



Covering The Drift

Volume 13, Number 3

Published Quarterly
www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

April 2009
Editor: David Williams

Leaders Line

Board's Work

By Carl Johnson, President

On May 1 and 2, your Washington State Council will hold its Fly Fishing Fair, a two day event, at the Kittitas County Event Center (Fairgrounds) in Ellensburg. The Fly Fishing Fair will begin on Friday at Noon and end at 6:00 pm. Saturday we will start at 8:00 am and end at 5:00 pm. The cost is \$5.00 or free for FFF members or under 16. Check our web page: www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/2009FlyFairFrameset.htm.

On Saturday, the Annual Meeting dinner, in Umtanum Hall, starts at 6:00 pm.. The cost for the dinner to the public is \$35. Dinner tickets for event participants (tyers, seminar presenters, class teachers and volunteers) are only \$25. Please make your dinner reservation by April 26th so we can get an accurate count.

The Annual Meeting will consist of announcing the Council's slate for open Board positions and presenting a few Council awards. The silent auction will close and what promises to be a lively live auction will begin. The purpose of this event, in addition to having a good time, is raising funds so your Council can continue its work. With those purposes in mind, we have great raffle and auction items available. Live and silent auction items include: a complete set of Wasatch tying tools, guided trips like steelheading on the Methow, fly rods and other items. Donations are always welcomed. Please contact Larry Gibbs, our Auction/ raffle chairman.

We have just finished a successful show season, with the Council participating in the Washington Sportsman's Show in Puyallup, the Great Western Sportfishing Show in Spokane and the Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue. We met many fly fishers at these shows and hope to see them in Ellensburg.

February 7, 2009 Meeting Bellevue Washington

SB 5421 Rollie Schmitt, former director of NMFS and Irv Conner, former WSC VP-Membership presented information on a bill to establish an upper Columbia River steelhead stamp to raise money for enhancing selective fisheries.

Membership Renewal Notices

The FFF did not send any renewal notices to WSC members whose membership expired. Board Member Gibbs will prepare and mail expiration reminder postcards as we do not want to lose any of the faithful.

Fly Fishing Fair Publicity We discussed various methods of getting maximum publicity for the event, including contacting newspaper outdoor writers.

The Board meets four times a year. The February meeting is in Bellevue on Saturday after The Fly Fishing Show. The May meeting coincides with the Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. We also meet in July and November in Ellensburg. The choice to meet in Ellensburg is not random. We meet at the Rodeo City Barbecue, just a few blocks south of the spot marking the geographic center of the state. Many of the board members come a day early or stay a day late to fish the Yakima or other local water. Great excuse to fish while helping the sport we all love.

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**Fly Fishing Fair Demo
Tiers**

The Fly Fishing Fair's schedule of demonstrating fly tiers offers nearly 100 very gifted tiers, sharing their talents and skills with those wishing to listen and learn. This year's group is exceptional, with a diverse background and skill set.

Watch Buzz Buszek Award winners Al Beatty, Bruce Staples and Henry Hoffman, and Washington Hall of Fame Flytiers John M. Newbury and Harry Lemire.

See Tak Shimizu, from Edmonton, Alberta, make Blind Eyed Atlantic Salmon Fly Hooks from piano wire.

Gifted tier Mark Romero, and his wife, Misako Ishimura, who is also a Captain of the Japanese International Flyfishing team will attend. There will be Sam Matalone, from Texas, showing us all how to make Bass Poppers.

Karen Royer will be tying fishable realistics that look so good, you might see one crawl off and fly away. Talented Scott Peters, with many, many years of Alaskan experiences, will be present to share his patterns and knowledge. Also from the North Country are Canadians Paul Jacobsen (tube flies), Kirk Daley (tandem streamers), and Wally

Nowak (deer hair patterns) and Trevor Nowak (Spey and Dee Wings). Be sure to ask questions and learn about this angling paradise.

Atlantic Salmon Fly tiers will be present to work their magic and reel you in. Here are some noted tiers to be present; Glenn Wilson, John Olschewsky, Steve Brocco, Larry Nicholas, Vern Jeremica, James Ferguson, and Byron Bjerke.

Leonard Gross will show us all how to tie, "itsy, bitsy" dry flies. Gretchen Beatty will be sharing her dry fly mastery.

Randy Diefert will be demonstrating his Liquid Larva Lace nymphs techniques.

Northwest authors/tiers that will be present are Lory Watkins, Preston Singletary, and Bruce Staples.

