



Covering The Drift

Volume 7, Number 3

March, 2003

President's Message

Bob Shirley, President

The Washington State Council FFF has been busy lately. We were able to arrange booths for several Clubs to promote themselves and the FFF at three Sportsman's Shows. The Alpine Fly Fishers (Puyallup / Sumner), Puget Sound Fly Fishers (Tacoma), and South Sound Fly Fishers (Olympia) attended the O'Loughlin Show in Puyallup. They passed out over 150 Federation applications, club contact information, and some club newsletters. Their efforts were well received and two of the Clubs actually ran out of their printed information by Saturday - only the third day of the show.

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WSCFFF had a presence at the Fly Fishing Show, February 22 & 23, Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. We passed out Saltwater Catch & Release pamphlets, FFF application forms, and information about the Yakima River Fly Fishers.

On March 13-16, at the Seattle Sportsman's Show, four area clubs will have a booth. If you see this article before the Show, please, stop at the booth, say hello, and give your support to the volunteers manning the booth. After all, they are some of the best, most dedicated fly fishers in the Seattle area.

I hope this is the beginning of a trend state wide where more and more clubs can attend these events to promote themselves, learn from each other, and establish new lines of communication. It may also open up the opportunity for FFF members who do not belong to a club to become a member of one, or to volunteer to help if, in the future, we have casting demonstrations, fly tying exhibitions, or youth education at the events.

If your Club would like to increase it's membership, get involved with youth programs, or contact FFF members in your area who do not belong to a club, let us know. The Washington State Council FFF has affiliated with other organizations who regularly deal with youth education in the outdoors, we have membership programs and recruiting material, and instructional material and equipment to loan.

All it takes is for you to let us know you are interested.

One Club's Award

By Donn Mills,
Director at Large

All clubs give awards to their members who experience goof-ups during the year when fly fishing. The North West Fly Fishermen is no different in that regard. I was the recipient of the club's award for major goofs, and to pass it on I had to write a poem about a fellow member's goof-up and present it to him at the annual banquet.

The unfortunate soul that I passed the award on to was Baert Simmons. Baert is a fly fisher like many of us who came to fly fishing from gear fishing. Baert has a known tendency to like strong tackle and heavy leaders, and has been known to doctor a fly with Anise oil from time to time.

The club also hands out awards for little goofs along the way and every member is constantly aware of them if he makes any kind of a mistake. These awards are called the, "Herman K. Trout" awards, which is referenced in the poem. This is a poem about Baert's encounter with a large Chum Salmon on the Skykomish River. Enjoy.

Roses are red

and so are some mum's,
but enough about flowers,
lets talk about chums.

That rugged old salmon,
indestructible it seems,
that fall after fall
return to our streams.

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Washington State Council

Federation of Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 921
Gig Harbor, WA 98335
(253) 265-6162
fax (253) 265-2263
e-mail: vjyoung@attglobal.net

2002-2003 WSCFFF Officers

President and National Director
Bob Shirley (253) 581-1271
e-mail: b.shirley@juno.com

Secretary
Len Zickler, (253) 942-4484
e-mail: len_zickler@msn.com

Treasurer
Larry Gibbs, (253) 863-2203
e-mail: flytier01@foxiinternet.com

Vice President, Westside
Dick Raisler (360) 466-5797
e-mail: raisler@cnw.com

*Vice President, Eastside
Nat. Dir. & Co-Director of
Conservation*
Jerry McBride, (509) 233-2108
e-mail: jernnita@aol.com

Co-Director of Conservation
John Calhoun (425) 836-5529
e-mail: johnscalhoun@msn.com

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And the anglers that wait,
with great anticipation,
for mother Nature to extend,
the long awaited invitation,

to take fly rod in hand,
and journey to the place,
where fisher and fish
can meet face to face.

Now this is the story
of one such hardy soul,
who answered the challenge,
at the old fishing hole.

One December day,
in the fall just past,
Baert went to the Sky,
just above the Wallace Flats.

It was a glorious day,
the surroundings serene,
with only three fishers
there on the scene.

Baert, and Chuck,
and one other I'm told,
were the only witnesses
to what was to unfold.

Now to cover the drift
where the wily chum lay,
they would wade a great expanse
of river that day.

So slipping and stumbling,
they waded for a time,
then scanned the river,
only to find

they would have to wade deeper,
to a more distant slot,

in order to assure
a salmon could be caught.

So bravely they waded,
not allowing the current,
in it's hard rushing form
to become a deterrent.

This is the spot,
Baert thought at last,
and unhooked his fly,
and delivered the cast.

Then came the strike,
did he take it, or just lip it?
and I wonder if I can handle him
on just a forty-pound tippet?

But, with the speed of a porpoise,
Baert yarded him to hand,
then looked over his shoulder
at the far, distant land.

I've got to stumble backwards,
all the way to the shore,
just to release him,
then wade back out for more.

