



# FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

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# Covering the Drift

Volume 25 Issue 2 June 2021

**FFI WOMEN CONNECT**  
CONNECT / LEARN / FISH

**Check out pages 3 & 4  
for Women Connect  
June is Women Connect Month**

## Golden Stoneflies



# Home Water



After a year of fishing solo, recently I've enjoyed fishing with friends again.

President Steve Jones

We were on the upper reaches of a high desert river in Oregon where the trout were fussy. No Chernobyl size bugs. Nothing buggery looking. Dries and droppers were the ticket with the business end of the set up in a size 18. It was perfect water to test my ability at Euro-nymphing.

I've read the stories in fly magazines and watched all manner of Euro-nymphing videos. I was intrigued and last year I bought a TFO Euro-nymph rod, a delicate 3wt that seemed way to long. I brought it out on a couple of trips with modest results and then there was last week.

There had been a few experienced Euro-nymph fishers on the river earlier in the week and a good friend, Don Kohler, had spoken to one. Don is retired from a career in the produce business, but I suspect that was a cover for his real job as a secret agent. His ability to get information out of strangers is impressive. When I met up with Don later in the week, he broke down in detail the precise way the nymph fisher he had met had tied her leader and tippet. Two flies were tied to dangle less than 3 inches from the tippet like jewels on a necklace and size 18 was the biggest. Size 20 or 22 would be better. Instead of a terminal fly, there was tin weight pinched on the line.

By the time I managed to put the rig together my friends were off to new waters. I geared up and headed down river alone to a spot that had produced nothing that morning. It was a gentle tail out that eased into a deeper channel on river right. It looked promising, but it had looked promising that morning too. Over the next hour I became the largest 10-year-old on the river that day.

A Euro-nymph presentation isn't a natural motion. High-sticking the rod through a run takes practice. The tip was always several feet above head height as I led the line through the run, searching for the bottom, then lifting the rig over snags. But so many of the snags turned out to be trout I got used to it. And big trout to boot. I had landed a single 14-inch fish in the prior day of fishing. In the first hour with the new Euro-nymph rig all four fish I landed were around that size. I worked my way down the river bend hooking up every 10 or 15 minutes. When the catch changed from trout to white fish I reeled up and headed downriver. I whistled as I picked through the rocks to the next hole.

We learn from others and its something we do best in person. Tying a fly, watching a cast, learning a technique are all way more fun and effective in person than online. That's why I'm excited for later this year when there is a good chance the Washington State Council can resume in-person events around the state.

Washington health officials are optimistic that group events will be safer with each passing month this year. This summer the Washington State Council will be putting together a plan that may include regional events by fall and a new Washington State Council Expo in 2022. You can contact any board member with your thoughts on future events or contact me directly at [president@wscffi.org](mailto:president@wscffi.org).

The re-launch will be possible thanks to the generosity of everyone who donated to the Washington State Council during GiveBig Washington. We raised \$4,750 during the two-day campaign. The money allow us to offer events again soon and in more places around the state. Special thanks goes to members of the Washington State Council Board of Directors who created a matching fund for GiveBig. Knowing their dollars would be doubled was a big enticement for donors.

Also with this newsletter, director Larry Gibbs is taking over newsletter responsibilities. Thanks to Larry for the new look of this edition and thanks to all the directors helped steer the Washington State Council through pandemic and beyond. We hope to see you all, soon.



## FFI WOMEN CONNECT

**CONNECT / LEARN / FISH**

### **Learning, Sharing, Inspiration...it's Our Mission**

To create a community of women fly fishers where learning, sharing and inspiration are offered in a safe and non-intimidating environment, to develop and improve fly fishing/ tying skills and, offer new opportunities in a creative and fun manner.

To encourage female leadership in FFI Clubs and the fly fishing industry as a whole by creating a platform where women can develop fly fishing skills and build confidence.

If you want to join the FFI Women Connect or sign up for the e-mail list, please contact us by e-mail at [womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org)

[Click Here](#) to read more about the mission, goals and objectives of the group.

Connect with FFI Women Connect

Join Fly Fishers International

Become a member of the group and all the benefits of being a member of FFI.

Follow on Facebook

Get up-to-date information on what's happening, event postings, activities and more.

Follow on Instagram

Check out our photos.

# FFI Women Connect

By Trisha Campbell

Hello from Fly Fishers International Washington Counsel Women Connect. June is the first annual Women's Fly Fishing month with Fly Fishers International Women Connect. I hope you will enjoy the month of June fishing with amazing people, maybe at your favorite spot, somewhere new or wherever life takes you. In celebration of Women's Fly Fishing month, the Washington State Counsel are holding a couple of women's events. The first is a women's casting class where we will be looking at the casts involved in Fly Fishers International's Bronze Casting Challenge. We will also be going on a women's fish out to the Lochsa and Selway Rivers. The information and links are below:



## Casting Class:

Bronze Casting Challenge

Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 6:00 PM PDT

315 SE Crestview St, Pullman, WA 99163

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copy-of-copy-of-casting-class-tickets-150350040017>

## Fish Out:

Wednesday, June 25 -27, 2021

FFI Women Connect celebrating Women Fly Fishing Weekend. Join us on a fun on our first Fishing and Camping weekend trip. You can also make it a day trip if you wish. We will be on the Selway and Lochsa Rivers at O'Hara Campground near Kooskia, Idaho in the Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest. We will walk and wade by teaming up together on the river, meet new anglers and have a potluck Saturday evening. Here are the links for camping and signing up for the event.

O'Hara Campground :<https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/nezperceclearwater/recreation/recarea/?recid=16500&actid=31>

Reservations at <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/231831>

PLEASE sign up on Eventbrite link below so I know who all is coming - **Limit is 12**

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/camping-and-fishing-with-pwotf-tickets-153153503251>

FFI Women Connect are an amazing group of women who connect fly fishing women around the world. They have put together a list of activities happening throughout various Counsels of Fly Fishers International for the month of June. Included is the link to see what is happening in the various Counsels.

