



# Covering The Drift

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## Leaders Line

By Carl Johnson, President

The Council just completed our first Fly Tying EXPO and Annual Meeting in Ellensburg on April 21<sup>st</sup>. It was a great event with over 50 tiers attending and approximately 200 hours of tying demonstrations. The Council held a FFF member raffle, with every member who visited the FFF booth received a free ticket for a FathaStyx Rod. The FFF member raffle was won by Dave Boyce of Bainbridge Island, congratulations Dave. The Annual

meeting was held that Evening at the Ellensburg Inn. The evening featured the nomination of the open Board positions, awards, silent auction and the presentation by Captain Eivind Forseth from Project Healing Waters.

I want to thank all of the nominees for stepping forward and volunteering their time and talents to the WSCFFF. The bios of each of the nominees are featured in this issue of *Covering the Drift*.

The Council was pleased to present a few awards at the Annual Meeting. Tony and Marilyn Vitale were presented with the first Jimmy Green Fly Casting Instructors Award and John Newbury was presented with the WSCFFF Fly Tier Hall of Fame Award. We also announced that Jimmy LeMert will receive the Council award of Excellence at this year's Conclave in Livingston this August. I was pleased to hand out President's Pins to Bob Shirley, Jim Maus, Mike Clancy, Larry Gibbs, Aaron Culley, Vern Jeremica, and Ray Willms. Congratulations to everyone.

Next year's Spring Expo will be held on May 3<sup>rd</sup> in Ellensburg. If you would like to serve on one of the committees with the event please contact me or any of the Board members. I hope to see everyone in Ellensburg next spring.

## 2007-2008 Nominees

These are the nominees for Washington State Council FFF Officer and Board positions. Each will serve a 3-year term starting as soon as the elections are certified by the current Secretary. There is a ballot in this issue of *Covering the Drift*. This is your organization so please make your wishes known by voting. There are places for write-in votes if they are desired.

**Ray Willms** 1<sup>st</sup> VP West  
Seattle, WA

Ray is retired after 31 years of government service. He began fly fishing in 1968. He joined the Northwest Fly Anglers club and the Federation of Fly Fishers about 1975. He is a past President of the Northwest Fly Anglers and joined the Washington Fly Fishing Club in 2004. He has been involved with such groups as the WEC, the Coalition for Washington's Fish and Wildlife, and the Foundation for Washington's Fish and Wildlife.

Ray is a life member of the FFF. He was President of the former Washington State sub-council of the FFF for several years during the 1980s. He was also President of former Northwest Regional Council for four years. During those years he attended most FFF conclaves as

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Dick Matthaei (1-yr.) (253) 564-3635  
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*VP, Conservation*

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a National Director. He helped organize the current Washington State Council and was it's initial secretary. He has been involved in the organization of several regional FFF conclaves and events. He has held the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – West for the past year.

**Mike Clancy, Secretary**  
 Olympia, WA.

Mike is going into his fifth year on the WSCFFF Board of Directors. He has held various positions on the board: Director at Large, 1st Vice President West and assumed the responsibility of the Secretary after the past secretary resigned in 2004. He has agreed to continue as the Secretary for 2007- 2010. Mike has been involved with various youth programs, including the Boy Scouts and the Go Play Outside program sponsored by the WDFW. He is looking forward to working on the board, especially with all the encouraging changes taking place with the FFF and the Washington State Council. Mike owned a construction supply company for over 23 years and retired in 2000.

**Dick Matthaei, Treasurer**  
 Fircrest, WA

Dick Matthaei is the current WSCFFF treasurer. He took over this position from Carl Johnson in 2006 for the remainder Carl's term,

when Carl became WSCFFF president.

Dick took up fly fishing in 1973 at WSU where he took fly fishing as a PE course from the late Dave Engerbretson. He is a past club president and has been a member of the Puget Sound Flyfishers since 1978. Dick has also been a member of the FFF and TU since around that time or at least as long as he has owned his fly fishing vest, which is 20 plus years. He has been the treasurer for the Puget Sound Flyfishers, but will be retiring from that position in September. Dick does casting instruction for classes put on by the PSF. His favorite fisheries are saltwater searuns and coho and lake fishing.

**Lawrence (Larry) Hill,**

VP Education, Liberty Lake, WA

Larry Hill is a retired educator, and worked as a teacher and administrator in Washington, Alaska, and Idaho. He served as Chief of Environmental Education with the State Department of Education in Alaska. Larry was an elementary school principal in Pasco and Port Orchard Washington and a middle school principal in Coeur d'Alene Idaho.

