



# FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

# Covering the Drift

Volume 26 Issue 1 January 2022

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## Fantastic Conservation Opportunity

Check out the **Home Water**  
article on page 2

By Steve Jones



## WESTERN RIVERS **Yakima River Canyon** CONSERVANCY

**Rare Opportunity on Washington's only Blue Ribbon Trout Stream**  
Check out the article on page 13



## FFI Women Connect

Check out the article on page 6



# Home Water



*President Steve Jones*

Two years ago Washington FFI members rallied to the call for help purchasing and protecting the Ebsen Fishing Access on the Grande Ronde River. Led by Jim Athearn and the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club of Spokane in partnership with the Wild Steelhead Coalition the deal came together swiftly and flawlessly. Eleven of the 14 fishing clubs that donated to the effort were FFI affiliate clubs in Washington.

FFI members rallied to the call and got it done. Now we've got another opportunity to do it again, this time to protect access on the Yakima River.

Western Rivers Conservancy is working to purchase the Yakima Canyon Ranch and within two years transfer it into BLM management. The ranch has an existing private boat ramp, abundant walk-in fishing access and enough land for a new spacious public campground. Western Rivers has negotiated a purchase and financing and needs help to raise \$115,000 in transaction costs.

The Yakima River is one of the West's premier trout fisheries. That's common knowledge among Washington FFI members. It's Skwala stonefly hatch every spring attracts hundreds of fly fishers. As the water warms into the 40s in spring the phone calls and messages begin weaving among networks of fly fishers in the know. When word spreads that fish are hitting Skwala nymphs it's a tip the adults are about to hatch. If you walk the bank and find stonefly shucks on the rocks and willows that's the signal. It's game on for the earliest and some say the best dry fly fishing of the year in Washington.

Easy access to the river through BLM and WDFW managed campgrounds and boat ramps contributes to the fishery. A map of the Yakima is dotted with access from the Cle Elum through the Farmlands and the Canyon sections. One of the most popular and productive stretches of the Yakima is the Lower Canyon between the Ringer boat ramp and the takeout just above Roza Reservoir. That 18 mile stretch of river is a broad western tailwater with long riffles and bends with grassy shorelines dripping with hoppers in summer. Add to that estimates of 800 to 1,000 fish per river mile and it's clear why the river gets the Blue Ribbon label. That's all the more reason to support Western Rivers Conservancy's campaign to acquire the Yakima Canyon Ranch in the middle of this spectacular stretch of water.

The 812-acre ranch sits on two sides of the river along a horseshoe bend. It has easy access to State Route 821 and a wide ramp capable of handling all types of water craft and nearly a half-mile of walk in access to the water. Unfortunately, it's all behind a locked gate.

FFI members can help change that by backing the Western Rivers Conservancy campaign to acquire the Yakima Canyon Ranch. Jim Cox of Western Rivers says the conservancy has secured \$3 million in financing to acquire the property. It also has secured a pledge from BLM to use it's Land and Water Conservation funding to repurchase the land within two years and manage public access to the site. Most of the canyon is managed by BLM already. It has designated the lower canyon as an Area of Critical Environmental Concern which means once acquired the 812-acre ranch would be managed to sustain and enhance the fishery.

To pull the deal together Western Rivers Conservancy needs to raise \$115,000 to cover the survey, title and legal costs of the deal. That amount is less than 4% of the total deal, which is a very low transaction cost for such a large land acquisition. Western Rivers Conservancy has been a welcome and reliable partner in hundreds of conservation efforts across the West, efforts that FFI members in Washington and nationwide have benefited from. The Yakima Canyon Ranch is the latest in that line of success and I urge Washington FFI members to join the campaign. Go to: [Yakima River - Western Rivers Conservancy](#) to read more. Then click the "GIVE" link at the top of the page. To designate the donation for the Yakima Canyon Ranch acquisition, click on the button for "Dedicate my donation" and type in Yakima Canyon Ranch.

Thank you.

# Fly Casting Accuracy

*By Don Simonson*



How does one become proficient in fly placement when fly fishing?

Executing good fly casting fundamentals as I explained in article 1 (June issue of 2021) will allow full control of the fly line through the entire casting process.

Slack in the fly line during the cast prevents the caster to control the line. Slack after the cast is okay to allow a drag free float.

When practicing your casting place targets at random distances and angles so you also focus on accuracy as well as loop control.

If fishing moving water, one must take in to account current flow.

If it is possible, cast with the rod in front of your head or close. This will allow the caster to better observe the parallel loop formation where the top of the loop is directly over the bottom of the loop as it is formed when the rod is stopped.

Top over bottom loop formation is so important whether the cast is vertical, three quarters or horizontal. This is necessary for accurate fly placement.

Also, if your style of grip is with the thumb on top use the thumb nail as a sight.

One also needs to take into account trajectory.

When presenting the fly at only 15 to 20 feet the cast trajectory needs to be a high back cast with a lower forward cast.

As longer distances are cast the back cast trajectory will become lower approaching horizontal.

Don Simonson

FFI MCI, Mentor, L2 examiner

# Washington State Casting for Recovery - Our 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary in 2021

Written by: Trisha Campbell

It's amazing what goes into planning for a yearly weekend retreat, especially with COVID. A whole other layer of planning has to occur. Retreat teams across the country are dedicated to establishing protocols for safe, healthy retreats in these trying times. This year is the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Casting for Recovery and the 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary for the Washington branch. Staff members came together through the incredible lead of Program Coordinator, Jane Lanning. She assembled the perfect team, from medical personnel to fly fishing instructors.

The retreat started above Leavenworth, Washington at Mountain Springs Lodge. Staff members arrived and were exuberantly readying for the participant's arrival. We were joined by a new staff member, Kristin Bufe, who was leading this year's fly fishing instruction. This was the first time I had met Kristin, but our mutual love of fly fishing and our desire to give to others were the common threads for a new found friendship.

