



# Covering The Drift

Volume 9, Number 4

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

June, 2005

## Leader's Line

By Bob Shirley,  
President WSCFFF

In this edition of *Covering the Drift* you will find a ballot for the Officers and Board of Directors of the WSCFFF. These are the people who have volunteered to help the Federation of Fly Fishers promote and protect fly fishing in Washington. You will also notice that the terms of office range from 1 year to 3 years. This is new and reflects changes made at the national level to the Board of Directors of the Federation. From

now on, at both the state and national level, we will only elect 1/3 of our Directors each year. The change is intended to bring stability and heightened commitment to our Boards. Please, mark your ballot and return it to us as soon as possible.

I hope you are enjoying the *Flyfisher* magazine which is a publication of the FFF. With the hiring of Pete VanGytenbeek as Executive Director last year, we acquired a savvy magazine publisher/owner and the results have been showing up in the last 3 or 4 editions of the *Flyfisher*. An additional bonus of hiring Pete was that we got his wife Elizabeth for next to nothing. Elizabeth is a seasoned veteran in the publishing game and I know a lot of the improvements in the overall quality, flow and content of the *Flyfisher* is a result of her involvement. She loves hot sauce so we make sure she has it available - just to keep her around.

website will become more and more important and will enable your input and benefit even more. There will be a special area for "members only" where you will be offered merchandise, services, and trips at greatly reduced rates which are available nowhere else. The website will continue to grow as time goes on and will enable you to communicate more easily with the Federation and to benefit more from your membership with the Federation.

The next Northwest Fly Casting Exposition will be in September in Tacoma. Spey casting will have an expanded roll in the event, and casting education and instruction will be emphasized even more. So get a team together or sign up for a class and come see us in Tacoma this September.

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Another very significant change recently was the opening of the new FFF website. Because it is so complex and diverse, it may take a little time to open if you do not have high-speed Internet access, but the wait is worth it. Ron Cordes of Idaho Falls, Idaho has been working with a website company for several months to get us a new website and the results are impressive. In the future, the FFF

## Officer and Board Nominees

### President:

Bob Shirley, Tacoma, WA

Bob has served WSCFFF in several capacities, our Conservation Director for three years, Vice president West, and he represented us as a National Director in Gatlinburg, Tennessee and Livingston, Montana. Bob has been nominated to continue as WSCFFF

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**Washington State Council**

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President. He is past President of the Puget Sound Fly Fishers, a member of Alpine, Yakima River and South Sound Fly Fishers, and board member of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition. He was very active working against the 1999 Legislative Session bills that would have adversely affected steelhead fishing.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Westside and Treasurer:**

Carl Johnson, Monroe, WA

Carl has accepted the nomination for 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - West and Treasurer. He is currently serving the WSCFFF as Treasurer. He is a current member of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club and the Northwest Fly Anglers. He is the current FFF representative for the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club. Carl is a life member of the FFF. He has been a member of FFF for over twenty years and wants to give something back to the organization. Carl divides his fishing time between Washington and Western Montana.

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Eastside and Co-vice President Conservation:**

Jerry McBride, Loon Lake, WA

Jerry has accepted the nomination for 1st Vice President Eastside. He was WSCFFF President for three years, Membership Chair for a year or more and previously Vice

President Eastside for a couple of years. He has been FFF representative for the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club (IEFFC) in Spokane for about nine years. He is an active supporter of FFF and IEFFC conservation projects, and also he has agreed to be Co-director of Conservation with Gordon McKay.

**Secretary:**

Mike Clancy, Tacoma, WA

Mike is going into his third year on the WSCFFF Board of Directors. Mike owned a construction supply company for over 23 years and retired in 2000. He has held various positions on the board; Director, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President West and assumed the responsibility of the Secretary after the past secretary resigned in 2004. He has agreed to continue as the Secretary for 2005-2007. Mike has been involved with various youth programs, including the Boy Scouts and the Go Play Outside program sponsored by The Washington Wildlife Coalition. He is looking forward to working on the board in 2005, especially with all the encouraging changes taking place with the FFF.

**Vice President Communication:**

Bob Bates, Spokane, WA

Bob is the current Vice President Communication, and has agreed to stay on in that position. Duties of

this position include editing *Covering The Drift*; maintaining the WSCFFF club-contacts e-mail list and maintaining the WSCFFF web pages. He represented us as a National Director for three years. Also he writes the Fly of the Month column for the FFF website. For over 40 years, he has been writing and editing; it is almost as long as he has been fly tying and fly fishing. He is a member of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, an active participant in club projects and an active supporter of FFF conservation projects.