It seems like time wasted,
all that effort in release'un,
when I could do it where I stand,
then get back to fish'un.

A brilliant idea,
then flashed through Baert's mind,
how to release the fish,
and save all that time.

I'll stand the rod in the river,
behind me, just out of the way,
then use both hands for the release,
and it can just swim away.

So reaching out and taking
the leader in hand,
Baert set about
fulfilling his plan.

Now Mr. Chum,
who was watching this scene,
decided it was time
to exploit poor Baert's scheme.

So what happened next,
required scientific investigation,
in order to offer
a logical explanation,

Now perhaps you've heard,
of a recent discovery,
how the use of Anise Oil
accelerates the recovery

of a fish just stressed
by a battle long contested,
and how they instantly recover
when Anise Oil is ingested.

Truth, or fiction,
one really can't say,
but it very well could explain,
what happened that day.

Like a bolt of lighting,
he was gone for pete's sake,
with an Anise Oil slick
bubbling forth from its wake.

He instantly disappeared,
without so much as a trace,
with Baert's rod, reel and line
attached firmly to his face.

A new form of Catch & Release,
or of salmon tagging, you say,
it must have been weird
to watch that rod towed away.



Director of Education,
Russ Brown, (509) 375-0227
e-mail: anglerserv@aol.com

Director at Large, Membership Chair
Irv Conner (509) 663-7054
e-mail: kconner@televar.com

*Director of Communication,
National Director and
Newsletter editor*
Bob Bates (509) 328-7327
e-mail: bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

Salmon & Searun Cutthroat Chair
Vernon Young (253) 265-6162
e-mail: vjyoung@attglobal.net

Director At Large
Jim Maus (253) 582-9580
e-mail: jimmaus@aol.com

Director at Large
Donn Mills (425) 481-4316
e-mail: donnmills@msn.com

Director at Large
Ben Dennis, (509) 996-2784
e-mail: flyrod ranch@mymethow.com

Director at Large
Aaron Culley (206) 575-4114
e-mail: aaronc@printingcontrol.com

Director at Large
Mike Clancy (253) 759-3456
e-mail: mandd.clancy@one800.net

Director at Large
Gordon McKay (425) 481-1250
e-mail: gdmckay@gte.net

Director at Large
Donna Lease (509) 925-2496
e-mail: yrffdonna@yahoo.com

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Like a dumbfounded child,
with emotions reeling,
Baert stared at the river,
experiencing this feeling.

How dumb! How stupid!
where the hell was my brain.
Baert stood in the river,
his enthusiasm drained.

My new Lamson reel,
my fly rod, and fly,
all of it gone,
in the blink of an eye.

Well, Chuck tried some dredging,
but, to no avail,
so he packed up his gear,
and they both hit the trail.

Some self assessment,
then definitely occurred,
but Chuck wasn't quite certain
just what he overheard,

Baert appeared to be deep
in self flagellation,
uttering "M F" this or that,
in some form of personal
consternation

In losing his rod,
and new Lamson reel,
you just got know
how poor Baert must feel.

I'm sure there were thoughts
that went through his head,
like wishing he would've
never gotten out of bed.

Then having the embarrassment
of his friends old and new,
always wanting to know,
did that really happen to you?

There's no way to keep
this story from getting out,
hell everyone's going to know,
even Herman K. Trout.

Well, I can't stop it now,
I might as well quit wishing,
but I'll tell ya no ones invited,
the next time I go fishing.

Northwest Fly Tyer's Exposition

By Bob Shirley,
President, WSCFFF

The Oregon Council FFF will be
having their annual Northwest Fly
Tyer's Expo on March 22 in Eugene,
Oregon. Tickets are \$5.00 for adults,
\$3.00 for students, and free to under
12.

The event is at the Wheeler Pavilion
Eugene, Or. and starts at 9 am. There
will be a banquet/auction that evening
for \$18.00 and reservations need to be
in by March 15.

For hotel information, directions, and
more information, go to the Federation
of Fly Fishers web site, hit clubs,
Oregon Council, NW Fly Tyer's Expo,
and then the little blue "directions"



icon. Most folks stay on Franklin Ave.
in Eugene.

West siders can, for a treat, take the
train to Eugene, but beware of the
return train trip. Trains with two digit
number designations are not always on
time (up to 14 hours off schedule).
Check out the 500, 504, 506, or 516
train schedules at www.amtrak.com.

Puget Sound Club On the Web

By Larry Gibbs,
Treasurer, WSCFFF

The Puget Sound Flyfishers is finally
on the web. In January, the new web
site for PSF started up after many long
hours of work by our very own Pete
Kauffman.

When you check our web site and look
at the photo page, the person you see
referred to as Pete is our web master.
Come check us out.

