



Covering The Drift

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Editor: Bob Bates

Leader's Line

By Bob Shirley
WSCFFF, President

I welcome the FFF members in Alaska to the Washington State Council. We look forward to serving you and to working with you in our new arrangement. Please, feel free to contact me or any member of our Board of Directors if you have questions, concerns, comments, or suggestions. Our contact information is available on our

website and can also be found in this publication. We look forward to being able to work together with you on shared conservation, membership, and fly fishing education opportunities.

The 2005 Casting Exposition held in Tacoma this year was a lot of fun, and we thank all of the volunteers who made it possible. Also, congratulations to the winners of each event and we look forward to seeing everyone next year.

interest is extremely important today. There are forces right now attacking fly fishing and our ability to access fly fishing waters. Anything you can do to help will be appreciated today and in the future. So don't get upset with someone asking for funds or merchandise to support the FFF - the real beneficiary is not the Organization, it is you.

One simple way I learned about to help fund the FFF is to sign up at Albertsons grocery stores to give a portion of your bill to the Federation. It does not cost you anything! Your donation will go to support fly fishing education and other important youth programs and projects.

Sign up at the Customer Service booth and then use your Preferred Savings Card each time you shop. Albertsons will automatically send a small percentage of your shopping bill to the FFF.

You can also sign up through their website: www.albertsons.com Full instructions are on the WSCFFF website.

Please, take the time to volunteer, donate through Albertsons, write a check to the Federation, or sign up a new member today!

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Probably my favorite time of year is fast approaching! I know The Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue and the two Sportsman's Shows in the Puget Sound area are a lot of work, but shaking hands with a lot of you and answering questions about the WSCFFF and the Federation is something I truly enjoy. Please, if you attend a Show anywhere this year, look for the FFF booth or the AFFTA booth or your Council booth and say hello. The hard working volunteers in these booths are dedicated Federators who have fly fishing education and support of fly fishing as a driving force in their lives.

Supporting fly fishing and the only organization which has fly fishing and it's almost limitless variety of forms and specialties as it's only

Washington State Council

Federation of Fly Fishers
 P.O. Box 921
 Gig Harbor, WA 98335
 (253) 265-6162
 fax (253) 265-2263
 email: vjblyoung@comcast.net

2005-2006 WSCFFF Officers
 (Number of years after name is their term of office)

President
 Bob Shirley (1-yr.) (253) 581-1271
 email: b.shirley@juno.com

1stVP, West and Treasurer
 Carl Johnson (2-yrs.) (425) 308-6161
 flyfishalso@verizon.net

1stVP, East & VP Conservation
 Jerry McBride (1-yr) (509) 233-2108
 email: jerrymcbride@omnicast.net

Secretary
 Mike Clancy (2-yrs.) (360) 753-1259
 e-mail: mtclancy@earthlink.net

VP, Education

***** Position Vacant *****

*VP, Communication,
 Webkeeper and newsletter editor*
 Bob Bates (3-yrs.) (509) 328-7327
 e-mail: bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

FOUR OUT OF 10 SIGNS HAVE BEEN INSTALLED

By Jerry McBride,
 WSCFFF, 1st VP East & VP Conservation

As you probably recall, the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCFFF) committed to get 10 signs for Region 2 lakes. Ten sponsors agreed to co-sponsor a sign with WSCFFF.

As of November 16, 2005 here is how we've done:

<u>Lake Sign</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Installed?</u>
Lenice	Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club	Jerry McBride	Yes
Nunnally #1	Puget Sound Fly Fishers	Carl Zarelli	Yes
Nunnally #2	Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers	Gary Bates	Yes
Lenore #1	Larry Gibbs	Larry Gibbs	
Lenore #2	Overlake Fly Fishing Club	Ron Miller	
Lenore #3	North West Fly Fishermen	Don Schroder	Yes
Lenore #4	Yakima River Fly Fishers	Len Zickler	
Dusty #1	Seattle Police Department FFC	Jeff Caldwell	
Dusty #2	Dry Side Fly Club	Gary Hazel	
Beda	Dry Side Fly Club	Gary Hazel	

FFF FLY TYING ON THE WEB

By Bob Bates,
 WSCFFF, VP Communication

One of the improvements on the FFF website is the fly tying page. You will find it at:

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/flytying.php>

There is information for beginning and experienced fly tiers, just click on the titles in the table. All 73 Fly of the Month articles from the old website are still available (first item in the table).

