

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. 2

February, 2025



President's Riffle

Fly Tying and Budgets

Danferd Henke, President, Washington Fly Fishing Club

I've been doing a lot of tying lately (but somehow, I have a lot more to do). And thinking of bugs has me thinking of fish. It's been uncommonly cold these last weeks, which have kept me on the beach – or rather, off the beach, for the beach is where I like to fish in these winter months. But now the bulbs are coming up, the cherry blossoms have appeared, which means that chum fry can't be far behind. And the searuns and resident coho should appear. I'll be hitting the beach hard over the next several weeks, with Chum Babies, Delia Squids, Keta Rose in hand, all wonderful chum fry patterns. The herring should begin to move out of deeper water soon, and the fish will follow. Tuck a few herring patterns in your vest. One of the best times of the year is coming right up.



In the meantime, it's budget month. The Club will be voting on its annual budget at our February meeting. All of you received the budget and an explanatory memo earlier this week via email. I encourage each of you to take a look. One of the pages lists the Club's budget line items of \$500 or greater, which pretty much explains where the Club's money goes. Again this year, we are projecting a deficit – the Club has the financial resources to sustain that – but much depends on improving our fund raising results. Thanks to those of you who attended our fundraising discussion before the

last meeting. Our fundraising VP, Suzanne Johnston, and her committee are working through all of those suggestions now. This Club, for all that it

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February Program

Applied Ecologist
Mark Scheuerell



Mark is an applied ecologist who integrates different data sources and analytical methods to study a variety of problems related to the conservation and management of aquatic resources, particularly along the west coast of North America. I collaborate closely with partners from tribal, government,

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and academic institutions in identifying and conducting research projects. I am also dedicated to conducting open, reproducible science.

Much of my research is focused on the development and application of statistical methods for analyzing temporal and spatial data. Examples of recent projects include integrated population models for Pacific salmon, evaluation of the risks and rewards of ecological portfolios, and assessing the effects of large-scale disturbances from natural and anthropogenic causes.

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.



(Continued from page 1) - Riffle

does, operates on a shoestring budget, but we do have tie our shoes.

Last year, the Board authorized certain improvements to the website. Some of those are nearly ready to roll out, including enhanced security and a resurrected forum section, which will include any number of topics for discussion among Club members – fishing reports, “I’m going fishing, wanna come?”, classified ads seeking and offering equipment, flies, among other topics. An optional feature will allow you to choose to receive periodic notifications that there is new content in the forum. Other new features will follow, including a facelift for the front page. Our goal, as described last year, is to make the site more attractive and easier to use, for both members and the public.

In our effort to add value to Club membership, we held our first online Zoom fly tying session on Wednesday. We’ll repeat each second Wednesday of the month through at least May and then evaluate. As designed, the sessions are intended to most benefit newer tiers and newer members, with a demonstration fly that can be tied in few steps using commonly available materials (no “nose hairs of a Bengal tiger”), that are proven effective fish catchers. We’ll be sending around the fly of the month and a materials list a few weeks before each session, to allow those of you who wish to tie along to gather the items. Experienced tyers are encouraged to attend as well, as your knowledge and experience really is the Club’s stock in trade and these sessions are a great opportunity to share those about both tying and fishing the flies with our newer members.

Tight Lines

Creel Notes

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

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- 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.