See Bob Shirley adrift on Lake Lenice,
see me dancing in the snow because of
a big fish I caught at Rocky Ford. Jim
Maus casting on the beautiful
Thompson River in Montana, or all
three of us posing while on one of our
Missouri River trips to Craig, Montana.

Click in for a visit at -- www.psff.org



From Dave Whitlock

Education Awards Available

LaFontaine Aquatic Entomology Award

“Each angler must decide for himself how deeply he wants to become involved in entomology. Even the most casual study of aquatic insects, however, makes the investigator a better fly fishermen. The benefits are roughly proportional to the amount of work devoted to understanding the biological rhythms of the trout's habitat.”

Gary LaFontaine

The Federation of Fly Fishers, a nonprofit organization of fly fishers, fly tiers and amateur entomologists announces the creation of a grant to honor Gary LaFontaine and the aquatic entomology he loved and spent his life studying.

Gary spent decades exploring the world of aquatic entomology. Learning what characteristics of the emerging caddis fly pupae attracted trout and the perfect dry fly to use proved to be invaluable fishing tools. In recent years his focus moved especially toward the life cycle and habitat of mayflies and stoneflies. With the creation of this grant, he and his friends hope to encourage the next generation of entomologist to continue his work.

This grant will be given to a graduate student (M.S. or Ph.D.) doing a research project in aquatic entomology. A resume, a short synopsis of the project, and letter of recommendation from his or her faculty advisor are requested for each candidate. Please e-mail Susan Halblom, VP Education at Davidhalblomflytyer@worldnet.att.net or mail to 4315 Ashby Ave., Des Moines, Iowa 50310 by July 1st

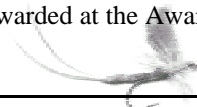
Scott Sanditen Youth Education Fund

Scott was fairly new to flyfishing. His interest in fly fishing started when his 40th birthday brought him a 9' 4wt fly rod. Before that it had been bait fishing for 20 years, but this was a new challenge requiring lessons in fly casting, fly fishing techniques, and matching the hatch. He had been to a Southern Council Conclave and found many others who also enjoyed his new love.

“Scott loved everything outdoors.” He especially loved taking children with him and exposing them to the fun the outdoors had to offer. He had helped the Tulsa Flyfishers and the Green County Flyfishers with education projects, donating time and equipment both to schools and children's groups. He was the one who gave the aquarium and equipment to set up a sample habitat, helped teach the children about fly casting and fly tying and when the eggs hatched, put on his waders and helped the children take the fish to the stream.

He was 47 when he was killed returning from the White River below Bull Shoals. It was reported that that weekend he had caught and released more than one Brown, Rainbow, and Cutthroat. Joel Kantor and Scott's friends in the Tulsa Flyfishers and Green County Fly Fishers and around the area have come together in a tribute to Scott Sanditen. They have established the Scott Sanditen Youth Education Fund with the All Fish All Waters Foundation. The funds generated will be used to support youth oriented education projects sponsored by Federation of Fly Fishers clubs. This is the kind of grassroots efforts Scott and his friends believed in and would want to support..

Applications for money from the Sanditen Fund for club sponsored youth education projects are now available from VP Education Susan Halblom at the e-mail address: DavidHalblom-Bugtyer@worldnet.att.net or by phoning 515-274-5855. They will be accepted until May 31st each year. Funds will be awarded at the Awards Banquet each year.



Newsletter Costs

By Bob Bates,
Director of Communication

Cost and picture quality are two newsletters concerns for most fly clubs. It is a major budget item for many fly clubs. It certainly was for the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, IEFFC, in Spokane, Washington. For years the \$3,000 annual cost of printing *The Fly Leaf* was equal to or greater than income from dues. At one point club dues were increased to prevent eroding funds intended for conservation and education activities.

Last winter ('01-'02) we began looking for ways to reduce the costs and improve quality. Our title page was brown and black ink printed on tan paper, and one option was to convert to all black ink. That alone would reduce the costs to between \$2,100 and \$2,300 per year. However, it would not help us achieve a secondary objective of improving picture quality.

Newsletter swapping activities gave us a chance to review newsletters from other clubs. We contacted clubs that had good looking pictures, but until last March we found they had systems that we could not economically provide our editor.

For IEFFC the key came in e-mail exchanges with the Osprey Flyfishers of BC in Coquitlam, B.C., Canada. They used a word processor to assembled their newsletter with color pictures and color highlights. Then it was converted to Adobe Portable Document Format, PDF. The PDF version, in color, was e-mailed to many of their members, and the mail-out copies were printed (black ink on white paper) by a company that could send PDF files to their printer. Also, they posted the color PDF copy of the newsletter on their website for anyone to download. <http://www.ospreyflyfishers.com/>

Could we follow their lead and justify the software needed to produce PDF

files from Microsoft Word documents? The software, Adobe Acrobat, cost \$250 plus shipping from Adobe and a little less from discount houses. Over 50 of our members have e-mail addresses, and if they would receive the newsletter by e-mail we could reduce our annual printing and mailing costs by \$700. Potential savings were definitely in our favor so we published the advantages and requirements to see how our members would react.

