



FLYPAPER

wenatcheeflyfishers.com

October 2017

## Looking Upstream

|         |   |                |                  |
|---------|---|----------------|------------------|
| Oct. 14 | Rat Lake Outing                                       |                |                  |
| Oct. 19 | General WVFF Meeting –                                | John Kovich    | Fly Fishing Cuba |
| Nov. 16 | General WVFF Meeting –                                | Judy Niewbauer | Bull Trout       |
| Dec. 21 | Annual Fish Tale Share                                |                |                  |
| Jan. 13 | General Meeting and Banquet at the Wenatchee Red Lion |                |                  |

## OCTOBER 19<sup>TH</sup> 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 | Program       |   |

## John Covich FLY FISHING CUBA

Jon Covich has spent the last 25 years immersed in the fly fishing industry as an industry rep in the Pacific Northwest. He currently represents Outcast, Fishpond, Thomas & Thomas, Buff and Galvan Reels. In addition to his business as a tackle rep, Jon has traveled to many of the world's best fly fishing destinations, as both an angler and a professional photographer. Jon is an expert on fishing and travel to Cuba, and works with Fly Water Travel as one of their travel consultants. He also is the national fly shop liaison for Fly Water. Photos of his

adventures have appeared in Outside Magazine, Grey's Sporting Journal, Fly Fisherman, Fly Rod & Reel, and Catch Magazine. Jon lives in Seattle Washington with his wife and two sons.

Jon first traveled to Cuba in the 1990's to fish the newly opened Jardines de la Reina. Since then, he has made nearly a dozen trips, visiting every important fishing region around Cuba, and documenting them with photographs. "I absolutely love the fishing in Cuba, and can't really think of another place in the world I have been that rivals it. Furthermore, I am fascinated by Cuban life, Cuban culture, and the time warp that exists on this island. On every fishing trip I try to build in several extra days in order to see places most tourists don't, and to get a better sense of how Cubans live."

Jon's Cuba presentation touches on all of this....from the legalities of travel to Cuba for Americans, to descriptions of each of the fishing areas and what makes them unique, to the realities of life in Cuba.

Contact Jon, or check out the following for more information on fishing Cuba:

[jon@flywatertravel.com](mailto:jon@flywatertravel.com)   [www.cubafishingoutfitters.com/blog-mangroves-mojitos/](http://www.cubafishingoutfitters.com/blog-mangroves-mojitos/)  
[www.flywatertravel.com](http://www.flywatertravel.com)   <http://flywatertravel.com/blog/2015/02/10/cuba/>

## Outing October 14<sup>th</sup> at Rat Lake

### Outing Facts:

- The lake is in the hills just north of Brewster
- Meet at the bakery in Pateros at 0815 hrs. It in the little mall on the right just as you drive through town.
- Bring a float boat of some sort to fish out of.
- Probably a Sinking Line show. Fish are at 15-25 down. Apparently there are 18-19" 'bows down there.
- Streamers, nymphs and possibly chironomids might hook you up!

If you plan to attend please call **Mike Huffer to RSVP at 679-4327** so he can supply lunch if there are enough people attending.

## WVFF Sept 7<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting Minutes

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

President Craig Garver called the meeting to order at 5:37 p.m. Minutes for the May Board and General meetings were approved as revised.

### COMMITTEE REPORTS

President Craig Garver reported that Gary Bates, Tom Rowe and Walt Wittgow will be the 2018 Nominating Committee. They will be seeking nominations for the offices of Outings Chairman and Vice-President. Other Board members have indicated a willingness to remain in their current positions. Members wishing to run for Board office, may contact any current Board or 2018 Nominating Committee member. Nominations are also accepted from the floor prior to elections in January 2018.

Vice-President: Harry Lane had no report.

Programs: Gary Anderson announced upcoming programs:

- September—Brian O’Keefe: Stoneflies
- October---John Kovich: Fishing Cuba
- November---Judy Niewbauer: Bull Trout
- December---Annual Fish Tale Share
- January---Annual General Meeting and Banquet

Treasurer: Al Smith reported that WVFF has spent \$2200 less than the budgeted amount for speakers. Current balance is \$17, 392. The Board approved the detailed Balance Sheet provided by the Treasurer.

Secretary: JoAnn Lane reported that she sent sympathy cards to Gordi Northrup and family and Ralph Jordan and family.