As Kristin and I went over lesson plans and looked over the property where we would be fishing and casting, we found two small ponds on the property. We stood staring at one of these small ponds as we talked over our fishing options for the participants. Both of us stood staring at one of the ponds in anticipation of some signs of fish activity. Nothing! We decided to walk to the other pond with our fishing gear in hand. The first thing we saw was a "NO FISHING" sign. Looking past that, we saw a beautiful mayfly hatch going on with incredible Rainbow trout circling the shore of the pond as they fed on the emerging mayflies. Our excitement grew as we walked closer and saw the fat 14-to-18-inch rainbows!! WE HAVE FISH!

The retreat got underway with 14 participants coming from all four corners of our great state. The ladies ranged from 35 to 75 year of age. They were in all stages of treatment and recovery. Smiling faces were everywhere as staff members assembled to serve these fierce warriors against breast cancer.

The weekend was a flurry of activities and meetings. Medical and Psychosocial staff of Lea Jackson and Louise Harris held meetings that are the retreat's main events. The closed meeting is where the lady's bond, share, and learn from one another in a safe place. This is what it is all about!



The vehicle used to get these women together is fly fishing. So, casting sessions, entomology and the grand finale of fishing fell into its place in the agenda. For the grand finale of fishing on Sunday morning, Kristin and I had help from staff members and the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers. Bruce Merighi helped get the word out to club members and Daniel Hammond, Bruce Phillips, Gary Anderson, Fred Kunzman and Mike Wyant answered the call. Those five guys came loaded to help our ladies catch fish. These men are the best you would ever want to meet!

Lots of fish were caught, but the first one touched everyone greatly. The fisher, Louise was selected as an alternate for the retreat when one of the originally selected participants had to decline their invitation. From the initial moment Louise arrived, she stated she just wanted to catch a fish, she didn't even care if it was a plastic one. I helped with setting up her line with the perfect fly, paired Louise with our staff member, Dr. Trish Shands, and hurried them onto the pond. My previous reconnaissance told me right where she needed to be. As Dr. Shands took Louise into her competent hands, I left to retrieve my net from my vehicle. As I opened my vehicle; the shouts could be heard! Louise had hooked into a feisty rainbow. This was no plastic fish. Well, the tears flowed as Kristin jumped into action and netted the wonderful hen and brought it to Louise's touch. As Kristin and I hugged with tears in our eyes, she whispered in my ear, I can't wait until next year, I'm hooked!

I've been volunteering for 12 years with Casting for Recovery to serve women who have breast cancer. Universally, this labor of love results in being honored to see women of incredible strength face their struggles with love, caring and connection. This year was no exception!

Fly Fishers International Washington State Council are proud supporters of both Casting for Recovery groups serving Washingtonians.





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)

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



# Fly Tying Tips and Other Assorted Pearls of Wisdom

*By Sam Matalone*

Welcome to the 3rd installment of a new section of our newsletter devoted exclusively to fly tying. As fly tiers, we all look for better ways to do things and, to a large degree, we all steal shamelessly. None of the ideas here are my own; nor, can I often remember where I got the idea. So, I apologize in advance if I fail to give credit to the rightful owner of the idea.

Lately, I have been tying a lot of steelhead flies, mostly intruder type. So, I have two tips/tricks for steelhead flies and one for trout flies.

## Quick Tips

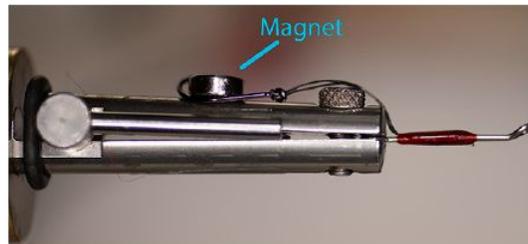
### Quick Tip #1:

The 1st is for those who on occasion feel a little pain when tying any fly with a stinger hook. By utilizing a small magnet you can keep the stinger hook out of your way. The magnets can be purchased at most home improvement or craft stores. The size of the magnet is up to you. I personally like the 3/8 of an inch circular rare earth magnets, as they have a very strong magnetic field.

The picture below illustrates how I used to tie intruder type flies. But after 10-20 times catching the stinger hook, something needed to change.



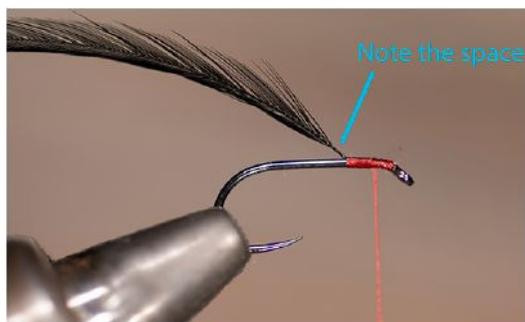
By utilizing a small magnet, you are able to keep the stinger out of the way. Please note, I have found trapping the stinger hook between the vise and magnet works great.



### Quick Tip #2:

This next tip/trick can be used to change the look of dry as well as soft hackle type flies. With so many social media platforms, people are posting some truly beautiful flies. I have been asked how people can post pictures of flies with all the hackle fibers aligned so perfectly. Well, there are two reasons. One is to practice/tie a lot. Second, they are using different techniques to get a desired look. Below are two ways to hackle dry flies (And there are many more ways than these two approaches.)

The 1st method is just a typical way to hackle a dry fly. In this method, I have the dull side facing me. The extra space on the hackle is there so that with your 1st wrap of the hackle you do not trap any fibers forcing them to go towards the rear of the fly. Each successive wrap is wrapped in front of the previous wrap.

