

Creel Notes from the



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

Website: www.wffc.com



MMXXVI No. 6

June, 2026



Our State Fishing

*Jim Beck, President,
Washington Fly Fishing Club*

President's Riffle

Hello again, fellow anglers. Sometimes I catch myself hearing about all the great fly fishing available in states like Idaho, Montana and even Oregon and thinking that the fishing opportunities in Washington state are a little limited by comparison. Well, it's true that Washington has only have one blue ribbon river, the Yakima, but we have abundant cold-water lakes that are stocked by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Department (WDFW) with trout. The WDFW does a pretty good job managing it's stocking program. We've been fortunate to have Ryan Fortnier, a Fish Biologist with the WDFW, speak at several of our WFFC dinner meetings over the past few years. In speaking at our dinner meetings Ryan is always a fountain of fly fishing opportunity information for the central Washington area. As a matter of fact, he presents so much information that it's a little like trying to drink from a firehose. There are also a fair number of trout-stocked lakes within a one to two-hour drive of Seattle.



In the summer of 2024, my wife and I were considering a move to the Davenport, Iowa area to live closer to her family. One of must-haves on my personal list of desired qualities in a place to live is the availability of decent fly fishing close by. It was a real eye-opener to find that Davenport and the Quad Cities area has zero fly fishing shops! I looked into fly fishing clubs and found The Hawkeye Fly Flyfishing Club. The club has

forty members. During a visit to the Quad City area I was able to attend one of the club's monthly meetings. Four people showed up for the meeting. During this same visit my wife and I took a walk

(Continued on page 2)

June Program

Skip and Carol Ann Morris

Designing and Tying Flies



Join us for our June monthly club meeting featuring Skip and Carol Ann Morris, noted author and fly tyer. Skip will present a program designed for

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue

- ✓ Page 1.....June Program
- ✓ Page 3.....Leech Lake Primer
- ✓ Page 4.....Outings / Reports
- ✓ Page 7.....For Sale
- ✓ Page 8.....Eliguk Lake Revisited
- ✓ Page 9.....Reeling in the Years
- ✓ Page 11....Loose Ends

(Continued from page 1) - President Riffle

in a local park that had a manmade lake. While walking near the lake we ran into an Iowa State Game Warden. I asked him if the state ever stocked the lake with trout. The warden said that they stocked the lake with trout in early Spring but by mid Summer those that hadn't been caught and killed would die as the lake water temperature heated up. By August the lake temperature felt like tepid bath water.

So, now when I hear of great fishing in other states I have a different perspective. Sure, there are states that have better fly fishing than Washington but I think we have it pretty good here. I, for one, feel lucky to live here.

(Continued from page 1) - Program

the WFFC, designing and tying flies. What goes into the design of the flies we fish.

Skip is among the most prolific fly-fishing and fly-tying authors alive—his name is known to anglers around the world.

Skip has written twenty-one books on fly fishing and tying, including the established standard beginning fly tier's volume, *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*, and *The Art of Tying the Bass Fly*, *Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes* (with lake-fishing guru Brian Chan), *Concise Handbook of Fly Tying*, and *Fly Fisher's Guide to Western River Hatches*.

Carol Ann is also very accomplished in her own right being a superb artist and illustrator, photo/videographer, speaker, fly-fishing junkie, and a graduate of Colorado State University College of Veterinary Medicine

Note that this meeting is entirely online via Zoom. Zoom login info TBD.

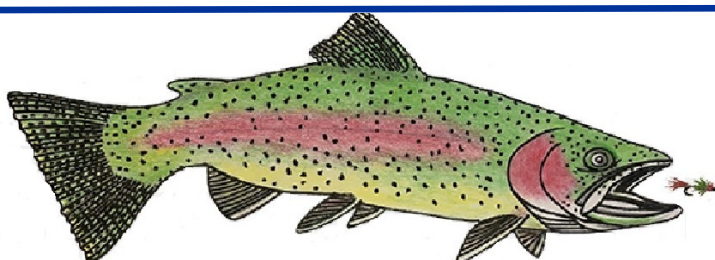
Program Location



This monthly program will be held online via zoom.

zoom

Please check WFFC website for details and link.



