

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. 12

December, 2025



President's Riffle

My Farewell Address

Old anglers never die; they just wade away (with apologies to General MacArthur)

Danferd Henke, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club

This is my last Riffle as the Club's president. For the last three years, it has been my privilege and my joy (most of the time) to serve as your president. Thank you all for your kindness, generosity, hard work, and, most of all, the camaraderie that you have shared with me and with each other, both on and off the water, over those years. During that time, we have all made new friends and lost some old ones and the Club has had its share of triumphs and struggles. I could recount those here, but that would be looking backward. I wish to look forward.



Our Club is in a period of transition, and has been since at least the start of Covid, from an older generation of ardent anglers to a younger more diverse bunch of enthusiastic fishers. Both groups are essential to the future of this Club. While our older members may not fish as often or in the same manner as they once did (I waded a lot differently than I did 50 years ago), they all were "crazy fishermen" in their time. (Some still are.) What they have now, in abundance, is knowledge, experience, and generosity. In fact, they are the primary resource of this Club.

The challenge to our long-time members is to pass along as much of that knowledge and experience as they can to our younger, newer members, especially those just taking up our sport. If you've been with us a long time, come on an outing, your presence is more valuable than can be measured. Volunteer to share in-

formation with our newer members heading to a body of water that you have fished forever. Let them know what flies and techniques have worked for you. One of our long-time members just volunteered to sit down with me, with maps and flies, to go over a lake I will be fishing in May, you can be certain I will accept that generous offer.

It is not a one-way street. The challenge to our newer members is to seek out that knowledge and

(Continued on page 2)

December's Gala Event!



Holiday Gala



December's Gala will be held at **Tuesday, December 16 at Women's University Club, 1105 6th Ave, Seattle. WA**

Raise those paddles and enjoy each others company

Inside this Issue

- ✓ Page 1....December Gala
- ✓ Page 2....In Memoriam
- ✓ Page 3....Holiday Gala
- ✓ Page 4....Corbett Lake 2026
- ✓ Page 5....Big Twin Outing
- ✓ Page 6....Aigner /Fly Fishing Film Tour
- ✓ Page 7....Healthy Fishing
- ✓ Page 8....Loose Ends

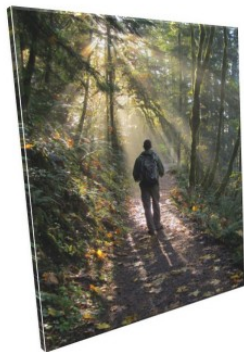
(Continued from page 1) - Riffle

experience. Go on the outings, first and foremost and most importantly. Sit beside a long-time member at the campfire or at lunch and ask questions. Ask a long-time member if he has fished Lake No-Bottom or the River of No Return and what flies and techniques have worked over the years. Sit down over a cup of coffee or lunch and talk fishing. Spend an evening tying flies with one of our expert tyers, even if you have to set that up yourself. You will find them absolutely willing to share and you will gain more from those experiences than you can hope to gain fishing by yourself or by watching hundreds of YouTube videos. Show up, display interest, pitch in. You will find the rewards to be immense.

I'm talking, of course, about the relationships that hold us together. Relationships take work, and time, and energy, by all parties. Sometimes hard work. And it's easy to back-burner them in favor of what we perceive to be more pressing obligations in the frantic lives we all seem to lead. But don't forget them. Come back to building these relationships when you can. If we can all meet this challenge, the future of this Club is assured. I'm optimistic.

See you on the water!

In Memoriam



John Vincent Townsell Jr.

WFFC Member since 1991

June 20, 1936 – November 18, 2025

*From Danferd Henke, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club*

I'm very sad to report that our friend and fellow member, John Townsell, has passed away. John had been a member of our Club for nearly 35 years. Although I joined the Club long after John did, I had the opportunity to attend a few Club outings with him and always found him to be generous with his advice and experience. On a personal note, during my term as president, John often took me aside to provide advice about the Club or to point out a conservation issue that we might consider engaging in. His advice was always meaningful and presented with a smile and encouragement. I will miss him, as I'm sure we all will.

John also was a member of the Olympic Fly Fishers. That club shared this remembrance of him, which is spot on:

"We are deeply saddened to share that our long-time friend and Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds



(Continued on page 3)

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)

Suzanne Johnston

Treasurer

Dale Lange

Secretary

Coreen Wilson

Ghillie 1

Peter Schuitemaker

Ghillie 2

John Duffy

Trustees

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

Creel Notes Editor

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.

(Continued from page 2) - Townsell

member, John Townsell, has passed away.

If you ever met John, you likely remember his smile first. His eyes carried the warmth of it. He had a steady calm about him that put you at ease, a deep, easy voice, and a way of speaking that made you slow down with him. Talking with John felt like talking to someone you'd known for years, even if you'd only just met.

