



P.O. Box 3687
Wenatchee, WA 98807-3687
An FFF Affiliated Club



"RELEASE 'EM ALIVE"



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FLY PAPER — October 2009

Wading In....

What a month of fishing activities this past September.

We had 270 kids tie flies and more than that stopped to take a look at the bug collection Gary had set up. We had lots of help both days from our great club members, thank you to all that helped. We were honored to have John Newberry and Bob Bates from our WCFFF board help us both days. John is the most recent recipient of the "Buz" Buszek Fly Tying Award. John is a very talented tier and a lot of fun to spend time with. Our club has some good press on the WCFFF web site near the bottom of the front page. The site for the Washington Council FFF is <http://washingtoncouncilfff.org>. If you look you will see some of the R&D work that I am doing on the new stealthy Sylvee fly. The material for this fly is very hard to find.

The outing on the Yakima River was outstanding. Thank you to Tom and Pat for hosting us. We had some of the best fishing the Yak had to offer this year. Two fish at one time was not uncommon. Gaylen Willett a recent graduate of the WVFF class of 2008 was on the river and had a fish or two to her hand. It is great fun to see our new members catch the bug of the sport we all love.

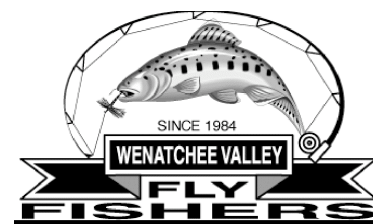
—Steve Olsen

FFF sweepstakes

The Five Rivers Sweepstakes has been extended due to economic conditions. The drawing will be held on March 15, 2010. Tickets must be postmarked by February 28th, 2010 to be eligible. Please support the FFF's ongoing efforts in conservation and education by purchasing a ticket.

To purchase tickets and for more information on the Sweepstakes
<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=5030>

Phil Greenlee
F.F.F. - Chairman of the Board



<http://www.wvff.net>

Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers

FLY PAPER

An Affiliate of the Federation of Fly Fishers

October 2009

Volume 22

No. 115

Looking Upstream

General Meeting October 15

Wet Fly **with tying** 6:00
Dinner 6:30
Meeting 7:30
Program 8:00

Antilon Lake Outing October 17

9:00 AM
Dinner at 6:00-ish

Board Meeting November 5 7:00 PM

Possible Steelhead Fly Tying Outing November 6 Chelan County PUD building

November 7 Steelhead Outing Methow River Pat & Pete Herdt's 9:00 AM Coffee's on 3:00 PM-ish come back to Pat's for lie swapping

Brian O'Keefe My Twelve Favorite Fish

Our favorite adventurer, photographer, and fly fisher Brian O'Keefe is with us again. As always, this is a don't-miss program. The photos will be over the top. The jokes will be belly-rollers. His tips and tricks for getting to where the fish are and then fishing for those fish are invaluable.

Brian will present his favorite twelve fish. Now could this be his lifetime great catches or his twelve favorite species. Either way, this is great entertainment for a cool October evening. How many favorites do you have?



Check out Brian's magazine, *Catch*:

<http://www.catchmagazine.net/>

General Meetings at The Wenatchee Golf & Country Club
Third Thursday of the month, September through June.

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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF MATERIAL IS THE FIRST OF THE MONTH OF PUBLICATION.

WVFF Board Meeting Minutes, 1 Oct 2009

President Steve called the meeting to order at 7:00PM.

Fishing Reports. **Don Bolstad** and **Steve Olsen** both reported that the Yakima fishing was great. Steve suspected he hooked a Steelhead but since it broke off, he couldn't be sure. Tom Whiteside had agreed with Steve's assumption. Don Bolstad also reported that the Methow was pretty good as they caught some fish. Rene reported that Chopaka Lake was little slower than it had been in the spring, although some did very well and the fish were of good size.

Committee Reports.

Outings: **Richard Stone** reported that the Yakima Outing was very successful. Fishing was good and the camping was fun. There will be an outing on the 17th of Oct at Antelon Lake, out of Chelan. There will be a hamburger "dinner" at the Lake after some Brown Trout and Pan Fish are caught. On Nov 17th there will be a Steelhead outing on the Methow River. Although everybody scatters up and down the River, stop by Pat and Pete's for info, help and directions in the morning and then everybody stop by again at Pat and Pete's at around 3:00 PM and commiserate over the days activities and share story telling. If there is interest there will be a fly tying outing prior to this outing. Steelhead flies will be the target of interest. The Club will provide appropriate hooks and materials for three flies if you don't know what to get and they will cost you \$5.00. You tie them of course.

