

# Covering the Drift

Volume 23 Issue 1 February 2019



**FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL**

Washington State Council

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# Prime Lies

## Early Mornings

One of the things I like about winter is that I am often up before that bright orb in the sky. Working in the dark mornings make me feel I have gotten a jump on the day. On the other hand, the descent of darkness before dinner, not so much. The short days remind me the days will get longer and make me long to get out and fish, or practice casting, or mow the yard. Maybe not mow the yard.

The volunteers in your Council have been working all winter to get ready for the new season. One of the biggest undertakings for the Council is the Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. Various people have been working on this event for months. We are lucky to have had Carl Johnson as President for so long who knows all the ins and outs of pulling this off.

This year the fair will have a special celebrity fly fisher, Gary Borger. If you have been following any of the Council's expanded social media presence, you already knew this. His book *Presentation* turned my fly fishing around. I finally understood what I was doing right and wrong and started catching more fish. It even buoyed me up during my trek to become a Certified Instructor (CI).

If you have attended any of the Fly Fishing Show events, you've probably seen one of his excellent presentations or casting

demonstrations. Gary will do workshops, demonstrations, and just generally mingling with attendees at our fair. I am really looking forward to this.

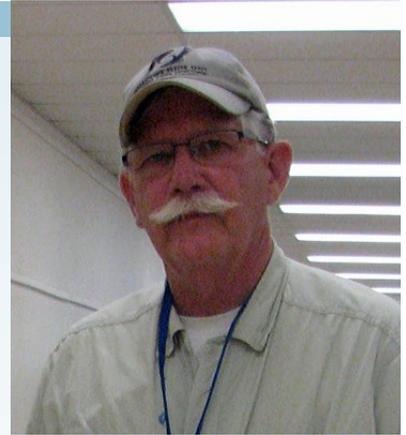
Speaking of social media, Steve Jones and Sam Matalone have done an incredible job making our presence felt. One of things Steve is doing is documenting his journey toward becoming a CI. It takes courage to put your casting videos out there for people to see and criticize while learning what it takes to be a CI. We have just initiated a study group for CI candidates using video conferencing to share information and casting videos. If you are interested in joining, send me an email. Our goal is to produce excellent casters who also are excellent teachers.

Keep an eye on the Council's Facebook page and Instagram to learn more about the fair. We will soon be up and running with online registration. This year we will have a Fly Tying Theater where you can see up close how excellent tiers get their results.

If you are going to the Fly Fishing Show in Lynnwood on February 16 and 17, come by the booth and say hi.

The days are getting longer, get ready.

Bill Wheeler  
President, Washington Council  
Master Certified Casting Instructor  
Casting Board of Governors



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### Special points of interest

- The Washington Fly Fishing Fair May 3-4 in Ellensburg will be the best ever. Look for a complete rundown of programs in the March newsletter.
- Gary Borger will highlight the fair with casting and tying demonstrations, a workshop on hackling techniques and a workshop on the angler as predator. He also will give a continuing education seminar Saturday for CIs and club instructors. Look for registration information online in February.
- Registration is open for the 2019 NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy. If you know a youngster who could benefit, register him/her now.
- Your Washington Council along with member clubs are installing signage at Rocky Ford to better inform anglers of special rules there and urge them to practice good release practices.

# Gary Borger on Casting



Gary Borger, author of several books on flying fishing, a pioneer in instructional fly fishing videos, a consultant to Hollywood directors, a regular speaker at national events and one of the most frequently quoted casting instructors of the past 20 years is also a pantomime artist.

Gary uses his index finger as often as a fly rod when he teaches casting.

From his first videos of the 1980s, Gary began teaching by sweeping the hardware out of the picture to focus on the hand, wrist and arm movements that make a good cast. "The line is the problem," he said in a recent interview. Beginners and fishers with modest skill invest so much effort in getting a line airborne that they lose focus on the basic motion that makes a cast. It also was difficult to teach over the chaos that students were creating with rods and lines. Gary and several other casting instructors discussed the problem during a Fly Fishers International Conclave in West Yellowstone in the late 70s. Teaching the hand and arm motion worked better without the rod and line. "And from then on I began teaching all fly casting with pantomime concepts and it works wonderfully," he said.

