



Covering The Drift

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www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

November, 2003

Leader's Line

By Bob Shirley,
WSCFFF President

The first thing I need to do is thank everyone who helped out or competed in the 2003 Northwest Casting Exposition this September. The day was cool and sunny, Mel Krieger was a delight. Just imagine watching Mel cast and being able to ask questions or just talk with him. Quite a treat. The volunteers who assisted at the Expo deserve a round of applause for how they organized and carried off the event. The competitors did their part to entertain and inspire us. Casting

instruction was prominent - a **Thank You** is due to all of the participating Certified Casting Instructors. You will be an ever increasing part of future Expositions. Also, the exhibitors who contributed and demonstrated all day might be one of the most important groups of people there because of the level and depth of their commitment to the Expo and the WSCFFF. Again, thank you to everyone involved.

The Council will have a booth dedicated to generating FFF membership and promoting the WSCFFF inside with the other exhibitors. There will be another booth in the lobby before you enter the Exhibitor Hall which will be promoting membership and interest in local clubs. Please, stop at each booth and show your support for the local Clubs and the WSCFFF. This may be a way for you to become more involved, or a good way to tell us how we can better serve you - our members.

Memories of the Expo evening will probably be with a lot of us for quite a long while. We got to see one of the true pioneers, an elder statesman, and an international ambassador of fly casting instruction as not many people have.

There will also be a fund raising event Saturday evening sponsored by the WSCFFF - details and a registration form are elsewhere in this newsletter.

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Mel Krieger gave a heart felt and inspiring talk about the reasons we fish, and how we should approach the sport. He talked about the courtesy and respect for the resource inherent in fly fishing. Also, he commented on how we should all be more tolerant and understanding while sharing the rivers and lakes and saltwater where we practice our chosen craft. Sage advice from a true legend of fly fishing.

The Fly Fishing Show will be in Bellevue at the Meydenbauer Center February 20, 21, & 22, 2004. The Show will open 11 to 6 on Friday, 9 to 6 on Saturday, and 9 to 5 on Sunday.

FFF Contributions

By Steve Raymond

I was interested to note in the last *Covering the Drift* issue the list of things the FFF has done in Washington State. Some of us old-timers remember a lot of things that don't appear on that list, such as FFF participation in and financial support for fisheries research, habitat improvement and access development.

But most important of all, I think, is that FFF members and clubs are responsible for the majority of fly-fishing-only, catch-and-release and

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selective fishery waters in Washington. This dates all the way back to the late 1960s and the old Association of Western Washington Fly Fishing Clubs that lobbied intensively--and ultimately successfully--for what were then called "quality" waters, now known as selective fisheries. This was before the FFF even had regional councils. The Association of Western Washington Fly Fishing Clubs eventually became the Northwest Regional Council of FFF, which lobbied successfully for additions to the list of fly-only and quality waters. The Northwest Council later divided into the existing state councils.

So next time people fish Lenice or Dry Falls or some of their other favorite fly-only or selective-fishery waters, they should remember they have the Federation to thank for these places. From the standpoint of real, day-to-day practical value to fly fishers, I think that's the best answer to the question, "What has the FFF done in the State of Washington?"

Fly Tiers Wanted

Tiers have been lined up for our booth at The Fly Fishing Show in February at the Meydenbauer Center. To get on the standby list call Mike Clancy 253-759-3456 or E-mail: mtclancy@earthlink.net

Meet Washington's Fly Fishing Legends

By Leslea Dennis

The Fly Fishing Show at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue provides us a venue to honor two Washington Fly Fishing Legends. Come to the WSCFFF "Legends of the Northwest" party (hors d'oeuvres, drinks, silent and live auctions) commencing at 7 pm on Saturday, February 21, 2004. Proceeds of the auction supports our regional educational and conservation programs. Reservations required.

FFF's Living Legends for Washington were Steve Rajeff and Bruce Ferguson; they will be at the party.

Steve Rajeff of Battleground, Washington is, to our view, the best distance caster in America. He is also one of the nicest most generous people in fly fishing, and wears his many casting championships with dignity and honor.

Bruce Ferguson of Gig Harbor was the second Washington fly fisher honored by the Federation as a Legend. Bruce is a member of the Puget Sound Fly Fishers and has trained and inspired many in resource conservation and fishing opportunity.

The idea for a party arose from "Legends of Fly Fishing," the focus

of last August's FFF International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave in Idaho Falls. Our board members who attended were very impressed with the opportunity to meet FFF's Living Legends and honor those no longer among us.

Within a week of the October Board meeting the "Legends Event" planning was underway. Since then excited and dedicated committee members have been working to make this the most outstanding WSCFFF event.

