



Covering The Drift

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Leaders Line

Your Officers & Directors

By Carl Johnson, President
The show season is just around the corner. In addition to our Conclave in May, the WSCFFF will have a booth at three shows: The Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue, February 1st – 3rd, the Great Western Sportfishing Show in Spokane, February 29th – March 2nd, and the Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Show in Port Townsend, March 22nd. In addition to these events, we will be at the Discover Fly Fishing Booth at the Washington Sportsman's Show in Puyallup, January 23rd -27th and the

Evergreen Sportsman's Show in Monroe, February 21st – 24th. When you attend shows, please stop by to say hello.

2008 Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave Plan to attend this year's event, May 3, in Ellensburg. If you are interested in fly casting, tying or fishing, this is a not to be missed event.

Don Simonson and Kip Keener have created the Casting portion of the Conclave will include casting lessons, 5-weight casting competition, casting clinic and an area for attendees to try rods from manufacturers and vendors. Vern Jeremica is putting together the Fly Tying portion of the Conclave and he expects to surpass last year's event. In addition, Larry Gibbs has been hard at work putting together the auction and raffle for this year's Conclave.

This year's banquet features Bob Jacklin, fly tier, caster, photographer, guide and FFF Life Member from West Yellowstone.

If you want to volunteer to help with the Conclave or donate items for the auction/raffle please contact me or any other Council Officer or Board Member.

The Washington State Council FFF lost an insightful, influential voice when Leslea Steffel-Dennis, Director At Large, resigned due to the workload of her other commitments. Leslea brought special skills to the Board and she will be missed.

The Board is actively seeking to diversify and enlarge. For too long, fly fishing has suffered the image of being nothing but the country club set of stodgy old men. The best way to create a new image is to bring new faces into the mix. We want more women on the Board. We want more young people on the Board. We want more people from FFF clubs from around the state, particularly from the Vancouver, Bellingham, Port Angeles and Tri-Cities areas. We need to hear your voices and profit from your perspectives.

John Newbury, Vice-President East The Board is proud to announce that John Newbury, winner of the Fly Tier Hall of Fame Award at the 2006 Conclave, has been ratified as Vice-President East. John is a passionate, hard-working voice for Northwest fish and the waters where they live. John will also be demonstrating his tying skills at this year's Conclave.

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Council and FFF Awards

Now is time to start thinking about both Council and FFF awards. The Council will be handing out four awards at this year's Conclave. The Jimmy Green Fly Casting Instructor's Award, the WSCFFF Fly Tying Hall of Fame Award, The WSCFFF Conservation Award, and the WSCFFF Club Conservation Award.

The Council is looking for nominations for these awards. Anyone who would like to make a nomination for these awards, please contact any of the Council Board members.

In addition, we should all be thinking about the FFF awards. A complete list of the awards that the Federation presents can be found on the FFF webpage: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4366>. All nominations are due around the end of March. If you would like the Council to support your nomination, it should be submitted to a Board member by March 1st. If you have any questions on the awards please contact me.

Carl Johnson, President



Membership Incentives

News Flash

The FFF membership promotion programs have been so successful that the deadline has been extended and a new program instituted. Here's the scoop.

Affiliated club members can join the FFF for \$15, saving \$20. The only restrictions are:

- 1) The new applicant be a first time FFF member;
- 2) An officer of the affiliate club must certify the applicant is a member in good standing of the club;
- 3) All applications should be bundled together to make handling easier and must be mailed by April 1, 2008.

For Charter Clubs, the deal is even sweeter. First time FFF memberships cost only \$10 for a one-year membership or \$60 for a three-year membership. This offer is available to any new Charter Clubs or existing Charter Club members new to the FFF.

Earn Free Rods, Pay Less Dues

Every new FFF member recruited under these offers counts toward a free rod for the club. Several clubs are well on their way to earning rods. Clubs gain a double benefit as the cost of FFF affiliation for the club is reduced by \$2.00 annually for each FFF member in the club.