New patterns are in a step format with pictures, and also they are in a database. New patterns will be added each month.

If you have any comments on the new format, suggestions or want to contribute a pattern please contact me at:

bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

WHY WEAR A WADING BELT?

From the January 2005 FFF ClubWire

Submitted by Bob Tabbert – From Acadiana Flyrodders of Lafayette (Louisiana) Newsletter

A friend of mine sent me narrative that I thought was very informative. As promised, today I tested (intentionally) the effect of swimming in chest-high breathables while wearing a wading belt or not wearing a wading belt. Here is my experiment, my results and my conclusions. It may be surprising...

THE TEST: I have a pair of Orvis breathable waders and a wide Orvis belt. The waders fit comfortably; they are snug enough to not be baggy in the knees or butt, but loose enough so that I can normally step up onto a height similar to a kitchen chair, or squat down without the legs binding up. I think anyone who owns waders that they would qualify as 'a good fit' have approximately the same type of fit as these.

The belt I wear has a very wide back

(similar to a weight belt) as I have a stiff back and this belt provides good support. It closes by passing through a plastic loop in front, then doubling back on itself where it seals with a 10 inch strip of Velcro. The belt does not stretch or slip, and I normally wear it above my hipbones, over my belly button. I usually wear it quite snugly; it would be difficult to insert a finger between the belt and wader, but it does not impede the ability to take a deep breath. Until now, I felt that the prime purpose of the belt was

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VP, Membership

Irv Conner (1-yr.) (509) 663-7054
email: kcconner@televar.com

Director At Large

Jim Maus (1-yr.) (253) 582-9580
email: jimmaus@aol.com

Director at Large

Ben Dennis (3-yrs.) (509) 996-2784
e-mail: flydrodranch@methownet.com

Director at Large

Kip Keener (2-yrs.) (206) 932-0203
e-mail: kipkeener@hotmail.com

Director at Large

Don Simonson (3-yrs.) (206) 932-4925
e-mail: donjoans@earthlink.net

Director at Large

David Williams (3-yrs.) (425) 455-2047
e-mail: dpwlaw@earthlink.net

Director at Large

Vern Jeremica (3-yrs.) (425) 837-9303
e-mail: vern@jeremica.com

Director at Large

Leslea Dennis (1-yr.) (509) 996-2784
e-mail: flydrodranch@methownet.com

Salmon & Searun Cutthroat Chair

Vernon Young (253) 265-6162
email: vjbyoung@comcast.net

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to support my back, and even considered not using it occasionally.

The waders have an additional water seal at the top, with an elastic string that is sewn into the seam. This can be pulled tight once the waders are on, and I usually do this, only loosening it to retrieve or store items (like a camera) in the chest pocket which is in the interior of the waders. I put the waders over dry swimming trunks, dry socks (red, of course...) and a dry t-shirt. I put on my wading boots (without gravel guards), squatted down to press the air out of the legs, tightened the belt, stood up and tightened the top elastic cord. This is exactly how I gear up when I go fishing.

I then lowered myself into the pool by climbing down the ladder into the shallow end, facing toward the pool. As I lowered myself, the water pressure squeezed the air out of the legs, which 'burped' up past the waist belt. Once I reached crotch-deep. Then, once I was standing in the water (about mid-chest deep), I started walking towards the deep end of the pool. I waded in until the water was at the very top of my waders, then proceeded until the water was at my chin at which time I dropped down underwater and held my breath to see what happened.

Initially, I was expecting to find my legs buoyant and floating upwards, as has been stated so many times. I can definitely say that this is NOT TRUE with breathables. When I

entered the water down the ladder, the water pressure squeezed all the excess air out of the legs, and there was no air trapped in the legs or chest whatsoever. When I lay on my back with my legs extended I floated very comfortably with absolutely no feeling of having to compensate for buoyant legs, and could easily keep my face and mouth above the water. When I brought my knees up to my chest, my lower body sank and I took a position with the top of my head just at the surface of the water, but I remained in the upright position. When I re-extended my legs, I again floated shallow enough to breathe.

