



WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL
INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

COVERING THE DRIFT

WASHINGTON FLY FISHING FAIR

ELLENSBURG
MAY 1-2, 2015
WASHINGTONCOUNCILFFF.ORG

NORTHWEST YOUTH
CONSERVATION &
FLY FISHING ACADEMY

THE LOOP: JOURNAL OF
FLY CASTING
PROFESSIONALS

LEADER'S LINE:
A NEW YEAR

PLUS: PHEASANT-TAILED NYMPH



Carl Johnson

A New Year and Events to Look Forward To

A new year, a time to look back on the past year and to look forward to the next. I hope all of you can look back to a day or days fishing that puts a smile on your face and look forward to many of those memorable days next year. For me I look back on my time as Council President. Some days it is hard to believe that it has been almost 9 years and other days it seems like it has been longer than that. I look forward to 2015, the 50th year of the Federation! I hope many of you are making plans to attend the 50th celebration in Bend this August (for more information please go to the IFFF website: www.fedflyfishers.org).

I also hope to see many of you at the WA Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg on May 1st and 2nd. This will be our 9th year of putting on this show. We have a few changes this year over last year. We have moved the Fair back to a Friday - Saturday show. We will start at 9:00 AM on Friday and 8:00 on

Saturday. The Volunteer Dinner will be held on Thursday evening. This event is free to anyone who volunteers to give us 3 hours of their time. If you would like to volunteer please contact me. Our Awards banquet and Auction will be on Friday evening. Because of this the live auction will be set before we open Friday morning. If you would like to donate any item to the live auction, please contact Larry Gibbs before April 29th so he is aware of the item. Any item donated on Friday that we are not aware of will be used in silent auction or held for the next year. This year both dinners will be held in the Armory.

Now is the time to nominate anyone for the Council awards. Please visit our website to see the list of awards and the criteria. The deadline for submittal is April 1st.

The Council will be attending the following shows this year. The Tri-Cities Sports-

man Show in Pasco January 16-18; the Washington Sportsman Show in Puyallup January 21-25; and The Fly Fishing Show in Lynnwood February 14-15. Please stop by and say hi if your attending. I hope to see many of you in Ellensburg.

—**Carl Johnson, Council President**

FAIR VENDORS

Vendor packets for the 2015 WA Fly Fishing Fair are being sent out while this newsletter is being prepared so we do not have a list of vendors at this time. We expect to have many of the previous vendors return again this year. If you are interested in becoming a vendor, please contact Carl Johnson at flyfishalso@frontier.com or 425-308-6161.

WINTER
2014/2015

The Loop

THE JOURNAL OF FLY CASTING PROFESSIONALS



- EDP As A Quality Assurance Program
by David Diaz
- Practicing for Exceptional Performance—Part 2
by Chuck Easterling
- Style Revisited
by Martin Aylwin



The Road to Rome

All roads lead to Rome—no not the movie featuring Sarah Jessica Parker—instead referring to casting styles. “The key to a good cast is not casting style, it is a good understanding and implementation of casting mechanics,” according to Martin Aylwin.

Those mechanics, as I understand them, consist of three elements those in the know call substance: acceleration of the rod, an abrupt stop of the rod, the rod traveling in a straight line throughout. How the caster accomplished those three elements matters not a whit and therein lies the rub of teaching and learning casting. Just like teaching and learning to tie flies, there is more than one way to accomplish the task.

It is said that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. That may be true, however, it can also really screw up the learning curve if the new caster imitates a style unsuited to his or her physical size, strength, flexibility and disposition. Does it make sense to watch and analyze Lefty Kreh, Joan Wulff, Mel Kreiger and others cast? Of course, but only if the watcher does so with the three elements of substance in mind and observes how each caster accomplishes substance. It’s all too easy to get bogged down in the details of thumb position on the rod, left foot or right foot forward, arm position, body angle to target and miss Rome.

Aylwin suggests new casters, and those teaching them, experiment. Try different foot positions, arm postures and hand grips. Be Goldilocks until you find what works for you and your way of

casting for your way of fishing. A style that delivers maximum power and distance likely is unsuited to fishing step-across creeks where accuracy is at a premium. Saltwater casting style is different than spring creek casting style is different than stillwater casting style save they all lead to Rome. Rome is substance.

With a mere twinkle of the nose courtesy of Bewitched’s Samantha, the new caster now has an opportunity to improve his or her casting skills. Improvement comes from practice. Practice comes in two varieties, only one of which is acceptable. Unacceptable practice only serves to reinforce pre-existing faults and flaws. Acceptable practice means paying attention to and implementing substance—the mechanics of casting—under different conditions that are faced every day fishers are on the water.

