



Covering The Drift

Website: <http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org>

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President's Message

By Bob Shirley
WSCFFF, President

The Federation of Fly Fishers honored two Legends of Fly Fishing from Washington at the 2003 FFF Fly Fishing Conclave and Show in Idaho Falls, Idaho this August. The first was Steve Rajeff of Battleground who is, to my mind, the best distance caster in America. He is also one of the nicest most generous people in fly fishing, and wears his many casting championships with dignity and honor.

Bruce Ferguson of Gig Harbor was the second Washington fly fisher honored by the Federation as a Legend. Bruce is a member of my home club the Puget Sound Fly Fishers, and has trained and inspired many of us in the areas of resource conservation and fishing opportunity. Congratulations to Steve and Bruce, and thanks to both of you for all of your hard work and dedication to the sport of fly fishing and to the Federation of Fly Fishers.

the Federation and not the other way around. We get to say how the future of fly fishing will look and should be passionate in our participation in the process.

If someone asks what the FFF will do for them, ask them what do they want us to do. We already teach, conserve, restore, serve, lobby, testify, advocate, support and help manage the growth and ethics of fly fishing for them and for the future. So, if we are not doing what they want us to, let me know and we will see what we can do about that too.

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I know about a dozen other fly fishers in Washington who deserve to be named legends. You probably know them too. The great tiers, rod builders and designers, the great casters and fishers. That is what is so great about our sport. We get to associate with, learn directly from, and fish with the true legends of our sport. Not many golfers can golf with Tiger Woods. Not many basketball enthusiasts get to pal around with Jordon either. We get to talk to our greats and to share time with them at Conclaves and club meetings, and on the lakes and rivers and the saltwater.

Tell a friend about the Federation, volunteer to help, and work toward a better tomorrow.

A Conclave Report

By Dick Raisler,
Director at Large

I thoroughly enjoyed the Conclave. As usual there were more activities that I would like to be involved in, than there was time. My impressions are:

The other thing we share with our fly fishing heroes and legends is the Federation of Fly Fishers. Virtually all well known and successful fly fishers belong. They understand the importance of continuing the traditions and introducing the sport to new people. The true future of fly fishing rests in the members of the Federation. Our members are

Casting programs are a strong component of the event and well attended. Mel Kreiger gave a class called "Beginning Casting And Instruction Methodology." The class was open to all Certified Casting Instructors for observation

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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

email: vjyoung@attglobal.net

2003-2004 WSCFFF Officers

President and National Director

Bob Shirley (253) 581-1271

email: 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@foxinternet.com

1stVP, West

Mike Clancy (253) 759-3456

e-mail: mandd.clancy@one800.net

1stVP, East & Co-VP Conservation

Jerry McBride, (509) 233-2108

email: jernnita@aol.com

Co-VP Conservation

John Calhoun (425) 836-5529

email: johnscalhoun@msn.com

VP, Education

Len Zickler, (253) 942-4484

e-mail: len_zickler@msn.com

VP, Communication,

National Director and newsletter editor

Bob Bates (509) 328-7327

e-mail: bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

VP, Membership

Irv Conner (509) 663-7054

email: kconner@televar.com

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of teaching methods. Mel spent considerable time with the casting instructors as well as with the beginning students. This was a terrific class and the first of its type that I know of. Hopefully there will be more next year.

The President's Banquet turned out to be more of a "Sponsors Banquet." The Sponsors were at the head table and had access to the microphone. There were three former Presidents in attendance that received limited exposure. Gregg Pitts was featured and Gary Grant did get his time. I was with Past President Danny Beatty and felt he and other past presidents were slighted.

The Awards Brunch was very inspiring. The speakers were articulate, grounded in humility, humor and a passion for fly fishing.

Next year in West Yellowstone will be great.



Certified Casting Instructor Examination Class

Photo by Harry Calhoun, Spokane, WA

Yakima River Sign Project

By Len Zickler, VP Education

Project Description

The Yakima River Sign Project will involve the manufacture and placement of informational signs throughout the length of the Yakima River, from Easton to the Roza Dam. The focus of the signage program will be to highlight conservation and cleanup activities, as well as details of the selective fishery and fishing etiquette on the river.

