



FLYPAPER

wenatcheeflyfishers.com

November 2017

Looking Upstream

Dec. 21 Annual Fish Tale Share

Anyone can be a Presenter – Bring your best photos, stories, yarns, and power points to the club and show us how you did in 2017. All stories will be accepted at face value...

Jan. 13 Wenatchee Red Lion WVFF Banquet

General meeting plus Gear and Fun Stuff Ruffled, Auctions (Silent and Boisterous) No-Host Bars and Great Chow!
More details and ticket information next month

November 16th WVFF Meeting

WENATCHEE EAGLES LODGE

6:00 pm	Wet Fly Time ➤ Open Bar
6:30 pm	Dinner
7:00 pm	Club Business ➤ Reports –Discussions – Votes - Raffle
7:15 pm	Niewbauer Program

Judy Neibauer on BULL TROUT

Fish and Wildlife Biologist Central Washington Field Office, Wenatchee

October Outing at Rat Lake

By Alex Fisher

One person's impression of the fall Rat Lake excursion...

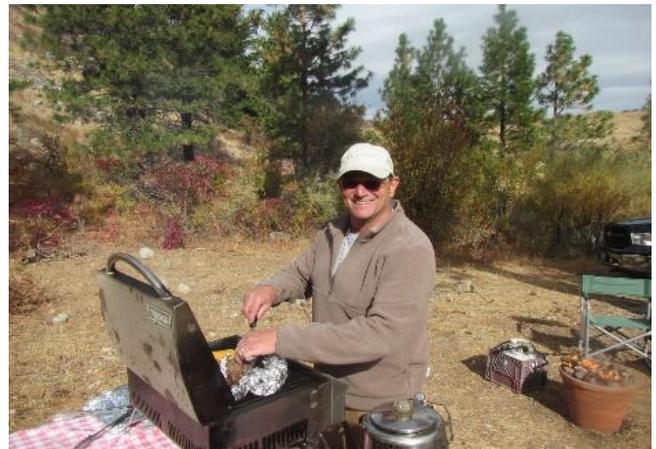
We met at Pateros' Sweet River Bakery, to ponder the day ahead. Undeterred by the fact that the hot chocolate maker was down, Craig regaled us with bits and pieces of his recently completed wildlife tracking class. Now there's an idea for some of us to consider. But at the moment, we had to move on and not let the morning slip away.

As we caravanned up to the lake, it was difficult to not notice the fall color splashes along the canyon, accented by black angus seemingly dotted everywhere. Solitary bovine exclamations occasionally broke the silence.

Unlike the early morning Columbia River ride from Wenatchee, with its long shadows, sunlit clouds and water reflections, the sun above Rat Lake that day was only dimly visible behind a glaze of diffuse cloud mass, refusing to warm the chilly air for most of the day.

This is the main reason why Mike Huffer was the star of the action. His gas firepit brought movement to many a frosted finger while his hot coffee and "cheese burgers or regular?" question provided fuel for the stoic, cold fishermen earnestly rowing to the call of their stomachs.

Throughout the morning, the lake was quite placid with only a light easterly breeze at times, just enough to push a float tube in an unwanted direction.



Everywhere on the lake there were numerous thin, twisted bits of what appeared to be light colored dried plant matter suspended in the water columns extending down from the surface as far as one could see. Only occasionally through



How Big ?

the mid morning to early afternoon did a trout rise.

The fishing itself was at least adequate. Most guys were dropping or trolling streamers like Carey Special or Gil's personally tied woven green dragon fastened to the tippet by a bowline knot for easy movement. He has fished this lake before and generously indicated places along the east and west shorelines where he has had success. He noted that in

places, the middle lake depth was about 75 feet but most fish were in the 20 to 25 foot range, many only about ten yards offshore.

One plucky middle aged mechanic with a ponytail caught a pretty good sized rainbow trolling a green Carey Special. Later, he noted that he had caught a couple of smaller browns. Someone else caught a couple of rainbows on a cinnamon colored woolly bugger. There were reported hits along the shore using chironimids but no firm commitments from its inhabitants.

