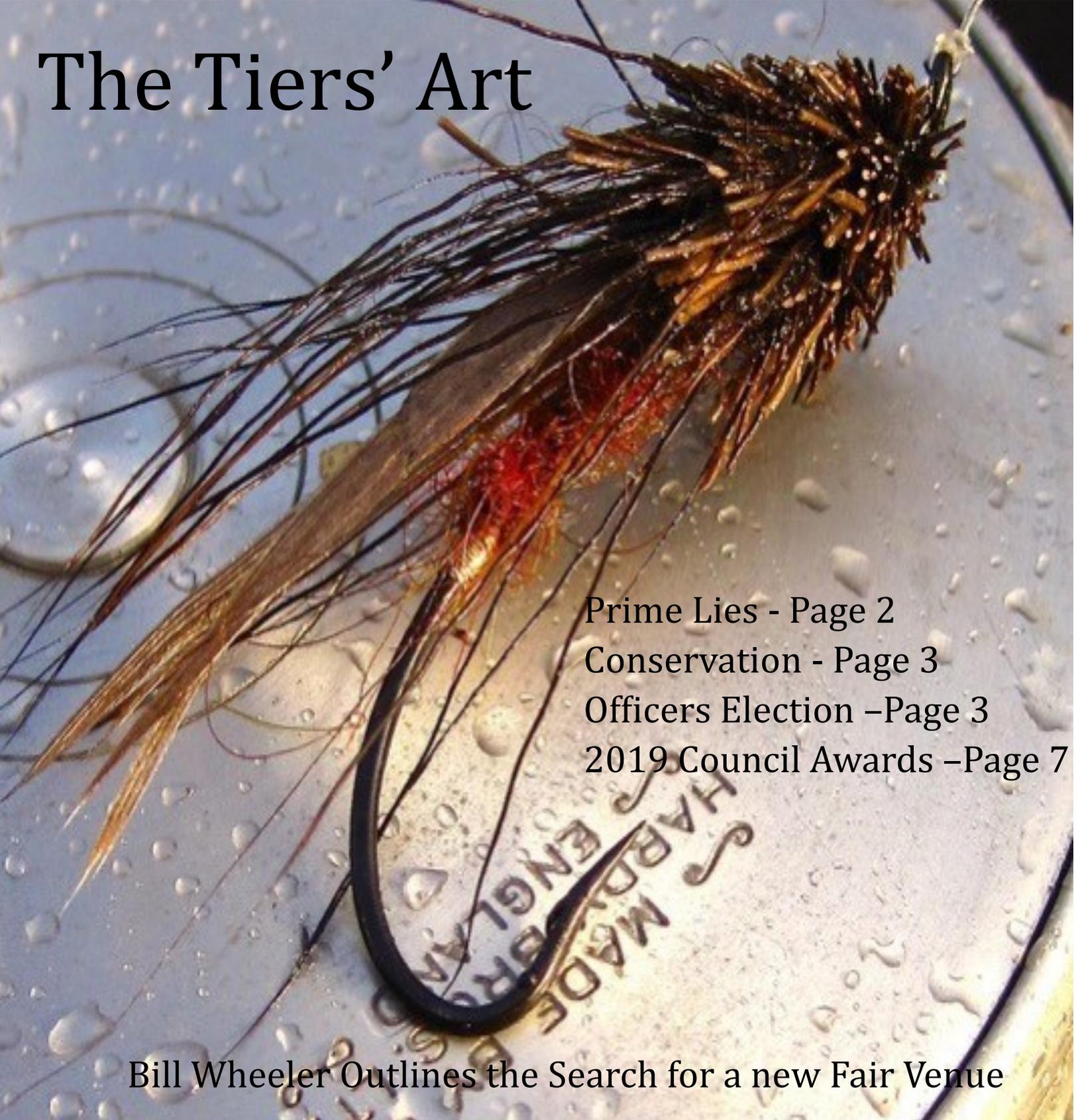
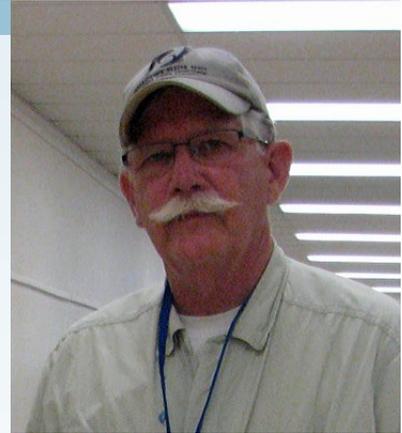


