



# Covering The Drift

Volume 9, Number 1

[www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

September, 2004

## Leader's Line

By Bob Shirley,  
WSCFFF President

This has been a wonderful year for adventures and fishing. I was able to spend ten days in B.C. during June, eight days fishing cutthroat in Wyoming, two days on the Snake in Idaho near Idaho Falls, one day with a group of Puget Sound Fly Fishers helping kids catch fish at an Elks Club Family Day.

Canada was wild weather the first few days when three friends and I fished out of Moose Camp about 35

klicks west of Clearwater B.C. We had rain, wind, snow, hail and a hatch all on the same day. The next day we saw a sow bear and her cub (the cub went up a tree and graciously posed for photos by all of us), another bear but this time a young boar, and then a BIG boar who just ambled off the road got into some sparse cover and stared back at us for several minutes before moving off. Another memorable event was an evening on Rioux Lake casting dry flies (any dry would do it seemed) to large hungry rainbows. That was the first five days.

I could bore you further with tales of surprised moose in Meeteetse, Wyoming, and six-pound rainbows caught in a 1000-gallon tank on a 5-ft line by a young lady at the Elks' picnic, but I won't. I'll just say fishing and especially fly fishing brings you into contact with some wonderful people. It can lead to exciting and memorable incidents, and is still the best and most effective way to enjoy fishing while impacting fish the least.

We also tend to think more about how to help preserve and protect the environment and habitat of our targeted species than most. I like that and I applaud all of you for being fly fishers and for joining with us to help promote fly fishing, for protecting the resource, and for sharing your love of the sport with others by teaching them casting and tying and catch and release and all of the rest it. Or by taking someone fishing.

## Inside This Issue

Article	Page
2004 Northwest Fly Fishing Exposition	2
Joe Foster Retires	2
Update on Region 2 Sign Project	3
Fly Fishing School	3
WSCFFF Booths at The Fly Fishing Show	4
Hooks	4
Understanding the Cast	4
39 <sup>th</sup> FFF International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave	5
“ FFF Board Meeting	5
“ Workshops	6
“ The Show	7
Federation of Fly Fishers Membership Application	7

The next four days were spent in Logan Lake B.C. fishing all of the fabulous water in that area. A good friend of mine from Vashon who is a member of PSFF and the Central Oregon Fly Fishers from Bend invited me to camp with them and experience their idea of a club outing. Another old friend from Bend who is past President of the Northeast Council FFF and with whom I had fished in April on the Yakima to celebrate his birthday was there too. Anyway, do those guys know how to treat a guest! ALL meals were cooked by 30 (yes 30) volunteer/members of the Bend Club. They had a great system and had bought enough equipment to make their entire ten-day (yes ten-day) outing as effortless and enjoyable as could be.

## 2004-2005 Officers

Your Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers officers for the period 2004 - 2005 are listed on pages two and three. If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please contact one of them. You can always send a letter to the office in Gig Harbor.

2004-2005 WSCFFF Officers

Washington State Council

Federation of Fly Fishers

P.O. Box 921

Gig Harbor, WA 98335

(253) 265-6162

email: FFFWSC@palvolunteers.net

President and National Director

Bob Shirley (253) 581-1271

email: b.shirley@juno.com

Secretary

Larry Gibbs, (253) 863-2203

e-mail: flytier01@foxinternet.com

Treasurer

Carl Johnson, (425) 308-6161

flyfishr@premier1.net

1<sup>st</sup>VP, West

Mike Clancy (253) 759-3456

e-mail: mtclancy@earthlink.net

1<sup>st</sup>VP, East & Co-VP, Conservation

Jerry McBride, (509) 233-2108

email: jernnita@aol.com

Co-VP, Conservation & National Director

Gordon McKay (425) 481-1250

e-mail: gdmckay@gte.net

2004 Northwest Fly Fishing Exposition

By Len Zickler,  
WSCFFF VP, Education

The Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is exploring a new direction for the Northwest Fly Casting Expo in 2004. The EXPO this year will emphasize education and outreach to the general public. MARK YOUR CALENDARS! - The EXPO is scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at Tolt-McDonald Park in Carnation, Washington.

