

# FLY PAPER

January 2023

## Looking Upstream

- Jan. 21 Banquet and General Meeting at WVC
- Feb 2 WVFF Board Meeting
- Feb 16 General Meeting Okanogan, Chelan and Grant Co. WDFW Biologists report on water and fish situations around our area
- March 1 Quincy Lakes Opener

## WVFF Annual Banquet



Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup> 2023

Wenatchee Valley College Van Tassell Hall # 5015

Donation Drop-Off at 3:00 pm

Social Hour 5:00

Dinner 6:00 pm



Advance Ticket Purchase Deadline January 10

You can make a reservation and purchase raffle tickets on your webpage. Just Log-in and look under Membership/Purchases and use the PayPal form to secure your seat at the banquet. Or mail in this form: WVFF P.O. Box 3687 Wenatchee WA 98807- 3687

## WVFF Annual Meeting & Banquet

Van Tassell Hall # 5015      Wenatchee Valley College

Free Parking \* No Host Beer & Wine Bar

Raffles \* Silent & Live Auctions

Social Hour 5:00 PM      Dinner 6:00 PM

**Dinner Tickets**

Italian Seasoned Pork Tenderloin  
& Chicken Piccata  
Caesar & Spinach Salads  
Red Roasted Potatoes  
Vegetable Sautee & Rolls  
Jumbo Homemade Cookie

\$35 Per Person  
Advance Purchase  
until Jan 10<sup>th</sup>

\_\_\_\_\_ @ \$35 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

**\$40 per person at the door**

**Raffle Tickets**

**Buy your tickets by Jan 10 & you get 10 free Raffle Tickets and a reduced cost for raffle ticket packs.**

12 pk. for \$10  
or

\_\_\_\_\_ # of 12 pk. for \$10

= \$\_\_\_\_\_

25 pk. for \$20

\_\_\_\_\_ # of 25 pk. for \$20

= \$\_\_\_\_\_

**2023 Club Dues**

\$35 per family

\$\_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL**

**ENCLOSED**

\$\_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

# Incoming President's Message- January 2023

As we re-emerge back into public meetings after two years of COVID isolation, we have the opportunity to assess why we want to meet together as a club. Do we meet for the purpose of socialization? Do we meet because we want to improve our fly fishing/tying skills? Do we meet to learn where to fish in our area?

During the coming year I would like to hear from you as to why you joined Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers and I hope to address that „why“ in a satisfactory manner. Why do you attend (or not attend) our meetings? What would make these meetings more beneficial to you? Please take some time to consider what you would like to see in our meetings that would make you feel like you really missed out something valuable if you didn't attend them. Please feel free to communicate your thoughts to me (if not me, then one of our board members). You can e-mail me at [drhammond51@gmail.com](mailto:drhammond51@gmail.com).

With that said, let's draw your attention to two upcoming meetings: the annual banquet on January 21<sup>st</sup> and the February meeting on the 16th.

- 1) **January:** Our annual banquet is a social gathering where we „wine and dine“ together, install new club officers, and enjoy some great fundraising activities including raffles, a silent auction and a live auction. It is a festive evening of fun. Who knows? You might walk away with a high-end fly rod, a wine basket, a guided fishing trip, a jewelry class, a gift card, or a box of flies. Yes, and there will also be a short business meeting and a few speeches (hopefully short as well). **Let's concentrate on having some fun.**
  
- 2) **February:** Our February meeting is the highly anticipated annual event where the WDFW fish biologists from Chelan, Okanagan and Grant/Adams counties will present their annual trout stocking reports to us in person. They provide us with handouts that include a) what body of water the stocking occurred, b) the number of trout that were stocked, and c) what species of trout were stocked. The biologists also discuss which bodies of water are being rehabilitated, which ones to stay away from (winter kill, etc.), and they will promote those that you might consider trying (less pressure, etc.). **This is a highly informative meeting and you will not want to miss it!**

Hopefully we can continue to meet in more live settings and enjoy each other's company. Please remember to consider what you would like to see occur in our meetings and communicate your thoughts to your board.

