



# Covering The Drift

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Editor: David Williams

## Leaders Line

By Carl Johnson, President

July marked the beginning of my second year as Council President and I was reminded of some of our highlights at the FFF Conclave this year. Washington State Council was well represented at the awards banquet, with three awards going to Council members. Ed Rice of Camas, Washington received the Don Harger Memorial Award. The Council Award of Excellence went to Jimmy LeMert. The Evergreen Fly Fishing Club of Everett received the McKenzie Cup for Club of the year.

### Washington State Fly Fishing

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**Conclave** – This year the Council is upgrading our Fly Tying Expo to the Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave by combining the Fly Tying with the Casting Expo. The Conclave will be held in Ellensburg on May 3, 2008. The Council is looking for clubs and individuals to help with the Conclave. The list of tasks we are looking for assistance with can be found elsewhere in this issue. Please feel free to contact me if you would like to volunteer or have any questions.

**FFF Membership Promotions** The FFF has two exciting membership promotions. One of these promotions targets individual membership from Affiliate Club members. If your FFF club does not automatically provide you with a membership, you can get a one year FFF membership for only \$15, a \$20 savings. To get this rate your Club President must note on the application that you are a club member and sign the application. Keep in mind that by joining you will help reduce your club's dues to the FFF. These memberships count towards the rod incentive program.

The other membership program is a Sage fly rod with every new life membership.

**Mark May 3rd** Next year's Washington State Fly Fishing conclave.

## Your Officers & Directors

Your 2007-2008 Washington State Council FFF Officers and Directors are listed on pages 2 and 3. These are the people you elected to represent you. In order for your officers and directors to do that job, we need to know what you're thinking.

If you have a gripe, let us know what we can do about it. Better yet, explain the issue, then let us know what you and we can do about it.

If your club has a conservation project it would like to accomplish but that project is too big a nut to crack, let us know and maybe we can help by coordination your efforts with another FFF club or state agency.

Carl Johnson, Council President, has traveled thousands of miles around the state visiting most, if not all FFF clubs in an effort to promote the FFF message and bring the face of the Board to the individual club members. To keep that interaction alive, we need to hear from you, individually and collectively.

The Board has also made a specific effort to diversify and enlarge its membership. We have two outstanding female board members

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and are actively seeking more as it's clear they bring a different and much needed perspective to the board. We need Gen X'ers and Gen Y'ers , especially those who think they are too busy with career and children, to step up and get involved. We still need more participation on the Board from representatives of more clubs outside the Puget Sound region. There are some wonderfully active clubs that are not represented on the Board. Please consider this to an invitation to all as we need to hear your voices.

Meetings are held quarterly and typically coincide with another event. For example, the Annual Membership meeting is part of the Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave. The February meeting, held in Bellevue during The Fly Fishing Show, also fits with a great time to hit the saltwater for sea-run cutthroat and resident coho. It's no surprise that the July and October meetings in Ellensburg coincide with wonderful fishing opportunities on the Yakima River and some secret desert lakes. It's easy to attend the meeting and expand it into a wonderful fishing weekend.

Take a couple of minutes to review the list, see who you know and feel free to contact any of them. The Council is always interested in learning your thoughts, hearing your concerns and obtaining your opinions about the business of the FFF.

When you review the list, you'll see we need to fill the Vice President-East position. If you are interested in filling that position, please contact Carl Johnson or the editor.

**Membership Incentives**

The FFF is currently offering two programs to increase and strengthen membership. 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 certify the applicant is a member in good standing of the club;
- 3) Please "bundle" all applications at one time to facilitate easier handling at Livingston.

Each new FFF member recruited under this offer counts toward a free rod for the club, and reduces the cost of FFF affiliation for the club by \$2.00 annually for each FFF member in the club.

Another offer which is proving very popular is a Sage rod when you become a Life Member of the Federation. A Life membership is normally \$500, but for \$250 more (\$750 total) you can get your choice of a new Sage Xi-2 890-4 or a Sage Z-axis 590-4 in the tube, fully warranted, and specially marked to identify it as the fly rod of a Life Member of the FFF. If you need to get a "Life Couple" membership (normally \$750), you can then get one rod of your choice for an additional \$250 (\$1000 total) or two rods of your choice for an additional \$500 (\$1250 total). Each rod retails for just under \$700. If you do the math, you will come to understand just how great an opportunity this offer is. Apply by phone at 406-222-9369, or over the net at: [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org) .

Both offers end January 1, 2008.

Bob Shirley  
Dir. of Membership FFF

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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. The Conclave will consist of fly tying and casting demonstrations, classes, games, and competition throughout the day, followed by a reservation only dinner. This year's dinner will feature Bob Jacklin as the keynote speaker.

The Council is looking for clubs and individuals to assist with the Conclave in the following areas:

- Hospitality
- Seminars
- Fly tier packets
- Fly Tying Instruction
- Set Up/tear down
- Vendors/displays
- Advertising/brochures
- 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. The Northwest Fly Anglers, a family oriented club in Seattle, has already agreed to handle the hospitality duties. Last year two of its members, Bill and Peg Van Natter volunteered and did a wonderful job of taking care of the fly tying participants.

