



Covering The Drift

Volume 12, Number 3

Published Quarterly
www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

April 2008
Editor: David Williams

Leaders Line

By Carl Johnson, President
It's Conclave Time! On May 3rd the Council will hold the Conclave, a combination of our Fly Tying Expo and our Fly Casting Expo, at the Kittitas County Event Center (Fairgrounds) in Ellensburg. The Conclave will begin at 8:30 am and end at 5:00 pm. The event is free to all FFF members and those under 16. Admission is \$5.00 for all others. The Annual Meeting dinner will follow at 6:00 pm. The cost for

dinner is \$35. Please make your reservation for Dinner tickets by April 26th so we can get an accurate count.

During the annual meeting we'll announce the Council's slate for open Board positions and hand out a few Council awards. Following closure of the silent auction items, there'll be a small live auction. Then our speaker for the evening will be Bob Jacklin.

Conclave serves two purposes—fun and fund raising. With the latter in mind, we will have a number of raffle and auction items available. Items include: The Authors of the Northwest fly plate, a set of Wasatch tools, the Russ Lamb artist proof from the FFF's Silver anniversary, last year's Fly Tying poster signed by all of the tiers, guided trips, fly rods and more. If you have an item to donate, contact Larry Gibbs. We will have a few special raffles, like the WSCFFF 2008 Fly Club Plate and the FFF member's raffle featuring a Fetha Styx Pro Series rod.

The Council successfully participated in the Puyullap Washington Sportsman's Show, Monroe Evergreen Sportsman's Show, Port Townsend Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing EXPO, Spokane Great Western Sportfishing Show and Bellevue Fly Fishing Show.

See you at the Conclave.

Bob Jacklin Keynote

The lucky people who attend the Annual Dinner will be entertained by Mr. Fly Fishing, Bob Jacklin of West Yellowstone, Montana.

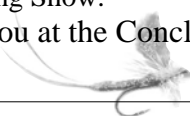
A Charter Life member of FFF,



Bob lives and breathes fly fishing, tying and casting. Operating out of his West Yellowstone fly shop he has notched 38 successful years of guiding.

He's lectured on all aspects of fly fishing, released a "how-to" DVD, won fly casting tournaments and taught fishing, casting and tying to thousands. He's received the Man of the Year and the Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award, is a Master Certified Fly Casting Instructor, a member of the Casting Board of Governors and been inducted into the Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. As the image shows, he can catch fish too.

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Conclave News

Thank You Raffle

Someone is going to win a cool new Fetha Styx Pro Series, 9 foot 6 inch, 4-piece, 7 weight rod, complete with rod case, at the Conclave. It could be you if you follow these simple directions.

1. Attend the Conclave.
2. Bring your FFF membership card.
3. Show your FFF membership card to the folks at the FFF booth to receive a free raffle ticket.
4. Be lucky enough to have your ticket drawn.

But you say, what about those who attend but aren't yet FFF members? Are those people left out in the cold? The Council welcomes those attendees with open arms and has operators standing by to accept new members on the spot. Any person joining the FFF at the Conclave will also receive a free fly rod raffle ticket.

Fetha Styx is a Redmond, Washington custom rod making company that makes a complete line of rods for every use. This raffle rod is practically guaranteed to catch fish for many years. Carl Johnson thinks this 7-weight rod would be an excellent steelhead rod. Your editor suggests an even better use. Think aggressive Columbia River small-mouth bass, Banks Lake carp and black rock bass in the salt water.

The Council wants to thank Fetha Styx for their wonderful donation of the fly rod. To find out more about the Pro Series rods and all other Fetha Styx products, please visit their website www.fethastyx.com and mention that you heard about them in this newsletter. Or come test their rods at Conclave.

Cool Fly Plate

By Mike Clancy, Secretary

Authors of the Northwest

There are wonderful and talented authors living in our great Pacific Northwest. Many have produced videos, written books and articles that display flies and techniques on how to "Catch and Release" our game and sporting fish. It was a difficult task to select the candidates for our fly plate with so much talent in our area. We originally selected 15 authors, to learn that not all authors tie flies. Some authors claim to be better writers than tiers, that's okay. But, I think everyone is pleased with our selection of the tiers that contributed their flies to our fly plate. Where else can you get a chance to acquire a fly plate containing flies tied by Bruce Ferguson, Les Johnson, Frank Amato, Darrell Martin, Doug Rose, Steve Probasco, Skip Morris, Dave Hughes, Mike Croft, Randall Kaufman, David Williams, Steve Raymond, Trey Combs, Fenton Roskelly and Mark Mandell? All of the flies are featured in various flyfishing publications.

