



# Covering The Drift

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Editor: David Paul Williams

## Leaders Line

By Carl Johnson, President  
The annual Fly Fishing Fair held in West Yellowstone this past August was a great success and a fun time. I hope many of you had the opportunity to take part in this event. There were a number of folks from the Council who were recognized during the President's banquet on Wednesday night. The Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Club in Port Angeles received the McKenzie Cup which is the club of the year award. Carl Zarelli and Larry Gibbs both received President's Pins from FFF President Phil Greenlee. Mike Clancy was awarded the 2011 Council Award of Excellence and I received the Federator of the Year award. Congratulations to everyone. It was announced that the 2012

International Fly Fishing Fair will be in Spokane on July 10th through 14th. The host hotel will be the Red Lion Inn at the Park and the Fair will be at the Spokane Convention Center. There will be more information about this exciting news in coming issues of the newsletter and the national magazine. The FFF has entered into an agreement for a FFF VISA credit card. The FFF gets \$50 of every card that is issued and used and they have pledged \$25 to be returned to the Council. If you are interested in a credit card bearing your fishing picture, yes you can download that favorite picture of yourself fishing and have it on your credit card. If you are interested please see the article in this newsletter for more information.

## Board's Work

By David Paul Williams, Secretary  
On July 23, 2011 your Board met in Ellensburg. The first order of business was to certify the officer and board election results. Each nominated candidate was elected. Bob Bates will serve as VP, Communications; Larry Gibbs as Auction Coordinator and Director at Large. Carl Johnson and the rest of the Board welcomed Robert Gerlach and Jay Woodbury as Directors at Large. Printing and mailing the newsletter is a substantial operating expense. The Board decided to add an email option. See Bob Bates Change Coming article for more details. The 2012 Fly Fishing Fair dates are May 4 -5. Vendor booths will be \$100 cash or \$200 in product. Non-profit organizations can get free table space or pay the vendor booth rate.

The 2012 International Fly Fishing Fair (formerly known as Conclave) will be held in Spokane. The Board authorized paying up to \$2000 to print a brochure touting the local fishing opportunities and \$150 for the Buszek Plate for the 2011 West Yellowstone event.

Your Board met again October 8, 2011 in Carlton.

A primary order of business was to firm up the tasks necessary to accomplish the 2012 Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. Several clubs, including Spokane, Fidalgo, Wenatchee, Northwest Fly Anglers, and Evergreen, will assist. The Overlake and Puget Sound clubs are subject to confirmation.

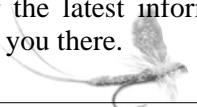
The event will feature the usual array of tyers, free seminars on a wide range of topics and some fee-paid workshops including beginning fly fishing, watercraft and wading safety.

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Plans are coming together for the 2012 Washington Fly Fishing Fair. This year's fair will be May 4th and 5th in Ellensburg. We already have the room block at the Hampton Inn and others are being finalized as I type this. Please visit our webpage (<http://washingtoncouncilfff.org/WFFF>) for the latest information. I hope to see you there.



## Change Coming

By Bod Bates, VP, Communications Publishing our quarterly newsletter, Covering the Drift, is one of our most expensive budget items. Money spent on it reduces our available conservation and education funds. Therefore, beginning with the next issue we will start using e-mail to notify members that the new issue is available on our website. The paper copy will still be published for those members without e-mail or who prefer to receive paper. We will continue to use the information in the Federation of Fly Fishers data base to distribute the newsletter. The FFF data base contains the information you sent in when you registered or signed up a lifetime membership. At present over 75 percent of the Washington state FFF members have e-mail addresses in the file. However, many have not been updated. Based on a small sample we estimate that some 170 of the addresses in the data base are questionable. If you have changed your address in recent years and did not include the FFF in the notification list, we ask that you do it now. Please send an e-mail to Barbara at the national Federation of Fly Fishers office, [fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org), with your correct e-mail address and full name as it is on the mailing label. There are several advantages to receiving the electronic version of Covering the Drift. The first is that it is in color. You will receive it sooner, sometimes many days sooner than

the paper copy. As we age, reading the printed version is a little difficult for some of us. Since the electronic version can be enlarged on the screen, that difficulty is eliminated.