Activities for June.docx

FFI Women Connect is having a donation drawing for a wall hanging quilt. I have included the link if you are interested in donating for a chance at this beautiful quilt.

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Get-Involved/FFI-Women-Connect/Donate-to-FFIWC>



# Casting For Recovery - Washington

By Trisha Campbell

Casting for Recovery is a National Organization that provides free retreats for women survivors of breast cancer. Washington State is fortunate to have two branches of volunteers to serve its population with two separate retreats. The state's first retreat of the year will be with the Idaho/Washington Casting for Recovery at N-Sid-Sen camp on beautiful Couer d'Alene Lake in Hayden, Idaho. This retreat is being held June 11-13, 2021. The participants have already been selected for this retreat, but applications for 2022 will open up January 1st, 2022.



The second Washington Retreat will be held at Mountain Springs Lodge in historic Leavenworth, Washington on August 29-31. Applications for this retreat are being accepted through the middle of June, 2021.

Washington State Counsel is a proud supporter of this great organization's Washington branches. For more information please follow the link to <https://castingforrecovery.org/>

# Washington State Council FFI Website

See what draws over 1,000 people a month

<http://wscffi.org>

By Sam Matalone



Do you know that the Washington State Council Fly Fishers International has a website? Well we do, the url is: <http://wscffi.org>, with around 1000 visitors per month from all over the world. Outside the United States, Canada has the most views followed by Japan and a host of Eastern Europe countries.

The most frequently viewed pages are our newsletter followed by the “Gallery”. As we stride to improve our social media presence with Facebook and Instagram we are constantly updating the website to provide more information.

For example, when WSCFFI and several other conservation minded groups pooled resources to “Preserving Access on the Grand Rhode” we used Facebook and Instagram to spread the good news with a link to our website article for much greater detail and information:

<http://wscffi.org/conservation-preserving-access-on-the-grande-ronde/>

Frequently visited on the site is our “Gallery” (a drop down menu with a number of different categories). A recent feature that I would like to share is a photo montage of Harry Lemire tying a classic salmon fly using only his hands.

<http://wscffi.org/salmon-flies/>

Harry Lemire was one of the most talented fly tiers in the Pacific Northwest. This photo is one I took several years ago of Harry Lemire tying a classic salmon in his hands.

He is no longer with us; but, we will always have memories of Harry!

Our plan is to expand our website with sections for Fly Tying Tips as well as Casting Tips, both of which are new sections of our newsletter. Our ability to expand the newsletter and the website depends on input from WSCFFI members as well as non members. We would like to receive:

- suggestions on how to improve our website
- your expertise in the way of tips on fly tying and/or casting
- and your photos of flies you tied, fish you caught and great locations.

Please send your comments to [webmaster@wscffi.org](mailto:webmaster@wscffi.org)

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Washington State Council Fly Fishers International website. At the top, there's a navigation bar with links for HOME, ABOUT US, NEWS LETTERS, GALLERY, and CASTING. Below the navigation is a large banner with the text "Access on the Grande Ronde" and a subtext "Conservation Preserving Access on the Grande Ronde". To the right of the banner, there's a sidebar with links for JOIN FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL, CLUB APPLICATION, and a logo for DALGO FLY FISHERS ANACORTES, WA. There are also sections for HUGH LEWIS TO PRESENT "FLY FISHING - BEYOND THE SPORT" and a photo of Hugh Lewis fishing. On the left side, there are links for JOIN FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL, OUR SOCIAL MEDIA PROFILE (Instagram and Facebook), and WE PROUDLY SUPPORT THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATION (Healing Waters).

BE SURE TO BOOKMARK [WSCFFI.ORG](http://wscffi.org)



# Washington Council Electing Officers

Ballots will be delivered in June through Survey Monkey

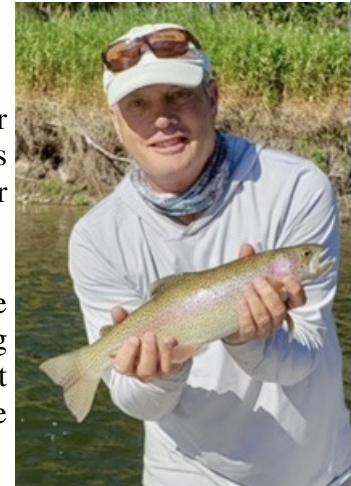
Members of the Washington Council will have four offices to fill in the upcoming 2021 election. Neal Hoffberg is running for Director at Large. Len Zickler, who has served on the board in the past, is running to rejoin the board as VP East. Existing board members Steve Jones, President, and Jim Maus, Treasurer, are running for election because they were appointed to those jobs in August 2020 after other officers left the board for personal reasons. Bylaws require they stand for election at the next available opportunity.

The candidates are:

## Neal Hoffberg

Neal has been a member of the FFI for over fifteen years. He is currently an active member in both the Southwest Council and Washington State Council of FFI. His club affiliation is with the Washington Fly Fishing Club in Seattle where I serve as Committee Chair for Education and Programs.

Neal is a member of the FFI Fly Tying Group. He teaches fly tying twice a month with the WFFC. Pre-covid, Neal was volunteering with Project Healing Waters, Seattle, teaching both fly tying and fly casting. Volunteering has taught Neal how important and rewarding it is to give to others. Neal is committed to the goals and objectives of the FFI and would be honored to represent the WSCFFI as Director At Large.



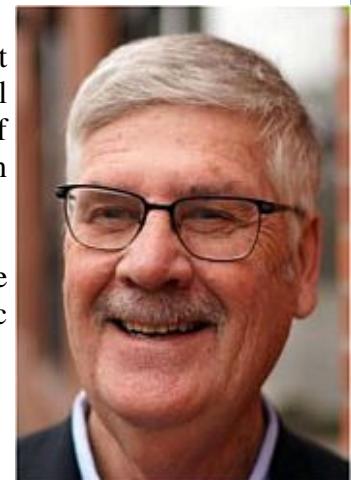
## Len Zickler

Len is a retired principal and owner of an engineering/planning firm with offices throughout Washington state. He served as principal in charge of planning and landscape architectural services. Len holds degrees from Eastern Washington University and the University of Washington. Len's professional expertise is in real estate development, site design and green building principles.