I'm looking forward to serving you as President in 2023. Let's make it a dynamic year!

Sincerely,

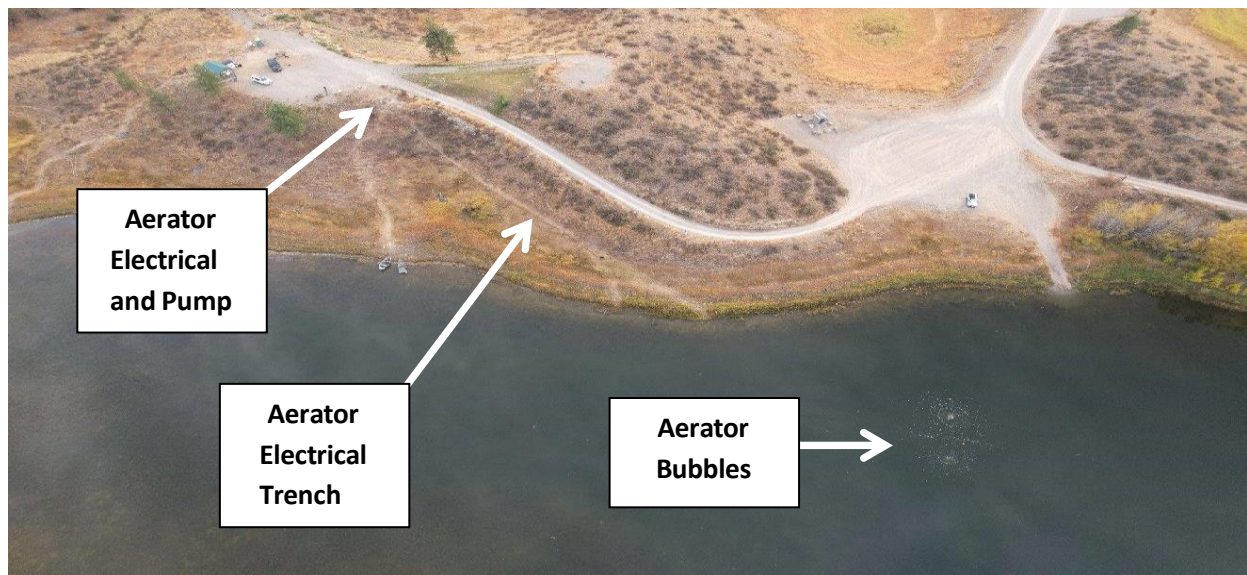
*Dan Hammond*

# Little Twin Aerator Project Completed



Last year our membership voted to approve the donation of \$1,500 to the Methow Valley Fly Fishers to install a much needed aerator system in Little Twin Lake outside of Twisp WA. Pete Speer, the President of the MVFF stated that the total cost for the project was just over \$8K and has taken many hours of volunteer work to accomplish. He is confident that this new system, which their club has been working on for 15 years will result in improved fishing opportunities on Little Twin. He extends a sincere thanks to our club members for their generous support. Atta Boy Pete.

Above left is an image of the operational aerators and open water in the ice this December. Above center is of the electrical connection, pump and air nozzles. Above right is the electrical lines before being buried. Below, a drones' eye view of the system.



## Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding Supports Projects in Washington State

This week, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Restoration Center announced a broad suite of new projects recommended to receive funding through its Restoring Fish Passage Through Barrier Removal program, supported with new funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Four projects were among those recommended to receive a combined \$20 million in funding for planning and implementation.

These fish passage projects will take place across watersheds in Washington, California, Michigan, and Wisconsin. One project will study the potential for fish passage at a dam in the upper Columbia River Basin. The other three will evaluate, plan, and remove or replace culverts or other barriers that inhibit or prevent salmon, steelhead, and resident trout from accessing important spawning and rearing habitat.