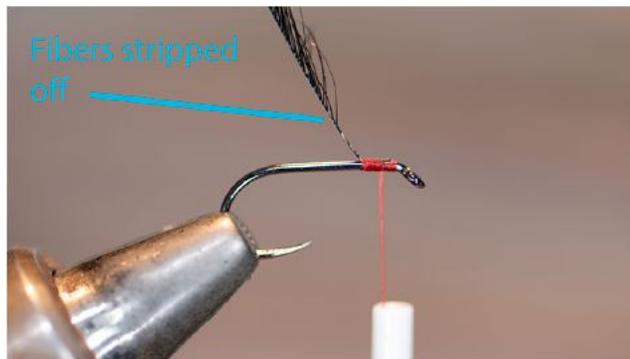


Continued on page 8

As you can see the hackle fibers are evenly spaced without any major problem,



Another method for hackling flies is to strip the hackle fibers off of the top edge of the hackle. (dull side facing you as described above) Make each successive wrap is in front of the previous wrap.



Note how much more consistent the hackle orientation is. With the hackle quality we have today, it is just a matter of personal preference as to how heavily hackled they are.



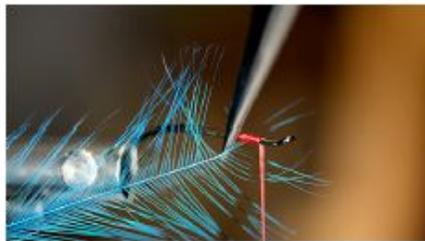
## Folding Hackle Tool

Many people, when tying Steelhead/Salmon flies, have a problem with folding hackles. There are many methods to achieve this. The most popular is using your scissors to break the hackle barbs at the base of the stem. Once this is accomplished, you are able to stroke the fibers rearward as you wrap the hackle on the fly.

Tie in a hackle by the tip with the shiny facing you.



With the tips of your scissors, start at the tip of the hackle where it is tied onto the hook. Apply a slight amount of pressure and run your scissor over the hackle toward the base. You should feel the hackles fibers break. Repeat this process several times. The hackle fibers should be facing rearward.



As you wrap the hackle, stroke the hackle fibers toward the rear collapsing the top fibers onto the bottom fibers. Do this on each successive wrap. Ensure each wrap is in front of the



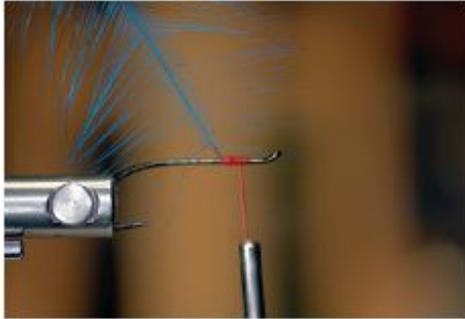
previous wrap. Tie the off the hackle normally.

Folding hackles for some tiers is real easy. It still is difficult to get the feel of using scissors or another blunt straight edge to break the hackle fibers. There is a very simple tool to help with folding hackles. Using any piece of flat flexible plastic, cut a “V” into one of the edges. In this demonstration, I am using a divider from a plastic box.



I have two "Vs" in this example, the large "V" is using for very large hackles used in saltwater flies. The smaller "V" when done correctly breaks the hackle fibers on both sides of the stem and folding becomes extremely easy.

Tie in a hackle by the tip with the shiny facing you.



Position the "tool" such that the stem is at the apex of the "V". Then just stroke the tool towards the base of the hackle. Repeat this process several times and all the fibers will be facing rearward. **This will only work if you are going from the hackle tip to hackle base!**



As you wrap the hackle, stroke the hackle fibers rearward collapsing the top fibers onto the bottom fibers. Do this on each successive wrap. Ensure each wrap is in front of the previous wrap. Tie the off the hackle normally.



One final note, this method provides a much more consistent hackle collar and it is designed so anyone with a little practice can master folding hackles. Now, do the fish care? I do not think so. All Steelhead/Salmon are magnificent fish, they desire your best flies!!!!

I hope these tips are helpful. 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. As the adage says: The wisdom of one should be the knowledge of many.

# What's New at the WSCFFI Website?

By Sam Matalone

## Website, more than a Home Page

Each year, the Washington State Council gives up to 7 awards for excellence in education, conservation and leadership to various members and affiliated clubs. In addition, there are numerous national level awards. Each year we go through a nomination and selection process. Once this is completed, we then submit nominations for the National Awards.

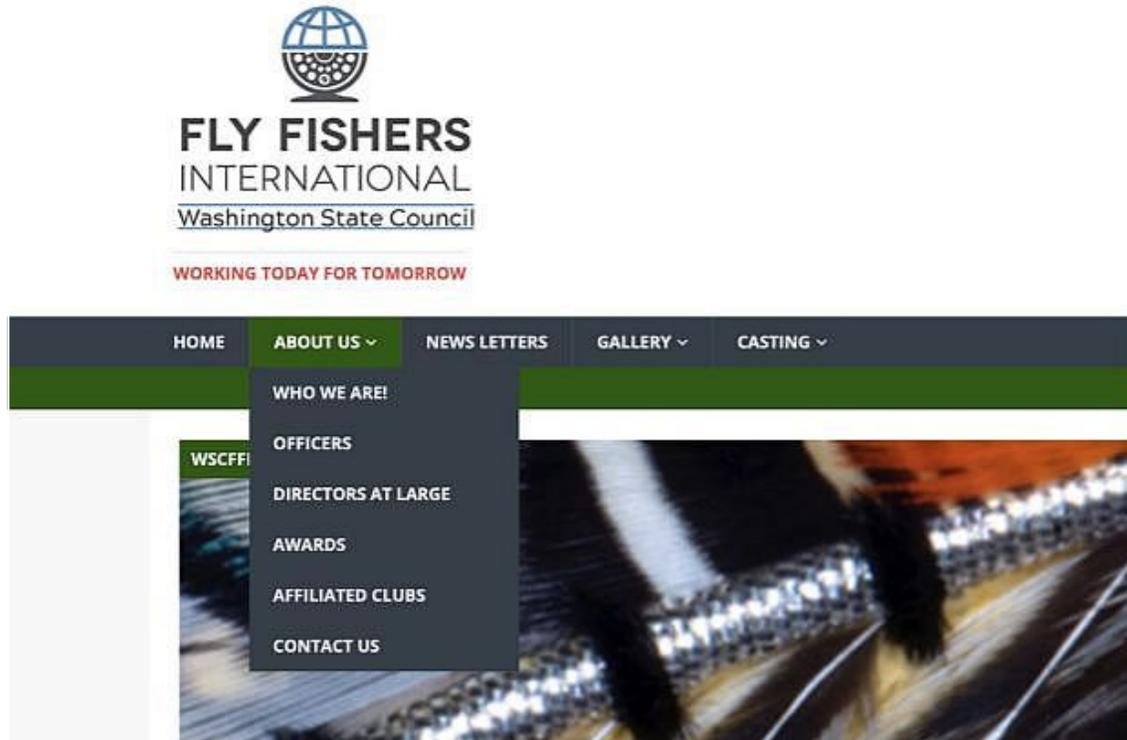
Our website lists:

- All Council Awards
- Their criteria
- Past recipients
- As well as, national awards recipients

The following url takes you to the awards page:

<https://wscffi.org/award/> ( just copy the url and paste it into your browser)

Or go to the home page on our website (wscffi.org), on the menu bar at the top of the page place your cursor over "ABOUT US" a drop down menu will appear and click on "AWARDS".



With so many great clubs as well as extremely talented and capable individuals within the council, we need your help with nominations for these awards. It is a very simple process:

- 1) Review the awards and their criteria
- 2) Write a short simple email explaining why the nominee should receive the award
- 3) Address the email to either:  
[president@wscffi.org](mailto:president@wscffi.org)  
[webmaster@wscffi.org](mailto:webmaster@wscffi.org)

If we need any more information we will contact you via email Typically, and these last few years have been anything but typical, we seek nomination starting in March 2022. If you have someone in mind, and feel compelled, you can always send it in early.

# Youth & Conservation

By Mike Clancey



**The NWYCFF Academy** – We are conducting zoom meetings monthly and will make an announcement for the 2022 Academy in January, 2022, which will be held the last full week of June. We are using the 16 page guidelines from the CDC and TU for overnight camps. So many decisions to make in regards to the rules in our new world. Jim Brosio and I were going to retire in 2020, we have not been able to conduct an event the past two years. However; we do have three wonderful co-directors to take over, John Gravendyk, past President WFFC, Bruce Merighi, WVFF, and Carol Anderson, V.P. Education, WSCFFI.

**WSCFFI Conservation** - It was announced by FFI Livingston, the Virtual Expo 2021 was very successful with over 600 participants “internationally.” They viewed conservation and education programs along with fly tying, fly casting and general programs.

The Washington Council was planning a casting event next April, but the current and unknown future of the virus, it is difficult to plan for the event. The Council decided in our zoom meeting on 12/2/21 to postpone the event to a later date in 2022. We are planning for something later in the summer, with hope that Covid will allow us to have an outdoor casting event.

**ALASKA** – The following are remarks from Meghan Barker, TU. – On November 17th, the EPA announced that it would request a timeline extension to review material related to the instatement of Clean Water Act protections for Bristol Bay, EPA now has until May 2022 to add scientific and technical data in its review of Clean Water Act 404© protections. ‘The timeline laid out today shows the strong commitment by the EPA to follow through and finish the work started in 2014 to add much needed Clean Water Act 404(c) protections for Bristol Bay.’ – stated Nelli Williams, Alaska director for TU.

The Yukon and Tanana Rivers are closed to salmon fishing, due to the chum stock collapse. The Yukon is the main source of food for many natives and tribes. There has been no food from the river this year. The southern end of the peninsula, Bristol Bay has been enjoying record numbers of salmon, the processors have donated 22,000 pounds of salmon to the natives and tribes in the Yukon River area.

**WASHINGTON** – Senator Murray and Governor Inslee announced new details about their next steps in dealing with the Snake River. Following on the Governor’s remarks, they agreed to produce a long plan to protect and recovery of the Snake River salmon no later the July 31, 2022.

In the upper reaches of Washington’s Yakima River Canyon, Western Rivers Conservatory with the support of WSCFFI, have embarked on an effort to conserve the 812 acres of the Yakima Canyon Ranch. The area is just north of Red’s on the Yakima.

Public access to a portion of the lower Grande Ronde River is now permanently protected through the purchase of an eight-acre private parcel approximately 2 miles upstream from the confluence with the Snake River. The access is located on a great steelhead river near the popular Turkey Run and Shadow Hole sections of the river. FFI and WSCFFI, and the Inland Empire FF Club, worked with the Wild Steelhead Coalition and others to fund the purchase of this property. Ownership was recently donated to the State of Washington and will be managed by WDFW for access and use in perpetuity.

Congratulations to Jim Athern, IEFCC, recipient of WDFW Regional Director’s Award for 2020 and accepting the 2021 WSCFFI Club Conservation Award for the Inland Empire FF Club, presented personally by WSCFFI President Steve Jones.



### **Rare Opportunity on Washington's only Blue Ribbon Trout Stream**

In the upper reaches of Washington's scenic Yakima River Canyon, Western Rivers Conservancy has embarked on an effort to conserve a four-mile stretch of the Yakima River by conserving the 812-acre Yakima Canyon Ranch. The ranch, which sits on two sides of the river on a dramatic horseshoe bend, lies at the heart of some of the best fly fishing water in the state, with outstanding river access, camping and excellent fish and wildlife habitat in every direction.

The Yakima is one of Washington's premier rivers. Named after the indigenous Yakama people, it flows 214 miles from its Keechelus Lake headwaters on the rugged eastern slope of the Cascades to the Columbia River, just south of the town of Richland. It is Washington's longest river that flows entirely within the state and its only Blue Ribbon trout stream. (This is an informal designation used to identify a river's world-class fly fishing status, indicating a river's overall health as well as its public accessibility.) Historically, the Yakima was one of the Columbia Basin's major producers of salmon and steelhead, but dams and a century of water withdrawals on the Yakima have degraded fish runs.