The "Authors of the Northwest" flyplate is a one of a kind work of art. The fly plate was crafted by Steve Jensen of Springfield, Missouri, a wonderful friend of the FFF, and a talented artist in creating fly plates for Councils all over the USA. The flyplate is part of our fund raising program so we may continue to support our affiliated clubs in their conservation and education programs. The "Authors of the Northwest" fly plate will be auctioned at the Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave in Ellensburg, May 3, 2008.



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Conclave Vendors

One of the benefits of attending the Ellensburg Conclave is the opportunity to interact with your favorite fly shop, visit with fly fishing product vendors and chat with outdoor enthusiast organizations. Here is a list of shops, guides, vendors and organizations that have already committed to be at the Conclave:

All About the Fly, Monroe, WA; Black Heron Fly Fishing, Longview, WA; Emerald Water Anglers LLC, Seattle, WA; Evening Hatch, Ellensburg, WA; Kaufmann's Streamborn Inc., Seattle, WA; Kaufmann's Streamborn Inc, Bellevue, WA; Red's Fly Shop & Guide Service, Ellensburg, WA; The Avid Angler, Lake Forest Park, WA; Wasatch Custom Angling Products, Sequim, WA; Yakima River Fly Shop, Cle Elum, WA; Spirit River, Inc., Roseburg, OR; Worley-Bugger Fly Co., Ellensburg, WA; Wild River Guide Service, Dillingham, AK; 3 Lakes Fly Fishing, Kettle Falls, WA; Fish On Custom Fly Rods, Ellensburg, WA; Extreme Adventures; Casting for Recovery, LaConner, WA; Coastal Conservation Association, Bothell, WA; Kittitas County TU; Project Healing Waters, Olympia, WA; Washington Rivers Conservancy.

If your favorite shop, vendor, or organization is not on the list, consider contacting them and inquire if they plan to attend. If they are sitting on the fence about attending, contact from you, a member of the FFF and the fly fishing community at large, may tip them over the edge. If they are already committed, then congratulate them on a wise decision.

See you in cowtown on May 3rd.

Northwest Fly Fishing Events for 2008

April 5 Puget Sound Fly Fishers Auction @ Tacoma Elks Club, Tacoma WA
www.psff.org

April 17 Northwest Fly Anglers Garage Sale @ Haller Lake Community Center, Seattle WA
www.northwestflyanglers.org

April 18-19 East Idaho Fly Tying & Fishing Expo @ Shilo Inn, Idaho Falls, ID
www.srcexpo.com

May 3 Washington State Council FFF Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave @ Kittitas Valley Events Center, Ellensburg WA
www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

July 19-20 Metolius River Fly Fishing & Bamboo Rod Fair @ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman OR
www.campshermanstore.com

July 22-26 FFF 43rd International Show and Conclave, Whitefish MT
www.fedflyfishers.org

November 1 Pacific Northwest Fly Tying Rendezvous @ Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, OR
www.nwflytyers.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.



Lake Lenore is filled with olive scuds



Another Cool Fly Plate

First Edition Club Fly

Plate Produced by The Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers

This is another opportunity of a lifetime—a chance to win the first ever Club Fly Plate. In a stroke of pure genius, brilliant insight and sheer luck, Carl Johnson, President of the WSCFFF suggested that the Council organize a club fly plate. The concept was incredibly simple—develop a fly plate that would recognize the fly fishing clubs in our state, then raffle that plate in order to raise money to support the Council and its programs.

We asked each club to provide a fly; the only caveat was it had to be tied by a club member. The clubs were given free rein as to what fly they could submit, how the fly was selected and so on.

Most clubs opted to conduct a contest within the club asking members to tie the club's logo or signature pattern.

