



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Washington State Council

Covering the Drift

Volume 21 Issue 2 July 2017

The Tiers Art

Skill and Imagination on Display in Ellensburg

Tiers gave the Clouser an upgrade

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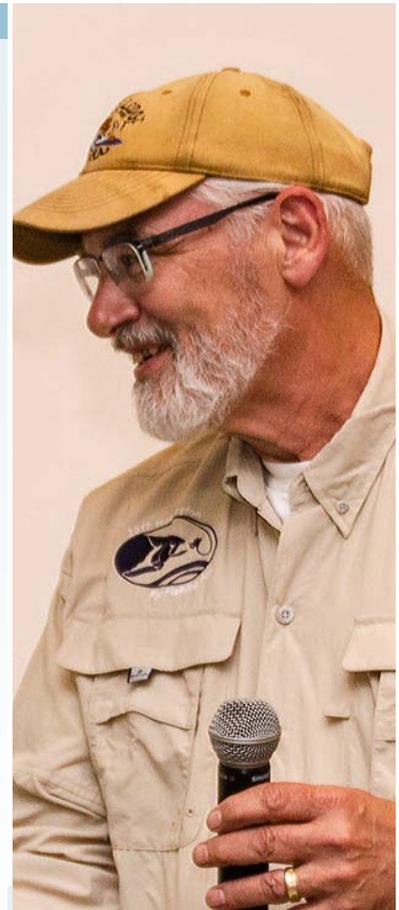
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Leaders Line

Thanks to our Volunteers

I hope that many of you were able to attend our 11th Annual Fly Fishing Fair this past May. I thought it was an outstanding event. The Board has already begun planning the 12th Washington Fly Fishing Fair on May 4th and 5th in Ellensburg. I look forward to seeing you there! I want to thank all the volunteers who help make this year's event a success. This includes all of the Certified Casting Instructors who provided the casting demonstrations and workshops, the seminar presenters, the fly tiers, and those who helped with the event, whether running the casting games, working the registration desk, helping with the auction and raffle or elsewhere. We could not do this event without you. **THANK YOU!** The Fair sponsor Frank Amato Publications deserve special thanks and I would like to encourage them to sponsor the 12th Annual Fly Fishing Fair. (continued on page 6)



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Special points of interest

- WDFW is developing a fishing rules app for Apple and Android smartphones.
- It will provide site specific information on rules on rivers and lakes statewide.
- Once installed on a martphone, the app can identify nearby rivers and lakes and whether they are open for fishing.

2017 Officers Election

The following members are running for election to the chapter board in 2017. Look for an electronic ballot in your email in July. The ballot will be hosted on the Survey Monkey online polling Web service.



Robert Gerlach-Director

My passion for Fly Fishing began in 2001 when I met my wife. I picked up a spey rod very early on and put all other forms of fishing aside. I have since become a Certified Casting Instructor and I spend many hours teaching fly casting to youth throughout the Pacific Northwest.

Jay Woodbury-Director

Jay is a medically retired USMC combat veteran who became the Deputy Area Coordinator of Project Healing Waters in 2007. He took up fly fishing and tying in 2006 and has two flies published in the Fly Tying Journal and one fly on display at a museum in New York's Catskills. He has been a board member of the (WSCFFI) since 2011

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Conservation

Keepemwet, Fish Need Water

By Jack Whitney

A couple of years ago, I was at a fly shop Christmas Party, where I talked to an employee of Rajeff Sports. He mentioned that Tim Rajeff was promoting a campaign to stop removing catch and release fish from the water. The organization was called "Fish Need Water." Their website can be found at <http://www.fishneedh2o.org/today/>. A little later I found similar organization titled "Keepemwet." Their website is <https://www.keepemwet.org/>.

When I first found these two organizations most of the videos on the web from guides and fly shops were showing large trout and steelhead freshly caught being held by a fisherman out of the water. Typically, the fish's head was pulsating side to side while his mouth was opening and closing. They seem to keep fish in this pose for a long time; I guess to imprint on the viewer's mind the great fish the viewer could catch fishing while with them. My wife would hear me screaming obscenities at the computer monitor followed by "**Put that fish back into the water.**"

Both websites have valuable information to digest. The Keepemwet web site has a section on the science behind their campaign. One article talked about scientific testing done by stressing fish, keeping them out of the water for a specified period of time and recording the fish mortality 12 hours later. Mortality on fish that were kept in the water was 10%. Mortality of fish out of the water for 30 seconds after stressing them was just under 40% and if kept out of the water 60 seconds the mortality rose to 70%.

Fish Need Water also references scientific papers on fish survival. They stated that between 2012 and 2014, 235,000 Chinook were hooked and released in Oregon & Washington waters. Of those fish, 102,000 died afterwards from various causes with a significant percent related to the angling event.

A couple of interesting points have come up from these two organizations. One compares pulling a fish out of water after a stressful fight would be like running a marathon and then having your head held under water for similar length of time. The other point being made is that just because a fish swims away doesn't mean the fish is all right and will survive your mishandling of it. It may perish later from the encounter.

The FFI conservation committee proposed to the board that it approve Keepemwet as a conservation partner which I believe they did. Keepemwet works to improve catch and release handling which fits with existing FFI policies.

I think things are getting better. I no longer see those long out of the water frontal fish shots. I am now hearing stuff like "no fish was removed from the water during this trip." I am seeing more pictures of trophy fish taken in the water. I hear fishermen talking about their improved handling of the fish they caught. I myself have changed many of my fish handling practices. So, I urge you to check out these two websites and reflect on what they have to offer. Remember the fish you handled with care may be the fish you catch tomorrow.