Following a discussion, it was moved, seconded and carried that “The secretary of WVFF will send condolences to members who have lost a spouse or significant other.” *Members are asked to contact the secretary about any such loss they know about. In addition, if members know of a health challenge for which a card should be sent, they are asked to notify the secretary.*

Membership: Eric Rainbolt reported the results of his membership review. Currently WVFF has 77 paid members. Eric provided updated membership contact information.

Ghillie: Eric Davis was absent.

Outings: Mike Huffer was absent. The Board discussed outing possibilities for Dry Falls and Big Twin Lakes (following winter kill, Big Twin has reportedly been restocked). Rob Winters also reported on the July Icicle outing.

Publications/ Education and Conservation:

- Publications—Bruce Merighi reported that the September *Fly Paper* is ready for publication. The WVFF website has some problems that he is currently addressing. He will be contacting Eric Davis about the possibility of another internet provider.
- Conservation—Bruce Merighi reported on the work of the Stemilt-Squilchuck Recreation Planning Group. The group is currently looking at “recreational opportunities and conflicts” relating to the Stemilt land purchase area. They are working to “divide areas to balance use of those areas.” Wheeler is located in Zone 1 and designated “low impact” – the goal being to “minimize use impact in the area.” The National Park Service is currently assisting in looking at options.

In addition, Bruce provided information from Cascade Conservation Coalition concerning possible changes that could extend fishing near Cole’s Corner on Nason Creek by two to three miles above Cole’s Corner.

- Education: Bruce Merighi reported that WVFF will implement the same format for Salmon Fest participation as that used in 2016. The club’s booth will be in “an excellent location.” Salmon Fest is scheduled in Leavenworth on September 28 and 29. Volunteers are needed. *(Note: Following the Boards’ September meeting, Bruce Merighi learned that the Salmon Fest changed its program for 2017. WVFF and other organizations will not be part of this year’s Fest activities.)*

OF NOTE:

- The Annual Banquet Committee currently consists of Craig Garver, Harry and JoAnn Lane and Eric Rainbolt. Bruce Merighi will assist when he is available. The committee is working to add additional women to its roster. Anyone wishing to help with the annual event, please contact Harry or JoAnn Lane. (509.884.1888 or jhlane4865@aol.com)
- *Those members with suggestions for increasing membership numbers and involvement should share their ideas with Board members.*

Meeting adjourned at 6:36 p.m. JoAnn Lane Secretary WVFF September 19, 2017

## Closes Oct 31<sup>st</sup> Upper Wheeler Reservoir

Ramblings by Bruce Merighi

OK, it's not a lake it's a reservoir. But it's surrounded with Noble Fir, iridescent Larch and brawny Doug Fir. It's a really cool spot in the summer when you sit on its 4,000' elevation shoreline. Its quietude is sobering and

intoxicating, but now it's a dried up hole in the ground. Bathtub rings demark pauses in the sucking sound made by down-hill orchards. Fortunately below the cobbled sand flats is a dark blue fish bucket. The resulting draw-down concentrates the fish, now that the footprint of this reservoir is half its previous girth and length.

If you don't visit it once during 'ring around the lake' season you're missing out on a great last minute addition to your fishing season. Yeah the scenery stinks but really once you're rigged up and made your first cast, you're focusing on your fly and what's out there anyway, so the scenery drops away once you start getting tugs.

The amount of water coming into the reservoir is about the same as the outflow so I don't think it's going to go down any more.

Also the creek that supplies the reservoir is flowing well and has dug a channel that would serve you well to know, when the water is again high and you want to get down to the cool spots where the fish stack up. Go now and photograph and gather landmarks above high water level so you can find this and other topographical features that could contribute to more hook-ups.

For now there is still a late afternoon hatch that causes lots of surface dimpling. Most of the Rainbows and Brookies caught are 8-12" BUT they have shoulders. They are not skinny and they fight like something a few inches larger. Apparently they are wintering over well.

Leeches cast from shore still work and you don't need flotation, although it's always a good thing to get out on the water but when I have fished it lately, the few on shore out fished the one or two floating over the depths. Speaking of depths. The water level is about 30' lower than a few months ago, but way down in the remaining hole is still a great little lake with lots of depth remaining and lots of fly fishing activity, it's just butt ugly.

Fish one more time locally this year but remember the way there is a bit rough but if

you've got good tires, decent ground clearance and a driving spirit, get on up there before Oct. 31<sup>st</sup> when the season shuts it down.

PS Last month's Flypaper had more details about the last part of the access road and gate situation.

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](mailto:bruce401@nwi.net)