The event will be modeled after the very successful Casting for Recovery program held each spring. The 2004 NWFCE will offer a series of casting and fly fishing classes for beginner to advanced fly fishers. In addition to beginning casting clinics, classes will be offered in advanced presentation, the two handed rod, the salt water flats, casting for greater distance and more!!!!!! All classes will be taught by FFF master or certified instructors. A clinic will also be held for those interested in the FFF casting certification process.

A youth program will be incorporated in the day's activities to encourage young casters and provide a fun introduction to fly fishing and casting.

As in past years, a competitive casting event will provide participants the opportunity to show off their casting abilities. We are calling on all fly fishing clubs to enter as many teams as they can muster. The competitive event will include distance, accuracy and skill components with a new "Danish" fly casting skill component. This should be a great experience and continue the "casting trophy" tradition!

We are planning an event that will be fun and affordable. The basic adult registration fee is \$25 and youth fee \$10. The basic registration fee includes all demonstrations, lunch, the casting competition and casting games. Individual casting and fishing classes will be offered at \$25 each.

Specific program details, including the casting rules and the "Danish" component, can be found at the WSCFFF website:

[www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org)

Your local fly shop should have brochures. If you are interested in registering or want to volunteer, please contact Dick Raisler (360-466-5797) or Len Zickler (253-380-1168) for more information.

Joe Foster Retires

*Ed. Note: This was extracted from an e-mail to Clay Findlay, Spokane, Washington from Joe Foster, May 16, 2004*

"On other matters, I am now officially a has-been with WDFW, having retired on May 13, after 31 years--21 of which was managing the fisheries in Region 2. Spent my last official day casting flies with good success on Aeneas Lake near Tonasket. Thought that was a fitting way to end my old career."

"It's been fun for the most part, especially visiting the many fly fishing clubs across the state. I will miss that very much, and especially the Inland Empire Fly Club. You folks have been a great support group and an encouragement to keep plugging away at creating better and additional fly fishing waters. Dusty is the latest addition."

"It's been an uphill battle for us here in Region 2 to effect changes such as Dusty, Beda, Homestead, Blue (Okanogan) and others. WDFW still is not warming easily to selective gear type management of trout waters."

**We wish Joe Foster good fishing in the years to come.**



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

VP, Education  
Len Zickler, (253) 942-4484  
e-mail: len\_zickler@msn.com

VP, Membership  
Irv Conner (509) 663-7054  
email: kconner@televar.com

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

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

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

Director at Large  
Kip Keener (206) 932-0203  
e-mail: kipkeener@hotmail.com

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

## Update on Region 2 Sign Project

By Jerry McBride  
WSCFFF 1st VP East and  
Co-VP, Conservation

As you probably recall, the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCFFF) committed to get 10 signs for Region 2 lakes put up in 2004. These signs will be like the ones you have seen at the Lenice chain and at Amber Lake (near Cheney, WA) for a number of years. Ten sponsors have agreed to co-sponsor a sign with WSCFFF.

Here is where the signs will go:

<u>Lake Sign</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>
Lenice	Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club
Nunnally #1	Puget Sound Flyfishers
Nunnally #2	Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers
Lenore #1	Larry Gibbs
Lenore #2	Overlake Fly Fishing Club
Lenore #3	North West Fly Fishermen
Lenore #4	Yakima River Fly Fishers
Dusty #1	Seattle Police Department FFC
Dusty #2	Dry Side Fly Club
Beda	Dry Side Fly Club

Each sign will have a message specific to its location on fishing regulations and present the message in English, Spanish and Ukrainian. The sign will include a statement in English that says "In cooperation with sponsor's name and the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers."

The signs with mounting frame cost \$250 each. WSCFFF is splitting the cost with the sponsors.

Region 2 Fisheries Biologist Jeff Korth is just finishing up the information that will go on the signs, so an order for the signs will be placed soon. I am estimating that we will receive them near the end of September. The frames that will mount the signs are ready to go and are stored at WDFW in Ephrata.

As soon as we have a firm sign delivery date, a sign installation schedule will be put together and people will be asked to help install the signs.



## Fly Fishing School

By Larry Gibbs,  
WSCFFF Secretary

At the 2004 WSCFFF Auction I purchased a trip for two to attend the Trout Express School of Fly Fishing's 2-day stillwater fly fishing program (604) 947-9299 or troutexpress2001@yahoo.ca. My fishing partner and I drove up to the

mountains of British Columbia and met up with the instructor/owner, Mhaire (pronounced Maw-Re) Sinclair. She lives in British Columbia and she holds her schools at various lakes in that providence.

