



OVERLAKE FLY FISHING CLUB
MEMORIAL BENCH DEDICATION
ROCKY FORD CREEK

"Remembering Our Friends"

APRIL 13, 2019, 1:00 PM
GRANT COUNTY, WASHINGTON

OFFC History: The Overlake Fly Fishing Club (OFFC), an affiliate club of Fly Fishers International, was founded in Bellevue, Washington, on September 10, 1974, by Co-Founders Lloyd Lewis and Chris McDonald with 18 other Charter Members, including Frank Chubski, Gordon Legg, and Lory Watkins. OFFC was incorporated as a Washington nonprofit corporation on November 5, 1985. The club's Articles of Incorporation underscore its principal objectives to work for the improvement and perpetuation of fly fishing waters; encourage catch and release fishing programs; advocate sportsmanship and conservation; and promote education. Over the years, the club has continued to hold monthly meetings at various venues on Seattle's Eastside in Bellevue, Issaquah, and presently Redmond. OFFC currently has approximately 130 members, is governed by a 10-member Board and various standing committees, and sponsors numerous fly fishing outings, education classes, conservation activities, and other programs and events throughout the year.

OFFC 45th Anniversary: 2019 marks the 45th anniversary of OFFC. It is fitting that we can join together in this anniversary year to honor and remember past club members who have helped make OFFC what it is today.

OFFC History at Rocky Ford Creek: OFFC selected Rocky Ford Creek, a favorite Washington fly-fishing venue, as the site of the Memorial Bench due to the club's long and historic connection with the creek. The OFFC has sponsored club outings at Rocky Ford for many years. In 1989, with WDFW's permission, a group of OFFC members led by Gene Armstrong, an avid fly fisher, fly tier, and conservationist, constructed a wooden footbridge at the north (upper) end of the creek. The bridge provided much needed fishing access to fly fishers and helped conserve the habitat by keeping them out of the creek. After Gene's untimely death in 1990, OFFC erected a plaque in his memory next to the bridge, dedicating it as the Gene Armstrong Memorial Bridge. The bridge remained in service for over 20 years and was recently replaced, along with the south bridge. That plaque is still mounted on a stand near the present north bridge.

OFFC Memorial Bench Project: The Memorial Bench is the culmination of several years of discussion and planning. After various sites in Western Washington were considered, at the suggestion of OFFC Past President Kent Bassett, OFFC approved construction of a basalt stone memorial bench at Rocky Ford Creek, reflecting its rocky terrain, to honor past club members. Under Kent's leadership and with WDFW's support, OFFC obtained WDFW's approval to install the bench at Rocky Ford and completed construction in September 2018.

"There is no more fruitful additive to any sport than the ability to think back, whenever the action lags, to the stored-up increment of lessons learned from 'those who have gone before.'" Arnold Gingrich, *The Joys of Trout* (1973)



PROGRAM

- Welcome and Introductions
Bill Courshon, Dedication Committee Chair

- What the Memorial Bench Means to OFFC
Steve Foisie, OFFC President

- WDFW Speaker
Nicholas J. Bechtold
Assistant Manager
Columbia Basin Wildlife Area, WDFW

- Honoree Family Speakers
Sally Nielson
Julie Moberly
Cynthia Hickey
Barbara Clayton
Madeleine Ball

- Recognition of WDFW and other Contributors
Bill Courshon, Dedication Committee Chair



The OFFC Gene Armstrong Memorial Bridge at Rocky Ford Creek c. 1990

OFFC Honorees 2019

Gene Armstrong	Bill Ball	Frank Chubski	Julian May Dikty
Larry Dixon	Larry Graham	Al Green	Malcolm Hickey
Howard Kalber	Gordon Legg	Lloyd Lewis	Charles Lowe
Bill Mackay	David Nielson	Larry Petersen	Dan Quinn
Gordon Rasmussen	Dick Scales	Francis Smith	Lory Watkins

Memorial Bench Suppliers/Contributors

Coverall Stone, Seatac, WA

Tom Davidson, American Trophies and Engraving, Bellevue, WA

Mike Ellis, MBE Development LLC, Ephrata, WA

Gordon Rasmussen Family and Friends

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife

OFFC Rocky Ford Memorial Bench Dedication Committee

Bill Courshon, Chair	Kent Bassett, Co-Chair	Cliff Barker	Tom Crane
Jack Crowley	Ed Kane	Mackenzie Smith	