I could easily move with a back paddling stroke, and I even rolled onto my chest and dove downwards and was able to swim as if I was wearing just a swimsuit. The waders were tightly pressed against my body, so I was able to move my legs and kick very easily and without any constriction, without any interference of motion, and without any complications from excess buoyancy.

Then I stood up in the neck-deep water and removed the wading belt and loosened the top elastic cord. Initially, the water trickled down the waders along my back, but within seconds, I could feel the water in my legs and socks. Again, I ducked down underwater and floated up motionlessly to see what happened.

There was absolutely no difference in buoyancy, and again I was able to float easily keeping my face and mouth above water. I was also able to back paddle easily and move towards the

side of the pool.

However, once I started moving backwards, the water filled my waders completely and the legs 'billowed' slightly away from my skin. It was not a full 'ballooning' effect: it was more like suddenly wearing extra large, loose pants. Whereas before, the waders were pressed tightly to my legs, now they were loose and billowy. This looseness made a very noticeable difference in my ability to kick my legs, although it did not affect how I floated in a 'dead float'.

Again, I rolled over and dove underwater, and found that my ability to swim was impeded a bit. I could still move, but when I kicked my legs, the waders shifted around and got slightly tangled in my legs. It did not prohibit me from swimming, as they did not 'parachute' open and slow me down, but I absolutely preferred the earlier effect with the belt, where the waders were unnoticeable. Imagine trying to run in extra baggy jeans, and you can understand what I'm talking about.

Then I backstroked to the side of the deep end of the pool and tried climbing out. Here is where the difference was most noticeable. I was absolutely and completely unable to pull myself up at the side of the pool. When I was immersed, the waders were weightless, but once I got myself up to where my arms were holding me out of the water, the legs and body of the waders were so full

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of water (probably in excess of 150 pounds...) that I could not pull my body out of the pool. Kicking did not help, as the legs were so full of water that I could not bend them. The harder I tried to pull/kick myself out, with every little gain of an inch out the pool, the heavier the waders got and the more impossible it was to climb out.

I swam over to the ladder, and tried to climb out from the shallow end. Again, once I got up so that my crotch was out of the water, the weight of the trapped water combined with the full legs made it impossible to lift my legs to the next rung. It was completely impossible to climb out: if I had to urgently get out, I could not have done it!

I was not in a position to flop forward onto my belly to drain the legs, so I climbed back down and swam to the very shallow end of the pool. I stood facing the pool and managed to hoist myself up until my butt was on the ledge with my legs still in the water. Then I tried to swing my legs out of the water, one leg at a time. Even that proved impossible!! The weight in one lower leg alone was probably in excess of 50 pounds, and I could not even raise one leg up to the ledge beside me. I could have asked for assistance from a friend there, having her lift my foot, but I also was afraid of the waders 'blowing out' if I removed my leg entirely from the water. I lay on my back hoping to drain the water out of the upper part of my waders, but this had no effect at all on the amount of water in the lower legs. So I hopped back into the water, removed my boots and took off my waders before I climbed out.

CONCLUSIONS: A fisherman might find themselves in a similar situation as I was in if they were fishing a calm pool and the bank collapsed under their feet. My experiment did not take the effects of falling into moving

current into account, other than the current differential when back paddling.

Nonetheless, I did discover that some 'myths' about wearing wading belts seem patently untrue. In my test, there was absolutely NO BUOYANT EFFECT from air trapped in the legs, as it was squeezed out when I entered the water. I would maintain that any fisherman who was standing in water deeper than their waist would have the same thing happen as they entered the water. Therefore, there is no trapped air to float up your legs.

Also, the effect of the current on waders full of water is not pronounced, but it is enough to impede your agility. Images of getting 'dragged down' by waders full of water are ungrounded, as I was able to float at exactly the same level of buoyancy without the wading belt as with it.

While swimming underwater, the effect of the belt was very pronounced. The waders with the belt, contrary to common belief were more snug and provided no interference at all. The waders without the belt were baggy, billowy, and were not easy to swim in.