Volunteers from clubs within Washington took on the many tasks to make it happen. For example, Pat Bolton, President of Northwest Women Flyfishers, was enlisted to head up the auction committee. Solicitation of auction items is underway, and many items have arrived or have been promised.

Our Living Legends will be at the party, but there are others in Washington who should be considered Legends. One of those is the late Larry Graham from the Overlake Fly Fishing Club. Larry was an outstanding and dedicated fly fisher. His flies are well known and cherished. Board member and

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artist, Ben Dennis collected Larry's Yakima flies for years, and he included some of them in his beautiful watercolor painting "Yakima Remembrance." Ben has offered it for the live auction.

As additional auction items are received and inventoried we will post them on our website:

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

Attendees and especially Washington club members who come to the show will have an opportunity to meet our "home grown" Legends. You will want to be involved in this beginning of something great. Keep visiting our website for more information; postings will be more frequent as we get closer to February 21.



All of the pledges collected to benefit the education, conservation and restoration activities of the Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers are in. The grand total is \$6,559.44 which is pretty good.

Congratulations go to Len Zickler as the top fund raiser with \$1,315 in fulfilled pledges. He wins the Tofino trip. Len if you need any

FFF Conclave "A Legendary Experience"

By Ben Dennis, WSCFFF
Director at Large/Marketing

I attended the 2003 FFF Conclave with a personal primary goal in mind--to explore and better develop more effective marketing tools for our Washington State Council--tools that will communicate our story, better build credibility and hopefully grow FFF membership in Washington State.

Though not a member of the National FFF Board, I sat in on Board meetings for the better part of two days. I talked with Council and National Board members in an effort to understand FFF goals and comprehend what goes on when all are gathered in one place.

I distributed rough draft copies of several marketing ideas Leslea and

I developed, for review and input. One, a directory/benefit brochure was well received. With Board approval the brochure was printed and distributed to listed fly clubs and selected fly shops.

On the lighter side, the opportunity to meet and rub shoulders with the living legends of fly fishing, the outstanding casting and fly tying demonstrations, the camaraderie---were all wonderful inspiration for anyone interested in fly fishing.

Friday, Gordon McKay, WSCFFF National Director from the Everett club, and I spent the day exploring and fishing the fabled Henry's Fork.

All-in-all, it was a very rewarding week. See you all next year in West Yellowstone, August, 16-21.

2003 Fly Casting Expo Pledge Results

help carrying rods or suitcases, I can find a volunteer. Steve Sunich was a pretty close second with \$1,059 raised.

We are happy to have the funds raised, but then we look at the numbers and wonder about "what might have been." We had 58 people registered and 51 actually competed. Some were too busy working as volunteers to get away.

Only 20 people/clubs raised funds, a mere 39 percent of the competitors. Playing the numbers game: If the other 31 competitors had raised the average of the 20 that would have been over \$10,167 in the bank for worthwhile projects.

Thank you all who raised funds, and for the rest please work harder next time.

Editor

2003 Fly Casting Expo Awards

Youth

Champion, Ryan Steen, 9', 8 wt, 4 piece, Echo Rod (Courtesy, Rajeff Sports)

1st runner up, Ben Spector, 8-1/2', 3 piece, Marando Revolution outfit (Courtesy Patrick's Fly Shop)

2nd runner up, Devin Petersen 8-1/2', 3 piece, Marando Revolution outfit (Courtesy Patrick's Fly Shop)

Overall Champion, Ed Sozinho, Traveling Trophy

Champion Angler, Jamie Emerson, 11.8 pounds, Large Arbor Scientific Anglers Reel (Courtesy Brian O'Keefe and Scientific Anglers)

Champions Accuracy

Female Skilled, Jeannette Eeckhoudt, 90 score, F-B Scientific Anglers System 2L Reel and Air Flow Multi tip Fly Line (Courtesy Brian O'Keefe, Scientific Anglers, and Rajeff Sports)

Male Skilled, Richard Embry, 95 score, Temple Fork 9', 6 wt, 4 piece rod (Courtesy Dick Sagara and Temple Fork)

Female Advanced, Marilyn Vitale, 94 score, Temple Fork 9', 6 wt, 4 piece rod (Courtesy Dick Sagara and Temple Fork)

Male Advanced, Don Simonson, 95 score, Sage SLT 690, 4 piece (Courtesy Sage Mfg.)

Champions Distance

Female Skilled, Pat Bolton, 74.6 feet, Any new G. Loomis Metolius Rod (Courtesy Mike Peruse and G. Loomis)

Male Skilled, Ed Sozinho, 103.2 feet, Any new G. Loomis Metolius Rod (Courtesy Mike Peruse and G. Loomis)

Female Advanced, Marilyn Vitale, 71.7 feet, Sage TCR 690 9', 6 wt, 4 piece (Courtesy Sage Mfg.)

