



Covering The Drift

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Editor: David Williams

Leaders Line

Board's Work

By Carl Johnson, President

I hope that everyone had a good summer of fishing. I spent a few days on the water this summer—enough that it is starting to approach what I thought I would be doing when I retired. My fishing included the Upper Columbia with a Board member where I landed a 24 inch rainbow on a dry fly. I also fished the Clark Fork River with some Board members and fly club members several days, along with three wonderful days on the Big Horn on my way to the FFF Conclave. At Conclave, I was proud to present, along with Bob

Jacklin, the FFF's highest fly tying award, the Buz Buszek Award, to **J o h n N e w b u r y .** CONGRATULATIONS JOHN! Along the way, I realized the people are what I remember most of my fishing trips—not the fish.

Here's the highlight of my summer fishing. Ed Nicholson, retired Navy Captain and founder of Project Healing Waters, and other retired Navy folks have fished the Clark Fork for several years. . This year I offered to take two people in my boat. Ed scheduled two Project Healing Waters participants. Jesse, a Viet Nam veteran, had never caught a fish. Shaun, who lost both legs in Iraq, had fished before and said he'd never had a day without a fish. The pressure was on. Fortunately Shaun caught a cuttbow on a hopper. Jesse, on the other hand, missed everything that took his hopper. Using a nymph under a bobber, he missed the first few fish, then finally set the hook. Almost boated, it came unbuttoned on the third run. Jesse was disappointed to say the least. We were close to the take out by this time so Jesse did not get another chance. I had a great day spending it with these two gentlemen. If you are interested in getting involved with PHW please contact Chuck Ty at cmtye@comcast.net . Mark your calendar for April 30 and May 1 for the 2010 Washington State Fly Fishing Fair.

August 22, 2009 Meeting Ellensburg

Abstract of Board Meeting Minutes
Carl Johnson,, President, welcomed all new and returning board members and officers, then reported on Conclave happenings, including the decision to not renew the contract of the current CEO. Of special note—John Newbury received the Buz Buszek Award.

Carl asked Ray Willms to research past winners of the Fly Tiers Hall of Fame Award.

Officers Ray Willms (VP-West), John Newbury (VP-East), Dan Ferguson (VP-Membership); David Williams (Secretary); Dick Mattaei (Treasurer); Bob Bates (VP-Communications); Don Bolstad (VP-Conservation); and Mike Clancy (Government Affairs Chair) all gave reports. The Treasurer's report was particularly well done. Mike Clancy also reported on the Fly Fishing Academy which he will co-chair in 2010.

The Council will have booth space at the same show venues as 2009 and add the Tri-Cities show.

The Fly Fishing Fair will be held in Ellensburg April 30-May 1, 2010 with reconfigured tying tables, casting games and competition and expanded seminars.

At the next board meeting, October 10, 2009, we will discuss and approve the 2010 Annual Budget and the Fly Fishing Fair budget.

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**John Newbury
Award Winner**



Award Winner John Newbury, flanked by Bob Jacklin (l) and Carl Johnson Photo by Lory Watkins

From: The Spokesman Review Sunday August 16, 2009 By Rich Landers

Fly-tying standout John Newbury of Chewelah had some dark days on his way to the national spotlight. In the early 1980s he'd become a bona fide fish-aholic who packed his float tube and fly-fishing gear to some 60 lakes a year throughout the region. He'd already developed a reputation as a fly tyer when disaster struck in 1983. With a cruel suddenness he was disabled by a central nervous system disorder known as rapid onset dysentia Parkinsonism. The disease confined the ultra-active outdoorsman to a bed for 18 months. It cost him his job as a math teacher as well as his marriage. It rendered him forever difficult to understand, laboring to speak as though his tongue is paralyzed.

While confined to his home, he turned to fly tying to pass the time,

doggedly searching for the fine motor skills that were fouled by muscle spasms and involuntary jerking and twitching.

