

## Columbia Riverkeeper Water Quality Volunteer Opportunity By Richard Logan

### The Opportunity:

Rachael Pecore of Columbia Riverkeeper contacted me to help provide space at Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) and WVC student volunteer support for water quality monitoring on the Columbia River in the Wenatchee area. Some of you may remember Rachael from your work with her the past two summers on measuring macroinvertebrates on the Columbia River (see photo below).

Rachael and Columbia Riverkeeper volunteers sample water quality once a month between the 10<sup>th</sup> and the 20<sup>th</sup> of each month from February through November. Normally 2 or 3 volunteers share responsibility for a site, so a volunteer is not required to monitor every month. We would like to start with 3 or 4 sites around Wenatchee. The sites might be on the Columbia or up any tributary to the Columbia. In addition to volunteers for monthly monitoring, we need ideas from all of you on possible sites for monitoring. If you have ideas or need more information, please Email me at [rlogan@wvc.edu](mailto:rlogan@wvc.edu). Thank you for considering this opportunity.

**We plan a volunteer training session on Saturday June 20<sup>th</sup> from 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.** with site visits to start the monitoring in June. Flyers will be posted around Wenatchee in the next few weeks, and I will provide details at our next WVFF general meeting on May 21.

Richard Logan  
Chemistry Instructor  
Wenatchee Valley College  
WVFF member/flyfisher minimalist

### Some Details:

The Columbia Riverkeeper organization and expanding water monitoring to Wenatchee.

Columbia Riverkeeper is a nonprofit arm of the International Waterkeeper Alliance, and aims to "restore and protect the water quality of the Columbia River from its headwaters to the Pacific Ocean." Since 2006, Columbia Riverkeeper has trained over 100 volunteers to monitor water quality on the Columbia and tributaries to fill in data gaps and help prioritize areas for salmonid habitat restoration. Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality (DEQ) supports this volunteer effort and has trained Columbia Riverkeeper staff on DEQ monitoring protocols and equipment. Volunteer data is posted on both DEQ's and Washington Dept. of Ecology's statewide databases.

Monitoring efforts now are in the Columbia Gorge, Portland/Vancouver, Kelso/Longview, and once a year in Wenatchee where volunteers sample macroinvertebrates. Columbia Riverkeeper's long-term goal is to see citizens on the entire river monitoring their local stretch.

YSI Inc., a water quality equipment company, donated 5 new meters to Columbia Riverkeeper that monitor temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, and total dissolved solids instantaneously in the field, and 75 continuous temperature loggers. Columbia Riverkeepers use this equipment to provide baseline data for local projects. Temperature on the Columbia River is particularly important since high temperatures can threaten salmonids by increasing stress and disease, stunting growth, slowing migration, and at 73°F, causing fatalities. Volunteer data will help prioritize shoreline habitat restoration projects to create or protect cool-water refuges for juvenile salmonids.



### In Celebration of Insects

Wednesday, June 3rd, 7 p.m., Tree Fruit Research Center, 1100 N. Western Ave., Wenatchee

This workshop will celebrate insects, those six-legged animals that enrich, enhance, and contribute to our quality of life. From pollinating blossoms to aerating our soil, insects are an amazing force for gardeners, farmers, or landowners. Learn how to attract native pollinators to your backyard as well as sustainable, insect friendly practices. Bob Gillespie, an entomologist and instructor at Wenatchee Valley College, will lead the exploration into this diverse world with specimens and exploration in the field in this free workshop. Sponsored by the Chelan-Douglas Land Trust.  
*Call to register & for more information:  
Chelan-Douglas Land Trust, 667-9708*

## WVFF Outings Calendar 2009

DATE	DESITINATION	HOST	EQUIPMENT	COMMENTS
Sat. 5/23 – 9 AM	Dry Falls	Gary Anderson	Float tube or boat	Gary may give entomology demo and we fish all day
Tuesday 5/26	Tying Session Chelan Co. PUD building		Vises & materials for specified flies (see below)	Brown Drakes need 1 or 2 ex lg dry fly hooks, size 12. Yellow-tan dubbing, mule deer hair
Sat/Sun 6/13 & 14 – 3:30 AM	Blue Lake in Okanogan County	Steve DeJong	Floats, pontoons, prams, boats w/6-8 wt. Rods	Damsels in the day, Hex and Brown Drakes dusk to dawn
Sat. 7/18 – 9 AM	Banks Lake	Mike Huffer	Boat, wet wade or catch a ride to the w/ a captain 6-8 wt. Rods	Hot weather and big fish (carp & Smallmouth) with scuds, leeches, crayfish, and leggy bottom nymphs
Sat & Sun. 8/8 & 9 – 9 AM	Methow River	Pat Herdt & Gordy Northrup	Float tubes, pontoons or Wade w/ Caddis, Mayflies, leeches	Bring a favorite dish for the best pot luck on this side of the Cascades with some good fishers
Thurs.- Sunday 8/17 - 20	Salmon Festival Leavenworth	Gary Anderson & Pat Herdt	Fly tying for kids & parents to help promote the sport of Fly Fishing	Wooly bugger fingers
Sat. & Sun. 9/26 – 27 or 10/3 - 4	Yakima River	Tom Whiteside	Float tubes, pontoons, and plan to wade this river	This will be determined as conditions allow for best weekend
Sat. 10/17 – 9 AM	Lake Lenore or another fishable option	Gary Bates	Float tubes, boats, pontoons, or wading depending on . . .	This outing will be reconfigured when Gary knows where the fish are.
Sat. 11/7 9 AM	Methow River?	Pat Herdt	Floats, wading	This trip will be determined by the steelhead season this year and the river flow.