Jack Cook will be teaching classes, and when not, will be sharing his knowledge of tube flies with those attending the Fair. Jim Johnson, will be on hand from Montana.

The Williams Brothers, Michael and David, will share their expertise with you covering many types of fishing, including warmwater for spiny rays.

Other noted tiers to be in attendance are: Bob Bates, Carolyn Sells, Bud Frasca, Aaron Culley, Gary Barnes, Jim Fisher, John Kimura, Janet Schimpf, Marlon Rampy, and Leland Miyawaki.

This collection of tiers covers the waters of Washington, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, California, Texas, Arkansas, New York, Alaska, and Canada. With all this talent, and demographic diversity, there really is no limit to the knowledge to be gleaned. See you all in Ellensburg on May 1 and 2.

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**Fly Fishing Fair Fly
Tying Skills Classes**

Come to the Fair and take a class that will solve a bugaboo tying problem. Or take a class that will educate and enlighten. The cost is minimal and FFF members get a price break. (Just one more reason to join FFF)

- Antique Angler**—Darrel Martin
- Steelhead Tube Flies**—Jack Cook
- Bass Poppers**—Sam Matalone
- Setting Wings on Spey and Dee Flies**—Byron Bjerke
- Micro Patterns**—Leonard Gross
- Thread @#%^&*? Management**—Vern Jeremica
- Beginning Fly Tying**—Dick Lange
- Tying Tips and Tricks**—Michael T. Williams
- Dubbing Demystified**—Michael T. Williams

For a complete description and to register for a class go to
www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/2009FlyFairFrameset.htm

Fly Fishing Fair Food

Cascade Mountain Grilling will again provide grub from their chuckwagon located just outside the building housing all the fly crafters. Expect the same tempting lunch fare of hamburgers and hotdogs with tons of grilled onions. For those who skipped breakfast in order to be first in line for an auction bidding number, don't despair. You can get coffee and breakfast sandwiches as well.

**Northwest Fly Fishing
Events for 2009**

May 1-2 Washington State Council FFF Washington State Fly Fishing Fair @ Kittitas Valley Events Center, Ellensburg WA
www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

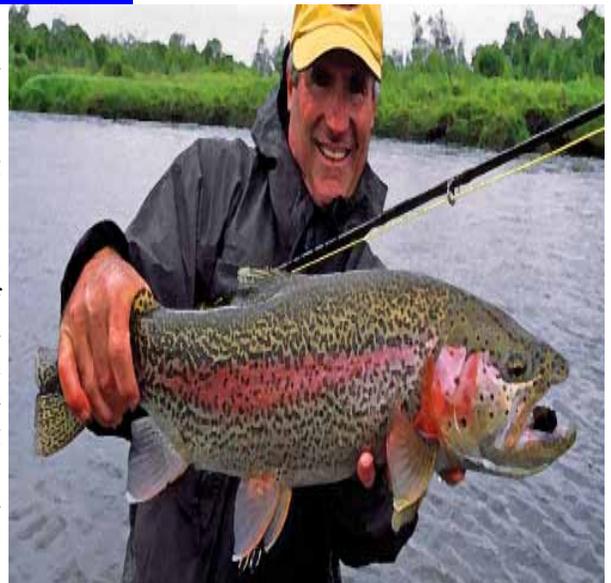
July 18-19 Eighth Annual Metolius River Fly Fishing and Bamboo Rod Fair @ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman, OR
www.campshermanstore.com

July 28-August 1 FFF 44th International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave @ Loveland CO
www.fedflyfishers.org

September 19 North Umpqua Fall Fly Tying Festival @ Glide Community Center, Glide OR
www.uvff.org

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

Just another teensy Alaska 'bow
Photo by Brian O'Keefe



Fly Fishing Fair Casting Competition and Classes

- Danish Games Assistance**—Dick Raisler and Fidalgo Fly Fishers
- Danish Games**—Competition and non-competition
- 5 Weight Competition Workshop**—Don Simonson and Kip Keener
- 5 Weight Team and Individual Competition**—Don Simonson and Kip Keener
- Beginning Fly Casting**—John Olson and others
- Beginning Casting for Women Taught By Women**—Judy Graham and others
- River Specialty Casts**—Don Simonson
- Casting in Wind Conditions**—Don Simonson
- Introduction to Spey Casting**—Aaron Reimer
- Emergency Casting Clinic**—John Olson and others

For a complete description and to register for a class go to www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/2009FlyFairFrameset.htm

Fly Fishing Fair Free Seminars

- Just when you thought there couldn't be more cool stuff at the Fair—guess what? There's more and it's free. Here is a list of the free seminars.
- Alaska On The Cheap**—Brian O'Keefe tells how to fish Shangri-La without selling your soul.
- Fly Fishing Photography** – Ed Sozinho and Earl Harper will show you how to get better shots of your catch.
- How to Fish Lakes** – Tom Schrier will present a primer for beginners and new techniques for old hands.