Creel Notes

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

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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.

Leech Lake Primer from Author & WFC Legend Steve Raymond

Tutorial on Leech Lake

By Steve Raymond—From the Creel Notes July 1971

Leech Lake, at the summit of White Pass, is one of the finest fly lakes in the state. It's small, shallow and easy to cover. The water is usually clear, weed growth heavy and hatches plentiful. The trout, eastern brook, are not large but there are lots of them and they make wonderful eating.

Leech is at an elevation of 4,700 feet. Usually the snow is gone and the lake is accessible by Memorial Day. The best fishing is usually the last 2 weeks of July and all of August no matter when the snow goes off.

In most areas the lake is 3 to 5 feet deep. Because of the clarity of the water, it's often possible to see the fish rise or strike at the end of a long cast. The trout average is about 10 inches, but you can count on picking up several 12" to 13" fish in a day's fishing. I like to use a 6 foot, 2 ounce midge rod with a sinking line. Even a 10 incher will put a good bend in such a small rod. *(but the triploids are good size and more than make up for smaller average brookies—Ed)*

There are campsites all around the lake, maintained by the forest service. Get there early on the weekends. There are outdoor toilets and good fresh water

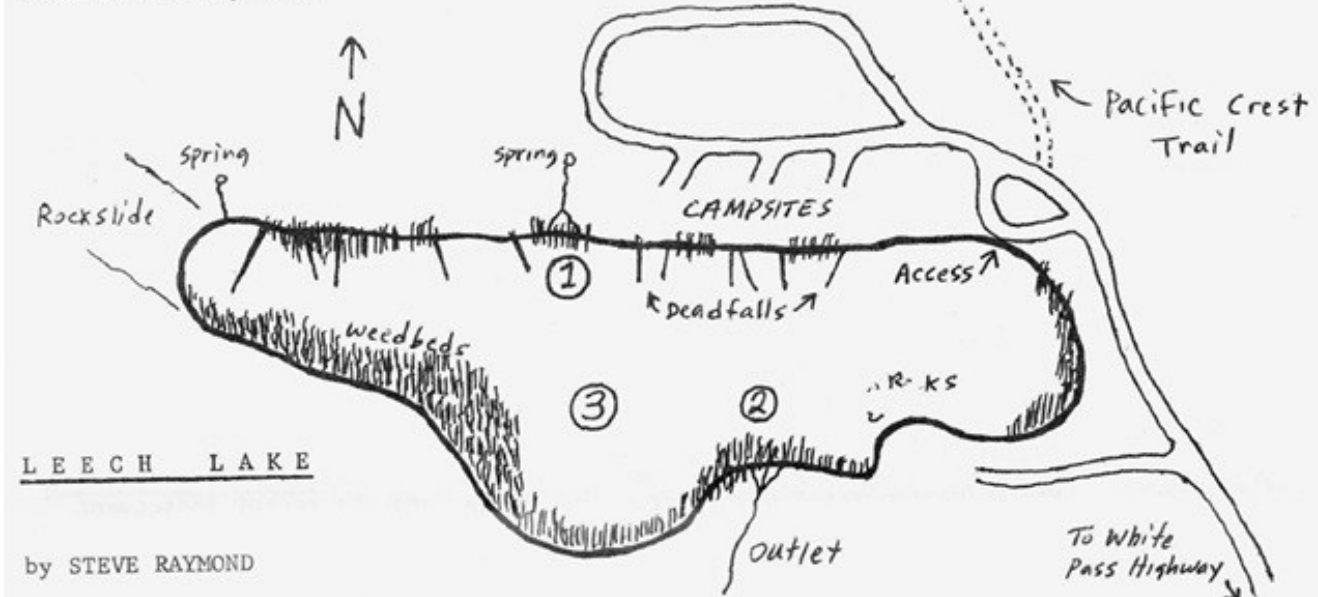
from the springs. However, check around before taking the water from the spring nearest the campground; last year some people were using it instead of the outdoor toilets.