The Life Member offer runs through January 1, 2008, but who knows. If there is sufficient demand, that program could be extended as well. Apply by phone at 406-222-9369, or over the net at: www.fedflyfishers.org.



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**WSCFFF Fly
Fishing
Conclave**

The WSCFFF will be holding the Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave in Ellensburg, Washington on May 3, 2008. If you enjoyed last year's event, then this year's program will knock your socks off. The Conclave will consist of fly tying and casting demonstrations, classes, seminars, games, and competition throughout the day, followed by a reservation only dinner. This year's dinner will feature Bob Jacklin as the keynote speaker.

If you're interested in learning fly tying techniques, seeing every kind of fly pattern from micros to salt-water streamers, this will be the show. Vern Jeremica has lined up demonstrations that provide something for everyone.

The Overlake Fly Fishing Club is heading the education program which already has confirmed seminars from Brian O'Keefe on Fly Fishing the Methow, Joe Warren on Fly Fishing the Columbia River Basin, Jack Cook on Fly Fishing the Sauk and Skagit Rivers and David Williams on Fly Fishing for Smallmouth..

The Northwest Fly Anglers will handle hospitality.

The Council is looking for clubs and individuals to assist with Set Up/Tear Down and Registration. If you or your club is interested in assisting with the Conclave please contact Carl Johnson at 425-308-6161 of flyfishalso@verizon.net

Club support for this event is already building.

**Northwest Fly Fishing
Events for 2008**

January 18, 7:00 p.m. Coastal Conservation Association Presentation by Gary Loomis PUD Building, Mt. Vernon, WA.
www.ccapwn.org

January 23-27 Washington Sportsman Show @ Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup WA.

February 1-3 The Fly Fishing Show @ Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue WA
www.flyfishingshowwest.com

February 6-10 Pacific NW Sportsmen's Show @ Portland Expo Center, Portland OR

February 21-24 Evergreen Sportsman's Show @ Evergreen State Fairgrounds, Monroe WA

February 23 Lower Umpqua Fly-casters Fly Fishing Expo, Reedsport, OR

February 29-March 1 Great Western Sport Fishing Show @Spokane Convention Center, Spokane WA
www.greatwesternsportfishingshow.com

March 7-8 Oregon Council FFF Northwest Fly Tyers and Fly Fishing Expo @ Linn County Expo Center, Albany OR
www.nwflytyerseexpo.com

March 22 Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Expo @ Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Port Townsend WA
www.cataraft.com/FFExpo08

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April 5 Puget Sound Fly Fishers Auction @Tacoma Elks Club, Tacoma WA
www.pdff.org

April 17 Northwest Fly Anglers Garage Sale @ Haller Lake Community Center, Seattle WA
www.northwestflyanglers.org

April 18-19 East Idaho Fly Tying & Fishing Expo @ Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls, ID
www.srcexpo.com

May 3 Washington State Council FFF Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave @ Kittitas Valley Events Center, Ellensburg WA
www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

July 19-20 Metolius River Fly Fishing & Bamboo Rod Fair @ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman OR
www.campshermanstore.com

July 22-26 FFF 43rd International Show and Conclave, Whitefish MT
www.fedflyfishers.org

One of the functions of your WSC Board is serving as a clearinghouse of public fly fishing related and affiliated club events. If your club has an event open to the public, please provide details to the editor at dpwlaw@gmail.com.



Conservation Comments

By Kevin Ryan, VP Conservation

As you know, state agricultural interests, ever on the prowl for sources of “new water”, in concert with the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation (BLM), have floated several proposals for new dams. One of these is a dam to be built on Crab Creek near the Columbia that would inundate acres of singularly unique natural habitat, destroy farms, and cost taxpayers billions. It would also destroy some the best fly fishing lakes in the state. You know the ones – Lenice, Nunnally, Bobby, and Merry. Of course, the WSCFFF voted unanimously to oppose this seizure of a public treasure for private purposes and so registered their opposition with the BLM before the close of the public comment period, November 15th. More information on the proposal is available at www.celp.org.