Interest in fly fishing began in the early 70s after watching a dragon fly nymph from his son's freshwater aquarium transform from an ugly underwater creature

into a glorious flying miracle. Fly fishing with his son are some of his best memories. They have fished lakes, rivers and salt water in Washington, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho.

He is a rabid Washington State University Cougar fan and has served as president of the Kitsap-North Mason and the Spokane Cougar Clubs.

He and his wife Mary recently purchased property on the Methow river near Twisp, Washington, where they are in the process of establishing Serendipity Fly Fishing School.

**Kip Keener, Director at Large**  
 Seattle, WA

As a life long fly fisherman (ok, age nine then), FFF Life Member, active FFF Certified Casting Instructor, Western Rivers Professional Guide School and Florida Keys Fly Fishing School graduate, licensed fishing guide, and very blessed frequent casting thrasher of many waters to a white froth, I have strived to bring a valued perspective to the WSCFFF over the three years I have had the honor of serving as a Director at Large.

From Peace Corps in Africa to a few decades of occasionally serving as a Board Director or President

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within several social services not-for-profits, I have come to understand each of us bring a unique value to an organization. Productive involvement requires us to bring either: **Work, Wisdom** and/or **Wealth**...for each of our unique contributions are needed to fulfill any serious mission. I now need your support to continue my council involvement during this very dynamic time for the WSCFFF... and yes, there is a serious mission...as we strive together to conserve our fishing resources through the contribution of Education.

**Jim Gee**, Director at Large  
Auburn, WA

Retired Divisional Sales Manager for the Reader's Digest Corp, 20 years.

Moved to Washington State in 2001 from Dallas, Texas, where I had been a life long large mouth bass fisherman. Upon arriving here, I took up fly fishing and fell in love with it. I joined the Overlake Fly Fishing club that year, and have served as the Treasurer for three of those years, receiving the OFFC Outstanding Service Award in 2006.

I enjoy and practice all forms of fly fishing from rivers to lakes to beaches, and have recently

purchased a spey rod to begin a new fishing adventure. I am now tying many of my own flies and am getting myself "hooked" on that endeavor.

If elected, I would bring the prospective of a relatively new fly fisherman and fly tier to the Board, which it might or might not have at this time

**Walter Wittgow**, Director at Large  
E Wenatchee, WA

Walter Wittgow grew up on a farm in Nebraska and began fishing at the age of seven. After graduation from Dental School, he joined the Navy and made it a career. He retired in 1983 and moved to Wenatchee and opened a dental practice. In 1986, he joined the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers and became active in the club. He moved through the offices and became president in 1994. Fishing has always been one of his loves and he is interested in conservation of the resource. In 2004, he retired from his practice and now has more time to devote to fishing and its preservation especially working with the Washington State Council. He has been a member in the FFF since about 1990.

**Pat Peterman**, Director at Large  
Kirkland, WA

I was born in Ontario, Oregon, to a family that had lived and ranched in northeastern Oregon since the early 1860s and grew up in the inland Northwest. Married Terry in 1976 and raised two sons, honor students and Eagle Scouts, now attending the University of Washington. Interests other than fishing include cycling, backpacking, boating, camping, hiking, scuba, downhill and cross country skiing, and I teach MOFA (Mountaineering Oriented First Aid) for the Seattle Mountaineers.

Began fly fishing with my father and (more usually) with friends while in high school, usually on the North Fork of the Coeur d'Alene River. We were pretty much self-taught and I have practiced some of those early mistakes for years now. The occasional fishing trip to the Deschutes, Siletz, Metolius and the Yakima kept the interest alive and several years of cruising in the Sound, Gulf Islands, Desolation Sound and up the inside passage to the Queen Charlottes increased my interest in the salt water fishery.

In the last seven to ten years, I have become increasingly interested in fly fishing. In discussing flies and techniques,

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attending seminars and conferences, and reading an expanding range of material, and most importantly fishing, I have discovered a near boundless horizon of potential. Many have helped me as teachers or mentors and I find pleasure in those occasions when someone asks me for a hand and I can deliver some help. I am a Past President and Board Member of the Overlake Fly Fishing Club, currently 1<sup>st</sup> VP Membership of the Washington Fly Fishing Club and look forward to working with you to help the Washington State Council continue to contribute to our sport.