Len just completed six years of service as President/CEO of Fly Fishers International where he successfully led the rebranding of the organization and development of a new strategic direction. He formerly served several years on the Board of the Washington Council of FFI.

Len's public service includes:

- Urban Forestry Executive Advisory Council for the State of Washington
- Board of Licensing for Landscape Architects.
- King County Design Commission.
- Spokane Design Commission
- Inland Empire Section of the American Planning Association



In 2007 Len was elected to the College of Fellows of the American Society of Landscape Architects - his profession's highest honor. Len is an avid fly fisher and conservationist. Len is married to Dawn (Mills). They live in North Spokane.

## **Jim Maus**

Jim has a passion for fly fishing and fly tying. He enjoys sharing his knowledge and skills with those new to the sport. He is a Life Member of Fly Fishers International (FFI) and currently serves on the National Board of Directors as national Treasurer. He is a charter member of the FFI's Fly Tying Group. He has been actively involved with the Washington State Council for over 25 years and has served the Council as Senior Advisor, Treasurer, Secretary, Director at Large and as a National Director.

Jim is a long-time member and past President of the Puget Sound Flyfishers club in Tacoma, WA (winner of the 2008 McKenzie Cup) and a member of the South Sound Fly Fishing club in Olympia. Jim was named Treasurer of the Washington Council in August 2020.

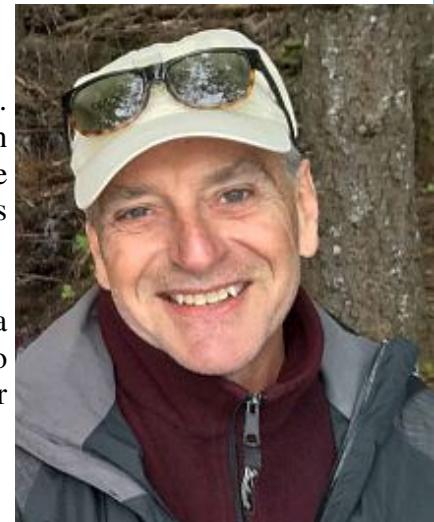


## **Steve Jones**

Steve has been a member of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers in Vancouver for 20 years. He has served in several offices with the club in that time including Conservation Director and President. Steve joined FFI in 2016 at the invitation of a friend. Steve became an officer in 2017 when he became editor of the Washington Council's newsletter. He was named President in August 2020.

Steve says he wants to help the council re-establish in-person events after more than a year of pandemic limits. He wants to help keep the Washington Council growing into the lively and successful group members expect. Steve is retired after a 35-year career in journalism and he lives in Vancouver with his wife, Emily Ransdell.

When you get the email asking you to vote, please do so.



Thanks

**WE PROUDLY SUPPORT THE  
FOLLOWING ORGANIZATION**



<https://projecthealingwaters.org>



<https://castingforrecovery.org>

# Fly Fishers International

## The International Aspect of FFI

By Kuni Masuda



Kuni Masuda is Chairman of the FFI's International Programs Committee and is also on the WSC Board of Directors.

International Programs Committee is busy localizing FFI web pages. Due to overseas members' requests, we are translating key pages into German, Italian and Japanese covering 70% of current international members. Our international ambassadors are a great help. Kuni is also recruiting international presenters and workshop providers for our Virtual EXPO in November.

Here is a story Kuni told me about a person from the country of Georgia.

About three weeks ago, I received mail from our new FFI member in Georgia forwarded by Dave Peterson, Chairman of the Board. It's not our state of Georgia here in the US. Georgia is a country located at the intersection of Eastern Europe and Western Asia. It is a part of the Caucasus region, bounded to the west by the Black Sea, to the north and east by Russia, to the south by Turkey and Armenia, and to the southeast by Azerbaijan. It is a country of rivers and mountains, situated within Caucasus Range of Mountains on the south-east frontier of Europe.

His name is Lado Sakvarelidze who lives in Orkin, Georgia and principal of LLC Caucasus Ecosystem and a fly fishing & trout conservation enthusiast. He is trying to convince his government to open rivers in national parks for license based fly fishing (catch and release) in return for boosting conservation efforts within national parks and beyond. They are in the infant stage of the fly fishing and trout conservation movement and he deeply believes a new born fly fisherman is also a new born conservationist. His organization needs our help, our recommendation, references and supporting data to push for the social, environmental and economy benefits and uses for his work.

That said, we would like very much to support this new member from Georgia and assist him in organizing and mobilizing fly fishers in his country and we can learn more about his interests and needs and also provide more information about the benefits and opportunities that Fly Fishers International provides for our international members.

Lado, Tom Logan and I had our first zoom meeting to make him aware of our interest in conservation of trout in Georgia last week. He wants to learn from us and use us as his conservation planning model. It is my hope that this is just the beginning of an ongoing conversation about how FFI can be supportive to his efforts in Georgia.

*"When we teach a person to fly fish, we just created a conservationist."* Lee Wulff

# Fly Tying Tips and Other Assorted Pearls of Wisdom

By Sam Matalone

Welcome to a new section of our updated newsletter that is devoted exclusively to fly tying. With every edition, we will provide our readers with a few fly tying tips. You may know some of these tips; but, hopefully, we will be able to share a few pearls of wisdom, leading to better flies, more bites and greater stories.

We, fly tiers, are an inventive group. We all have many different ways of doing things, reinventing ideas, modifying/creating new tools and developing new techniques. So, there is a tremendous opportunity to share knowledge within the fly tying community.

If you have a tip to share, please send me an email ([sam@matalone.us](mailto:sam@matalone.us)) with “fly tying tip” in the subject line. I will gather, organize and submit to our newsletters, as time and volume allow. The success of this part of the newsletter depends on support from the community at large.

As the adage says: The wisdom of one should be the knowledge of many.