John was one of the most welcoming members of our club. He loved sharing his time and knowledge whether it was tying a fly, talking through a technique, or pointing someone toward a favorite local water. He was a longtime volunteer at our annual winter fly tying class, where countless new tiers got their start under his patient guidance.

What set John apart was how he made people feel: seen, supported, and valued. When he talked with you, he was fully with you, generous with his wisdom and genuinely interested in your experience on and off the water.

We will miss his kindness, his depth of expertise, and the quiet, steady way he helped shape the heart of our club. This winter, when we gather for our fly tying class, we'll feel the empty space where his warmth and steady presence have reliably been for so many years.

We miss you, John. (And we brought this beauty to the net on Lone Lake today in your honor.)"

I don't yet know if a memorial is scheduled, but I will advise when I do.

December's Gala Event

Holiday Gala !

*Danferd Henke, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club*

Come One, Come All, and bring your friends and relations, to the WFFC Holiday Gala! We will hold our annual holiday party on Tuesday, December 16th, at the Women's University Club in Seattle. You can find all the details on the website, where you can sign up.

Our fundraising committee, lead by Club Vice President Suzanne Johnston, has done a stellar job arranging this event. We'll have a great party in a beautiful venue, with excellent food, fine wine, and good times. This gala is our one big get together of the year and we would love to see every member there (plus one, two, three, four, ..., seriously, buy a table, bring your friends, introduce them to fly fishing and our Club). Come and enjoy the party, renew old acquaintances, meet new members, plan trips, talk fishing, and, of course, tell lies! (We're anglers, after all, the truth is a bit flexible.) So come help the Club make this a great time.

In addition to a party, this event is our primary fundraising opportunity of the year. Your fundraising committee has put together both live and silent auction items for your consideration.. They include trips to Alaska (trophy trout!) and in Washington, bamboo rods (fishing grass is a wonderful experience), graphite rods, reels, gear, fine wines, and other items.. I've attached a list of the live auction items. Take a moment to look it over and plan your bidding strategy. And, once again, we have the raffle tables and we will be raffling off Dick Brening's gorgeous wooden fly boxes filled with member-tied flies. So dig deep. For 86 years, this Club has survived on the generosity and dedication of its members that stem from the camaraderie that the Club fosters..

We use the money generated by this event to put on our club outings, to fund the interesting speakers at our meetings, and to further our mission of promoting fly fishing, conservation, and education. The funds raised for our Foundation allow it to make contributions to other organizations, such as the Northwest Youth Fly Fishing Academy, Project Healing Waters, the Mayfly Project, Reel Recovery, and other groups that share that mission and our community. Many of our members devote their time and energy to those other groups and deserve our support and acknowledgment.

(Continued on page 4)

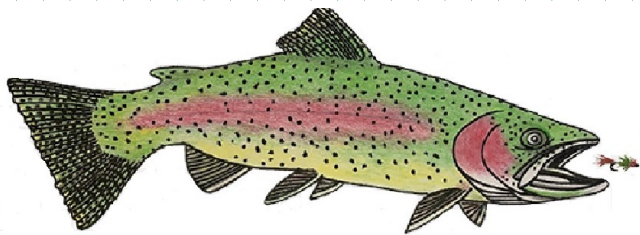


(Continued from page 3) -Gala

So let's get this party rolling! You can do your part by signing up as soon as possible on the website. (We do have a deadline to get our headcount to the chef, otherwise she gets grumpy -- and nobody wants a grumpy chef!)

I'll see you all there.

Dan



*"Think like a fish, cast like a pro."
Success requires both empathy and technique.*

Upcoming 2026 Outing

Corbett Lake Lodge in May of 2026 Corbett Lake B.C.

From Mike Nolan, Outings Chair



I am coordinating an WFFC Outing to Corbett Lake Lodge in May of 2026. Based on my initial inquiry, Corbett Lake Lodge currently has availability for 10-12 members of our Club staying in the Cedar Cabins from Friday, May 8th through Friday, May 15th 2026. However, I will only be staying in one of the

Cedar Cabins with my wife for 3-nights on Friday to Sunday, 5/8-10/26 with a departure on Monday, 5/11/26.

Corbett Lake Lodge 'claim to fame' is its international reputation for trophy trout fishing. In fact, it has been featured in many fishing magazine articles and books as a premier North American fly fishing destination resort. The lake has controlled access, is fly fishing only, and continues to be actively managed by an annual stocking program. Corbett Lake Lodge is located 15 minutes from Merritt, BC, Canada and about 4 hours from Seattle, WA. The rustic and comfortable Lodge and fully equipped cabins are set next to Corbett Lake in the beautiful, rolling grasslands and poplar woods of south central British Columbia.