**Vice President Education:**

Len Zickler, Federal Way, WA

Len has been nominated to fill the position of Vice President Education. Len is a member of the Puget Sound Fly Fishers, and has co-chaired the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition the past two years. As a professional land use planner, Len has been active in developing policies that promote fish habitat friendly development. Len was born and raised in Spokane and considers the lakes and rivers of Eastern Washington his home waters. Len is a life member of the FFF and Trout Unlimited.

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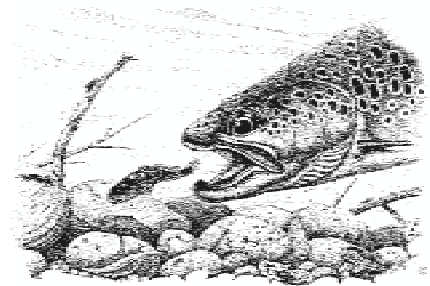
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From Dave Whitlock collection

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**Vice President Membership:**  
Irv Conner, Wenatchee, WA

Irv is a Certified Public Accountant in Wenatchee. He is active on several boards and is past president of the Wenatchee Valley Flyfishers. For several years he has handled the duties of Membership Director for the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers and has accepted the nomination for Vice President Membership. He is very interested in fly fishing for steelhead.

**Co-vice President Conservation:**  
Gordon McKay, Bothell, WA

He volunteered for the position of Co-vice President of Conservation for the WSCFFF. Gordon has worked for the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club's Christmas Party and served on their Conservation Committee. He also worked at the Fishing for Kids program at Silver Lake and represented the council at the Go Play Outside event held in Yakima, WA. He is very dedicated to the activities of his club and the FFF. He worked on the WSCFFF Auction Committee and supported the WSC and the FFF at the booth at The Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue. If elected he will support the WSCFFF at the National Conclave in Livingston, MT and attend the Conservation meeting. He enjoys working for the council and supporting the council and its

members. he loves to fish for steelhead and trout.

**Director at Large:**  
Jim Maus, Tacoma, WA

Jim was Secretary of the WSCFFF in 1997 - 1998 and served as Treasurer from 1998 - 2002. He served two terms as a WSCFFF National Director. He helped organize the highly successful 1998 and 2000 WSCFFF Auctions. He served as chairman of the Fly Tying Committee at the 1997, 1998, & 2000 WSCFFF Jamborees. He is a past President of Puget Sound Flyfishers in Tacoma, and a long time member of the South Sound Fly Fishers in Olympia. Jim is seeking to stay on the board as a Director at Large.

**Director at Large:**  
Ben Dennis, Winthrop, WA

Ben is a Director at Large, serving his third year. He is founder and past president of Methow Valley Fly Fishers, a long-time member of Overlake Fly Fishers, former board member of Washington Rivers Council. Working with NMFS and WDFW he was able to reverse closure of the Methow river system. He helped secure six catch & release lakes in Okanogan county and enlisted the help of members of the Methow Valley Fly Fishers to restore a spawning creek that has become a very successful "bedroom" for steelhead. He serves

on the Board of Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition, an activist group that is working with State Legislators and Government Agencies to restore Twin Lakes' fishery. Ben also guides, instructs and has a retail shop within "Methow Adventures," a recreational booking agency in the middle of Winthrop where he disseminates fly fishing wisdom and sells fly fishing equipment.

**Director at Large:**  
Don Simonson, Seattle, WA

Don is a life member of the FFF and a 35 year member and former president of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. He is currently president of the WFFC Foundation. Don teaches fly casting and fly tying classes along with conducting clinics in fly casting. He works with AFFTA in promoting fly fishing. He contributes casting clinics to Casting for Recovery, and has been involved with the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition since the beginning. Don is a Master Certified Fly Casting Instructor with the FFF and serves on two committees for the FFF Casting Board of Governors. He has fly fished for 35 years, and looks forward to being a Director of the WSCFFF if elected.

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**Director at Large:**

David Williams, Bellevue WA

David Williams is a business and estate planning attorney in Bellevue, Washington. An active volunteer for many causes: He has planted trees, run boat trips and taught fly tying as a member of the Northwest Fly Anglers, where he serves on the Membership and Conservation Committees. David landed his first fly-caught trout on the South Fork of Oregon's McKenzie River in 1959 and has since fished throughout six western states. He is a freelance outdoor writer and photographer. His favorite fishing water is wherever he's fishing at the moment. New to the FFF board, he has volunteered for the Membership Committee and is interested in introducing people, especially youngsters, to the joys of fly fishing.