- Fly Fishing the South Fork Snake River** – Lee Davison, guide and master casting instructor, covers this wonderful cutthroat fishery.
- Fishing the Klamath Basin** – Marlon Rampy, Chief Guide for Lonesome Duck Lodge will show you the ins and outs of the famed area around the Klamath River.
- The Olympic Peninsula** – Doug Rose, author and guide, will cover the how to and where to of the Peninsula.
- Western Washington Fishing**—Shannon Carroll, Emerald Water guide reveals Westside fishing opportunities.
- Smallies in Washington** – David Williams, author and smallmouth bass guy will spill his guts about Washington smallies.
- Fishing Dry on the Beaches of Puget Sound** – Leland Miyawaki will present a program on fishing his famous popper for searun cutthroat and salmon.
- Fly Fishing Yellowstone Park Back Country**—Bruce Staples, author and experienced angler gives the scoop on Yellowstone Park.

Fly Fishing Fair Lodging

- Best Western Lincoln Inn and Suites**
211 W Umptanum Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-925-4244
The Best Western is the Headquarters Hotel with a block of reserved rooms. Please make your reservations early.
- Quality Inn and Conference Center**
1700 Canyon Road
Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-925-9800
- Ellensburg Super 8 Motel**
1500 Canyon Rd.
Ellensburg, WA 98926
P: 509-962-6888

To reserve camping sites at the Fair, contact the WSCFFF.

Fly Fishing Fair Fishing Opportunities

Lower Yakima Smallmouth
By Jason Boitano and Jack Mitchell The Evening Hatch
The pride of the lower Yakima river is smallmouth. It is a known predator and great game fish. Catching smallmouth on a fly is a fun excursion and the lower Yakima has a good resident population as well as a migration of smallies that enter the river during late Spring from the Columbia to spawn. The smallmouth have an ample food source which includes the out migrating fall Chinook fry, crayfish, and leeches as well as aquatic and terrestrial insects. The best of the best for early season smallmouth is April 1 - May 30. The lower Yakima is affected in clarity due to run-off during the month of May. For all practical purposes, the best of the smallmouth fishing is from Benton City to Horn Rapids and from Horn Rapids to the Harrington road access.

- Other Fisheries during the month of May (Most rivers are closed until the general opener, June 1)
- Rocky Ford Creek
- Wilson Creek (near Wilbur)
- Crab Creek
- Upper Columbia River
- Basin Lakes



Fly Fishing Fair Fishing Opportunities Redux

Upper Yakima River

By Jim Gallagher Yakima River Fly Shop

Above the town of Cle Elum, the river flows through the conifers and cottonwoods of the eastern slopes of the cascades. Here there are plentiful log jams and deep holes with a fine gravel bottom, perfect spawning habitat for trout and salmon. East of town, the river flows through the beautiful upper canyon where the rain shadow effects of the cascades gives way to arid farmlands near the town of Thorp. Influenced by recent glaciers, the river channel is portrayed by clear, oxygenated flows, boulders, riffles and long runs. Add a solid insect population and a bunch of Chinook salmon to this equation and results are some pretty large rainbows and cutthroats.

When the air temperature warms in late March, the mayflies become active. Several different species of mayflies can be found throughout spring and into early summer. On warm spring days, be prepared to see March brown duns, mahoganies, blue wing olives and/or baetis, possibly all on the same day

As spring advances into early summer, more insects appear. Add golden stones, mother's day caddis, flying ants, beetles, grey drakes and salmon flies to the mix of mayflies."

Conservation Project Update

By Jerry McBride

Selective Gear Rules Signage Ten signs for Region 2 giving selective gear regulations in English, Spanish and Ukrainian were cosponsored by your Council with fly clubs and individuals.. Eight of the signs were installed several years ago. Recently, the Dry Side Fly Fishers



from Moses Lake installed the last two signs at locations on the northern end of Lenore Lake. They had already sponsored and installed two signs so this brings their total of installations to four. Hats off to the Dry Side Fly Fishers

Chopaka Lake Fish Fund The balance of this fund was used to purchase 300 two-and-a-half pound triploids which were planted in Lake Lenice.

