

Covering the Drift

Volume 22 Issue 4 November 2018



Mastering the Cast

Not too Hot, Not too Cold,
Ocean Conditions Must Be Just Right for Salmon

Gary Borger Featured Instructor at Fly Fishing Fair

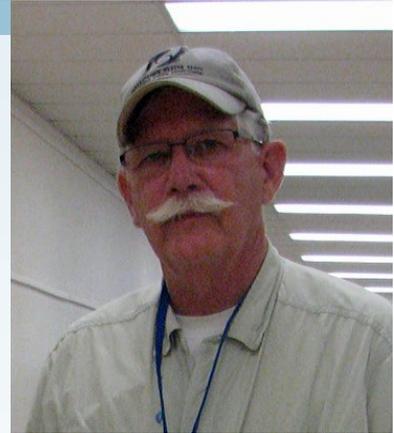
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Bill Wheeler, WSCFFI President

Prime Lies

New President, New Column

By Bill Wheeler

This is my first column as the new President of the Washington State Council (WSC) of Fly Fishers International (FFI) and the first thing I want to do is thank Carl Johnson for his 12 years of service as president, plus the time he donated to the council before that. Boy, does he deserve a break. Carl has been assisted by his wonderful wife, Maura, in so many things and I thank them both. Carl assembled an effective board of directors, but Carl did an incredible amount of council work in the background. Although there will be some changes at the board level as people rotate off, there is a very strong contingent to continue the great work WSC has done. Carl is going to stay involved with the board and the Fly Fishing Fair to provide continuity as we move along. You'll learn more about our board as time progresses.

We will be changing the name of this column to a term I have commandeered from Gary Borger, Prime Lies. Although that refers to a spot where fish can rest from the current, be protected from predators and allow ample flow of potential food; I like it because it allows me a little flexibility with the truth. I am a fisherman, after all.

Let me introduce myself before we get too far. I was initially an interventional cardiologist (doing balloons and stents) before delving into drug development until I retired a few years ago. I have been a fly fisher for only about 14 years, but like so many of you, I quickly became addicted to the sport. The Overlake Fly Fishing Club is my home club and I served as President in 2012.

Although fishing is a major interest, my true love is teaching fly casting. I've been an FFI Master Certified Casting Instructor since 2015 and am currently on the FFI Casting Board of Governors

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Special points of interest

- Bill Wheeler, newly elected Washington Council president starts a new column about council plans and goals.
- Bill announces Gary Borger will be the featured speaker at the 2019 Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg.
- The conservation story on page 3 discusses the critical role ocean temperatures play in the survivability of salmon and steelhead.
- A new feature begins on page 9 that follows the steps to earning the FFI Casting Instructor certification. Besides the quarterly newsletter feature, a new Casting Novice story will appear every two weeks on the Washington Council Facebook at :
<https://www.facebook.com/wscffi/>

Important 2019 Dates

January 23-27

Washington Sports-
men's Show, Puyallup

February 16 & 17

The Fly Fishing Show,
Lynnwood Convention
Center

www.flyfishingshow.com

March 8 & 9

NW Fly Tyer Expo, Linn
Country Expo Center,
Albany, OR

www.nwexpo.com

May 3 & 4

WSCFFI Ellensburg Fly
Fishing Fair, Kittitas
Valley Event Center
County, Ellensburg

www.wscffi.org

June 23-29

NW Youth Conserva-
tion and Fly Fishing
Academy, Gwinwood
Conference Center

www.nwycffa.com

July 23-27

Fly Fishers Internation-
al Fly Fishing Fest,
Bozeman, MT

www.flyfishersinternational.org

Conservation

Not too Hot, Not too Cold, The Ocean Must be Just Right

By Nick Chambers
and John McMillan

The greater Juneau area is home to several rivers that host wild steelhead runs. Auke Creek is perhaps the most important of these feeder streams, as scientists at the Auke Bay Marine Station have been operating a weir here for many years, which has allowed them to census returning adults and out-migrating juveniles for several salmonid species. This detailed level of data is relatively rare and can be extremely valuable to scientists who are trying to understand the biology of Pacific salmon and steelhead.