Quincy Lakes Unit , Club Outing March 7th—9th

Fishing Outings

by Mike Nolan, Outings Chairperson

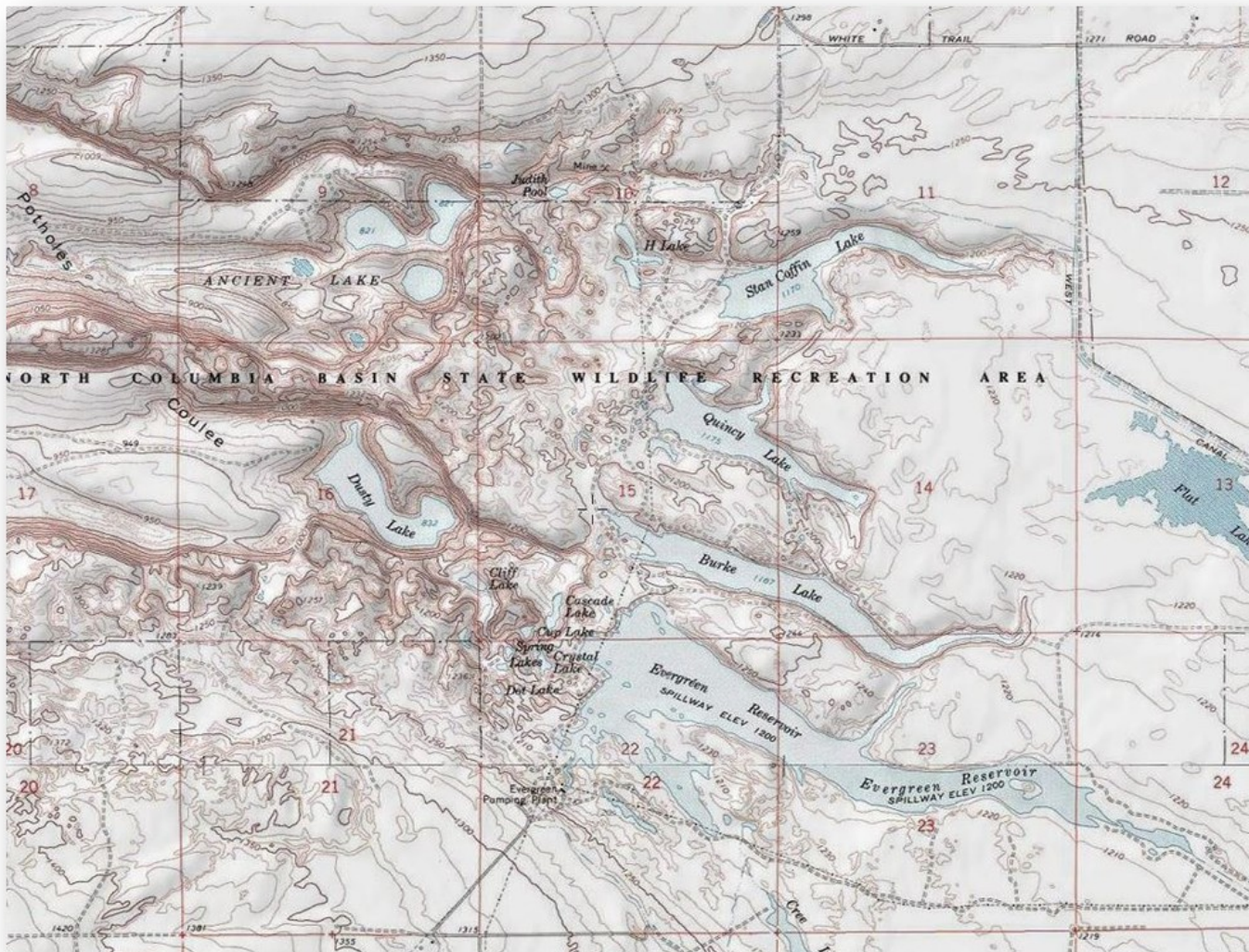
The first outing of the year will be on March 7-9 at the WDFW Quincy Lakes Unit. These lakes are located near Quincy, WA. I will be camping at Quincy Lake, and dispersed camping is available throughout the area. The Club will provide beverages as in the past, but please bring your food and water, as this is unimproved camping.

For adventurous people, there are hike-in float tube lakes to be fished in, including Dusty Lake. For more information or to sign up go to <https://wffc.com/event/quincy-lake-outing-eastern-washington/>.

I'm looking for volunteers that can assist me with hosting a river outing to the Stillaguamish River, Cedar River, Middle Fork of the Snoqualmie 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 mikesnolan@comcast.net or call or text to (425) 754-1234.



Quincy Lake



Fishing Reports

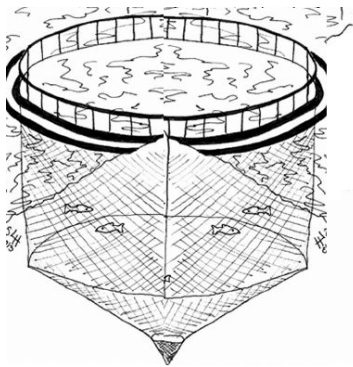


None this month

Conservation

Washington Bans Net Pen Aquaculture

From Danferd Henke, President



Congratulations and thanks to The Wild Fish Conservancy and the Our Sound, Our Salmon campaign. Last week, in response to a petition and years of advocacy, the Washington State Board of Natural Resources banned commercial net pen fish farming in Washington's marine waters. Net pen fish farming is extraordinarily harmful to wild fish stocks and other species that rely on them for food, such as the orca, and to the marine environment generally. The pens release massive quantities of fecal matter, feed, and pharmaceuticals into our waters on a daily basis. Virally-infected escapees from the nets pass on their diseases to wild stocks, further degrading the runs and undermining attempts at restoration. The board's vote will end those problems.

The campaign was supported by the tribes and 186 organizations, including the Washington Fly Fishing Club. Thanks to Robert Thorpe, our conservation chair, for spearheading our support. This action proves the value of participating with other conservation groups in coalitions to improve our environment and fisheries. It feels great to be even a small part of a really big deal

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 mikesnolan@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 - *Danferd Henke*
- June 21-22 Leech Lake
- July 19 Cooper Lake
- September TBD Hood Canal - *Jay Deeds*
- October 4-5 Big Twin Lake
- November 1 Penrose Point Wet Buns



Staying Healthy While Fishing

Winter Fishing: 5 Ways to Stay Warm in Frigid Waters

From Field and Stream – Article by Joe Cermele

Whether you're after steelhead, trout, coldwater wading can be miserable if you don't suit up properly. These five tricks help me focus on casting instead of on which appendages may be frost-bitten.