Saltwater fishers face strong onshore breezes, currents that sometimes mimic strong streamflows, and tides that can eliminate all backcast room. River fishers face strong upstream winds, dense riverbank brush, and conflicting currents. Stillwater fishers have the least to overcome. The point to all this is pay attention to the mechanics of casting when fishing.

To read *The Loop* in full, go to <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Casting/TheLoopNewsletter.aspx>.

—David Paul Williams, Council Secretary/Newsletter Editor

The fly tying floor where experts tie every type of fly.



Washington Fly Fishing Fair

BY DAVID PAUL WILLIAMS
PHOTOGRAPHS BY DANA BOTTCHER

MAY 1-2, 2015

Kittitas Valley Event Center



MAY 1-2

RV AND TENT CAMPING

Come join us at the Kittitas Event Center for a great couple of days of camaraderie and stay in the comfort of your trailer or motor coach. We also have great tent sites for those of you young enough to sleep on the ground.

Many of us come early and or stay late to take advantage of the many adventures surrounding the area, including the incomparable Yakima River.

We have many sites and can accommodate special needs upon request. Please use our web site to sign up and prepay for your site at www.washingtoncounciliff.org. If you have special needs there will be a comment section on our site to let us know.

I am the camp host and you can find me on site. Just ask for me. I will be busy teaching fly casting on Saturday, so I may be out of touch for an hour or two. If you have any questions ahead of time about camping, my email is rwg@anewds.com.

See you in Ellensburg.

—Robert Gerlach, Director at Large

FEES

- RV Electric and Water—\$30 per Night
- Dry Camping (No Hookup)—\$15 per Night

YOUTH WORKSHOPS

Oh to be a kid again. Your Washington Council is bringing the youth workshop back to the Fair and it's new and improved. On Saturday, May 2, 2015, the Introduction To Fly Fishing, including fly tying and casting, workshop will take place. Limited to 20 youngsters between the ages of 12 and 16, each participant will receive a fly rod, fly reel and line, a full day of instruction and lunch, all for \$40.00. To register contact Mike Clancy mtclancy39@comcast.net.

VENDORS

Despite having a wall-to-wall tying desk piled high with materials plus all the rods and reels I need, the Fair vendors always attract plenty of my attention. No will power when it comes to new stuff. The vendors at the Fair always have plenty of new, cool and interesting stuff, both fishing and non-fishing. Expect to see some new rods, new reels, new lines and new boats to go along with new wader and boot designs. It's all at the Fair.