A long term data set beginning in 1963 showed a gradual warming trend in sea surface temperatures in Auke Bay leading researchers to wonder whether this would have implications for adult and juvenile migration timing. A paper published in 2017 by Christopher Manhard and others looked into this specifically. How did variations in sea surface temperature affect the migration timing of pink salmon into and out of Auke Creek?

Now, pink salmon are not steelhead, but this paper nonetheless has important implications for sea-run *O. mykiss*.

But first, how did the scientists go about answering their question?

Early migrating pinks generally return to Auke Creek in mid- to late-August, while late migrating fish return in early to mid-September, although there is some overlap between the two groups. Rather than simply use a date to separate these groups researchers were able to establish a genetic marker that allowed them to assign individual fish to late migrating



and early migrating populations.

For the duration of the study all adults which returned to Auke Creek were sampled for DNA at the weir. This weir also allowed scientists to capture and collect DNA from out-migrating juveniles. Researchers were then able to determine when fry from early and late migrating adults went to the ocean and how successful each group of spawning Continued on page 5

2018 NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy

By Mike Clancy and Jim Brosio
Co-Directors, The Academy

Twentyone enthusiastic boys and girl graduated from the 2018 NW Youth Conservation and Flyfishing Academy this past summer.

After a week of classroom study, classes in fly tying, knot tying, conservation, stream side ethics and etiquette, water safety, stillwater fly fishing techniques, matching the hatch, exploring a stream to learn about “Living Waters”, principals of ecology and dissecting a fish, they were tired. A couple days we started at 5am to go to the ponds or rivers to learn how to fly fish. It’s not about catching, it’s about learning how to catch and how to read the waters, how to walk in a river, learn to mend. They fished both morning and evening.

This event is not for the faint of heart, we kept them busy. They do an amazing job of keeping up with the program.

To participate, each applicant is required to write an essay explaining why he or she wants to attend The Academy and they also need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor, TU/FFi organization president, or a responsible person. The essays were remarkable and their letters of recommendations were as well. We were privileged to have over 40 volunteers again this year. If it wasn’t for the volunteers and the financial support from TU, FFI, WSCFFI Fly Fishing Clubs, WCTU and TU Chapters, business organizations, private individuals and folks like you – this event would never happen. I must remark – every penny that is donated to The Academy for the kids, goes 100% to the effort to make this event the success it is. So on behalf of the youth, the staff, and the community – thank you!



At top the students and staff of the 2018 Academy class. Below Students learn the basics of casting on grass.

Enrollment open for 2019 Academy

The 2019 Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy will be held June 23-29, 2019 at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The event is one full week with the staff and youth living at the Gwinwood Center and boarding in cabins. Meals are provided. Students need to bring their personal belongings, sleeping bags, pillows, rubber boots. All fishing gear and fly tying equipment is provided.

The event is supported by WCTU and WSCFFI and members of South Sound FF, Olympia Chapter TU,

and Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma.

The cost is \$300, sponsorships are available. No applicant will be turned away because of lack of funds. Applications will be accepted January 1 until April 15, 2019. Applications may be downloaded from our website – www.nwycffa.org, via email to mtclancy39@comcast.net or call 360-753-1259. Each applicant must submit an essay explaining why THEY want to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is required from a school teacher or counselor.

Not too Hot, Not too Cold, the Ocean Must Be Just Right

From page 3
adults had been.

Prior research has already established that sea surface temperatures in Auke Bay are a primary driver in survival of pink salmon fry. Fry must migrate at the appropriate time in order to reach the ocean when growing conditions are favorable. Like Goldilocks they need the marine environment just right — too cold and they will not grow well, while if they arrive too late they will not have a long enough growing season to reach optimum size for long term survival.