I found her to be very qualified to instruct this course which consisted of an introduction to basic fly fishing (knots, lines, rods), fly casting instruction, reading a lake to know where to fish and an

entomology class to help you understand which fly to use. We receive printed materials for additional reading and an assortment of flies to use during the on the water portion of the school. Mhaire critiqued us on our casting and fishing techniques, thus improving our skills.

The class that we took was the beginning class. She also teaches a

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 3)

more advanced class on lake fishing, plus her company offers classes in saltwater and river fishing.

I must admit this was the best schoolroom I have ever been in. The loons and ducks were swimming by with their young, the fish were jumping, and the air was clear and clean. The mountains surrounded the lake and reflected off its surface.

For anyone new to fly fishing or if you have never had any instruction in still water fly fishing, I would really recommend you take this course. The cost is about half what a guided trip costs and you will learn things that will stay with you for years to come.

This would be the perfect gift to give to a new fly fisher.

## WSCFFF Booths at The Fly Fishing Show

By Bob Shirley, WSCFFF President

An early mention about our booths at **The Fly Fishing Show** in Bellevue February 11, 12 & 13, 2005. We encourage you to keep these dates open. In a little while we will be looking for volunteers.

## Hooks

We learned at the Conclave that Mustad donated approximately 200,000 hooks to the FFF. These are to be used for Boy Scout and other youth activities. The styles and requirements for distribution have not been established. Contact: Bob Wiltshire (406) 222-9369. E-mail: iffc@fedflyfishers.org

## Understanding The Cast

By Don Simonson, FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor

### ARTICLE 4

#### PRACTICING

As the saying goes, "Practice Makes Perfect." If we want to excel in our fly casting skills we need to set aside time to practice. I like to suggest to a student that approximately ½ hour, three times per week is a good schedule to start with. I want to emphasize right up front that we need to strive for **good quality** practice sessions. This means not subjecting ourselves to long sessions where we become tired and start to establish bad habits. Practice is not done while fishing. Practice should normally be done on grass or over water using a piece of yarn at the end of the leader. When we go fishing we want to concentrate on fishing not casting. With practice, casting should be an automatic function while fishing.

Practice should be fun. Try to organize your practice sessions so you are not doing the same drill more than 10 minutes at a time. I like to start with 20 to 30 ft. of line outside the rod tip. The following lists some drills you might try:

- A pick up and lay down concentrating on producing a nice tight loop both on the back cast and forward cast. The line should land all at the same time in a nice straight line with minimal slack after the completion of the forward cast. Notice I said **both** the back cast and the forward cast. If you don't look at the back cast you have not a clue what the loop looks like. So, you will need to develop your own style for looking at your back

cast. Strive to rotate your head without rotating your body allowing you to see the loop formation without causing the casting plane to change. I offer a couple suggestions one can use to accomplish this. First, open up your stance. For a right handed caster move the right foot back. Second, cast side arm so you can easily see both the back and forward cast. I call this the tip down method.

- Concentrate on shortening stroke length. With 20 feet or less line outside the rod tip practice trying to hit the line forming the loop with the rod tip. This will force you to form real tight loops.

- Accuracy: I call this drill shooting dandelions. Attempt to hit your target while doing a pick up and lay down. If dandelions are scarce, paper plates work great.

- False casting: The sequence would go like this. Pick up, back cast, forward cast, back cast, forward cast, lay down. Again watching your loop control, being sure to begin your second back cast just as the fly line is almost straight and horizontal to the grass or water at the end of your first forward cast.

- With all of the above drills try casting with your non-dominant hand. This accomplishes two things. It will discipline your dominant hand to produce a better casting stroke. It will also allow you to continue to enjoy fly fishing if you develop physical problems on your dominant side.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

## ARTICLE 5

### CRITIQUEING THE CAST

Hopefully by now you have progressed nicely and are forming nice tight energy efficient loops. As you observe these loops, both during the back cast and forward cast, they should be 3 ft or less from the top of the loop to the bottom of the loop. My hat is off to you if that is the case. Now you can progress by lengthening the line in one foot increments while still accomplishing the 3 ft or less criteria. If your loops are still lacking tightness you might want to read further. One substance item in casting is that the line will follow the path of the rod tip. Remember in the first article where we state that the rod tip needs to travel in a straight line path to produce a narrow loop. If the rod tip travels in a convex or doming path the line will form a large wide loop. The

loop size will be proportional to how much convex travel the rod tip attains. The following are some things that will contribute to this condition.