The **HUGEST** effect, and a tremendously **Important One, IMO**, is the difficulty of getting out of the water. Although I did not try to get out of the pool with the belt on (an large oversight, I think), I believe it would have been quite manageable, as anyone who has ever fished with waders on can attest. However (and this is a **BIG** 'however'), once the waders were filled with water, I was completely unable to get out of the pool!! I could not pull myself up and flop onto the shore, as my legs remained lower than my body and full of water. I could not climb a ladder, nor could I even raise my legs out of the pool once I was sitting on the edge.

CONCLUSIONS: I think if a fisherman fell into a steep-sided pool or stream while wearing waders without a belt, they would quickly be in a very serious life-threatening situation. The only way I can imagine getting out would be to slice the waders open, or to somehow get them off. It would be impossible to grab a branch and haul yourself out, impossible to stand and step up over a bank more than 12 or 14 inches tall, and impossible for friends on shore to pull you up unless they were able to drag 300-400 pounds (your body weight plus the water in the waders) up an incline. Even if you managed to get out, your waders would likely split open from the pressure or else get torn to shreds in the panic. If the river was the right type, then another egress option would be to find a shallow bank and slither onto it on your belly until you were able to raise your legs and drain them. However, I would certainly not want to hope to find a spot exactly like that if I fell in the water.

FINAL ANALYSIS: Until about an hour ago, I was one of those who theorized that there really wasn't much difference between wearing a belt or not. I am now a complete convert: I am even going to retrofit the belt I have so that it has a backup buckle in addition to the Velcro. I will *never, ever* wade without a wading belt! Although swimming is not greatly affected, I now know first-hand that it would indeed be a life threatening situation trying to get out of a steep-sided river with waders full of water.

Please, everybody, **WEAR A WADING BELT!!** If you think somehow its not as graphic as I just wrote about, go to the neighborhood pool and jump in. Hell, I dare you to lay down in your bathtub, then try to get out! Its frightening!

-riverman

LETTER TO FFF CLUBS AND COUNCILS

December 4, 2005

By Gary Grant
Chair, FFF Board of Directors



As Chair of the Board of Directors of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) I would like to thank each of you for your support during the year. Through your personal dedication of resources and work you have helped us accomplish many wonderful things. By continuing your support, through your membership dues, personal financial support, and work ethic important education and fishery conservation activities happen that transcend every fishery and impact anyone who fishes with an artificial fly.

The following are just few activities your support made happen:

- The FFF reached tens of thousands of people through its education programs. Our members at both club and national levels taught fly fishing, fly tying, and the ethics of angling to all ages from all walks of life. In Montana alone, in 2004 our staff taught a one-day field course on fresh water ecology to over 7000 individuals, and trained 174 teachers to instruct the course as well.
- The FFF coordinated the teaching efforts of the many organizations that instruct fly fishing and fly tying. Our efforts are insuring that the maximum possible positive results are obtained from the total volunteer efforts.
- The FFF is involved in and co-producing an important television series, The New Fly Fisher, which is broadcast to millions of households throughout North America with the fundamental premise of teaching people of all ages how to fly fish and enjoy this outdoor activity. This coming year the reach of this series will be more than doubled throughout Canada and the USA, and like the Discover Fly Fishing program, it will help attract and retain people in fly fishing.
- The FFF has joined with AFFTA to promote fly fishing at consumer shows throughout the country under the banner, Discover Fly Fishing. Some of our clubs helped to promote this program and have added new members to their rolls.
- The FFF is working with fishing and boating organizations as part of National Fishing and Boating Week. Within the National Fishing and Boating Week we have lead the way for creation of a National Fly Fishing Week to promote our sport and ethic.
- The FFF Steelhead Committee helped form The Wild Steelhead Coalition on the west coast and was a key player in the successful effort to cut the annual allowable wild steelhead kill from thirty to one, in Washington State.
- The FFF fully supports Stripers Forever in leading an effort to make striped bass a game fish, thus protecting it from commercial exploitation. We are working with SF in the Northeast helping them to establish a striped bass game fish fund.
- The FFF recently funded another phase of the Southwest Native Trout Restoration Project. In addition, we lead a coalition of groups in recovery of vital mangrove habit in Florida.
- The FFF assisted the Boy Scouts of America establish their fly fishing merit badge program and is now fully involved in teaching a large percentage of over 25,000 scouts who attempt to earn the badge each year. At this year's National Jamboree at Fort A. P. Hill in Virginia, a merit badge program was organized by the FFF and accomplished by FFF members, individuals and clubs. We taught hundreds of scouts.
- The FFF casting certification program has created a world wide standard by which to judge casting instructors, and as such provides a needed service to the industry and to the public.
- Since 1990 a major activity affecting our rivers has been the re-licensing of hydropower dams as their initial

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licenses have expired. The Federation of Fly Fishers has been actively involved in this process since the beginning and is a member of the Hydro Reform Coalition (a national coalition of organizations which have joined together to coordinate their involvement in this process).

