



FLYPAPER

February 2022

Looking Upstream

A THREE COUNTY WDFW FISH BIOLOGIST PRESENTATION

February 17th

GRANT - **CHELAN** - **OKANOGAN**



WVFF GENERAL MEETING AND PRESENTATION AT 6:30

A Message From Our New President Steve Aguilu

Greetings Fellow Fly Fishers.

Steve Aguilu, President WVFF

Another January has passed without gathering for our annual banquet. I think that the isolation of the last two years is starting to take its toll. But the last meeting had an excellent turnout of 32 people, some of us old stalwarts and a few new members. I would like to think that the turnout was due to electoral enthusiasm, to finalize my position as president but truth be told, I think it was a combination of the phone tree and promise of the great program on Oregon lake fly fishing by Phil Fischer (yes that is his real name!) of Sun River.

For our next meeting, I am looking forward to the annual visit by the WDFW biologists who will lead us through the regional prospects for the 2022 fishing season. They did a great job last year and from my perspective, their recommendations and predictions were on target.

I also would like to have some ideas from the membership *about* membership. What can we do to keep our “return runs” up to carrying capacity? And can we bring in a few more “jacks” to replace some of us with white patches and fraying fins?

Finally, I would like to thank everyone for their input on the difficult decisions surrounding the banquet this year. We plan to have a fundraiser and pandemic permitting a limited gathering in March or April. Please let me know if you would like to help with planning, stocking auction items or running the auction, banquet or other gathering.

I look forward to those days again, sharing time with old and new friends. There is something special about sharing a passion with other human beings. There is a connection deeper than work or even at times, family relationships. And there is no substitute for sharing tales of tails... the human brain has been tuned by thousands of years of preliterate history to reconstruct the visions conveyed by a narrative. And when it is a shared vision like the life in fishing, it reaches down into the depths of our ancestors’ life in the natural world.

I think it is this that draws us in, just as surely as a sturdy new fly line and a stout fluorocarbon leader... back to the net of fly-fishing fellowship. The common understanding for the need for fresh air, clean light and sparkling waters connects us all. It is ancient and mysterious and is nourishment to the human spirit.

Tight lines and stay well... see you on the 17th Steve Aguilu, President WVFF

Comment Period for Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States”

AGENCIES INVOLVED

Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Department of Defense and the Environmental Protection Agency

PROPOSED RULE OFFICIAL SUMMARY

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of the Army are publishing for public comment on a proposed rule defining the scope of waters protected under the Clean Water Act. This proposal is consistent with the Executive Order signed on Jan. 20, 2021, on “Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis,” which directed the agencies to review the agencies’ rule promulgated in 2020 defining “waters of the United States.” This proposed rule would meet the objective of the Clean Water Act and ensure critical protections for the nation’s vital water resources, which support public health, environmental protection, agricultural activity, and economic growth

DATES

Comments must be received on or before February 17, 2022.

SENDING COMMENTS

Send comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0602, by any of the following methods:

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: <https://www.regulations.gov/> (their preferred method).
- Email: OW-Docket@epa.gov. Include Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0602 in the subject line of the message.
- Comments received may be posted without change to <https://www.regulations.gov/>.

Casting Clinic Coming April 9/10

Walla Walla Park - Wenatchee



Photo courtesy of Tyler Junior College of Fly Fishing

WVFF BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 6, 2022

ATTENDANCE:

Present: Bob Bartlett, John Richmond, Bruce Merighi, Wayne Steele. Gary Anderson, Alex Fisher

Absent: Steve Aguila, Bruce Phillips, Al Smith

Call to order: Time: 6:40 PM

December 2, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve: Wayne Second: Alex

Vote: Approved

President's Report:

2022 Fundraiser:

- Fundraiser: Considerations for possible Fundraiser in Spring 2022.
 - Suggestions included reserving/renting room at Pybus or elsewhere to place auction items for members to view/bid on and then combine with an online auction same day.
 - Will need someone to "chair" fundraiser—some club members have stated they're willing to help
 - Will need to identify possible public meeting rooms/cost to display silent auction items for viewing and bidding.
 - Will need to identify online auction sites we might use.
 - Methow Valley fly club has used an online auction company and provided its name

Website:

- Bruce and Bob continue to work with website developer Patrik Hertzog to develop/finish website. Major developments:
 - Patrik is donating up to 2 hours of labor per month, will additional work billed at \$85/hour.
 - Email notification is being sent to WVFF members registered on site (about 45) and WVFF members not yet registered to encourage registration and use of site.