## Tip #1: CDC Feather “table”

The first tip is really a very simple idea. I cannot remember where or when I originally saw this. It was most likely on YouTube; but, I’m not 100% sure. It could have been at a fly fishing show several years ago.

I really like to use CDC (cul de canard) feathers on my nymph patterns. These feathers give flies so much action. I believe the magic is in how they trap air bubbles, creating movement, and increasing the odds of eliciting a strike.

There are many commercial tools which aid in doubling the fibers of a CDC feather in order to make a dubbing loop. All these tools are costly. It is very easy to spend a \$100 or more on these tools. Well, with a 3/4 x 1 1/2 x 1/4 inch strip of craft foam you can make your own tool for about 5 cents. That’s more money to buy feathers!

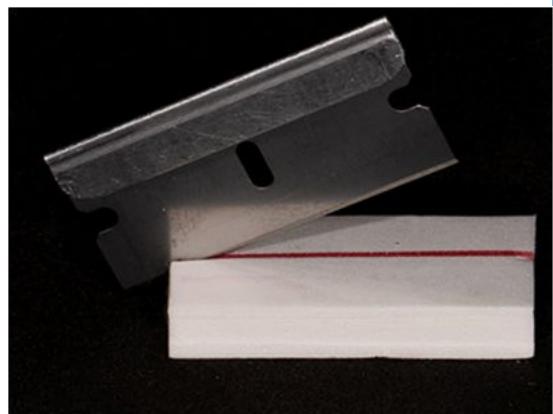
Let's get started. Some assumptions on my part:

We are using CDC feathers and not puffs. Everyone knows what is a dubbing loop. We will not be showing step by step instructions for tying a fly.

### Step One

Using a razor blade cut a slot down the center of a craft foam strip (long axis) 3/4" x 1 1/2" x 1/4". DO NOT cut through the foam. The depth of the cut needs to be about 75% of the thickness of the foam. That's all there is to it. You are now ready to create some CDC loops!

Note: the length of the foam can vary. Use a length that is consistent with the length of your CDC feathers. (I have several tables ranging in size from 3/4 to 2 inches in length.)



### Step Two

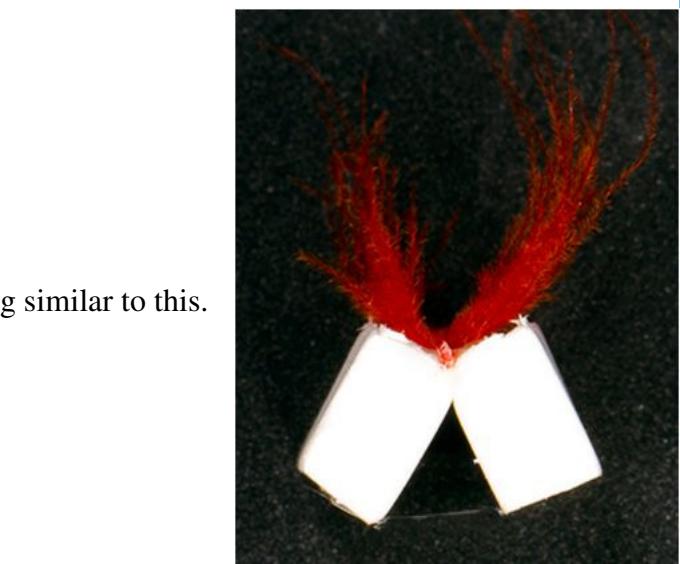
Prepare the CDC feather by stripping away the fibers at the base of your feather. Splay the fibers so they are 90 degrees to the stem of the feather.

### Step Three

By pinching together the outside of the long edges of the foam block, you will open up a slot. Place your CDC feather with the stem in the slot you opened. Keep pinching the foam until you are happy with the CDC placement.

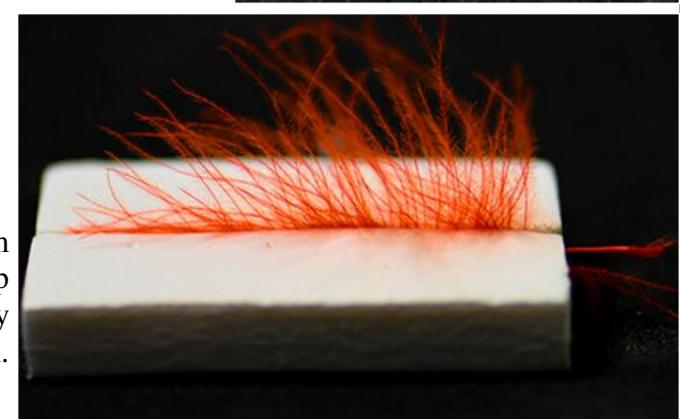


If you look at one end of the foam block, you should see something similar to this.



### Step Four

Release the edges. When you stop pinching the foam, the foam relaxes, closing on the feather. You are now ready to use the clip of your choice to catch the fibers. Once this is completed, slightly pinch the foam and the CDC feather is released from the foam. Now just trim the stem and make your dubbing loop.



Completed Para Emerger size 16 Made using the CDC feather table.

That's it! Simple tips are often the best.



## The 2nd “Pearl of Wisdom”

### “The No Trim Muddler”

By Sam Matalone

This is an old method I have used for over 4 decades. Yes, this tip is that old. I demonstrated this technique at a California Fly Fisherman Unlimited monthly meeting in the late 60's. I use this method when I need to tie a large volume of small muddlers. When I go to New Zealand, I carry about 10 dozen of these in various shades of brown, green and tan. Not that I use all of them. I give a lot away to various local anglers, foreign visitors and some of my “friends” who I travel with to New Zealand. So lets begin:



#### Step 1:

I am not going to tie the entire fly but rather just demonstrate how to make a “no trim muddler” head. This is a very simple fly. The tails and wing are dyed pheasant tail to match the color scheme I am intending to achieve, the body is something close to that scheme. One thing I am big on is having little UV material in the dubbing. I believe it makes a difference. You see... I give my friends the version that does not have UV dubbing and I catch more fish using the UV material than they do. So, it must work! (No just kidding friends always get my best flies) I use a red CDC feather twisted and wrapped on to represent the fish’s gills. Now here is where the tip begins. It is critical that the area between the base of CDC to the eye of the hook does not have any thread on it. We want the deer hair to spin freely.