- Bending the wrist. Especially when we stop the rod during the back cast. It is a natural motion to open the wrist just when we stop. To check for this condition look at your forearm thumb relationship when you stop. The forearm and thumb should form a straight line with one another.
- Not raising the elbow on the back cast and lowering it on the forward cast. An easy drill to use to establish the elbow rise is to touch your ear. You will notice that in order to touch your ear you will not only bend your elbow but also raise it. Remembering when we do this drill we keep a nice straight wrist.
- Not generating efficient line speed. Be sure to start slow and end fast with a nice abrupt stop.

The opposite of a wide loop is a tailing loop. As you observe your loops if the top of the loop crosses below the bottom of the loop you have created a tailing loop. Tailing loops happen because the rod tip travels in a concave or dipping path instead of the straight line path we want. If you are experiencing tails the following points may be of help.

- Smooth out your stroke. Back to starting slow and progressively accelerating in stroke speed.
- Lengthen your stroke/timing. Try pausing a little longer before beginning your forward cast.

We must realize that 80% of the end result lies with the back cast. A good tight loop back cast will almost always result in the good final forward cast.

I hope by improving your casting skills you will have a more enjoyable fishing experience.

## 39<sup>th</sup> FFF International Fly Fishing Show and Conclave

By Bob Bates,  
WSCFFF VP, Communication  
and National Director

West Yellowstone, MT was the host city for the 39<sup>th</sup> FFF Show and Conclave, August 16-21, 2004. Many folks in town were happy to see us back after a 15-year absence. The West Yellowstone News, a weekly edition of the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, had a full Conclave spread including articles on fly fishing and fly casting and an insert of the official Conclave schedule of workshops, meetings, demonstrations and programs. When I checked in at the Alpine Motel Nancy Meeks, who had read the bios in the insert, greeted me as an international personality.

Conclaves were held here in the 70's and 80's. In 1984 President Jimmy Carter came to West Yellowstone to dedicate the FFF International Fly Fishing Center, which occupied part of the Union Pacific Dining Lodge. A few years later the Center move to its present location in Livingston, MT.

### FFF Board Meetings

Monday and Tuesday were meeting days for the FFF Board which included FFF Officers, FFF VPs, Senior Advisors, Council Presidents, and National Directors, like Gordon McKay and me, from the Councils. Others were attending workshops.

Monday was mostly occupied with

a general discussion of proposed changes to the FFF Bylaws. Although the proposed changes were of concern to some people, the discussions were carried out in a professional way. Concerns were discussed and answered. When everybody understood the proposals there was general agreement.

Tuesday meetings started at 8:00 AM with a planned ending time at "Conclusion of Business." This is the only meeting of the full Board each year and all FFF business needs to be completed before adjourning. Like most board meetings, there are some routine things like approval of the minutes of last years Board Meeting, E. Board meeting in January and E.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Board Conference calls. These were dispatched efficiently.

On to the election of officers and naming of special positions. FFF Officers for 2004-2005 were: Gary Grant – President; Herb Kettler – Secretary and Mike Stewart – Treasurer. Other positions you can read about in the *Flyfisher*.



President Gary Grant  
Photo by Bob Shirley

The most important item of New Business was the proposed revision of the FFF Bylaws, which restructures the Board of Directors. With one small friendly amendment the Proposed Bylaws changes were passed almost unanimously. In one sense Gordon McKay and I voted ourselves out of a job. However, we are still responsible as National Directors until the election next August.

The Board will have not less than 24 members, down from the current 44. The goal will be to have 10 At-Large Directors elected by the FFF general membership for staggered three-year terms. This assures some continuity from one board to the next. The remaining positions will be filled by the Committee of the Council Presidents.

Although not stated in the bylaws, discussions suggest the goal is to

have the Board of Directors meet four times a year instead of the current one. There will be some changes in titles for example: Gary Grant’s position of “President” will be renamed to “Chairperson.” This will probably be the hardest for many people, including me, to accept as something familiar. These paragraphs attempt to distill five pages of bylaws and two days of discussion into a few words. Overall, I feel the changes will make a more efficiently run organization. This in turn will give the FFF more credibility when it comes to fundraising, conservation and education activities.