### Upcoming Outings Detail

**5/23 Sat. 9AM - Dry Falls Lake** with Gary Anderson as host. This includes Gary Anderson's insect collection with all the inside information. This outing is a must for everyone who wants to fish and fish a great lake.

**5/26 Tues.- 5:30, 9PM 2nd fly tying session** at the Wenatchee PUD Auditorium on the Ave. We will focus on brown drakes, hexagenias (sp) for the next Blue Lake trip, and Summer Bass flies. Park in the lot north of the building (off 5<sup>th</sup> street—plenty of room for up to 40 vehicles).

**6/13 & 14th Blue Lake in Okanogan County** with Steve deJong as host. Expect great dry fly action with either brown drakes, hexagenias or both at dusk, dawn, and all night, leeches throughout the day. A 24 hour fly-fishing experience.



### The Blue Lake, Chopaka Opener



### Wenatchee Valley FlyFishers State of Club Finances As of April 30, 2009

**Overall Picture.**

We began the year with \$14,500 in the bank; and have present bank balances of \$17,200 thanks primarily to our January banquet.

**Banquet**

If you're not aware, we had a very successful banquet. Total receipts were up some \$1,400 to \$8,528 and the net after all expenses was up some \$2,300 to \$5,228. This was due to a well attended banquet and a very successful silent auction. Receipts for meals, live auction and raffle were about the same as 08's. For those of you who were there, thanks for making this a great banquet. For those of you who couldn't make it, there's always next year.

**Budget and Projected Operating Results**

Our 2009 budget anticipates a loss of \$4,500 as compared to a budgeted loss of \$7,500 for 2008. The improvement reflects the successful banquet (the actual results are included in the budget).

The actual loss for 2008 was approximately \$3,100, which was \$4,400 less than the budgeted amount. If history holds true, we should about break even for 2009. If that happens, our year end cash balance will again be about \$14,500.

**Present Position**

There's a \$5,800 profit at the end of April. The reason for this is that much of our potential income has already been received while most of our expenses will be incurred during the remainder of the year. Specific pending costs are \$2,500 for the newsletter, \$1,000 for both insurance and outings and upwards of \$3,000 for remaining programs. The Board could also approve expenditures of up to \$1,800 for conservation and habitat improvement and \$750 of grants and / or contributions to individuals and / or other worthy causes.

The only area of concern with revenues is dues. Although we have a reasonably good response to the club's efforts (particularly Eric Rainbolt's), our dues collections are down about \$500 from the total for 2008. If you haven't had the opportunity to renew your membership, please do so at your earliest convenience. Nancy Howard, Eric and I have updated membership lists showing your present status. Give us a call or mail your check for 2009's dues of \$35.00 to the PO box noted on the front page of this newsletter.

If you have any questions on the finances, please don't hesitate to give me or another board member a call.

Best regards and happy casting

Alan Smith, Treasurer

### Exerpts from Linda Evans Parlette's Legislative Newsletter:

**Maintaining our selective fisheries.** 2006 figures show that recreational fishing contributes \$1.1 billion a year to Washington's economy. A big part of keeping that going is maintaining our selective fisheries, but budget cuts at the Department of Fish and Wildlife have threatened to close some of them. Some of our local fishing groups came to me this year with an idea for a way to continue funding selective fisheries despite these budget cuts. Senate Bill 5421 will create the Columbia River Recreational Salmon and Steelhead Pilot Stamp Program. Under the bill, anglers over age 15 wishing to fish will purchase a \$7.50 stamp, and stamp revenues will go into a dedicated account used to maintain selective fisheries on the Columbia River (below Chief Joseph Dam to 10 miles above the mouth of the Columbia River) and its tributaries. SB 5421 has been delivered to the governor for her consideration.

**Keeping our state parks open**

One area that was originally slated for deep cuts in the operating budget was state parks. Parks on the closure/mothball list at one point included Wenatchee Confluence, Lake Wenatchee State Park, Alta Lake Park near Pateros and Sun Lakes-Dry Falls State Park near Coulee City. Many of you contacted me about this issue and expressed your support for keeping our state parks and recreational areas open.

In the end the Legislature passed Substitute House Bill 2339, a measure that changes the \$5 parks donation on vehicle registrations from an "opt in" system to an "opt out." Under the new law, rather than choose to donate, citizens would choose not to donate to parks when purchasing their vehicle license tabs.

Second Substitute House Bill 1951 authorizes the Department of Fish and Wildlife to enter into partnerships with nonprofit organizations, for-profit entities and tribes to operate state-owned fish hatcheries. Seven hatcheries had faced closure in the 2009-11 operating budget. The bill passed the Legislature and the governor signed it.



**Reasons  
to fish  
Lenice!**

