



FLY PAPER

OCTOBER 2022

LOOKING UPSTREAM

October	6	Board Meeting
October	3-6	Yakima River Club Outing – Lots more info. on our Outings Webpage
October	20	Hybrid Club Meeting at the Eagles Aerie at 1208 N. Wenatchee Ave In person and ZOOM – Login info coming in emails
		Dry Fly Time 6:00 pm
		Dinner Buffet - Fishing Reports - Club Business 6:30 pm
		Presentation 7:30 – 9:00 pm
November	3	Board Meeting
November	17	Club Meeting – Presenter TBA
December	1	Board Meeting
December	15	Club Meeting - We're the presenters. Share and Tell
January	5	Board Meeting
January	21	WVFF Banquet - E. Wenatchee Golf & Country Club – Watch your in-box & the website for details and reservation information

Oct. 20th WVFF Club 'Hybrid Meeting' Presentation



Dry Flyfishing the Stillwater Take 2

As some of you know, after multiple successful trials at a hybrid remote and live meeting, the club laptop decided to upgrade at 6:10 pm at the very beginning of the meeting. It finally finished at about 10:30 pm and yours truly was left with an ostrich-sized helping of egg my techie face. When I brought up the meeting on another laptop, it was apparent that we could

not set up the transmission of the program to anyone but the two members who had signed on to the remote meeting. At the appointed time, Mr. Brumley signed on and after a short discussion, kindly agreed to return online on the 20th of October for our next meeting. So, we are going to try again. Below is the information on the new meeting in October. Hope you can make it. Second time's a charm... (or is that...?). Thank you for your patience.

For those of you who came to the live meeting. Thank you for your input and lively discussion. My next email will outline some of the things we discussed and some of the asks and plans for the coming season. I have to say, in spite of the challenge of the technology, I had a wonderful evening seeing old friends and new. It was like a family reunion with a bonus of new brothers and sisters. I will be in touch early next week to summarize some of the meeting issues and get further input. Thank you for your patience. And thank you for being part of the WVFF clan.

The meal will be selected by a survey. I am going to put Tacos on the back shelf for a couple of meetings to allow people to try some other fare. I will also inquire about the meal in November and December. The January meal will be the annual banquet in January. Pres. STEVEN AGUILU

FLY  CAMP

By Bruce Merighi

Mike Clancy and Jim Brosio have been managing and directing the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy for almost two decades and as you may have heard, they have retired and passed the baton to John Gravendyk of Washington Fly Fishers, Carol Anderson of Fly Fishers International and yours truly. The two other Co-Directors and I are in the process of upgrading and updating the 2023 camp scheduled for June 18-24. Major changes are planned including a move to Panhandle Lake 4-H Camp near Shelton.



We decided this last June to move because the old facility was definitely showing its age, the staff was pleasant but inattentive to our needs, the food was worse than bad school cafeteria chow and the lake adjacent to the camp was over fished. Panhandle however, is on a private four acre lake that is stocked yearly a week prior to the academy. It costs a few thousand dollars more than our old location, but the kitchen is superior, the sleeping facility and meeting rooms have been freshly remodeled and the grounds include trails around the lake, 500 acres of private forest surrounding the camp, BBQ and campfire meeting spaces, multiple new docks for casting practice and access to boats for fishing on the water as well as a swimming area. There are more streams and rivers close by so the campers will be able to experience a more diversified moving water fishing experience.

The programs curriculum will add new topics such as wading safety, river fishing tactics and hazards, additional casting styles beyond the basic overhead cast and more time for fly tying will introduce the campers to more than just a Wooley Bugger. The fisheries conservation and entomological components will remain but various instructional activities are planned to facilitate the 12-16 year old boys and girls to connect the dots so they can match the hatch more successfully. In the instructor arena, we are moving from a 'Sage on the stage' style of presentations to more of a youth friendly 'Mentor in the middle' methodology.

We'll be adding classes on how to read moving water, where to fish in a lake and why, and how to read a fish rise. Tactical fly fishing subjects like line control, mending, dead drift, and how to fish various fly types are in the new program. Appropriate catch and release and 'Keep em Wet' styles of managing caught fish will be employed as well. We'll still teach the classics like fish biology, light hands on the land, fisheries conservation, PFDs, career opportunities in the underwater environment, ethics, fishing etiquette, stillwater fly fishing and knots.



The academy website is also a disaster and is in the process of being updated with more kid friendly material and graphics. Instructional videos will be imbedded to allow successful applicants to get a view of what to expect at camp. QR codes for flyers and handouts will allow anyone to instantly view our website and apply on line in minutes. We also understand that the name of the fly fishing camp is cumbersome, (Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy) even the acronym (NWYCFFA) is too long, and the word academy is inappropriate and may even scare some kids away fearing some sort of military boot camp for fishing. But that kind of change can wait for another year.

