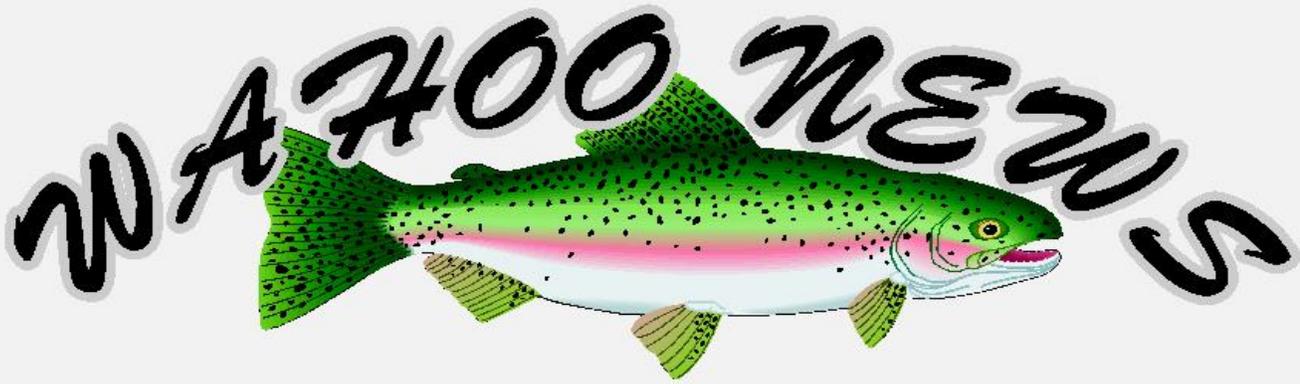


WAAHOO NEWS



VOLUME 45

MARCH 2020

NUMBER 03

MARCH MEETING

Thursday, March 19, 2020 @ Farmhouse Rest

Wet Fly / Social Gathering: 6:00PM

Dinner / General Meeting: 7:00PM

The President's Corner:

By: Bill Keeler



I cannot say with a straight face that 'spring has sprung'. Maybe spring is springing or spring is set to spring or.....you get the point. Spring is in the air. Spring season means a very busy time of the Fidalgo Fly Fishers, we have loads of things in the works and many things on the horizon.

The Skagit Valley College Fly Fishing 101 is well underway, the Youth Education Subcommittee is planning for their advertising campaign for the summer session, the Fly Tying Subcommittee is starting to gel, the Grants Committee is compiling their recommendations, the Outings Committee have lots of cool plans to get us out on the water and we already have a save the date for the next Christmas party. WOW!

This month the Chironomid Capers signals the start of the fish census work on Pass Lake. Your efforts to gather data on the rainbow and brown trout population at Pass Lake is a vital part of what we do to support stillwater fishing in Washington. Your input to the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife is an investment in public fishing today and in the future – a very good application of our Aims and Purposes. Soon after the April Fool's Outing we set off for exotic places to fish and warm our bones.

Thanks to those of you that volunteered to help the club. If none of the Committees or Subcommittees tickled your fancy, there is always room to help with meetings, the Skagit River Salmon Festival, find a conservation project, or recruit and sponsor a new member.

This Months Presentation:

By: Caleb Hanna



Fishing has always been a huge part of my life. Like most people I started out spin fishing. Throwing spinner spoons and the good old worm under a float. Always having the fascination with rainbow trout, would soon lead me to steelhead by the age of 8 years old. The movie "A River Runs Through It" was what sprung my interest in the fly, bouncing between spin fishing and fly fishing till I was 18. That's when I became a full fledged and dedicated fly angler. Shortly after, I saw a man swinging flies in the Sauk River with a two hander - it was the most fascinating way of fishing I had ever seen. Since

then I've been swinging flies to summer and my favorite winter steelhead, with salmon filling the gap. This journey has led me to guiding in Alaska during the summer months for all 5 salmon species, leopard, rainbow and true Dolly Varden - spending the winter months guiding and fishing for myself. Thanks to my product sponsors of Simms, OPST, Hatch Echo and I hope my journey will continue.



Fly of the Month:

By: Caleb Hanna



Materials Used:

Shank:	OPST Intruder Shank, 20mm
Trailing Wire:	Berkley Fireline, Crystal
Hook:	OPST Swing Hook, Size 2
Rear Dubbing Ball:	STS Trilobe Dubbing
Rear Hackle:	Hareline Intruder Prop Hackle
Second Dubbing Loop:	Senyo's Fusion Dub
Rear Wing:	Artic Fox
Flash:	Cascade Crest Krinkle Mirror Flash
Body:	Marabou
Overwing:	OPST Grizzly Saddle Hackle
Collar:	Schlappen Hackle

Planned Presentation for 2020

By: Steve Thompson

- 16 April 2020 – Skip Morris – “Make Dry-Fly and Emerger Fishing Work”
- 21 May 2020 – Dave McCoy – “Fly Fishing in Western Washington”
- 17 September 2020 – LeLand Miyawaki – “PNW Sea-run Cutthroat”
- 15 October 2020 – TBD
- 19 November 2020 – Member Presentations

Disclaimer: All speakers and topics are subject to change. However, I am blessed to have several members who have offered to share their experiences – thank you!

Chironomid Crapers:

By: Robin LaRue



The 2020 edition of “Chironomid Capers” is set for March 21, 2020 at Pass Lake. This will be our first outing of a new decade. Fish stories, coffee, and cookies will be available at the boat launch picnic table about 7:30 am to help ward off the early morning chill and munchies. Remember a Discovery Park Pass is required to park in the boat launch area. If you don't have a Discovery Pass a one day permit can be purchased on site.