As we were packing to leave, we were snapped out of our flat water reverie by a speedy Sheriff's SUV spinning out of the turnaround point, doing the job of law enforcement (or looking for one of Mike's burgers) even way up here in this delightful canyon. Moments later a scrawny fellow with hamburger wrappers and coffee cups on the dashboard of his beat up low slung faded blue pickup with a Sonoma license plate holder anxiously asked us what the cop was looking for. We shrugged our shoulders. He said, "I was at work when that SUV came up here, you know." Uh huh...Not sure about him, but we'll be back.



WDFW announces additional meetings on management of the salmon and steelhead fishing guide industry

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has scheduled additional public meetings on management of the state's salmon and steelhead fishing guide industry. One is coming to our area on Nov. 20th from 6 to 8 p.m. at the Douglas County PUD Offices, Main Auditorium, 1151 Valley Mall Pkwy, East Wenatchee.

The department has also scheduled other meetings in Forks, Lyle, Ridgefield, Mill Creek and Clarkston.

During the 2017 legislative session, the Legislature directed WDFW to hold meetings to explore alternative structures for guide licensing, with the objectives of:

- Improving the fishing experience and ensuring equitable opportunity for both guided and non-guided river anglers,
- Managing fishing pressure to protect wild steelhead and other species; and
- Ensuring that recreational fish guiding remains a sustainable economic contributor to rural economies.

The Legislature directed WDFW to hold public meetings on the Olympic Peninsula and in the Klickitat River area. However, the department has scheduled four additional meetings, based on feedback from the public.

At these meetings, WDFW will discuss current management and take suggestions for potential regulatory changes for the fishing guide industry. WDFW also is working with a contractor to develop and conduct a survey to capture feedback from those who cannot attend a meeting in person. The department will provide a summary of its findings to the Legislature by the end of the year.

WDFW seeks public's help to simplify freshwater sport fishing rules

State fishery managers are inviting the public to comment on proposals to simplify recreational fishing rules for Washington rivers, streams and lakes. Proposals are based upon general policies for freshwater species – including trout, steelhead, bass, walleye, panfish, sturgeon, and shad – that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) put forth for public review in September.

"We previously provided an overview of how we want to simplify fishing regulations for freshwater species," said Craig Burley, who heads WDFW's fish management division. "Now we're telling anglers how the proposed changes apply to their favorite stream, river or lake."

For instance, WDFW has proposed assigning most lakes, ponds and reservoirs to one of six standard seasons rather than setting a custom season for each water body. Also, the department has proposed allowing separate daily limits for trout and steelhead rather than one combined limit.

Anglers can now check the documents posted online to see how those and other rules would apply to specific freshwater areas, Burley said.

The proposed rules, listed by geographical area, are available on WDFW's website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/rule_proposals/. Comments will be accepted through Nov. 30. For a hard copy of the proposed rules, please call 360-902-2700.

The public will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposals during the Dec. 8-9 meeting of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. in Olympia. The commission, which sets policy for WDFW, is scheduled to take action on the proposals during its January 2018 meeting.

WVFF Board Meeting: October 5, 2017

Present: Gary Anderson, Craig Garver, Mike Huffer, Harry Lane, JoAnn Lane, Bruce Merighi, Eric Rainbolt, Al Smith and Rob Winters Absent: Eric Davis

President Craig Garver called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m. Minutes for the September Board and General meetings were approved as amended

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Craig Garver and Vice-President: Harry Lane had no reports.

Programs: Upcoming programs: October---John Kovich: Cuba, November---Judy Niewbauer: Bull Trout, December---Annual Fish Tale Share January---Annual General Meeting and Banquet

Treasurer: Al Smith reported an approximate balance of \$16,600.

Secretary: JoAnn Lane reported that the Red Lion is available for a January 13, 2018, annual meeting and banquet. Discussion followed and a January 13 date will be submitted to the membership at the October general meeting.

Membership: Eric Rainbolt reported on the addition of new member Bob Bartlett. Membership is currently 76.

Outings: Mike Huffer reported that there will be a day outing on Saturday, October 14th to Rat Lake.

Conservation/Education/Publications: Bruce Merighi reported that the WVFF website is not working properly but he still hopes to work with Eric Davis to evaluate the current system. Bruce will continue to investigate, evaluate and report his findings. A possible change of website administrator is under consideration with no additional cost reported. In addition, the Board discussed the most recent billing from the website's manager showing a charge for work done to repair website issues the Board believe were the responsibility of the administrator rather than WVFF.