Researchers monitored early and late migrating fish from 1984 through 1992 and came up with some interesting results. First, from 1984 to 1990 late migrating fry made up 51-68% of the total number of fry leaving Auke Creek. However, in 1992 only 12% of the fry were late migrating. Why the dramatic change from late to early migrating fry?

When researchers looked at sea surface temperatures they saw that 1984 through 1988 had relatively late springtime warming of sea surface temperatures. This meant that early migrating fry were entering cold ocean water with relatively poor growing conditions. In 1990, though, the sea surface temperatures rose earlier in the year, which provided early entering fry a distinct advantage from a longer growing season. In these conditions the early migrating fry were able to reach a larger body size and out-compete their later and smaller counterparts for habitat and food as well as avoid predators more easily.

Interestingly, the authors found that early migrating fish had higher rates of marine survival in nearly all years but generally produced fewer fry per adult. They suggest this was due the redds of early fish being excavated (biologists refer to this as redd superimposition) by spawning activities of late returning fish. This means that under “normal” cool conditions the benefits of migrating early did not necessarily outweigh the risk of having your redd dug up but were merely tradeoffs. When the ocean warmed only two weeks earlier, however, there was a huge benefit for early migrants.

In steelhead we can see a similar pat-

tern with how migration timing is influenced by climates. Perhaps the best example of this is simply the gradient of winter steelhead return timing that exists from California to Alaska. Fish in the southern end of this range tend to return and spawn earlier in the year, while fish in the colder northern habitats enter and spawn later.

One difference between pink salmon and steelhead are the tradeoffs with early migration. Pink salmon have simple life histories with very little freshwater residence time and they generally spawn in lower rivers and creeks in large congregations. Thus they are much more susceptible to redd superimposition than steelhead, which spawn over a greater period of time and space making redd superimposition less of a factor.

This means that early spawning may not have the same costs for steelhead as it does for pink salmon in Auke Creek.

Moreover, steelhead fry are subject to a suite of factors in the freshwater environment — sea surface temperatures are not necessarily a primary driver of fry survival. Yet early emergence of steelhead fry confers the same advantages of a longer growing season as it does for pinks. As our climate shifts and trends toward warmer spring and summer temperatures with lower stream flows, it is likely that early returning steelhead will be the most productive individuals. Unfortunately, due mostly to past management practices, in many watersheds early returning wild steelhead are the most depleted portion of our runs.

It is critically important that we maintain the genetic reservoirs that allow for diverse run timing in populations throughout the range of wild steelhead so that they can adapt to a changing climate. It is unlikely that late returning fish can adapt quickly; fish that return earlier will be needed to provide that specific genetic component so that our favorite fish species can remain abundant and resilient. This means managing our best watersheds for wild steelhead since they are the most genetically diverse and can better adapt to shifting climate and habitat conditions.

For more about wild
Steelhead go to

<http://www.wildsteelheaders.org/>

Gary Borger, featured casting and tying instructor at fair

From page 2
(CBOG). For what its worth, I am also an avid drone pilot/photographer and mediocre video editor.

As the council moves forward you will notice some things staying the same and some changing. We intend to continue the Fly Fishing Fair, which will be in Ellensburg again this year on May 3rd and 4th. In addition to the fair, TU is sponsoring the International Fly Fishing Film Festival at the fairgrounds Saturday evening right after the fair. This should increase participation in both events.

Gary Borger will be this year's celebrity guest sharing his deep knowledge of the sport both days of the fair. Gary is an outstanding teacher and author with multiple books to his credit, including the one I think many people feel is the best overall book on fly fishing, Presenta-tion. Our plan is to have Gary lead casting classes and demonstrations, fly tying classes and demonstrations, and seminars on various aspects of fly fishing. He is an exceptional speaker and teacher. Come see him and learn.



Gary Borger will be the featured casting and tying instructor in Ellensburg

Look for fair registration to go online over the next few months. We will have a more aggressive social media presence and hope to develop a more diverse membership. Don't forget to renew your membership!