1. Boot Up

Forget stocking-foot waders and opt for boot-foot waders one size larger than you'd normally wear. The thick boot shell makes a better barrier between your foot and the water, and the extra space within the boot traps warm air while you walk. A pair of good wool socks is all you need inside.

2. Stay Tucked

Buy your base-layer tops in tall sizes. There's nothing worse than coming untucked or having your thermal shirt ride up, creating cold spots, especially if bare skin bumps directly against the inside of your waders. If you de-wader to re-tuck, you're just going to lose all the body heat you've built up.

3. Mind Your Core

Keeping your core toasty leads to better warmth all over. I like a fleece-lined pullover above my base-layer top, and a windproof jacket over the fleece. Fleece-lined pants are the best under waders; don't wear jeans. If your body is warm, a pair of fingerless gloves should keep your hands comfy.

4. Toast Yourself

If you plan to gear up streamside, you're making a big mistake. When it's cold, I put everything—including my waders—on before I leave the house. When I'm 10 minutes away, I'll crank the heat in the truck and roast myself. It gets your core warm quickly, and it's much better than freezing while dressing.

5. Keep Hands Warm

Keeping fingers warm are a big problem in the winter. I carry two sets of gloves. I wear one pair and stash the other deep in my waders where it's nice and warm and rotate the warm gloves throughout the day. Hand warmers are an added bonus. Wool gloves cannot be beat.

2025 Club Dues

Club Dues Reminder

A new fishing season will soon be here and it's time to plan to take full advantage of it. In addition to the great speakers we've scheduled for our monthly dinner meetings in 2025 there will also be six to eight fly fishing outings organized by the Club.

Your membership dues make these activities possible. So please plan to sign up for monthly meetings and outings and get those 2025 membership dues paid. It's easy to do on the WFFC website and it would be appreciated that you do so soon if you haven't already.

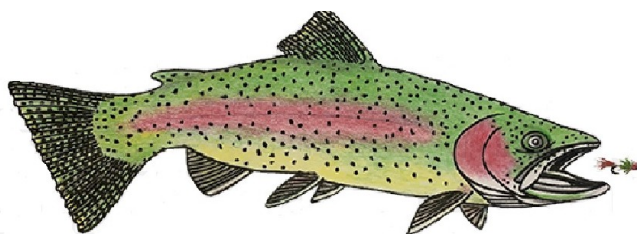
Unfortunately, members who haven't paid 2025 dues by February 28 will have their memberships suspended. I hope to see you at the next dinner meeting.



"Fishing provides that connection with the whole living world. It gives you the opportunity of being totally immersed, turning back into yourself in a good way."

"A form of meditation, some form of communion with levels of yourself that are deeper than the ordinary self."

- Ted Hughes





February Fly of the Month

Orange Crush Scud



Materials

Thread: Veevus 70 orange

Hook: Scud hook size 14 to 18

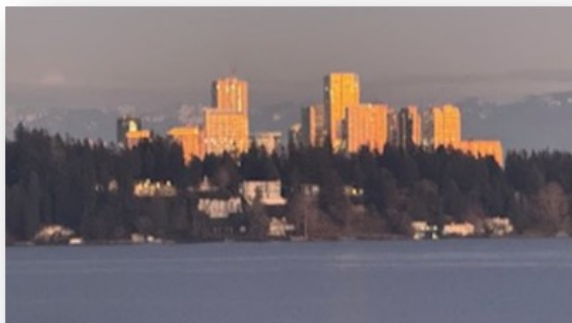
Tail and Antennae: Orange Antron fibers

Rib: 8x mono highlighted with orange marker

Shell Back: 1/8 in Scud Back clear: coated with UV cured resin of your choice.

Body and Legs: UV Ice Dub Shrimp Pink

Weight: .015-.025 optional.



'Sundown On Bellevue'

From the tennis club at January's meeting

From Neal Hoffberg

Recipe of the Month

Halibut Roasted in Prosciutto

From the Fast Fish cookbook, by Hugh Carpenter



Ingredients:

½ cup tapenade

2 Tbsp. extra virgin olive oil

2 Tbsp. chopped fresh basil

2 cloves garlic, minced

2 Tbsp. grated lime zest

½ tsp. chile sauce

½ tsp salt

8 (4 by 8-inch) paper-thin prosciutto slices

1 1.2 pounds halibut filet, cut into 8 square pieces

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 450 degrees F. In a bowl, combine the tapenade, olive oil, basil, garlic, lime zest, chile sauce and salt, and mix well. Lay the pieces of prosciutto out on a work surface. Position a piece of fish at one end of each piece of meat.

Top the fish with a spoonful of the tapenade mixture. Fold the long end of the prosciutto over the fish and tuck the edges in underneath.

Place the fish packages in a baking dish. Roast for 12 minutes, until the fish flakes when prodded with a fork.

Transfer to dinner plates and serve at once.