**Director at Large**

Vernon Jeremica, Issaquah, WA

Vern has been a volunteer supporting the FFF Washington and Oregon councils for many years. In the last 15 years he has participated in many sports shows as a speaker, fly tier, and caster. You can find him in Washington area shows as well as at the annual Oregon FFF fly tying exposition. He is past secretary and board member of California Fly Fishermen's Unlimited in Sacramento, Puget Sound Anglers in Tacoma, Overlake Fly Fishing Club in Bellevue (Board Member and VP of Education), Northwest Atlantic Salmon Fly Tying Guild (President for 2 years, newsletter editor 3 years, board member 2 years, secretary 1 year), co-sponsor of a FFF children's fly fishing club in Issaquah for 2 years, and member

of the American Casting Association and Seattle Casting Club for the last 2 years. He has a keen interest in promoting fly fishing, especially to our younger generation, and an interest in teaching fly tying and conservation

With regards to skills, he is particularly interested in distance casting, accuracy competitions, spey clones, presentation fly tying, fishing for anadromous fish, and learning, teaching, and experiencing anything new in fly fishing.

He has been tying full dress Salmon Fly patterns for 14 years.

**New FFF Website**

By Larry Gibbs,  
Puget Sound Fly Fishers

Have you checked out the new FFF web site? [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)  
(Ed. Note: If you are on a dial up connection it will load slowly.)

One of the new features is the FFF Internet Club a Federation of Fly Fishers forum bulletin board. Have a question about fly fishing? Ask it. Have an opinion on a fly fishing matter? Post it. Want to help answer questions from people who are just learning the sport? Join the Forum. It is easy to join. Just click on the "Internet Club" link on the main page of the FFF website. That takes you to an information page about the Internet Club. Then click on the blue "Here" to get to the forum page. Then click on the Register icon and register for the Internet Club. Remember your username and your Password.

There are links for seven main topics: *General; The Internet Club; Councils/Clubs; Fly Casting;*

*Equipment; Technique; Fishing Topography.*

Most of these topics have sub categories:

*General:* The Federation of Fly Fishers; Conservation; Education; Guide Association; Boy Scout Program; The New Fly Fisher TV Show; Publications; International; Fly Tying; Knots; Entomology; Anadromous Fisheries; Fly Fishing Lodges; Women Program; Conclave 2005; Fishing Partner Program; Fly Shop

*The Internet Club:* Designed for people who don't belong to a club, but you can participate too!

*Councils/Clubs:* FFF Councils; FFF Clubs

*Fly Casting:* Fly Casting; Certified Casting Instructors

*Equipment:* Fly Lines; Fly Rods; Fly Reels; Leaders

*Technique:* Dry Fly Fishing; Wet Fly Fishing; Nymph Fishing; Streamer Fishing

*Fishing Topography:* Saltwater; Warm Water; Cold Water; Streams; Rivers; Lakes

Join the FFF Forum and become a participant in this new Internet information exchange system the FFF designed for you.



## 2005 Northwest Fly Casting Exposition Tacoma Elks Club

By Len Zickler,  
Director of Education

The Washington Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is proud to announce the Northwest Fly Casting Exposition for 2005. The event this year will emphasize education and outreach to the general public. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** - The event is scheduled for Saturday, September 24<sup>th</sup> at the Tacoma Elks Club in Tacoma, Washington.

The event will be modeled after the very successful Casting for Recovery program held each spring. The 2005 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 Certified or Master Certified Instructors and a clinic will be offered for those interested in the FFF certification process.

A youth program will be incorporated in the days activities to

encourage young casters and a 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. The competitive event will include distance, accuracy and skill components. This should be a great experience and continue the "casting trophy" tradition!

We are trying to make the day both a rich and affordable experience. While fees have not yet been officially established, we anticipate a basic registration fee of \$35 for adults and \$10 for youth (entrance fee and lunch). The individual casting or fishing classes will be offered at \$25 a class.

The specific program details will be finalized by mid May – so look for information in *Covering the Drift*, your local fly shop, on our website and/or future mailers. We are looking for volunteers, particularly for publicity. If you are interested in the event, please call Len Zickler (253-797-6850) for more information.

## Article For Your Newsletters

By Mike Clancy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, West and Secretary

Ladies and Gentlemen - I just read the "Letter From The President" on the FFF website for the 40th Anniversary Conclave August 11-13, Livingston, MT. Van does a wonderful job and I think it would be a good fit in our newsletters. If you cannot find the letter on the website, let me know. Go to the FFF website, click on either of the Conclave links and then read/copy the President's message.