- Paul Ford has donated four boxes of fly-tying materials which will be added to the current WVFF instructional materials.

- Bruce Merighi reported on ongoing Stemilt Basin Planning Group's meetings. Included were the gate which will remain in its current position, ideas to increase parking and to provide group and individual campsites at "the intersection," and a "green dot" road change.

Past President: Rob Winters shared information about the WDFW simplification report.

Banquet: Harry Lane (chairman)

- Asked for volunteers to be part of the committee; Craig Garver, JoAnn Lane, Bruce Merighi and Eric Rainbolt will participate. He will set a date for the initial committee planning meeting.
- A discussion followed about last year's Red Lion venue – bar service and dessert quality.
- Gordi Northrup will be asked to again act as auctioneer.
- The Board decided to again offer a door prize. JoAnn Lane contact Freestone Inn in Mazama to discuss a possible donation share with WVFF.

Of Note:

- The Board decided that the WVFF Wine Cellar will not be offered for 2018's banquet/general meeting as Bruce Merighi will not be available to oversee the donations.
- There is no information available concerning whether WVFF will sponsor a Fly Fishing Film Festival in 2018.

Meeting adjourned at 6:29 p.m. JoAnn Lane Secretary WVFF October 13, 2017

2018 NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY

It is not too early to start thinking about the 2018 Academy. Again we are preparing for another Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy to be held June 24-30, 2018 at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The Staff will be contacting dedicated volunteers to contribute their time for the success of the Academy - **for** the kids. This Academy is all about the girls and boys, 12-16 years old, to teach them the basics of fly fishing and conservation. The event is one full week with some staff and all youth living in clean, warm cabins at the Gwinwood Center. All meals are provided. Students need to bring their personal belongings, i.e., sleeping bags, pillows, rubber boots, etc. All fishing gear and fly tying equipment is provided, however, students may bring their own fishing gear.

The event is supported by Icicle Chapter of Trout Unlimited and of course the big dogs, WVFF.

The cost to each student is only \$300 for the week, and we usually strive to send two from our neck of the woods but can always do more. No applicant will be turned away because of lack of funding.

Applications will be posted to our web site real soon and the NWYCFFA will accept them January 1, 2018 until April 15, 2018.

Applications are also available for downloaded from their website – www.nwycffa.com, via email to mtclancy39@comcast.net or call 253-278-0061. As always the WVFF Board will review all applications from our area prior to passing them on to the Academy folks.

Each applicant must submit an essay explaining why THEY want to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is required from a school teacher or counselor. We have a Facebook page listed under our name for viewing pictures from previous events.

We are very proud of The Academy; this has been a life changing experience for many of our youth and the WVFF will start a campaign to spread the word among local school districts and numerous youth groups. If you have a special child in mind please bring her or him to our attention ASAP and if you need more local information give Bruce Merighi the WVFF Conservation / Education Board Chair.



Stemilt Partnership Meeting

Join Us If Your Interested

The next meeting of the Stemilt Partnership will be Wednesday, December 6, 6:30 PM, Malaga Fire Hall. There are a number of important updates to provide and hope WVFF members can attend. The Recreation Plan that I have been working on to defend access to Upper Wheeler Lake will be reviewed. The status of Green Dot and other roads will be discussed. If you want to know more about the DNR Sections 16 and 22 transfer to WDFW this is the meeting to attend. A speaker will address the forest health and fuels reduction treatment schedule along with a water resources update. Hopefully we'll also start addressing the mud bogging issue in Steffen Meadow and how to restore it in addition to a road relocation that might help save the meadow. A Community Wildfire Protection Plan, future recreational plans for the Squilchuck State Park and the Mission Ridge expansion are also hot topics. Always if you wish more information on this groups purpose and activity contact Mike Kaputa, Director Chelan County Natural Resource Department at 670-6935.

Your FLY PAPER is published monthly Sept – May, by the
Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers P. O. Box 3687, Wenatchee, WA 98807-3687
The WVFF is a federally registered 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization incorporated in WA.
Members are encouraged to submit sale items, articles and pictures to: bruce401@nwi.net