As you are aware, the Yakima River is Washington State's blue-ribbon wild trout fishery. Since 1989, the river has experienced tremendous

enhancement through the application of selective gear rules. Nevertheless, the river experiences a degree of abusive and/or inappropriate behavior that can interrupt the river ecology and beauty of the fishing experience.

The signage program will, in positive terms, outline the kinds of activities that are encouraged throughout the corridor, provide guidance to fishermen on appropriate gear and fishing rules, and suggest appropriate etiquette for fishing of the river with other fishermen.

The signs will be located at several

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

Director at Large
Dick Raisler (360) 466-5797
email: raisler@cnw.com

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

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

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

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

Director at Large
Jerry Schroeder (360) 864-6960
e-mail: jsflyfisher@aol.com

Director at Large
Tyler Laurenti (206) 478-6452
e-mail: tlaurenti@netscape.net

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

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

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key boat launches and primary wade access areas for fishermen. The project also includes the purchase of extra replacement signs for those that might be stolen or vandalized. Copies of the proposed signs are available for review from the YRFF.

The YRFF is delighted to report the progress the club has made in garnering broad support from fly fishers throughout Washington State for conservation activities. This year the club has organized clean-up projects along the river, at boat launches and along Canyon Road. Our members are very committed to maintaining the quality of the fishing experience on our State's blue ribbon, wild trout fishery!

The Yakima River Fly Fishers (YRFF) is requesting funding assistance from clubs throughout the State for the signage project. The YRFF's hope and desire is that club's will financially support the sign project at a level that is appropriate for each club.

If you have any questions regarding our grant request or require additional information, please contact Len Zickler at 253-383-2422, or Steve Joyce at 509-929-1802.

Location of Project:

Project is located on the Yakima

River in Kittitas County, Washington. The proposed signage project will include approximately 36 specific sites where wade fishing and/or boat launching occurs along the river. Sites have been identified from the Easton Bridge to upstream of Roza Dam – the entire length of the Yakima River selective fishery.

What Funds Will Be Used For:

Funds for the project will be used to manufacture the signs and sign supports. The signs will be installed through the volunteer efforts of members of the Yakima River Fly Fishers, other interested clubs and the public. Funding has been received from other fishing organizations that will also be invited to participate in the installation of the signs.

Estimate Cost of Project:

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$5,850. This cost includes the signage, as well as support and attachment materials for the signs. The signs will be constructed of a heavy-gauge aluminum material, with a non-reflective typeface and background color.

Funds Secured To Date:

To date, funds have been received from the following sources:
Yakima River Fly Fishers - \$1,500

Clark/Skamania Fly Fishers - \$500
WSCFFF - \$1,000
Puget Sound Fly Fishers - \$500

Grants received as of this date will fund the first phase of the project, which will include the manufacture and installation of 20 signs at high priority put-in/take-out locations. Phase I signs have been ordered and the YRFF is planning installation in September and October of 2003.

Phase II of the project will involve installation of the balance of the project signs (16 signs, plus replacements). Phase II will be scheduled as funding permits, however it is anticipated all signs will be in place by May 2004.

Grant Request:

The YRFF is requesting financial support from fly fishing clubs. A grant range of between \$100 and \$500 is suggested. However, support for this very worthwhile project at any level is appreciated. Contributions for the project should be made to the Yakima River Fly Fishers and earmarked for the "YRFF Signage Project". If your club would like to help please mail your contribution to YRFF, C/O Dawn Zickler, Treasurer – YRFF, 34324 30th Avenue SW, Federal Way, WA 98023.

Spread The Word

By Bob Shirley,
President WSCFFF

Just a reminder to those of us who belong to a fly fishing club or other organization. Please, remind everyone to make sure the club contact information and club officers are correct and up to date on the various web sites where you are listed.

