



Covering The Drift

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Leaders Line

Board's Work

By Carl Johnson, President

It is mid-January as I write and as many do this time of the year it is a time to 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 Arnold Gingrich Memorial Award to Les Johnson at the FFF Conclave in West Yellowstone. In addition I was fortunate to receive a few awards last year also.

Another highlight was the Council's Fly Fishing Fair last May. This was our second 2-day show 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 2011 and the promise it holds. This year the Council is holding our Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg on April 29-30.

The Fair, in addition to being wonderful event, is the Council's main source of funds. Currently we receive no money from the FFF from membership dues, so I encourage all of you to put April 29th and 30th 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 2011 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 4 of our board members will expire. If you or anyone you know would be interested in joining the Board, please contact any board member. On to Ellensburg!

By David Williams, Secretary

On October 9, 2010 the Board met in Ellensburg. President Carl Johnson called the meeting to order. The big news from The National Fly Fishing Show is that all clubs that become part of the FFF after March 1, 2011 must consist wholly of FFF members. Current clubs are unaffected. National would like more information about club activities, particularly conservation projects for inclusion in the *FlyFisher* which will return to a quarterly publication schedule.

There was yet another lively discussion regarding the Council newsletter which is a large expense item. Board members were requested to review the draft communication to Council members and send their comments to David Williams. For revision.

Vice-President Education Pat Herdt is working several school districts to bring students to the Fly Fishing Fair.

Vice-President Conservation Don Bolstad would like constructive comments on how to increase conservation endowment funds. He is also developing a structured grant proposal process.

The 2011 Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg will feature Will Godfrey as auctioneer handling both the Friday "fun theme" and Saturday money raising auctions. Mike Clancy will handle the silent action. Work is underway on the April 29-30, 2011 event and donations are needed.

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It's All Happening At The Fair

By Vicki Hoagland, Fly Tying Chair
The Washington Fly Fishing Fair has quickly gained momentum as one of the best shows celebrating the sport and art of fly fishing and fly tying. Whether you're looking for an opportunity to learn, improve or share knowledge about anything and everything fly fishing, you will inevitably accomplish all three at this event! Casting, fly tying, seminars, fishing opportunities, classes, vendors, conservation, raffles, auctions, gourmet food, meeting up with old friends and making new ones, all packed into two days! By the end of this event, you may have discovered a new fly fishing destination somewhere between the Alagnak River and the mangroves in Yucatan, armed yourself with newly honed casting skills on a spey or switch rod strung up with the most optimal line to accommodate multiple fishing strategies, learned killer fly patterns that imitate the bugs or critters fish eat and take the best photographs of you and your fishing buddies on your most memorable fly fishing trips ever!

Whether you are interested in cold or warm water patterns, Atlantic salmon flies, realistics, or display flies, there will be over 55 fly tying stations on three hour rotations where you can learn from over 125 of the best demonstration fly tiers and artists in the country. Attend a seminar from author Preston Singletary about What's Bugging You and then go tell him when he's tying. Get advice from Lory Watkins and Bob Bates or stop by BT's Fly Fishing and Photography booth and talk shop with Al and Gretchen Beatty (Al is a Buz Buszek Award Winner). Members from the Northwest Atlantic Salmon Fly Guild will be there to show you just how easy it is to marry feather fibers or

elegantly wrap on five different types of tinsel and wire on the same fly. Watch Vicki Eagle Elk effortlessly spin deer hair and then trim it down to an intricate bass pattern with such great precision that even Edward Scissorhands would be proud! This is the only show where you can learn from master craftsman Tak Shimizu from Edmonton, Alberta how to make blind eye Atlantic salmon fly hooks from piano wire or see the latest tools Jesse Scott has invented for his one-handed fly tying aid, the Evergreen Hand.

For a more in-depth experience, fly tying classes are being offered where you can learn to tie the Erv Emerger from Buz Buszek Award Winner John M. Newbury. This is a secret pattern John has successfully used for years on the upper Columbia River and has only recently revealed to the public because if too many people knew about it, the fish population might suffer! If you've ever wondered about those fantastically creepy, realistic flies, talented Karen Royer will teach you how to tie the American House Spider using deer hair and feather quills that will look like it's going to jump up and crawl right off your vise! Ever been intimidated by the Humpy because you just couldn't get the proportions right and you ended up



with something that looked like a fat bumblebee sporting a really bad haircut that looked more like a Frumpy? Michael T. Williams will share his expertise and lead you up the stairway to Humpy Heaven! This is just a small sampling of fly tying offerings at the 2011 Washington Fly Fishing Fair so be sure and log onto our website: www.washingtoncouncilfff.org for updates.