In addition to measuring, planning, and restoring fish passage, the projects provide much-needed investments in road and water infrastructure across a diverse range of rural communities, increasing watershed resilience and reducing flood damage. NOAA's Restoring Fish Passage Barrier Removal program is a long-running and successful initiative. The law has expanded the scope and reach of the program.

### Studying Potential Removal of Enloe Dam



Enloe Dam

Trout Unlimited (TU) and the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (CTCR) will produce a comprehensive, objective assessment of the feasibility of removing the Enloe Dam on the Similkameen River. Working within criteria established by the local PUD, the current owner of Enloe Dam, TU and the CTCR will hire experts and engage with the public to complete the study. The CTCR and members of the Lower and Upper Similkameen Indian Bands will provide input regarding results from historical and recent data collections as well as traditional ecological knowledge.

The Similkameen River originates in British Columbia before crossing the Canadian border to join the Okanogan River, a key tributary of the Upper Columbia Basin. The Enloe Dam was built in 1922, blocking access to 1,520 miles of potential spawning and rearing habitat for summer steelhead and spring Chinook salmon, but it stopped generating power in 1958.

## Reconnecting Tributaries on the Olympic Peninsula

Working with regional partners in the Olympic Peninsula Coldwater Connection Campaign, TU staff will correct five culvert fish barriers on tributaries within the Hoh River watershed and three barriers on Wisen Creek, a tributary of the Sol Duc River in the Quillayute River watershed. These eight projects will reconnect and restore critical tributary habitat used by multiple life stages of adult and juvenile winter steelhead; chum, coho, and Chinook salmon; sea-run cutthroat; pacific lamprey, and other resident and migratory trout and char.