#### Step 2:

Prepare a small bunch of deer hair, cleaning out the underfur and stacking it so all the tips are aligned. (I typically use comparadun deer hair. It is short and works great for small muddlers). Measure how far back you want your deer hair to extend. Once you have determined the length you want, cut off the excess deer hair trying to keep it even as possible. At this point, you need to position the tying thread. The closer you place it to the eye of the hook the smaller the head will be. Conversely, the closer you are to the base of CDC the larger the head will be. For our purpose, we will center the thread half way between the base of CDC and the eye of the hook.



#### Step 3

Pinching the deer tightly, put two loose wraps around the deer hair. Please note, the base of the deer hair does not extend any further than the eye of the hook. Ideally it should be at the base of the eye.



#### **Step 4:**

Now, pull straight down on the thread and release your pinch on the deer hair. Done correctly, the deer will spin around the hook shank. Let it spin. Once it has stopped, look at it. If it is a little lopsided, just pinch the entire deer hair and adjust it. Once you are satisfied, brush some “super” type glue on your thread. Make a few more tight wraps and whip finish the head.



#### **“The Finished Fly”**

This is the finished version of a “no trim” muddler.



Take care, be safe and take a kid, friend or someone

**The FFI headquarters has a new address:**

**Fly Fishers International  
1201 Hwy 10 W, Ste. E  
Livingston, MT 59047**

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

*In Wildness is the Preservation of the World*  
"Henry David Thoreau"

## Sea-Run Cutthroat

Fishing for Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout has been on my want-to-do list since I've moved up here to the Northwest. But time and tide wait for no man and for me this dream has been awhile in fruition. Howard and I have picked out a day to do this Sea-Run Cutthroat fishing thing on the 22nd of May; but I felt the need to do some reconnaissance first. So with a free Thursday from truck repair, I decided to make it happen. This would be my second attempt, but my first with a little knowledge and forethought on a beach that suited sea-run cutts a pico bit more.

I had already purchased some flies that were purported to entice Sea-Run; these I threw in my sling pack. I grabbed my 5 wt freshwater fly rod, three spools with floating, intermediate and full sink fly line, my boots and waders. I was already wearing my rain jacket as it is spring time in Washington if you catch my drift.

I had to make one stop before I hit the beach, Dr. Steve Egge and I have a standing appointment every three months. He interprets my blood work, makes adjustment, and recommendations which I faithfully heed, then we cover the important topics fishing, his vacation home remodel. Oh! I almost forgot Scotch and coffee they are also on our discussion share list. These topics are to the point and concise, he has other patients' to attend too. He made some fly recommendation for Sea-Runs as he headed out the door to his next appointment.

The rest of the day was my own; the water falling from the sky ceased, low clouds colored the day in muted gray tones. The smell of salt water, sand and old harbor pilings washed over me with nostalgic memories of beaches past and old fishing piers. My wading boots made the beach's pebble stones crunch, clack and screech as I walked between the BNSF tracks and Puget Sound. This was a solo trip as I began my Sea-Run Cutthroat recon. This was my first visit to a regional park near the Tacoma Narrows Bridge; knowledge gleaned from work place discussions. I had missed the outgoing low tide, but I had to start my fishing experience sometime, and this sometime was the incoming tide. The beach looked great, pebbles, rocks, barnacles, fallen trees, crabs, sea anemones and chum fry. Most of the ingredients that indicate Cutts should be here.

Civilization was just on the other side of the tracks and homes peeked out of the woods on the distant shore, but once I stepped into the Sound I was in wildness. Thank you, Thoreau. As I cast an owl serenaded me with his hoo, hoo, hoo, it reminded me of listening to a coyote choir around and evening camp fire. I was in an urban environment but in reality I was back of beyond.

Most of the western rivers that I have fished have rail routes on their banks, and so too did this beach on the Sound that I now fished. It all felt very familiar, like echoes from previous lives. Large long freight trains and the short passenger Sounders' heading North and South on the double track behind me, sounded whistle and warning signals at crossings and the deep rumble of weight bearing freight cars rolling somewhere else punctuated the quite of the Wildness. On the waters of the Narrows tugs, barges and small craft plied the water going and coming from who knows where and why; the hustle and bustle of a work day world.



Continued on Page 13

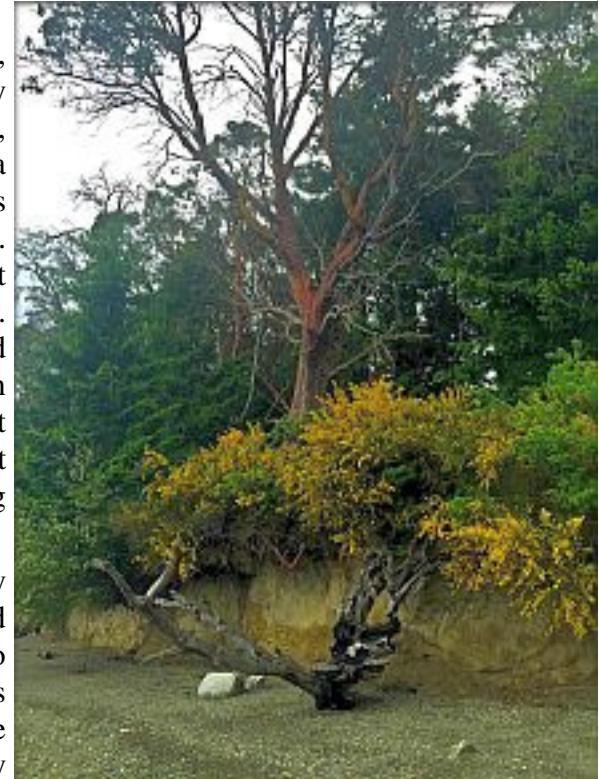
The world of commerce was a stone's throw away. Me I was on moon, sky and earth time casting with the rhythm of the natural world. Cast, retrieve, step and cast again. All was not smooth and harmonious however, this was a learning trip and I had new experiences to take in and adjust to. Some I could manage to correct now, others would remain for future trips. My gear was not a match for my Cutt endeavors. My fresh water 5 wt was slightly underpowered for lifting an intermediate sinking line with weighted flies. I tend to use slow stokes and finesse to cast, but Cutt fishing on the Sound was calling for a tip or mid flex 6 wt rod. I needed to get my line to the water's surface before my next cast and my 5 wt was just a bit slow and light. My other new experience, my sinking line sank while I was retrieving, no surprise there, but what caught my attention and my line were the barnacles. Yep they grab hold of my line and they do not want to let go, pesky things. Good for Cutts not so good for fishing line.

