

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXXVI No. 1

January, 2026



President's Riffle

Happy new year to all. Here's to ringing out the old and ringing in the new. I'd like to express my appreciation for the great job Danferd Henke has done leading the club for the past three years.

Thank you, Danferd. You've given me some big shoes to fill. This my first President's Riffle so hang in there with me. I'm probably the least accomplished angler the club has ever had as president. Before joining the club in 2018 I had never even held a fly rod. I attended the "Fly Fishing 101" class which met at Jim Goedhart's house in April of that year. The class was taught by Chuck Ballard, Dick Brening and others whose names escape me. Before attending the class, I didn't know what I didn't know. The class helped me to realize how much there is to know about fly fishing. As a matter of fact, even today it seems like the more I learn about fly fishing, the more aware I become of just how little I know about the sport's various techniques, styles, target species and other variables.

In my relatively short career as a fly fisherman, I've learned that the best way to learn to fish is to go fishing. My very first time fly fishing was at the club's Leech Lake outing in June 2018. I was really, really green. The first day I spent casting and retrieving a royal wulff on a floating line. I was clueless. I had one take the entire first day. I was probably just lucky to get it. The next day of the outing Dave Schorsh loaned me a reel with a 5wt full sinking line. THANK YOU Dave!

It's a New Year!

Jim Beck, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club



Without Dave's kindness I'm sure that wouldn't have caught a single fish. With his friendly advice and flyline I caught four fish before lunch. I became officially hooked on fly fishing then and there.

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January Program

Ryan Smith

Owner of the Avid Angler Fly Shop

Ryan Smith, the owner of The Avid Angler in the Seattle area since 2011, is a dedicated fly fishing guide, educator, and FFI Certified Casting Instructor with a biology background, known for his expertise in Puget Sound saltwater and river fishing, and passion for conservation, helping anglers of all levels.



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(Continued from page 1) *President's Riffle*

The club organizes six to nine fly fishing outings each year. The outings give us the opportunity to learn new ways to catch more fish and to share our hard-learned fly fishing knowledge with less seasoned anglers (like me). For you veteran fly fishing club members I invite you to sign up for as many outings as you can and share your knowledge. For you less-seasoned members sign up for as many outings as you can and take advantage of the chance to learn. It's a win-win in addition to being just plain fun!

(Continued from page 1) - *Program*

He grew up fishing in the Pacific Northwest, blending his skills in guiding, retail, and business to run the renowned fly shop near Kenmore.

Ryan will focus on spey fishing for trout. So if you've been thinking about mastering that grand, two-handed casting technique from the River Spey (and all the gear that goes with it), this club meeting is for you!



Meeting Location

January's meeting will be held at **The Hall on Occidental 589 Occidental Ave S, Seattle, WA 98134**

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.



2026 Dues

2026 dues are due!

You can pay online on the website at "Member Dues."



*"Happiness in intelligent people is the rarest thing I know
Except among fly fishers."*

—Ernest Hemingway

Creel Notes

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

President

Jim Beck

1st Vice President (Membership)

Gary Corra

2nd Vice President (Programs)

Neal Hoffberg

3rd Vice President (Christmas Party)

Jim Goedhart

Treasurer

Dale Lange

Secretary

Coreen Wilson

Ghillie 1

Peter Schuitemaker

Ghillie 2

Travis Sampson

Trustees

Jerry Kindinger,

Tom Neu, Deborah Katz,

Mike Moscynski, Robert Thorpe,

Chuck Ballard, Danferd Henke

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.

2026 Fly Fishing Show

**Fly Fishing Show, February 14-15, 2026,
Meyenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA**

From Mike Nolan

The Washington Fly Fishing Club will be hosting a booth at the 2026 Fly Fishing Show, Pacific Northwest Edition. The event will be held February 14th and 15th at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue.

This show offers a wide range of expert demonstrations and seminars about fly fishing with a focus on our local waters of the Pacific Northwest. Here is a link to the show with more information: <https://flyfishingshow.com/bellevue-wa/>



We are seeking volunteers to help with staffing our booth and volunteer fly tyers to tie the fly of your choice at our booth. As a "thank you" for your time, you will receive a day pass for entrance to the show. Staffing of the booth and fly tying demonstration will run from 9:00am-5:30 on Saturday, February 14th and 9:00am-4:30pm on Sunday, February 15th.

Saturday, February 14th

9:00-11:00 Mike Nolan and fly tier volunteer

11:00-1:00 Booth volunteer and fly tier volunteer

1:00-3:00 Booth volunteer and fly tier volunteer

3:00-5:30 Booth volunteer and fly tier volunteer

Sunday, February 15th

9:00-11:00 Booth volunteer and fly tier volunteer

11:00 - 1:00 Booth volunteer and fly tier volunteer

1:00-3:00 Booth volunteer and fly tier volunteer

3:00-4:30 plus booth take down Mike Nolan and fly tier volunteer

This is a great opportunity to meet the local fly fishing community and learn about our favorite sport! If you are interested in volunteering for a specific time slot please contact Mike Nolan at mikes-nolan@comcast.net or (425) 754-1234.



Mike Nolan and Jim Beck at the 2025 show

W SCHOOL OF AQUATIC AND FISHERY SCIENCES

Gratitude & invitation from UW School of Aquatic & Fishery Sciences

From Ben Johns at UW Fisheries

Greetings to you and everyone at Washington Fly Fishing Club (WFFC)! Wishing you a peaceful, joyful new year in prosperity and good health.

If you'd be so kind as to forward this message to your friends and colleagues at WFFC, I appreciate it!