Gas, food and booze are available at the White Pass Summit, about 1/2 mile from the campground. The best spots are numbered:

1. The hottest place on the lake. Brookies congregate off the mouth of the spring where the cool water comes in. Anchor close to shore and put your fly near weed bed or along the windfalls. I once caught and released 106 trout in this spot during a five hour period.
2. Best spot for bigger trout. The brookies spawn in the outlet and the bigger fish tend to lie off the weedbed during the summer months before they move into the creek to spawn in the fall.
3. Good when others fail

Best all around pattern is a damsel fly nymph, light green, tied on size 8 4X long hook. A self Carey works sometimes. On bright days, a size 12 TDC on a thin leader sunk deep works well. Of course, the most elective pattern of all is Raymond's Reliable, but most of you guys are too clumsy to tie it.

Page 3
Creel Notes July 1971



2026 Outings

WFFC 2026 Outings Schedule

From Mike Nolan, Outings Chair



The Leech Lake outing will be June 27th to June 28th and I suggest that you make your own reservations at the White Pass Village Inn. Here is the contact information for the White Pass Village Inn, <https://www.staywhitepass.com>, (509) 672-3131. The Club will provide steaks and beverages for those that sign up for the outing. Please bring a side dish, appetizer or dessert to share. Sign up on the WFFC website or contact me to confirm that you are attending.

The Cooper Lake Outing has been moved to July 25th and after fishing we will be going to the Brick Tavern in Roslyn, WA at approximately 4pm.

The date for the Hood Canal Outing hosted by Jay Deeds has been set for Saturday September 12th. Jay chose this date for the favorable tides for fishing Hood Canal on this particular Saturday.

Contact me if you want to sign up for an outing at outings@wffc.com or call or text to (425) 754-1234.

WFFC 2026 Outings Schedule

- June 27-28 Leech Lake
- July 25 Cooper Lake
- September 12 Hood Canal - Jay Deeds
- September 25-27 Big Twin Lake
- October 10 Yakima River
- October 24 Lake Hannan



Fluttering Stone #14



Size 14! From Neal Hoffberg (who usually ties 'microflies' that you need bifocals to see them!)



Corbett Lake Outing

May 8–11, 2026

by Mike Nolan

Danferd Henke, Jim Beck, John Callahan, Ron Mazurek, Mike Nolan, and Linda Leum attended the Corbett Lake outing. The weather was mostly sunny, with light rain arriving Monday morning. Shifting winds on the lake made it difficult to choose anchor locations.

Linda and I stayed in Cedar Cabin #9 for three nights, from Friday, May 8, through Monday, May 11. The cabin was comfortable, and a wooded trail led down to the lake.

I fished late Friday afternoon and caught a trout that barely fit in my net, making me wish I had brought a larger one. I primarily used balanced leeches and chironomids, while other fly fishers were catching trout on adult mayfly patterns.

Ron Mazurek brought his WFFC 50th anniversary fly plate and presented it to Ann Thompson as a loan to Corbett Lake Lodge. It was accompanied by a commemorative letter written by Steve Raymond.



John Callahan

Mike Nolan

Ron Mazurek

Ann Thompson

Danferd Henke

Jim Beck

“Match the hatch, catch the batch.” Simple rhyming wisdom for successful patterns.

“Wade deep, worry less.” The further into the water, the further from life’s troubles.”

Sun Lakes Wildlife Area

Blue Lake June 12, 13th By Chuck Ballard

Finally I got out fishing for the first time this year .

The Blue Lake Club outing was a really super event as fishing was really great . Weather was a bit windy on Friday however Saturday was calm .

My amazing success was on my own fly the ruby rat on a sink tip. Friday I caught and released (24) 12 to 14 “ hard fighting rainbows.

Saturday was slower only 8 but still really exciting hard fighting fish.