New this year will be video presentation of the featured tyers at the fair so everyone can see

what the experts are doing. You will still be able to sit in front of individual tyers and watch them at work. Adding video will allow multiple people to see the nuances various featured tyers add to the art of fly tying. We will send out invitations soon to tyers for the event. If you don't hear from us, contact Carl Johnson about being a tyer at the show.

We will continue to have casting lessons by certified casting instructors. This is a rare opportunity to get excellent instruction at a very reasonable price in a small group. This year we won't have certification testing for casting instructors, so more instructors will be available for a greater variety of casting classes.

As usual, we will have seminars on various trips and techniques. Gary Borger will be presenting some of those seminars.

Finally, there is a free dinner for the volunteers on Thursday and the ever-popular dessert auction where tables pool their money to get first shot at the best desserts. After Friday's dinner, Will Godfrey will return as our auctioneer. The IF⁴ will be in the same space on Saturday night.

In addition, WSC will have a booth at Sportsman Show in Puyallup in January, and the Fly Fishing Show in Lynwood in February. Come by and say hello and get some tickets for our fly rod/reel/line raffle and reel raffles.

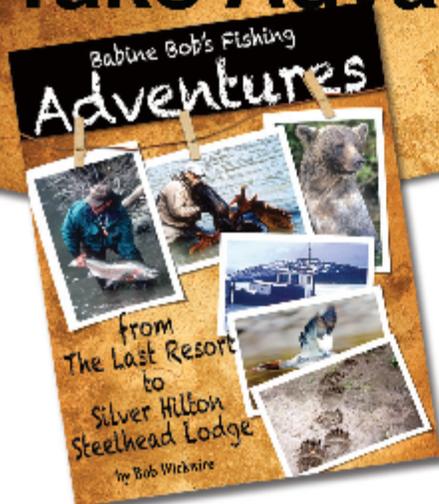
See you on the water.

Judge Rules to keep it cool

A U.S. Federal Court in Seattle, last month issued a ruling intended to protect salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River from rising water temperatures that can exceed 70 degrees in lakes created by hydropower dams. The Clean Water Act bars the temperature in the river from exceeding 68 degrees. Cold water species such as sockeye and steelhead become stressed at temper-

atures over 68 degrees and stop migrating when the temperature exceeds 74 degrees. The ruling instructs the Environmental Protection Agency to come up with a plan to address the dam's impact on water temperature. The ruling comes at the same time EPA and state officials are trying to address a request from the Trump Administration to increase water deliveries to farms and cities.

Take Advantage **NOW!**



Special Pre-Publication **Book Offer!** Babine Bob's Pioneering Fishing **Adventures** From the Last Resort to Silver Hilton Steelhead Lodge

by *Bob Wickwire*

In misty, forest covered, Northern British Columbia flows the legendary Babine River, long known for its magnificent large steelhead to over 30 pounds. This all color, 200 plus page, 8 1/2 by 11 inch volume is truly a classic. Author Bob Wickwire and his wife Jerri Lou created several lodges known for offering the finest steelhead fishing in the world.

This is their 60 year story about the discovery, development and protection of what many believe to be the world's finest steelhead fly fishing river! At one hundred thousand words in length and featuring about 200 color photographs and illustrations it almost has as much meat to it as one of the local grizzlies!

From the first pages to the very end of the book you will be enjoying their continual discoveries as they fashion a beautiful life filled with almost unbelievable happenings and challenges—most successfully overcome. Bob and Jerri Lou migrated to British Columbia in the 1960s from Oregon where Bob helped pioneer Clackamas River steelheading and boating.

I have known Bob since the 1960s and can only say: "What a guy!" He has lived to become the classic steelhead river pioneer. This is his wonderful story. . . Frank Amato, Clackamas and Babine steelheader, too.