"For example, everyone

See Gary's  
Casting  
Friday  
May 3 at the  
Fly Fishing Fair  
in Ellensburg



has seen that fabulous casting in "A River Runs Through It." [Gary was the fishing consultant to director Robert Redford.] And I tell everybody I taught that guy how to do that when he was about 4 years old. [The stunt double for key casting scenes was Gary's son Jason.] And the way I taught him is we just did karate chops. Because the correct arm motion for fly casting is just a karate chop. As a consequence, it becomes easy to learn how to do the motion without the rod."

Since the movie in 1992, Gary and Jason have become expert partners at casting instruction. "We've developed lots of pantomimes for everything in fly casting," he explained. "To teach the reach mend, we have students drop their arm down as they cast and then reach to the side. Another thing we do is have them say the words while they are doing it, like cast, stop, reach; or cast, shoot. The timing of it is very important. If you think it, you will invariably do the thing you shouldn't. But if you say it, you learn. Just thinking, they will let go of the line before they stop the rod or reach while they are casting. But if they say "stop," and then "reach" they learn the motions separately, they don't do them at the same time. It's amazing how quickly people can learn

*Continued on page 6*

## Hatchery Review

### WDFW Commission will review hatchery reform effort

The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission will take public comments on its hatchery reform efforts during an upcoming meeting in Olympia.

The commission, a citizen panel appointed by the governor to set policy for the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, will meet Feb. 8-9 in Room 172 of the Natural Resources Building in Olympia. The meeting will begin at 8 a.m. both days.

Agency staff will provide an update on a review of the state's hatchery and fishery reform policy, which is intended to improve hatchery effectiveness, ensure compatibility between hatchery production and salmon recovery plans, and support sustainable fisheries. Staff will discuss the process they will use to review the policy and the science behind it.

The public will have the opportunity to comment during the Friday meeting.

Gov. Jay Inslee's budget provides \$12 million to maximize existing capacity at WDFW hatcheries. It also includes \$75.7 million to reverse deferred maintenance and make improvements to keep hatcheries operating within water quality standards.

Fish managers also will provide an update on the progress of the Willapa Bay Salmon Management Policy. That policy, approved by the commission in 2015, prioritizes recreational chinook fisheries in Willapa Bay while focusing commercial fishery opportunities on coho and chum salmon.

# Conservation

## The 50-pound chinook in a 50-gallon fish tank

By Jack Whitney

Normally this is called the elephant in the room, but since we are fishermen I thought we could relate to a fishing metaphor better by using a grown chinook salmon. I may be off on that comparison. Has anyone seen a 50-pound chinook caught in the northwest recently?

The 50-gallon fish tank represents all the conservation efforts to

save fish, salmon, wildlife, polar bears, humans, etc. The chinook (or elephant) is global warming. We are basically ignoring the long-term effects of global warming and are

just giving lip service to it. I have read about studies on how to protect different species of trout and salmon from global warming, but underneath these studies, there is an assumption that at some point we will stop the heating of the planet.

The major contributor to greenhouse gases is power generation. In 2016, 66% of our power was produced by hydrocarbons which are the major contributor to global warming. Nuclear provided 11% of our power and sustainable sources such as wind, solar and hydropower contributed 22%. To keep the world within the 2°C warming target by 2050, we would have to change that mixture to 22% hydrocarbons, 17% nuclear, 57% sustainable, and another 4% in unspecified production. On top of all this, the International Energy Agency (IEA) forecasts that the demand for energy could double by mid-century from population growth and the rise in standards of living in the third world.

What are the consequences if we don't meet the 2°C goal? As most of us are aware our arctic ice is melting. Once it gets warm enough to melt the permafrost—which releases more CO<sub>2</sub>—the green-house gases in our environment will race out of control. Scientists estimate the

potential release of green-house gases from permafrost could be twice what we are now contributing to our atmosphere. That suggests, the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> we are now contributing could eventually doom us. But if we have the will, we can control those emissions and control temperature increases.

So how are we doing in meeting that 2° C goal?

Not too well.

Variations in CO<sub>2</sub> have been the cause in several past mass extinctions. Consider that 444 million years ago, 86% of the world species were lost when the uplift of the Appalachians exposed new silicate

rocks. The massive mountain range sucked CO<sub>2</sub> out of the atmosphere creating a short ice age. Then 251 million years ago 96% of the earth's species disappeared when cataclysmic eruption near Siberia blasted CO<sub>2</sub> into the atmosphere starting a chain event that raised the earth's temperature and acidified oceans. Just 66 million years, 76% of all species were lost in a combination of volcanic eruptions and asteroids. The animals in the ocean were already stressed by volcanic activity when an asteroid struck the earth, killing off most of the ocean creatures and wiping out all creatures living on the surface of the planet. One scientific theory suggests that the only surviving land animal after that extinction was a mammal which lived three feet under the soil. The concept that we descended from an ape has upset a lot of people. I wonder how many more would be upset, if they hear we descended from a mole-like creature?