Financially the academy is in 'ok' shape. But a lot of fund raising is in our future even though we have a carryover from last year of \$10K. Unfortunately, once you factor in \$14K for venue and food service for 20 campers, storage lockers, tying materials, leaders, insurance, website

hosting, acquiring items given to each camper (rods, reels, lines, tools, shirt and tee shirts, sling packs, field guides and hats) the cost per camper runs close to \$1K per camper. Considering these costs, our management team is seriously considering raising the registration cost per student from \$300 (where it has been for many years) to more like \$450.

The myriad of logistical, marketing and curricula challenges are being addressed by our new team in hopes that we may continue this great opportunity for northwest youth to experience the joy of fly fishing that we've all embraced.

I Met This Guy With A Hat

By Steve Aguilu

Life is a collection of streams... all the people who we meet, love, hate, have fun with, raise children and raise Cain with, care for, say hello to every day and those that we say goodbye to for the last time. They are the water in that stream. And in spite of the increasing isolation of social media (a paradox of the technology), all streams run together. And in that, we are human.

I was reminded of this last week when in Ashland, Oregon for a lovely wedding. My wife, Peggy and I sat outside the Ashland Starbucks and a slim fellow with a *The Fly Shop* cap came up and asked for directions. At first his thick Scottish brogue was a challenge to my drum-damaged hearing but after a moment, I realized that he was asking for directions to the downtown area.

Could you resist asking him about his hat? Neither could I and we launched into a 25-minute (apologies to Peggy) discourse about anadromous fly fishing. David Munro is here, halfway around the world to learn and write a book about fly fishing for salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest.

Turns out that he has already made contact with John McMillan (he did so because the name was Scottish!) son of the legendary Bill McMillan, author of many books including one of my favorites, *Dry Fly Steelhead*. He was full of questions about the rivers in Washington and I was only too glad to regale him with my collection of steelhead stories from years on the Skagit and Stillaguamish and more recently the Wenatchee and Methow (sorry Peggy, she is not a fisherman, but is very patient with me. Thank God she had a Grande coffee instead of just a Tall to pass the time).

I, in turn got an earful of the privatization of rivers into "beats" inaccessible to the average person in Scotland. He is on a social mission to try to free up some of that water to public access. In spite of some of our access challenges, it made me feel lucky to live in this part of the world.

As he left, we exchanged phone numbers, and he got in touch again yesterday. He said he was headed for a guided trip on the Rogue yesterday and would be off the grid for a time. We had

an intense text messaging session during which I set out and photographed the covers of four of my favorite books on steelhead fly fishing, including the one by Bill McMillan. I also included the late Bruce Ferguson's *Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon (1985 Amato Publications)* and Trey Coombs 1976 *Steelhead Fly Fishing and Flies* and his amazing 1991 tome *STEELHEAD Fly Fishing*.

After the flurry of texts, (I envisioned David getting back to readying his tackle for the Rogue), I sat and looked through the big Trey Coombs tome. The names burst through the dark surface of memory.

Some, I never met: Walt Johnson of Stillaguamish fame, Frank Amato, who published a myriad of fishing and outdoor literature.

But most of the people in his book, I had run across in the years of fishing for the silver bullet: Jim Garret (I just found his phone number on a shopping sales ticket from 1993 in the book!).

I once ran into Alec Jackson, the jovial Canadian namesake of the famous Spey hook style as he clambered out of his trailer in Rockport State Park.

I bought my first steelhead flies from Randy Kaufman in his Lake Oswego fly shop on my way to my life in the Pacific Northwest. Harry Lemire (Green River), Mike Maxwell (the Thompson), Bill McMillan, Jim Teeny, Lani Waller.... the list goes on and on.

It struck me that the kinship of fishing follows the same rules as that of the river. At its core, it is a solitary, sometimes even antisocial act, turning our attention to a relationship with skittish, non-verbal fellow vertebrates (not even mammals!). And yet, that focus, that compulsion to search mysterious waters links us all into a oneness.

It starts with small individual streams that run into larger creeks that in turn join mighty rivers, all of which blend in the vast ocean. In so doing, it creates a deep connection that can transcend political, cultural, economic and racial barriers. Who has not seen the face of a child as he pulls his or her first fish out of the water without smiling?

And in this age of social silos, struggling watersheds and the existential threat that a dying planet presents, there is one hope that homo sapiens has... that of community. A trickle of water cannot do much but when we avail ourselves of the most Darwinian trait of human survival, our ability to share and work together, we are our strongest.

So, lets join together, for the good of our sport, for the good of our souls and ultimately the good of our planet, the famous and the nameless, it matters not. Even in the mighty Columbia, every drop counts. And maybe, even maybe, just get together to go fishing.