I have been out fishing Pass Lake as the weather permits, with mixed results from no fish to four or five fish days. Blood worm patterns and Chironomid pupa patterns fished under an indicator have been the productive patterns. As the weather and the lake warms I would expect more fish activity. I would expect blood worm patterns, and Chironomid pupa patterns such as black red ribbed, static bag black ribbed, and brown copper ribbed in size 14 and 12 to draw some interest from the local piscatorial residents during Chironomid Capers.

The Pass Lake Creel Census will be occurring at the time of the outing. Download a copy of the creel census form from the website, or pick one up from me, and fill in the information during the day. The census is coordinated with the Washington State Fish and Wildlife Department area fisheries biologist and provides growth information for the rainbow and brown trout planted in Pass Lake.

If you have any questions or need help setting up for Chironomid fishing contact Robin LaRue.



Pass Lake Fish Census for 2020:

By: Bruce Freet

For the past six years, the Fidalgo Fly Fishers and other anglers interested in improving the fishing at Pass Lake have conducted a catch and release fish census during a two week period in the spring. This year the fish census



will begin with our “Chironomid Capers” outing on Saturday, March 21st and continue through our “April Fools Day outing on Saturday, April 4th. Our census is coordinated with a Washington Fish and Wildlife Department (WDFW) fisheries biologist, Justin Spinelli. Our fish census provides valuable rainbow and brown trout growth data as well as information about less desirable species such as green sunfish and yellow perch. WDFW adds to our fish census data with their gill netting in May. If you catch and harvest (kill) green sunfish and yellow perch, please record their sizes too.

For the future, the real question is how yellow perch will impact future management of the lake. It is probable that current stocking practices will not support the current fishery of larger rainbow and brown trout. In response to this uncertainty, WDFW will stock catchable-size rainbow trout again this year. These fish are adipose fin clipped, so please indicate whether your rainbows are adipose fin clipped or not.

Justin Spinelli has analyzed the six years of data and summarizes what we have learned to date as follows: (The specific analysis can be seen on our website.)

- Length and weight of rainbows have increased since we reduced the stocking densities.
- Length and weight of brown trout may be increasing as of 2020. Browns may be slower to react to reduced densities because of they are more piscivorous than rainbows.
- Spring angling catch rates have gone down since 2014 but are hovering around the 0.8 fish/hour target for the fishery.
- Trout grow rapidly in Pass Lake according to scale ages from 2015 and 2016. We will continue to monitor growth following the illegal introduction of yellow perch.

To do the fish census, you will need a census form, a pencil or pen, a battery electronic scale (set in ounces), a measuring board, and a large fish net. The fish census form can be printed from our website at www.fidalgoflyfishers.com, Outings and Events, 2020 Outings and Events, Pass Lake Fish Census, Capers, and April Fools Events ([Statistics PDF and Census Data Sheet PDF](#)). It is also the last past of this newsletter. You will need to purchase a scale (under \$20) or borrow one from a member named below. You can make a measuring board from a wooden yard stick (cut at 18 inches). We get the best statistical data if you fish for at least 2 ½ hours. We try to catch 250 measured fish/year.

To minimize handling the fish (and reduce mortality), use a large fish net and weigh it when it is wet without a fish for a tare weight; when a fish is caught weigh the fish and net together and record this weight; and finally place your measuring board inside the net while it is in the water to determine the TOTAL length (nose to tip end of tail) of the fish.

Ryan Johnson, Dave Nunnally, and I will be your contacts to obtain the fish census forms, scales, and measuring boards. Completed fish census form can be given to any of us, scanned and emailed to us, or mailed to me at 615 Twin Brooks Drive, Mount Vernon, WA 98273.

This fish census information will be distributed to neighboring fly fishing clubs in hopes of continuing to get their assistance. We need your help to continue the fish census.

Annual Pass Lake Fishery Assessment Results Update:

By: Bruce Freet

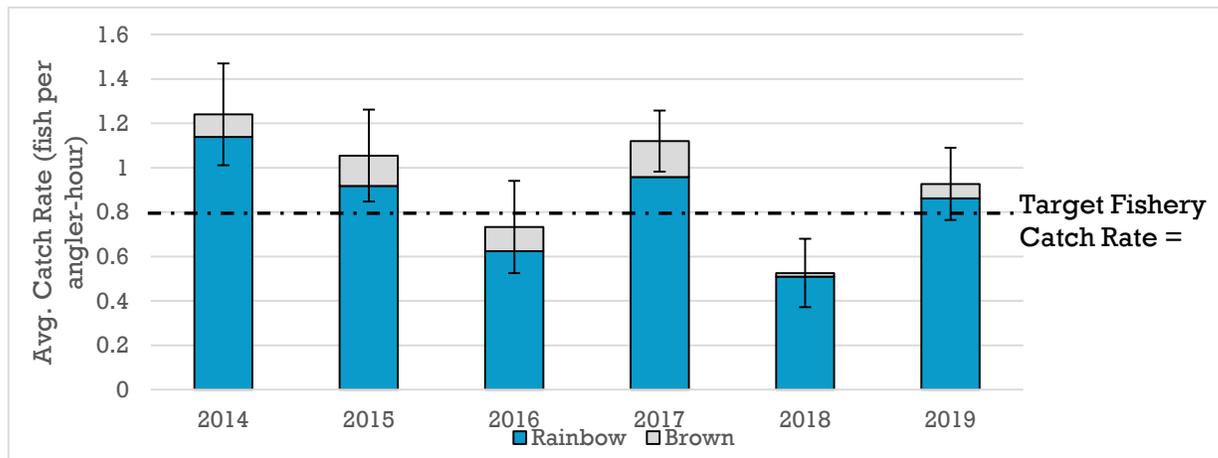
Annual Pass Lake Fishery Assessment Results Update

- Length and weight of Rainbow Trout have increased since we reduced the stocking densities.
- Length and weight of Brown Trout may be increasing as of 2020. Brown may be slower to react to reduced densities because of they are more piscivorous than Rainbows.
- Spring angling catch rates have gone down since 2014, but are hovering around the 0.8 fish/hour target for the fishery.
- Trout grow rapidly in Pass according to scale ages from 2015 and 2016. We will continue to monitor growth post-Yellow Perch introduction.