The Council has joined with the Northwest Women Flyfishers and other state conservation groups in a letter to State Senator Phil Rockefeller, State Representative Brian Sullivan and their respective water and agriculture committees voicing our strong opposition to the Crab Creek and other dam projects under study for eastern Washington.

Further, the Council has joined the Western office of the National Wildlife Foundation in a letter to the Congressional Sportsmen’s Caucus asking their support for legislation to help combat global warming.

Not content with sending strongly worded letters to elected officials, two Council members, Mike Clancy and Kevin Ryan, attended an all day meeting in Tacoma in December that was billed as a “Salmon Summit”. The meeting was organized by the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership, an amalgam of sport fishing and conservation organizations, including The Isaak Walton League, CCA, AFFTA, Environmental Defense, Sportfishing Association of California, the Northwest Sportfishing Industry Association (NSIA), and others. (See www.trcp.org and www.angling4oceans.org.)

The purpose of the meeting was to gather some of the “grass top” leaders in the northwest to talk about how we can all work together to preserve sport fish and fishing, and salmon in particular. Attendees came from all segments of the sport fishing spectrum, from the gear guys to us fly flingers, and included the state Presidents of TU and of Puget Sound Anglers, Salmon Enhancement Groups, Fish First!, Gary Loomis, PNW President for CCA, Bob Hays, General Counsel for CCA, and WDFW Director, Jeff Koenings.

The thrust of the discussions and presentations was that all of us – egg tossers, downriggers, spinner fishermen, and fly purists alike – have got to “cooperate, collaborate, communicate as one community” if we are going to really change the current course leading to wild salmon extinction. Dr. Koenings made a nice presentation on the efforts of the state, the feds, and the tribes to produce hatchery fish for release, but made no comment about the often abysmal and declining return rates.



Gary Loomis, Pacific Northwest CCA President, has asserted that poor returns to the streams are due in no small part to commercial overexploitation and to the use of non-selective fishing methods, e.g., gill nets. Liz Hamilton of NSIA said, in a recent message, that:

“According to WDF&W less (sic) than 70 commercial fishermen in Washington participated in the 2007 spring Chinook fishery! These fishermen killed almost the same amount of ESA guideline fish (ESA wild fish are what restrict our seasons on the Columbia) as the whole sport fleet combined. Less than 70 commercial fishermen received almost the same opportunity as tens of thousands of sport fishermen. These commercial fishermen caught and kept a total of 2950 (combined Oregon and Washington total netted) hatchery fish in 2007, with the average netter receiving \$4500 dollars of gross income for their catch.

The Salmon Summit ended with a determination to set up an internet bulletin system for the broader sport fishing interests on the west coast. This will enable us all to communicate widely and easily, keep everybody informed about events and issues of interest, and allow us to join with others on those issues of especial interest. For those of you interested in news about the Columbia River Basin fisheries, see www.cbbulletin.com. You can subscribe free.

Conservation

By Kevin Ryan, VP Conservation

The following is a December 7, 2007 letter sent to Ellen Berggren, Study Manager for The Bureau of Reclamation in regards to the construction of the dam at Crab Creek.

Dear Ms. Berggren:

I am the Conservation Vice President for the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers. The Council represents 17 affiliated clubs throughout this state and over 750 members. The Federation represents thousands of similar minded outdoors people throughout the country. To the point, the Council, at its last meeting, voted unanimously to oppose, with every means at our disposal, the proposed inundation of Crab Creek.

The Crab Creek valley at the Columbia is a superb and unique environment containing several of the best fishing lakes in the state and some of the best habitat for birds and wildlife in the Northwest. The Bureau and the Corps have flooded enough land in the last century. That must be the end of this prodigal behavior.

In the future, sensible water policies must be adopted that emphasize

water conservation and pricing that reflects the value of water. There isn't any “new water.” What we have is all there is, as you well know. What we have is it, as you well know.

We understand that the cost of moving water to the Odessa Subarea may be up to \$33,000 per acre. This is an unacceptable expense to the tax and rate payers. and an unacceptable taking and loss to the thousands who are repeatedly enriched by the wonders of the Lower Crab Creek area, but whose enrichment diminishes the treasure not a penny for those who come later.