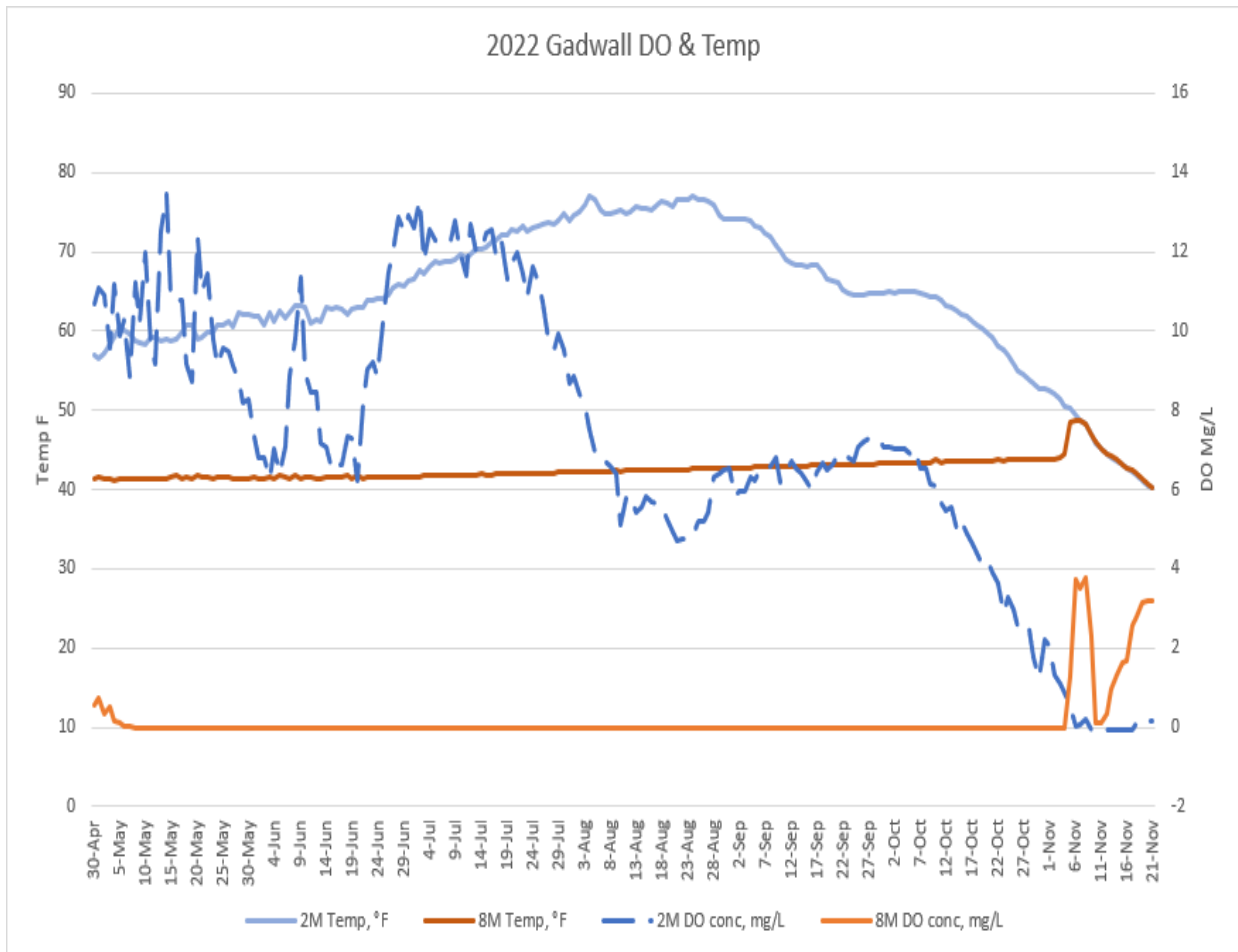
This work is being done in coordination with the Coldwater Connection Campaign, a partnership among the Wild Salmon Center, Coast Salmon Partnership, TU, the Hoh and Quileute Tribe, and the Quinault Indian Nation, with participation and support from U.S. Forest Service, Olympic National Park, Washington Department of Natural Resources, Washington Department of Transportation, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, Clallam County, Jefferson County, and local landowners and stakeholders.



