



**FLY FISHERS**  
**INTERNATIONAL**  
Washington State Council

# Covering the Drift

Volume 22 Issue 2 April 2018

## See You At The Fair

Washington Fly Fishing Fair  
May 4-5  
Ellensburg

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# Leaders Line

By Carl Johnson

## A Time of Change

Here we are in April and we are finished with the Washington Sportsman Show and The Fly Fishing Show in Lynnwood. Both were good shows for the Council this year. Now it is full speed ahead for the Washing Fly Fishing Fair on May 4th and 5th in Ellensburg. Some days it is hard for me to believe that this will be the 12th event in Ellensburg starting with the Fly Tying Expo at the Library in 2007 and my last as Council President. Things are coming together for this year's Fair. The Workshops are all set and are on-line. Please register. We are still (always) looking for donations for our auction/silent auction/raffle. The Fair is how the Council obtains the funds to operate and support the Fly Fishing community conservation and educational activities. In fact, over the few years we have given back to the community almost \$13,000 for education and conservation. This includes donations to OPFI (one handed tying and fishing), Project Healing Waters,

Casting for Recovery, Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy, Costal Cutthroat Coalition, Cutthroat symposium to determine number of subspecies of cutthroat, TU to help purchase land along the Wenatchee River and WDFW to replace signs at Grant County Lake. We hope to see you in Ellensburg, attending the free seminars, taking casting workshop or the feather dyeing workshop, watching the tiers demonstrate their craft, attending the banquet, and hopefully supporting use by purchasing items in the auction, silent auction, and raffle. I look forward to seeing you there.

On a personal note I would like to thank everyone who has volunteered their time to this event over the past 12 years. I am not going to try and name folks because I will miss somebody, but the list includes everyone who has served on the Council Board during this time, all the fly tiers, casters, and seminar presenters who have shared their talents. I also want to thank everyone who gave their time f  
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### Special points of interest

- A pool of warm water in the North Pacific commonly known as the blob has dissipated, which should help future salmon runs. Page 3
- For the first time, concerns of saltwater sport fishers will be considered under proposed changes to the Magnuson-Stevens act that governs offshore fisheries management. Page 3.

## Legislation Benefits Saltwater Anglers

By Gil Biles

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Natural Resources in December approved H.R. 200, a bill sponsored by Congressman Don Young (R-Alaska) that amends the 1976 Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to provide flexibility for fishery managers and stability for fishermen. The bill next goes to the House floor.

A coalition of organizations representing the saltwater recreational fishing and boating community endorsed H.R. 200 and highlighted the importance of incorporating saltwater recreational fishing management provisions into the nation's primary law governing federal fisheries management.

This is a major step forward in implementing the vision set forth by the Morris-Deal Report for the future of saltwater recreational fishing. Many of the recommendations of this M-D Commission are addressed by the Modern Fish Act and now included in H.R. 200.

# Conservation

## The Blob Is Gone

At Least For Now

By Jack Whitney

Now you might wonder what is the blob and why it is in this newsletter? The blob is a massive warm spot in the ocean that starts above Vancouver Island and goes up into the Gulf of Alaska. This warming has been with us since 2013 and was broken apart this fall by more normal Pacific storms. At its peak, the blob raised the ocean currents off the coast of Alaska by 3 degrees and that is an unprecedented temperature increase in the frigid Northern Pacific Ocean. This increase was also responsible for the toxic algae blooms we have experienced the last few years. It also screwed up the ocean conditions which in the past have given us healthy returns of salmon and steelhead. That was covered in more detail in our last newsletter.

Now that the blob is gone when will we start to see healthy runs again? Well it won't be next year as salmon spend at least a couple of years in the ocean before returning to their birth place to spawn. So, figure in a couple of years fishing should get better. Some species of salmon return on a three year cycle. So, it will be three maybe four years to get all the runs up and running. If you are a clam digger, the return of open clam seasons has already begun.

Of course, the big question is what started the blob, and will it return. Was it global warming? The suspicion is that global warming had something to do with it. But good scientists won't tell you that until they have had time to study it to know how and why it happened. All we have to do is to look to the cold winters in the Midwest and East to understand how scientists work. They have had five winters, or maybe I should say events, to analyze, hypothesize, observe and reach conclusions. As a result of those observations they now can say with certainty that the cold weather east of us is a result of global warming. Now I am not going to get into their reasoning as this column is about fishing for Pacific migrating fish and not ice fishing in Minnesota. The Pacific Ocean has had only one warm-water event that lasted four years. It will be some time before the scientific community witnesses more blobs. The one consistent statement that the scientists are telling us that there is a very good chance that we will have more warm-water events like the blob in the future.

If we can take away anything from this overstayed blob, is to fish while we can. Make the most of it during the blobless years.