"The results weren't pretty," he said. But he persevered, one feather, one wrap and one snip at a time, often to the midnight hours. His quest to create flies patterns with a meticulousness rivaling the Creator's was leading him out of his darkness.

By 1986, he was demonstrating his tying techniques at sportsmen's shows. Word spread and samples of his work got around. In 1989 Newbury was tying flies at a Federation of Fly Fishers international conclave seated between Lee Wulff and Gary Border. To the uninitiated, that's pretty much like being in the dugout between Babe Ruth and Lou Gehrig.

Fly tying became his new life, but despite living on a \$1,600-a-month disability income, he shunned tying commercially. Instead, he built an aviary and began raising his own exotic birds for feathers. He donated his talents and materials to classes and his exquisitely tied flies to museums and publications as well as to auctions that have helped raise funds for fly fishing education and conservation efforts.

In 2007, the Washington State Council of FFF created the Washington State Fly Tying Hall of Fame and named Newbury the first inductee. In 2008, he was honored by the national association with the Lew Jewett memorial life award for service to youth education, fly fishing innovation and significant contributions to the sport. Last month, he rose to the top of the international heap by receiving the FFF's Buz Buszek Memorial Award for significant contributions to the art of fly tying.

Not bad for a guy who, for several years as an adult, couldn't even tie his shoes.



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Ramblings of An Eternal Optimist

By David Williams

Seems like most every time a bunch of anglers get together, someone utters a gripe about something the Department of Fish & Wildlife did or didn't do. That gets the whole group going on about decisions made by the Department that the speaker opined were stupid, ineffective or downright disastrous.

The details of the gripe are not really important, if only because the gripe never gets to the source of the alleged problem—the Department. It stays around the campfire, to become part of the collective “that’s the way it is, and nothing can be done about it.” That’s bunk.

As any canny political pro knows, a core cadre of dedicated activists can accomplish much. Likewise a broad reach of sofa slugs does nothing but leave cheek-shaped depressions on the sofa. One of those self-help guys who’s now faded into oblivion, once said, either you have what want, or all the reasons why not.

Why not move into action? Why not contact the Department—it’s only a few clicks away or phone call away. (www.wdfw.wa.gov) Why not raise your gripe in an arena where it might do some good? WDFW has 34 citizens advisory boards. Why not volunteer? WDFW administrators are political animals fully capable of scenting and reacting to political winds. Be the wind. Get stuff done.

Northwest Fly Fishing Events for 2009 & 2010

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

November 7 Pacific Northwest Fly Tyers Rendezvous @ Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham OR
www.nwflytyers.org

January 15-17 Tri-Cities Sportsman Show@TRAC Pasco
www.shuylarproductions.com

January 27-31 Washington Sportsmen’s Show@Puyallup
www.otshows.com/shows.wss

February 20-21 The Fly Fishing Show @Bellevue
www.theflyfishingshow.com

February 27-28 Lower Umpqua Fly Casters Fly Fishing Expo@Reedsport OR
www.lufc.com

April 30-May 1, 2010 Washington State Council FFF Washington State Fly Fishing Fair @ Kittitas Valley Events Center, Ellensburg
www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

June 20 Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair & Casting Expo@Tye Park Monroe
www.jimmygreenflyexpo.com

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

July FFF 44th International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave @ Location TBD
www.fedflyfishers.org

Conservation Report

By Don Bolstad

This May, I accepted the nomination for the WSCFFF Conservation position. I am presently a member of the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers (WVFF) and a member of the FFF, TU and CCA. One of my first conservation efforts (picking up trash) was on the South Platte River in Littleton, Colorado. A career change took me to southeastern Louisiana where I became a member of the Pontchartrain Basin Fly Fishing Club (100% FFF). The PBFF started teaching children how to tie flies (yes, we tied Woolly Buggers) that led to invitations to teach at various wildlife functions, and exposed fly fishing to numerous children. Next came retirement and a move to Wenatchee to be near my wife's mother. Since joining the WVFF club four years ago, I have served as Conservation Chairman and First VP.