- *The Fly Leaf* will be sent to the members and the printer at the same time. Members should receive the e-mail version a few days to a week sooner than snail mail.
- Members will receive *The Fly Leaf* as an e-mail attachment, and they will need to open it with Adobe Acrobat Reader. (This program comes installed on most computers. If not, a free copy is available at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>).
- Pictures that show up poorly in photocopies will be in sharp full color in e-mail version.
- The 8-1/2- by 11-inch format can be printed if members wish.
- BCC, blind carbon copy, addressing will be used so the recipients aren't identified.
- Anytime an e-mail, non-delivery message is received, *The Fly Leaf* can be retransmitted the next day.
- Many mail-list errors that sometimes don't show up for months will be eliminated.

The feedback from our members was positive.

The company that prints our newsletter was upgrading their equipment to handle a variety of files. With the upgraded equipment they can send PDF files directly to the new printer. This is much more efficient as intermediate steps are eliminated. Also the photographs look much better.

The new printers can handle 11- by 17-inch paper. Instead of printing the usual four page newsletter on two sides of two pieces of paper it can be printed on two sides of one piece of paper. By e-mail delivery of some newsletters and printing the hard copy on larger paper our annual printing and mailing costs were lowered from \$3000 per year to about \$1100 per year.

As time permits we are expanding the electronic version of *The Fly Leaf* by sending it to fly clubs on IEFFC's newsletter exchange list. A couple are in Canada and one is in New Zealand. Like the phone ad says "That saves a buck or two."

Have we had any problems? Yes. Some of our members had only e-mail devices, and could not receive attachments. They were put back on the regular mail list. Some recipients with new computers or upgraded software had problems because their computers deleted or blocked the "assumed dangerous" PDF files. Most have been able to change the Internet security settings to stop the deletions. For the one or two out of a hundred who still have a problem, a website, <http://ieffc.home.att.net/>, was established to hold our newsletters. It is a free web page hosting for WorldNet customers.

IEFFC is not unique in using Adobe PDF for newsletter distribution. We send PDF newsletters seven clubs in Washington State and receive PDF newsletters from most of them. The newsletters received are printed and taken to the meetings so our club members can see what is going on elsewhere. I encourage other clubs to look into this as a possible way of reducing newsletter costs.

Incidentally, this and the previous two issues of *Covering the Drift* were taken as high resolution PDF files on a CD to WSCFFF's publisher. Films for printing are made directly from the disk.

Mercury-Free Washington Campaign

By Jerry McBride,
Conservation Committee Cochairman

At its January 2003 meeting the WSCFFF board of directors voted to sign on to the list of those supporting the Mercury-Free Washington Campaign by the Washington Public Interest Research Group (WashPIRG).

From the WashPIRG's sample letter to legislators:

We are writing to urge you to protect the health of Washington's citizens from the dangers of mercury by supporting legislation to eliminate and reduce mercury pollution.

Mercury is an extremely toxic substance that can harm human health and wildlife even at very low levels. Many water bodies in Washington, including some drinking water sources, are contaminated with mercury. Numerous fish and shellfish advisories exist around the state that warn residents, especially women and children, not to eat fish and shellfish caught in local waters because of high concentrations of toxics that include mercury.

The health effects of mercury include birth defects and damage to the kidneys and lungs. The National Academy of Sciences estimates that 60,000 children born each year are at risk of some level of brain damage because of exposure to mercury in the womb. Given the serious health risks that mercury creates, it is imperative that the state addresses the increasing levels of mercury pollution in Washington.

In addition, more and more of our cities must face the mounting expenses associated with disposing of mercury-contaminated waste and cleaning up mercury-contaminated drinking water. As we face decreasing revenues, it makes sense that the state takes the necessary actions to prevent mercury pollution today rather than spending millions later to clean it up.

For these reasons, I urge you to support strong legislation this session to phase out mercury pollution that includes provisions to:

1. Phase out the sale of products that contain mercury and that have readily available, cost-effective alternatives, including thermometers, thermostats, and auto switches.
2. Require manufacturers of automobiles, thermostats, and lamps that contain mercury to bear primary financial responsibility for the creation and maintenance of safe and effective collection, recycling, and disposal systems. This will help to prevent the dangerous disposal of mercury products in the solid waste stream and save taxpayers money in clean-up costs.
3. Support consumer right-to-know by requiring the labeling of lamps that contain mercury.
4. Establish state government as a leader by requiring that they purchase non-mercury products where feasible.

A complete set of WashPIRG Mercury-Free Washington Campaign literature has been sent to each Washington State Council member club. Information on this effort is available on WashPIRG's website www.washpirg.org. We encourage each council club and Washington State FFF members to give their support to this effort.

