



# FLY PAPER

March 2024

[wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com](http://wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com)

## Looking Upstream

March 21	General Meeting Wenatchee Valley College (WVC) Van Tassell Cafe Presenter - Steve Worley - Fish the Yakima R. in High Water
March 16-17	Quincy Lake Outing
April 1	<b>CLUB DUES ARE DUE</b>
April 16	WVC <b>Fly Fishing class needs volunteers</b> to help with Knots
April 18	General Meeting Presenter Rich De Larenso - Fishing the Seychelles
April 26-28	Blue Lake @ Sinlahekin, Season Opener Outing
May 9-12	Big Twin Lake, Methow Outing
May 14	WVC <b>Fly Fishing class needs volunteers</b> to help with Fly Tying
May 21	WVC <b>Fly Fishing class needs volunteers</b> to help with Casting
May 16	General Meeting Presenter -Mike Sherer / Wenatchee Fly Co.
June 1	WVC <b>Fly Fishing class needs volunteers</b> to help at Beehive Lk.
June – Sept	No General or Board Meetings during the summer

### March 21<sup>st</sup> Presentation

## How to Fish the Yakima R. in High Water

Steve Worley is the owner and operator of Worley-Bugger Fly Co in Ellensburg, Washington. He and his staff conduct guided fly-fishing adventures throughout Central Washington, with their primary focus on the Yakima River since 1996.

Worley Bugger Fly Co. also operates the areas first and foremost premier professional fly-fishing shop. Steve's interest in the outdoors began at a very young age while growing up in the mining city of Butte, Montana. Steve recalls that "Outdoor recreation was always a part of our family life. Fishing, hunting and camping in the wilds of Southwest Montana was a influential portion of my life as a young man. During the spring and summer months, weekends were divided between camping in the Pioneer Mountains of the Wise River, a small tributary of the Big Hole River, or in the Bernice area north of Butte. Here, a family ranch has existed since the early 1900's. Our days as youths were spent fishing the small creeks and beaver ponds of Red Rock Creek. The fish were plentiful, and we spent much our carefree time, wading up and down the shores of the small creek.

While growing up in Butte, my father, Bob Worley owned and operated "Treasure State's Sporting Goods", a fishing, hunting and sporting goods specialty store in uptown Butte. "My father remained successful in the sporting goods business for many years before selling his interest in the store to pursue other ventures. In 1995 Steve investigated the promise of future employment with another of the local guiding contractors that were currently working in an area of the upper river. To his avail and qualifications, he was passed over. With little discouragement and the lingering thought of self-employment, the challenge of putting together a new and exciting business career was intriguing. Upon this, the Worley Bugger Fly Co. was born.

# Club Presidents Message

14MAR24

Greetings all,

Spring is upon us and, with it, the chance to get outside to fish!

It was a great pleasure to get to know many of you at our last club meeting...great food, and, I noticed, a little beer drinking (though mine was NA). The real treat, however, was hearing about the stocking plans upcoming from some of our favorite biologists, Ryan Fortier (Okanogan) and Mike Schmuck (Grant/Adams). These guys know their stuff and the shared love of being outdoors and in tune with the pulse of life was evident to see.



As our members asked informed questions about water quality, stocking methods, fish species, and secret access to special watering holes, I could not help but think, "wow, what a resource this club is for really serious fisherfolk!"



Then I remembered my own experience as a newbie and the vast generosity of our club members with those who are interested or just learning to fish. Just this month, for example, WVFF partnered with Wenatchee River Institute to provide a fly tying workshop. Thank you to Bruce Merighi, Dan Hammond, Rob Winter, Tom Whiteside, Bruce Phillips, and several volunteers (Registration is closed). Your dedication to this wonderful sport, and to learning, is inspiring!