Jack

## 2018 Seminars

Presenter and topic

### **Chet Allison,**

Spokane River

### **Preston Singletary,**

What's Bugging You

### **Bruce Bolding**

Warm Water

Opportunities

### **Marc Williamson**

Reading Still Water  
and

Fly Fishing in  
Central Oregon

### **Chad Gillespie**

Sea-run Cutthroat

### **Chester Allen**

Yellowstone Unlocked

### **Steve Temple**

Secrets of the  
Clark Fork

### **Johnny Boitano**

Yakima River

### **Thomas Lamphere**

Trophy Trout on  
Western  
Washington  
Rivers

# See You at the Fair

Unlock the secrets to trophy trout waters, smoother casting and better fly tying in Ellensburg May 4-5

The 12<sup>th</sup> annual Washington Fly Fishing Fair will feature talented fly tiers, casters and fly fishers devoted to our sport and to conservation and education. This year the Fair will be on Friday and Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> at the Kittitas Valley Event Center in Ellensburg. The WSCFFI board and fair committee encourage you to check out:

- Free seminars located in the Manastash Room and the Heritage Center.
- Workshop space is limited so sign up early to reserve your spot. This year we will have classes on dying fly tying materials on both days. The Casting workshops will be done with many of the talented FFI Casting Instructors in the area.
- Fly tiers will be at work throughout the two-day event. A list of tiers will be updated as they sign up
- Casting demonstrations will go on throughout the show
- Our Casting Challenge Course at the Park is free. On Saturday afternoon there will be a casting competition, also free, and there are some great prizes
- Need help with your casting? The event offers private lessons with a Certified Instructor. Cost is cheap for a one on one lesson. Sign up on-line or at the Fair if space is available.

# An Interview with Thomas Lamphere

By Vern Jeremica

Thomas Lamphere, will be one of the fly tiers and presenters at Fly Fishers International Washington Council Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg May 4-5. It has been a pleasure to talk to someone in his 20's who is a gifted tier and caster and serious about working in the fly fishing industry. I have had an opportunity to watch Thomas tie flies, and cast a long line at the Red Shed Gathering Spey Casting competition on the Clearwater River in Idaho. Thomas and his father Reuben will be a great addition to the Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg this May.



Thomas Lamphere and a sea-run cutthroat trout, one of the legendary bluebacks with big shoulders and dark colors from many days spent in saltwater.

**Vern:** I understand that you and your Dad Reuben work at the fly material distribution business, Fish Hunter. How many folks work at Fish Hunter?

**Thomas:** It does not have many employees, just my father, Reuben and I, and the owner Jack Moore.

**Vern:** Are you involved with any fly fishing clubs?

**Thomas:** I am a member of Puget Sound Fly Fishers. I am also on the board of directors of Puget Sound Fly Fishers.

**Vern:** What other activities are

you doing with regard to Puget Sound Fly Fishers?

**Thomas:** On Wednesdays I host a fly tying teaching session.

**Vern:** What happens at these events?

**Thomas:** On alternating Wednesdays we meet at the Seven Seas Brewery in Gig Harbor, and at the Puget Sound Fly Company alternating weeks.

Throughout the year we have around eight to a dozen attend,

except during winter when as many as 15 or 16 attend. We start at 6 PM and finish around 8:30-9 PM. There is normally a planned theme each week. If the Club has a planned fishing outing, we may tie flies that will enhance fishing during the outing. Otherwise it may depend on a fishing trip, seasonal hatch like the Mother's Day Caddis Hatch or March Brown Hatch on the Yakima, or Callibaetis at Lake Chopaka; or a time of the season; for example when fish chum fry patterns for chum mi

## An Interview with Thomas Lamphere

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grating out of the gravel and moving downstream to the estuaries. On some nights the theme can be something odd ball, like a Bonefish or Musky fly. I like to keep it interesting.

**Vern:** How did you get into fly fishing?

**Thomas:** I have to give credit to my dad. Fly fishing in the Lamphere family is a tradition. I am a 5th generation fly fisher. I started very young. I got my first fly rod when I was 6 years old. From a very early age we were fly on family camping trips.

**Vern:** When did you start fly tying?

**Thomas:** I received my first fly tying vise when I was 6 years old.

**Vern:** When I first became serious about fly fishing, I joined a fly club. I was fortunate to meet several mentors that encouraged and taught me about fly fishing. Did or do you have any mentors?

**Thomas:** Yes, my main mentor growing up was my Dad,

Reuben. He played a big part in getting me interested in fly fishing. Besides my Dad until I entered high school, I also learned from fly fishing, fly casting, and fly tying videos. Overall, my dad was pretty much my main influence in my formative years. As I grew older I fished with my middle school principle and other teachers. Some time, early on in high school I discovered that I was giving back, teaching more than learning.