2022 WVFF dues collection:

- Use Website/PayPal to collect:
 - PayPal now on line on website, plus WVFF address/PO box for sending checks.
 - PayPal not yet depositing funds to our account. Needs to be fixed.
 - Will need to notify members via email
- Still \$35 per family annual dues.

Election of Officers for 2022:

- Have 1 candidate willing to run for President
- Have 1 candidate willing to run for Vice President.
 - Other candidates?
- No candidate yet for Secretary
 - Other candidates?
- Election will be during January 20 Zoom Membership meeting.
 - Steve recruited, at December membership meeting, members to call all other members to invite them to January meeting!!

Vice President's Report: NO REPORT



Conservation Report:

- Major Contribution!!! Roy Bennion is again giving donation to club. Check for \$5,000 is expected this week!

Education Report:

- Bruce is working on getting the Casting Clinic put together for some time in April.

Flypaper Report:

- Bruce will continue to publish Flypaper each month.

Treasurer's Report:

Club Financial status: John provided the following (from 12/21 report):

1. Checking/savings account balance \$8,000 combined balance.
2. Community Foundation investment (\$7,500) balance now \$8,000 +.

Budget:

- Reviewed draft budget, made changes/updates
- Revised draft budget will be reviewed and submitted for board approval at February 3 Board Meeting.

Outings Chair:

Al, Bruce Phillips, and Bob Bartlett met to formulate plan for 2022.

- Recommend that Outings schedule be published on web site at first of year
 - Schedule should list all known club outings
 - Additional outings added to schedule as they are developed
- Initial schedule almost ready to be posted on website

Membership Report:

- Membership renewals/payment:
 - Existing members need to all register on new website
 - Need to announce/manage PayPal 2022 membership dues via website.
 - Need email to members reminding them to pay via Credit Card or PayPal on the website or check to PO Box.

Program Chair:

- January: Zoom meeting will follow WWVF elections.
 - Presenter is Phil Fischer, with program "Flyfishing Central Oregon Stillwaters".

Old Business:

Board Decision-Making Process:

- This is a "place-holder" since I plan to continue this discussion as soon as we're back to in-person meetings

New Business: None

Adjournment Time: 8:15 pm



Navigating WVFF Website 4.0

The website is up and running. We'll work towards adding new features as time allows but for the moment it's done. YEAH ! Now for a quick tour of what you will see. Know now that any page with an * after the name is only available to logged in club members.

After you type in the clubs website name: wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com you'll be on the

Homepage

You will see:

- The '*Membership Login*' button, in the upper right corner. Click this to Log In. This provides you with full access to the website.
- There's a Mission Statement, the next club event and other information.
- A horizontal bar near the top of the screen is called, 'Toolbar or Menu Bar'. All major pages are listed there.
 - Membership
 - Events
 - Outings
 - Conservation
 - Flypaper
 - Education
 - About WVFF

The **Membership*** page allows you to update your password, pay for an event or your membership dues with a credit card or PayPal, search for WVFF member contact information.

- '*Your Profile**' Just be aware that any information you put on this page is visible to all logged in members but not the general public viewing the website.
- '*Members Directory**'

The **Events** page displays to any user what events we have scheduled.

The **Outings** pages consist of a starter page plus sub-menus. This page which seems to load slowly on cell phones, lists the planned 2022 club outings as well as photos from previous years outings.

- It has a sub-menu called '*2022 Outings Details**' sub-page visible only to logged in members. It contains host contact information, equipment and camping information.
- Below that is a sub-menu called '*Eastside Regs & Seasons*'. This page has links to eastside 2022 WDFW Fishing Pamphlet information website. This way you can easily access this info on your cell and read the regulations.
- A third sub-menu tab called '*Bathymetric Maps**' shows maps of outing lakes plus other popular bodies of water.
- Another sub-menu '*2022 Possible Outings**' is visible only to logged in members. It contains a list of potential outings still looking for a host(s).
- Lastly, there is a sub-menu called, '*Hosting*'. Here you can read what is required/suggested for hosting an outing and other info like reimbursement for refreshments and how to access materials in our club storage locker.

The **Conservation** page is a collection of cool projects our club has accomplished plus,

- '*Water Temperature Data*' sub-menu, which is a collection of charts and data spreadsheets showing the temperatures of surrounding watersheds. Not all water temperature data has been posted since Travis Maitland of WDFW has yet to supply the information.

The **Flypaper** page displays a clickable list of recent newsletters.

The **Education** page is a collection of training projects our club will or has accomplished.

The **About WVFF** page has five sub-menus.