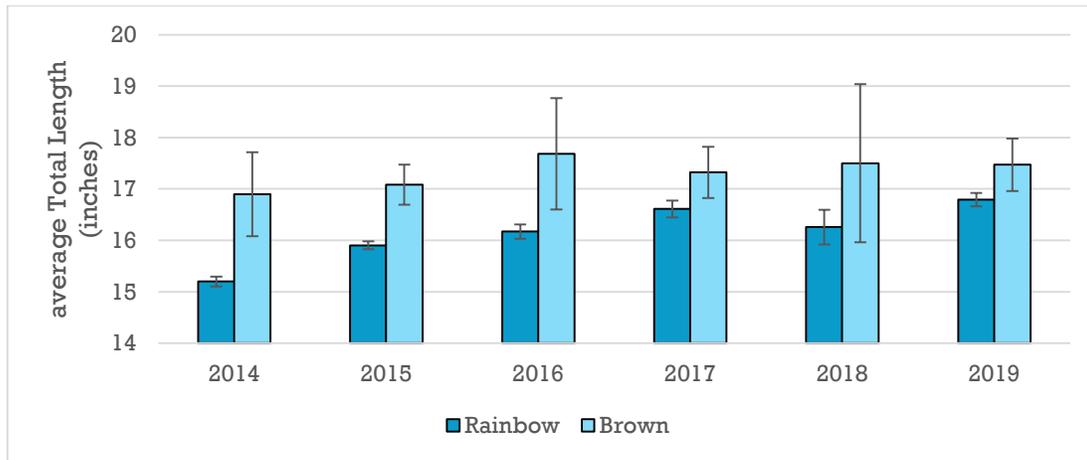
Annual spring angling survey summary:

Year	Number of anglers	Total Hours Angling	Number of Trout Caught	% Brown Trout
2014	32	136.5	194	7
2015	38	230.5	292	15
2016	22	130	107	15
2017	37	187.5	218	15
2018	24	96.6	51	4
2019	42	191.25	199	7

Average annual catch rates for spring angling survey:



Average lengths of quality-length (≥ 14 inches) trout captured in spring angling survey:



Distribution of sizes of quality-length Rainbow Trout from annual spring angling survey:

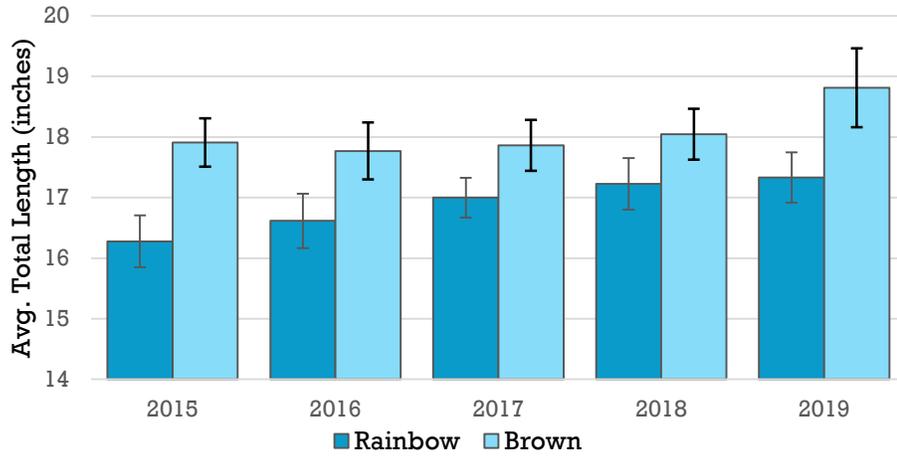
Year	% of Rainbow Trout \geq a given length (inches)			
	14	16	18	19
2014	93	24	0	0
2015	66	39	0	0
2016	96	61	8	0
2017	76	60	15	4
2018	59	41	10	4
2019	75	65	16	2

Note: no Rainbow Trout larger than 20" was reported.

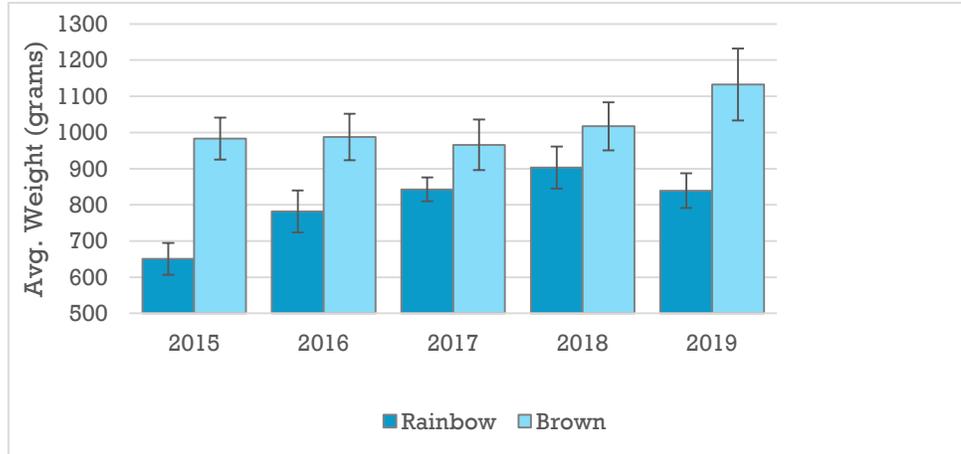
Annual spring gill netting summary:

Year	Number of Nets Used	Catch Rate (no. fish/net-night)	Gill Net Catch				
			Total	Rainbow Trout	Brown Trout	Yellow Perch	Green Sunfish
2015	6	11.2	67	37	28	0	2
2016	5	20.8	104	14	47	0	43
2017	6	7.5	45	14	24	0	7
2018	5	17.4	87	22	22	27	16
2019	6	10.3	62	29	17	2	14

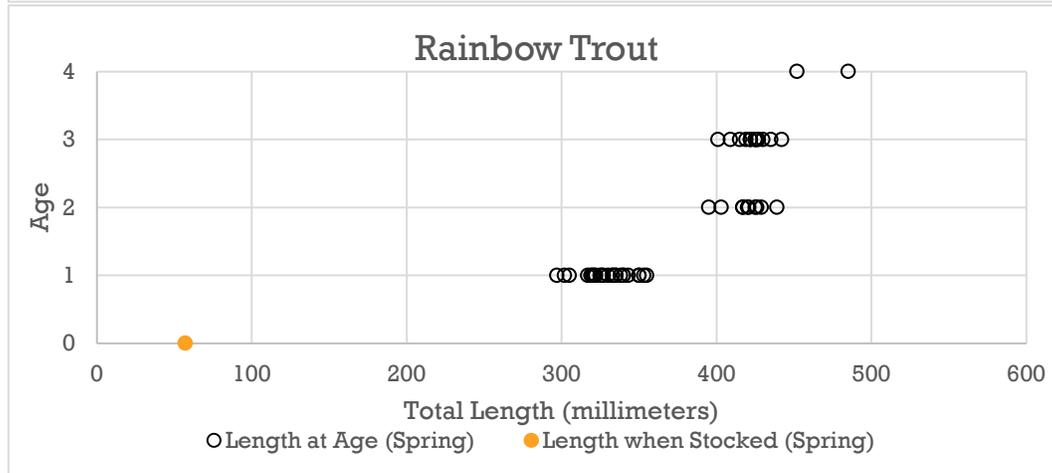
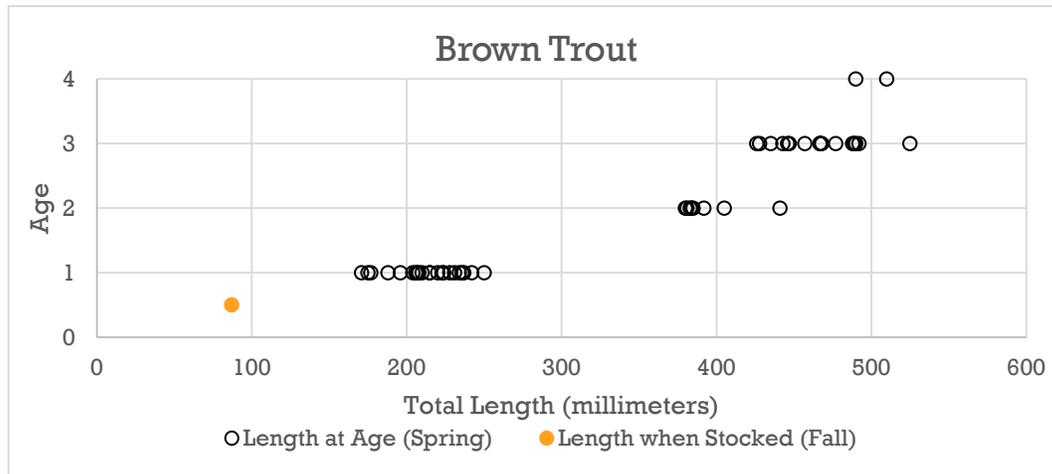
Average lengths of quality-length (≥ 14 inches) trout captured in spring gill netting:



Average weights of quality-length (≥ 14 inches) trout captured in spring gill netting:



Growth Rates of trout in Pass Lake before Yellow Perch Introduction:



**Pass Lake Annual Fish Census
Fidalgo Fly Fishers
Saturday, March 21st to Saturday, April 4th, 2020**

Angler's Name (s) _____ Date: _____ Time: _____ to _____

Total Hours Fished: _____ One or Two Rods per Angler _____ Wet Weight of Fish Net _____

Number	Species	Length	Weight (includes net)	Adipose Fin ?
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				
8				
9				
10				

Use one
data sheet
per day.

Get more
sheets
from our
website,
www.fidalgoflyfishers.com

Number	Species	Length	Weight (includes net)	Adipose Fin ?
11				
12				
13				
14				
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Show two rods per angler if using the WDFW Two Rod Endorsement.

Species is "R" for Rainbow, "B" for Brown trout, "Y" for Yellow Perch, and "G" for Green Sunfish.

Weight is the fish plus net together to the nearest lb. and ounce. We can deduct the wet weight of your net later.

Is there an adipose fin (+) or has it been cut (-)?

Length (total) is the fish snout to end of the tail fin to the nearest ¼ inch.

Time is actual time fishing; fly first in the water to when you quit fishing. Fish a minimum of 2 ½ hours.

Return form whether or not you catch fish, so that we can determine our catch per effort (no. fish per hour).

There be Sea Monsters Out There:

By: Robin LaRue

While cleaning old files from my computer I came across this article I submitted for publication in the February 2007 issue of the WAHOO. I thought it might be worth a reprint.