## Fly Tying Workshop Series

Every Wednesday February 28 - March 27  
 Red Barn @ Wenatchee River Institute, 347 Division St.  
 Leavenworth, WA

[REGISTER HERE](#)

[Add To My Calendar](#)



Finally, I want to thank Allan and Cassie Warman for their outreach on behalf of WVFF at the Fly Fishing Film Tour at Numerica Performing Arts Center March 7.

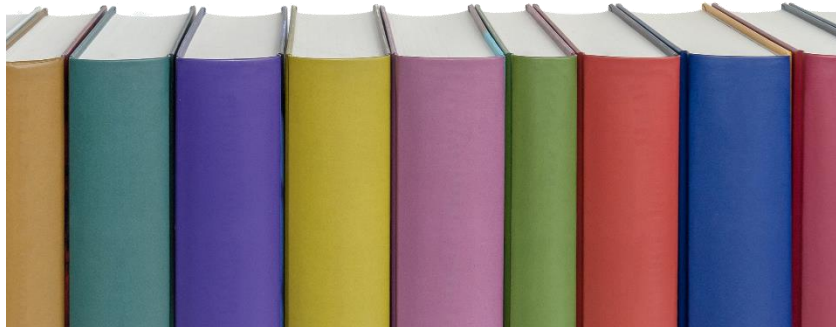
Remember, it's not about us...it's about the fish! Tod

*Rivers and their inhabitants are made for the wise to contemplate and for fools to pass by without consideration.* [Izaak Walton]

# Club Ghillie Message

The club library is getting lighter to move. We need our books back to get an accurate accounting. Please check your fly tying room, under the short leg on the dining room table, in the bathroom reading rack next to the bed and possibly in your trailer. After our inventory we will add new books thanks to Walt Whitgo. I appreciate your help and please bring them to the next meeting.

## Fred the Ghillie



## Potential Volunteer Opportunities

Hey Guys

Sorry I couldn't make it to the annual meeting.....I didn't want to get anyone else sick! Anyway, one of the things I really wanted to put out there for the WVFF or any other interested club/group or individuals for that matter are a few potential volunteer opportunities for consideration. With that, I have slides regarding these projects and what they would generally involve. If any of these spurs your interests, we can schedule a time to meet and talk more specifically. Also, please distribute this as you see fit with potentially interested folks.

Thanks

Travis Maitland Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Dist. 7 Fish Biologist  
Wenatchee District Office 3860 Hwy 97a Wenatchee, WA 98801 (509) 665-3337



## Volunteer Opportunities for your consideration!

- Grimes Lake (Kiosk & Sign)
  - Fund, build and install
- Hidden Lake
  - Eastern Brook Trout Suppression
- Angler Reports
  - Retrieve, replenish and deliver



## Grimes Lake kiosk and sign

- Destroyed a few years ago by wildfire.
- WDFW has original sign template.
- Needs funded, built and installation.



## Hidden Lake (EBT suppression)

- In 2023 WDFW collected baseline data, tissue samples and began suppression efforts (gill nets/minnow traps)
- Volunteer opportunities
  - Hook and line (harvest as many EBT as possible)
  - Check fish trap in outlet stream
  - Enumerate fish species



## Volunteer Angler Report Forms

- Reporting box locations
  - Wapato Lk.
  - Roses Lk.
  - Dry Lk.
  - Antilon Lakes
  - Upper Wheeler Reservoir
- Volunteer opportunity
  - Retrieve completed forms
  - Replenish forms
  - Reporting box maintenance
  - Drop off forms at Dist. Office

**Upper Wheeler Reservoir Fishery Evaluation**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Club or Angler Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Start Time	End Time	Species	No. Caught	No. Species Released	TOTAL LENGTH IN INCHES	
					FOR INDIVIDUAL FISH CAUGHT & RELEASED	FOR INDIVIDUAL FISH CAUGHT & RELEASED

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Species Abbreviation  
 RB = Rainbow Trout    BR = Brown Trout    CT = Cutthroat  
 EBT = Eastern Brook Trout    TT = Tiger Trout    OT = Other