Share information about your activities and accomplishments with other clubs and the Washington State Council. Do not assume others know about the good work you are doing and that they understand the importance and significance of your efforts. Share ideas about youth education, conservation, and events of interest. Let others know about your auctions, outings (so we don't all show up at the same place), and community outreach programs.

We in Washington can be proud of the role we play in leading activities that enhance and support the fly fishing experience for all anglers who fish with the artificial fly.

Hole 6 Report

By Larry Gibbs, Treasurer

A group of us from the Puget Sound Flyfishers went to Trophy Lake on June 21. Trophy was hot and cold. Up at Hole 6, Dick Matthaei was hotter than a firecracker using a Denny Rickard's Callibaetis nymph pattern. He used both the Peacock and a Gray style in size 12. I say he caught around 30 he says it was less than that.

For myself, I caught 10. Seems it

went in streaks. I would catch two then go for a long time with nothing, then catch two more, maybe three, then quiet again. Most of mine were on a green bead head Woolly Bugger. I did catch a couple on a big egg sucking leach pattern and on a black Woolly Bugger.

A couple members of our group were catching some fish on the dry, using a big Blue Winged Olive pattern. One of the workers at Trophy said they have been having good luck casting out a large Adams and bringing it across the top fairly fast.

Most of the fish were taken when you let the fly sink down deep then retrieve it with about 4-inch pulls, vary the speed to find the right one, sometimes it was slow, sometimes fast.

I would say the majority of fish we caught were in the 16 to 19 inch range, but there are some bigger ones in the low 20 inch range.

The pond had a fair amount of surface scum on it but the wind blew most if it to one end. Looks like I had better plan on figuring out a way to keep some of the fishing lanes clear during the event.

That is all for now.

Wanted

By Bob Shirley,
President WSCFFF

Volunteers to help in conservation and education events to be held around the state of Washington in support of fly fishing.



You do not need to know how to cast perfectly, tie great looking flies, or catch all of the biggest fish. Just be interested in helping.

Contact the WSCFFF

P.O. Box 921

Gig Harbor, WA. 98335

E-mail: vjyoung@attglobal.net

Or

Bob Shirley at (253) 581-1271 or

E-mail: b.shirley@juno.com

Fishing Kids

By Bob Bates,
VP Communications

Each year thousands of kids have a chance to go fishing through the Fishing Kids program. The event is fairly well advertised, and lots of volunteers help. The parents of the kids register and pay a \$5.00 fee. This gives the kid about 25 minutes of fishing for Washington State Fish and Wildlife hatchery rainbows. They can go home with up to three rainbows of any size, a new Zebco spinning rod and reel, a t-shirt and a new fishing memory.

In 2003 there were 12 events, 7,597 participants, 760 volunteers, 116 partners/sponsors and 36,500 fish planted. The fish are released after the event. Like many outdoor events, the volunteers work very hard to make it happen for the kids. Months before the events: rods, reels, leaders, hooks and bait are scheduled and ordered where necessary.

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In the weeks prior to a particular event local clubs and organizations get together to assemble rods, reels, leaders and hooks. This job makes for long sessions and several pots of coffee. On the day of the event other clubs join them for the fun.

In Spokane, WA the Walleye Club and the Inland Northwest Wildlife Council did most of the heavy work, with the Spokane Fly Fishers and the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club (both FFF clubs) joining them on the fishing day.

The following probably happened at each event on fishing day: In Spokane, we arrived early for the orientation, assignments, a free "Fishing Kids" cap, coffee and sweet rolls, and then went to our assignments, which were pretty much our choice. Mine was handing out rods, and other club members went toward the water to help the kids land their fish and re-

bait hooks. Yes, worms, the wiggly kind, and Power Bait were the flies of choice.

It is an artificial situation with thousands of fish trapped in nets, but it gives kids a chance to catch two or three fish. This might lead to an interest in fishing that they can pursue with their new rod. Also we hope that the new rod will be an incentive the parents to take the kids fishing. Later we hope they buy fishing licenses, and they might even convert to fly fishing.

