



# Covering The Drift

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## President's Message

By Carl Johnson

This is the first time for me to write this message as President of the WSCFFF. I write this after returning from the Conclave in Bozeman. My week started out by attending the Board meeting as Council President on Tuesday. After having sat through the Board meeting in West Yellowstone two years ago, this meeting was a welcome surprise. The Board used be about 60 members and was very ineffective. The new Board

structure is about 25 members and operates much more effectively. I left that meeting with a good feeling on the future of the Federation.

This continued with the Council and Club Presidents meeting the next day. At the meeting there was a lot of open and frank discussion on the FFF and the relationship between Headquarters, councils and clubs.

The highlight of the week for me was the Presidents Dinner. The speaker was one of the wounded warriors from Iraq who participated in the Project Healing Waters at Walter Reed Hospital. During the week I had an opportunity to talk to all four of the soldiers who were there. These men all made me realize how insignificant all of my problems are.

Project Healing Waters began in 2004 as an idea by retired Navy Capt. Ed Nicholson. In 2005 it expanded with the support of the Mid-Atlantic Council of FFF and the National Capitol Chapter of TU. It is patterned after the "Casting for Recovery" program for cancer survivors. Through the motions of fly tying and fly casting severely damaged bodies and minds are brought back to

usefulness in the outdoors. Contributions by many people and companies make it possible for these wounded warriors to visit and catch fish in some great waters. Project Healing Waters is expanding to many other facilities, including Ft. Lewis.

I hope that everyone is planning on attending the WSCFFF Casting EXPO scheduled for September 23<sup>rd</sup> in Carnation. More information on this event can be found in this issue and on-line at <http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/NWFCE.htm>. The registration form can be found on-line.

During the rest of this year I plan on visiting all of the affiliated clubs in Washington to introduce myself and hear how the Council can better support the clubs. I have already visited five clubs: Clark-Skamania Flyfishers in Vancouver; Clearwater Fly Casters in Pullman; Fidalgo Fly Fishers in Anacortes; Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club in Spokane; and Puget Sound Flyfishers in Tacoma in addition to the two clubs I am a member of: Evergreen Fly Fishing Club in Everett and Northwest Fly Anglers in Seattle. If there is a date that you would like me to visit your club or you have questions or concerns about the FFF or Council, please contact me.

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Errata

An error was made in the last issue of Covering the Drift. An outdated biography was printed for Ben Dennis who was the nominee for 1st Vice President, East.

Sorry Ben, Bob Bates

Revised biography:

1st VP East

Ben Dennis, Winthrop, WA

Ben served as Director at Large for 3 years. He is founder/past president of Methow Valley Flyfishers, member of Overlake Flyfishers, and former board member of WA Rivers Council. Working with NMFS and WDFW, reversed closure of the Methow river system, secured six catch & release lakes in Okanogan county and spearheaded restoration of a spawning creek for steelhead and as a Board member of Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition, is working to get water back into Twin Lakes. He is founder of Trophy Waters Unlimited, a new organization dedicated to creating better fisheries the upper Columbia basin.

He designed and produced a new Methow fishing regulations map.

Ben's Flyrod Ranch and Flyfishers Pro Shop in Winthrop is where you will find him disseminating info, selling equipment, guiding and offering fly tying classes.

509-996-2784, e-mail: flyrod ranch@methownet.com, website: www.flyrod ranch.com

Education

Ben Dennis of Flyrod Ranch and Flyfishers Pro Shop in Winthrop has been spending his Tuesday evenings this summer offering free casting lessons at Winthrop's Pearrygin Park campground.

Pearrygin is full all summer with families who camp at the lake. Most are bait fishers.

Ben introduces potential fly fishers to casting each week with 1- to 2-hour sessions. Most sessions have 7-12 participants. He provides the equipment.

The sessions are enthusiastically attended by campers and locals alike. Particularly gratifying is when grandfathers or grandmothers bring their young charges to the sessions. A memorable eve was when an elderly grandfather stopped Ben after the session to thank him. He could no longer fly fish, had told his grandchildren of his days as a fly fisher and wished to have them learn the art.

Ben suggests those of you who live near campgrounds to speak with the ranger or other personnel and offer their services.

WSCFFF Board Meeting Notes

By Mike Clancy, Secretary

The Board of Directors conducted their quarterly meeting on July 8, 2006 at The Rodeo City BBQ restaurant in Ellensburg, Washington. The following is an "abbreviated" report of the meeting.

The meeting was called to order by Bob Shirley. Mike Clancy, Secretary certified the election of new officers. (Please refer to the roster, pages 2-3, in this issue of "The Drift" for the new officers.) Bob Shirley passed the responsibility of his office to the newly elected President, Carl Johnson. Carl welcomed the new members to the Board; Ray Willms, Kevin Ryan and Sue Morrison. Carl stated that he has been visiting a number of our affiliated clubs and will complete that goal in the near future.