The stretch of the river we are working to conserve lies in the upper canyon, most of which is protected within the BLM's Yakima Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC). But a handful of pivotal reaches, including the Yakima Canyon Ranch, remain unprotected. Acquiring this property and placing it into BLM ownership will add the ranch's lands to the ACEC, ensuring more uniform management of the area for the benefit of fish and wildlife. It will protect migratory habitat for salmon and steelhead and excellent habitat for bighorn sheep, elk, mule deer and a myriad of small mammals and birds.

The project will also improve continuity of public access along the river. The entire Yakima River Canyon, which is nestled against the Wenas Wildlife Area to the west, is a favorite destination for birders and hikers and a coveted location for fly anglers, who come from all over to fish this renowned Blue Ribbon stream. Transferring the ranch to the BLM will improve access for everyone venturing into the canyon and onto the river alike.

Our next step is to buy and hold the ranch until we can secure an appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund, allowing us to convey the property to the BLM. Once that happens, this premier stretch of the Yakima will be protected forever, and public access to four more miles of the Yakima River Canyon will be guaranteed for good. Most importantly, the area's wildlife will always be able to find refuge along this special stretch of the Yakima River.

For more information here is a link to the Western Rivers Conservancy site and the above article:

<https://www.westernrivers.org/discover/blog/rare-opportunity-on-washingtons-only-blue-ribbon-trout-stream>



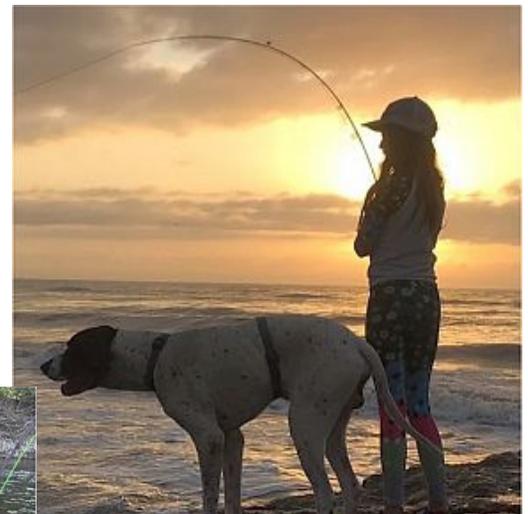
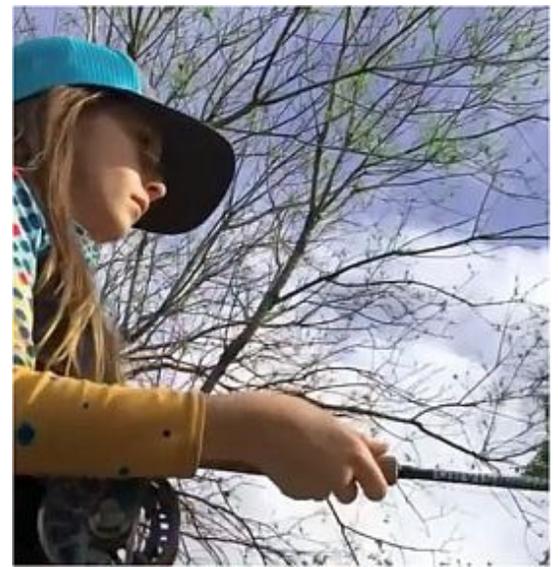
# Youth Education

By Carol Anderson  
V.P. Education



Hi all, the FFI Youth Fly Fishing Curriculum appears to be a hot topic these days. After a fun summer of travel collecting photos and videos of kids and fly fishing I created a mock website for the curriculum to present at Fish Expo, November 6 and 7. The program was well received and after the first of the year Rhonda, VP Operations and I will transfer these materials to our main FFI website. The link below takes you to the mock website on the WIX platform so you can preview the curriculum before it goes live. Please note the black header and footer material does not have active links, only the main body is active. Enjoy reviewing, Carol Anderson

[www.cja845.wixsite.com/website](http://www.cja845.wixsite.com/website)



The above link is safe. If you have a very active Antivirus software like I do you may get a message saying it has blocked the site, just click on the 'ignore' link and check out this neat site. Larry



# What has FFI accomplished this year?

## Exciting New Website & Online Presence

Through the launch of a dynamic new Fly Fishers International website, including the revamped FFI Learning Center, fly fishing knowledge is accessible to anyone with a passion for the sport. This modern new website is easier to navigate and highlights FFI's strength in fly fishing education with an incredible repository of videos, articles, and manuals on casting, fly tying, conservation, and fly fishing skills.



## Youth Recruitment and Education Program

This program will help ensure the future of fly fishing. With your support, you can help us teach the next generation the art and science of fly fishing and help nurture their passion for the sport you love. That is part of your legacy.



## Conservation of Our Fisheries

Our conservation efforts continue to play a key role in our mission, understanding that healthy fisheries and wild places are vital to the sport of fly fishing. Working with over 65 Conservation Partners, we monitor and support countless conservation actions every year that affect the health of our natural aquatic systems. There is no fly fishing without the fish, and your donation allows us to continue this vital work.



Your support enables us to continue our mission and preserve the fly fishing legacy. In addition to donating to FFI by cash, check, or credit card, you can also use these options, both of which go directly to FFI\*: Donors over the age of 70 can make a direct transfer of up to \$100K from a traditional or Roth IRA. This charitable rollover counts towards the requirement to receive a minimum distribution and is not considered taxable income to the donor. Donors can give gifts of appreciated securities to avoid potential capital gain tax liabilities while receiving a charitable deduction. FFI's dedication to fostering the traditions of fly fishing for all fish in all waters has never been more critical. Your contribution to FFI is an investment into the future of fly fishing. Everyone can make a difference.