All the volunteers enjoyed themselves and plan to do it again next year. If you didn't join us this year plan on it for next year. It will be announced in *Covering the Drift* and sent out on the Club Contacts e-mail list. The numbers for this year and projections for next year are given below. The pictures here were taken by Inland Northwest Wildlife Council members. Maybe next year we can feature your pictures.

| Date | Place | Lake | Kids 2003 | Projected 2004 |
|------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|----------------|
| April 12 th | Lacy | Long's Pond | 600 | 600 |
| April 19 th | Vancouver | Klineline Pond | 1220 | 1220 |
| April 26 th | Seattle | Green Lake | 427 | 600 |
| May 3 rd | Kennewick | Columbia Park Pond | 1004 | 1200 |
| May 3 rd | Longview | Lake Sacajawea | 466 | 600 |
| May 10 th | Spokane | Clear Lake | 1000 | 1200 |
| May 10 th | Everett | Silver Lake Park | 500 | 500 |
| Mat 17 th | Yakima | Sarge Hubbard Pond | 683 | 800 |
| June 7 th | Renton | Gene Coulon Park | 767 | 750 |
| June 7 th | Lakewood | American Lake | 480 | 480 |
| June 7 th | Chelan | Lake Chelan | 200 | 400 |
| June 14 th | Colfax | Gilchrist Pond | 250 | 300 |



This young person caught a limit of fish. Every one was checked out personally by him before going into the bag.



Even cleaning the fish was handled by volunteers. Many kids watched the process intently



To the left is a shot of one group of kids and parents.

Ed. Note: More pictures will be on our web site.

What Has The FFF Done In Washington?

By Larry Gibbs, Treasurer

FFF CORNER:

Recently someone asked me, "What has the FFF done in the State of Washington?" I am glad they asked. Aaron Culley, one of the WSCFFF board members recently listed some projects involving the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers and the FFF:

WSCFFF:

- Supported the Methow River steelhead spawning bed restoration
- Assisted in the creation of two new FFF charter clubs in 2002, the Twin Harbors and Yakima River Fly Fishers clubs
- Participated in the Wild Steelhead Coalition
- Supported the Mercury Free Washington group
- Supported the "Go Play Outside" program, a WDFW youth education program
- Supported the Washington Wildlife & Recreation Coalition
- Supported the Washington Wildlife Federation Coalition
- Champion the fly fishing cause to WDFW and the State Legislature
- Supported signage for Searun Cutthroat conservation regulations
- Played a key role in the re-introduction of rotenone for sensible lake rehabilitation
- Supported the Yakima River signage program created by the YRFF
- Supported the Fly Card program to spread the word about Catch and Release of wild trout
- Supported the Yakima River clean up programs held twice a year by the YRFF and the Worley Bugger Fly Shop
- Supported the Center for Environmental Law & Policy
- Supported the newsletter, "The Osprey," a FFF steelhead conservation project
- Held the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition to promote fly fishing and as a fund raiser

FFF:

- Developed Catch and Release
- Established standards for consistent casting instruction
- National endangered fisheries campaign
- Creation of International Code of Ethics for fly fishing
- Create warning and education about whirling disease
- Create warning and education about the New Zealand Mud Snail threat
- Yellowstone Lake protection actions
- Seneca Lake preservation-pondmaster
- Project Native Cutthroat
- Beaver Creek Project (Maryland)
- Strawberry River preservation (Arkansas)
- Crooked Creek Coalition (Arkansas)
- Winkley Shoals trout habitat project
- Worked with the Boy Scouts of America to create a fly fishing merit badge
- Windmill Lake project in Texas
- Buffalo River project in Arkansas
- Endorses Seagrass Protection proposals
- Housatonic River project in Connecticut
- Fisheries Recovery Act for our oceans

Yes, the FFF has been busy trying to maintain a good fishery for the future, our future.

Ed. Note: Aaron Culley has an older version of this statement in full color on our web site.
<http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/Membership2.htm>



Covering The Drift, E-Version

By Bob Bates, VP Communications

Many organizations find that using electronic delivery of their newsletters helps them provide a better service to their members and save money on printing and mailing.