**Northwest Fly Fishing  
Events for 2008**

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](http://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

March 7-8 Oregon Council FFF Northwest Fly Tyers and Fly Fishing Expo @ Linn County Expo Center, Albany OR  
[www.nwflytyersexpo.com](http://www.nwflytyersexpo.com)

March 22 Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Expo @ Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Port Townsend WA  
[www.cataract.com/FFExpo08](http://www.cataract.com/FFExpo08)

April 5 Puget Sound Fly Fishers Auction @Tacoma Elks Club, Tacoma WA  
[www.psff.org](http://www.psff.org)

April 17 Northwest Fly Anglers Garage Sale @ Haller Lake Community Center, Seattle WA  
[www.northwestflyanglers.org](http://www.northwestflyanglers.org)

May 3 Washington State Council FFF Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave @ Kittitas Valley Events Center, Ellensburg WA  
[www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

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July 19-20 (???) Metolius River Fly Fishing & Bamboo Rod Fair @ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman OR [www.campshermanstore.com](http://www.campshermanstore.com)

July 22-26 FFF 43rd International Show and Conclave, Whitefish MT [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://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](mailto:dpwlaw@gmail.com).



Fall is a time of intense colors, bright days, cold nights and wonderful fishing.



## Running of the Bulls By David Williams

With sincere apologies to Preston Singletary, this is a bull story. Bull trout that is. At the request of FFF member Les Johnson, Preston gave a bull trout seminar at the Bellevue Orvis store. What follows is an extract of his comprehensive materials.

Fishing for bulls is allowed only in the Skagit and Snohomish river systems, although you should check the current regulations to be sure a specific stream or river is open. You cannot target bulls in marine waters.

Bulls in Washington get big. There is anecdotal evidence of 13 pound fish. The official state record, taken in 1999 from the Whitechuck River, is almost 11 pounds. Curt Kraemer, formerly of the WDFW says electroshocking on the Skagit produced a 33 pound fish.



Bulls, just like teenagers, follow the food. River fish will stay in the river year round if there is suffi-

cient food to support the population. Otherwise, they go out to eat. Much like teenagers.

Bulls can be found hanging below salmon redds filling up on salmon eggs washed out by the current. Fish an egg pattern. As the salmon complete their spawn and their bodies start to deteriorate, try an oh-so-appetizing flesh fly.

Typically, the bulls spend a couple



years in the river, then as they begin to mature, they will run to the salt (does this sound like Hemingway) in the spring, gorging on chum fry. They spend several months in salt-water, eating everything smaller than them, With the fall rains, they return upstream, now between 17-19 inches long, for their first spawning run.

There used to be a 20-inch minimum size limit which gave these juveniles one free get out of jail card. Rules have changed to a complete catch and release fishery.

Preston's favorite bait fish pattern is the Hubert Humpy, size 4 tied in white or tan which he fishes even when the bulls are hovering behind the redds.

If you have six weight rod, a floating line and a nine foot leader tapered to

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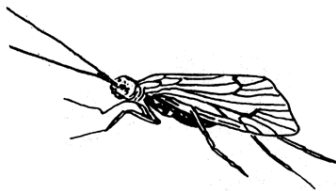
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2x or 3x, then you've got a bull trout rig. Preston recommends casting across or quartering down-



stream. He starts retrieving in short, erratic 4-6 inch strips as soon as the fly sinks and fishes the cast even after it is directly downstream of his position. Look for bulls in much the same water as steelhead. Pay close attention to current seams at the head and tail of pools and behind obstructions which create current breaks.

For the dry fly purists amongst our readership, I've saved the best for last. In March and April, rumor has it that bulls can be taken on blue-winged olives and Skwala stonefly adults. There, something for every-



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## Conservation

By Kevin Ryan, VP Conservation

For those of you who fish the salt in Washington, the Wild Fish Conservancy (formerly, Washington Trout), in collaboration with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, has been offering a survey to anglers via the internet. It is supposed to be of assistance in managing recreational fisheries, but who knows? If you want to look at it, the easiest way is to "Google", "Saltwater Angler Survey", and click on the site offered.

As many of you know, the State of Washington and Bureau of Reclamation are exploring the possibility of building some new dams to store water for agriculture purposes. One of these would be a 240 ft structure across Crab Creek near the Columbia. It would inundate about 19,000 acres east of the dam, including the seep lakes – Nunnally, Merry, and Lenice. Check out

[www.waterplanet.ws/crabcreek](http://www.waterplanet.ws/crabcreek) for more information. The WSCFFF is considering seeking "Endangered Fishery" status for Crab Creek and the lakes under the FFF program. This status, when granted, creates an opportunity to draw attention to the plight of the fishery and helps marshal support in opposition. This year the Green River (Cowlitz County) was recognized as an FFF

"Endangered Fishery" because of the proposed Pebble Creek mine. See

[www.fedflyfishers.org/conEFI.php](http://www.fedflyfishers.org/conEFI.php).

If you have an opinion on this or another issue, please contact me or another board member. We would like to hear from you. Otherwise, we will keep pressing on as usual.