The Saturday dinner set up by Mike and Linda

Nolan was really what these outing are all about . Sharing stories , flies used and just plain good friendships. The attendees were Mark Pratt . His son Shawn , Ben Davidson , John Callahan , Gary Cora, Rocco Maccarrone. Mike and Linda Nolan, Ben Chadwick and myself.

If you missed this you really are missing the best of club activities .



Member Ben Chadwick shows Ben Davidson the size of a Dry Falls fish he caught. *Probably more like the span between is forefinger and thumb!*



What a dignified bunch (cough, cough) enjoying
Happy Hour and Fishing Talk

Sun Lakes Wildlife Area Unit June 12–14, 2026

by Mike Nolan, Outings Chairperson

Gary Cora, Rocco Maccarrone, Mark Pratt, Shawn Pratt, Tom Neu, John Callahan, Chuck Ballard, Ben Chadwick, Ben Davidson, Linda Leum, and Mike Nolan attended the Sun Lakes Wildlife Area Unit outing. The weather was sunny and warm, with daytime temperatures nearing 90 degrees.

On Friday the 12th, John and Chuck fished the south end of Blue Lake in windy conditions with whitecaps and landed about 20 fish each. Ben Davidson and Ben Chadwick fished Dry Falls Lake and caught about three to four trout apiece.

On Saturday the 13th, Ben D., Mark Pratt, Shawn Pratt, John Callahan, and I fished Perch Lake. Reaching the lake required a 15-yard trek through thick cattails and thigh-deep mud. Ben Davidson caught three rainbows, including one measuring about 21 inches and weighing roughly 4 pounds. Mike Nolan caught two rainbows about 15 inches long.

Rocco and Gary had good success at Park Lake on Saturday, catching 15-inch rainbow trout. That afternoon, I fished Deep Lake and caught eight trout measuring up to 12 inches.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) - Sun Lakes

On Saturday afternoon, ten people gathered for a dinner of steak and baked potatoes, accompanied by a variety of salads and desserts. Later that evening, we relaxed around the campfire and enjoyed cold beverages well into the night.

On Sunday the 14th, I fished Dry Falls but did not catch any fish. However, the boat launch was in good condition, making it easy to launch a watercraft.

On Monday the 15th, I fished Park Lake in the morning and hooked seven rainbows, landing four up to 15 inches long. The water was smooth as glass, and the lack of wind made for excellent fishing conditions.



Sun Lakes Wildlife Area Unit Crew
June, 13,14 and 15th

For Sale

Dick Brening Is Selling his 17' Casita Travel/Camping Trailer



Looks right at home at Chopaka Lake!
Contact Dick Brening (WFFC Club Member)
425 301 8677



Eliguk Lake—Revisited

Eliguk Lake is an old haunt of WFFC a number of years ago. The original owners let it go and these are the folks that took fishing lodge over —Ed

How One Couple Moved Off The Grid And Opened A Fishing Lodge in British Columbia's Interior

From Outdoor Canada by Bob Sexton



The Toland's
Remote living

If you're also tired of the rat race, they've got some great advice for you

Have you ever wanted to leave behind the daily grind and head into the wilderness to pursue your passion for fishing and the outdoor life? That's what Jennifer and Aron Toland did in March 2016 when they bought an abandoned, off-grid fishing lodge on the B.C. Interior's remote **Eliguk Lake**. Not that the couple rushed into the decision. Originally from northern Ontario, the Tolands moved to Kelowna 20 years ago and spent five years looking for the right spot. They also have the right background for running a lodge—Aron is a skilled mechanic and Jennifer is an accomplished chef, while both are experienced outdoor people. We caught up with them to get their tips on what it takes to make it in the wilderness.

Expectations

When they first flew into Eliguk Lake, the Tolands loved the spot but were in shock at the amount of work the overgrown lodge required. At least they knew they had the time and skills to rebuild the place. And as Jennifer says, if you're planning to move into the wilderness, you must also prepare mentally to give up certain comforts, and to handle the solitude.