**Dick Lange** Director at Large  
Woodinville, WA

Dick began fishing with his dad when he was 5. He was pulling spinners and minnows for Minnesota Walleye and Northerns. As he grew up, he was bored with pulling minnows, and learned to cast bass plugs and lures like Johnson's Silver Minnow. He moved to So Cal to continue his education at USC, and started to work at Hughes Aircraft, where he developed a friendship with a fellow worker who taught him to fly cast. His "Uncle Don" got him involved with the old Inglewood Fly Fishermen (with Paul Collier, Doc Nelson, and Stan Lloyd), where he really got involved in fly fishing and conservation efforts and served as club President for two years. He moved on to take leadership roles in the Southwest Council FFF, and helped to run their first conclave in 1980. He co-chaired the 1981 FFF Conclave with Jim Ferris in West Yellowstone. He served two terms as SWCFFF President, and prior to leaving So Cal for Washington in

1990, he co-chaired the SWCFFF Conclave in 1990. He joined the Overlake Fly Fishers in 1991.

Dick has been fishing Alaska since the late 1970s, and in 1984, he started to run float trips down the Kanektok River in Alaska. He formalized his guiding operations, and started Alaska Rivers Fly Fishing Adventures in 1998 with his partner Ben Lindner, who sold out to Dick in 2004. He hosts trips down the Alagnak River in June, July, August and September, and will create a float trip down a number of different rivers if requested. He has found the Alagnak to be one of the most fish prolific rivers in Alaska. ( Dick has floated 17 different rivers in Alaska over the last 25 years).

In 1990, Dick and his family moved to Seattle, and started working for Boeing on the RCAS proposal. He spent 4 years in Site Operations, and 5 years on DCAC - PDM, before moving to his management position as the ENOVIA Software Production Support Manager. Dick completed 30 years of service in 2003 in the US Army Reserve, retiring as a Colonel. Dick has been married 23 years, and has three daughters: Lindsey 20, pursuing a career as a dental assistant; Kristen 18, a freshman at U Penn in Pre-Med; and Allison 16, a sophomore at Eastside Catholic High School. Kristen has been playing squash since age 7, and just received the collegiate Freshman of the Year award (Squash), and competed in the Squash Collegiate Open Tournament, and came in 2nd. She has won several Squash US Open and Closed Tournaments thru her junior and senior high school careers.

## WSCFFF Fly Tying Expo and Annual Mtg.

By Mike Clancy, Secretary,  
WSCFFF

When the Washington State Council of the FFF announces the date for next years fly tying expo, you best mark your calendar. The event this year in Ellensburg, WA. April 21, was a wonderful fly tying event. Fly tiers from all over the state and some from out of state attended and demonstrated their passion for fly tying. Fly tiers of all ages were represented, 14 to "Super" Seniors. The event was well attended with lots of teaching and learning by everyone.

The only reason we had to include the Annual meeting is because it is required by the Council's by-laws, the only business conducted was the nomination for next years officers. The rest of the meeting was an absolute pleasure to be in attendance. Tony and Marilyn Vitale were presented "The Jimmy Green Fly Casting Instructors Award" for their dedication and teaching fly casting over the years. The "WSCFFF Fly Tying Hall of Fame" award was presented to John Newbury for his years of contributing to the craft of fly tying and his generous gifts to the Federation. The Council nominated Jimmy LeMert as our candidate for the "Council Award of Excellence" for his outstanding commitment to the Federation in organizing and conducting programs over the years. The award will be presented at the FFF Conclave in Livingston, MT this summer.

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Our Special Guest Speaker was Captain Eivind Forseth, representing the "Healing Waters Program" from Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C. It was a very emotional presentation about his fellow wounded warriors as a result of our current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The Captain is a real "Officer and Gentleman." The HWP program is dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled military personnel and veterans through fly fishing, fly tying education and outings.

Combining the work of Joan Simonson, who crafted a beautiful "Healing Waters" quilt, a Purple Heart Fly Plate with flies tied by the wounded warriors at Madigan Hospital, and the Washington Council's Fly Plate, CPT Forseth returned to Walter Reed Medical Center with over \$3700 for The Healing Waters Project. An excellent job by all representing The Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

We are looking forward to next years event with both fly tying and fly casting. Don't miss it.



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## Conservation

By Kevin Ryan, VP Conservation

As the new WSCFFF Conservation VP, my focus for the past year has been making contact with the conservation chairs of affiliated clubs in the state and trying to share useful information on conservation related issues. At least, I hope you conservation chairs have found it useful.

