



# Covering The Drift

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## Leaders Line

## Board's Work

By Carl Johnson, President

It is mid December as I write and as many do this time of the year, I reflect on last year and look forward to this year. Last year was another good year for your Council. Some of the highlights that I remember from last year include the presentation of the Buz Buszek Memorial Award to John Newbury at the FFF Conclave in Loveland. The Buszek Award is the FFF's highest fly tying award and it was my privilege to join with Bob Jacklin, a previous Buszek Award winner, to honor John. If you are not familiar with the award, I

encourage you to visit the FFF webpage and look up the criteria under awards. While you're there also look at the previous winners, it is a very impressive list. John is the second winner from Washington; Boyd Aigner received the award in 1980.

Another highlight was the Council's Fly Fishing Fair last May. This was the first 2 day show that we have done for many years and it was well received. So many Council members from across Washington worked many long hours to make this event come together. I would like to thank everyone that helped make that event the success that it was. I look forward to 2010 and the promise it holds. This year the Council is holding our Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg on April 30<sup>th</sup> and May 1st.

I was also pleased with the decisions the FFF Board of Directors made during the conclave in Loveland last year. Two of the decisions involved cutting costs to the budget and electing to stay in Livingston, MT. In August 2010 the FFF Conclave will be in West Yellowstone, Montana. I am looking forward to attending both the Fly Fishing Fair and the Conclave.

The Fly Fishing Fair, in addition to being wonderful event, is the Council's main source of funds. Currently we receive no money

### October 10, 2009 Meeting Ellensburg

Abstract of Board Meeting Minutes  
Carl Johnson,, President, welcomed all officers, board members and guests, then shuffled the agenda to accommodate board member schedules.

The Fly Fishing Fair was the major topic. Mike Alfe will create online registration content. Bob Bates will be his board contact. Mike Clancy is the RV and camping person. David Williams is the seminar guy. Pat Peterman will handle hotel. Carl Johnson is the booth contact. Don Simonson and Kip Keener are the casting co-chairs. Vicki Hoagland and Dan Ferguson are fly tying co-chairs. Carla Ferguson will make Friday night dinner magic.

Carl raised the issue of allowing clubs to become more involved in the Fair. The Evergreen, Alpine, Puget Sound, Wenatchee Valley and Fidalgo clubs have already volunteered

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 next meeting will be by conference call since The Flyfishing Show was cancelled.

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**Leader's Line,  
continued**



from the FFF from membership dues, so I encourage all of you to put April 30th and May 1st on your calendar and plan to be in Ellensburg. As you can imagine it takes a lot of people to successfully put on an event like this. We need all the help we can get. If you would like to volunteer to help make the Fly Fishing Fair a success, please contact any Council Board member.

Finally, as I think about last year and look toward 2010 I think about what I enjoy so much about being President of this great Council. By far the best part of the job is the people that I have met. I've met so many people, both with the Council and around the FFF. It is the people that have made the hard work worth it. I hope that everyone has a great 2010, has many memories of wonderful fishing trips and of course, of the Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg.

This year the terms of 10 of our board members will expire. I know that a few of the board members will not be returning. Ray Willms, VP West will be moving out of state and

Dick Matthaei wants to take a break from being treasurer. They may be a few others that I not aware of yet. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the Board, please contact any board member.

**Help Wanted**

Your Board wants you. Your Board needs you. Your Board loves you. (All crooned to Elvis Presley's *I want you, I need you, I love you.*) Seriously, your Board does need you.

In 2010, ten board members and officers positions will become vacant, either because terms are expiring or in Ray Willms case, he is moving to Montana. In order to keep the momentum generated over the last four years by participating in numerous fly fishing and outdoor shows, as well as the fabulous Fly Fishing Fair, your Board needs enthusiastic, willing-to-work volunteers. To replace Ray, we need someone from a Westside club, like South Sound or Clark-Skamania or Fidalgo to stand for election. Those clubs are specifically mentioned because they are not represented on the Board and their perspective and wisdom is needed.

Your Board needs someone to take over the Treasurer spot from Dick Matthaei who has the books in stellar condition. Someone from the Tri-Cities or the new Charter club from Walla Walla would be perfect. Your Board has four meetings—February, May (at the Fair), July and October—all in Ellensburg or by telephone conference call. Each meeting represents an opportunity to converse with others who share a common love of fly fishing and willingness to share that love with others. It's the perfect was to spend a Saturday. Come join us.

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**Ramblings of An  
Eternal Optimist**

By David Williams  
Lead. Loon. Not the usual sort of words that get an entire subset of anglers all fired up. What is it about those two four-letter words that galvanized national fishing equipment manufacturing organizations into intensely urging the Washington Fish & Wildlife Commission to reject a proposed fishing regulation? Especially when that regulation only affects 13 lakes, and was proposed and supported by WDFW staff.