The Ellensburg Fair

By Jack Whitney

Every year the weekend before Mothers' day, the Washington State Chapter of the Fly Fishers International (WSCFFI) puts on a fly fishing fair in Ellensburg. The money made at the fair is returned to the fly fishing community through educational programs and conservation grants.

The event started with volunteers' dinner given as a thank you to those helping with the event. Each board member contributed two desserts to be sold at the dinner. Each table collected donations for the desserts and the table with the greatest contribution received first choice from the desserts.



Second largest table contribution got second and so forth. This netted over \$900 for conservation and education efforts around the state. The event draws together hundreds of Washington fly fishers for classes and demonstrations.

Tiers at work in Ellensburg from top left were Vern Jeremica, David Paul Williams tying for a teenage audience and Al Wood tying one of his clouser patterns featured on this month's cover .

The featured fly tier was Steve Fernandez and the featured casting instructors were Molly Semenik and Al Buhr. The event concluded with a banquet and live auction Saturday night. The auctioneer was Will Godfrey, an Idaho guide, author, fly tier and professional auctioneer. Will put on a very entertaining conclusion to a great two day event. He also got some money out of me for a hat loaded with flies tied by most of the fly tiers at the event.



From top; Molly Semenik with students, Maura Johnson at registration, Henry Hoffman surveying auction goods, Kuni Masuda talks over awards and Len Zickler, Jerry McBride and Jim Athearn talk shop.



Thanks to our Volunteers

Continued from page 1.....

I also encourage Council members to thank our sponsors. On Friday night we held our Awards and Auction after a wonderful dinner by Cascade Grilling. The following awards were presented this year. Presidents Pins went to Sam Matalone, Steve and Treyna Erickson and Will Godfrey. Mike Clancy received the Education Award for his work with the Northwest Youth conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. The Fly Tying Hall of Fame Award was given to Les Johnson. The Council Fly Fisher of the Year (formally Federator of the year) went to Don Simonson. The Washington Council's nominee for the Council Award of Excellence to be given at the International Fly Fishing Fair in Livingston this August is Robert Gerlach. Congratulations to everyone. On Saturday afternoon, we held our annual meeting and conducted the business of the Council, including nominating the slate of Board candidates for positions that expire this July. This year's slate is: **Len Zickler-VP East (2017), Don Simonson-VP West, JoAnn Allison-Treasurer (2018), John Newbury VP Education, Chet Allison - Director (2018), Mike Clancy-Director, Pat Peterman - Director, Vern Jeremica - Director, and Bill Wheeler - Director.** Now that the 2017 Fair is in the books it is time to do a little fishing. For me, Maura and I will be spending some time in Montana this summer. I hope to see you all in Livingston, Mont. this August to attend the International Fly Fishing Fair.

From top; Greg Shimek receives grant for Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, Mike Clancey receives education award, Don Simonson receives Fly Fisher of the Year, Carl and MC Will Godfrey dupe the audience with the drop the bottle con and Will questions David Paul Williams about his guided carp trip in the auction.



Washington Streamlining Fishing Rules Statewide

At one time or another most of us have walked to the edge of a river or lake and asked ourselves, "Can I fish here?"

Washington fisheries managers are taking several steps to make it easier to answer that question. This fall the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife will release an app for Apple and Android smart phones that will provide site specific information about fishing rules on rivers and lakes statewide. In addition, fisheries managers are reviewing dozens of fishing rules with the goal of making it easier to know when you can fish in every part of the state.

To keep anglers informed on the proposals, there will be a series of public workshops said Craig Burley, Fish Management Division Manager.

In August, the department will seek

public input on proposed simplified rules at a series of public workshops around the state. Watch the WDFW Web site for details. People will also be able to review the proposals online and submit comments through the WDFW website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov>.

Beginning in September, WDFW staff will brief the state Fish and Wildlife Commission on the proposed changes. In October, the Commission will conduct a public hearing on the proposed rules before adopting them in December.

Because of the state's diversity of species – and the legal environment in which fishing takes place – WDFW is focusing initially on rules governing steelhead, trout, warm water species, sturgeon, shad and carp. Following the completion of the initial simplification effort, WDFW will focus on rules related to salmon, shellfish, and marine fisheries, including bottomfish.

Officers Election continued from page 3

Larry Gibbs-Director



I am a life member of the FFI and belong to the President's Club, plus I am a life member of the Fly Tying Group. I was also the auction coordinator for the FFI for five years and I served a term on the FFI's Board of Directors. My past duties with the WSC have included the positions of auction coordinator, treasurer and secretary. I am the president of the FFI Charter Club, the Alpine Fly Fishers, in

I am presently a director and the vendor coordinator for the Washington State Council. I

Puyallup as well as their newsletter editor. I will fish all waters but I prefer to fish for trout and smallmouth bass in the rivers of eastern Washington and western Montana.

Jim Maus – VP Communications

Jim is running for VP of Communications.

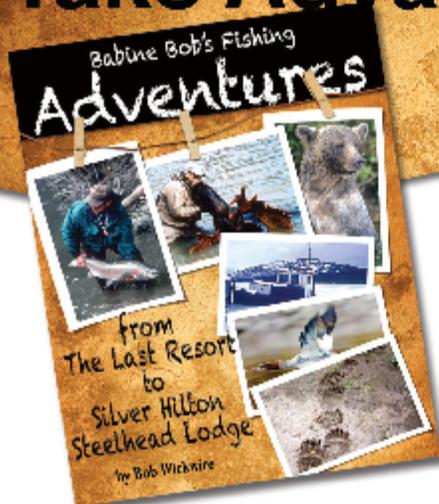
Steve Jones –Newsletter Editor

I've been a member of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers for about 15 years and served as club president for three years and on the board since 2013. I want to

contribute to the Washington chapter of Fly Fishers International and help keep it the lively and successful group members expect.



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