Wash it or.....?

By Aaron Culley,
Director at Large

Having returned from a late winter fishing excursion, I decided to take the big step! For some time now, I have been mulling over the question of what to do about my fly fishing vest. It had attained a nice "patina", but now the "patina" had progressed to grungy. I

think the look had gone beyond "guide-wear," so the decision had to be made, wash the vest or toss it. Perhaps the solution would be just to buy a new vest? Scarred by my childhood, I remembered a time when wearing a new pair of tenny-shoes (white converse shoes) welcomed all kinds of ridicule and breaking in from your acquaintances? It took great efforts to achieve that broken in look that was so socially important. Certainly, a new vest would send all kinds of messages to other anglers.

Handling my vest, I decided to begin taking off the external devices, pins and nippers and zingers. It is apparent I'm going to need a storage device to become the temporary home for these integral tools in order for the reapplication process to the clean vest is successful. (Note that a clean vest looks broken-in compared to a new vest.) Now lets take a look at emptying the pockets in a methodical manner. Pocket number one is that little one at the top. The one you cannot see into, but is for special stuff that won't get mixed up in the other pockets. Let's see now, wrap-on lead, a couple of corkies, and that strike indicator from Henry's Fork. So that's where that caddis emerger ended up!!

Moving to the next pocket was more of the same. You find stuff you thought you couldn't go fishing without, but forgot you had. Folding scissors, leader straightener, 4 different types of strike indicators, 3 types of split shot, and the missing spool of 3x fluorocarbon tippet. Each pocket has a time acquired lining of dust, fly parts, twigs and bits of paper wrappers. The one pocket that stands out a quarter mile is where I stored the floatant; that stupid little bottle leaked one hot summer day.

Emptying the last pocket, I thought I should have chosen a slightly larger box to store the necessary tools removed from my vest. Better double-check each pocket to make sure I haven't overlooked something. The feeling when looking at your empty

(Continued on page 7, Wash)

Fly Fishing Monument Dedicated On The North Fork

HAZEL, WA - A monument commemorating the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River and its importance to the sport of fly fishing was dedicated at 1 p.m. November 16, 2002 at riverside in the community of Hazel.

The monument, similar to those you see in our nation's parks, is designed to preserve and promote the history of the North Fork and its prized summer run steelhead.

The beautiful and acrobatic summer run fish were so sought after by anglers that they were made part of fly fishing literature in stories by Zane Grey, Roderick Haig-Brown and other writers. The river is believed to be the first in the world to be set aside for fly fishing only for summer run steelhead.

Erected by the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club of Everett with help from a long list of local donors, the monument is designed to be a permanent reminder of the river's past and of the people who helped pioneer steelhead fly fishing in the Northwest.

“We wanted to remind visitors to the river that it was a very important part

(Wash, Continued from page 6)

vest is quite interesting, like looking at a car just before you sell it. To the laundry room! Great, there's a special spray bottle of spot remover. When I finished spraying the spots, the entire surface was soaked, justifying my old adage: if a little cleaner is good, then a lot should work better.

The last spin cycle ends and the washing is completed. Lifting the lid, I hold my breath wondering if I will find the vest has disintegrated. Victory, the vest looks clean but not too clean. It won't be mistaken for a new vest. I am good to go. Hang this baby up on a plastic hanger for drying and re-outfitting. As spring approaches, that's one big load off my mind. Now I can concentrate on where the pump is for my pontoon boat.

of fly fishing,” said Dale Dennis, the club's conservation chairman.

The river's run of summer fish has dwindled considerably, and Dennis said club members didn't want its memory to fade into obscurity.

“We thought it would be a shame - with a river of this kind with so much history - to lose both the fish and the history that went with it,” Dennis said.

He added that he hopes to instill an appreciation for the river in a new generation of fly fishers.

Dennis noted that the river's fly fishing-only designation in summer was a first step toward the catch and release ethic practiced today by many anglers as a way of protecting fish runs, especially native fish.

Made of local river rock, cedar and fir, the monument includes a map of the river carved into a wood slab and another slab with a story board featuring photographs and text about the river.

Another section features the area's fly fishing pioneers and will change every six months to a year. The first angler to be featured is Walt Johnson.

The monument is 10 feet wide, 18 feet long and 12 feet high. It was erected on a site overlooking the river with a view of Mount Higgins in the background.



Evergreen Fly Fishing Club members; Gordon McKay, Jessie Scott and Jack Hutchinson finishing the monument at Hazel, WA on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River --- Photo by Mike Benbow from the Everett Herald



Overview of monument and river -- Photo by Mike Benbow from the Everett Herald



River map and history -- Photo by Mike Benbow from the Everett Herald

Some rule changes (mostly on fishing) by the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife are passed along. There is no way of sorting the e-mail for a particular part of the state, so Eastside members will receive information on Westside river closures, etc

We would like to have at least one member in each club on the list. Some clubs have only one member who receives the information and then distributes it to other members. Other clubs have several members on the list. If you want to join the list please send an e-mail message to me, Bob Bates: bob-bates@worldnet.att.net. Some information about yourself such as club membership and city you live in although not necessary would be appreciated.