Male Advanced, Brian O'Keefe, 103.7 feet, Beautiful Trophy

Champion Team

Distance Casting --- Washington Fly Fishing Club - Team A --- Plaque

Accuracy Casting --- Washington Fly Fishing Club - Team A --- Plaque

Combined --- Washington Fly Fishing Club - Team A --- Plaque

Members of the Washington Fly Fishing Club - Team A:

Ed Sozinho

Richard Embry

Don Simonson

Kris Kristoferson

How Did WFFC Win All The Marbles?

By Bob Bates, VP Communications

The keys to their success are simple. They had a club competition, selected enough people for two teams, practiced at least one day each week and then selected members for teams A and B. No magic just a bit of work. Any club can do the same thing and give the Washington Fly Fishing Club a run for their money. There are some real advantages to such dedication beside winning a competition. It makes your fishing more efficient and fun. See the article by Chuck Ballard on page 6.

Pictures from 2003 NW Fly Casting Exposition



Jimmy LeMert presenting Champion Youth trophy to Ryan Steen. Photo by Ben Dennis



Marilyn Vitale receiving a Sage TCR rod from Bob Shirley and Jimmy LeMert. Distance winner advanced
Photo by Ben Dennis



Mel Kreiger showing us how easy it is to make a good cast.
Photo by Vernon Young



Mel Kreiger emphasizing a point
Photo By Ben Dennis



The Virtues of Competitive Fly Casting

By Chuck Ballard,
Washington Fly Fishing Club

Well the title here says it all. I was ask to enter the Trophy Lakes Casting Competition this year on one of two teams sponsored by the Washington Fly Fishing Club

As we began our practice sessions it became obvious that I was short in the area of competitive distance "for sure." I was lucky to cast 65 feet and could not "hit an accuracy ring to save my behind."

Our Club is fortunate to have a FFF Certified Master Casting Instructor, Don Simonson. Don was there to give guidance to our team and with his personal support I was able to make marked improvement in my distance casting. One evening I hit 95 feet, my personal best. Don was quick to show me the short comings of not "stopping the rod hard" on both the forward and back casts and the need for line speed.

In addition to learning how to add distance, I also learned about the virtues of rod technology. I found that most rods are designed for fishing, and it takes a very good grade of rod for distance casting.

But good rods alone are not the secret. Line speed is critical to distance casting and the way to achieve this is to ACCELERATE the line not to "jerk" on it. Therefore a high modulus rod is beneficial in providing the stiffness necessary to allow this acceleration to occur quickly. Using the double haul is also a great help in the acceleration technique.

I would also like to recognize Mel Krieger for a key tip in distance

casting. That is letting the rod follow through in a "straight line aft" until almost straight back then by a great "forward only pull" acceleration followed by loading the rod in a normal fashion also adds line speed.

Well now on to the subject of "accuracy." I was attempting to "drift" the fly into the rings like one would if fishing a dry fly. I quickly discovered that this is a high risk in wind situations therefore the best technique is to "drive" the fly into the ring. This is accomplished by casting a very tight loop with good acceleration.

Well to those who have far more expertise than I, I want to apologize in advance for any technical errors in how I have tried to explain what "I" learned in preparation for my great experience at Trophy Lakes. Although I was on the "B" team and I believe we were competitive. (results were unknown at the time of this writing).

Last week I was able to take advantage of this new found distance capability on the North fork of the Stillaguamish where I was able to cast across the river and fish the far shore with ease. I estimate this at 75' and before my new found experience I would not have been able to do this. It also proved to be a great help in beach casting at Lincoln Park for silver salmon as well.

Chuck Ballard

WFFC past President

Ed. Note: Chuck wrote this at the end of September following the competition.

E-Covering The Drift

By Bob Bates
VP Communication

If you want to get on the band wagon to receive early notification of when *Covering the Drift* is available send me an e-mail:

bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

Send me your name as it is on the mailing label, regular mail address, e-mail address and phone number so I can call you if something goes haywire.

The color version of *Covering the Drift* will be posted on our website, and I will send you a link to download it.

Adobe Acrobat Reader is needed to open the file. Instructions for getting a free up-to-date copy are on the Newsletter page of our website:

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

Club Information

By Bob Bates,
VP Communication

We try to maintain an accurate list of club contacts on our website. You can see what we have on your club by going to our website:

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

and clicking on the Fly Clubs button. Check the entry for your club. If there is any problem, contact me at:

bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

Potential club members do visit this this site and find out who they can contact about joining a fly club.

More On The Fly Fishing Show

By Mike Clancy,
1st Vice President, West

Planning for The Fly Fishing Show at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue, Washington is in the works. WSCFFF is planning a booth inside the show this year in addition to the booth outside the main room for FFF clubs. We have a new professional lighted back wall to display the WSCFFF banners along with various other display items.