The Conclave page is:

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/conclave2005/begin.php>

## Go Play Outdoors Event, Yakima April 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, 2005

Part 1

By Mike Clancy 1<sup>st</sup> V.P. West

One of the reasons that I participate in the WSCFFF is because I get to contribute to various youth programs. The program in Yakima on April 15<sup>th</sup> was a youth event which provided over 700 students from the Yakima school district a chance to experience outdoor activities.

The event was sponsored by the Washington Wildlife Coalition, in partnership with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, which has created the "Go Play Outside," GPO, program. As far as I'm concerned, the GPO program is a great success. The GPO program, which is organized by Ray Wilson, is directed mainly to the youth of our communities. Trust me in my thinking – most of the youth in our community have not experienced the outdoors, fishing, camping, horseback riding, hiking, outdoor cooking and etc.

The biggest attraction at the event in Yakima were the fish tanks. There are children who have never touched a fish, and they were thrilled when they caught a fish from one of these tanks. Some of the kids wanted to keep their fish. In order to deal with that, a number of older youth, from a labor learning school in the Spokane area, devoted their time to cleaning the fish and making sure the kids went home with their fish. It was a

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wonderful event and there are many more scheduled in the various areas of Washington. Please be prepared to volunteer your time and talents to these events when you're asked to participate.

#### Part 2

One of the reasons I wanted to separate the two articles is because we were rewarded with some very talented fly tiers and fly casters from local fly fishing/tying clubs who agreed to participate in the GPO event in Yakima. It was a 2 day event with the emphasis on youth on Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup> and the public on Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup>. I must say that, we enjoyed more activity on Friday. But most of all - I would like to thank the following participants:

- Jim Shearer – Tier – Columbia Basin Flycasters
- Gene Woodruff – Tier – Columbia Basin Flycasters
- Jim Doerr – Tier – Yakima Fly Tying Club
- Don Simonson – Caster – Washington Fly Fishing Club - WSCFFF
- Len Zickler – Caster – Puget Sound Fly Fishers - WSCFFF
- Gordon McKay – Evergreen Fly Fishing Club – WSCFFF
- Bob Shirley – Puget Sound Fly Fishers – WSCFFF
- Mike Clancy – Puget Sound Fly Fishers – WSCFFF

I know we all feel good about our contribution to this event and others. We are all members of the Federation of Fly Fishers and this is just one way we can contribute to support a great organization that supports the sport of fly fishing.

## So You Want To Tie Flies

*Ed. Note: This article is continued from last quarter's newsletter. It came out in the FFF Clubwire several years ago. The original article has over 3,000 words so it needed to be split for space considerations.*

By Mike Livingston, Editor of the  
Deep Creek Flyfishers of San  
Bernardino, CA

### BOBBIN

The bobbin holds the thread. Basically, the bobbin is a tube with two springy legs that hold the spool of thread between the heels. The thread goes from the spool through the tube, which somehow helps control it. I don't know how. The older masters used to achieve the same thing by nailing a large button to the side of the table in front of the vice. To keep thread from unraveling on the unfinished fly, they'd just tuck the thread under the button. Maybe because too many novices were seriously injured by spouses after nailing a coat button to the side of the dining room table ? at any rate, you need a bobbin.

Now there are bobbins and there are ceramic bobbins. Ceramic bobbins boast a smoother tube element so your thread is less likely to break. I've always held that if the thread breaks on my bobbin, I'll return it as defective. Maybe someday I'll return it and there won't be any more metal bobbins to replace it with and the shop will have to give me one of those ceramic bobbins I've always lusted after.

In addition to variations in construction, there are two sizes of bobbins: standard and midge. Start

with a standard bobbin. This bobbin will do fine tying flies down to size 20. After tying a few dozen size 22 flies, if you can still read newsprint and you're convinced that your fishing success hinges on offering flies too small to thread on a tippet no less see on the water, then get a midge bobbin. But beware: once you've got a midge bobbin, even if you hate fishing midges, you'll find yourself compulsively tying them anyway. This in turn will lead to a sense of premature aging and, if left unchecked, to self-destructive habits, like smoking imported cigars, or buying single-malt scotch-when you don't even drink.

### SCISSORS

Every fly tier will tell you that next to your vice the most important tool is your scissors. They'll go on and on about how to and how not to treat your scissors, how frustrating it is to work with dull scissors and the attributes to look for in good fly tying scissors. Of course, scissor manufacturers lend a sympathetic ear.

My first pair of scissors were the thrifty specials supplied with my tying kit. I tied probably 500 flies before I happened onto a pair of antique sewing scissors. Grandma's sewing scissors were sharper, more pointed and fit my fingers better than my special fly tying scissors. But these, after all, were not fly tying scissors, they were sewing scissors. I needed fly tying scissors.

