

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXXVI No. 2

February, 2026



President's Riffle

Fishing Memories

*Jim Beck, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club*



Here's to hoping for a productive, fun-filled year and building fishing memories that will last a lifetime. My first memory of fishing was on Iron Lake in Michigan when I was probably 6 years old. My mom and dad had just returned from a poultry-growers convention a few days before. Dad came back from the trip with four or five cheap little four-piece bamboo fishing poles as gifts for us kids. You noticed I didn't say fishing rods. These were poles, about 12-14 feet long, the kind where you tie your line to the tip, attach a red and white cork bobber and hook with a worm on it. The fishing pole kits came in a clear plastic envelope and included a bobber, some monofilament line and a half dozen hooks, probably size #8.

My dad was busy with work so our mom took my two little brothers, little sister and me fishing for the first time. We went to the lake and fished off the beach of a family friend's property. My little brother, Jerry, was first to have his pole assembled, hook baited and in the water. Jerry caught his first fish, a 3-inch sunfish, while I was still busy putting my rig together. I put my pole down on the ground to check out Jerry's fish as did the rest of us young anglers. During the mini stampede of little kids to see the tiny fish, my little sister, Marcy, stepped on my pole and snapped it in two. A tragedy that nearly brought me to tears. Remember, I was only six years old and hadn't developed the frustration-tolerance that only comes with years of life experience. In the hours that followed we probably caught a half

dozen fish between us. My first fishing experience was a little bumpy but fun. I loved fishing

In the years that followed I went fishing with my childhood friend, George, on Iron Lake many times. George's family owned a long dock to fish

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February Program

Frank Burr

The Golden Trout Dude

Join us for our February 2026 monthly club meeting with Frank Burr!



Frank's presentation will cover sink rates for different types of beads and other weights for Nymphing. Where to find the right beads and methods to incorporate them in tying your Nymphs. How they are affected by various moving and Stillwater appli-

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(Continued from page 1) - Riffle

off of and a boat to reach distant parts of the lake. Even though we loved fishing, we were never really successful at it. I wanted to learn and get to be a better fisherman. But my dad was busy with work and never took me fishing. So my fishing skills never developed. I refer to the years between my teens and turning 63 years old as “50 years of delayed gratification” because I didn’t take up fly fishing until the age of 63.

Having waited so long to take up fly fishing my angling memories are pretty sparse compared to those of the veteran anglers in the WFFC. But I’m optimistic that I’ll build plenty of pleasant memories fishing with Club members at club outings this year. We will have eight or nine outings this year and I plan to go to almost all of them. Mike Nolan does a great job setting up these outings and you’re really missing out if you don’t take advantage. All you have to do is show up. Let’s build some more fishing memories together at club outings this year, shall we?

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.

In Memoriam



Walter Vencliff Swanson III

WFFC Member since 1999

April 17, 1938 – January 13, 2026

He was born in Yakima Washington April 17, 1938 and parted from this life on January 13, 2026, at the age of 87.

Walt was very active in the Washington Fly Fishing Club . He joined in 1999 and served as a trustee on their Board of Directors.

He also was a certified Federation of Fly Fishers (now called FFI) fly casting instructor and helped lead casting and fly tying classes for many years.

Walt later became an active member of the Project Healing Waters teaching fly tying for Veteran’s .



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Creel Notes

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2nd Vice President (Programs)

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Travis Sampson

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Jerry Kindinger,

Tom Neu, Deborah Katz,
Mike Moscynski, Robert Thorpe,
Chuck Ballard, Danferd Henke

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 1) - Program

cations. Leaders for Nymphing and how they affect presentation. Techniques, methods and how to apply them to maximize your nymphing success!!!

Background

Frank (The Golden Trout Dude) learned Tenkara fishing in Japan in 1970 at the age of 6, followed by Traditional Fly Fishing and Fly tying the following year.

A native of Southern California, Frank fly fishes throughout the United States, always looking for the elusive Heritage Trout. Although Trout is his favorite species, Frank will fly fish for any species just to get in a day of fishing, like Tilapia, Peacock Bass and the native freshwater Goby in Hawaii.

Frank has worked in the fly fishing industry for the past 12 years, first at Orvis and now for Snowbee USA, assisting in the design of Ultralight Fly Rods and other products in the Snowbee line.

You can find more information about Frank at: goldentrout-dude.com, oasisflyshop.com and tenkaraguidecalifornia.com.

(Continued from page 2) - Walt Swanson

As a fly tier Walt was very skilled and created many unique fly patterns of excellent quality. His extended body mayflies were amazing .

He participated in many FFI Expos where he demonstrated his unique tying skills to many international fly tiers in attendance .

Walt was a long time resident of Bellevue, Washington and Camano Island.