Kevin Ryan
Conservation VP
WSCFFF

Finally, the Council has a few thousand dollars in conservation funds generated from financial gifts to the Council. We would love to have some suggestions for a constructive project to which these funds can be devoted. IDEAS, PLEASE!

Ed. Note: Be sure to talk to your state fish biologists when looking for projects as they have plenty of ideas awaiting willing hands.



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**Authors of the Northwest
Fly Plate**

By Mike Clancy, Secretary

There are so many wonderful and talented authors living in our great Pacific Northwest. It was a difficult task to select the candidates for our fly plate with so much talent in our area. We originally selected 15 authors, to learn that not all authors tie flies. Some are better writers than tiers, that's okay. But, I think everyone will be pleased with our selection of the tiers that contributed their flies to our fly plate.

All of these folks have written articles or books that teach techniques of fly fishing and where and when to use what we've learned. The "Authors of the Northwest" fly plate is going to be one of a kind.

It has been a real pleasure to have been involved in the collection of the flies from these talented folks, and I think they are proud to have been included in such a work of art. This fly plate is going to be crafted by Steve Jensen of Springfield, Missouri, a wonderful friend of the FFF, and a talented artist in creating fly plates for councils all over the USA.

We will display the fly plate at



Here is the final lineup: Bruce Ferguson, Les Johnson, Frank Amato, Darrell Martin, Doug Rose, Steve Probasco, Skip Morris, Dave Hughes, Mike Croft, Randall Kaufmann, David Williams, Steve Raymond, Trey Combs, Fenton Roskelly and Mark Mandell.

the Bellevue Show in February and at other affiliated club events. The fly plate is part of our fund raising program so we may continue to support our affiliated clubs in their conservation and education programs. The fly plate will be auctioned at our Conclave in Ellensburg, May 3, 2008.



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Emerald Water Anglers
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Email: dave@emeraldwateranglers.com

Fireside Fly Fishing,
475 Rainbow Ct, Homer, AK, 99603, (907) 235 - 7671,
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Fly Away Fly Shop,
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Website: ksflies@qwest.com

KaufmannStreamborn-Seattle
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Website: kmanseattle@gmail.com

Red's Fly Shop & Guide Service,
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Email: sjoyce63@yahoo.com

Silver Bow Fly Shop
13210 E Indiana, Spokane Valley, WA 99216, (509) 925-9080
Website: www.silverbowflyshop.com

The Avid Angler,
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362 - 4030,
Website: www.avidangler.com

The Evening Hatch,
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Fly of the Season

Winter in the Pacific Northwest is the time of year when otherwise well-adjusted fly fishers engage in bizarre aberrant behavior known as "winter steelheading." For those new to this part of the country, winter steelheading falls into the same category as snipe hunting as more often than not the results are the same. There are some who claim to have not only seen a winter steelhead but take a giant step beyond the pale and claim to have actually caught one. When pressed for details, the claimant's eyes glaze over, and he or she begins to slobber like a St. Bernard, then babble about the lost gold of Cibola. A nice diversion I might add but when left alone recovery seems to occur within moments only to suffer a re-

lapse when again pressed. Determined to get to the bottom of this mythical beast, your reporter buttonholed several anglers who claimed to have bagged this quarry and posed but one question, to wit, what exactly did you use to subdue the creature? These interviews, conducted without the aids of truth serum, polygraphs or waterboarding yielded remarkably consistent results. The one fly that was uniformly reported is known as the "Intruder." Through the magic of the internet, your reporter soon discerned the Intruder was created by Ed Ward some twenty years ago for Chinook salmon but has since morphed into a winter steelhead fly.

Now that the cat is out of the bag, here's more information about the pattern. Tied on a Waddington shank, a trailing hook and dumbbell eyes, it's fished on a dry line. Cast, mend and swing the fly to



swing. Hang on to your rod as the take is said to be violent. We'll see.



Federation of Fly Fishers™
Washington State Council

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