The Tiers' Art



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Bill Wheeler Outlines the Search for a new Fair Venue



Prime Lies

Search is on for New Fair Venue

The Washington State Council (WSC) celebrated our 13th Annual Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg last month, a great tradition started by Carl Johnson. The fair is the key fundraising event that this year has allowed us to provide \$5,717.52 to other nonprofits. During the year we made donations to Casting for Recovery, Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, Olympic Peninsula Fishing Innovations, University of Washington Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club for the Rocky Ford sign project and the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. This sum was a combination of direct donations and auctioning off items at the fair where we supplied the dinner event and the auctioneer. We should all be very proud of those significant contributions.

It is impossible to underestimate the importance of the volunteers at the Fair. Thank you everyone!! A special thanks to Carl and

Maura who provided invaluable support, knowledge and hard work. There were demonstration tiers, casting instructors, seminar presenters, people and organizations that donated items for the auctions, Peter Maunsel and his group that sorted and displayed mounds of donated items for raffles and both live and silent auctions. Larry Gibbs has been generating funds throughout the year with rod and reel raffles. There were people who kept track of the camping fees, set up tables, moved chairs, put out power lines, and swept up about a billion pounds of feathers after the hall was cleared out. It's impossible to thank everyone individually in a short article. But wow, what a lot of support.

Unfortunately, like many other FFI Councils, we have been seeing a decrease in fair attendance. The attendance decreased in spite of a vigorous Social Media campaign by Steve Jones and Sam Matalone and a stellar Celebrity Fly Fisher in Gary Borger. Lower attendance also means, unfortunately, that the

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Special points of interest

- There are three nominees for the Washington State Council board of directors. Trisha Campbell, Sam Matalone and Carol Anderson. All three are profiled beginning on page 3. Ballots for the election will be sent later this month through the online voting service Survey Monkey.
- Don't forget the FFI Fly Fishing Expo July 23-27 in Bozeman MT on the campus of Montana State University. Registration and details are available at <https://flyfishersinternational.org/Events/Fly-Fishing-Expo>
- Attend the Expo and get in some spectacular fishing too. Bozeman is at the center of some of the best fishing in the West. The Gallatin, Madison and Yellowstone rivers and Hebgen and Quake lakes are all within reasonable driving distance. For licenses go to:
- <http://fwp.mt.gov/fish/license/>

Nominees for Board Election



Trisha Campbell

Trisha Campbell's passion for fly fishing runs deep. Trisha is pursuing a Casting Instructor Certification. She has served as Participant Coordinator for the Northern Idaho/ Eastern Washington chapter of Casting For Recovery for 9 years and Fly Fishing Instructor for CFR Washington for 2 years. She also is an instructor with Kelly Creek Flycasters' Women's Clinic, Fly Fishers International Women's University and with the Idaho State Juvenile Corrections Fly Fishing program. Trisha is currently the Treasurer for FFI Western Rocky Mountain Region.

Sam Matalone

Sam grew up in Northern California and started his passion for fly fishing at the age of 11. He was extremely lucky to have

Continued on page 6

Conservation

Citizen Science at the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition

There's a bit of legend around cutthroat trout.

Most people think of cutthroat trout as a Rocky Mountain fish common to mountain lakes beneath glacial cirques, or a small stream fish living among boulders, or a big water fish in places like the Yellowstone. But if you're talking about populations of cutthroat that migrate in hundreds of rivers, with dozens of spawning populations and numerous individuals

growing to 16, 20 even 24 inches in size you're only talking about one place: tidewater in the Pacific Northwest.

Coastal cutthroat, or sea-run cutthroat, swim in water from Prince William Sound in Alaska south to

California's Eel River and one of their traditional sanctuaries has been the protected tidewater of Puget Sound. Four million humans have also come to enjoy the protected tidewater environment of Puget Sound and their numbers are growing by about 60,000 annually. All those people have changed the coastal environment for cutthroat and about five years ago fly fishers began to ask whether coastal cutthroat were being crowded out of their native habitat. Problem was, nobody knew, because few scientists had studied coastal cutthroat relative to their larger salmon cousins.