WFFC members will be responsible for making their own reservations based on the number of booking nights required. It will be important to make your reservations as soon as possible because the Lake Cabins are basically fully booked for most of the season and the Cedar Cabins could also be in short supply. The Cedar Cabins sleep 2 to 5 people which will allow members to share in the nightly rooming costs.

Additional information about Corbett Lake Lodge can be found at their website at <https://www.corbettlake.ca/> On the website you can click on "inquire today" and you will be directed to a page for contacting Corbett Lake Lodge with your reservation information. Make sure that you include the date rate of May 8th through May 15th 2026 for the number nights that you wish to book. You should also mention that you are with the WFFC and my name, Mike Nolan, as the contact.

Corbett Lake Lodge contact information:
250-378-4334
corbettlake@gmail.com
www.corbettlake.ca

The Corbett Lake Lodge Outing information will be available on the WFFC website soon. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any questions by emailing me at outings@wffc.com or by call/text (425) 754-1234.

Mike Nolan, Outings Chairperson, (425) 754-1234



10/3-5/25

Big Twin Lakes Outing

by Mike Nolan –Outings Chair

(Editor—My fault for not getting this in November's Creel Notes)

On Friday, 10/3/25, Mark Pratt caught many trout and I caught 3-trout at Campbell Lake. The rainbow trout that we caught were averaging between 14" to 16" in size. There were a few other fly fishers who were also catching fish. The wind came up in the afternoon making fishing difficult. I met up with Mike Gruzynbski in the late afternoon back at Big Twin Lakes Campground and he showed me a picture of the 22" rainbow trout that he caught at Big Twin using a double dropper rig.

On Saturday, 10/4/25, the weather was sunny with morning temperatures in the mid to high 30's. Chuck Ballard reported catching a trout using a water boatman pattern. I was in my float tube fishing with a full sinking line and not getting any action. I switched to my sink tip line with the "Usual" pattern (Dave Schorsch pattern) and caught 7 trout. Other members had varied success and most caught some fish.

In attendance at the Outing were myself, Linda Leum, Robert Thorpe & Anne, Chuck Ballard, Jim Beck, Michael Gruzynbski, Travis Simpson, and Mark Pratt. This was the first Outing for members Travis Simpson and Mike Gruzynbski. There was an assortment of appetizers, side dishes, corn on the cob and tasty desserts to go with the barbecued steaks.

There was a county-wide burn ban in effect and a propane fire pit was used in lieu of a campfire. The wind-blown flames illuminated our faces and provided a small amount of heat that warmed us as we sat around the fire pit. Even though we were disappointed in not being able to have a real campfire, the fire pit worked well as a substitute.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5) - Big Twin

On Sunday, 10/5/25, the morning provided sunshine with cool temperatures in the low 40s and little to no wind. I fished the lake for approximately three hours and caught 16 trout averaging between 14" -16" in size. I was typically getting into fish on every other cast using between an intermediate and a slow sink tip line and small wet fly patterns.

For me it was a great weekend of fishing and spending time with other Club members. Both Campbell Lake and Twin Lakes were showing low water levels with vast areas of shoreline being exposed. One report that I heard mentioned that Big Twin Lake was about 15 feet lower this year as compared to the average level of previous years.

Don't Forget, It Is Currently On!

2026 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition

From Bill Neal Awards Chair



The Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2026 is underway. We are again starting earlier to allow tying when the fishing is slower and judging and award presentation before members are off fishing.

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 patterns for the 2026 Competition:

- 1) Rubber-legged stonefly nymph, size 8, see Randall Kaufman version for suggested features, although inclusion is up to the individual tier
- 2) Jonny King's Splitsville caddis, size 14, tied per recipe
- 3) Green Drake dun, size 12.

Flies will be due by the January members' meeting. Judging will occur at the February members' meeting, and the award will be presented at the March members' meeting. I will be at the November meeting to distribute information and display boxes.

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

Thank you for participating and good luck!

Bill Neal



Fly Fishing Film Tour Film

Admiral Theater—West Seattle, WA

Friday, February 6, 2026

7:00 PM

From Marcia Kindinger,



West Seattle, WA - Admiral Theater

Events in Washington

20th Anniversary of the Fly Fishing Film Tour

Fri, Feb 6, 2026 7:00 PM (PST)

Admiral Theater, West Seattle, Washington

Healthy Fishing



Don't Die Out There

*Excerpted from A story featured in Montana Outdoors
September-October 2012 issue*

The combination of moving water, slippery surfaces, and icy temperatures is dangerous. Hypothermia is the biggest risk, but drowning is right up there, too. Tips for making sure you survive your winter fly-fishing adventures:

- *Always tell someone where you're going and when you expect to return.
- Offer as many details as possible.
- *Prepare for the worst. Bring backup clothes and a fire-starting kit in case you take a spill or your waders leak.
- *Dress much, much more warmly than you think you should. Even on sunny, relatively warm days, you will cool down fast when standing near and especially in a river—despite neoprene waders. Wear heavy fleece pants and jackets and avoid jeans and other cotton pants or undergarments. Cotton absorbs moisture and won't insulate when wet. Combine a breathable raincoat over a down vest or jacket. A heavy wool or fleece cap is also a good idea.
- *Keeping your fingers warm is the biggest challenge. Use thick fleece fingerless gloves with mitten tops you can pull over your exposed digits when you don't need dexterity. Yes, you can cast and reel line with mittens.
- *Use a wading staff. Even if you never consider one in summer, a staff is vital in winter, when boulders ice up and banks are especially slippery. Remember, in winter a slip and fall into icy water can spell disaster.
- *Bring a thermos of hot coffee, tea, or hot choco-

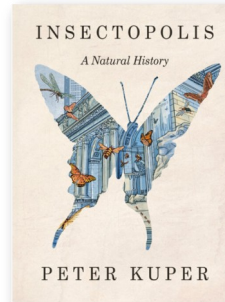
late. After a few hours in the cold, it's easier to warm up from the inside out than from the outside in.

"Drift perfect, strike true." The elegant simplicity of fly fishing's core challenge.

Book Review

Insectopolis

Author Peter Kuper



Although not particularly about fly fishing, most of us fly fishermen do use flies that imitate bugs. This is really fun book; it's a quirky graphic novel about the history of insects, seen through the eyes of someone visiting a museum on insects. I had a great time reading this, certainly entertaining.. I

think all of the drawings are really great, and the way that the story of the evolution of insects is told is very engaging .

Shortlisted for the 2025 Wainwright Prize for Illustrative Books Peter Kuper transports readers through the 400-million-year history of insects and the remarkable entomologists who have studied them.

This visually immersive work of graphic nonfiction dives into a world where ants, cicadas, bees, and butterflies visit a library exhibition that displays their stories and humanity's connection to them throughout the ages. Kuper's thrilling visual feast layers history and science, color and design, to tell the remarkable tales of dung beetles navigating by the stars, hawk-size prehistoric dragonflies hunting prey, and mosquitoes changing the course of human history. Kuper also illuminates pioneering naturalists, from well-known figures like E. O. Wilson and Rachel Carson to unheralded luminaries like Charles Henry Turner, the Black American scholar who documented arthropod intelligence, and Maria Sybilla Merian, the seventeenth-century German regarded as the mother of entomology.

Galvanized by the sixth extinction and the ongoing insect crisis, Kuper takes readers on an unforgettable journey.



Fly of the Month

The Blue Quill



- Hook: Standard Dry Fly Hook
- Thread: Black tying thread
- Tail: Dun hackle fibers
- Body: Stripped peacock quill
- Wing: Mallard wing

What does a Blue Quill Imitate?

Mayfly

Adult Mayfly

Recipe of the Month

Decadent and Easy Crab Bisque

From www.food.com

Ingredients:

1 small onion, chopped
1/4 cup unsalted butter
4 tablespoons flour, divided
4 cups half-and-half, divided
1 cup heavy cream
2 teaspoons salt/ pepper
1 lb crabmeat
chives, chopped (optional)

Directions:

1. Saute onion in the butter, over medium heat, until translucent.
2. Add 2 tablespoons. of the flour to the onions, mixing well with a wooden spoon. Cook for about a minute.
3. Add 3 cups of the half-and-half, heavy cream, salt and pepper. Whisk while bringing up to a boil (you can turn up the heat a bit here - just be careful not to scald the cream).
4. Shake 2 T. of the flour and 1 cup of the half-and-half - using a jar with a lid. Shake until the flour is blended well.
5. Add to the soup by whisking. Keep whisking until the soup thickens.
6. Stir in the crab and cook for about 5 more minutes.
7. Ladle the soup into the bowls and garnish with snipped chives, if desired.





Holiday Gala and Auction



If you enjoy fly fishing and gathering with friends/family you't want to miss this year's HOLIDAY GALA, Tuesday, December 16.

You'll find auction and raffle items that appeal to EVERYONE - nearby fishing trips, distance fishing trips, collectable gear, affordable gear to enhance your outings, Yakima River cruise with friends, home cooked gourmet dinner, special wines, winery tours, and much, much more!!!

We are excited to offer many raffle collections, too. You could win amazing items for a \$5 ticket!

Don't forget when you come to this evening with your family and friends, you will also mingle with talented and fun anglers to share stories about past adventures and look forward to the future.

If you haven't already, make your reservation, select your dinner RIGHT NOW on the WFFC web page.

It's easy! It's fun! It's all for a good cause!

See you there!

Suzanne Johnston
Gala Chair