Another item established the Executive Board. It has nine voting, if my count is right, and at least three non-voting members. The main reason for mentioning this it to tell you that Robert Shirley (WSCFFF President) is a voting member of the Executive Board. Congratulations Bob!!

Over the years there has been much discussion about where “The Conclave” should be: East, West, North or South. Proposals now include maintain the current annual conclave in the greater Yellowstone/Rocky Mountain area and establish regional conclaves to better serve the councils. Some of the councils are already working toward this goal. Also, pretty well along is a plan to move the FFF Office to the third floor of the Fly Fishing Discovery Center (formerly the International Fly

Fishing Center). It is a move to cut costs and bring the staff together.

After a bunch of reports, we adjourned

**Workshops:**

Workshops on fly casting, fly tying, fly fishing, spey casting, tying Atlantic Salmon flies, advanced thread control, entomology and others as usual were quite well attended. Many were full before the Conclave, and there were waiting lists for the more popular workshops. The casting workshops



Fly casting workshop by Floyd Franke and Joan Wolff  
Photo by Bob Bates

are outside so they were the easiest to observe, and photograph. One lady started out with rather klutzy casts that she had been making for three years. In a matter of minutes with a little instruction she

(Continued on page 7)



Union Pacific Dining Lodge, boats and tents out front were washed by the rain  
Photo by Bob Bates

(Continued from page 6)

improved tremendously. It is amazing what can be done by a good, qualified instructor.

**The Show:**

Wednesday to Saturday: this part of the week is the most interesting part for many people. The show was in the Union Pacific Dining Lodge.



A few people checking out the vendor booths and fly tiers. Photo by Bob Bates

The Show Cont. off many hook models including their line of longer shank circle hooks, no samples available. New models of Partridge

hooks were also on display. Rod builders, resorts, fly shops, art dealers and others gave us plenty to look at. Rod companies would let people test rods on the casting pond outside. The Snake River



Jason Berger at the fly casting pond. Photo by Bob Bates

Thirty four vendors were inside the Dining Lodge. Boat builders, patio furniture and others were outside. Fly casting and fly tying demonstrations are an integral part of the Conclave and Show.



A few fly tiers. Photo by Harry Calhoun



Henry Hoffman tying his Chickabou patterns. Photo by Harry Calhoun

Outfitters/St. Croix people were touting, among other things, a new English fly line that didn't seem to

(Continued on page 8)

It is always fun to wander through the booths and see what is offered. Mustad was showing  
Cont. Top Col. 3

**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](http://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 \_\_\_\_\_



**Federation of Fly Fishers™  
Washington State Council**

PO Box 921  
Gig Harbor WA 98335-0921

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
**PAID**  
Spokane, WA  
Permit No. 1082

*(Continued from page 7)*

have any memory. I succumbed to the temptation, and I'll give you a report on it another time.

Most of my time was spent with the fly tiers. Guys and gals from all over the world were tying all kinds of flies and demonstrating a variety of techniques. Trout, walleye, bass



*John Newbury tying his big pattern. Photo by Bob Bates*

and saltwater patterns were being tied. There is always something to learn if you just look around. Beside the learning aspect, I was looking for flies to put into the Fly

of the Month pages on the FFF website. I found some great ones and one that looks more like a lure than a "fly."

There were at least five Washington fly tiers demonstrating their skills: Jim Maus, Lory Watkins, John Newbury, Jim Shearer and Bob Bates. I hope that I haven't left out anyone. John Newbury is one tier I always check out wherever he is tying: FFF Conclaves, The Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue and other shows.

He has missed only two Conclaves since 1987, assisted with Al Beatty's hair wing workshop for three years and taught workshops on tying realistic fly patterns and stillwater entomology for four years. Sometimes he ties trout flies and sometimes beautiful steelhead patterns. This time he was tying a big fly (above to right) that he uses



*John's fly is about 5.5 inches long and attracts big fish.*

*Photo by Bob Bates*

in the winter time to fool big Kootenay Lake rainbow trout and sometimes a Dolly Varden (Bull Trout?). He was pulling out the braided tubing on his fly to enhance its appearance and probably attractiveness to fish. This was new to me.

If you haven't been to a Conclave recently you should think about going to the 40<sup>th</sup> International Show and Conclave in Livingston, Montana next August, see you there.