"Your partner must also be your best friend or you'll never make it through a long, cold winter," she says. "**Eliguk Lake** has a wonderful history of being a successful fly-in fishing hot spot for wild rainbow trout, and we made it our goal to bring it back to life."

Rationale

"The appeal for us was the escape from the rat race," Jennifer says. "The stress of city life slowly melts away and your senses awaken. Your hearing improves, because the solitude and tranquility are so calming, and your sense of smell sharpens with the clean air. You are free to decide the adventure of your daily happenings, and it's a humbling way of life." Of course, that freedom doesn't come without a price. "It's physically hard work, but in a very rewarding way," Aron says. "You don't need a gym membership out here!"



Self-reliance

Jennifer stresses the importance of thoroughly researching everything you need to live in the wilderness, from chainsaws to generators. And don't skimp, Aron says. "Always buy the best, because you don't want it to break down, and always have spare parts." You must also have the knowledge to survive off-grid. "Besides our hunting and fishing skills, we learned everything we could about foraging for edible and medicinal plants," Jennifer says, adding that the couple learned even more about backwoods living during their first two years at the lodge. And what are the most important wilderness skills? Preparedness and the ability to stay calm under pressure, Aaron says. "Panic will kill you out here, plain and simple. You have to be prepared to deal with any situation, as there's no getting anywhere quick, like to a hospital. Common sense must prevail."

Reeling in the Years

Gold Button Fish

From June 1962 Creel Notes



WFFC had system of awarding **Gold Buttons** to the biggest fish until conservation practices ended the award and catch and release became the norm.

This is a page (s) out of June 1962 Creel Notes. Of special interest to me was some of the rods and fly lines (never heard of 3/4's of them), Anyhow, we don't do this contest anymore and I'm glad!

GOLD BUTTON FISH

Rainbows

<u>Name</u>	<u>When Caught</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Rod</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Fly</u>	<u>Where Caught</u>
F. Headrick	10/5/41	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 9 oz	Lyon-Coulson	Ashaway	McGinty	Pass Lake
W. Johnson	11/1/42	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1 oz	Powell	Sunset	Iris Gent	Pass Lake
R. Helm	*10/24/43	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Shakespeare	Ashaway	Damsel N.	Pass Lake
W. Johnson	*10/24/43	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 10 $\frac{1}{2}$	Powell	L & C	Dark Iris	Pass Lake
E. Bradner	10/1/44	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 12	Thomas	President	Carey	Pass Lake
Mojo Lampe	4/1/45	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4 oz	Str. Pro	HDH Silk	Y. Spider	Ebey Lake
M. Newell	9/29/46	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 11	Holbrook	Ashaway	Dk Alder	Ebey Lake
W. H. Storey	10/5/47	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 8	Phillipson	Ivanhoe	Carey	Nr Wallace
Don Sachs	10/3/54	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 3/4	Holbrook	Newton	Damsel N.	Jamieson
Lowell Johnson	10/19/57	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 0 oz	South Bend	Corona	Carey	Jamieson
Gil Nyerges	4/10/58	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 7	?	?	?	Jamieson
Gil Nyerges	4/11/59	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 11	Jap Custom	Wet Cel	W. Worm	Banks
Lowell Johnson	11/25/60	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1	Orvis	Wet Cel	Tru' bld Ny	Morgan

*In 1943 two gold buttons were awarded. Curiously, the rb's were taken the same day and Rueben and Walter were fishing from the same boat.