The biggest advantage of the electronic version is that we are talking about enhancing it with additional information. We are planning more pictures, articles on club activities, a link to the new flies on the FFF website, etc.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Carl Johnson at [flyfishalso@frontier.com](mailto:flyfishalso@frontier.com) or 360-863-9889.



Board members Robert Gerlach and Sue Morrison cast for the infamous Methow River lawn steelhead. Photo by David Paul Williams



Who is that behind those Foster-Grants? It's one of your Board members with a 34-inch Methow metalhead.

Photo by Rod Griffin



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## Federation of Fly Fishers Conservation Grant At Work

The first installment of the Federation of Fly Fishers conservation grant to Dave Brown's Northwest Wild Fish Rescue is already at work. In September, 2011 volunteers laid nutrient-rich analogs and 12 yards of spawning gravel in now dry Mill Creek, a tributary of the East Fork Lewis River and Salmon Creek. The fall rains will turn the gravel into spawning grounds for coho and steelhead. The analogs will provide food for the spring-emerging fry. When the weather warms and the stream dries, Northwest Wild Fish Rescue will capture the fry and move them to a holding pond until the following spring, when they will be returned to their native stream and released to sea.

In 2011, with help from the Washington Council Federation of Fly Fishers, Clark-Skamania Fly Fishers and other Clark County community organizations, Wild Fish Rescue rescued and will rear and release over 30,000 juvenile salmon and steelhead from tributaries of the East Fork Lewis River.

Dave Brown can be reached at: dwild-



fish@gmail.com or (360) 687-7049

\*Contributions can be made to : Dave Brown's Northwest Wild Fish Rescue, P.O. Box 2936, Battle Ground, WA 98604  
\*a 501 (c) (3) non profit organization. Your financial contributions may be tax deductible.

Learn more at [www.nwwildfishrescue.org](http://www.nwwildfishrescue.org)

## Northwest Fly Fishing Events for 2012

November 6 Pacific Northwest Fly Tyers Rendezvous @ Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham OR  
[www.nwflytyers.org](http://www.nwflytyers.org)

February 25, 2012 Lower Umpqua Fly Casters Fly Fishing Expo@Reedsport OR  
[www.lufc.com](http://www.lufc.com)

March 9-10, 2012 Oregon Council FFF Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo@Linn County Fairground Albany OR  
[www.nwflytyerexpo.com](http://www.nwflytyerexpo.com)

May 4-5, 2012 WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair@Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg  
[www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

July 10-14, 2012 FFF National Fly Fishing Fair (formerly known as Conclave) @ Spokane, WA  
[www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)

July 2012 Tenth Annual Metolius River Fly Fishing and Bamboo Rod Fair@ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman, OR  
[www.campshermanstore.com](http://www.campshermanstore.com)

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





## Second Annual PHW 2- Fly Event Deju Vu, Only Better

By Chuck Tye, PHWFF NW Regional Coordinator

After reading about or experiencing the 1st NW PHW 2-Fly last year, you might be asking yourself, was the 2nd NW PHW 2-Fly even better? How could you possibly beat fishing from a drift boat on the Yak, the camaraderie and enthusiasm shared between veterans, wounded warriors and volunteers, incredible food, and a beautiful, sunny day on one of Washington's finest Blue Ribbon trout rivers to cast your fly over? What more could you ask for if you were a dedicated and albeit, addicted fly fisher whether a volunteer, vet or soldier or a combination of those admirable qualities ?

So, was the Yakima River different? Changing a river can be a difficult thing to do in a year, owing to the fact most rivers can take years to change course. The Yak is always a great river to fish. Last year, the river was running at 4100 cubic feet per second and this year it was at 4000 cfs. No change there. Was it the fishing beats for each team? With the water flows, we added a couple of extra miles to each fishing beat which guaranteed 5 hours of fishing time on a great river. Hmm, don't think so, who would complain about 5 hours of great fishing time? Didn't hear any grouching from anyone who was there. Nope, couldn't be the fishing beats.

What about the contest rules? A soldier/veteran and a volunteer had 2 flies each and only 2 patterns to fish with for 5 hours. After 2 flies were lost, the volunteer was out and it was up to the vet/soldier to catch fish with the 2 remaining flies or else buy one from the judge/rower at the cost of the biggest

fish caught. No change there from last year.