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Project Healing Waters Gets Veterans into Yakima Trout

by Mike Clancy, Proud Navy Vet Volunteer, PHW

Again this year, the annual 2 Fly PHW event took place on The Yakima River with headquarters at the KOA camp grounds in Ellensburg, WA. on Saturday, September 8th. Chuck Tye, PHW coordinator for the NW, (Past President of PSFF) put 22 guided boats (all guides were volunteers) on the river from different launches. Each boat had a vet, rower/referee



and volunteer. Fishing could have been better, (of course) out of the 22 boats, one boat had a fantastic day, catching around 19 fish, the Vets had a great experience on the river with super weather.

No smoke, no wind, the river level was okay, just a beautiful day. The winning vet landed a 19" trout and he was presented with a custom made bamboo rod. The evening event was started by a dinner of prime rib with trimmings, cooked all day long in a smoker oven, prepared by Chuck's partner, Jerry Daschofsky. Jerry does an incredible job in preparing wonderful meals in his metal cooking ovens.

Then he presented 3 different delicious deserts. Jerry also prepared meals for those that attended Friday, Saturday and Sunday morning. Yum – biscuits and gravy.

PHW put 22 guided boats on the Yakima River for a day of fishing for our veterans. All the guides were volunteers.

The PHW gang at rest after a day on the water

Chuck proceeded to present the awards and then Jerry conducted the raffle, everyone took something home. This is an outstanding event. The goal is to entertain our vets and give them the chance to fly fish, maybe for their first time.

There are so many people to thank for their participation in this event, not only the guides that donated their boats, the cooks, the folks that tied the flies for the event, the referees, the folks that donated items for the awards and raffle, the folks that shuttled all 22 vehicles from put in to take out.

The annual 2 Fly Event for next year, will be conducted in September 2019. Same place, KOA Ellensburg, WA.

A Casting Novice starts the journey

By Steve Jones

I'm going to become a certified casting instructor. This time I really mean it. I'm going to make it happen like Robert Gerlach in these photos. I'm going to stick to a plan. My cast isn't terrible, or at least that's what my friends say and we usually take every opportunity to ridicule one another so I'm pretty sure my cast is Ok. I can deliver a fly 40-feet that can fool a Deschutes red-side into a strike. I did that just a few weeks ago. And then there was a cast later, on the same trip, that landed on the wa-

ter like a frying pan and that trout vanished. My cast isn't good enough often enough.

That's the case with a lot of things about fly fishing. I'm going to change that with my casting. I'm getting new gear, a Ballistic line and a precisely hand knotted leader. I'll start with my old reliable Sage 6wt with an eye toward buying the perfect rod as I understand more about my ability and what rod best suits my style. I'm going to practice three days a week and one-by-one I plan to master each of the 22 criteria on the CI exam. Each practice will be focused on a task, a grip, a loop, a target. I will stick to a schedule. None of this "go at my own pace" stuff. We all know where "go at my own



pace" leads. It leads to Dunkin Donuts. This is going to be planned and measured. No donuts.

And I'm going to get a coach. Someone who has confidence to spot my shortcomings and techniques to correct them. I get togeth-

er with friends and cast and we work at it a

while, then open beers and the next thing you know we're not focusing on casting. And one more thing I'm going to do is show you how its going. Beginning with this issue of the newsletter and continuing on the Washington State Council Facebook, you can watch what's going on and join in. I welcome all FFI members to join me in pursuit of the CI. This time, I really mean it. <https://www.facebook.com/wscffi/>

CI Robert Gerlach at work in photos above. He was the casting instructor for the 2018 Youth Fly Fishing Academy.