Steelhead

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Rod</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Fly</u>	<u>Where Caught</u>
J. Litsey	9/14/39	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 5	Thomas	Hedge	R. Coach.	Wind River
Chas. King	9/23/40	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3	Thomas	Hedge	R. Coach.	Wind River
E. Bradner	8/30/41	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 13	Thomas	Jones	Optic	Wind River
K. McLeod	1/20/42	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 13	Mills	Hedge	Sky Sun.	Skykomish
Wes Drain	10/2/44	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 0	Powell	Ashaway	R. Coach.	Wind River
F. Headrick	9/3/45	9 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3	Powell	Ashaway	Blk Optic	Wind River
E. Bradner	7/4/47	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 12	Thomas	Newton	Optic	Wind River
E. Bradner	9/19/48	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3	Holbrook	Hedge	Optic	Wind River
W. Drain	1/4/49	20 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 7	Powell	Ashaway	Pool & Rapid	Skagit
F. Headrick	6/12/50	10 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 0	Powell	Ashaway	Lady Hamilton	N.F. Stilly
Wm Hosie	7/28/51	13 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 12	Holbrook	Rainbow	Or. Shrimp	N.F. Stilly
Ralph Wahl	2/3/54	18 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 10	Powell	Newton	Yum-Yum	Skagit
Don Ives	7/9/55	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 0	Orvis	Ashaway	Ives	N.F. Stilly
Lowell Johnson	10/9/58	16 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 7	Holbrook	Ashaway	L. Johnson	Columbia
Russ Willis	1/25/59	19 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 10	Winston	Wet Cel	Black Optic	Skagit
Bob Jones	7/22/61	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 8	Granger	Wet Cel	Polar Shrimp	N.F. Stilly

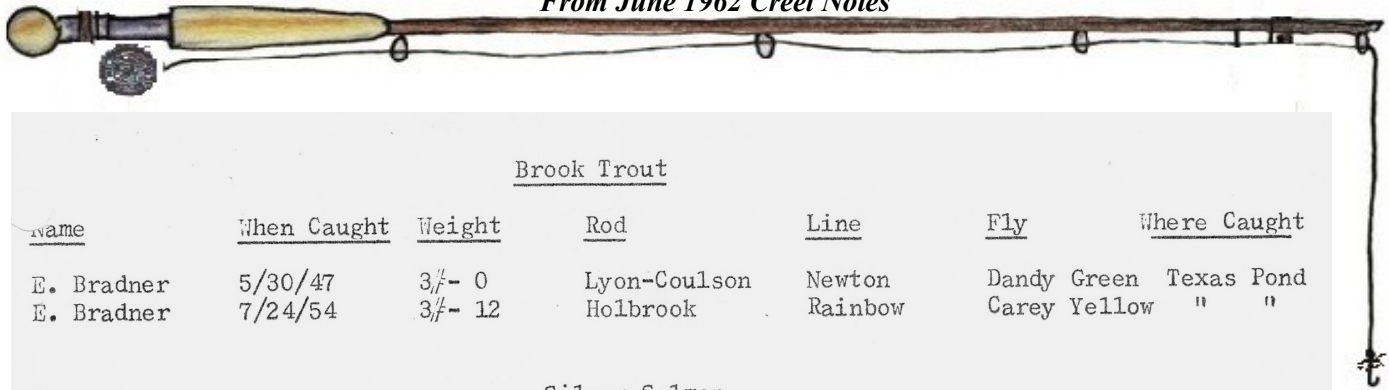
Cutthroat

<u>Name</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Rod</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Fly</u>	<u>Where Caught</u>
Eddie Haw	11/11/41	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 15	Granger	Ashaway	Yel. Hammer	Snohomish
E. Bradner	10/11/41	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3	Lyon-Coulson	Newton	Sil.& Brown	Johnson Pond
W. Johnson	12/2/45	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 11	Orvis	Ashaway	Brad Brat	Lk. Wash
J. D. Hallum	11/15/46	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$	Granger	Arrow	Buck Coach.	Skagit
Jack Pratt	11/2/47	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 14	Divine	Guderbrod	Conway Sp.	Lk. Wash
Wes Drain	9/7/49	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 9	Powell	Ashaway	Pool & Rapid	Stilly
Robt Talbot	8/24/50	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 1	Hardy	King Bider	Needle Fly	
Helm	5/19/51	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2	Baker	Ashaway	Nymph	Pass Lake
D. Holbrook	8/24/57	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 4	Holbrook	Crandall	Carey	Lk Marie
					Yellow Hammer	
					Buck	Stilly

