: Whiting High & Dry Medium Dun. Substitute with Grizzle, etc.

Dubbing: Skeeter Fuzz or equivalent, dry fly.

Downloadable Fly Fishing Podcasts



Fly Fishing Experts Tell Their Secrets Live And You Can Download Them Free!

Ask About Fly Fishing is a website that contains downloadable 413 podcast programs on fly fishing.

It brings together **Experts** on fly fishing to tell you in their own words the secrets to their success in both Freshwater and Saltwater.

Covering fish from **Trout to Tarpon**, from **tying flies to casting them** - you'll find it all right here on Ask About Fly Fishing - the best fly fishing podcast for learning more about fly fishing.

Internet address is:

<https://www.askaboutflyfishing.com/>

Recipe of the Month

Salmon Baked in Foil

From www.fishrecipes.net

Ingredients:

- 4 (5 ounces each) salmon fillets
- 2 teaspoons olive oil plus 2 tablespoons
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 3 tomatoes, chopped, or 1 (14-ounce) can chopped tomatoes, drained
- 2 chopped shallots
- 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme



Directions:

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F.
2. Sprinkle salmon with 2 teaspoons olive oil, salt, and pepper. Stir the tomatoes, shallots, 2 tablespoons of oil, lemon juice, oregano, thyme, salt and pepper in a medium bowl to blend.
3. Place a salmon fillet, oiled side down, atop a sheet of foil. Wrap the ends of the foil to form a spiral shape. Spoon the tomato mixture over the salmon. Fold the sides of the foil over the fish and tomato mixture, covering completely; seal the packets closed.
4. Place the foil packet on a heavy large baking sheet. Repeat until all of the salmon have been individually wrapped in foil and placed on the baking sheet. Bake until the salmon is just cooked through, about 25 minutes. Using a large metal spatula, transfer the foil packets to plates and serve.