My cast, retrieve and cast again became, cast retrieve, untangle, unhook and cast again; just a new dance step rhythm to keep my life moves fresh and lively. I have been stuck on trees, rocks, grass and brush, now I can add barnacles to my list. They have a stubborn tenacity to hold onto what they grab; on the very plus side they are not slippery like river rocks, so footing is stable. Jeff Trafican, take heed, this kind of fishing would probably cut down on your swimming time but I believe that you could adjust. When fishing for cuts you need to fish the tidal flows, Cutts feed when the water is moving, and I was fishing a rising tide with little flow. I knew that my gear would be a little light and not salt water resistant, that the tides weren't perfect but that's what exploration and reconnaissance are for and my sea-run fishing was starting right here and now.

Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout fishing has made a spectacular recovery since Washington's Fish and Wildlife have made it a catch and release fishery only. Cutt's are spooky, stealth is the best way to approach them, and your first cast should be from your knees before you enter the water. They are aggressive feeders so once you get your offering to where they are they will oblige you by running and jumping when you make a hook up. My first two efforts at catching Cutts have now come up empty, but I am making progress in learning a new fishery. I did catch two sculpin and it was entertaining to watch my line dart, zig, zag and jerk before I brought them to hand.

After two plus hours of exploration, casting practice and a wee bit of barnacle snags it was slack tide and lunch time. After shucking my waders, rinsing off my reel & rod, and comfortably dressed in civvies, I visited the local Beach Tavern established in 1934. The tavern had settled into its surrounding and now was part of the ordered world well at least the laid back one. Locals discussed life events and community activities with the lady bartender over plastic baskets of hamburgers and fries served on faded red Formica table tops. Several large screen TV's displayed broadcast golf games from around the country. I settled onto a stool and ordered Fish & Chips and a Deschutes Brewery, Mirror Pond pale ale from a menu passed over the top of the bar counter. The Deschutes beer, I ordered in honor of my friends, Steve Egge, Pat Blackwell and Sean Gallagher and our steelhead fishing trips on Oregon's Deschutes River. While I ate and sipped, my eyes passed over the golf game to the widow view of the waters of Puget Sound and I let the pleasantness of a day well spent, fill me with a comfortable joy while my eyes drank in the panorama of the back of beyond.

See you on the water soon.



***“Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after” Henry David Thoreau***

## **Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs/Conservation Mike Clancy – Conservation Chair**

The FFI and TU have jointly agreed on a number of conservation issues in our area. Mainly, the 4 dam removal on the lower Snake River and the Pebble mine in Alaska. I do know there are other joint efforts in other areas of the USA.

**SNAKE RIVER** was declared “Americas most endangered river” for 2021. Congressman Earl Blumenauer from Oregon has joined Representative Mike Simpson of Idaho in the recovery of salmon and steelhead in the removal of the 4 lower dams in the Snake River. The FFI and TU have endorsed Representative Mike Simpson’s proposal to remove the 4 lower Snake River dams. Simpson’s remark, if the dams stay, this salmon will go away.



The **Chehalis River** flood control report to the governor has been postponed until June. The proposed dam is a “run of the river” dam. The dam will not affect the flow of the river until there is a need to control flooding in the valleys.

**Pebble Mine** is quite now waiting for the results of the appeal to the Army Corp of Engineers, made by The Pebble people after denial for the original permit for the mine. The Alaskan governor wanted to appoint a Pebble official to the Fish Commission, the locals are very unhappy if he gets the assignment. The assignment was denied by a local judge and the state legislator. This is a wrong mine in a wrong place. For more info, please go to [www.savebrisbtolbay.org](http://www.savebrisbtolbay.org)

### **WSCFFI PRESS RELEASE**

*Edited by Steve Jones*



The Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International supports the WDFW Quicksilver plan to sustain winter and summer steelhead in Puget Sound waters. We also support a sport fishery for hatchery fish in locations such as the Snohomish, Dungeness and Quilcene rivers that can sustain hatchery fishery without threatening a wild population.

We support the components of the Quicksilver plan that preserve catch and release fishing for all wild winter and summer steelhead. The best habitat for steelhead reproduction is a wild free flowing river. Washington State Council FFI supports the wild steelhead management initiative begun in 2018 on the Skagit River. We do not support the introduction of a wild brood-stock program in the Skagit. That wild management strategy should be sustained, and recreational fishing rules should be written to maintain the integrity of the wild management strategy.

Single, barbless-hook, catch and release fishing should be the standard for all rivers where wild management is a priority.

Washington State Council FFI supports the expansion of wild steelhead management to additional Puget Sound rivers including the Samish, Elwha, Nisqually, Nooksack and Skokomish rivers.

Washington State Council’s Board of Directors members created a Study Committee: Robert Gerlach, Jim Maus, Mike Clancy, Sam Matalone and Steve Jones.

### **FFI Press Release**

Tom Logan, Chairman, FFI Conservation announced that the FFI along with our conservation partners, TU and others, are going to endorse congressman Mike Simpson’s proposal to remove the four dams on the Snake River. It has been stated, if the dams are removed, we don’t know if the salmon and steelhead fishery will recover, but, if the dams are not removed, the fishery will definitely go away. We have now joined our partners in asking the NW Congressional Delegation to endorse the proposal and why.