### Temperature Data Loggers & Oxygen Sensors

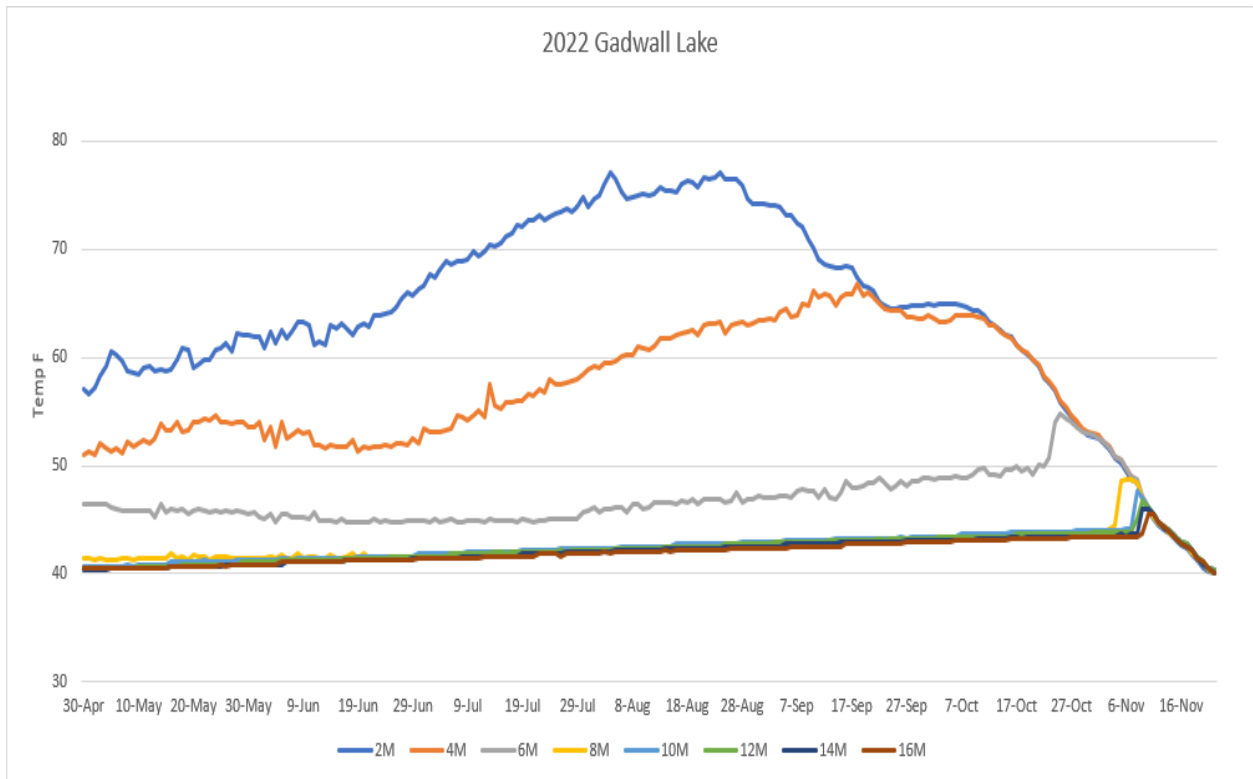
You might wonder why our club has donated Temperature Data Loggers (TDLs) and Oxygen Sensors (O2 sensors) to NCW Fish Biologists over the past several years? As you may recall, we donated a number of TDLs to WDFW-Chelan Co. several years ago and we recently donated an O2 sensor to WDFW- Grant/Adams Co. Our donations included a stipulation that they share their data with us.

Below are some graphs recently reported to us by Mike Schmuck (WDFW- Grant/Adams Co.) regarding Gadwall Lake (one of the „Seep“ lakes below Potholes). Mike was recording Oxygen and Temperatures for Gadwall from April 30<sup>th</sup> through November 21<sup>st</sup>.



One of the disturbing takeaways from this graph is that during “turnover” on or about November 3<sup>rd</sup> (indicated by the brown line on the bottom of the graph), the oxygen level in the water fell to zero (indicated by the broken blue line on the graph). This data is particularly disturbing because it is indicating that the oxygen level is hazardous to fish survival. This data could predict an alarming „winter kill“ for the 2023 season. Yes, if this persisted it would be lethal to fish survival. However, fish could also spend time near the surface, where the water would have a higher level of O<sub>2</sub>. Without putting out more gill nets we won’t know if we have a complete kill.

During our group outing at Quincy Lake last March, there were hardly any fish caught (maybe only one or two trout caught), which was shocking to us all. It was speculated that there was a major „winter kill.“ Could it have been due to a lack of oxygen in the water just like the data indicates in Gadwall? We don’t have the data to support the speculation, but because there is an O<sub>2</sub> sensor in Gadwall, we may be able to determine a „winter kill“ that will negatively impact fishing during the 2023 season. I don’t have any reason to believe there was a winter-kill at Quincy Lake. In our put-take lakes we expect there to be high levels of harvest. Low catch rates could be due to any number of things—to include high harvest in spring. We may have also lost fish in summer 21 due to high water temps during that unusually hot summer.



An important takeaway from this graph depicts the time frames to fish Gadwall: from opening (April 30<sup>th</sup>) to the end of June and during the last two weeks of September. The water temperatures during July through the first two weeks of September are too warm to fish without stressing the trout..

We haven't had this data available to us before. However, we will obtain more and more data as more studies are conducted over time. As in the case of Quincy Lake, we may know for certain in the near future, why there are no fish in a particular season and not have to speculate. I can't claim to offer certainty, but I can provide something more than speculation. It's nice to be able to look at long-term data over the course of a season to gain better insights as to what is happening in our lakes.