Conservation. **Don** reported that the Dept of F&G held a meeting to discuss proposed changes to State Regulations. There may be a possibility of a Bullhead Trout season in selected waters. More study is needed. WVFF (US) verbally proposed a one fish limit on Antelon Lake to get the fish size back up to where they used to be. Art Viola has it for review. Gil Biles was selected to serve on the UCRFEG, which, for the uninformed, stands for the Upper Columbia Region Fish Enhancement Group. This group comes under the umbrella of the State F&G Dept. They have access to lots of financing for the right type of projects. The meetings are in Orville, which is a long ways, and the Board has agreed to reimburse mileage costs through Dec. At that time, an evaluation will be made to see if the expense is worth the benefit.

Publications. **Nancy Howard** reminded everyone that the deadline for submissions to the FlyPaper is always the first of each month, September through June. We do not publish the newsletter over the summer. **Don Bolstad** and **Steve Olsen** have our bright yellow cards on display at *Hooked On Toys*.

Programs. Brian O'Keefe will be at the General Meeting.

President's Agenda. **Steve Olsen** identified several items of which he will speak to at the general meeting. Our Web Site is not being employed as much as it should be. More members should take advantage of this resource. <http://wvff.net>

Our Kids Fly Tying efforts at the Ellensburg "Conclave" and at the Salmon Fest in Leavenworth have brought us a lot of notoriety. Many groups throughout the state want us to do the same for them. We would be over committed and stretched too thin if we accepted even one other commitment. Two a year, one in spring and one in fall keeps the events fun for all.

In November and December, we will be pre-selling tickets for the Jan 23rd, 2010 Banquet. It will be at the Country Club, and with any luck, it will be as good as last year's excellent evening.

President Steve Olsen closed the meeting at 9:00PM with a sticky Bun in his mouth.

Respectfully Submitted Rene Paul Secretary

WVFF General Meeting Minutes, 17 Sept 2009

President Steve opened the meeting at 7:30 PM

Fishing reports. Many reports were given from the summer activities.

Gordy Northrup reported on the St Joe in Idaho. Very beautiful, good fishing and 45-degree water.

Al Smith reported on Dusty Lake. Excellent fishing. Closes 1 Oct.

Joe Roy reported on the Deschutes in Oregon.

Steve Aguilu reported on Humpy fishing on the coast. Did great and converted a gear fisherman to flies.

Tom Whiteside reported on the Clark Fork in Mt. It was an overcast day and Tom lost track of the noses. Any fly would work.

Gil Biles reported on the Missouri in Montana, lots of fish but the flies were too plentiful and very small to compete against. Henry's Fork in Idaho was OK but not very big. Leech Lake on White Pass had good Triploid fishing and good Brookies.

Vladimir Steblina reported on Colorado.

Fred Kunzmann reported on the Kootenai in Libby, Montana. Too much fun was had.

Membership. Dan introduced his two sons. Doug Pendleton was introduced.

Conservation. **Don Bolstad.** **Fred Kunzmann** spoke on the situation relative to the Game Dept accesses on the Wenatchee River. Moving very slowly.

Gil Biles reported that there is a CD on the Antilon Lake boat access we put in. **Richard Logan** stated that there is a need for some volunteers to help with the River Keepers in determining water quality on the Columbia. If interested call Pres Steve. **Pat Herdt** reported on the Salmon Fest in Leavenworth.

Joe Roy reported on the Bylaw changes. There is a need to broaden the charter for the club to include conservation and education so we may qualify as a non-profit organization. A rough draft should be available in the Oct/Nov timeframe. Joe also was "hawking" quality Calendars for 2010.

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Outings. **Tom Whiteside** reported that the Yakima weekend Outing would be 26/27 Sept. They will be at the Big Pine campgrounds downriver from Red's Fly Shop. **Gary Bates** reported on the upcoming outing to Antilon Lake. Brown Trout and pan fish are there for the catching. This will be 17 October.

Gary Anderson introduced **John Shewey** who gave a great presentation on catching steelhead. John also left an autographed copy of his fly tying book to be auctioned at our Banquet in Jan. If you weren't there to fish for steelhead, you missed some great information.

Steve then called the meeting over.

Respectfully Submitted, Rene Paul Secretary

Antilon Lake Project

High up in the hills at 2325 feet elevation sit two alpine lakes, known as Antilon Lakes. The upper lake is 19 acres and a lower lake is 33 acres. These two lakes hold brown trout, crappie, and some bluegill. From early spring to late fall you will find great fly fishing. The lower lake was the one fished most as there was a rough boat launch for access. The upper lake had no access, as there was about 20 feet of cattails ringing the lake that made it very hard to access, if at all.