## **Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy**

*by Mike Clancy*



The Academy – We have not been able to conduct the Academy for the past 2 years, however; we have scheduled the event for next year, June 19-25, 2022, the last full week of June. This will be Jim and my last year as co-directors, we have 3 solid new directors to take over. Jim and I will be there for them as needed. In 2022, we will accept 12-17 year old candidates in 2022 only, since some that previously applied, and couldn't attend, will be 17.

## **KIDS FLY FISHING COUNTS WITH FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL**

FFI has been teaching kids to fly fish for over 50 years. There are some very important reasons:

- ◊ Anglers are a lower and lower percentage of the population, because fewer kids are joining our ranks.
- ◊ Efforts that build support for fish in the next generation of voters are every bit as important as projects that build fish habitat.
- ◊ Who will be voting on water resource issues in 10 years? Kids who are 8-10 years old now!.

High profile programs like kid's fishing days and one-time outings do not begin to replace the grandfather, father, uncle kind of mentoring that caused most of today's anglers to take up fly fishing.

You know that kids count with FFI

FFI's loaner fly rods, reels, lines, tying vises and other equipment have been used with over 15,000 kids over the last 7 years. This equipment is always in use by fly fishing clubs, state agencies, regional conclaves and even federal programs.

FFI has given over 550 fly rods and lines for permanent use in kids fly fishing programs.

FFI publishes how-to booklets on fly casting, fly tying, insects and other topics. These booklets are especially well-suited for classes of beginning fly fishers.

FFI offers water resources and fisheries curriculum material to schools throughout the U.S. aimed at grades K-12.

FFI holds an annual kids fly fishing camp at the International Fly Fishing Fair.

FFI offers a reduced-cost membership for kids under 17 years of age.

In addition, FFI member clubs serve thousands of kids directly.

### **Survey Proves Support**

A recent survey of FFI clubs indicated that they offered classes and fishing activities to over 4,500 kids and young adults every year. This did not include extraordinary efforts by clubs like the North Louisiana Fly Fishers, who taught 6,800 kids in one summer in a State of Louisiana aquatic education program!

**INTERESTED?** Want your kids to learn about fly fishing?

Join FFI and get in contact with a local club. Ask about their kids programs.

Attend the FFI's International Fly Fishing Fair (usually held in July or August).

Contact the FFI office if you have questions at (406) 222-9369.

Want to help out? We always need adults to teach kids about fly fishing.

# NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

by Carol Anderson, MEd. V.P. of Education



The Academy is a youth education project of Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and is made possible with the help and support of Washington State Council Fly Fishers International, TU Chapters & FFI Clubs. It is held at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake - Lacey, WA. Every summer.

Unfortunately due to COVID, the Academy was put on hold in 2020. Fortunately the founders and a new board grasped this delay as an opportunity to review the program curriculum.

The next offering of the NWYCCFA will provide youth with fun program that not only teaches the basics of Fly Fishing, but an even more comprehensive focus on the science of watershed habitats and the biology of inhabitants of those ecosystems. The Academy will show participants the best way to personally conserve and protect water resources and also introduce waterway stewardship.

As the VP of Education for WSCFFI and a member of the FFI, Education Committee, I was excited to be asked to assist in creation of an Online Youth Fly Fishing Curriculum and to align this new structure with the NWYCCFA curriculum.

The Fly Fishers International Youth Program mission is to expand fly-fishing education to interested youth through creative and easily accessible online learning modules and by providing research-based educational guidelines with associated program materials to deliver hands-on activities at Youth Education programs through FFI clubs and councils around the world.

Soon we will be able to hold our in-person NWYCCFA at Gwinwood Community Center again and the new curriculum materials will be a healthy part of the presentations.



Remember, the Youth Academy Week Features:

- Co-educational, ages 12 – 16.
- Curriculum focuses on conservation, natural resource stewardship, and fly fishing essentials.
- Fly fishing classes include fly casting, fly tying, knot tying, reading water, and water safety.
- Morning and evening fly fishing activities on Graham Pond and Deschutes River.
- On-the-water aquatic macro invertebrate sampling activity.
- Career discovery opportunities.
- Faculty and staff include wildlife resource professionals, northwest fly fishing and fly tying professionals and enthusiasts, and local fishing club volunteers.

Cost, including food and lodging: \$300

Enrollment fee assistance is available.

# VIRTUAL EXPO 2021

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has transformed its annual International Fly Fishing Expo into a virtual event for 2021, completely reimagining how fishing enthusiasts from around the world can enjoy the Expo from the comfort of their own home.

“Our goal is to have fun while learning and immersing ourselves in everything fly fishing,”  
— Patty Lueken, Chair of FFI’s Virtual Expo Planning Committee



The FFI Virtual Expo 2021 will take place November 5-7, and will be unlike any fly fishing show in the past.

FFI is pulling out all the stops to make the Virtual Expo the premier fly fishing event of the year. Teaming up with some of the best instructors, presenters, and fly fishing personalities in the sport, FFI Virtual Expo 2021 will feature workshops and presentations on casting, fly tying, conservation, women in fly fishing, travel, and much more. Similar to fly fishing shows, there will be vendors, break-out rooms, and entertaining activities—something for everyone.

Highlights will include:

- Fantastic classes and workshops from renowned “fishy” folks
- Compelling and important conservation workshops
- Fly tying demonstrations with some of the world’s best
- An online auction culminating in a virtual live auction on Nov 6
- Great giveaways
- Specialty classes on cooking, nutrition, tricking out your camper, “how it’s made,” and other topics to interest fly fishers and non-fishers alike.

“Building off of the incredible success of the FFI Online series — during which we brought the essence of FFI out to the international fly fishing community — the Virtual Expo will bring the fly fishing show experience to you.”  
— Patrick Berry, FFI President, and CEO



# Come Join Us for the Fly Fishing Event of the Year Virtual Expo



**November 5-7, 2021**

## Virtual Expo Activities

Some great activities are planned for the FFI Virtual Expo. As information becomes available we'll post it in future newsletters, on our website and in emails sent out to all of the FFI members in Washington State.