After accepting the Conservation nomination, I read through the back issues of *Covering the Drift* reading mainly the Conservation column written by Kevin Ryan. I believe that I have similar conservation beliefs as Kevin. We both believe in educating our children. We don't want to be seen as to push conservation. One of my new responsibilities is to pass on all conservation issues affecting our Washington state fly fishing clubs and fly fishing in general. In addition, the Conservation VP should support the individual WSC conservation projects like helping find funds to support their conservation projects.

As stated above, the PBFF club started off giving away flies tied by the Club members at local boat and fishing shows. This evolved into showing the kids and their parents how to tie their own flies. The next step was to actually let the kids tie their own flies. This became a big hit and our little club (~12 members) were hard pressed to provide tiers for each child. Soon, we were teaching kids to tie flies at Boy Scout Day Camps, Duck's Unlimited Green Teal events, Federal and State Wildlife Refuges, etc.

My conservation motto is that the 'fish come first'. Whether it is a conservation project, community outreach activity, or education, our goal is to involve our club members, and especially the children.

Before the newsletter editor trims away my message, I want to exchange names and contact information to each Washington State Fly Fishing club Presidents and/or Club Conservation/Out Reach Leads.



Dry Side Fly Fishers installing Selective Gear Regulations sign at Lake Lenore. Photo by Jim Randall

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I would appreciate hearing back from the various WA state clubs. With all the on-going salmon restoration activities, Public Utility Districts mandated to restore the Salmon and Steelhead runs, there are grant monies available. Even at the club level there may be funds for conservation projects available. The Washington State Council FFF has set aside TBD conservation funds. In addition, at the national level, the FFF has conservation monies. One of my most important jobs is to locate these money sources and match the money to your conservation ideas/projects.

Road Trippin' With John and Dan

By John Newbury

VP-Membership Dan Ferguson and I will be visiting eastern Washington fly clubs this fall. We plan to visit the Spokane Fly Fishers, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers, Yakima Fly Fishing Club and the Clearwater Fly Casters.

The purpose of our visit is to promote individual membership in the Federation and equally important, individual and club membership in the Washington State Council Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg April 30-May 1, 2010.

Editor's Note: If you are a member of a club not on the road trippin' list and would like John and Dan to visit, please contact either John or Dan directly (their contact info can be found on page 2 of this newsletter).

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Fly of the Season

October Caddis. Would that fly by any other name smell as sweet—or for that matter trick as many fish? Likely not if only because its very name is what reminds so many otherwise stuck-in-the-Prince-Nymph-under-a-bobber-routine anglers to rummage in the fly to locate one.

There is something almost primal about taking a fat trout on a high-floating giant dry fly. Just that thought almost makes me put my smallmouth and carp flies into storage. Almost.

Late September through October is prime time for trout to feed on these full meal bugs. Unlike the Mother’s Day caddis swarms of hatchlings, the fall variety makes up in weight what they lack in numbers. Even a few adults on the wa-

ter make the fish sit up and take notice. The observant angler does likewise.

October Caddis are easily recognized by size and color. At the time of year when most other hatches are Lilliputian in scale, these size 6 and 8 bugs mean even the most myopic trout (and angler) can score.

Most October Caddis have a one year life cycle, beginning by spinning tubular cases of vegetation. As they grow, case material changes to small gravel, prompting inventive fly tiers to build cased caddis patterns. In mid-summer, the larva *sans* cases often can be found drifting along, as if going for an afternoon swim, frequently terminated by a hungry fish. By the end of August, the survivors seal their cases, awaiting the call

to adulthood. On emerging, the adults sport Halloween pumpkin-colored bodies.

Like the Doublemint Twins doubling their fun, fly fishers can suspend a pupa pattern under that big feather ball. Drift that two-fly rig through a pod of Yakima or Deschutes river fish to entice two greedy trout to attach themselves. Now that would smell like a rose.



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