Washington FFI Clubs

- Alpine Flyfishers** – PO Box 3486, Federal Way, WA. 98036 Contact: Larry Gibbs, President, 253-863-4910, email: flytier015@msn.com Website: www.alpineflyfishers.org
Meets fourth Tuesday of month, except July and August
- Bainbridge Island Fly Fishers** – edwinsamuels@comcast.net
- Clark-Skamania Flyfishers** - P.O. Box 644, Vancouver, WA. 98666, Contact: John Bohrsen, President, 360 281-6035, email: jbohrsen@gmail.com Website: www.clark-skamania-flyfishers.org Meets third Wednesday of month, except March, July and August
- Clearwater Fly Casters** - P.O. Box 394, Pullman, WA. 99163, Contact: Jared August, President, Email: jared.august@gmail.com Website: www.clearwaterflycasters.com
Meetings second Wednesday of month October thru May
- Evergreen Fly Fishing Club** – P.O. Box 221, Everett, WA. 98206, Contact: Bob Lloyd, Pres. 360-770-9339 Email: rel2010@icloud.com Website: www.evergreenflyclub.org
Meetings fourth Tuesday of the month
- Fidalgo Fly Fishers, Inc.** – P.O. Box 325, Anacortes, WA. 98221, Contact: Tim Cooley, President 360 770-3502, Email, tecooley@yahoo.com Website: www.fidalgoflyfishers.com
Meetings third Thursday of each month
- Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club** – P.O. Box 2926, Spokane, WA. 99220, Contact Jim Athearn President, 509 299-5582 Email: jathearn99@aol.com Website: www.ieffc.org
Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month
- Lower Columbia Fly Fishers** – P.O. Box 68, Toledo, WA. 98571, President: Terry Frost 360 423-0145 Email: terryleefrost@msn.com Website: www.lowercolumbiaflyfishers.org
Meetings are the first Tuesday of every month
- Methow Valley Fly Fishers** – P.O. Box 101, Winthrop, WA. 98862, Contact: Bob Jateff 509 996-2485 Email: rjateff@centurylink.com Website: www.fishandfloat.com
- Northwest Fly Anglers** – P.O. Box 75212, Seattle, WA. 98175, Contact: Peter Maunsell, Treasurer 206 725-1661 Email: northwestflyanglersorg@gmail.com Website: www.northwestflyanglers.org Meetings the third Thursday month except July and December
- Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds** – P.O. Box 148, Edmonds, WA. 98020, Contact: Randall White President. Email: randalleewhite@gmail.com Website: www.olympicflyfish.com
Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month except July and August
- Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishers** – P.O. Box 2971, Port Angeles, WA. 98362, Contact: John Procter, President 360-461-1979 Email: president@opff.org Website: www.opff.org
Meetings are the first Monday of the month
- Overlake Fly Fishing Club** – P.O. Box 52894, Bellevue, WA. 98015, Contact: Bill Courshon, Pres. 425 644-2164 Email: president@offc.org Website: www.offc.org
Meetings are the fourth Tuesday of the month
- Puget Sound Fly Fishers** – P.O. Box 99961, Lakewood, WA. 98496, Contact: Greg Shimek, Pres. 253-588-7606 Email: gregs47@icloud.com Website: www.psff.org
Meetings are the second Thursday of every month except August
- South Sound Fly Fishers** – P.O. Box 2792, Olympia, WA. 98507, Contact: Wayne Dixson Sr., President .Email: wkdixon@gmail.com Website: www.ssffoly.com
Meetings are the third Tuesday of every month except December
- Spokane Fly Fishers** – P.O. Box 4141, Spokane, WA. 99220, Contact: Doug Keene, Pres. 509 998-1297 Email: sffishers@comcast.net Website: www.spokaneflyfishers.com
Meetings are the second Wednesday of the month September
- Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers** – P.O. Box 3687, Wenatchee, WA. 98807, Contact: Harry Lane, Pres. Website: www.wvff.net Meetings the third Thursday monthly except June, July and August
- Yakima Fly Fishers Association** – P.O. Box 245, Yakima, WA. 98907 Contact: Donna Broers, Pres. Email: sasquanadonna@yahoo.com Website: www.yakima.tu.org
- Washington Fly Fishing Club** – P.O. Box 639, Mercer Island, WA. 98040 Contact: John Gravendyk, Pres. 425 303-5979 Web Site: www.wffc.com