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Sequim Fly Fishing Show

April 9-10 marks the Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Show hosted by Greywolf Fly Fishing Club in sunny Sequim Washington. Equipment manufacturers, guide and destination companies, conservation groups, artists, and boat manufacturers will exhibit their wares. Also featured are fly tying and casting demonstrations, including hands-on casting some of the new and innovative fly rods. Numerous regional and local tiers will attend; including Karen Royer, queen of the realistic fly patterns and Harry Lemire who ties classic Atlantic salmon flies without a vise. Attend free seminars by local peninsula experts and world-renowned author Skip Morris. Admission is \$10. Show hours are 11:00 AM to 6:00 PM Saturday, and 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM Sunday. For directions, lodging information and other details, check www.olympicpeninsulaflyfishingshow.com.

2011 Youth Academy News

By Mike Clancy
Applications are being accepted for the 2011 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. To qualify, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must write an essay explaining why they want to attend the Academy. A recommendation letter from their school counselor or science teacher is also required. The dates for the WSCFFF and WCTU sponsored event are June 19-25, 2011. The Academy will be held at The Greenwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. To learn more about The Academy, go to www.nwycffa.org. The application is available on the website or contact Mike Clancy @ nwycffa@earthlink.net.

Northwest Fly Fishing Events for 2011

February 26, 2011 Lower Umpqua Fly Casters Fly Fishing Expo@Reedsport OR
www.lufc.com

March 12-13, 2011 Oregon Council FFF Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo@Linn County Fairground Albany OR
www.nwflytyerexpo.com

April 9-10, 2011 Sequim Fly Fishing Show Sequim, WA
www.olympicpeninsulaflyfishingshow.com

April 29-30, 2011 WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair@Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg
www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

June 2011 Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair & Casting Expo@Tye Park, Monroe
www.jimmygreenflyexpo.com

July 2011 Tenth Annual Metolius River Fly Fishing and Bamboo Rod Fair@Black Butte School, Camp Sherman, OR
www.campshermanstore.com

August 30-September 3, 2011 FFF National Fly Fishing Show (formerly known as Conclave) @ West Yellowstone, MT
www.fedflyfishers.org

November 6 Pacific Northwest Fly Tyers Rendezvous @ Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham OR
www.nwflytyers.org

If your club, organization or Council has an event you'd like publicized, please email all the info to the editor



In Memoriam**2011 Fair Auction and Raffle****2011 Fly Fishing Fair Seminars**

Bruce Ferguson passed away January 10, 2011 in Gig Harbor. Perhaps best known for his saltwater fly fishing, Bruce co-authored *Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon*. He was a long-time member of the Puget Sound Fly Fishers and active in fishing community issues. When Bruce realized his fishing days were over, he asked Joe Uhlman and Bill Ludwig, two close friends, to sell his fishing possessions, with the proceeds dedicated to sponsoring children selected to attend the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. Joe and Bill sold hundreds of items and raised over \$9,000.00 to be managed by the Puget Sound Fly Fishers.

The FFF Ralph Moon Fund

A bright light in the world of fly fishing was extinguished January 26, 2011 when Ralph W. Moon, age 85, crossed the creek and entered fly fishing heaven. A passionate river conservationist, master cane rod maker, award-winning fly tyer, expert fly fisherman, outdoor writer, and a great friend, Ralph passed away at his home on the banks of the Henry's Fork of the Snake River.

In 1987, at FFF President Al Wilkie's request, the Southern Council funded an Education Trust Fund. Named "The Ralph Moon Fund," its purpose is to fund FFF educational materials.