Each time I went up there for many years I would see fish feeding and wonder how I could get in there to sample them. One day I stopped at the WDFWL office and talked to Art Veolia, fish biologist, and Bob Steel, director, about getting some kind of access to the upper lake. They would like to see this done, but to have someone do this and get the money for this project was not on their program. I said that I would try to tackle this, as I wanted to fish this lake.

In the spring of 2007, I began the process. The first step was to our fly fishing clubs (Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers and The Methow Valley Fly Fishers) for funding. At the next board meetings for each club, this was discussed and WVFF designated \$1500.00 of our conservation funds and the Methow club set aside \$300.00 for this project.

Now the project could begin. First, I needed to find out who owned the lakes. In looking at a topo map, I could see that one edge of the upper lake was on the Wenatchee Forest Service Land and the rest of the upper and the lower lakes were owned by The Lake Chelan Reclamation District. The first place that I felt would be a good area for the launch was on the Forest Service Land as there was a campsite there. However, the Forest Service did not want an upper lake launch on their land as they felt that they would have to maintain it, so that was out. The next place was to the Reclamation District. The Reclamation District for irrigation for the lower Manson Valley at one time put in these two lakes, but the lakes had not been used for this purpose used for over 20 years. In that time span, the lakes had been used only for recreation. So, I went to Kem Carr, Reclamation District Manager, about permission to put in a launch on the upper lake and improve the lower lake launch.

In June of 2007, I received permission to move forward with the project. Now the real work began. Permits had to be obtained and with any project like this, everybody wants to get in to the act. With the help of Bob Steel, WDFWL, I had to submit a Joint Aquatic Resources Permit Application (JARPA). This form goes out to all agencies that may be involved with

this type of a project. Since this was not going to be on Forest Service Land, or DNR Land, they were exempt from connection to these permits. The next step was the Corps of Engineers. I needed a permit from them. The Corps had to inspect the sight to see what was to be done. The next permit was from the WDFWL. Then with the help of Bob Steel, WDFWL, I was able to convince some other agencies to exempt themselves from the project.

There for a while I felt that that this was not going to go. Bureaucracies are daunting. But at last, fifteen (15) months later, I could see the light at the end of the tunnel.

When I got the last permit and the go ahead from the Game Department, I was a happy camper. Now to find an excavator to do the job. September of 2008, the job was to begin. I met with the excavator at the lower lake to do some work on the lower launch as this would not take but an hour or two, (I thought). Well, just about the time that the excavator was done, the bank gave away and the excavator went into the lake.

This ended the work for 2008 and more money had to be found. Still we had no access to the upper lake. Where to get the money? In the past, I have gotten grants for other organizations, so I thought I would go that route. This took a lot of searching, but I applied to The ALETA Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program. This was a lucky hit as they seem to be interested, but, again, it took time.

One must remember that nothing happens fast, so time is something that we just have to wait for. While we waited for the grant money, three of us Gary Bates, Steve Olsen, and I, donned our waders and in the fall of 2008. We made a small path with a scythe and a brush cutter to get into the lake. After many hours, we had a path to the lake. We got our float tubes and sampled the lake. We fished for about an hour and got some brown trout that were in good shape. This looked good and we could hardly wait for spring.

While I was waiting for the excavation to begin the job, things had to be done. I got the material to make a sign back board and get the signs made. Since I had the space in my shop to build the sign holder, I went to work.

In June 2009, I got the word that we would receive the grant but had to wait until July 1, 2009, to begin the project again. Well on July 30, 2009, I was at the site to begin the job. Don Bolstad and I waited at the upper lake site for the excavator to arrive. We were going to start on the upper lake first this time just in case there was a problem. Swan Sanderson arrived, and he was to operate the excavator. Things went well this time, and by the end of August, we were about done. All that is left is for Bob Steel to come, inspect the job, and write his report to the ALETA Grant FUND. Well, now, to try the fishing. I never thought that it would be as good as it is. The crappie are as big as any that I have got in the State of Washington, and they were ready for the fly. The trout were fat and well fed. Since this lake had not been fished for many years, these fish had time to grow to a good size.

Would I do it again? You bet. It was a lot of work but it was a fun project. The next thing will be a club outing to see what we can do if we take the time and wait. I was able to get a five-year maintenance permit from the WDFWL so we will be able to take care of the launches and not go through the long permit program again. There is still some hand work to be done on the lower launch, but that will come in due time as with other improvements that we may want to make. So happy fishing to all. Our next project is to see if we can get the upper Antilon Lake for fly fishing only. THIS WILL ALSO TAKE TIME, TIME, TIME.

—Yours Truly, Gilbert Biles