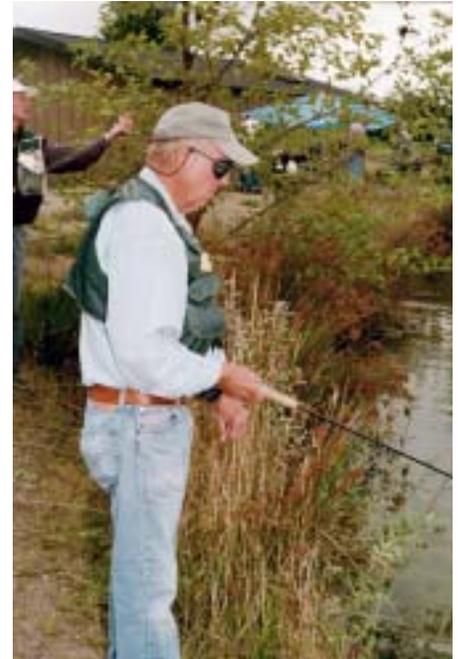
Bob Shirley and Mike Clancy are the co-chairs for the planning and scheduling of the fly tiers and greeters who will be manning the council booth. We have lined up volunteers to work the booth, and in return they will receive a free pass to the show. If you want to get on the standby list contact Mike Clancy at (253) 759-3456 or e-mail: mtclancy@earthlink.net

The show will run 3 days: February 20, 21 & 22, 2004, Hours: Friday 11 - 6, Saturday 9 - 6 & Sunday 9 -

5. Saturday evening, February 21, 2004, 7 pm, there will be a social/cocktail party with hors d'oeuvres, a no host bar and an auction sponsored by the WSCFFF.

The theme for the evening is "Fly Fishing Legends of the Northwest - Celebrating our Heritage!" We will have special guests in attendance that evening. Plans are to have live and silent auctions.

Aaron Culley is the chairman for this event and the committee has been meeting every week in since October 21. It will be a fun evening with a lot of great items on which to bid. Admission will be by ticket only. A lot of folks are working on this program to make it a huge successful evening.



Like many of us, Don Simonson is getting skunked at Trophy Lake Hole 6 fishing. Photo by Bob Bates

Volunteer Opportunities

Interested instructors and demonstrators of fly tying, fishing and casting to assist as needed with youth or other fly fishing related classes and events. Contact Bob Shirley (253)-581-1271 or b.shirley@juno.com.

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
PO Box 1595 406 585 7592
Bozeman MT 59771 406 585 7596 fax

Please check membership category

- Canadian memberships add \$5 per year All other countries add \$10 per year*
- (A) Individual Membership (\$29)
 - (G) 3-year individual (\$70)
 - (O) Senior Membership (\$22)
for those age 65 and over
 - (B) Family Membership (\$35)
spouses and children under 14
 - (H) 3-Year Family Member (\$82)
 - (Y) Youth Membership (\$11)
for individual members under 14
 - (C) Sponsoring Contributor (\$64)
 - (D) Century Contributor (\$100)
 - (L) Individual Life (\$465)
payment plans available
 - (T) Couple Life (\$696)
 - (E) Retail Membership (\$70)
small fishing equipment stores
 - (S) Sustaining Membership (\$185)
commercial / manufacturing businesses

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



Irv Conner checking Jim Maus' raffle ticket for correctness. Photo by Bob Bates



Jerry McBride showing his raffle win to Irv Conner and Dick Raisler. Photo by Bob Bates



Jerry Schroeder recorded all the weights of fish caught at Hole 6 Pond. Mrs. Kreiger, right, enjoyed the activities. Photo by Bob Bates



Federation of Fly Fishers™
Washington State Council

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Reservation Form For "Legends of the Northwest" Party/Auction



Celebrating our fly fishing heritage

*Discover the Northwest's rich fly fishing heritage.
Celebrate the men and women -- Legends of the past.
Rub shoulders with the legends of today, the individuals
who are dedicated to the education of our youth, the
conservation of our fishing and water resources
And -- to excellence in the art of fly tying and casting.*

Saturday, February 21, 2004, 7 pm, Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, Washington

Reservations required. RSVP no later than February 10, 2004

Yes, I (we) will be attending.

Name: _____

Address _____ City _____ State ____ Zip _____

Phone () _____ e-mail _____

Number of attendees _____ @ \$45 apiece Total \$ _____

Payment may be made by check payable to WSCFFF or by credit card

Check enclosed _____

Master card ____ Visa ____ Number _____ Expiration (MM/YY) _____

Please return this RSVP to: Jim Maus, 6348 School St. SW, Lakewood WA. 98499-1319
with your check or credit card information.

If you prefer, call Jim at (253) 582-9580 (h), (425)-865-4716 (w) with credit card information.

For other information, email: jimmaus@aol.com