My wife, Kris is a genealogist buff, she likes to research and learn about the roots to our family tree. A facet of this hobby is research of old records and has taken her to museums and libraries across this and other states. While doing research at the Tacoma Library she came across an article published in the July 17, 1941 edition of The Tacoma News Tribune she thought I would find the article interesting and brought a copy home to me. The article was titled “Fishermen See a Queer Animal” and I thought I would share the article with the readers of the WAHOO.

“Fishermen See a Queer Animal, Shelton, July 16 – Two more subscribers to the belief that sea serpents exist in these parts were added to the growing clan Sunday, when Omer L. Dion, Mason County treasurer, and Harry McConkey, retired, returned from a fishing trip to Hammersley Inlet with a tale of having seen a marine oddity which had a head like a horse minus the ears, but with large eyes, a body about 20 feet long, a V-shaped tail and

feet which it used to swim with.

The skin was like that of a whale and the veteran fishing pair said they believe the queer specimen to be a mammal. They drifted to within 20 or 30 feet of it before it took alarm and dove.

“We hadn’t had a thing stronger than coffee.” Dion swore, and friends testify to the habitual sobriety of both anglers.”

I wonder what variety of Starbucks was in their thermos.

Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award:

By: Danny Beatty

Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award

Tom Fulk and Walt Johnson Nominated by the Fidalgo Fly Fishers

Every year the Washington Fly Fishing Club (WFFC) sends to other area fly fishing clubs an announcement inviting nominations for their Letcher Lambuth Angling Craftsman Award.

September, 2018 Terry Abrams read the announcement received by the Fidalgo Fly Fishers which led to the nomination of Tom Fulk. Tom was presented with the award at the WFFC’s January 2019 Award’s Meeting. You can read more about Tom’s Award in 2018-19 Wahoo’s.

In 1981 Fidalgo member Russ Willis read the announcement and started the process of nominating Walt Johnson for the Lambuth Award. Walt was known for his fly-tying which Russ and other members of the club, who helped Russ write the formal nomination, focused on. Walt’s nomination was not accepted by the WFFC’s Awards Committee. Russ was not to be deterred and when the announcement was received in 1982, Russ and members of the club again sent in Walt’s nomination. This time the nomination was accepted and Walt received the Lambuth Award in 1983. Walt Johnson’s response to his receiving the award was to tie and frame six original flies which was given to the club.



An Active Member Club of the Fly Fishers International

“To my friends and fellow anglers in the Fidalgo Fly Fishers – In Appreciation Walt Johnson

1/24/83”. One of Walt’s originals, Lady Coachman (upper left) was used for many years by Casting for Recovery as their “Logo Fly”. For a few years Walt’s fly plate was kept in the club’s display case at the Restaurant in Anacortes where we met. After some time, the fly plate came to my possession. I met and knew Walt so the plate was a joy to have displayed in my home.

But I felt that something of Walt’s legacy needed to be in the Fly Fishing Collection at Western Washington University. On December 6, 2019 I took the plate to Western and it is now in the Collection.

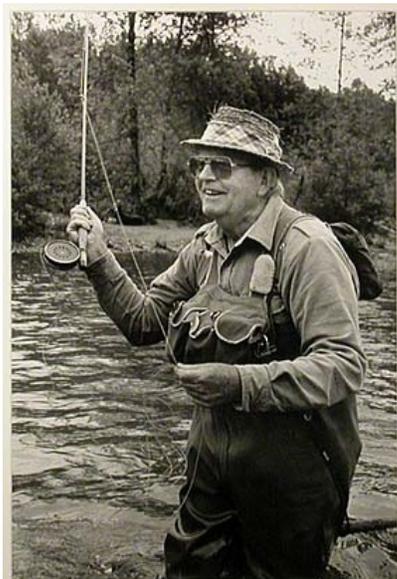
For more information about Walt Johnson and the Lambuth Award I have asked the Wahoo Editor to attach other documents which you may like to read.

Walt Johnson:

By: Danny Beatty

While researching old newsletters I found this biography of Walt Johnson. Russ Willis had contacted Walt, his long-time friend and steelhead fishing partner, and asked him to write his fishing biography. The following is Walt’s response to Russ’s request. Danny Beatty – Anacortes WA

November 1978



Born in 1915 in Kirkland, Washington, I was drawn to fishing at an early age, spending much time exploring the many creeks and ponds on the east side of Lake Washington. (I) made many memorable pack trips into the high Cascades for trout, namely in the lakes of Snoqualmie and Stevens Passes. A school chum and I made our first trip to the North Fork of the Stillaguamish area in the 1930s., traveling in a 1923 Model-T Ford touring car back when the highway was just a narrow black-top road. We had to pull ourselves to the north side of the river at Hazel by means of a basket suspended over the river on ropes and pulleys. We camped on the old Mt. Higgins trail in an abandoned Boy Scout cabin and fished Dick’s and Rollins creeks, catching numerous fine rainbow trout. Little did I realize that someday I would be fishing summer steelhead in the river itself.

Having lived for several years on the shore of Lake Washington, I had the opportunity to catch many fine sea-run cutthroat, coho salmon and even the big yellow perch and bass that were prevalent at that time. In 1940 I was married and moved to Seattle where I resided until retirement. While working in my father’s business I met Reuben Helm, a fine angler and sportsman, and we made numerous trips together for trout. One day Reuben came to me and said he had met Enos Bradner who then had a book shop in the Broadway district. He said that Mr. Bradner was also a fly fisherman of note and tied his own flies. Both Reuben and I had been interested in fly fishing but didn’t know where to begin. Dawn Holbrook also had a small shop on Broadway where he tied flies commercially and featured custom rods of his own design along with those made by the late E.C. Powell of Marysville, California. Reuben obtained a few feathers and hooks from Dawn and we began tying our own crude affairs that left a lot to be desired.