Maybe it was the fact there were prizes for both the vet and the volunteer who caught the biggest fish and the team with the most fish caught. Even had a prize for the judge/rower of the winning team! Hmm, don't think so because the same thing happened last year. Well, kinda, sorta. We not only had top quality, donated prizes to present to the winners, but to everyone who participated and an NW PHW 2-Fly t-shirt to boot! No, it wasn't the prizes.

Maybe it was the Ellensburg KOA where we camped and staged the event. Used the same place as last year because we had plenty of room for tents, staging teams, and a field kitchen plus showers, restrooms, and a small pool. Even had a big fire pit for swapping fish stories and talking smack after a hard days fishing. Hmmmm, couldn't be the camp ground with all these amenities. Hell, it didn't even rain and the wind didn't gust, although it reached at least 93°F on the day of the event.



Could it have been the food? Jerry Daschofsky, our resident Northwest chef prepared our meals with his Camp Chef cooking gear and years of cooking expertise to ensure everyone walked away from each meal well-fed and content. Most participants didn't need to eat for three days after the contest! Hmm, couldn't have been the food.

So, we have taken out the river, the fishing beats, the rules, the prizes, the facili-

ties, the weather and the food. So what made this year's event so unique compared to last year's event? As the Regional Coordinator for PHW NW, I would like to give you my thoughts and observations.

Last year we put 13 donated drift boats on the water which meant we had 13 teams for a total of 39 vets/volunteers/rowers on the water fishing for a great cause. This year we put 20 drift boats on the water for a total of 60 vets/volunteers/rowers on the water! That is a 33% increase in donated drift boats and vets/volunteers/rowers from last year's event. This doesn't even include the 15 volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes cooking, cleaning, helping teams get ready to fish and shuttling the 20 vehicles and drift boat trailers to where they needed to be.

Last year, a majority of the cost to run this event came out of PHW NW Regional funds. This year, even with the 33% increase in participation, we reduced the use of PHW funds by

50% from last year. This was due to generous donations and volunteer hours from Northwest fly fishers from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon.

What a great gathering and a big thank you to all the veterans, volunteers (50% veterans), rowers/judges (50% veterans), donors (many not in attendance), local fly shops (Red's Fly Shop, Trout Waters Fly Shop, Worley-Bugger Fly

Co.) and the Ellensburg KOA who all created the camaraderie and healing spirit of this event. Everyone involved this year has already put the 2012 event on their calendars and are looking forward to coming back again next year!

So you ask, was it just a repeat of another day fishing on the Yakima? I don't think so.

## In Memoriam

Irwin "Irv" Conner, a former member of your Washington Council Board of Directors and VP, Membership, died August 20, 2011. Passionate about fly fishing, Irv fished from northern Alaska to Tierra del Fuego at the southern tip of South America and points between. He also took time off from the sport he loved to serve as President of the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers.

Irv was not just a fly fisher. He and his wife of 49 years, Judy, were intimately involved in the Wenatchee Valley community serving on numerous boards and foundations.

Irv will be missed by all the communities he served.



Irv Conner doing what he loved—teaching kids about fishing. Photo by Bob Bates

## Kids Fly Tying and Conservation Education Program

By Pat Herdt, VP Education

This year was a busy year for the Kids Fly Tying Conservation Education Program. The year started April 2nd with an invitation to teach fly tying and conservation at the Conconully Fly Fishing Rendezvous. Thanks to Pat Holden for including us in the radio announcement of your Fly Fishing Rendezvous.

The next event was the WSCFFF Ellensburg Fly Fishing Fair the end of April. The group of three Student Education Classes were full. The Entomology portion of the classes were taught by Aaron Culley and Tom Whiteside. Don Simonson headed up the certified instructors for the casting portion. Thank you to all who participated in the WSCFFF Ellensburg FF Fair's Friday morning classes. It took each and every one of you. We have received many positive comments.

In July we taught our Fly Tying and Conservation class to a group at the Lake Wenatchee YMCA Summer Camp. Two of the counselors took the class along with the kids. After the class they took

a vote. The vote was unanimous to offer our tying and conservation class again next year. Also in July we had a booth at the Pateros Apple Pie Jamboree. The kids were lining up to tie flies before we were set up. We had a fly plate drawing. The fly plate was made up

of flies the kids had tied at the Jamboree the previous year. On Saturday afternoon the plate winner was, a young fly tier and his family were presented with the fly plate. We were busy all day with many kids tying flies.