**Vern:** How long have you



been member of Puget Sound Fly Fishers?

**Thomas:** My dad and I have been members around 5-6 years. Shortly after we became members we took responsibility for the Wednesday fly tying meet. At first I did it with my dad and then later I took over the respon-

sibility of hosting this event.

I have also been spreading the art and craft of fly tying in other ways.

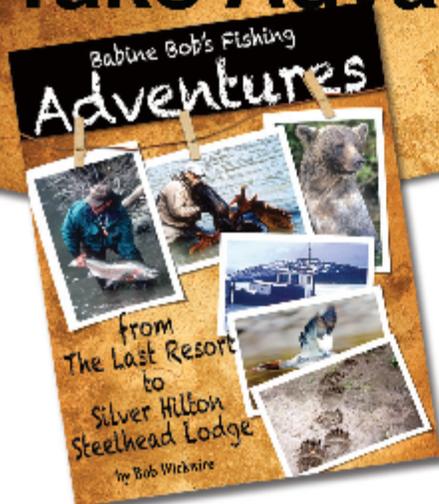
**Vern:** In what way?

**Thomas:** As a commercial tier I found it quite solitary, especially at night, so I started tying my fly orders at coffee shops. I started doing this about a year after starting the Wednesday night tying session with Puget Sound Fly Fishers. Not all coffee shops allow me to do this, especially some of the big box coffee bistros. I have found some niche coffee shops and small town taverns that allow me to come their to tie. The Jewel Box Cafe on Ressler Way in Tacoma is one of my favorites. The best part of this is I am not confined to the house, can share my craft, meet people, and on occasion recruit someone for the Wednesday night tying event, or prospective member of the fly club.

**Vern:** Please, tell me about your work history regards to the fly fishing industry?

**Thomas:** I have been commercially tying flies for about

# Take Advantage **NOW!**



## Special Pre-Publication **Book Offer!**

### Babine Bob's Pioneering Fishing Adventures

#### From the Last Resort to Silver Hilton Steelhead Lodge

by *Bob Wickwire*

In misty, forest covered, Northern British Columbia flows the legendary Babine River, long known for its magnificent large steelhead to over 30 pounds. This all color, 200 plus page, 8 1/2 by 11 inch volume is truly a classic. Author Bob Wickwire and his wife Jerri Lou created several lodges known for offering the finest steelhead fishing in the world.

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From the first pages to the very end of the book you will be enjoying their continual discoveries as they fashion a beautiful life filled with almost unbelievable happenings and challenges—most successfully overcome. Bob and Jerri Lou migrated to British Columbia in the 1960s from Oregon where Bob helped pioneer Clackamas River steelheading and boating.

I have known Bob since the 1960s and can only say: "What a guy!" He has lived to become the classic steelhead river pioneer. This is his wonderful story. . . Frank Amato, Clackamas and Babine steelheader, too.

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## Leaders Line

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or this event over the past 12 years and finally I want to thank all the vendors who have supported us. As I write this I am thinking of those who gave their time to the Council and the Fair who are no longer with us. I will mention a few names who have helped make the Fair a success (and I

am sure I have forgotten someone, and I apologize as it was not intentional). The four that are on my mind right now are Bob Bates, Dick Matthaei, Don Bolstad and Pat Herdt, who we lost this past month. The photo on the cover of this newsletter is the same picture that was used for the Poster for the 2017

Washington Fly Fishing Fair. We will be looking for a photo for next year's poster this fall. The picture should be a fishing scene and if people are in the photo their faces should not be visible. If you are interested in submitting a photo, please contact Carl Johnson at flyfishalso@frontier.com.

## An Interview with Thomas Lamphere



9 1/2 years. I sell to fly shops and special orders for a special trip wholesale and retail shops. Just before I started tying flies commercially, I was playing minor league baseball. I was a pitcher who was pitching in the mid 80 mph speed range with a my fastest pitch up to 87 mph. However, I came to the realization that I was competing against pros who pitched in the mid 90's. I decided to leave a budding career in professional baseball and go all in on fly fishing. At first, I had to support by new found career

doing security work, work on a farm, and other odd jobs. Since then my commercial business has grown. In addition, I have worked for Fish Hunter fly material enterprise for almost 5 years.

**Vern:** Have you worked as a fly fishing guide?

**Thomas:** No, not in a formal licensed guide fashion. The guide market is very saturated and the cost for a guide licenses, especially salt water are quite expensive. If I could or

ever decide to guide, it will be for Sea-run Cutthroat Trout.

**Vern:** I have seen you participate at the Red Shed Casting Competition? How long have you been competing and where?

**Thomas:** I haven't done much competitive fly casting. I like the Red Shed competition because it is a friendly competition, no egos and it is more for the fun of competing with fly fishing friends. Folks at the competition are very encouraging. This is my 2nd year at the Red Shed. I enjoy casting the two handed rod, but don't get to do it as much as I like.