Please remember to let me know when you change your e-mail address or want to be removed from the list.

Covering The Drift

The Washington State Council publishes a quarterly newsletter *Covering The Drift*. It is sent to all FFF members in Washington. We are always trying to make it more useful and informative for FFF members in Washington. Articles are solicited from all members. Particularly if you have information that other FFF would be interested in.

Past issues have contained articles on Washington fly fishing clubs; proposed or completed conservation projects; fishing opportunities (not advertising); arguments for and against legislative bills; a background on rotenone for rehabilitating state waters; announcements and information on fly fishing symposia, jamborees, shows or expositions; messages and stories from board members; occasionally a fly pattern and once in a while some humor.

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“Hazel is the only place along the river where a person can get out and see the river and experience the river without feeling like he’s encroaching on someone’s property,” noted Gregory Minaker, the project’s architect.

He noted the monument was developed with local natural materials “so the shelter looks solid and will last a long time.”

For More Information Contact: Dale Dennis (360) 435-8735

Additional comment by Donn Mills, WSCFFF Director at Large: Dale Dennis, Conservation Chair, was a large part of the success of this project, and if he had not pushed it so hard it might never have been done. Rightfully so, the club gave him a standing ovation for his efforts.



From Dave Whitlock

**WSCFFF
Communication**

By Bob Bates,
Director of Communication

The Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers uses several methods to keep its members informed: Club Contacts E-mail List, *Covering The Drift* newsletters, WSCFFF website and the quarterly board meetings.

Club Contacts E-mail List

An e-mail list was started several years ago to speed up communication on important topics. It serves as a communication link between the WSCFFF Board and Member Clubs or from the clubs (or individuals) to the board.

Some of the mailings alert WSCFFF members about timely legislative items, hearings, environmental issues or conservation items. Information on meetings of interest to fly anglers is distributed. This information comes from a number of sources, so there is always a disclaimer added saying that the Board has not taken a position on the item.



(Continued from page 8)

Deadlines for submitting articles:

June issue: May 15, 2003
 September issue August 15, 2003
 December issue: November 15, 2003
 March issue February 15, 2004

Send articles to Bob Bates, 2709 W Dell Dr, Spokane, WA 99208-4546 or bob-bates@worldnet.att.net.

WSCFFF Website

Our website:

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org contains a variety of information. Things are added to and removed from the website fairly often, and the pictures are changed regularly.

Two important parts of the site are the list of FFF clubs in Washington and the list of council officers. This gives people looking for Washington fly fishing clubs or other FFF information a list of contacts.

The list of officers can be kept up to date easily, but the contacts for the clubs changes with each election. We need someone in each club to help us keep it current.

Information on events like the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition, NWFCE are posted. At this time the results of the 2002 NWFCE are posted, but in a month or two we will replace the past with descriptions of things to come.

Special articles are highlighted usually at the top of the main page. Current articles include the 33,000 Klamath River salmon kill due to low water, Klamath River water wars and the Fly Fishing Monument built by the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club on the North Fork of the Stillaguamish River.

Some articles from the Federation of Fly Fishers website are brought into our site to make them more accessible. Electronic copies of *Covering The Drift*

newsletters, in color, are also posted on our site.

Quarterly Board Meetings

Four times a year the full WSCFFF Board meets to discuss and decide on important items for the Council. Generally these meetings are held at the Goose Creek Inn, Ellensburg, WA. Any changes in meeting location will be announced in through the *Club Contacts E-mail List* and posted on the website. Any FFF members are welcome to attend these meetings. The schedule for near term meetings is:

April 12, at 10 am (Annual Meeting
 We would like to see at least one person from each club attend)
 July 12, 2003 at 10 am
 October 11, 2003 at 10 am

If you have any ideas for improved communication please let us know.

Blue Lake Shiner Barrier

By Jerry McBride,
 Conservation Committee Cochairman

The Blue Lake shiner barrier is in place! Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife completed construction last fall. If and when a decision is made to rehabilitate Blue Lake the barrier will prevent shiners from repopulating the lake.

Region 2 Fisheries Biologist Ken Williams first brought the problem at Blue Lake (near Loomis, WA) to WSCFFF's attention in June 1998. Ken pointed out that in times of high water, water flows out of Blue Lake through the channel at the north end and on down into Sinlahekin Creek. The shiners in Sinlahekin Creek migrate up into the lake and spawn populating the lake. Ken pointed out that after a rehab of Blue Lake in 1996 shiners had reestablished themselves in less than two years.