Reeling in the Years (continued)

Gold Button Fish

From June 1962 Creel Notes



Brook Trout

<u>Name</u>	<u>When Caught</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Rod</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Fly</u>	<u>Where Caught</u>
E. Bradner	5/30/47	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 0	Lyon-Coulson	Newton	Dandy Green	Texas Pond
E. Bradner	7/24/54	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 12	Holbrook	Rainbow	Carey Yellow	" "

Silver Salmon

<u>Name</u>	<u>When Caught</u>	<u>Weight</u>	<u>Rod</u>	<u>Line</u>	<u>Fly</u>	<u>Where Caught</u>
Al McConkey	9/20/41	14 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 3	Granger	Hedge	Ghost	El. Bay
D. Holbrook	10/1/52	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 9	Holbrook	Crandall	Rainbow	El. Bay
Don Sachs	9/4/55	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 2	Home Made	Rainbow	Coho	Double Bluff
Enos Bradner	/61	8 $\frac{1}{2}$ - 13	Ted Williams	Ashaway	Coho	Neah Bay

If you take a fish which you plan to enter for a gold button remember the rules detailed in the club by-laws. And bear in mind that entries must be weighed on State-tested scales, and Certificates must be presented to the Secretary within thirty days of date that fish was caught.

Creel Notes Committee

Vince Sellen, Editor

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meet

Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission Meeting June 16, 2026



The Fish Committee heard an annual briefing on the non-native game fish policy C-3632. It also discussed walleye and prey availability in the Snake River, non-native fish in the Columbia Basin Irrigation Project (CBIP), and non-native bass and predation in the Chehalis River.

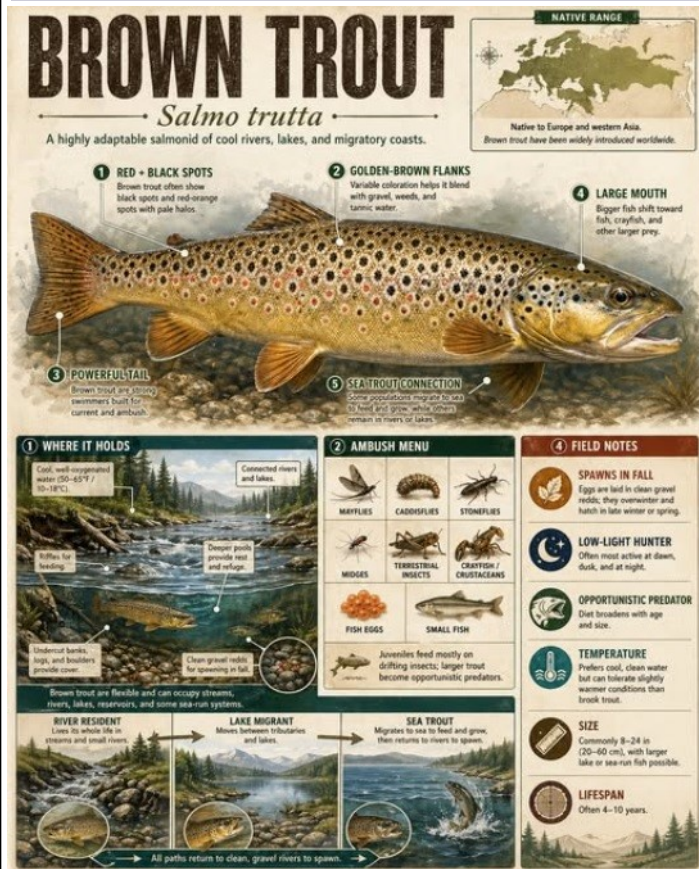
The Commission also approved a Big Tent Committee request to direct staff to develop a statement of work for facilitated conversations with the public. An open public input opportunity followed the Director's report.