If we have another mass extinction, I wonder who will rule the world then? Some have suggested ants. I am putting my money on AI robots, but that isn't a safe bet either with the number of computer viruses we seem to create.

Cheers,  
Jack



# A Night at the Movies

The Yakima River Headwaters chapter of Trout Unlimited will host the 2019 Fly Fishing Film Tour on Saturday May 4 in Ellensburg after the FFI Fair. You can walk right from the fair to the films in Armory Hall on the grounds of the Kittitas Valley Event Center. Special guest and MC for the evening will be fly fishing expert and guide Hank Patterson.

The venue opens at 6 and films will begin at 7. Admission will be \$20 with all the funds going conservation programs.

Yakima Headwaters TU is engaged in a variety of conservation and education work in the Teanaway system. Over the past three years it has provided angler education with 'safe for fish' temperature signage and waste monofilament fishing line collection sites at boat launches on the Yakima River. The chapter also is starting its third year of water temperature monitoring in the Teanaway watershed along with WDFW's effort to monitor climate change and identify areas of cold-water refuge for migrating fish. New in 2018 was a project to identify population distribution of West Slope Cutthroat trout in the Teanaway River through angler science and data collection.

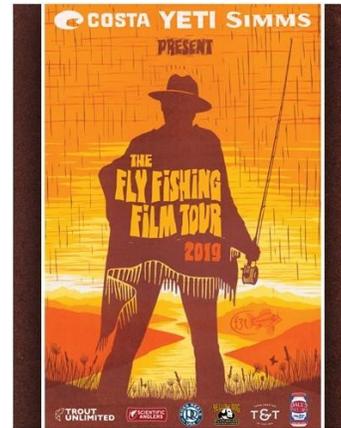
In 2019 Headwaters members look forward to beginning work on an "Embrace A Stream" project in the

Yakima River Headwaters of Trout Unlimited

presents

F3T Flyfishing Film Tour 2019 with

Guest MC: **Hank Patterson**



May 4<sup>th</sup>, Armory Hall, 7:00 pm Ellensburg

Teanaway watershed. A major portion of conservation funds also will go toward efforts to place water temperature monitors in streams and the subsequent data collection and analysis.

## Rocky Ford Creek and Ponds - Special Regulations

- \*Open Year-Round
- \*No Wading Allowed
- \*Only Artificial Flies with Single Point Barbless Hook Allowed
- \*Catch and Release Only
- \*Fishing From Bank Only
- \*Fly Fishing Only



### CATCH AND RELEASE TIPS From Fly Fishers International

- Use Gear and Line Strong Enough to Bring in Fish Quickly
- Use a Knotless or Rubber Mesh Net
- If Possible, Remove the Hook Quickly and Gently While Keeping the Fish in the Water
- If Your Fish is Hooked Deeply, Cut the Line Near the Hook
- Minimize the Time Your Fish is Out of the Water
- Wet Your Hands When Handling Your Fish
- Measure and Photograph Your Fish With it in the Water
- Never Toss a Fish Back - Gently Support the Fish Facing Into the Current Until it Swims From Your Hands

For Catch and Release Video  
See [www.keepe mwet.org](http://www.keepe mwet.org)



This sign is provided by the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International and the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Spokane, Washington.



## New Signage at Rocky Ford

New signs will soon go up at Rocky Ford Creek to inform fishers about the special regulations on one of the West's premier spring creeks. The signs will provide pointers on releasing fish and a plea to "keep 'em wet!"

The Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers, the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club and the Washington Council of FFI are working with Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife managers on the design and message. The Washington Council and various fly clubs will pay the cost of making the signs. WDFW will have final say on the wording and location.

The plan is to install three signs, one for each parking lot, says Jerry McBride, conservation chair for the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. The upper portion of the signs would spell out the WDFW rules for Rocky Ford Creek and the lower part would give information on best practices for catch and release. Release practices spelled out on the Fly Fishers International (FFI) website will be on the signs along with a link to the KEEPEMWET website which has an excellent on-the-water video showing how to minimize the impact on the fish during release.