The proposal: Ban certain types of lead sinkers and lead jigs on 13 Washington lakes where loons breed. The proponents argue that lead kills loons. The opponents say the research is flawed and loons eat fish, not stuff off the bottom. The debate on this specific proposal misses the mark. I note that no one can logically or scientifically argue that lead is good. Unleaded gas. Unleaded paint. Unleaded shotgun shells. "Nuff said.

I raise the point because I see the proposal as well as the one dealing with unclassified marine fish and invertebrates as a glimmer of hope that within WDFW, conservation and stewardship of natural resources may gain a foothold. That to some tiny degree, the concept of "you don't know what you've got 'til its' gone" is fading. As one WDFW manager stated, "this [proposal] represents a paradigm shift within the Department towards conservation." If you favor or oppose the paradigm shift, make your voice heard where it will make a difference. Contact the Department. (www.wdfw.wa.gov) Volunteer for an advisory board. Be proactive now.



**Northwest Fly Fishing  
Events for 2010**

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

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

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

March 5-7 Great Western Fishing Show Spokane WA  
www.marksmarineinc.com/sales/show\_info\_GW.aspx

March 12-13 Oregon Council FFF Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo@ Linn County Fairground Albany OR  
www.nwflytyerexpo.com

April 30-May 1 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

August 24-28 FFF National Fly Fishing Show (formerly known as Conclave) @ West Yellowstone, MT  
www.fedflyfishers.org

September 30-October 2 Southern Council Conclave@Mountain Home AR  
www.southernCouncil.org



## Conservation Report

By Don Bolstad

OLYMPIA - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will begin accepting grant applications Dec. 1 from individuals and groups seeking financial support for volunteer projects that benefit fish and wildlife. The one-year grants will support project activity occurring between July 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011.

Offered through the Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) Volunteer Cooperative Grant Program, the grants provide cost reimbursement for volunteer-driven projects that protect and enhance fish and wildlife, and their habitats, improve access to the outdoors, collect and disseminate fish and wildlife science, and educate the public about resource conservation. Project types include habitat restoration, research, education and outreach, facility development and artificial production. Other projects may be considered.

"We're interested in receiving proposals that utilize volunteers, reflect WDFW's goals and objectives and request funds to cover essential costs needed to conduct the project," said Josh Nicholas, program coordinator. Eligible applicants include individual citizens, non-profit organizations, state organizations such as public utility districts and schools (including universities), and tribal governments.

Total funding available is approximately \$180,000.

Applications must be received by Feb. 28, 2010. Application materials are available on

WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/grants/alea>.

A CD containing application materials is available by calling (360) 902-2700.

(Reprinted from WDFW News Release) Contact person is Josh Nicholas at (360) 902-2685

More money in the conservation pot can be found by contacting one of the Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups located throughout the state. These legislatively created program was created in 1990 for the purpose of gaining citizen involvement in the recovery and enhancement of salmon and steelhead and their habitats. Each of the 14 groups works in a specific geographic area defined by watershed boundaries, has its own board of directors, dictates its own priorities and directs its own projects. According to WDFW statistics from 1995 through 2008, the RFEG's have opened up 700 miles of spawning habitat by removing fish-passage barriers, repairing culverts and contributed more than 950,000 volunteer fish restoration hours. For more information, check this site [www.wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/rfeg/index.html](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/about/volunteer/rfeg/index.html).

And there's more sources of conservation funds. For example, the Recreation and Conservation Office "creates and maintains opportunities for recreation, protects the best of the state's wild lands, and contributes to the state's efforts to recover salmon from the brink of extinction." It oversees five boards including the Salmon Recovery Funding Board. Lest you think this is small potatoes, in Fiscal Year 2009, the Salmon Recovery Funding Board awarded \$42.8 million in grants to protect and restore salmon populations. The awards covered ten counties across the state.

For more information about sources of conservation funds, the sources of those funds and perhaps more importantly, the boards that control those funds, go to [www.wdfw.wa.gov/grants](http://www.wdfw.wa.gov/grants). Take a few moments to review the various board member's biographical information. If you believe that their philosophy and priorities match yours, then all is well. If you believe otherwise, then get off the

couch and get into action.

Conservation in action—Methow Valley Fly Fishers Little Twin Lake Solar Aerator

By Duncan Bronson

In 2006, MVFF was awarded a \$12,000 WDFW grant for installation of a shore powered aerator at Big Twin Lake. We were successful in raising \$5,000 from various WA fly clubs. These funds plus local contributions enabled us to complete the \$20,000 project. The carryover at Big Twin was most successful due to the effectiveness of the aerator system. Many WA clubs enjoyed some excellent fishing this year. This January, we will consider applying for a new grant. The grant request will be approximately \$20,000 for installation of a solar powered aerator on Little Twin Lake.

MVFF will be seeking some \$8,000 in contributions. We still have to apply for the grant but would like to know of other club support.