Carl opened the floor to the Board to visit and question our special guest, Gary Grant, Past Chairman of the Board for the FFF. It was an excellent session that lasted almost

(Continued on page 3)

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2 hours, including lunch. Subjects discussed – the changes coming in the FFF at the National level in regards to fund raising, increasing membership, communications with the membership, new education and conservation programs. Gary stated that the FFF is receiving support from manufacturers because of our new education programs. The FFF is working on a new marketing program to reach fly fishers who are not members of the FFF.

The following are various Officer reports:

Ben Dennis stated they have started a new education class with the public parks in the Methow community.

Mike Clancy agreed to work on a future “Fly Plate” as a fund raiser for a future program next year.

Don Simonson reported on the 6<sup>th</sup> annual NWFC Expo to be held September 23, 2006.

Kevin Ryan will assume the Conservation Chair and will report on conservation issues in our state.

Bob Bates reported that our website is very active.

There was a discussion on the new national program “Healing Waters” for our wounded veterans.

The Board elected to send \$500 to National to help support the 2006 Conclave in Bozeman, Mt.

The meeting started at 10 am and concluded at 3:30 pm. The next meeting will be held at the same location on October 14, 2006 at 10 am. All FFF members are welcome to attend.



## Healing Waters Pictures

The graphic at left and picture below were copied from the Project Healing Waters website.

[www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org)



Nice Fish

## 2006 Northwest Fly Casting Exposition

By Craig Koepler, NWFCE Co-chair

**WHAT:** The 2006 Northwest Fly Casting Expo, sponsored by the Washington State Council, Federation of Fly Fishers. This is a teaching and educational event for beginning, intermediate and advanced casters. Anyone interested in fly fishing and fly casting should attend. Detailed information, including downloadable registration forms is available at <http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/NWFCE.htm> Advance registration is encouraged.

Some of the classes and clinics available include beginning casting, accuracy, control, spey casting and salt water flats. **All classes will be taught by FFF Certified or Master Certified instructors**

A competitive casting event will provide participants the opportunity to show off their casting abilities. Rods and lines are provided by Expo sponsors. The competitive event will include distance and accuracy components. Danish Casting Games are available to anyone on a non-competitive basis. Bring your favorite rod and line combination for Danish Casting Games.

**WHEN:** Saturday, September 23, 2006, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm with check-in at 8:00 am

**WHERE:** Tolt McDonald Park, Carnation, WA. Additional information on Tolt MacDonald Park can be found at the following web site:

<http://www.metrokc.gov/parklocator>

**SPONSORS:** Orvis, Sage, G-Loomis, Temple Fork, Fetha Styx and Scientific Anglers.

**COST:** The class registration fee is \$50 for one class, \$75 for two classes, and includes a barbeque lunch and casting games. Entry fee for the competitive distance and accuracy event is \$25 in advance, \$40 day of event. Without class registration, lunch can be purchased for \$12

A youth program for kids ages 8-15 will be incorporated in the days activities to encourage young casters and provide a fun introduction to fly fishing and casting.

**CONTACTS:** For more information contact Patrick's Fly Shop at (206) 325-8988.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:** If you are interested in the event, or would like to volunteer, please call Patrick's Fly Shop at (206) 325-8988





## FFF Conclave, A First Timer's Report

This was taken from the August 2006 Clubwire. Barbara wrote: I'd like to share the comments I just read this morning in the newsletter of The Puget Sound Flyfishers. By Carl Zarelli who attended as a first timer. Here is what he had to say:

"I recently got back from attending my first FFF Conclave. This year it was held in Bozeman, MT. In the past, I've made all types of excuses as to why I couldn't go. In hindsight, that was a big mistake. This type of gathering is something that stretches your limits and grows your knowledge. You find out that you actually know very little about the sport that you have been working at for a number of years. When you get experts of this caliber together, and have a chance to meet and talk with them, you come away with a wealth of new knowledge and information. I also attended several classes. They were put on by the best in the sport and I found them to be well worth the time and effort. I urge everyone to mark your calendars early and plan to attend next year's Conclave."