We feel it is time to really push to electronically deliver our newsletter, *Covering the Drift*. We will use Adobe Acrobat Portable Document Format, PDF, which is used for document transfers throughout the world.

Some advantages in addition to cost savings are:

* There will be more color in each issue, which I hope makes for better and easier reading.

* You will receive your newsletter much sooner than the hard copy recipients.

* The electronic copy will be posted on our website so you can always find it, unlike a hard copy that, like mine, gets buried under a pile of other important papers.

Some people don't want to receive large attached files. Therefore, I will

send you an e-mail when the newsletter is posted on our website. The e-mail will have a link to the newsletter. When you click on the link, your computer should begin the download process. Depending on your system it starts downloading immediately or asks permission and where to put the file.

While the download is in progress you can do other things like check your e-mail or look at some fly tying sites.

Once the file is downloaded, you can find it with something like Windows Explorer and double click on it, or use Adobe Acrobat Reader 4.0 or newer to find the file and open it.

Most computers are delivered with Adobe Acrobat Reader installed. If you don't have it, or your copy is too old you can get the latest copy free from.

<http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>

I normally read PDF files on the screen, but if you really want a hard copy you can print it

To make this work we need your help.

If you want to receive notice when the electronic version is ready please send the following information to me at:

bob-bates@worldnet.att.net

Your e-mail address

Your name exactly as it appears on the hard copy mailing label. I manually remove the names of electronic recipients from the quarterly mail list I receive from the Bozeman office. Later I hope to automate this process.

Your address, as it appears on the mailing label.

Your phone number, in case something gets messed up. Like you changed your e-mail address and forgot to tell me.

If I receive a rejected message I will retry in a day or two and see what happens. If that doesn't work I'll call you.

So join us and help us save our monies for conservation, education and recovery projects.

Also, I think you will like the looks of the new electronic version.

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) (C) Sponsoring Contributor (\$64)

(G) 3-year individual (\$70) (D) Century Contributor (\$100)

(O) Senior Membership (\$22) (L) Individual Life (\$465)

for those age 65 and over payment plans available

(B) Family Membership (\$35) (T) Couple Life (\$696)

spouses and children under 14 (E) Retail Membership (\$70)

(H) 3-Year Family Member (\$82) small fishing equipment stores

(Y) Youth Membership (\$11) (S) Sustaining Membership (\$185)

for individual members under 14 commercial / manufacturing businesses

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

Credit Card Visa MasterCard Discover

Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

A Conclave Report

By Bob Bates, VP Communications

I feel the FFF Show and Conclave is getting better. This year's Show in Idaho Falls, ID was dedicated to the legends of fly fishing. To me it is amazing how many great and near great people come to this Conclave.

My emphasis is on fly tying, so I go around the room to see what different people are tying. Also, with their permission I try to collect enough information and a sample fly to put it into the FFF Fly of the Month.

One young lady tied a beetle pattern for me, and when I asked her how long she has been tying it, she replied: "About 10 minutes." Obviously, it will need field testing before publication.

A fellow, from Pocatello, ID, who was tying bass bugs gave me a great wool

head bass bug. When I asked him where he fished it he replied: "Okalahoma."

And then there is Sister Carol Ann Corley, the "Tying Nun." She teaches kids to tie flies, so many of her patterns are simple. However, they catch perch, blue gills, etc. around Hot Springs, AR. What really amazed me was every time she disappeared behind the table she brought out another fly tying material

that she found at the Dollar Store.

Also checked out displays, silent auctions, and fly casters. The casting pond was outside the hotel restaurant windows. I watched the casters as I ate my lunch. One lady was handling the line very well. Then I realized it was Marilyn Vitale from Washington state.

Conclaves are fun and interesting. Be sure to go next year in West Yellowstone, MT



Mel Kreiger, standing, and others at the Fly Casting Instructor course



Federation of Fly Fishers™
Washington State Council

PO Box 921
Gig Harbor WA 98335-0921

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