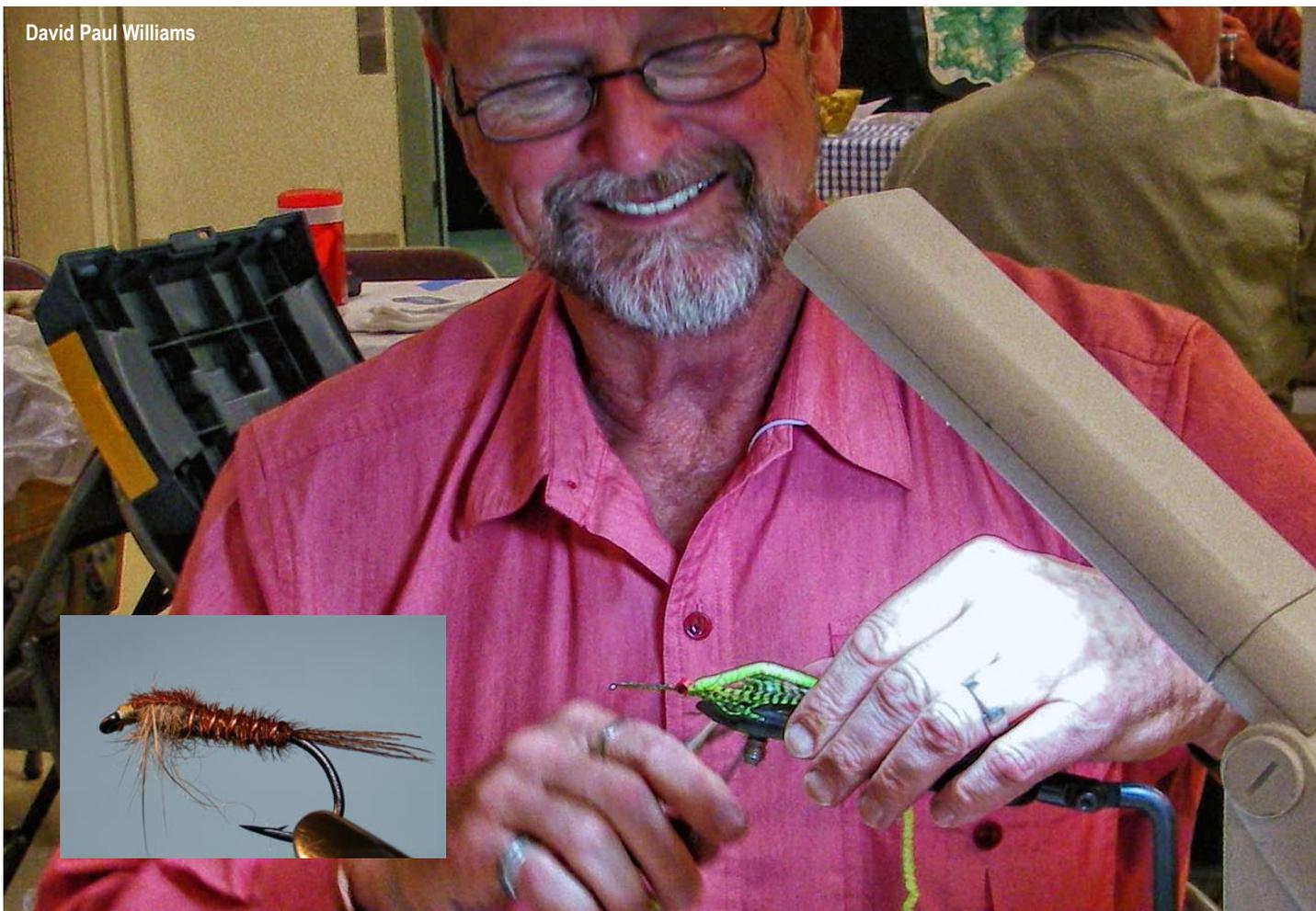
DEMOS & SEMINARS

Expect to see single-hand, switch and Spey casting instruction from some of the finest casters in the world. Sit across from accomplished thread-benders and watch as they tie exquisite Atlantic salmon and wonderful steel-head flies. Or watch and tie with those who tie fish-catching trout flies. And if your tastes run to the pedestrian (or exotic depending on your mien), there are the bass and carp bug fashioners. Free seminars covering tips, tricks and places to fish abound.



MIKE BENBOW (CASTER)

David Paul Williams



A Fly for All Seasons: the Pheasant Tail Nymph

The old is new again. At least that's how it appears. I'm one of the instructors in the Northwest Fly Anglers beginning fly tying class. In one of the sessions we taught the students the Pheasant Tail Nymph, a pattern originally designed by Frank Sawyer back when Hoover was president.

Designed to catch trout, the Pheasant Tail (PT Nymph for those in the know) was tied with, get this, pheasant tail and no thread. Frank Sawyer only used copper wire to bind all the good stuff to the hook. About the time Ike was finishing his term as president, Al Troth updated the fly. He added a peacock herl thorax, and due to a copper shortage because the Butte, Montana miners all went on strike (I made that last part up) used thread to hold all the parts together.

The fly can be tied in a variety of sizes ranging for honker-size 6 to teensy-size 20. The current version of the Pheasant Tail often sports a copper or brass bead. If you really want to make the sucker sink, use tungsten or even add a bit of lead. The PT Nymph imitates a bunch of different trout foods. In larger sizes, trout (those curious and

gullible creatures) mistake it for a skawla stonefly. Towards the opposite end of the spectrum, the smaller sizes 14-16 do a marvelous job of tricking trout into biting a faux calibaetis. Tie the PT with red thread to enhance the trickery. The mid-sized PT Nymph does a good job of looking like a little stonefly nymph known as the Yellow Sally. (Gotta love that name) Moving to the teensy end of the scale, the PT Nymph does a good job of faking a baetis, a food that trout eat all year long.

Now the question becomes one of presentation. Frank Sawyer would have you cast it upstream, using the "induced take" method. Jim Leisenring would suggest the Leisenring Lift—perhaps the same technique with a different name. Or you could drift it under a strike indicator or simply swing it.

When a fly serves up all that food on every trout menu and can be presented every which way to Sunday, why would any trout fisher not have a supply in the box or better yet, on the tippet, when going afield?