**Vern:** What is your favorite fish to pursue?

**Thomas:** If I had only one fish to fish for it would be the sea-run Cutthroat.

# An Interview with Thomas Lamphere

**Vern:** What are some of your favorite flies for sea-run cutthroat?

**Thomas:** It depends on the time of year. Some of the patterns I like are the Disco Euphasid in a size 8, the Beach Matuka, the Kelly Galloup Woolly Sculpin, the Gary Marston Sea-run Bugger, the Ferguson Green, and the Ferguson Pink,

**Vern:** What type of fly tying do you enjoy?

**Thomas:** I pretty much like to tie everything. On the commercial side, I am tying flies for fishing clients in Colorado, Utah, some really small flies sizes 22/24. I pretty much like to do it all, from saltwater flies, Anadromous fish, Lingcod, Tarpon, Stripers, flies for Argentina, Peru, and Europe. I am fairly confident that if you give me a pattern, I can tie it. I love the challenge.

**Vern:** I understand from looking at your business card that you have created a fly fishing website:

**Thomas:** Yes, the website is [beachmenflytying.com](http://beachmenflytying.com). I created my website because people kept bugging me to write a book.

**Vern:** What is your vision for this site?

**Thomas:** I am having a lot fun with this site. People are making input. I created a blog with the idea that we can share information, link tying videos to it, and use it in a good way to share stuff without writing a 200 page explanation. We do not hold back on information. For example there is information about using foam flies that my Dad and I are using to catch are sorts of species of fish. These foam flies, boobies, are a fly that is very popular in Europe. It is used in lakes primarily to imitate damsel and dragon fly nymphs, to take big fish. My dad and I have been doing presentations at different venues and clubs. We do one about using these Booby flies along with a lake fishing presentation and the effective use of different sinking lines for different situations.

**Vern:** What other type of fly patterns have you been concentrating on or are patterns that you feature on you website?

**Thomas:** Some of my other patterns are;

1. The Beach Matuka, a killer pattern for Sea Run Cutthroats
2. Chum Fry Pattern, another great pattern for Sea Runs.
3. Frozen Sculpin, a pattern for the Puget Sound, as well as for

big trout on western Washington waters.

4. Simple Cray, which is a combination of a Barr Meat-whistle meets Crawdad. It is an excellent pattern tied on a jig hook, for trout and bass.

**Vern:** One of the issues in the FFI is the lack of young folks like yourself showing up to our events, and participating in the Federation Flyfisher International. Do you have any suggestion on how we can bring more young people such as yourself into the FFI fly fishing arena?

**Thomas:** Social Media is everything with the younger generation. Fly Fishing and Fly Tying magazines are okay, but even, many of the magazines are going digital. Clubs need to have a social media presence. All events and information on what is going on in the club should be posted on social media. This can improve younger crowd participation. Also, you have to remember that many of those in the "younger generation," have new families with children and full time jobs, which makes it more difficult to attend meetings. So, they have a choice, a fly fishing trip on the weekend, versus attending a club meeting. I joined Puget Sound Fly Fishers at the age of 22. At that time, I was the

## An Interview with Thomas Lamphere

youngest member by nearly 20 years. Since then, we are getting more younger folks into the club. What fly clubs need to do is schedule and make available more events. Whether it be fishing, tying flies, rod building or casting classes, or conservation work. The club needs to have value by providing a service to get younger folks in to their meetings. What younger folks shy away from are the clubs where people sit around talking about good old days. That is not where it is at. The clubs need to be active. For example Puget Sound Fly Fisher has 30 outings a year. At their meetings there is a revolving door of new and different speakers, not the same old dudes, giving the same old message. I think



clubs to think out of the box and look at doing it different.

When it comes to young kids a big part of it with kids, is to keep their attention. Keep them engaged. If possible using a mentor or instructor one

on one or one on two in any group class.

**Vern:** Thomas, thank you for your time. I am looking forward to sitting across the table and watch you tie at our Ellensburg Fly Fishing Fair in

## Early Columbia fish estimates higher in 2018 than previous year

### Spring Chinook Runs Rise

Salmon managers from Washington and Oregon estimate 248,500 spring chinook salmon will return to the Columbia River this year – an increase of 20 percent from 2017. Spring chinook are a bellwether species that re-

flects the overall health of anadromous fish runs in the region. The number of Columbia spring chinook includes 166,700 upriver fish bound for waters above Bonneville Dam and 81,820 fish expected to return to rivers below the dam.

Bill Tweit, a special assis-

tant for Columbia River fisheries at the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW), noted that the upriver forecast is up 44 percent from last year, but still 10 percent below the 10-year average.