## December 1st, 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	
Past President	Bob Bartlett
Secretary	Derek Corder

Virtual: Steve Aguilu, Gary Anderson, Derek Corder, Bruce Merighi, Bruce Phillips, Bob Bartlett, Wayne Steele, Dan Hammond, John Richmond

Absent: none

Call to order:

Steven Aguilu called meeting to order at 6:30pm.

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October Board Meeting Minutes:

- Wayne moves to approve minutes, Bruce Phillips seconded, the motion carried.

President's Report:

- The new laptop is working well, Steve said he can reach out to someone about wiping the old laptop's hard drive so it can be donated.
- The raffle went well, it was \$50 for the club's treasury.
- Steve asked if anyone has heard from the nominating committee (no one said that they had) Steve said he will reach out to the committee.
- Steve said he will talk to Chad about meals for December (prime rib is \$22 a plate).
- Steve asked Bruce if his wife is still connected to the college and if he can ask about catering.
- Bruce Phillips said that Skill Source may be able to do the catering.
- Steve said that the tech center has a kitchen but doesn't know what the cost is.
- Dan said that we still need to find a bartender and Bruce Phillips said his son is a bartender and might be interested in helping.
- Bob said it may be better to have the vender provide the bartender as well the catering.
- Dan said that we will need to check about a liquor permit and banquet permit. The college may be able to provide that for the event.
- Dan said we also need to look into plates, linen etc.
- Bruce P will look into what can be done ahead of time for set up to save money on hours needed, and if the college is available for that weekend.
- Dan confirmed that the country club is no longer a reasonable option for banquet
- Steve asked if having a prime rib dinner at the December meeting would be a good option. Steve said he will reach out to the membership.
- Steve will do Night Before Fishmas at December meeting, he's putting together a video or PowerPoint.

Vice President's Report:

- Dan said we have to accept that the banquet will have lower numbers, it's sad but it's a fact of life. He said that the College will work better cost wise.
- Dan thanked Bruce and his wife for providing great solutions for alternatives to the country club.

- Dan said he will get a card for Eric Rainbolt on behalf of the board.
- Gary asked what to do if the college doesn't work and Steve said we could have a regular meeting with an online auction.
- Steve asked Dan if he has a locker key because he wants to get the locker organized.
- Dan said we need to get on collecting donations for the auction, but we need to get the banquet confirmed first.

#### Education Report:

- None

#### Conservation Report:

- Bruce Merighi said that the academy is raising the price to \$500. It used to be \$300 for the past 19 years. It cost \$1700 to get a kid through the program, a scholarship fund will be opened and roll over from year to year and just be used to help people join the academy.
- Steve asked how many kids attended. Bruce Merighi said 15 kids did. All but one of the parents paid and the club paid for that one kid.
- Bruce Merighi said that if someone wants a scholarship for their child, they need to write to us and ask.
- Gary said we have been supporting this for at least 10 years.
- Dan made a motion that we should raise the donation to \$500 and the vote is unanimous.
- Steve asked if we need to rollover monies and Bruce Merighi said we should roll it over as no one needs it at the moment.

#### Treasurer's Report:

- John said that the club has \$10,000, \$6,600 in the fund, and about \$16,600 total. The only expense would be for the laptop.
- Bob asked what it takes to keep the club as a nonprofit. There is an annual report that the treasurer submits to the state and there's no fees associated with this report.
- John said that investments have been going back up.

#### Outings Chair:

- Bob said he will step in until we get someone appointed. He has an updated set of files for formats of outings that he will send to Steve and Derek.
- Steve said he is looking to set up an outing for pink salmon next fall.