The Washington Fly fishing Club had recently been formed and we were invited to join by Enos Bradner and Letcher Lambuth. Neither of us had taken a summer steelhead and in those days most steelhead anglers were regarded with awe and reverence. It seemed that this was a sport for the select few. However, we absorbed as much as we could. The first fly-only closure of its kind had just been initiated on the N.F. Stillaguamish and Pass Lake in Snohomish County through the efforts of the few charter members of the Fly Club (WFFC). Opposition from farmers along the river as well as other clubs was intense but with firm persistence and diligence the Fly Club won out. Many downstream migrant steelhead had been destroyed by the use of bait and the club wished to prove that if the river was managed on a fly-only basis the native runs of steelhead would improve.

One July Reuben spent his vacation with friends who lived near the South Fork of the Stilly. While fishing one morning he had hooked a bright summer steelhead of around eight pounds that, on its long run, wound up his automatic fly reel like a window shade until the reel exploded as its spring broke. This was lesson number one and we soon learned that these reels were not meant for steelhead fishing and purchased Pflueger Medalist single-action models. Reuben then journeyed to the North Fork and

An Active Member Club of the Fly Fishers International

before long returned with his first summer-run. I caught the fever and every weekend would find us on the famous Deer Creek riffle. On my first morning I hooked six fish and lost every one of them due to "buck fever." It seemed that trout habits were hard to overcome. The strike was so violent and disrupting that I froze on the line and the leader popped on the fish's initial run. After careful contemplation, the following weekend found me fast to my first summer steelhead of six pounds which I subsequently beached, using an orange shrimp bucktail. That was the beginning of a lifetime love affair with steelhead trout. Later I purchased property on the famous Elbow Hole of the North Fork where I maintain a cabin to this day (November 1978).

In the early days of the fly-only closure there lived at Oso, near the Stilly, a gentleman named Cal Hollingsworth. At the time Cal was a man of better than 70 years with snow-white hair. Like many of the locals, he took unkindly to the fly-only closure and that "Seattle bunch". However, he accepted it gracefully and, rather than resist, he acquired an old beat-up fly rod and made his way to the Deer Creek riffle. He had to carry a wading staff because of his age but on any weekend morning he could be found patiently casting for steelhead. Soon he started to catch them regularly. Many a Seattle fly angler would arrive at daylight and fish without results only to have old Cal come along about 8 a.m., wade into the head of the riffle and hook a steelhead. He would say, "I never tied a fly in my life, the only ones I use were either given to me or I found them on the beach." The stalwarts of the Fly Club took special liking to old Cal, whom they dubbed "The Patriarch of the Stilly," and felt they should show their appreciation for his acceptance of the regulation. As a consequence, a group of us went together and chipped in for a new bamboo fly rod, reel and line. We arrived on the river early, stashing the new equipment in the bushes nearby. When Cal arrived, we greeted him and when he stopped fishing we gathered around on the bar for a visit. Cal's equipment was in sad shape, the guides were held on by adhesive tape, the silk line was nearly rotten and rod varnish was badly checked. However, he was proud of his outfit and when one member asked to see it, he eagerly consented.

The club member began to peel the tape from the guides, then took the line and tested it by jerking. One could see the surge of crimson in Cal's face as anger welled up inside. At the precise moment, one of us went to the bushes and produced the complete new outfit and presented it to Cal. Tears welled up in his eyes as he gratefully accepted it and from that day forward that "bunch" of Seattle anglers were number one in Cal's book. Cal had great concern for the steelhead he loved and during periods of low water would dig a channel in the mouth of Deer Creek to allow the fish to escape to their spawning areas. Later he was afflicted by a heart attack and the doctor told him to stay off the river but he confided in me one day, "I sneak down there every chance I get and take a steelhead." It was men like old Cal that set the example for we who followed and we all learned our lesson from his philosophy and probably became better sportsmen because of it.

As I became more proficient in the art of steelhead fly fishing, I began to search for ways to make my sport more challenging. Having watched such experts as Ken McLeod and others take this magnificent fish on dry flies, I was convinced that this was the way to go, and using a 3½-ounce Powell rod I finally took my first on a dry fly, a ten-pound, fresh-run hen that soon made a believer out of me. I had, at that time, done a little writing. My first article appeared in the *Fishing Gazette* of London, England, in 1939 and I had correspondence with the editor of that notable periodical, namely Mr. R.L. Marston. This was when England was still going it alone against the Nazis in the war and he told me of the V-2 bombs being rained down on London. A remark in one of his letters still is etched in my memory: "We will win this war even if the U.S. has to give us a hand." At about that time the Charles F. Orvis Co. was making ski poles for the Army out of bamboo impregnated with bakelite resin (a new process then). They stated that after the war they contemplated using this process to produce fly rods of which they already had made a few samples.

I wrote to them and later received the first Bakelite-impregnated fly rod in the Northwest, an 8-foot, 4½-ounce beauty that accounted for many steelhead. Spurred by my success in taking fish on this lighter than usual tackle, I inquired if they made a smaller and lighter rod and was sent their Deluxe two-piece model of 6 feet, 1¾ ounces. Later I acquired as a gift from Duckie Corkran, then president of Orvis, their newly developed one-piece Superfine of the same dimensions. This gift was in appreciation for articles I had written for the Orvis catalog. Lee Wulff had made these small rods famous fishing for Atlantic salmon in the east and I found that I was soon taking summer steelhead effectively with dry flies on these little rods and they were fully capable to the task if handled properly and provided the ultimate thrill in steelhead fly fishing.