On our club trip to Bendzak's Circle W on Hi Hium. B.C (2016) I watched Walt as he rigged his boat for fishing. Everything organized, 4 rods ready for action, orderly fly box....and thought to myself 'this guy really knows what he's doing' ...watch him!

During the week he tried to teach me to make furred leaders twisting a length of leader one handed. It's a technique I never was quite able to master.-Ed

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 our local waters of the Pacific North link to the show with more information at 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.

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.

Spring Casting Classes

Beginning Casting Classes Available

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

Time: 10:30 a.m. `

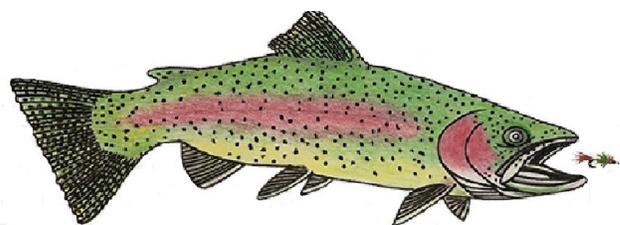
Cost: \$80 for new students, includes one year membership in WFFC.

No charge for current WFFC members.

Where: Luther Burbank Park, Mercer Island

Parking: North Lot

Casting area: The Meadow, Area B



Part 1 Awards Presentation

Award Recap For 2025—Part 1

By Bill Neal, Awards Committee Chair



January is awards month at the WFFC. As part of our Members' Meeting we recognize individuals for their accomplishments and contributions to the Club and the community. For the year 2025, we tried to accomplish this at our January 2026 meeting, but for a variety of reasons that did not occur. This recap covers what was accomplished then. There will be a follow up once all Awards are presented.

The Letcher Lambuth Award is the Club's most prestigious Award. It is no secret that the recipient for 2025 is John Shewey. Technical difficulties prevented this presentation from being made in January. We expect to accomplish this in February.

The Empty Creel Award recognizes a Member for exceptional dedication and contribution to the purposes of the Club. For 2025, we presented the Award to Danferd Henke. He tirelessly guided the Club as its President from 2023 through 2025. In addition to executing well the more typical duties of President, he hosted and restarted the Club's annual outings to Chopaka Lake, encouraged fishing by Club members by setting up impromptu outings and inviting all Club members to join him, dealt with 3 venue and at least 4 dinner format and pricing changes for Club meetings, and worked continuously to insure that the Club's website best served the needs of the members.

The Andy Award is named in memory of Member Andy Gumpertz, who suffered cruelly at the whims of fate, but always managed to smile and accept his fate as a gentleman. It is an expression not only of sympathy by the Club, but also of appreciation of the Member and his exceptional character. The Award was presented to Bob Burdick for his ill-fated and costly trip to eastern Montana that included, among other whims of fate, failed headlamp, transmission, and radiator; extreme weather swings from very hot and dry to very cold and wet; and total absence of quarry.

We encourage all new members to become active in the Club. Some jump right in and make a "fast start" in their service and involvement with the Club. For 2025, we recognized Travis Sampson, who joined 2024, and presented to him the Fast Start Certificate for his service as Second Ghillie, donation of equipment for the Club's Christmas fund raiser, and regular and enthusiastic participation in Club outings.

Finally, we recognized Marcie Kindinger as winner of the Boyd Aigner Fly Tying Competition for 2025. The 2026 Competition is now underway.



'Empty Creel' Award goes to our former President Danferd Henke who put so much effort into making our club go and his constant dedication . Pete Baird presenting.

Part 1— Awards Presentation



Bob Burdick, the world's finest fly tyer who ever lived (*where have I heard that? Oh, from him!*) receives the "Andy Award" from Awards Chair Bill Neal for some misadventures in Montana.

Two New Members Inducted to the WFFC Clan



Two new members with a bag of WFFC “Goodies” being welcomed into the club
New member **Mark Olson** on the left
Long time member **Pete Baird**, center
New Member **Robert Edgar** on the right

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 12-14 Sun Lakes Wildlife Area Unit (New)
- 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



Outing Added for 2026!

Sun Lakes Wildlife Area Unit

June 12-14, 2026

by Mike Nolan, Outings Chair



I've added a weekend trip to the Sun Lakes Wildlife Area Unit to the list of WFFC Outings this year. The Sun Lakes Wildlife Area Unit is located within the lower Grand Coulee, adjacent to Sun Lakes State Park and parts of Dry Falls, Park, Blue, and Lenore lakes, in Douglas and Grant counties. Historic glacial floods in this area scoured and carved away millions of cubic feet of basalt rock leaving behind a deep and long coulee rimmed by basalt cliffs, talus slopes, and bare rock. The Unit can be accessed from State Route 17 north of Soap Lake and from Highway 2 three miles west of Coulee City.