\*If you are interested in either of these programs, please contact Rhonda Sellers, FFI's Vice President of Operations at 406-222-9369 Ext. 4 or [operations@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:operations@flyfishersinternational.org)



## FFI Announces 2021 Virtual Expo Film Competition Winners



### CELEBRATE OUR FILM COMPETITION WINNERS

Fly Fishers International (FFI) is excited to announce the winners of the 2021 Virtual Expo Film Competition. The top 3 films have been recognized as the best among the more than two dozen films that were submitted, with the top film awarded a \$2,000 cash prize.

The contest was held in conjunction with the FFI Virtual Expo that featured over 130 workshops and drew almost 600 participants. Each film featured a short, compelling fly fishing story through the lens of conservation, education, community, destination, or the human condition. The winning films were chosen by a panel of judges from within the broader fly fishing community and will be aired during a special FFI Film screening as a part of the FFI Online series this winter.

#### **The top film**

*Becca Powell: Water is Life* was submitted on behalf of Becca Powell by Justin Dodson and Matt Bornhorst. In the film, a series of life-changing moments led Becca to fly fishing as she faced the complete unknowns of a stage 4 cancer diagnosis. Becca tackles the challenges with as much grace as she can muster, and two feet placed firmly in a river.

#### **Second prize film**

*Tightened Lines* was chosen. Directed by Hannah Roberts, this emotional mini-documentary follows an intimate, honest portrayal of a man in his 60s, Mark Roberts, who strives to fish regardless of his disabilities and any obstacles that confronts him.

#### **The third prize film**

*Until We Fish Together* tells the story of Bryan Sung, a young American boy who was abducted by his mother to Korea. As his father tries to get him back from the foreign country, he learns fly fishing to cope with the loss. The film was directed by Jay Sung.

Prizes awarded for each top film were provided through the remarkable generosity of Cheeky Reels, Bird Marketing Group, John VanVliet and Catherine Smith of For Travels Sake, Snowbee Fly Rods, and FFI Life Member Larry Gibbs from Bonney Lake, WA who donated the \$2,000 cash prize for the winner. FFI is already looking ahead to the 2nd Annual Virtual Expo that will once again include a film contest.

FFI has the distinctive mission to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. Formed by some of the most influential luminaries in the world of fly fishing and conservation back in 1964—and dedicated to innovative strategies to inspire a new generation of fly fishers—FFI provides opportunities for sponsors and donors to leave a lasting legacy in the sport we love.



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Washington State Council

## Washington State Council FFI joins the Amazon Smile Program



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL  
Washington State Council



You can donate to the state FFI council with every purchase at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com/smile)

Reward programs are everywhere these days. From the grocery to airlines everybody is rewarding a purchase by giving you credit for future purchases or contributing to a cause. Now the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International is one of the groups you can help when you purchase goods through Amazon Smile.

Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of the price of every purchase to the non-profit of your choice. It doesn't change the price you pay for goods. Amazon takes a sliver of its earnings from the transaction to donate to the non-profit you choose.

Washington FFI supports a range of education and conservation efforts every year from cash contributions. We support Casting for Recovery for women cancer survivors and Project Healing Waters serving wounded veterans. For years we've backed the annual Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy that has introduced a generation of teens to our sport. Last year we helped organize and fund a successful effort to preserve public ownership of the Ebsen Fishing Access on the Grand Ronde and we helped fund new signage for fishers on the Yakima River.

It takes cash to sustain these efforts, cash we usually raise through our annual Fly Fishing Fair and other events. That hasn't been possible lately. But everyone still shops. Many FFI members shop online at Amazon. Directors of the Washington State Council have joined the Amazon Smile program to help fund our work. You can help by shopping through Amazon Smile.

To join follow these steps:

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)

Sign in with the Amazon.com credentials you ordinarily use to shop at Amazon.

Search the list of charities and select **Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA**. Make sure it says Seattle!

Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) on your computer to make it easy to return to the charity site.

Every time you shop through Amazon Smile a portion of every purchase you make will help fund FFI education and environmental stewardship in Washington. Several FFI councils nationwide participate in the program so be sure to select Fly Fishers International Inc. **Seattle WA** when you sign up.

Since our founding 56 years ago, Washington FFI has worked to support the 22 FFI member clubs in Washington and Alaska and design ways to promote and conserve fly fishing for all fish in all waters. Washington FFI pursues projects and partnerships that educate the public about our sport and the habitats that sustain salt and freshwater fisheries. We have a track record of success creating innovative education programs, sound conservation efforts and a strong community of fly fishers statewide. Help Washington FFI continue that success by signing up at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com) and selecting:

**Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA** as your non-profit of choice. Thank you.

*Editors Note: I already had a link to Amazon on my computer but it did not open to Amazon Smile, so I copied the URL to the Smile site and opened up my link and pasted the new URL in it. Now I open to Amazon Smile when I click the link. It doesn't cost me any more money and the WA State Council FFI gets a donation from Amazon.*

*I call that a Win-Win*

*Larry*

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

## A Walk In The Woods

Dinner was done and the dishes put away, well not put away, they were clean and setting upside down on a corner of the heavy planked park table just out of splatter range of impacting rain drops. A portable sound system played softly, the music, shuffled selections from the past fifty years of living, backed by the harmony of lightly falling rain. The hours of darkness had arrived and we sat snug in our camp chairs watching the campfire flames dance and the embers glow.

It was a time of reflection and storytelling. Sean Michael Gallagher, my friend and traveling companion, had filled my cup with Irish whiskey. As I sipped, Sean related stories of his family and his trip to Ireland with Barbara to visit his father's childhood home. His tale involved his cousin and her village croft, his endeavor to explore the river where his grandmother grew up and a private fishing club. And much to his wife's amazement he returned to the croft from his walk with a Salmon without even fishing. I will not retell Sean's story as it takes a true Irishman to tell this tale and his presence gives it a richness that it deserves. Only a true of heart Irish fisherman can catch a salmon without ever picking up a rod.