We received some wonderful works of art which then crafted into a fly plate by Steve Brocco of Issaquah. The fly plate was first displayed at The Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue last February and has since traveled around the state to various other fly fishing and outdoor shows.

It will be raffled at the Ellensburg event on May 3, 2008. Tickets are \$1.00 each and may be purchased from any Board member. This is a great opportunity to win a one-of-a-kind work of art that can be displayed on your favorite wall at home for only \$1. You need not be present to win so be sure to buy your raffle tickets.

Conservation

By Kevin Ryan, VP Conservation

As the new WSCFFF Conservation VP, my focus for the past year has been making contact with the conservation chairs of affiliated clubs in the state and trying to share useful information on conservation related issues. At least, I hope you conservation chairs have found it useful.

My experience as conservation chairman for my local club for a number of years suggests that it is difficult for clubs, acting on their own, to conceive, fund, and complete meaningful conservation projects. The successes we had came largely from working with other entities, such as city and county governments and, in our case, local Salmon Enhancement Groups. With that in mind, most of my effort in the past year has been directed at sharing information with the state's affiliated clubs and in attempting to facilitate coordination and cooperation among us all. I would like you all to know what is going on at the Federation that affects us, so I pass on information from the Federation Conservation Coordinator, Leah Elwell.

This has included information about various grant monies available for projects. I do urge clubs to take advantage of grants and other sources of funding because this can really multiply our own efforts at raising money. There seems to be a lot of money to address environmental problems from public and private sources and we should have our share. Those monies coupled with what clubs raise through their auctions and the labor club members donate can be means by which some

really good things can be accomplished. Coming up with a useful and meaningful project is often one of the hardest parts. That is where public and quasi-public entities can be helpful. Check with your Conservation districts, Salmon Enhancement Groups, city natural resources departments, and the like, for ideas. We also want to help each other. The Methow Valley Fly Fishers wanted to install an aerator at Big Twin Lake to minimize winter kill. Without getting into detail about all the obstacles they had to overcome, permitting delays by WDFW and Dept of Natural Resources caused the costs to exceed their ability to pay. They appealed to the Council for some funds. The Council voted \$500 for the project and asked other clubs to chip in as well. In a show of solidarity, several clubs did and I believe the project will be completed soon. This sort of cooperation among clubs is something we want to foster and I see it as part of my job to spread the word.

To that end, I have passed on information about various environmental threats, included mining proposals that threaten Bristol Bay in Alaska and the Green River in Cowlitz County. I've passed on information about invasive species initiatives from the Federation, the latest being the spread of some really noxious stuff, called *didymosphenia geminata*. I have also shared with you some developments in the legislative and governmental worlds and invited your contacting your legislators and congressional representatives from time to time. If enough of us do that, we will have a positive impact. Besides, it's therapeutic to get some things off your chest and be heard.

If you couldn't make it to the Fly Tying Expo this year, I hope you can next year. You'll like it. In between hook binding sessions, Walt Wittgow, Irv Conner, Terry Zeitner and

(Continued on page 5)

Bill Vincent of the Olympic Fly Fishers, Steve Bush and Glenn Woodhouse of the Clearwater Fly Casters, Myron Saikewicz of the Puget Sound FF and the South Sound FF, Jesse Scott of the Evergreen FFC, Bill McKay of the Overlake FFC, and myself (I hope I didn't leave anyone out) met for lunch and a chat about our conservation activities. Bill Vincent explained the "Trout Bill" which is a proposal that would fund WDFW's efforts to improve non-anadromous trout fishing in the state by means of a trout fishing license surcharge. Take a look at the draft. It should be on the Council website. The bill has a sponsor, Rep. Maralyn Chase, 32nd District, but she would like to know of your support before she introduces it next session. This is another opportunity to work together to get positive results. Her contact is 18560 1st Ave. NE, Ste E-750, Shoreline, WA, 98155.

In addition, at our meeting we shared some of our techniques for working conservation projects, which, again, were cooperation with various public "lead" agencies and with each other. For example, Myron Saikewicz is Conservation Chair for both the (Olympia South Sound FF) and the Tacoma club (Puget Sound FF). This arrangement results in certain efficiencies for both clubs and enhances cooperation on projects.