Contact person: Duncan Bronson, 509.966.3218 [Bronson@methownet.com](mailto:Bronson@methownet.com)



Would that they were all this big

**Fly Fishing Fair April  
30-May 1, 2010**

In what has rapidly become known as the best fly fishing show, your Washington Council is again bringing you a 2-day fly tying, fly casting, rod demonstration, fishing class, seminar, raffle, auction and Saturday night dinner/live auction extravaganza. Yep, all that in just two days April 30-May 1, 2010.

Fly Tying Co-Chairs Vicki Hoagland and Dan Ferguson are lining up 125 of the best and most diverse fly tiers that will demonstrate patterns for Alaska freshwater to Baja California saltwater, from Olympic Peninsula steelhead to Banks Lake carp and most every place and species in between. Come see Skip Morris demonstrate some of his pet patterns and learn how he makes the fish bite. Sit across the table from Steve Brocco or Harry Lemire—both members of the Washington Fly Tying Hall of Fame. Watch John Newbury or Bruce Staples—both Buszek Award winners—tie their pet patterns. See Karen Royer turn out her “so realistic its got to be alive” flies.

To get a sense of the artistry practiced in Ellensburg, go to [www.matalone.net/waff2009/index.htm](http://www.matalone.net/waff2009/index.htm).

Raffle King Larry Gibbs and his volunteer crew is hard at work gath-

ering cool raffle, spiffy silent auction and special live auction items. The raffle and auctions are fabulous ways to stone two birds with one toss—you get to add good stuff to your stash and support your Council so it can continue to do its good work for the greater fly fishing community.

As we all learned from Newton so many years ago, to every action there is an equal and opposite reaction. In the raffle world, this means if you have more of something than you need or something that you don't use, contact Larry Gibbs at [flytier015@msn.com](mailto:flytier015@msn.com).

Brian O'Keefe heads the list of the masters who will demonstrate what can be done with the long rod. Attendees will be able to test drive rods so they can find which ones they need to add to their quiver. The casting games have been redesigned this year with an eye towards increasing participation.

The Fair is not just about watching others—it includes several “how-to” classes. Do you want to tie hair patterns, but spinning hair remains a foreign concept? If so, Vicki Eagle Elk will teach your fingers what to do. Is dubbing a mystery? Michael T. Williams' class “Dubbing Demystified” is just for you. Did you score a new spey rod for Christmas and need to learn how to cast? Aaron Reimer teaches Spey Casting on the Yakima River. Red's Fly Shop is again teaching the Drift Boat Handling and Safety Class both Friday and Saturday.


Free. That's the price of all seminars at the Fly Fishing Fair. Last year's were so successful that we're doubling the number and adding new topics. Seminars will cover were to go, when to go, what to use and more. We expect to have most of the presenters back from last year and have added more topics and more speakers.

Tom Schreier taught lake fishing and will add an entomology presentation this year. Preston Singletary will do a Bull Trout presentation. Rod Griffin will cover Methow River steelhead and you might get him to talk about Methow resident trout as well. Skip Morris is on the bill and there will be something for saltwater beach fishers and warm water anglers as well.

For more info click on [www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org).



Last year Denny Wade attended Tom Schreier's How To Fish Lakes seminar, then nailed this fat rainbow using Tom's techniques. Your results may differ—you may catch a bigger fish!

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- 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
- Retail Membership (\$75)
- Youth Membership (\$15) for individual members under 14
- Sustaining Membership (\$200) commercial / manufacturing businesses

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# Fly of the Season

Pink Worm. It's a beaut, ain't it? Can't you just see it bobbing along downstream, just a few inches above the rock and cobble, drifting, undulating and twitching seductively towards the awaiting mouth of a mighty steelhead?

Fie on tradition. Swinging unweighted flies like the Purple Peril or Green Butt Skunk is just so 20th Century or so it would seem if the modern steelheader's fly box were closely examined. Or maybe not.

Could it be argued that the pink worm, rubber-leg stonefly nymph and mini-jig are actually a return to tradition? After all, steelhead are trout and trout eat worms and bugs—foods traditionally imitated by fly tossers.

Why feature the pink worm? Well,

there are two reasons. First, the guy who said he would send me samples of his new killer steelhead fly didn't. Second, I attended an all-day seminar sponsored by Steelhead U. (attendance was assuredly solely in the interest of science.) Every speaker stressed the importance of the pink worm in catching steelhead. I don't fish steelhead, preferring the more egalitarian species such as bluegill, smallmouth and carp, but have friends who insist on standing in cold water, making repeated casts, day after day in hopes for a "grab." And I feel it is my duty as a friend to a) not make fun of them, and b) do what I can to increase whatever miniscule chance they might have of accomplishing a "grab." Hence, featuring the pink worm.

However, please note that in keeping with past Fly of the Season col-

umns, no tying instructions are included. Nor are any how, where or when to fish tips mentioned. For such information, the steelheader will need investigate on his or her own. After all, tradition in fly fishing and column-writing must be observed.



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