#### Membership Report:

- Bruce Phillips said things are pretty slow. The club has only had a few membership requests.
- John asked if people who pay membership dues in November can be considered active for the full next year. Bruce Merighi said he will check the bylaws and Bruce Phillips said he will check the rules for the 501c3. Gary said that, historically, the club has allowed people to count the last few months of the year with next year's due.
- Steve asked Bruce Phillips to see who is up to date on dues.
- Steve asked that people to remind him to introduce people and guests at the next general meeting.
- Bruce Phillips said that he will check the bylaws on voting people into the club since we haven't done that in two years.

- Dan asked if the new members are going to get their badges and Bruce Phillips said about 17 badges were ordered and will be ready for the December general meeting.

Program Chair:

- Gary asked, if we have trouble in January, if Steve would do his 2023 pink salmon presentation. Steve said he will be the January program if the banquet falls through.

Old Business:

- None

New Business:

- Gary said a couple hours ago he found a video on YouTube called Celebrating a River Runs Through It and it's a great follow up from the last general meeting, Steve said he will send that out with his president message.
- Dan had a heartwarming story. He was in Sportsman's Warehouse and saw a high school age kid looking at flies with his mother. He asked the kid if he's tying flies and he said yes. His school is having a class on flyfishing in Ellensburg and for the fall they were learning how to cast and now they are tying flies. Steve said it would be a great idea to reach out to the local schools to get kids involved.

Member Concerns: None

Adjournment Time: Steve Aguilu adjourned the meeting at 7:51pm.



**FOR SALE BY MEMBER ERIC RAINBOLT**

## **President's Message January 2023**

As we take our first tentative casts into the waters of the new year, we are rippling with excitement, the anticipation of return to old favorites and the thrill of new opportunities. But we can also feel the dark undertow of dread as we face personal, economic and environmental challenges. All of these things, good and bad, make up the fabric of our lives, fishing being only one part of them.

I think my reason for fishing, is to add to the breadth and richness of that day-to-day fabric and to put some of the things we take so seriously in perspective. Modern fishing, especially fly fishing with its tendency to get very complicated and call upon athleticism, strategy and all of our other survival skills, often ends with a careful release of our quarry. Ironically this bears a strange abstract resemblance to the raw pursuit of nutrition that marks most of human history. We fly fishers truly straddle the two worlds.

But when I look around at our meetings, I see people who are present for a variety of reasons. Some come for the fellowship of like-minded people, deliberately breaking the rules of solitude that draws us to the wilds. Others are here to learn, to immerse themselves in the banter and the stories of the aging members, hoping to absorb, by osmosis, the skills and tricks that only long experience can give. Some are here to teach, or at least pass along the love of this complex sport to younger generations, to thrill at the vicarious experience when they finally master the tight loop cast or land their first fish. Others are here driven by the mission to halt the degradation of our waters and even bring some back to life. As my navigation of this body of men and women comes to an end, I have a few items to pass on to the group, not the least of which is the desire to make a good handoff of the duties of the board to people with new ideas and talent, as well as an appreciation for the culture and legacy of the club. I am referring to the need to field a roster of candidates for the board positions including:

- **Vice President:** (which includes organizing the banquet and filling in for president on occasion) and is a two-year commitment that leads in the second year to becoming president. I can speak for the importance of this process in that, as I was vice president for two years due to the pandemic, as the outgoing president, I feel I am still on the learning curve of this role. It is important to note that there is **no requirement for a certain duration of membership to become the Vice President/President Elect**. I firmly believe that leadership is not necessarily a product of long membership and that especially in an era of rebuilding, new perspectives should be welcome.
- **Outings Director:** Responsible for making sure that the outings have been scheduled (this has largely been accomplished by the grace of Bob Bartlett who has already put together a list of outings based on our traditional venues) and that a host(s) is available to attend and bring the food that the club supplies for the group potlucks at these outings.
- **Membership Director:** Keeps a running record of new members, assures that we have contact information and that membership dues are paid. Also, they order and distribute new and replacement tags to the members. He or she also can spearhead publicity contacts and bring in ideas for growing and maintaining the membership.
- **Ghillie:** Responsible for organizing and maintaining the real and digital property and equipment of the club, the library and audio equipment, donated items and if I recall correctly, has traditionally been the person who runs the raffles.