I will continue to pass on items of interest. Keep in touch and work together.

Conclave Casting

By Don Simonson and Kip Keener

Our Conclave this year will provide a variety of fly casting opportunities. Whether you are just getting started in fly fishing or an experienced angler you will find that our casting schedule will provide a multitude of clinics, games, and competition. We hope that this will meet your needs and hold your interest.

First and foremost is the emergency casting cline where our FFF certified casting instructors will work with you to improve your casting skills whether it is a basic or advanced task. We are also offering a beginning casting class, women's only casting class taught by women, individual casting lessons, and an advanced class in dealing with wind conditions like those that occur in the spring on our lakes and rivers.

If you are just interested in testing you casting skills we will offer the Danish Games which is a series of casting stations where each contestant executes several different fishing casts.

Our 5-wt. Competition event will test your accuracy and distance skills. There will be both individual and team competition.

We hope you will join us on May 3rd and take part. You can register by completing and mailing the fly or using the WSCFFF web site

Officers and Directors

The State Council will announce the officer and director slate at the May 3 Annual Meeting. It's not too late for you to toss your favorite fishing hat into the ring if you are interested in serving your fellow fly fishers.

The Board is actively seeking to diversify and enlarge Board membership. We want representatives from all ages, not just old folks. We want more woman on the Board. We want people who are willing to express opinions, even if those opinions are the minority. We want voices of reason, voices of passion and voices of passionate reason.

I just returned from visiting Washington, D.C., with my two twenty-something daughters. The FDR Memorial was particularly moving as it abundantly revealed how much we all gain when principled people take an impassioned stand.

Being on the Board allows you the opportunity to provide guidance and direction to a sport that we all love. Being on the Board allows you to participate in the accomplishments instead of merely sitting on the sidelines, perhaps grumbling that "somebody ought to do something about that." Contact Carl Johnson if you want to be that somebody.



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Feed The Savage Beast

Local Ellensburg food merchants will offer Conclave participants and attendees a full day of food and beverage services at the Event Center. Cascade Mountain Grilling will have both breakfast and lunch-

time offerings at their "Chuckwagon" which will be located just outside the main event buildings. There you may purchase morning coffee and breakfast sandwiches, as well as hamburgers, hot dogs, and more for lunch.

Most significantly, we have selected Rodeo City Bar-B-Q as our caterer for the evening banquet. You will be able to enjoy a buffet selection of barbequed pork ribs, tri-tip

steak, and chicken with an assortment of side dishes. The banquet cost is \$35. Please reserve early to assure your banquet seat(s). Moreover, there will be a no-host bar set up in the banquet area prior to the banquet. Come and partake!

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Fly of the Season

Ah, Spring. It's that time of year when leaves bud, robins begin to build their nests under the eaves on my shade porch, dandelions spring forth full grown and my lawn needs mowing every time the rain stops. Those telltale signs can only mean one thing—it's time to start bobber fishing (err, I mean chironomid fishing.)

Fishing chironomids often requires special tactics, patience and two anchors to keep the boat from swinging in the spring breeze. Two flies on long, long leaders under a strike indicator (nee bobber) are the usual drill. The leader should be just long enough to almost touch bottom, the fly suspended to imitate the pupa as it ever so slowly makes it way up from the depths. Think-

Goldilocks. Move it to fast and the fish conclude fraud. Move it too slow and I fall asleep no matter how much caffeine fills my veins. Move it just right and it's "fish on."

There are those who swear that chironomid patterns are the cat's pajamas. Those are usually the anglers hauling in fish after fish while those around them are heard muttering unkind comments about ancestry and such. Others simply swear at them, refusing to stoop to such seemingly unsporting tactics. Those are usually the anglers that have tried chironomids but didn't haul in fish after fish and declared such tactics akin to "worm fishing." They are correct.

Although it looks like a mosquito, the chironomid is not a mosquito. Of

the insect order *diptera* (the only latin used in this newsletter), the chironomid is nothing more than a segmented worm-like trout food. When the larva turn into pupa and begin their undulating rise to the lake surface, the trout start gobbling them like my daughter eats M&M's



while at the movies. Think about this, When in Rome...



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