Ken retired in 2000 and Heather Bartlett became the Region 2 Fisheries Biologist. Once she got her feet on the ground Heather became a strong supporter for the Blue Lake project and did the groundwork required before the project could proceed.

The real breakthrough came in June 2000 when Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commissioner Fred Shiosaki took up the cause. To lend support WSCFFF offered \$2,000 in "seed money" to get the project started.

As they say, "the rest is history." It just goes to show that with enough persistence and a lot of support a good project can be accomplished.

2003 Northwest Fly Casting Exposition

By Jimmy LeMert,
 Exposition Chairman

Once again it is time to start thinking about the Northwest Fly Casting Expo. This year the event will be held on Saturday, September 20th at the beautiful Trophy Lakes Golf and Casting Club.

Brochures with a registration cards were handed out at the FFF booth at the Fly Fishing Show held at the Meydenbauer Center in February. Brochures with registration cards will also be given out at the Seattle Sportsman's show in March.

Mel Krieger will be headlining this year's event so we expect a terrific turnout. Competitor space is limited so register early!

For extra brochures with registration forms, contact your club president or Jimmy LeMert (206) 329-0927 leave message, or at jimmylemert@hotmail.com.

We Need WDFW Region 2

By Ben Dennis, Director at Large

Don't let the "budget choppers" incorporate it into Region 3, based in Yakima (4 hours and more from present Region 2 waters and lands)

Region 2 is in serious jeopardy of being cut back and taken out of the hands of those who have diligently worked to maintain and improve this diverse and wonderful region that we love. This is your time to step up and make your voice heard. This is not the time to sit back and see what happens.

Region 2 encompasses five counties (Okanogan, Chelan, Douglas, Grand and Adams), the sum total of 14,000 square miles, of pristine and diverse natural beauty. It is larger in area than some east coast states. It is bordered to the west by 10,000-foot peaks of the North Cascades range, to the north is Canada and to the south and east, the Columbia River basin. Its waters---the Methow, Entiat, Chelan and Wenatchee rivers contain endangered spring Chinook, summer steelhead and threatened bull trout. These waters require close monitoring from professionals who are familiar with them. It is the number one recreational fishing region statewide, that includes warm water and trout. It contains the most popular bass fishing sites. This region is rich in the following:

- 200 high mountain lakes
- 400 low land lakes
- 200 water and wildlife access areas
- 300,000 acres set aside for wildlife and public recreation
- Okanogan and Chelan counties comprise more than 70% of the land held in public ownership.

Region 2 manages the most, 22%, of the total land base in Washington State for fish and wildlife issues.

Region 2 ranks number one chukar(39.4%), quail (37%), ducks(28%) and geese(37%) harvest.

Fifteen percent of the State's deer harvest comes from Region 2

Fifteen percent of the State's bear harvest comes from Region 2

These are just some of the benefits of this rich Region. To manage this huge, unique region from afar is not in the best interest of any of the above. We have in-place an agency that is knowledgeable about the region in which they live and work. Incorporating Region 2 into another for budget sake isn't fixing anything. What needs to be fixed is the state's "budget choppers" who haven't a clue of the damage they will inflict in the short and long term.

Write now to:

Governor Gary Locke	email: access.wa.gov
Senator Linda Parlette	email: parlette_li @leg.wa.gov
Senator Bob Morton	email: morton_bob@leg.wa.gov
Senator Jim Honeyford	email: honeyfor_ji@leg.wa.gov
Representative Mike Armstrong	email: armston_mi@leg.wa.gov
Representative Cary Condetta	email: condetta_ca@leg.wa.gov
Representative Bruce Chandler	email: chandler_br@leg.wa.gov
Representative Bob Sump	email: sump_bo@leg.wa.gov
Representative Cathy McMorris	email: mcmorris_ca@leg.wa.gov
Director, WA State Dept. Fish & Wildlife Jeff Koenings	email: koenijpk@dfw.wa.gov
Chairman, WA Fish & Wildlife Commission	email: commission@dfw.wa.gov
Regional Administrator, NOAA Robert Lohn,	email: bob.lohn@noaa.gov
Okanogan county commissioners	
Dave Schulz, Craig Verjaska, Mary Lou Peterson	email: Okanogan.co.wa
Director, WA State Dept. of Ecology Tom Fitzsimmons	email: tfit461@ecy.wa.gov
USFW, Mark Miller	email: mark_miller@fws.gov

Note: Legislative and USFW email addresses have _ (underscores) in them.

Ed. Note: Several people I talked to feel that additional travel costs will more that offset any savings in salary, and service will be degraded.

FFF Communication

By Bob Bates,
Director of Communication

Communications in FFF is already one of the largest expenses. Between the *Flyfisher*, the FFF Clubwire and the FFF website almost 40% of your \$29 annual dues goes to communications. And they have recently launched a newsletter for FFF leaders.