Need We Say More??? Mark your calendar-Livingston, MT from July 31<sup>st</sup> through August 4<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

## A Few Pictures From The 2006 FFF Conclave



These three nice FFF ladies greeted people at the registration table just inside the door. L-R: Judy Snyder, Barbara Wuebber, and Jessica Atherton  
Photo by Bob Bates

There were always people watching the fly tiers. Not sure who the first tier is but the tier at the next table is Henry Hoffman showing people how to tie some of his soft hackle patterns.  
Photo by Bob Bates



See More on next page



Oscar Feliu always had people around his table. He tied a variety of patterns: Nice caddis dry flies, a huge Hexagenia pattern and some other mayflies. The Mustad booth next to him was always crowded. Photo by Bob Bates

Bob Bates showing a few patterns tied on the Umbrella hook. See the FFF fly of the month web pages for details. Photo by Lory Watkins



The folks at left are watching a fly tier pretty carefully. Photo by Kip Keener



At right — Dick Nelson and his wife Lillian were at one of the demonstration fly tying tables. Lillian did the tying while he made sure she followed his printed recipe. Dick's skills and contributions to the FFF and fly tying have been recognized several times: The Buz Buszek Award 1987, the Charles E. Brooks Memorial Award 1997 and the Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award was named in honor of him.

Photo by Bob Bates



## Those D#@\* Flywhackers

By Dick Raisler

For a number of years now, it seems as if our fishery resources, i.e., fishable streams and lakes, have been diminishing. Perhaps this is partially due to a continuing growth in numbers of people who now enjoy fishing. Whatever the cause(s), it is evident we have more and more people who use our limited resources. Certainly one consequence of this is “fly fishers” and “bait fishers” are becoming less tolerant of each other—even to the point of verbal and/or physical abuse.

Jim and I evidenced this resentment of fly fishers on a past steelhead fly fishing trip to the Methow River. Leaving early enough to have breakfast in Twisp, we found the only restaurant open at 6:00 a.m. A hanging cloud of cigarette smoke greeted us as we entered the café. The only patrons there were three locals who obviously resented our presence, when one of them asked, “you

guys just drive over the mountains to fish here?” We answered that we had just driven up from Wenatchee, which seemed more acceptable to them. At least we weren’t “206-ers.”

Our conversation continued, when one of them sitting next to us at the counter said, “those d#@\*ed flywhackers shouldn’t be allowed to fish here.” I inquired as to his problem with “flywhackers.” All he could tell me was these “flywhackers” walk through the redds, take forever to land a fish and populate all the good fishing holes.

“Too darned many of them” he said, and this has been “going on for years.” Within a few minutes, he proceeded to declare that two years ago, he “caught over 300 steelhead and filled his punch card in no time.” I thought this was rather ironical, but knew he was just trying to get into an argument. In order to avoid a confrontation, we quietly finished our meal and left. 6 a.m. is just too early for an argument like this!!

This encounter did point out the fact that those of us who fly fish are resented by an ever-increasing number of those who utilize other methods. Is there anything that can be done to alleviate this problem? If there are solutions, they might include designating separate periods of time for fishing with the fly, versus fishing by other methods. At least this would separate us from one another. Probably the most meaningful thing we can do is be extremely courteous of others, observe and practice good fishing etiquette by moving steadily down river when fishing, not stepping into the river just below another fisher. And even inviting a stranger to fish through the run your are occupying. What is evolving is the problem of two distinct groups of fishers that are fighting each other, when in fact we should be working TOGETHER to create/restore more and better fisheries for all of us!

By the way, just to end this on a positive note, Jim managed to land and release a beautiful steelhead of approximately 12 pounds. Chalk one up for the “flywhackers.”

### 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](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)**

**Please mail or call us at**

**Federation of Fly Fishers**  
**215 E Lewis** 406 222-9369  
**Livingston, MT 59047** 406 222-9369 fax

#### Please check membership category

- Canadian memberships add \$5 per year All other countries add \$10 per year*
- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$35)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled Veterans are Free<br>(Proof of 50% disability required)       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-year individual (\$85)                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life (\$500)<br>payment plans available                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Membership (\$25)<br>for those age 65 and over      | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple Life (\$750) pymt. plans available                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (\$45)<br>spouses and children under 14  | <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Membership (\$75)   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Family Member (\$100)                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership (\$200)<br>commercial / manufacturing businesses |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Membership (\$15)<br>for individual members under 14 |   |

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



# Baghdad School of Fly Fishing

By Mike Clancy

Recently, while I was doing research on the internet, I came across an interesting website. It is the "Baghdad School of Fly Fishing."

The originator is Navy Lt. Joel Stewart. How a Navy Lt. ended up in Baghdad is a mystery to me. Lt. Stewart has been relieved of his duties in Baghdad,

but the school is still functioning with other instructors.

The website is [www.baghdadflyfishing.com](http://www.baghdadflyfishing.com).

There are a lot of pictures, some with our troops fishing with their weapons over their shoulders. Click on the various links and you will learn about the companies and individuals that

supported Lt. Stewart with equipment in setting up the school.

You will learn that the FFF, TU, and many rod and reel manufactures sent equipment and literature for the school.

I'll bet Saddam would never have imagined he was going to provide our fighting forces with a "private fishing pond" in one of his palaces. (below)



Casting practice in a palace



Pheasant Tail above caught the red tail carp (right) and other fish. These pictures are from the website above.



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