**Please give serving as a board member some thought and consider stepping up when the call comes around from our nominating committee or at the banquet.**

**The January 21<sup>st</sup> Banquet is on track**, thanks to the hard work of **VP Dan Hammond, PP Bob Bartlett** and especially **Bruce and Pat Phillips** who provided a direct pathway to the Wenatchee Valley College conference center and the necessary caterers and beverage suppliers. As of our board meeting on the 5th, we had over 50 people signed up for the dinner and the fund-raising auction. It promises to be a fun evening, not to mention getting the opportunity to "inherit" some really wonderful and useful fly-fishing gear, flies and artwork. If you are new to the sport, this is your chance to "channel" some of the items that brought the group's long-term members some great days on the water.

If you have not heard, **Wenatchee Valley College Fly Fishing Course** has returned to the spring quarter after an absence of two years. **If you want to learn the basics of fly fishing or just improve your all-around skills**, you should sign up for this class. You will learn about entomology, reading water, the unique characteristics that make for quality fly fishing gear and get past the intimidating mystique that fly fishing has been saddled with. The course will be topped off with one-on-one fly-casting instruction and a fun outing to Beehive Reservoir. We will announce the class when details and dates have been pinned down.

And, thanks to another **donation from one of our most generous supporters**, we will have sufficient resources to fund some excellent education and conservation projects this year.

As I think about the people in WVFF and prepare to bid farewell, the feeling most strong, is that of gratitude... gratitude that this odd "art that is performed on a four-count rhythm between two and ten o'clock", will survive for generations to come, and in doing so, will help preserve the culture and traditions of the club and provide protection and rejuvenation of the waters we so love.

I want to call out **Conservation and Education Director Bruce Merighi** for his tireless pursuit of projects that make the fishing experience better now and in the future. Also, for his dedication to continued knowledge growth of our old, new and youthful members. He (along with **Bob**) has been instrumental in maintaining the website and making sure that the Fly Paper gets out each month. Also, I owe **Vice President Dan Hammond** and **Past President Bob Bartlett** the credit for stepping in this year when my professional commitments interfered with my function as president.

Thanks to **Secretary Derek Corder**, we have great records of our discussions and can organize and move forward with our goals. I look forward to seeing him work his way into the presidency someday. I appreciate **Ghillie Wayne Steele** for his sense of humor, ideas and support in our board meetings. Thank you, **John Richmond**, for keeping an eye on the club coffers. No one, it seems, wound up running off to Mexico with WVFF assets.

And **Gary Anderson our Program Director**, brought us some of the most fascinating and informative guest speakers we have ever had. I know that I became a better fly fisherman this year because of them.

And last but not least, **Membership Director Bruce Phillips** brought a combination of welcoming personality and great ideas to enhance club growth. I appreciate all the great new members he has brought to our club.

Finally, in this time of climate change and short-sighted starvation of our outdoor government services, we need to step up to help maintain the health of our watersheds and access to enjoy a sport that has provided pleasure and emotional health for millions of our fellow Americans. **I am grateful to you, the members of WVFF** who offer wisdom from the past and hope for the future of our sport in central Washington.

But most of all, I am grateful for the laughter, the stories, the camaraderie and your friendship in this unique obsession. Bless you in the new year. I wish you all tight lines and soul-healing waters.

Steve Aguilu President  
stuffers from Christmas, I



Yes, these are hand-

WVFF 2022 PS: Here is one of my stocking  
guess you could call it "fly-candy":

painted chocolates. Too lovely to eat!

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items, articles and pictures to: [bruce401@nwi.net](mailto:bruce401@nwi.net)