Fly Fishing Fair Fishing Opportunities x3

Grasslands

By Steve Worley Worley-Bugger Fly Shop

The "Grasslands", a six mile run of the Yakima from the Thorp Diversion Dam to the KOA offers a wide variety of fly casting challenges. Braided channels, islands, seam structure, log jams, eddies and other ornamentals offer a variety to your day. Floating this section of river also allows access to these river channels on foot leaving the comfort of the drift boat behind. It creates a small intimate challenge that most time will reap a bountiful reward.

The March Browns, perhaps the rivers most prolific spring mayfly emergence, prefer the shallow riffles and smaller river rock cobble that is predominate in this section of the river. Each afternoon this area of the Grasslands will produce thick, dense clouds of this beautiful mayfly in April and May. Crane-flies form and burrow along grassy, soft banks which are also abundant in the Grasslands. Giant Salmonflies thrive in the Thorp area of the river and are generally found hatching in mid May.

Wade fishers can access the area by the John Wayne Trail. Float fishers should contact KOA (509) 925-9319. Shuttles are also available.

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Please support your local FFF member fly shops, businesses and guides. They support you.

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

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

Black Heron Fly Shop
1060 14th Avenue Longview, WA (360) 575-3970
Website: www.blackheronflyshop.com

Desert Fly Angler, LLC
1656 Basin St SW, Ephrata, WA 98823 (509) 754-4070
Email: desertfly@gcpower.net

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

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

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

Kaufmann Streamborn-Seattle
1911 4th Avenue Seattle WA 98101 (206) 448-0600
Website: kmansettl@gmail.com

Red's Fly Shop & Guide Service,
PO Box 186, Ellensburg, WA, 98926-0186, (509) 929 - 1802,
Email: sjoyce63@yahoo.com

Silver Bow Fly Shop
13210 E Indiana, Spokane Valley, WA 99216, (509) 925-9080
Website: www.silverbowflyshop.com

Swiftwater Sports
17703 15th Avenue NE, Seattle, WA (206) 547.3377
Website: www.swiftwatersports.com

The Avid Angler,
17171 Bothell Way NE Ste A130, Lake Forest Park, WA, 98155, (206) 362 - 4030,
Website: www.avidangler.com

The Evening Hatch,
2308 Yakima River Canyon Road, Ellensburg, WA 98926 (509)-962-5959
Email: info@theeveninghatch.com

3Lakes Fly Fishing
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- Senior Membership (\$25) for those age 65 and over
- Individual Life (\$500) payment plans available
- Family Membership (\$45) spouses and children under 14
- Couple Life (\$750) pymt. plans available
- 3-Year Family Member (\$100) small fishing equipment stores
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- Retail Membership (\$75)
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Fly of the Season

Buzzers. That’s what our cousins from across the salt call them because of the way they skitter about the surface after emerging. We call them chironomids, chronnies, and ‘mids. Fish call them food. Even your editor carries a few TDC’s when fishing lakes, but will only use them under cover of darkness and then only on a sinking line behind another real fly, like a woolly bugger. (Make a note—that combination works quite well at Dry Falls.)

Properly referred to as *chironomidae*, this fish food numbers 5000 species, over 700 of which are found in North America—roughly the same number that swarm around a propane lantern while you’re trying to cook a late dinner in July at

Chopaka Lake. If you’ve done it, you know exactly what I mean.

These true flies range in size from darn small, best imitated by wishful thinking, to pretty dang big, best imitated by a size 8. Most tend towards the wishful thinking end of the spectrum, though somehow the fish see them.

Some say Nation’s Black, of BC’s Bill Nation fame was the first “named” chironomid pattern. Dick Thompson’s TDC has tricked generation after generation of trout. Jack Shaw, Jim Kilburn and Tom Murray spurred development of new and effective patterns.

More patterns show up almost daily, the scale perhaps limited only by the number of people tying. A current favorite (which may or may not be new) is Kelly Davison’s Ice Cream Cone.

Tied in sizes 10 through 18, this

pattern imitates deep water chironomid pupae. Afficionado’s will dangle up to twenty-plus feet of leader under a bobber, in an effort to plumb the stillwater depths. Allegedly this tactic is highly effective, though some fly fishers question whether much like running a fly rod off a downrigger, it qualifies as “fly fishing.” Far be it from me to stir on the pot on that point. I’ll simply note that Lake Lenore Lahontan’s love ice cream..



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