# February 1, 2024 Virtual Board Meeting Minutes

**ATTENDANCE:** Present: Gary Anderson, Derek Corder, Dan Hammond, Fred Kunzman, Bruce Merighi, John Richmond, Tod Treat, Allan Warman, Mike Wyant, (previous board member Steve Aguilu joined for a short time) Absent: None

**Call to order:** 7:04 p.m.

### January 4th Board Meeting Minutes (Derek Corder)

Motion to Approve: Dan Hammond Second: Bruce Merighi Vote: Unanimous  
 Discussed during consideration of minutes: John Richmond, Bruce Mergihi, and Dan Hammond will confer on 2/6/24 to develop a proposed 2024 budget. Tod will review and put the proposed budget into a spreadsheet.

### President's Report:

1. Tod will write a President's Message article for the February newsletter.

### Education Report (Bruce Merighi)

- WRI Fly Tying Class: Bruce is still recruiting volunteers to assist with the fly tying workshop to be held at the Wenatchee River Institute campus in Leavenworth on Feb. 28, Mar. 6, 13, 20, 27.

- Gary reported that the Introduction to Fly Fishing class at Wenatchee Valley College is scheduled to begin April 9. The class will follow the same format as in years past.
- It was noted during the education report that the March 21 membership meeting will be held in the cafeteria at Wenatchee Valley College due to a schedule conflict at the Elks building.

### **Conservation Report** (Bruce Merighi)

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- Update on 2023 Fish Conservation Grant purchases: Bruce reported that he is still working with the conservation grant recipients to purchase the items that were awarded. Most of the items are on order and will be paid for by Bruce (to be reimbursed by the club) as they come in.
- Tod recommended that the newsletter include photos/write-ups of the funded equipment as it is put into use.
- New Conservation Grant Funding requests: Bruce is informally soliciting interest among previous recipients in applying for a new round of grants.

### **Treasurer's Report** (John Richmond)

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- Status of 501 c 3 with Feds: John reported that the club is still certified as a 501c3 non-profit with the Internal Revenue Service, with some remaining uncertainties about gray areas. John continues to work to clear those up.
- Annual banquet income: John reported that banquet costs were \$4,251, revenue was \$8,660, net profit for the club was \$4,399 (about \$300 less than the 2023 banquet profit).
- 2024 Budget status: John reported that the club has \$21,000 in the general account and \$8,000 in the community account.
- John recommended that a second check signer be added to the club's bank account. He suggested that it be Derek Corder. Derek agreed to accept the responsibility and the board unanimously agreed to John's recommendation.

### **Outings Report:** (Derek Corder offered to temporarily continue to fill in as Outings Chair as the club is still looking for permanent Chair)

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- Big Twin Outing: Details are on the club's website. Derek is host. Spots are filling up but there are still plenty of camping spots available for reservation in the section of the campground that has been set aside for Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers.
- Quincy Outing: March 16 – 17 is the suggested date. Derek offered to serve as host. Fred offered to cook again. Details to come.
- Blue Lake opening day (host needed): No one has stepped forward to host the outing on the general opening weekend, April 27 – 28. Dan offered to send an e-mail to the membership seeking a host. Derek said that he would host if the outing was moved to the following weekend but that he is unavailable to host on opening weekend.

### **Membership Report** (Allan Warman)

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#### **Ideas for recruiting new members: Allan offered the following thoughts:**

1. Perhaps we could round up a few members to do some fly tying at a sporting goods store, i.e. Sportsman, Hooked on Toy's, etc..