See you all on the 20th!

WVFF BOARD MINUTES FROM MAY & SETPEMBER

May 5th, 2022 VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

ATTENDANCE:

Invited:

Office	Name
President	Steve Aguilu
Vice President	Dan Hammond
Treasurer	John Richmond
Programs	Gary Anderson
Newsletter, Ed. Conservation	Bruce Merighi
Membership	Bruce Phillips
Gillie	Wayne Steele
Outings	Al Smith
Past President	Bob Bartlett

Attended:, Steve Aguilu, Dan Hammond, Gary Anderson, Bruce Merighi, Bruce Phillips, Wayne Steele, , Bob Bartlett, Al Smith

Absent: John Richmond

Call to order: 6:40 PM

April 7 Board Meeting Minutes:

President's Report:

Executive Actions:

Supported sending exploding flies to Ukraine

2022 Fundraiser

- Final stages of collecting items.
- Still need some gear donations from members
- Gary has given his okay for the strategy in which bidders buy "chances" that are then drawn June 4th.

Gary will deliver the fly box to Dan who will take photos and send to Bruce. We will put a \$ 1 price on each online bid. We will use one real raffle tickets to represent each \$ 1 bid. These will be put in a container, shaken for 1.5 minutes and one ticket drawn. The winner will be announced at the end of the evening.

- May 11th auction committee meeting to divide items into time block categories and set up "raffle".
- Donations coming in. On target to open the 21st.

Election of Officers for 2022:

- The position of secretary is still open. Will ask again in September.

Vice President's Report:

Lake Lenore signage is up and looks great. Thank you, Dan.

Campfire Kids: Dates: July and August (end on the 20th) Tom, Gary, Bruce, Dan. Board will send "blackout dates" to Dan

Education Report:

- Campfire Kids status as above.

Conservation Report:

- Our thanks to Bruce for his hard work! Expense report to John. Purchased the temp monitors. \$1000 for Methow project. Residual conservation funds: est \$ 4000
- Kudos coming in from recipients
- Interested person for Fly Fishing Academy. All agree to proceed so we will be sending a kid to camp this year!

Website:

- Bruce walked Steve through the website mastering... thank you, Bruce
- Cannot do "instant" signup for club due to 501 (c) 3 regulations so will do a "fast track" email to members to get new people voted in.
- Bruce Phillips: Kudos to you and spouse for digging through all the phishing membership requests and coming up with a final list of REAL applicants. Please tell her thanks for us!
- The filters are now working: Application through website access AFTER payment.
- Proposal for
 - counter for each page
 - backup
 - Google analytics and instruction

Decided on funding for 2 hours (\$85/hr) for above builds. Voted on and passed. Bob will convey information to Patrik. Thank you, Bob.

Treasurer's Report:

No Report (John out of town).

Outings Chair:

- Blue Lake debriefing
 - Attended on the original date (4/22): Bruce M, Dan, Zooks, Craig and Barb, Tiger, few rainbows. Tough fishing, lake very low
- Blue Lake debriefing
 - Attended alternate date (4/29) Bruce P, J+H Lane, Tom, Bob, Gordy N., Rob Rafael (new member who joined at the outing!)
- New Members Outing to Beehive : See flier. Time set for 9 am to meet at the school. I will email flier. Volunteers: Bob, Dan, Bruce M, Steve, Bruce P, Gary other instructor invites.

- Twin Lakes and Grimes Lake on track? Need announcement for each outing ahead of time to get head counts. Bob will do Big Twin Lake and Grimes email. Thanks, Bob.
- Discuss weekday outings if we are interested in getting working members and families Grimes is a "test" to see if that works.
- Informal outing: Bonaparte Lake (great prime rib).
- St. Joe is up and running. Reserve for Huckleberry are available. (Bruce P. is the contact)

Membership Report:

- Discussed reduced membership fee for students starting in September. Known to be a tricky issue with minors. Will reach out to Middle and High School age with the assumption that most will take info home and have parents join as a family. If anyone hears about an under-age individual who is interested in joining on their own, we will offer a discount at \$ 17.50 The details of vetting and background checks will be addressed on an individual basis as there will probably be only a rare instance of solo young members (Thank you, Gary for this perspective).
- Members list now updated and being distributed. Weekly report to board.
- As soon as reports are submitted, we should send out a "rapid general membership vote" email to expedite new members access to meetings and outings. We will regularly announce new members and encourage people to go to web site to see new members.
- Fishing partner matchups for new members: Assemble a list of buddy volunteers.
- Must get clear count of likely live attendees in the fall and plan venue(s) accordingly. Steve will develop a survey to be sent in mid-July with announcement of program/presentation.