As of 12/31/10 The Ralph Moon Fund, part of the FFF Foundation, has assets of \$22,616.57. Donations to this already established perpetual fund are a further memorial to this great man. Donations should be made payable to the FFF Foundation, Inc. For better tracking please send all such special donations to:

Earl Rettig, President Board of Trustees, Federation of Fly Fishers Foundation, Inc., 11928 Antler Point Drive, Bend, OR 97702-2091 Questions: (541) 330-9670

By Larry Gibbs, Auction Coordinator
We have some great auction and raffle items for you. What type of items will we have? How about a fantastic hand-made bamboo fly rod from a maker with 30 years experience? You'll love the way it casts and catches fish. How about custom graphite rods? You will have to see them to realize just how beautiful they are. How about guided trips on Northwest rivers? Trips are experiences not to be missed. Are you into DIY fly tying? We'll have some top-of-the-line fly tying vises, tools, portable tables and tying materials for you to bid on. And, for those who would rather fish than tie, we'll have tons of already tied flies from well-known masters.

Some items will be raffled with the item going person that purchased the winning ticket. We will have a series of raffles over the two days, so feel free to buy as many tickets as you want to. Other items will be silent auctions. The high bidder at closing, wins the item. Closing times will be posted, then new items will be placed for your viewing enjoyment and active bidding. Bid as often as you want. Your last opportunity to get cool stuff is the Live Auction conducted by Will Godfrey. Come to our Live Auction and enjoy the fun and get into bidding in a live auction.

WANT TO DONATE TO THE AUCTIONS/RAFFLES?

This is the main fund raiser for the Washington State Council FFF and I am always looking for donations. I am sure that many of you have items won in club raffles or received as gifts and figured out you really don't need them. Please REGIFT those items to us. Email or call me and I will send you a donation form by PDF or U.S. Mail. We really need your tax-deductible donations, especially items in the \$20 to \$50 range.

By David "the seminar guy" Williams

Back by popular demand, your Council is again offering free (yes, free) seminars. The cool thing about this year's lineup is you get much more than you pay for. We've got the local water nailed with Tim Irish, the man who started the whole Yakima River guiding scene and Red's Fly Shop covering the Yakima in detail. If the Yak is your river or if it has you stumped, catch these presentations. Rounding out the Yakima waters is the presentation by Gabriel Temple of WDFW.

Let's get exotic with Brian O'Keefe covering the seductive rhythms of Cuba Grand Slam Fly Fishing and the easy-on-pocketbook Economy Busters—Well-Priced Fishing Trips to places like Bahamas, Baja, Patagonia and more. My gills are turning envious-green over wanting to go all those places. More exotica can be yours (can you handle it?) by catching Jim Gallagher taking you on a trip to the Mangrove Flats of the Yucatan. The experience is so real, you'll want to slather on the sunscreen before attending.

If steelhead are your game, we've got it covered. To learn more about the spectacular Methow River steelhead and resident trout, come hear guide Rod Griffin. Red's Fly Shop will cover the steelhead fishery of the remote and beautiful Klickitat River, and knowledgeable Mike Benbow teaches how to deal with those feisty Grande Ronde fish.

The seminars are not just about going places, we've also got some instruction on important skills. Preston Singletary, the thinking-person's presenter (and one of the most fun people in the world to fish with), brings his Entomology—What's Bugging

You presentation to town. Dick Sagara, brings his prodigious wit and knowledge of all things fly fishing to instruct on Fishing Sinking Lines. Lee Davison covers too hot topics—Modern Switch and Spey Rods, then follows with Matching Lines and Rods. (Memo to self: attend this one-might cure that mess laughingly called a casting stroke) Brian O’Keefe returns with his Fly Fishing Photography show that always brings raves.

But as they say on that infomercial, there’s more. We go back on the road with Brooks Sanford on Montana’s Clark Fork, cover Brian O’Keefe’s Montana Roadtrip, then head north to Alaska’s Alagnak River with Joe Kristof. We circle back to Washington where Roger Stephens reveals his Top-water and Subsurface Strategies for Puget Sound SRC’s and Coho, then drift south to join Marc Williamson on Oregon’s Crooked River.

All this without a single cerise-dyed sand shrimp, glob of garlic PowerBait or twirling nightcrawler in any seminar. If only the other half knew how we live.

flies you’d swear are ready to crawl or fly away.

Buz Buszek Award Winner John Newbury gives up his patented Erv Emerger, a killer Columbia River rainbow pattern.

Michael T. Williams teaches a master class on tying the Humpy of your dreams.

No question that those who want (or need) to improve their casting skills will find a class to suit taught by experts.