2. Perhaps doing a community announcements in the Leavenworth Echo, Cashmere Record, Wenatchee World, Chelan, etc.
3. We need to do some social media connections using our web page and connect to Washington fishing Facebooks, Instagram and X. For example, the Facebook pages "Flyfishing in Washington" has 15,000 members and "Washington State Flyfishing" with 3,500 members and "Flyfishing Washington" has 5,000 members.
4. Perhaps we create a "Central Washington Flyfishing" page.
5. Are there sportsman shows that occurs in Wenatchee? (Feb 24-26 at the Town Toyota Center)
6. Is there a connection for getting connected with kids? I know we did some fly tying at the Wenatchee HS. Maybe fly-fishing casting and/or Spey lessons.
7. Why do folks want to join WVFF? What's our mission?
8. Who do we want to target for membership?
9. Ideas?????????
10. Pybus Nonprofit day

Allan led a discussion of his list of thoughts for increasing membership. Dan reviewed some activities the club has engaged in recently to recruit new members. Much of the discussion focused on whether the club should do more with social media to promote and recruit participation. Allan will continue to look into social media options. John noted that those who take the Introduction to Fly Fishing class are given a free one-year membership in the club but that most of them do not seem to continue on as members. It was noted that getting younger people out will most likely be through activities rather than invitations to attend club meetings. Tod suggested that a needs assessment be conducted at the Introduction to Fly Fishing class to determine what would keep participants engaged with the club. He will work with Gary to develop a needs assessment. Otherwise, no action was identified on this agenda item.

- **Membership renewals/payment:** No discussion
- **New members:** See notes above.

### **Program Chair Report** (Gary Anderson)

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Gary announced the club meeting programs for spring.

- February 8: Bugs and Brews at Ground Control (a non-WVFF event): No discussion but Gary said he will try to attend to meet Mike Scherer and talk with him about the May program.
- February 15 club meeting: The three District Fish Biologists will discuss the fishing prospects for the waters they manage in this region.
- March 21 club meeting: Steve Worley from the Woolly Bugger Fly Co. in Ellensburg will present on Fishing the Yakima River at high water, which is during the summer irrigation season.
- April 18: Rich Delorenzo will present on fishing the Seychelles Flats in the Indian Ocean.
- May 16: Wenatchee guide Mike Scherer (Wenatchee Fly Co.) will present.
- Fall programs are not yet scheduled. Gary solicited suggestions for programs.

### **Old Business:**

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- None

## **New Business:**

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- Discussion: Banquet
- Bruce Phillips will be an auctioneer. Thank you, Bruce for doing so.
- The club thanks Gordy for his years of service as a volunteer auctioneer.
- It was noted that volunteer auctioneer is a thankless job and no one really wants to do it.
- Tod suggested that silent auction process could be sped up by just quickly announcing winner of each item.
- Table layout: Tod suggested that silent auction tables could be arranged around the perimeter of the room to facilitate movement of attendees.
- John said that there needs to be a better number regarding liquor: He noted that the club could get a closer estimate of how much liquor to plan for and buy as that has to be done in advance of the banquet. This year the club paid for the number of participants attending times three drinks each, which was way more than the number of drinks consumed.
- John noted that space could become an issue if more people attend the banquet.
- We were nearly giving away high-end fishing rods, including a Scott G series fly rod. It was noted that there seemed to be too many live auction items, which made the auction run long and resulted in the loss of interest by those attending.
- Fred asked the club to consider the primary goals of having the banquet. He asked if the goal is simply to make as much money as possible or is it to strike a balance between raising money and assuring that the attendees have fun.
- It was noted that the on-line auction did well during Covid and that perhaps a combination of an on-line auction (in which people who don't attend the banquet can participate), and live and silent auctions could be a good option.
- Tod noted that increased communication with members may help expand interest.

## Misc.

- Keys to the storage unit. Bruce has one key. Gary agreed to keep the other key.
- Fred noted that about 75 books were donated by a member and that they are presently stored in his garage. He is uncertain about how to proceed with making them available to members given the amount of stuff that is already on the shelves at the Elks.
- Fred suggested considering put more of the club's money into accounts that would generate a little more interest than what general checking and savings accounts currently offer. Brief discussion was followed by Tod's request that this item be added to the March agenda.
- Steve Aguilu thanked the group for its support during his last few years as board member and president.

**Adjournment Time:** Dan moved and Fred seconded for adjournment at 8:40 p.m.