Fish biologists have reams of data on Chinook and coho salmon because they are the cash crops of Northwest waters. And since 1999 it hasn't been legal to harvest cutthroat in saltwater so consumptive sportsmen have focused elsewhere. There was virtually

nothing known about the health of coastal cutthroat until a fly fisher named Greg Shimek and some friends started pushing for answers about 5 years ago.

"We were a few dedicated conservationists who wanted to find out more about Washington's true native trout," said Shimek.

About the same time Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife biologist James Losee was "putting to-

gether some low budget studies focused on cutthroat spawning." They joined forces.

Shimek and his partners walked the streams and counted redds. Losee guided the work and compiled the data. The result was the first-ever study of

coastal cutthroat spawning behavior published in 2016 in the American Journal of Fisheries Management. "It surprised us that nothing on this topic had never been published before," said Losee.

Today, Shimek is the leading voice for what has become the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, which raises awareness of the cutthroat's place in the Sound and raises funding for Losee's research to understand the fish, its habitat and our impact on its aquatic home. The Washington Council of FFI has donated to the Coalition's work and this year the Council presented Shimek and the Coalition the Washington Council's Bill Mackay Conservation at the Council Fair in May.

In its first four years, the Coalition has published several studies from cataloging spawning streams to

Coalition Given 2019

Bill Mackay Conservation Award

Continued on page 8

Council Award Winners



Fly Tying Hall of Fame Rocky Hammond

The deep skill and commitment of members of the Washington Council of FFI was on full display at the 2019 Fair in Ellensburg.

From the \$5,700 raised and dedicated to conservation and donations to the outstanding fly tying and casting instruction our council put its depth and devotion on full display.

There were earnest discussions of inviting young fishers into our sport, developing our membership and recognizing the leaders who got us here. The Council's annual Awards are our way of thanking grassroots leaders for their commitment and their donations of dollars and hours. Awards are thanks for a job well done and an invitation to other members to step up and share the mission.



Henry Hoffman was named an Honorary member of the Fly Tying Hall of Fame for the commitment the Oregon resident has made to the Washington Council



Gary Borger received the Jimmy Green Fly Casting Instructor Award. Jimmy was a friend of Gary's and of course Gary's contribution to casting is unrivaled.



Clark-Skamania Flyfishers received the Washington Conservation Award, club president Don Kohler accepted.



Kuni Masuda will receive the Council Award of Excellence at the national FFI Expo in July in recognition of the role he has played in making the Washington Council an ongoing success.



Steve Jones was named Fly Fisher of the Year for his outreach efforts.

Prime Lies

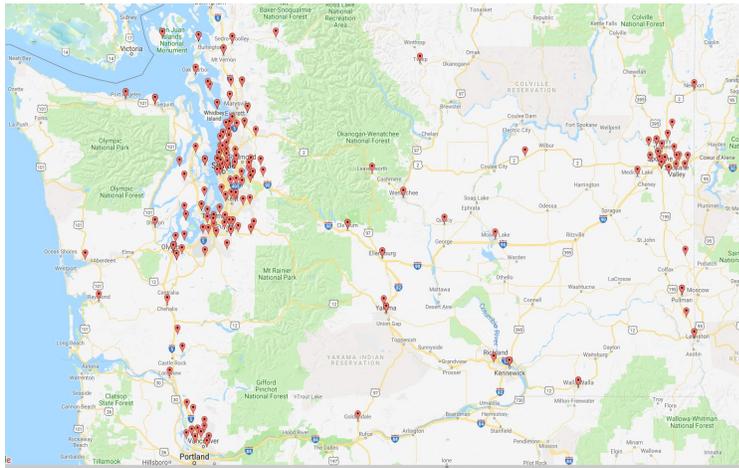
From page 6

Council generated significantly less for itself at the event.

The council wants to turn that trend around. Almost 70% of our FFI members are in the I-5 Corridor, so we plan to move the fair to west of the Cascades to be closer to our membership. A change in venue has a litany of consequences upon our processes for staging the fair, not the least of which is getting on the schedule of the new venue. As a volunteer organization, we just don't have the bandwidth to vet a new facility and prepare for a fair in that facility in 2020. Changing the venue will allow us to rethink

every aspect of the fair to be more in line with our members' needs. We are open to any venue that can provide the facilities we require at a price we can afford. A facility with sufficient indoor space to allow indoor casting would allow us to hold the Fair in the winter when going fishing is less likely to be in competition with the event. We are formulating plans to elicit your input about how we can change the fair to

better meet your needs. In the interim, we are planning to have a Fund Raising Banquet in 2020 so our members can help us prepare for the move, stay tuned. We hope to see many of you at the Banquet and future fairs as the Council strives to meet the needs of our members.