The Commission then approved a 40-acre land acquisition in Pacific County and the sale of a partial easement along Dreamz Road in Asotin County. The Commission heard briefings on agency request legislation and WDFW budget requests. That afternoon, the Commission approved the lynx Periodic Status Review and heard a briefing on tideland and shoreline legal frameworks, followed by an update on the Department's licensing modernization effort. Saturday, June 13, included an open public input opportunity, followed by a meeting debrief and future meeting planning.

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission is a panel appointed by the governor that sets policy for WDFW. commercial opportunities.



Great Poster for Your Wall #2



Full Size Posters Are Available From
Fly Life Outdoors

Fly of the Month



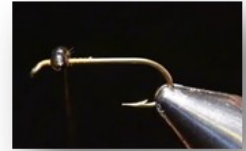
Lion's Mane Damselfly

Materials

- Hook:** TMC 5212 Size 10-12 or smaller
- Thread:** 6/0 Olive Brown
- Body:** Olive Marabou with very long fibers
- Tail:** Olive Marabou
- Rib:** Red or Copper Wire
- Thorax:** Olive to match Marabou
- Eyes:** Black Plastic Chain Eyes

Tying Steps:

- Tie in plastic chain eyes
- Tie in long wispy tail of long Marabou
- Secure another clump of Marabou tips same size as tail, tie in copper or red wire then wrap thread to eyes, then wrap Marabou forward
- Finish body wrap to eyes
- Wrap copper or red wire to eyes



Fly of Month Cont.

- Wind excess body wrap in a figure 8 around the eyes developing a “Lion’s Mane” type head
- Clip off excess to for finishing the “Lion’s Mane” head.
- Twist tail in sort of yarn configuration
- Holding the twist in the tail drop a bit of RV glue to create a pivot point on the tail to add action



Recipe of the Month

Lemon Pepper Salmon

What you need:

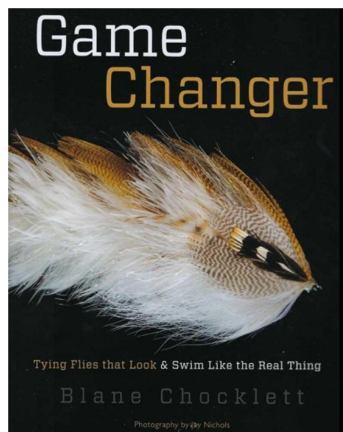
- 4 sheets of foil (9×9)
- 4 four ounce salmon fillets
- 4 tbsp lemon pepper butter
- Salt
- 8 slices of lemon
- Grape tomatoes halved
- 4 sprigs of thyme



To make:

- Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Place the sheets of foil on a baking sheet.
- Place the salmon fillets on top of the foil sheets, one fillet per sheet.
- Spread a tbsp of butter on top of each of the fillets and season with salt to taste.
- Add 2 lemon slices to the top of the fillets followed by 4 pieces of tomato.
- Top with a sprig of thyme.
- Repeat this for all 4 fillets.
- Fold the foil around the fish so that it is completely covered.
- Bake for about fifteen minutes or until the salmon is cooked through.
- Transfer the fillets to a plate and serve with rice or vegetables as a side.

Book of Month



Game Changer

Tying Flies that Look and Swim Like the Real Thing

By Blane Chocklett

Game Changer flies have completely revolutionized how fly anglers approach pressured and wary fish around the world. Tied on a series of interconnecting spines, these flies can be drawn through the water with a serpentine swimming action or made to glide and jackknife in the water with hard strips—movements that predatory fish find irresistible.

In this book, from one of the most creative and visionary minds in fly tying and fly fishing, author Blane Chocklett shares his tips and techniques for getting maximum movement out of these flies, both at the vise and on the water. In addition to covering popular patterns such as the Finesse Changer and Feather Game Changer, Chocklett traces the evolution of his search for the ultimate pattern, and takes readers along his journey of discovery, by beginning with his Gummy Minnow and ending the book with perhaps the most effective fly ever designed for apex predators, the Hybrid Changer.

Step-by-step tying instructions for 20 flies • Chapter covering hooks, shanks, brushes, and other critical materials