Judy Graham teaches a Women’s Beginning Casting Class on Friday and a Women’s Intermediate Casting Class on Saturday. Sign up for Don Simonson’s class to learn Casting In Wind Conditions. Chase Jablonski teaches Casts for Close Quarters, while Jim Higgins instructs Casts That Catch Fish. Pat Peterman breaks down the stroke for Better Casting By Improving The Back Cast. Steelheaders who want to reach more water will benefit from Steve Worley’s on-the-water class Switch Rod Fishing For Steelhead and Carl Zarelli’s Single Handed Spey instruction. Don Simonson and Carl Zarelli, both Master Certified Casting Instructors will teach a Certified Instructor Preparation Class for those wanting to gain certification.

The outstanding class description, taught by Les Rosenthal, is titled Double Haul For Dummies. (Should fill rapidly.)

For more information and to register for any tying or casting class, go to www.washingtoncouncilfff.org and click on 2011 Fly Fishing Fair.

2011 Fly Fishing Fair Kids ‘N Fish

By Pat Herdt, Vice-President Education

On Friday, April 29, 2011, up to 45 middle and high school kids will have the opportunity to gain hands-on fly fishing skills. A cornerstone of the 2011 Washington Fly Fishing Fair, a two-day event held April 29-30, 2011, at the Kittitas County Event Center, in Ellensburg, the students will learn practical fishing skills like casting, conservation, entomology and fly tying. In three one-hour, easy to digest sessions, students will receive individualized instruction with a focus on learning. The classes are free to the students and include admission to the Fair.

They’ll learn how to cast a fly with guidance by FFF certified casting instructors. The entomology session identifies the living insects gathered from the Yakima River the morning of the class. In the fly tying session, each student will work one-on-one with an experienced volunteer to tie a fly guaranteed to catch a fish. Teachers and parents are encouraged to attend the three sessions that are offered.

The benefits don’t end on Friday. The students are encouraged return on Saturday and bring their family members where all can enjoy the exhibits, watch master fly tiers at work and attend the free seminars. It is an opportunity to come and ask questions of the fly tiers as they tie and work with certified casting instructors to expand their newly-acquired casting skills.

2011 Fly Fishing Fair Classes

By David “Catfish” Williams

Your Council believes in always offering something for everyone and this year is no different. Thread benders can learn from three masters of the vise.

Karen Royer, known as the Queen of Realism will teach a class on Tying the American House Spider. Karen crafts

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

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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

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

Fly Away Fly Shop,
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Website: kmanseattle@gmail.com

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Website: www.avidangler.com

The Evening Hatch,
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Email: info@theeveninghatch.com

3Lakes Fly Fishing
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Twin Peaks Adventures
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- Individual Life (\$500) payment plans available
- Family Membership (\$45) spouses and children under 14
- Couple Life (\$750) pymt. plans available
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Fly of the Season

“If it ain’t chartreuse, it ain’t no use,” so said some piscatorial pundit. There is more than a ring of truth in that pithicism. Just ask those who toss flies for chum or smallmouth. Ask those who flog the saltwater beaches in search of coastal cutthroat and coho. Chartreuse Comets, Chartreuse Ca-booses, and Chartreuse Clousers get whacked with astonishing regularity by such species. But surely no stalker of the mighty mystical winter steelhead would dare stoop so low as to use *that color*. Surely this esteemed trout is too wary, too brainy, too elegantly sophisticated to succumb to such a garish ersatz offering. After all this is the fish that must be caught only on swinging flies (unless of course, you’re one of those mouth-breathers that

catches steelhead after steelhead on bubblegum pink worms, Copper Johns and stoneflies.)

Behold the chartreuse General Practitioner, spawn of the original orange General Practitioner. This pattern attributed to Colonel Esmond Drury hit the British Isles in 1953. It was created to imitate a prawn at a time when real prawns as bait were banned. Necessity being yet again the mother of invention. Instant success brought the fly to Canada and the US where it was discovered by steelheaders. Color variations soon followed resulting in black, purple, blue, and (Quelle horreur!) chartreuse.

There are two schools of fishing thought. One opts for a floating line, greased leader and dead-drift presentation. Using this method, the cast may be

made upstream as a traditional dry fly, cross-stream as a traditional steelhead swing, or downstream feeding line as the current takes the fly. (That sounds a lot like nymphing, doesn’t it?) The other school uses a full sinking line and a jigging motion as the bait, er, fly drifts downstream.

As Jennifer James, PhD and cultural anthropologist observed so many years ago, “there’s more than one way to fold socks.” So it is with fly fishing.



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