Program Chair:

- Brian O'Keefe for May 19th. Virtual meeting. "50 Tips on Flyfishing" Steve will contact Brian to set up a rehearsal invite prior to the meeting.
- Live meeting in September. May consider virtual for some future exotic presentations (and for when I move back to Portland!)
- Checking with JoAnn about the input/output of digital projector

Old Business:

- Board Decision-Making Process:

New Business:

- Does club have process for sending cards, making social contacts. Hotline to leadership to respond.
- Printed greeting cards with club logo for acknowledging illness, death or other events.
- New badges Bruce P will bring one to next board meeting and we will eyeball it and start a plan for corrections/updates (add a starwars theme?)

Member Concerns:

Scott Smith in CWH ICU with pulmonary abscess/pneumonia call

Nick Manzero recovering from liver transplant.

Steve Harvey thoughts with you

Call Tam Smith to see if she can get him an email on a laptop. Cell #?

Adjournment Time: 8:45



September 1st, 2022 LIVE/VIRTUAL BOARD MEETING

Invited:

Office	Name
President	Steve Aguilu
Vice President	Dan Hammond
Treasurer	John Richmond
Programs	Gary Anderson
Newsletter, Ed. Conservation	Bruce Merighi
Membership	Bruce Phillips
Gillie	Wayne Steele
Outings	Al Smith
Past President	Bob Bartlett

Attended:, Live: Steve Aguilu, Dan Hammond, Wayne Steele,

Virtual: Al Smith, John Richmond

Absent: Bob Bartlett, Gary Anderson, Bruce Merighi, Bruce Phillips

Call to order: 6:43 PM

May 5th Board Meeting Minutes: No changes made

President's Report:

Executive Actions:

None

2022 Fundraiser

- Auction Wrap up: Showed the summary indicating that all but three items had been sold, paid for and delivered.
- Total revenue \$ 5028 (100.6% of goal).

Discussed future venue

- Eagles Venue is choice
- Members surveyed and willing to do hybrid meetings.
- Steve will do meal survey for live attendees and arrange food
- Steve presented ideas and technology to allow hybrid programs. We have the capability to deliver programs when the presenter is remote via Zoom but will need a streaming camera when we have live presentations
- Steve showed the results of a market study and reviews of various cameras and costs ranging from \$ 800 to \$1800 (see PPT PDF). Dan felt the board should have a chance to review the reviews and give better input to the choice. Steve will provide the information for the board and we will discuss it at the September meeting with the members.
- Final decision will be boards with input from members. Until purchase and training on streaming, will continue with remote presenters.

Election of Officers for 2022:

- The position of secretary is still open. Will ask again at September meeting.

Vice President's Report:

- Revisited the Auction... thanks to Dan, Bob, Bruce M and all those who brought in donations and helped distribute them.
- Reported several WVFF members helped with casting for recovery. Great experience for the helpers as well as the attendees.

Education Report:

- No report

Conservation Report:

- No Report

Website

- No new action

Treasurer's Report:

- (Something in my notes here about a storage unit going from \$39 to \$52/mo. John, can you refresh my memory on this?)
- Cash: \$ 10,883
- Community fund ~ \$ 7000 and rebounding. Still keep this for long term
- John reviewed a video on institutional investments and feels we are on track in our conservative approach.

Outings Chair:

- Yakima outing in October still on
- Al tendered his immediate resignation. Al, thank you for your work this year

Membership Report:

- We would like full roster reports prior to meetings.
- Consider phone call tree to members to remind about meeting.
- Discussed "ice breaker" activities, encouraging use of name tags again
- Choosing mentors for all new members to interact with at meetings and ren de vu at outings for guidance

Program Chair:

- Great meeting with Brian O'Keefe in May
- Next meeting combined live with remote program by Nate Brumley of Dry Fly Innovations for his new program "Stillwater Dry Fly"
- Likely October and November meeting with be remote speaker depending on how quickly we get up and running on the streaming.
- December can be run on a laptop from the Eagles since individual members will be showing their pics and videos.

Old Business:

- Does club have process for sending cards, making social contacts. Hotline to leadership to respond.
- Printed greeting cards with club logo for acknowledging illness, death or other events.
- New badges Bruce P will bring one to next board meeting and we will eyeball it and start a plan for corrections/updates (add a starwars theme?)

New Business:

- Discussed that it is time to move forward with Annual Banquet. Dan will contact WGCC for January 21st date and information on menu, prices etc. Will supply him with my files.
- All board members will weigh in on video equipment
- Continue search for club secretary
- Request interim outings chair to coordinate planning for 2023 outings.

Member Concerns:

- None discussed

Adjournment Time: 8:53



Your **FLY PAPER** is distributed 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