My experience as conservation chairman for my local club for a number of years suggests that it is difficult for clubs, acting on their own, to conceive, fund, and complete meaningful conservation projects. The successes we had came largely from working with other entities, such as city and county governments and, in our case, local Salmon Enhancement Groups. With that in mind, most of my effort in the past year has been directed at sharing information with the state's affiliated clubs and in attempting to facilitate coordination and cooperation among us all. I would like you all to know what is going on at the Federation that affects us, so I pass on information from the Federation Conservation Coordinator, Leah Elwell.

This has included information about various grant monies available for projects. I do urge clubs to take advantage of grants and other

sources of funding because this can really multiply our own efforts at raising money. There seems to be a lot of money to address environmental problems from public and private sources and we should have our share. Those monies coupled with what clubs raise through their auctions and the labor club members donate can be means by which some really good things can be accomplished. Coming up with a useful and meaningful project is often one of the hardest parts. That is where public and quasi-public entities can be helpful. Check with your Conservation districts, Salmon Enhancement Groups, city natural resources departments, and the like, for ideas.

We also want to help each other. The Methow Valley Fly Fishers wanted to install an aerator at Big Twin Lake to minimize winter kill. Without getting into detail about all the obstacles they had to overcome, permitting delays by WDFW and Dept of Natural Resources caused the costs to exceed their ability to pay. They appealed to the Council for some funds. The Council voted \$500 for the project and asked other clubs to chip in as well. In a show of solidarity, several clubs did and I believe the project will be completed soon. This sort of

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cooperation among clubs is something we want to foster, and I see it as part of my job to spread the word.

To that end, I have passed on information about various environmental threats, included mining proposals that threaten Bristol Bay in Alaska and the Green River in Cowlitz County. I've passed on information about invasive species initiatives from the Federation, the latest being the spread of some really noxious stuff, called didymosphenia geminata. I have also shared with you some developments in the legislative and governmental worlds and invited your contacting your legislators and congressional representatives from time to time. If enough of us do that, we will have a positive impact. Besides, it's therapeutic to get some things off your chest and be heard.

If you couldn't make it to the Fly Tying Expo this year, I hope you can next year. You'll like it. In between hook binding sessions, Walt Wittgow, Irv Conner, Terry Zeitner and Bill Vincent of the Olympic Fly Fishers, Steve Bush and Glenn Woodhouse of the Clearwater Fly Casters, Myron Saikewicz of the Puget Sound FF and the South Sound FF, Jesse Scott of the Evergreen FFC, Bill McKay of the Overlake FFC, and myself (I hope I

didn't leave anyone out) met for lunch and a chat about our conservation activities. Bill Vincent explained the "Trout Bill" which is a proposal that would fund WDFW's efforts to improve non-anadromous trout fishing in the state by means of a trout fishing license surcharge. Take a look at the draft. It should be on the Council website. The bill has a sponsor, Rep. Maralyn Chase, 32<sup>nd</sup> Legislative District, but she would like to know by letter if you support the idea before she introduces it next session. This is another opportunity to work together to get something positive done. You can contact Rep. Chase at: 18560 1<sup>st</sup> Ave. NE, Ste E-750, Shoreline, WA, 98155

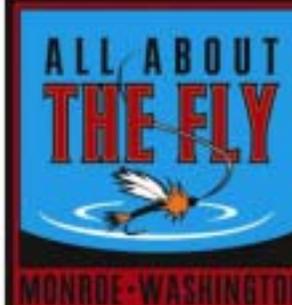
In addition, at our meeting we shared some of our techniques for working conservation projects, which, again, were cooperation with various public "lead" agencies and with each other. For example, Myron Saikewicz is Conservation Chair for both the (Olympia South Sound FF) and the Tacoma club (Puget Sound FF). This arrangement results in certain efficiencies for both clubs and enhances cooperation on projects.

I will continue to pass on items of interest unless there is objection. Keep in touch with one another and work together.

*Ed. Note: Be sure to talk to your state fish biologists when looking for projects.*



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A few Fly Tiers Photo by Bob Bates



Tony and Marilyn Vitale receiving the 1st Jimmy Green award from Carl Johnson Photo by Bob Bates



Captain Eivind Forseth accepting quilt raffle check from Joan Simonson Photo by Mike Clancy



John Newbury with Fly Tier Hall of Fame Award Photo by Bob Bates



Jimmy LeMert will receive the WSCFFF award of Excellence at this year's FFF Conclave . Photo by Bob Bates



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