Along the way it had been my good fortune to meet and have as companions many of the top steelhead anglers of the area. Each, in his own way, has contributed to the knowledge and experience which has brought this great sport to its present peak of perfection and I am sure future generations of steelhead fly fishermen will benefit from the pioneering spirit of these individuals. Fine sportsmen such as Al Knudson, Ralph Wahl, Enos Bradner, Wes Drain, Sandy Bacon, Ken McLeod, Russ Willis, Syd Glasso, Frank Headrick and Mike Kennedy as just a few of those who have carved their niche in steelhead fly fishing history.

One day while stopping by Eddie Bauer's sporting goods store in Seattle, years ago, I gazed at a trio of magnificent summer steelhead caught in the Kalama River to the south by the one and only Mike Kennedy. I knew I must try this river. Mike is one

of the finest fly anglers in the Northwest and respected highly by all who know him. His accomplishments on the Kalama and Wind rivers are legend. For several seasons I journeyed south with such friends as Rick Miller and Ralph Wahl and became enchanted with this beautiful stream situated among giant evergreens and laced with dark rock ledges, swift riffles and crystalline pools. Probably some of our greatest lessons in watermanship were obtained on this stream using silk lines of the day.

Before the advent of Wells Dam on the upper Columbia, Ralph Wahl and I spent considerable time fishing at the mouths of the Entiat and Methow Rivers and learned that steelhead could be taken on large rivers, which before had seemed out of reach to fly fishermen. As time progressed I broadened my approach to include the mighty Thompson of British Columbia.

When the Washington Fly fishing Club was in its infancy and the only fly club in the state, it was placed on the defensive in all its proposals. Other clubs feared that more closures would be initiated as they vigorously resisted any new moves by the young upstart. Consequently members had to be constantly on the alert for any attempts to remove the existing fly closures then in effect. Efforts were continually made to remove the closure on the Stilly. One day while stopping in at the Oso store I noticed a petition which stated that the river should be opened again to all gear. I immediately alerted the club, which in turn contacted the Department of Game. The department felt that the arguments for such removal were unfounded and kept the closure intact. Another time there was a move afoot to dam the upper reaches of Deer Creek. This would have destroyed the main spawning tributary for native summer steelhead in the Stillaguamish system. This move was also rejected.

In 1955 I was elected president of the WFFC and in later years became a non-resident member the Fly Fishers Club of Oregon, a charter member of the Federation of Fly fishermen and a charter member of the new Washington Steelhead Fly Fishers. When the WFFC was attempting to encourage other fly anglers to band together and form new clubs in their prospective areas, I helped in this effort. Two such clubs that I was personally involved with were the Evergreen Fly Club of Everett and the Cascade Fly Club of Sumner. Since then many more have joined the ranks, allowing the fly angler to have a more concerted voice in conservation policies.

As angling pressures increased on the North Fork and most of the fishing was done below the mouth of Deer Creek, the club became increasingly alarmed that the native runs would suffer irreparable damage. They felt that if a run of summer fish could be established in the upper river, angling pressure would be eased on the high concentration of anglers below Deer Creek. The Game Department was asked to conduct an experiment (the first of its kind ever attempted on a steelhead stream in North America) to trap mature fish, transplant them to holding ponds at the Arlington hatchery and hold them to maturity, then strip the eggs, rear them to migratory size and plant them in numerous areas in the upper Stilly watershed. I was elected chairman of the summer-run steelhead committee and the project was instituted and brought to a successful conclusion. As with all untried experiments, this one met with considerable mortality, but from those trapped fish enough smolts were reared to plant the upper river. Later, subsequent plants of Washougal River fish helped supplement the Stillaguamish fishery and these, combined with future plants, replaced the declining native runs to perpetuate the species.

During World War II the club desired to help visiting servicemen who stopped here on their way overseas and I along with other members invited several of these men for a day of fishing on Pass Lake. This was when the lake had its first fly closure and the fish ran large, from two to five pounds. As a result of this association, some of us made life-long friendships and the servicemen were exposed to the fine fly fishing this area had to offer. When the club first initiated casting classes at the Green Lake Aqua Theater and fly-tying classes, I participated in those efforts and subsequent sport shows where the club maintained booths. These efforts I feel were instrumental in bringing about a growing awareness of fly fishing in this area and were the basis for an increasing interest in the sport.

One day while visiting at Al Knudson's camp, I was introduced to the inimitable Syd Glasso of Forks, Washington, on the Olympic Peninsula. Syd invited me to fish with him and for several seasons I had the good fortune to share the winter streams he knew so well. I found that he was a pioneer in the true sense of the word, a perfectionist without peer in both angling and fly tying. My first winter steelhead on a fly had come from the Skykomish, but I soon graduated to the mighty Skagit and spent many hours fishing with such fine companions as Russ Willis, Ralph Wahl and Al Knudson. I soon became addicted to this great river. Fishing with Syd was a new experience on those fast coastal rivers of the Peninsula and I gained much knowledge from this association.

In articles written for the *Creel*, *The Flyfisher* and *Fly Fisherman*, I have attempted to share some of the knowledge gained in over three decades of steelhead fly angling in the fond hopes that the tyro of today will become proficient at his art yet retain a respect and concern for the future of his sport so as to ensure its perpetuity. If I have succeeded in a small way, then my mission has been accomplished and your grandsons and mine can share the moment of truth when a magnificent steelhead strikes their flies. I am proud of any small contribution I have made to enhance fly-fishing ideals. The North Fork of the Stillaguamish, my parent river, has been generous to me over the years and I hope the legacy I and my fellow anglers have left will bring about a new era of concern for its future. I am indebted to all my companions on the river over the years, for without their love and dedication to the sport many of the contributions herein presented would not have borne fruit. The memories shared in all these

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experiences are reward in itself and I consider myself fortunate to have lived in the golden era of steelhead fly fishing in the Northwest and to have shared it with some of the finest anglers and sportsmen to ever don a pair of waders.