In August we were invited to the Entiat River Cleanup and the August Methow River outing the same day. Don Bolstad and Larry McCracken taught tying at that event while I hosted the Methow River outing with help from Fidalgo Fly Fishers members Russ Asbury and VP Dan Farmer.

October brought two additional invi-

tations. We taught middle school students fly tying and an expanded conservation workshop

October 1 and 2 we were part of the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers volunteers teaching kids tying at the Wenatchee River Salmon Festival at the Leavenworth National Fish Hatchery.

We were asked to present the same program to the WAHPERD conference at Shoreline WA in mid-October. Carl Johnson, Jim Higgins and Pat Herdt were presenters for the conference. Carl Johnson's PowerPoint program highlighted the conference.

Every year your Council reaches out to more young people to introduce them to fly tying, fly casting and conservation. If you want to get involved, please contact Pat Herdt, VP Education or Carl Johnson, President.

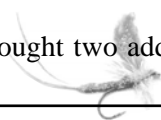
## 2011 Washington Council Awards

By Don Simonson

The Awards Committee is soliciting WSCFFF members for nominations for the following awards.

Federator of the Year  
Fly Tying Hall of Fame  
Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Casting Instructors Award  
Washington Conservation award  
Bill Mackay Conservation Award  
Club Education Award  
Individual Education Award

The nomination should include the individual or club's name, address, phone and email, as well as a short description of the nominee's merits. Email nominations with Word or PDF attachment by March 1, 2012 to either Don Simonson, VP West, dksimo@wavecable.com or Len Zickler, VP East, lzickler@ahbi.com.



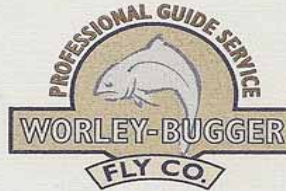


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- Senior Membership (\$25) for those age 65 and over
- Individual Life (\$500) payment plans available
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- Couple Life (\$750) pymt. plans available
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- Youth Membership (\$15) for individual members under 14
- Retail Membership (\$75)
- Sustaining Membership (\$200) commercial / manufacturing businesses

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*October 2011*

*Covering the Drift*

## *Fly of the Season*

This past Saturday I was getting soaked to the skin and chilled to the bone while refereeing my fourth soccer game of the day, thoughts turned to that other weird fall/winter pastime known as “winter steelheading.” Some folks have a love/hate relationship with those fish. They love getting out on the water. They love the tug of a fish or sometimes even a rock. They really love actually hooking and landing one of the beasts. On the other hand, they hate the cold, wet, windy, nasty and highly unpleasant weather generally associated with the pursuit of winter steelhead.

I, on yet a third hand, have no relationship with steelhead. I don't fish for them and the ones I've caught have been complete and total accidents because they were not the tar-

geted species. I applaud those hardy flyfishers who do target steelies, if only because it keeps them off the beaches.

If you are still reading this, now comes the pitch for the fly. Purple Peril (it has nothing to do with the Minnesota Vikings) is a northwest classic created by Ken McLeod about eighty years ago. As with all fly patterns there are multiple variations of body materials ranging from the delicate profile of tinsel to the Pavarotti-sized bulky chenille. The wing comes in different colors (purple and brown bucktail) or red squirrel tail. Some rebel tyers eschew traditional bucktail in favor of (gasp!) synthetic fibers.

What ever the tie, it is an all season fly. At the front of the season, when the water is warm and fish more aggressive, try a riffle hitched fly on a floating line. Strikes will usually be from fish that follow, then explode on the fly.

As the water cools down in mid-season, switch over to a sink tip. Make the cast at the 90-degree or classic quartering angle and let the fly swing. The strike can come at any time during the cast, or at the end when the fly is tailing directly downstream. Just to mix things up, try a jerky retrieve for a few feet before lifting for the next cast.

When the water is at its coldest and I'm alone on a saltwater beach chasing cutts, deep water presentations are the order. Go to a size 2 and drop the fly on a short leader to swirl among the rocks.