Well as I said, scissor manufacturers (actually fly tying tool manufacturers) are very

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sympathetic to fly tiers. Scissors have numerous gimmicks: quick release grips, ice-sharpened carbide blades, you name it. And people buy this stuff. Aren't scissors scissors? How do you sharpen anything with ice? Just put some scissors in a little plastic bag indicating that they're specifically suited for fly tying. Simple as that. (I bought the ice-sharpened carbide steel.)

**BODKIN**

The bodkin is little more than a stick with a needle in the end, but don't buy a stick with a needle in the end. These just don't have the same feel as one of those surgical precision, brass-handled models ? and feel is everything in fly tying.

**HAIR STACKER**

Elk Hair Caddis will be one of the flies you tie most. You're going to need a hair stacker. What the hair stacker does is align the tips of hair nice and even to give your hair flies that Vidal Sassoon look. Some tiers have resorted to using large-bore gun cartridges for this purpose. Of course, these aren't milled to the

same tolerances as a tying-specific hair stacker, and unless you know of someone in the local militia, the proper size cartridges are hard to come by.

**HACKLE GAUGE**

Hackle is just another word for feathers, more specifically, the feathers found on the neck of a cock. If you plan on tying dry flies, you're going to be working with hackle. Hackle provides the legs and wings of many flies. When working with hackle, you need hackle tools. You just do.

When you turn pro, you no longer need a hackle gauge. By then, you can flex a hackle and immediately discern what size, as well as what type, fly it is best suited for. But you're not there yet.

A hackle gauge tells you precisely what size fly the cock grew a feather for, and properly sized hackle is paramount to the right profile, that is, the way the fly sits on the water, in your fly box, or on your desk at work. I'm not saying it will fish any better, but if you ever plan to show your flies to non-tiers, you have to be able to mimic

what they're familiar with. (The Professional Fly Tiers Union assures me that more fish are caught on flies with properly sized hackle.)

**HACKLE PLIERS**

When working with hackle, you're going to want hackle pliers. These things grip the free end of the hackle and provide just enough tension when dangling to act like a third hand. My favorite tool. Enough said.

**EYEBROW COMB**

The hair you're going to be working with often contains this cute fluffy stuff near the hide. This provides a dense layer of downy insulation to the animal. It's useless for flies; get rid of it. The best tool for this is an eyebrow comb. Hold the hair by the tips and run the comb through the butts to collect this unwanted undercoat.

I recently heard a story of a novice fly tier who was overheard at a local conclave suggesting to a major tying tool manufacturer the need for a brass model of this

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**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**  
**215 E Lewis** 406 222-9369  
**Livingston, MT 59047** 406 222-9369 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 \_\_\_\_\_

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comb. He's been missing ever since. Don't let this happen to you. If you're male and you are uncomfortable buying an eyebrow comb, wait patiently outside the local drugstore. Wear a fishing vest to substantiate your claims. Then very quietly, very matter of factually approach middle-aged women entering the store and ask them to buy the eyebrow comb for you. Most will be sympathetic to your condition; many will return your change.

WHIP FINISHER

Most people when they begin tying flies learn to finish their flies with a few half hitch knots (made simple by the handle end of most metal bodkins; another reason not to settle for the stick with a needle in the

end). But at almost any tying class there'll be someone with a whip finisher. This is one of those tools that just begs to be mastered. That technique ? it's the closest thing to ballet.

Whip finishers were the rage not long ago. "Soul tiers" still use them, but many professional tiers have become minimalist showoffs not using a whip finisher, not even using a bodkin to finish their flies. They tie their half hitches with no tools whatsoever. While this form of grandstanding may get you in good with the tiers at the conclave, it's just a phase. They'll be returning to their whip finishers in a few years, only they'll be rusty in using them. Stick with your whip finisher and you'll have the jump on them.

PATTERN BOOK

What are you going to tie? Settle on your favorite, most used, most productive patterns and sizes. Buy a book. Ask other tiers about good books to start with. Expect to get different advice. Buy the book with the fewest patterns (the ones you need) but with many step-by-step illustrations and thorough instructions. Do not buy more than one book! There is a direct correlation between the number of illustrated patterns at your disposal and the initial outlay of money. Wait until you have the support of your family and others around you. Get them to buy you more books. That way you're less responsible for needing more materials.

*Take the next 3 months to read your pattern book. Next time you will get advice on materials and hooks.*



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

PO Box 921  
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Address Service Requested

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