Flyfisher

The *Flyfisher* is the official quarterly magazine for the FFF. It is a high quality magazine that goes to every FFF member. There are articles written by internationally known authors. Usually there are articles on technique such as the recent one by Tom Jindra on "Beating the Wind." Al and Gretchin Beatty always have an article on tying a fly that works everywhere. Naturally there is something on fishing someplace. It might not be in your back yard, but it is interesting to read about how people catch fish on flies in other waters both fresh and salt. There is plenty of information on what is going on inside the FFF, what are some major concerns for fishers and something on current conservation projects.

Clubwire

The *Clubwire* is a monthly e-mail publication. It was originally designed for the editors of club newsletters, but

it is available to others. Subject matter is varied to give editors something of interest to use: Technical things about casting or fishing, stories and experiences, recipes and usually something on fly tying. This is a great source of material if an editor runs out of articles for their newsletter. To get on the list send an e-mail to clubwire@fedflyfishers.org with a request. The main things that are requested in return send a copy of your newsletter to Shirley Fulton the Clubwire editor and give credit to Clubwire for anything you use.

FFF Website

There is a tremendous amount of information on the Federation of Fly Fishers website: www.fedflyfishers.org. You can find references and contacts for FFF clubs any place in the world. Look up information on educational opportunities within FFF including the Boy Scout Fly Fishing Merit Badge. If you want to become a certified casting instructor start here for the requirements. Conservation activities, FFF awards, fly fishing concerns like the New Zealand Mud Snail or Yellowstone Lake, endangered fisheries, tips on fly tackle and leaders, tips for beginning fly tiers and a Fly of the Month page are some of the things available. For the tier of Atlantic salmon flies all copies of the *Salmon Flyer* are available. Early information on the 2003 FFF International

Conclave and Show, August 4-9, in Idaho Falls, Idaho is available. I would be remiss if I didn't mention that you can join the FFF on line and also purchase FFF logo items and other stuff.

Leaders on the Fly

This is a quarterly e-mail newsletter that goes the leadership in organized fly fishing all over the country. The distribution is to the FFF Board of Directors, the FFF's Senior Advisors, Council Officers, and the club presidents of the FFF member clubs. Quoting president Gregg Pitts in the first issue:

"There are three reasons this newsletter was started: 1) One of the significant missions of this new correspondence is to help clubs and councils better manage the business of running a volunteer organization. Getting the most out of our efforts is a common desire for all volunteers. 2) FFF programs that are available to support local efforts will be featured. The FFF has conservation grant money available. We also have educational materials, materials that can help with your local efforts. 3) Unfortunately, our communications efforts to date have not always succeeded."

If you are a club president and have not received the first two issues send an e-mail to membership@fedflyfishers.org.

Federation of Fly Fishers Membership Application

Full Name _____
 Address _____
 City / State / Zip _____
 Phone home / work _____
 Club Affiliation _____
 Birth Date _____

Referred by: _____

Apply online at www.fedflyfishers.org

Please mail or call us at

Federation of Fly Fishers

PO Box 1595 406 585 7592

Bozeman MT 59771 406 585 7596 fax

Please check membership category

Canadian memberships add \$5 per year All other countries add \$10 per year

- (A) Individual Membership (\$29)
- (G) 3-year individual (\$70)
- (O) Senior Membership (\$22)
for those age 65 and over
- (B) Family Membership (\$35)
spouses and children under 14
- (H) 3-Year Family Member (\$82)
- (Y) Youth Membership (\$11)
for individual members under 14
- (C) Sponsoring Contributor (\$64)
- (D) Century Contributor (\$100)
- (L) Individual Life (\$465)
payment plans available
- (T) Couple Life (\$696)
- (E) Retail Membership (\$70)
small fishing equipment stores
- (S) Sustaining Membership (\$185)
commercial / manufacturing businesses

Check Enclosed (checks payable to F.F.F.) US Funds

Credit Card Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

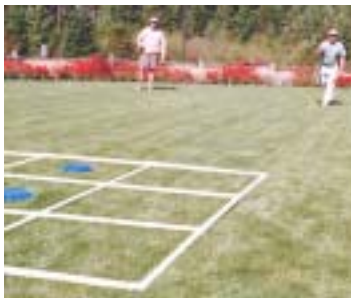
Pictures From The 2002 NW Fly Casting Exposition



Vernon Young presenting Fidalgo Fly Fishers with the Team Accuracy Award: L-R Robin LaRue, Ken Futrelle, Pam Church and Dick Raisler



Mariland Vitale placed second in the individual Casting Accuracy, just one point below her husband



<<< Two fellows battling it out on the Tic-Tac-Cutthroat game

Look closely and you will see the >>> line through the hoop.

Upper left photo by Fidalgo Fly Fishers Others by Bob Bates



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