As Sean's words filled the night and the Irish whiskey warmed the cockles of my heart I began to fulfill my responsibilities. My tasks on this trip were to watch, listen, learn and keep the fire stoked and sip Scotch or Irish whiskey as the evening progressed. I like to believe that I was a good student and that Sean was an excellent teacher.

When I was not watching the fire and listening, I was looking out beneath the tarp at the 800 and 1000 year old spruces towering over our heads, their upper crowns lit only by ambient night light. We were setting in an ancient rain forest surrounded by history and beauty, behind me the Q River flowed to the great Pacific Ocean. From time to time I had to shift my seat as the falling water found the pin holes in the tarp and dripped on me. The well used tarp was still up to its task, it kept the fire dry and us sheltered, it let us share the night with the ancient but gentle giants that live here.



In deference to Sean I will not divulge the name of the river we visited. Sean is very protective of this area; his protectiveness is not selfish but that of a caretaker. We live in an inconvenient time, a time of power and greed. A time when the earth and her people are second class, and money has replaced God and spirituality. His and my protectiveness is based upon reverence, we see beauty and majesty others see value and fish and their response it to take. Even though it is a National Park and Protected, poachers and unlicensed guides make their presence known here. Sean has been fishing here since the 70's. In those 4 decades he has watched, wandered, discovered, explored and become attached to the land and the steelhead that call these waters home. You are welcome here but you have to earn your right to be here. You have to discover your own fishing holes and give more than you take. The steelhead which live here are gifts to the future.

As the embers glowed and the rain fell I might have imagined it, but it felt to me as if the rain forest took a deep breath and let out a sigh of relief. It has been a very parched summer for the forest and the rain was breathing new life into the mature spirit forest that surrounded us. For Sean it was his first visit back since the rains of winter. Instinctively he felt that the rain forest was under so much duress that he couldn't feel comfortable in visiting. As the forest breathed so did Sean. His second home was beginning to heal.

Continued on page 19 →

The next morning we arose to a steaming forest with shafts of sun light piercing its way through the forest canopy and low laying clouds. Beauty was revealed by each delightful spot light; this was the scene that surrounded us as we ate our breakfast and packed for our walk in the woods.

We waded up and began our walk, a rain forest and river walk require wee bit different clothing than most other hiking apparel. We had rivers to cross and rain saturated forest to move through. Our under clothes, pants and shirts were blended fabric to help move moisture away from our bodies and to dry quickly when wet. In this environment, controlling moisture is part and parcel to comfort and survivability. As Sean led the way he pointed out flora and fauna, different rain forest habitat glens of alder and spruce. He told me stories of early aboriginal inhabitants, homesteaders, government efforts, poachers and his fellow steelhead fishermen, friends and acquaintances. Forty plus years on the river, Sean has accumulated a lot of awareness and experience and he shared his knowledge with me.

We walked the main trail at times, at other junctures we followed Roosevelt Elk herd paths to expedite our journey. We crossed the river and inflowing streams, walked up ancient feeder stream beds, wandered gravel bars and meandered through old abandoned homesteads. We craned our necks to view the distant tree tops and stood in awe at the width and breadth of our tree brethren. Sean and I explored steelhead runs of the present and discussed runs that had changed or disappeared due to storms and floods. Rivers never sleep, they are in constant motion, what is familiar today will change and recreate itself at sometime in the future. Gravel bars change, runs move or disappear, trees fall, banks collapse, channels move and log jams appear and apparat to another locations. A river recreates itself daily and only with time and contact can one begin to know its nature and moods. Sean was my guide to the past and the present.

In our walk in the woods we listened to bugling elk and watched the herd as they forded the river in majestic style. The herd's bull followed after the herd crossed, alert and watchful, his head held high with his massive rack proudly displayed. I envied his river crossing abilities; something that after sixty plus years of living I know is well in my past. As if I could have managed that even when I was younger is questionable.

It was just a simple walk in the woods but it was also a celebration of our home. We are not separate from nature but an integral part of that whole. Do not take our home for granted, what we do and how we treat it effects us all; it is our past, present and future. Take a walk in the woods, open yourself to its beauty and breathe in life.

Stephen



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

*Henry David Thoreau*

This article was first published in November 2015

# Here is an example of a page from the FFI Knots and Rigging PDF that you can download from the FFI website.

Larry Gibbs



## FLY FISHING: KNOTS & RIGGING

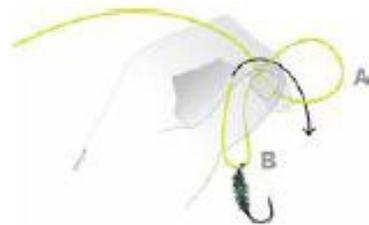
### PERFECTION LOOP

Strong and effective the Perfection Loop is a favorite for tying a loop at the end of the line. Besides being strong and reliable, it can be tied to make a very small loop. It can also be effective as a terminal knot.

1. Form a loop at the end of the line by passing the tag end behind the standing line.



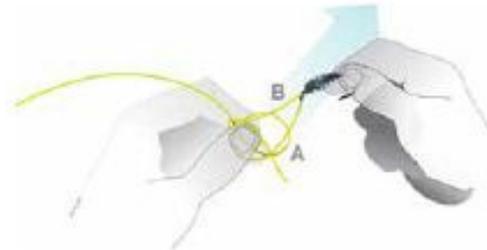
2. Pass the tag end around the first loop (A).



3. Continue the tag end around the first loop (A) then between the two loops.



4. Drop the loop (B) and fly through the first loop (Loop A).



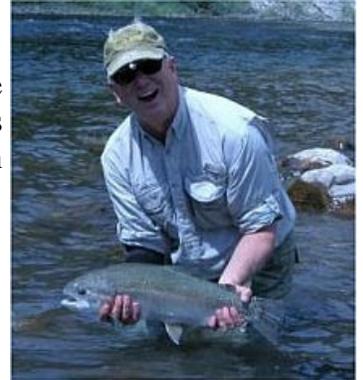
5. Close and seat the knot, cut the tag end.