The red dots on the map above show where Washington Council members live. Each dot represents approximately 10 members. Members in communities with fewer than 10 are consolidated into one group with a dot in the largest nearby community.

Board Nominees

Continued from page 3



been surrounded by very good fly fisherman who taught him to cast, tie flies and to understand the role each of us plays in ensuring the future of our sport. I have associated with the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International for over 10 years. I retired as an Engineer

from Texas Instruments after 30 years.

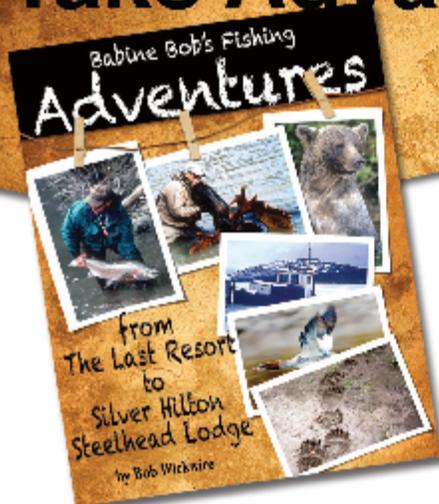
Carol Anderson

Carol Anderson is an avid sailor who has raced or cruised six different oceans. When not traveling, Carol loves to fish Western mountain streams, a

passion that began in her Seattle backyard stream at 8 years old. Carol spent 40 years designing, developing and delivering science education multimedia and online content. She began her career in elementary education before becoming a professor of technology education at Western Washington University. Carol is the founder of FlySci, a non-profit science of fly-fishing educational organization specializing in environmental sciences and conservation. Her dogs are Spencer and Ali.



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Coastal Cutthroat Coalition receives Mackay Award

From on page 3

ground-breaking research on cutthroat spawning timing, how redds are impacted by variation in water supply, migration patterns and cutthroat behavior in saltwater.

“In the South Sound we discovered that each stream has its own genetic profile,” said Shimek. There is less interbreeding between streams than thought, he said, and it also means each stream harbors fish that give coastal cutthroat more genetic variety. The Coalition is at work on a separate study of 17 streams in Hood Canal to find if the same is true of that habitat as well.

Another eye-opening Coalition funded discovery was what Shimek calls the “site fidelity” of coastal cutthroat. The fish leave their natal streams at about 2 years of age and most find a tidewater habitat within 5 to 7 miles of that stream and remain there. In the summer they may travel to beaches up to 25 miles away, but then return to their home beach and remain there until returning to natal rivers to spawn. As scientists studied popular fishing beaches Shimek said “it became apparent that fishermen were catching the same fish multiple times.” Tagging studies discovered that some fish were landed 7 or even 9 times a season, which has big implications for fisheries management and the ability of small populations to fuel successful fisheries. Washington doesn’t allow harvest of coastal cutthroat in salt wa-



Greg Shimek marking a redd above, tagging a cutthroat below



ter, but unless the fish is kept wet and handled gently mortality is sure to rise along with fishing pressure. Coalition members help as citizen scientists when needed. But science costs money and the Coalition’s growing role is fundraising through various events and outreach to clubs in the Washington Council of FFI. The Coalition also has drawn gear manufacturers such as Sage, Simms and others into the funding circle. In 2017, the Coalition merged into the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group, which provides a non-profit tax structure. The Coalition operates as a stand-alone group under the umbrella of Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement.

“For us a big limitation was finances,” said Losee. WDFW biologists saw the need to better understand coastal cutthroat but didn’t have the funds and manpower to study them. “But it really did start with the fly fishing community. Because coastal cutthroat is managed under catch-and-release regulations in many waters it has attracted a unique demographic that is willing to contribute their own time and money to science. The Coastal Cutthroat Coalition has supplied greater than 90% of the funding for this work,” said Losee. “It’s easy to say that this would not have gone on without them.”

Lots of fly fishers think they know a thing or two about coastal cutthroat trout. Thanks to Greg Shimek and

Address