- '*About WVFF*' displays our Articles of Incorporation and a story about the Founding of WVFF.
- '*Contact Us/Board **' has a fillable form that any logged in member can fill out and submit plus photos and a list of club officers.
- '*Membership Application*' is simply a form for anyone to use.
- '*Videos**' has various videos of past presentations and interesting topics, just for our members.
- '*Photos*' page is a collection of member photographs. Got any shots you want on here just give Bruce Merighi a yell.
- '*Archives **' contains:
 - WVFF Board Minutes
 - 501 c(3) Information
 - WVFF Bylaws

LATE BREAKING NEWS - VALUE ADDED VIDEO – MEMBERS ONLY

Interested in watching a video of Phil Rowley's WVFF December presentation on Advanced Chironomid Techniques? Just log on to our clubs website at wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com Then click on 'About WVFF/Videos' on the toolbar and get ready to learn or review a lot about this very productive fly fishing method. And spoiler alert, it's not all about fishing straight down. Phil gets into a variety of Chironomid presentation tactics which can be applied to fishing nymphs, in stillwater. So give it a try and if you're not registered on the new 4.0 website you need to 'ger-er-dun' so you can enjoy the bathymetric maps, videos, outing details and membership directory that are not visible to the general public. Skip Morris tying was just uploaded and more presentation videos are coming.

REGISTER ON THE WEBSIE - YOU'LL BE GLAD YOU DID

Is the Icicle Creek Fish Passage 'Improvement Project' a Good Thing?

Editorial Bruce Merighi



For better or worse the salmonid passage project in lower Icicle Creek has been completed. The project improves access into the upper Icicle watershed for Steelhead and Bull Trout by providing passage through the 'Boulder Field' within a window of flow conditions by-way-of a constructed step-pool channel. The project opens approximately 23 miles of mainstem habitat and dozens of miles of tributary habitat for anadromous fishes by opening fish access between the upper Icicle and rest of the Wenatchee River watershed. The project also included installation of new fish screening and rawwater delivery infrastructure for Leavenworth's municipal water intake.

Overview:

The planning and design for this project started in 2012 and included partnerships between multiple public agencies, conservation entities and private contractors. The principle objective of improving passage was achieved in October of 2021.

Project Location:

The project is situated in Icycle Creek RM 5.6. The boulder falls area had 25 feet of drop over a very short length of 140 feet. At high flow it was a velocity barrier with over an 18% slope. At medium to low flow, the passage route was very complex, with drops in the 8 feet range. Even during moderate flows the fish leaping areas were blocked by boulders and any passage that did occur required fish to "squeeze" through tight gaps. The channel through the falls area was narrow; constricted on the south bank by a large boulder dubbed "the Anchor Rock" and, and on the north bank by several large boulders and a maintenance and operations access road for the Icycle Irrigation District and the City of Leavenworth.

Benefit to steelhead and bull trout:

The project design has provided access for 14-in (or larger) Steelhead/Bull Trout during 90% of March flows, 70% of April flows, 15% of May flows, and 90% of August/September natural flows.

Major Project Elements

- Widened the channel in the boulder falls area and created a step pool channel.
- Removed key boulders in the existing channel.
- Relocated the access road adjacent to boulders falls.

- Relocated Leavenworth's raw water line.
- Replaced Leavenworth's raw water screening infrastructure and brought it into compliance with current fish screening requirements.

Primary Species

This project primarily benefits Steelhead and Bull Trout, but the presence of the Boulder Field may also limit the diversity and spatial structure of resident species such as Westslope Cutthroat Trout, and Redband Rainbow Trout.

The availability of fishable rivers and creeks in Chelan County have been dramatically reduced since I moved here in 1979. Yes, the closures benefited the andronomous species and I agree that Salmon, Steelhead and Bull trout are important but which brings up issues that I'm concerned about

- Will the creation of this fish passage begin a WDFW campaign to close the upper Icycle to fishing?
- If Steelhead and Bull Trout start to thrive in that watershed, will they force out the native species?
- Will it be the demise of trout fishing the Icycle, in order to 'protect' the newly introduced species?
- Will another boulder fall into the area, which has occurred many times over the years, and again block the passage thereby wasting funds already spent?

Only time will tell.



ELECTION RESULTS 2022

On January 20th the club said farewell to outgoing Past President Alex Fisher while Bob Bartlett moves from President to Past President. Their service to the WVFF will be remembered and very appreciated. Steve A----- takes over the reigns as our new President and Daniel Hammond was elected to be our new Vice President. **The position of Secretary remains unfilled. Doesn't anyone out there know how to take notes?** Your time and service would be very helpful. But if your too busy to help...



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