Walt designed the Lady Coachman. When the organization Casting for Recovery was first organized this fly became part of their logo. This fly has since been replaced with another pattern designed specifically for CFR.



LADY COACHMAN



Spectral Spider



Deep Purple Spey

Up Coming Events 2020:

- March 5-6 – Abbotsford BC Boat and Sportsmen’s Show <http://bcboatandsportsmenshow.ca>
- March 21 – Chironomid Capers – Pass Lake
- March 21- April 4 – Pass Lake Fish Census
- April 4 – Pass Lake April Fools Outing

Note: Please check the Outings and Event page on the web site, things get added from time to time.

New Member:

By: Janet Blanquies

I was born in Ridgecrest, CA which at the time (early 50's) was a one stop-sign town in the middle of the great Mojave Desert at the base of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. My parents lived and worked on the adjacent Navy base, Naval Ordnance Test Station (NOTS) and that is where spent my entire childhood.

My Dad's claim to fame is that he was one of the engineers who worked on the development and testing of the Sidewinder missile. Both of my parents have been deceased for 15+ years now.

I started fishing as a child with my dad. I had a little spinning reel and rod and we fished for rainbow trout in Bishop Creek in Bishop, north of our home. He also took me to opening day on Lake Crowley and there were probably hundreds of people fishing from shore! We also fished in Lake Isabella. I was the only child of three that wanted to learn how to fish and Dad was happy to pass on his love for fishing to at least one of his children!

I have two children in their 40's. They both take after my first husband and are technology geeks! I have four grandchildren ranging in age from 4 to 17.

I have had three careers. The first one was as a Registered Nurse which I did off and on for 10 years specializing in drug and alcohol treatment and psychiatric nursing.

During that time span, I also worked as a Biology technician for the CA Dept. of Fish and Game. I went out on the party boats in Monterey several times a week and measured and counted all of the different species of Rockfish that were caught by the sport fisher people on board. This data was eventually used to establish reserves for the 60 species of Rockfish along the Pacific Coast in order to preserve the declining population and diversity.

Also during that time I earned a B.S. in Biology from UC Santa Cruz and from there I went to San Jose State University for a secondary teaching credential in Science education (life science and chemistry). I taught biology, chemistry, and physics, in middle school, biology and chemistry in high school, and math and life science in 4th and 5th grade. I retired from teaching in 2009.

Rene and I met in 1999 when his son was in my 7th grade science class. Rene introduced me to the Steelhead Trout Education Program where we raised Steelhead eggs in a chilled aquarium in the classroom to Alvin stage and released them into the Uvas Creek in Santa Clara County. He also introduced me to flyfishing when I mentioned I had always wanted to learn how. I almost hate to admit that I have been fly fishing for 20 years because I am still so unskilled at it but I love it anyway!

Presently I am an artist. I design and construct beaded flowers, pinecones, insects, etc and incorporate them in to old windows and doors among other things. I had the honor of having one of my pieces accepted into the juried art show in the Anacortes Art Festival a couple of years ago. It is a beaded true-to-life spider web!

Burlington Parks & Recreation Community Gear Sale & Swap:



Community Gear Sale & Swap: *Seller Tips*



**Saturday, March 14, 2020
10am-2pm**

Held Indoors and Outdoors
Burlington Parks and Recreation Center-900 E. Fairhaven Ave



Thanks for being a part of Burlington Parks and Recreation Department first annual Community Gear Sale & Swap where you will be selling or swapping gently used gear, clothing & equipment. Help out by spreading the word!

BONUS!! There will also be tables and displays from a variety of local, sustainability-minded & outdoor recreation organizations. As we book these groups we'll announce them on our Facebook Page @BurlingtonParks&Rec This will help draw in community partners to help us market the event as well as more customers, plus it's FUN!

As the event approaches, please keep these rules in mind:

- Second-hand Outdoor recreational equipment and clothing only.
- No sales of crafts, artwork or food products
- No firearms or weapons of any kind.
- No combustibles or toxic materials
- No commercial retail sales.

SET UP/TAKE DOWN

- Set up Friday 4pm-5pm & 8-10 am Saturday morning.
- Clean up by 3 pm Saturday (all unsold items must be removed by the seller)

INDOOR VS OUTDOOR SPACES (Rain or Shine)

INDOOR

- 10x10 Booth includes 6 ft Table & Chairs
- Back will be against the wall in most booths.
- Middle booth spaces are limited.

OUTDOOR

- 2 parking spaces-1 for your vehicle, 1 for your "stuff"
- Table provided



Questions?

Please contact Burlington Parks and Recreation
360-755-9649
recreation@burlingtonwa.gov

Burlington Parks and Recreation is not responsible for gear bought, sold or traded, or the transactions / dealings between involved parties. We do not administer, govern, or influence these relationships in any way.

don't let these items collect dust
sell them and buy new stuff

**BACKPACKS
BOOTS
KAYAKS
BIKES
SLEEPING BAGS
SOCCER BALLS
CLEATS
FISHING POLES
LIFE JACKETS
SNOWSHOES
BASKETBALLS
WATERPUMPS
CLOTHING
HOCKEY PADS
FOOTBALLS
SHIN GUARDS
BATS HELMETS
CAMO APPAREAL
HATS & GLOVES
TACKLE BOXES**



Pictures of the Month:

By: Caleb Hanna



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