Dry Falls Lake is a popular rainbow, brown and tiger trout fishery. Fishing has been excellent the past five years for trout ranging in size from 12-20 inches with most fish greater than 14 inches. Park Lake and Blue Lake are popular locations for rainbow trout fishing. Lenore Lake is a quality Lahontan cutthroat trout fishery. These lakes are best fished from a boat, float tube, or pontoon boat.

I have reserved my own site at Sun Lakes State Park on June 12-15, 2026. You can reserve a site at Sun Lakes State Park directly through the Washington Parks website at <https://www.washington.gov/goingtocamp>. Please remember to sign up on the WFFC website to let me know who is going on the Outing.



Park Lake, Grant County



Dry Falls Lake, Grant County

Update on Corbett Lake 2026 Outing

Corbett Lake Lodge British Columbia May 2026

Great Fly Fishing and Still Some Spots Open!

From Mike Nolan, Outings Chair



We have approximately 9 fly fishers going on the Corbett Lake Outing in May 2026. There are still two cabins, a duplex unit with adjoining door, available from Friday, May 8 to Monday, May 11, 2026 checkout. As well, one cabin is available from Monday, May 11 to Friday May 15. These units are not being held exclusively for our Club, but if you're thinking on going you should book soon. Let me know if you are going and I'll add your name to the Outings List.

Contact Ann at the Corbett Lake Lodge to reserve you cabin.

Phone: 250-378-4334

Email: corbettlake@gmail.com

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

Dues Reminder

2026 Club Dues

From Jim Beck, President



Here's a gentle reminder to you folks who haven't paid your 2026 membership dues yet. The cutoff date for paying dues is Feb. 28 and it'll be here before you know it. Please logon to the WFFC website and get those dues taken care of as soon as possible.

We sincerely value your continuing membership with the club.

"It is impossible to grow weary of a sport that is never the same on any two days of the year"

-Theodore Gordon

Scottish Lakes High Camp 2026

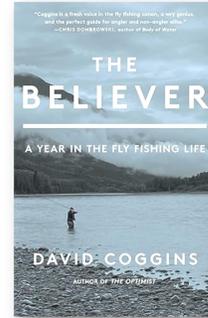


An old WFFC Haunt
Enough Snow for Cross Country

Book of the Month

The Believer A Year in the Fly Fishing Life By David Coggins

From Mike Wearne



On Christmas Eve I Received a copy of *The Believer, a Year in the Fly Fishing Life*, by David Coggins, as a gift. This book chronicles Coggins' trips to Argentina, Cuba, Belize, Norway, Spain, Scotland and the USA—in one year!

His Previous book on fly fishing is titled *The Optimist*

The Believer is one part travelogue and one part fly fishing worship. Argentina is focused on Patagonia, if you ever considered fishing this area, you need to review this. Cuba is fished in wide open flats and mangrove thickets. The Belize chapter is an extended essay on permit worship! The Norway chapter discusses two handed rods. The Spain chapter focuses on "Technical Fishing". The chapter on Scotland was my favorite—more information on various rivers and great stories. The only river that is really discussed in the USA chapter is the South Holston in Tennessee.

The following is part of the review of this book from Gray's Sporting Journal:

"Coggins writes with equal measure of wisdom and humor and brings his enviable itinerary fully to life....He has a gift for connecting with interesting people and for enjoying cultural nuances when he travels. He takes fishing but not himself seriously and is a fine travel companion for the reader....Non anglers as well as anglers will enjoy his nuanced travel writing."

This is a wonderful book!



Fly of the Month

SR2 Nymph

Dressing:

Hook: 3X-heavy grub hook (here, a Fulling Mill FM5115), sizes 12-18.

Bead: Black tungsten bead, 3/32".

Thread: Black, 8/0 or 70-denier.

Tails: Chocolate-brown pheasant tail fibers.

Body: Brown Stretch Round Rib, size small.

Wingcase: Pearl saltwater Flashabou, 1/8".

Thorax/Legs: Dark brown Australian possum dubbing.

Adhesive: Head cement (here, Sally Hansen Hard-As-Nails).

Tools: Plunger-style hackle pliers, dubbing brush, whip-finish tool.



Recipe of the Month

Brown Butter Perch

Ingredients:

1 cup flour

1 teaspoon salt

1/2 teaspoon finely ground black pepper

1/2 teaspoon cayenne pepper

8 ounces fresh perch fillets

2 tablespoons butter

1 lemon, cut in half

Directions:

- Whisk flour, salt, black pepper, and cayenne pepper in a bowl. Gently
- press perch fillets into flour mixture to coat, shaking off any excess flour.
- Heat butter in a skillet over medium heat until butter is foaming and nut-brown in color then pour butter over fish fillets in baking dish then cook until light golden, about 12 minutes . Transfer cooked fillets to a plate, squeeze lemon juice over the top, and serve.
- **Tip:** Aluminum foil helps keep food moist, ensures it cooks evenly, keeps leftovers fresh, and makes clean-up easy.