- The FFF is the leader in promoting fly fishing to women. Programs at all levels assist women’s entry into the sport. For example, the Flygirls, a FFF Charter club, assisted by the Great Lakes Council taught an 8 day comprehensive fly fishing program to Girl Scouts in their nationally renowned Discovery Program.
- The FFF provided most of the instructors for teaching fly fishing in the Becoming an Outdoors-Woman programs in every state where Departments of Natural Resources offer them.
- The Southern Council, and other FFF Councils, have lead the way in supporting the Casting for Recovery Program.
- We have created a state of the art website where you can find a members only section for special advantages and important information about the organization.
- We are now actively supporting the guides that were displaced by the recent costal storms and the restoration of those fisheries.

These are just a few activities and programs that your contribution to the Federation of Fly Fishers supports. Our combined efforts to grow the sport of fly fishing and improve the associated fisheries, however, there is much more we can do. There is probably not a club or member that has not been touched by the efforts of the organization. The support you or your club provides is vitally important to the future of the sport of fly fishing.

Through your membership and personal donations we can do so much. Your continued support allows us to collectively improve the sport of fly fishing. Again, thank you for you support and dedication to the organization.

**ALASKA CLUBS
A REQUEST AND
AN OFFER**

By Bob Bates,
WSCFFF, VP Communication

This is mainly addressed to members of:

- Alaska Fly Fishers - Anchorage
- Midnight Sun Fly Casters - Fairbanks
- Raincountry Flyfishers - Juneau

Welcome to the Council!

A page on our website has the names of all FFF Associated and Charter Clubs in our council.

<http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/Clubs.htm>

This is an advantage because their names are available to the public, and potential club members can find

clubs in their area. Please talk to your board about rejoining the FFF. For information contact FFF Membership:

E-mail: fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org
or
215 E. Lewis,
Livingston, MT 59047
phone: (406) 222-9369

When your club joins or rejoins the FFF have your contact send me information so I can add it to the web page. Since “A” comes before “W” the Alaska clubs will be listed first.

bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

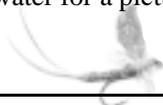
p.s.: Maybe somebody can send me a picture or two of those big, fly caught Alaskan fish that I can put on the main page. We like to see fish still in the water or at least dripping water if it is legal to momentarily hold them out of the water for a picture.

**THE FLY
FISHING SHOW**

By Don Simonson,
WSCFFF, Board Member

The show is February 10-12, 2006 at the Meydenbauer Center, in Bellevue, WA. It is a great time to see new fishing gear, collect information about fishing trips or lodges, watch noted fly tiers and listen to great speakers. Again this year the WSCFFF will be represented at the show. The Council will have a booth promoting FFF membership, FFF coffee sales and prize drawings. This provides an avenue for our Council to spread the word on what impact and influence the FFF has on the sport of fly fishing and how we can work to make our sport even better.

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Drop in at the booth and meet all or some the Council board members. There is a rumor that one or more of our FFF leaders might show up

CLUB TABLE AT THE FF SHOW

By David Williams, WSCFFF, Board Member

Are you looking for a chance for your FFF affiliated club to connect with fly fishers looking for a club to join? If so, the Washington State Council provides a great opportunity by sponsoring a table at The Fly Fishing Show, February 10-12, 2006, held at the Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington. This show draws fly fishers from around the state who want to see what's new in gear, attend educational seminars, see gifted professional tiers at work and learn more about fly fishing clubs.

Last year the Washington Fly Fishing Club, Northwest Women Flyfishers and Northwest Fly Anglers shared the table (actually three tables) in the Meydenbauer foyer. We got to meet show attendees before they entered the exhibition area and we got to greet them as they left. If a person

was interested in a "male only" club, the WFFC worked. If that person wanted a "female only" club, the NWF took care of them. If that person wanted a family, coed club, then the NFA fit the bill. And, if that person was from out of town, we provided them with contact information for an FFF club in their area.