On behalf of UW College of the Environment's Dean's Office and the School of Aquatic and Fishery Sciences (SAFS), thank you for your long-time connection. We truly enjoyed and appreciated the opportunities over the years to meet with you all and share presentations about fish and aquatic life. Let us know if you'd like to explore that anew!

YOU'RE INVITED:

Every Winter quarter, on behalf of UW Fisheries and SAFS, we host the [Bevan Series of Seminars on Sustainable Fisheries](#). This series of seminars is open to the public.

[View the calendar here - Bevan Series at SAFS](#). This year's topic is "The future of U.S. fisheries in the context of global change and shifting global priorities." All of the speakers are retired NOAA and

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world class experts. There is plenty of overlap with US fisheries and sportfishing, and we're grateful for your shared values of building a sustainable future for aquatic life and ecosystems in WA St.

The Bevan Series is held on campus at the FSH building on Boat Street just across from Portage Bay (between Lake Union and the Montlake Cut), this is an awesome back-to-school type experience (followed by a casual reception) and great way to stay connected in real-world conversations about the future of fish and humanity's connection to them.

Questions about UW Fisheries? Please contact me (Ben Johns) at bkj108@uw.edu, or on my cell 206.940.8205.

Warm regards,

Ben

UW College of the Environment/SAFS/SMEA

Associate Director of Advancement

Spring Casting Classes

Beginning Casting Classes Available

From Neal Hoffberg

Dates: March 21, 28, April 4 & 11.

Time: 10:30 a.m.'

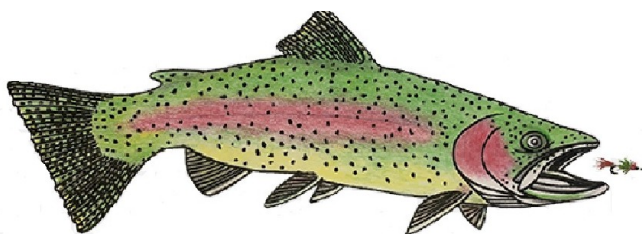
Cost: \$80 for new students, includes one year membership in WFFC.

No charge for current WFFC members.

Where: Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island

Parking: North Lot

Casting area: The Meadow, Area B



Blue Quill Spent
From Neal Hoffberg

Congratulations Hugh Clark!

'Your Money's No Good Here' Department



Club Leadership has decided to induct Hugh Clark into the long-time member category and grant you a free membership for life! No dues for Hugh starting 2026.

Of course, this is a huge honor which he has earned and truly deserve.

Congratulations on this remarkable achievement and dedication to this fine, long-standing fishing club!

Also, please see Hugh's recipe in this months Creel Notes for "The Good Doctor's Butter/Lemon Sauce". (I added a bit of Honey Dijon and it's great over any fish you decide to fix)



The finest flies are tied with patience. So are the best anglers.

2026 Outings

WFFC 2026 Outings Schedule

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 I'm seeking volunteers to host other outings. For example, 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 by February 2026.

WFFC 2026 Outings Schedule

- May 8-10 Corbett Lake BC Canada
- June 27-28 Leech Lake
- July 18 Cooper Lake
- September TBD Hood Canal - Jay Deeds
- September 25-27 Big Twin Lake
- October 24 Lake Hannan
- November 7 Penrose Point Wet Buns



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 sup-

(Continued from page 5)

ply. 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.

Flies Due by January's Meeting

2026 Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition

From Bill Neal Awards Chair



The Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2026 is nearing the end.

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 are 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.

Bob Burdick and Bill Neal will be the Coordinators for the Competition.

Thank you for participating and good luck!

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



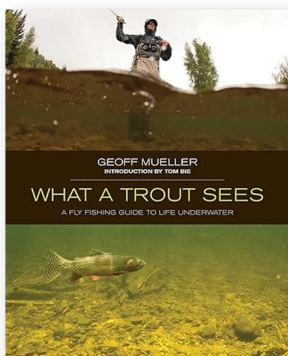
Book of the Month

What a Trout Sees

(A Fly-Fishing Guide to Life Underwater)
by Geoff Mueller

Do trout sleep? And if so, when? And how does that affect their feeding patterns? Does a rising or falling barometer affect feeding habits? How does refraction influence a fish's approach to a surface fly, human shadow, or false cast? How much do fish need to eat, under what conditions will they grow the largest?

For the first time, an accessible, well-written title shows us what the world is like under the water, from the fish's perspective.



Fly of the Month



Light Cahill Parachute

Dressing:

Hook: Lightning Strike DF1 dry fly hook in size 14.

Thread: Semperfli Classic Waxed 12/0 in tan.

Tail: 8-10 wood duck fibers. Post: White polypropylene floating yarn.

Body color 1: Semperfli Kapok dubbing in danica.

Body color 2: Semperfli Kapok dubbing in light brown.

Thorax: Semperfli Kapok dubbing in light brown.

Hackle: Light brown grizzly hackle to match body color.

This is an excellent fly for all dry fly conditions! - Ed

Recipe of the Month

The Good Doctor's Lemon /Butter Sauce!

From Dr. Hugh Clark

For 2 Servings:

Ingredients:

- Lemon Juice 2 Tablespoons (fresh or bottled)
- Butter 1 Tablespoon

Directions.

- Put lemon juice in shallow pan or small pot, heat and reduce by half
- Add Butter and stir without boiling.

Variations; Add 1 tsp of Dijon mustard, or shiracha or to taste. Delicious with any fish but particularly with white fish such as cod or halibut which do not have much flavor on their own.