## Hand Outside The Shoulder

“Another thing that is important for a good cast,” Gary said during a recent interview, “is to bring your hand up outside your shoulder. If you do that, the relationship of your shoulder to your elbow will cause the rod to stop.”

“It’s also the position for the side arm cast. Just drop the arm from the elbow into a sidearm cast. If you bring the wrist up outside the shoulder and make the karate chop motion beginning from that position you will get a perfect cast, you will have the elements for the perfect cast.”

**A.L.E.**  
**Accelerate**  
**Loop**  
**Energy transfer**

“An important thing to remember is, what the rod tip does, the line does. Even though most people recognize that, until they get it into their conscious mind and start thinking about it as they cast they don’t practice it. As a caster your job is to direct the rod tip.”

“Jason developed an acronym A.L.E. for what the rod tip has to do. The rod tip has to accelerate, A. Then it has to rotate to create the loop, so that’s L. Then on the forward motion you have to gather all that power in the arm, elbow, wrist and rod and transfer the energy, the E; transfer the energy into the line. Accelerate, loop, energy transfer.”



Gary Borger on Casting

*Gary prefers the three-point grip (center right) to the thumb on top (bottom) because it makes it easier to create tight loops with every cast.*

*continued from page 3*

doing that. Because they’ve developed in their brain what the rod is supposed to be doing without actually doing it with the rod in hand. Once they get that motion down in their thinking it becomes easier to do. That’s when we pick up the rod.”

The grip is another basic of casting that gets too little attention, Gary says. There are two solid grips; thumb on top and the three-point grip. Gary prefers the three-point.

“Basically, you make the three-point with your thumb on top and your index finger on the side of the grip and pull it back so the finger is bent inward and puts pressure on the rod,” he said.

“With your thumb on top, where the thumb points the rod points. When you put your finger up on the grip, suddenly you see that where your finger points is where the rod points. Now, with the rod handle going from the heel of your hand across your palm to the point of your finger it means when you lift your arm up and flip your wrist back as far as it will go, the rod stops exactly where you want it to stop. That finger at the side of the handle allows you to use your wrist fully in the cast. You lift and flip. Then lower your elbow,

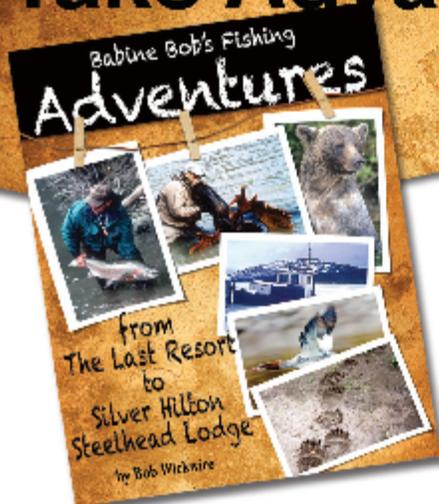


move the arm forward and flip forward. Don’t turn your wrist, rotate it. Don’t angle the wrist to the side. You want the bones in your wrist and arm in alignment. Keep the wrist straight with the forearm and then rotate it forward.”

“What you’ve done is change the arc of the rod tip,” he said. “So with the grip and firm wrist motion you’ve changed the arc of the line and the quality of your cast.”

# 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.

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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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# NW YOUTH CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING ACADEMY - 2019

By Mike Clancy

Applications are now being accepted for the June 23-29, 2019 Academy.

Up to 20 lucky boys and girls may attend the 2019 Academy at Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The applicant must submit an essay, explaining why “they” would like to attend The Academy and a letter of recommendation is to be submitted by their school counselor or science teacher.

Both items may be emailed to [nwycffa@comcast.net](mailto:nwycffa@comcast.net). Enrollment fee is \$300, however; there are sponsorships available. No applicant will be turned away because of funding.

Again we are very fortunate to receive financial support from fly fishing clubs, TU chapters, individuals and corporate organizations. The event is sponsored by the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and supported by the Washington Council of Fly Fishers International, South Sound Fly Fishers, Puget Sound Fly Fishers and the Olympia TU Chapter.

Applications can be obtained at [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com). We have a Facebook page with loads of pictures from past year’s Academy’s. Just put in NW Youth and it will pop right up. Send any questions to [nwycffa@comcast.net](mailto:nwycffa@comcast.net) or call 253-278-0061. Looking forward to another great year – Mike Clancy, Co-Director & Jim Brosio, Co-Director.

*Members of the 2018 Academy learning knots and tying flies.*



## Address