Please provide your current club contact information to either David Williams (DPWLaw@earthlink.net) or Don Simonson (donjoans@earthlink.net).

A CHRISTMAS PRESENT

By Mike Clancy, WSCFFF Secretary

The Federation continues to work with Specialty Roast Company of Bellevue to promote coffee with the FFF label displayed on the package.

What a wonderful Christmas present for a friend. Specialty Roast Company will ship the coffee any place in the U.S. They have a good selection of coffee with competitive pricing.

Go to either website www.specialtyroast.com/fff or www.fffcoffee.com and order your coffee. The FFF receives \$2 per pound sold.

FLY FISHING EVENTS FOR 2006

January 25-29, 2006 Washington Sportsman Show Puyallup Fair Grounds Puyallup, Wash.

February 8-12, 2006 Pacific N.W. Sportsman Show Portland Expo Center Portland, Ore.

February 10-12, 2006 The Fly Fishing Show Meydenbauer Center Bellevue, Wash.

February 22-26, 2006 Evergreen Sportsman Show Evergreen State Fairgrounds Monroe, Wash.

March 2-6, 2006 Central Oregon Sportsman Show Deschutes Fairgrounds & Expo Ctr Redmond, Ore.

Federation of Fly Fishers Membership Application

Full Name _____
Address _____
City / State / Zip _____
Phone home / work _____
Club Affiliation _____
Birth Date _____

Referred by: _____

Apply online at www.fedflyfishers.org

Please mail or call us at

Federation of Fly Fishers
215 E Lewis 406 222-9369
Livingston, MT 59047 406 222-9369 fax

Please check membership category

- Canadian memberships add \$5 per year All other countries add \$10 per year
- Individual Membership (\$35)
 - Disabled Veterans are Free (Proof of 50% disability required)
 - 3-year individual (\$85)
 - Senior Membership (\$25) for those age 65 and over
 - Individual Life (\$500) payment plans available
 - Family Membership (\$45) spouses and children under 14
 - Couple Life (\$750) pymt. plans available
 - 3-Year Family Member (\$100) small fishing equipment stores
 - Retail Membership (\$75)
 - Youth Membership (\$15) for individual members under 14
 - Sustaining Membership (\$200) commercial / manufacturing businesses

Check Enclosed (checks payable to F.F.F.) US Funds
Credit Card Visa MasterCard Discover
Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

NEW ZEALAND MUD SNAIL

By Bob Bates
WSCFFF, VP Communication

We, as anglers, need to be more aware and careful about this exotic intruder. It was first identified in the Idaho's Snake River country in 1987. By 1997 it had spread through all major waters in Yellowstone National Park. Now it has spread, by anglers, to many states, and it is in waters that many of us fish: Snake R. near Lewiston, WA; Columbia R. near Portland, Madison R. and Missouri R in MT. When NZMS infest a stream they take food from native species. Also they are worthless as trout food since they pass through the gut without damage.



Copyright Federation of Fly Fishers
NZMS on a penny

The FFF issued an Angler Warning in 2002 and has recently put a "Recommendation to Anglers" on its website:

fedflyfishers.org/conNZMS.php

Earlier studies indicated that the snails could be killed by cleaning thoroughly and drying the waders for several days. Or they could be frozen for 3 to 6 hours or more. These new recommendations come

from a California study that tested various methods of killing the snails on waders and wading boots. Several chemicals will do the job, but the following is probably the most convenient for anglers.

1. Thoroughly brush gear with a stiff bristled brush to remove all snails. Be sure to brush boot treads, laces and other hiding places.
2. Mix Formula 409 Cleaner Degreaser/Disinfectant and equal parts water in a gear dry sack or other large, sturdy plastic container.
3. Place wading boots or wading gear in the gear dry sack and shake vigorously for 5 minutes, allowing the solution to cover all surfaces.
4. Allow to soak in solution for **at least 5 minutes** and your gear should be NZMS free.



Federation of Fly Fishers™
Washington State Council

PO Box 921
Gig Harbor WA 98335-0921

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Spokane, WA
Permit No. 1082