## Be a Sponsor or Exhibitor

All sponsors will be given an exhibitor space at the Expo, plus additional benefits at each level.

Gold - \$3000 - 8 available

Silver - \$1500 - 12 available

Bronze - \$500 - 8 available

## Workshops & Seminars

FFI has some of the best instructors in the world. They are coming to you online to provide some great learning opportunities through seminars and workshops. Topics covered include:

Casting

Tying

Fly Fishing Skills

Conservation & More

Full schedule will be available in July.

## Auctions, Raffles & More

Want to Participate in our Auctions and Raffles?

Donate an item to our auctions and raffles. Send an inquiry to [ffiexpoauction@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:ffiexpoauction@flyfishersinternational.org)

Bid on an item of your choice, and bid high! Remember it's for preserving the legacy of fly fishing for all fish, all waters.

JOIN THE

**SAFE GUARDING THE LONG-TERM  
HEALTH OF FLY FISHING AROUND  
THE WORLD**

**FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/FFI1K**



**THE FUNDS RAISED BY THE FFI1K ARE VITAL** to providing a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and expand our mission, and to support:

- **SPEARHEADING PROJECTS** that improve our fisheries and protect our fishing opportunities
- **THE FFI LEARNING CENTER's** wealth of fly fishing knowledge and resources
- **CAMARADERIE AMONG ANGLERS** built at our annual fair and other events

**JOIN US IN SAFEGUARDING THE LONG-TERM  
HEALTH OF FLY FISHING AROUND THE  
WORLD BY BECOMING ONE OF THE FFI1K.**

**VISIT [FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/FFI1K](http://FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/FFI1K)  
OR CALL 406.222.9369 TO JOIN TODAY!**

\*See enclosed remit envelope for payment options  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF: Ed Coyle, David A. Thompson

## **FFI1K - BECOME A MEMBER OF 1000 STEWARDS OF FFI**

You have a unique opportunity to invest in the sport you love.

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has been an organized voice for fly fishers around the world since 1964. We represent all aspects of fly fishing – from the art of fly tying and casting, to protection of the natural systems that support healthy fisheries and their habitats so essential to our sport. Today, our mission is to ensure the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters continues by focusing on CONSERVATION, EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY.

Join us in safeguarding the long-term health of fly fishing around the world by becoming one of the FFI1k, by committing to donate \$500 per year for 5 years (total of \$2500).

The funds raised by the FFI1K are vital to providing a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and expand our mission and to support:

- Spearheading projects that improve our fisheries and protect our fishing opportunities
- The FFI Learning Center's wealth of fly fishing knowledge and resources
- Camaraderie among anglers built at our annual Expo and other events

**Join the FFI1K Now**

## **Editors Notes:**

Hi, Larry Gibbs here. I am the new editor of Covering the Drift. Steve Jones has been doing that for many years along with communications and then he stepped up and became the president (along with communications and newsletter editor). So, Steve asked the members of the Board of Directors for a volunteer to take over the editors duties. I did. It is not a totally new job for me. Back in the dark ages when dinosaurs still roamed the earth, in the late 1990's I took on the roll of newsletter editor when I was a member of the Puget Sound Flyfishers club in Tacoma. That newsletter was a printed only version. Oh how times have changed.



Sometime around 2008 or so I joined the Alpine Fly Fishers club in Puyallup. Shortly after that I became the president of the club (I guess president for life because I am still doing it) and I also took over being the newsletter editor (again, a job I still do).

I enjoy doing these. I will try to keep the newsletter informative and also interesting to read. That means there are members of the Washington State Council's Board of Directors who will be contributing articles. You have seen some of them in this newsletter and through those articles you will be introduced to them. Members of the board are involved because we have a very dedicated interest in fly fishing and we have a strong belief that Fly Fishers International is a great organization.

If you, the reader, has a comment about the newsletter or an idea for an article or even better, would like to submit an article for possible use, please contact me. Larry Gibbs - [flytier015@Q.com](mailto:flytier015@Q.com)

## **Golden Stones:**

The cover sheet has some photos of actual Golden Stoneflies, both in their nymph stage and their adult stage. Those photos were borrowed from the Worley Bugger Fly Co. collection. Steve Worley gave me permission to use them. Thank you Steve.

The tied versions were tied by Sam Matalone, the webmaster for the WA State Council. Thank you Sam. Over the coming years you will be seeing a lot of Sam's photos from his vast collection. He is serious about tying.

Why Golden Stones? Well the Yakima River is one of Washington's great trout waters and around June is when the Golden Stoneflies start showing themselves. So it seemed natural to me to highlight them for this issue.

Speaking of the Yakima River, you know that many of the insects found on the river live for years underground. But did you know that the underground that they live in is not just on the river bottom. The waters of the Yakima expand for miles under the ground where the roads and houses are built. It is a huge area and many of these travelling bugs, especially the stoneflies, will crawl well away from the river in search of food.

Some time ago a rancher was digging some deep holes on his property and he started seeing these strange looking bugs crawling around, coming from the dirt and gravel he was digging up. He called in some experts and the bugs were stoneflies in their nymph stage. His property was miles away from the river.

The Yakima River has a wide variety of stoneflies. Golden; Skawla; Salmon; Yellow Sally and the Shortwing.

## **Back of Beyond:**

Stephen Neal is a cowboy and story teller. He has been writing an article for many years called "Back of Beyond". His stories are published in at least three other newsletters each month. Stephen is a member of the Alpine Fly Fishers club and he has given me permission to use his stories in this newsletter. I have a rather large inventory of stories to pick from and I hope you enjoy them. He is a dedicated fly fisher and a conservationist.

## **FFI Event in November: 5 & 6 & 7**

On November 5 & 6 & 7, there is going to be a virtual FFI event. This will be a Zoom format where you register for certain classes and seminars. There will be instructors from all over North America and the world who will be giving these classes. As more information makes it to me I will let you know. This could really be a big event! Also included is some form of auction or bidding for many items including fishing trips. A great chance to bid on a trip of a lifetime.