About a year ago, David Williams, Council member and Newsletter editor, raised a question about Wilson Creek (Yakima River tributary) and the status of efforts to improve its water quality, to wit, "When are they going to clean it up?" I made inquiries and found that Department of Ecology has conducted a negotiated process with a number of "stakeholders" in the Ellensburg area, including municipalities, public agencies, businesses, farmers, ranchers, and private parties. The purpose of this considerable effort was to achieve a consensus and the cooperation of the involved parties and improve the likelihood of ultimate success in cleaning up the water in Wilson Creek. This noteworthy goal is not scheduled to be realized until 2020. See

[www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0610065.html](http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0610065.html).

While that seems an inordinately long time to meet Clean Water Act standards, some people who fish the Yakima River

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don't seem troubled. The view of some is that the nutrients flowing into the river from Wilson Creek actually improve the fishing. Therefore, at this time the Council is not planning further badgering of the beleaguered Dept. of Ecol., grasping the hope that they are on the right track and doing their best.

Apparently, in the Wild Steelhead Advisory Group, there have been ruminations of restoring the wild steelhead retention limit to five per year again. This has come up just as Oregon has reduced the limit on the Umpqua from five per year to none - ZERO. If raising the limit again here is not acceptable to you, let the Fish and Wildlife Commissioners hear from you.

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.*

**Conservation Award Candidates Needed**

The FFF Conservation Coordinator is requesting a note on your club's conservation activity for the purpose of nominating someone or club for recognition.

The State Council would like to do its own recognition of a club and of a member for their conservation efforts in the past. The award would be made at the Washington Fly Fishing Conclave in Ellensburg next May 3rd.

I know that the Methow Valley Fly Fishers successfully installed an aerator at Big Twin Lake.

I know that the Clark-Skamania Flyfishers provided a lot of support for the "Go Play Outside" WDFW event in Longview this summer.

I know that some people in the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club have made significant contributions to salmon recovery efforts on the Stillaguamish.

Make me be aware of any other club or individual activity that should be in the running for recognition. Boast a little!

Kevin Ryan  
Conservation VP  
WSCFFF

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**FFF Member Fly Shops**

Please visit the shops nearest to you.

**Alaska Wildland Adventures,**  
 PO Box 389, Girdwood, AK, 99587-0389, (800) 478 - 4100,  
 E-mail: info@alaskasportfish.com

**Emerald Water Anglers**  
 7710 28 Ave SW Seattle WA 98126 (206) 601-0132  
 E-mail: dave@emeraldwateranglers.com

**Fireside Fly Fishing,**  
 475 Rainbow Ct, Homer, AK, 99603, (907) 235 - 7671,  
 E-mail: fireside@acsalaska.net

**Fly Away Fly Shop,**  
 101 Lake St B, Sitka, AK, 99835-7560, (877) 747 - 7301,  
 E-mail: flyaway@alaska.com

**Twin Peaks Adventures**  
 PO Box 754, Nome, AK 99762

**All About the Fly,**  
 212 E Main St, Monroe, WA, 98272, (425) 703 - 0810,  
 E-mail: kristin@allaboutthefly.com

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**Address** \_\_\_\_\_  
**City / State / Zip** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone home / work** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Club Affiliation** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Birth Date** \_\_\_\_\_

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- 3-year individual (\$85)
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for those age 65 and over
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spouses and children under 14
- Couple Life (\$750) pymt. plans available
- 3-Year Family Member (\$100)  
small fishing equipment stores
- Retail Membership (\$75)
- Youth Membership (\$15)  
for individual members under 14
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# Fly of the Season

What would autumn in the Pacific Northwest be like without the last big insect hatch of the year? Not nearly as much fun for those who fish the giant October Caddis and it would leave thousands if not millions of trout hungry as they head into winter.

This caddis belongs to the family *Dimosmoecus*, and is easily recognized by its large size and Halloween orange-colored body. The larva build tube-like cases of vegetable matter bound together with silk. As



they grow into teenagers, the larva switch to cases made of gravel.

Trout eat the larva like popcorn all summer long. The larva seal their cases in August, awaiting emergence as adults.

Emergence takes place from late afternoon until dark beginning in late September and running through to November. This coincides with the fall feeding frenzy as trout gorge in an effort to buff up for their long winter's nap. It also runs right into the teeth of the summer steelhead run on the Deschutes, Grand Ronde and McKenzie rivers. Underwater patterns should be weighted to imitate the drifting pupae as they swim and crawl towards shallow water. Colors range from light tan to pale orange to bright orange but as is so often the case, presentation and size (8 or 10) is more important than color.

When the egg-laying females are dapping the surface, the latent dry fly angler emerges from even the most hardcore nymph fisher. Now's the time to tie on a big bushy high riding dry fly like a Stimulator or Sofa Pillow. For



those who simply can't quit nymphing cold turkey, bend a nymph on below the dry fly. Make sure your rod is capable of landing two fish at once.

For a slightly different take instead of high floating dry fly, try a Size 8 Salmon Candy, a tied down caddis imitation on a floating line or a Percolator fished on an intermediate line.



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