—David Paul Williams, Council Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Washington State Council IFFF

President

Carl Johnson (425) 308-6161
flyfishalso@frontier.com
EFFC & NFA

1st VP, West

Don Simonson (206) 999-4562
dksimo@wavecable.com
WFFC, MVFF

1stVP, East

Len Zickler (509)720-3228
lzickler@ahbl.com
SFF & IEFF

Secretary and Newsletter Editor

David Paul Williams (425) 990-8800
david@thewriterealtor.com
NFA

Treasurer

JoAnn Allison (509)329-0118
jochetallison@msn.com

VP, Conservation East

Gilbert Biles (509) 663-2325
gilbertbiles@nwi.net
WVFF

VP, Conservation West

Ben Dennis (360) 597-3061
flyrodbranch@comcast.net
CSF

VP, Communications

Jim Maus (253) 582-9580
jimmaus@comcast.net
PSFF

VP, Membership

Peter Maunsell (206) 725-1661
fishing@maunsell.info
NFA, AFF

VP, Education

Pat Herdt (509) 923-2525
pherdt@nwi.net
WVFF & MVFF

Directors at Large

Government Affairs

Mike Clancy (360) 753-1259
mtclancy39@comcast.net
PSFF & SSFF

Auction Coordinator

Larry Gibbs (253) 863-4910
flytier015@q.com
AFF

Vern Jeremica (206) 251-2898
vern@jeremica.com

Sue Morrison (425) 239-0880
susanjmorrison@hotmail.com
WVFF & NFA

Pat Peterman (425) 503-5979
patpeterman@gmail.com
OFFC & WFFC

Dick Lange (425) 481-3063
Richard_flange@outlook.com
OFFC

Jay Woodbury (360) 601-7275
jaywoodbury@hotmail.com
SCFF

Vicki Hoagland (425) 415-1818
V.hoagland@frontier.com
OPFF & WFFC

Robert Gerlach (253) 377-1798
rng@anewds.com
PSFF

Dan Ferguson (509) 868-9545
dbfgn@comcast.net
SFF

Chet Allison (509)329-0118
jochetallison@msn.com
IEFF

Abe Lillard (206) 453-3999
abelillard@gmail.com
WFFC & NFA

Bill Wheeler (425) 281-6361
wwheeler48@hotmail.com
OFF, PSFF & WFFC

Dean Childs
Wcap.com@gmail.com
OPFF

Hoebie Iredale 360-670-2196
hoebieiredale@gmail.com
OPFF

Kuni Masuda 360-573-3310
kimasuda@yahoo.com
CSF

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy, July 21–27, 2015

GENERAL INFORMATION The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy runs from June 21 to June 27, 2015 and is open to boys and girls ages 12 to 16. The live in camp is located on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. If you know of a child that may be interested, please have them submit an application by April 15, 2015. Tuition is \$300 and it includes food and lodging.

CONSERVATION The curriculum of the academy emphasizes conservation activities and a full understanding of the importance of being good stewards of our natural resources. Students learn about the ecosystems of wild fish and what it takes to maintain healthy fisheries. Kids engage in on-the-water insect sampling activities led by wildlife resource professionals.

FLY FISHING classes include fly casting, fly tying, knot tying, reading the water, and other essentials of fly fishing. These classes are taught by professionals in the field as well as local fly club enthusiasts. Fishing trips are done to Nisqually Pond and the Deschutes River near Olympia.

APPLICATION More information and application at www.nwycffa.com.



Washington State Council
International Federation of Fly Fishers™
2531 Simon Lane NE
Olympia WA 98506

Address Service Requested

International Federation of Fly Fishers Membership Application

Full Name _____
City _____
State / Zip _____
Phone home _____
Phone work _____
Phone mobile _____
Club Affiliation _____
Birth Date _____
Washington State Council: _____

- Please check membership category**
(Canadian memberships add \$5/yr. All other countries add \$10/yr.)
- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership (\$35) | <input type="checkbox"/> Disabled Veterans are Free
<small>(proof of 50% disability required)</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-year individual (\$85) | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior Membership (\$25)
<small>(for members 65 and over)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Life (\$500)
<small>(payment plans available)</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Membership (\$45)
<small>(spouses and children under 14)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Couple Life (\$750)
<small>(payment plans available)</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year Family Member (\$100) | <input type="checkbox"/> Retail Membership (\$75)
<small>(small fishing equipment stores)</small> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Membership (\$15)
<small>(for individual members under 14)</small> | <input type="checkbox"/> Sustaining Membership (\$200)
<small>(commercial/manufacturing businesses)</small> |

Apply online at
www.fedflyfishers.org

Please mail or call us at
International Federation of Fly Fishers
5237 US Hwy 89 S Suite 11
Livingston, MT 59047
406 222-9369
406 222-9369 fax

- Check Enclosed (payable to I.F.F.F.) US Funds
- Credit Card: Visa, MasterCard, or Discover
Card Number _____
Expiration Date _____