## Meet Some of the Washington State Council's Board of Officers & Directors

### **Peter Maunsell** - Director

Over the past 45 years I have become enamored with fly fishing and rafting. I will hike and float anywhere to catch any fish. I really enjoy multi day camping on the Northwest's white water rivers. The longer the trip the better. I have learned to tie flies through reading and watching others.



### **Carol Anderson** - VP Education

Carol Anderson is an avid sailor who has raced or cruised six different oceans. When not traveling, Carol loves to fish Western mountain streams, a passion that began in her Seattle backyard stream at 8 years old. Carol spent 40 years designing, developing and delivering science education multimedia and online content. She began her career in elementary education before becoming a professor of technology education at Western Washington University. Carol is the founder of FlySci, a non-profit science of fly-fishing educational organization specializing in environmental sciences and conservation.



### **Jim Athearn** - Secretary

I have fished for as long as I can remember and have done mostly fly fishing for at least the last 20 years. After I retired in 2004, we moved to the Spokane area where I enjoy fishing all the nearby lakes and more distant streams. I also like to travel and try new places for different fish. This a sport that allows you to continually learn and improve if you're willing to put in a little effort. I also like fly tying and that is an area where I can definitely continue to learn. I usually have a camera or binoculars close by when I'm out fishing in case an interesting bird happens by.

I joined the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club in 2005 and was chair of the Projects Committee for several years. I continue to coordinate the club's program at the Big Horn Sports Show to teach fly tying to young (and old) people and I am currently serving as club President.



JOIN THE

**FFI1K**

**SAFEGUARDING THE LONG-TERM  
HEALTH OF FLY FISHING AROUND  
THE WORLD**  
**FLYFISHERSINTERNATIONAL.ORG/FFI1K**

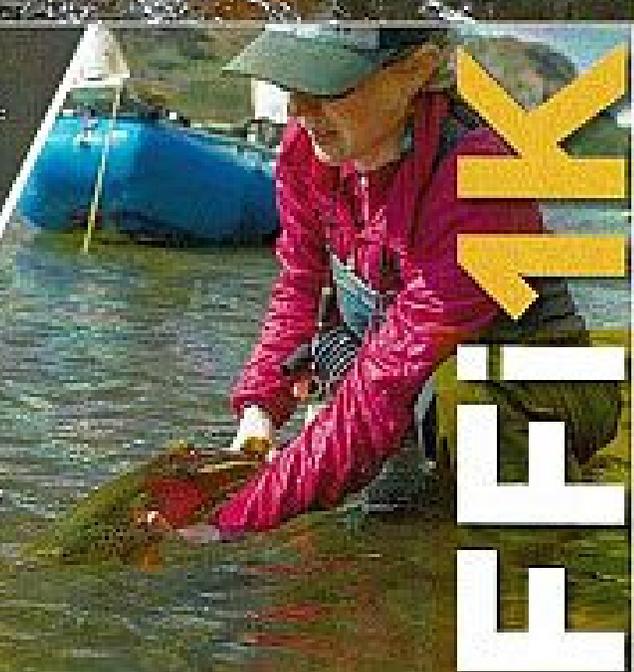
**THE FUNDS RAISED BY THE FFI1K ARE VITAL** to providing a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and expand our mission, and to support:

- **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 card envelope for payment options.  
PHOTOS COURTESY OF: Ed Gipe, David A. Thompson



**FFI1K**

## **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

By Larry Gibbs

**Camaraderie** - *“Mutual trust and friendship among people who spend a lot of time together. Good fellowship”*

There are a lot of things I like about the FFI and one of those is the camaraderie between fly fishers. Early this past fall I was in St. Regis, Montana having spent the day fly fishing on the Clark Fork River. I was parked outside the fly shop getting out of my waders and I noticed someone ride by on a bicycle. The gentleman riding it turned into the driveway of the shop and rode up to me. I gather he had gone by my rig before because he had noticed the FFI Life Member sticker on my rear window. When he saw me he came in to say Hi! I will call him Dr. John and not use his last name since I didn't ask him if I could. But he lives in St. Regis and was sort of retired. I say sort of because a hospital in Idaho had convinced him they were in serious need of more help so he was working there part time. He joined the FFI back in the mid 1990's and is still a member and an avid fly fisher. He was just getting ready to start swinging soft hackles on the river as the dry fly season would be finishing soon. We talked for around 20 minutes and then he peddled off. Camaraderie is such a great thing within the fly fishing world. You can take people from every walk of life and they can sit together and talk about fly fishing, a common interest. I really love that about fly fishing and the FFI helps bring us together.

**FFI Virtual Expo.** The first FFI Virtual Expo was held in November. I was able to do a lot of bidding in the silent auctions and get tons of neat 'stuff' that I will be re-gifting to the Alpine Fly Fishers club and to the WA State Council as items for raffles and auctions down the road. I like buying 'stuff' that I know other people will want and re-gifting it so that organization can also make some money off the same items. An organization like the FFI or the WSC or the fly clubs can not exist without some funding. Please remember that and if you are at a fly fishing event and see a raffle going on, buy some tickets and maybe you too will win some neat 'stuff'.

I sat in on some of the Zoom Social Hours that the FFI had during their Virtual Expo. It was really good to see some friends I have not seen for the past two years because of this Covid thing. I always liked going to the (conclaves / fly fishing fairs / fly fishing expos) that the FFI had every year. At those I have come to know a lot of really nice people, some of them for almost 20 years, people that come from some far corner of our country and attended these events all the time. If the FFI starts having any regional events semi-close to your area, make sure you go there. You may even get to see little old me, and how great would that be? 😊

**2022 Film Festival:** I hope you read page 16, the article about the first ever FFI Film Festival winners. I guess they had entries from many parts of the world, and it was up to a committee to select the winners. They will have the same event next year so if you are into making short films, start thinking about what you could produce and submit. Who knows, maybe you will be the one to win \$2,000. That would add a little jingle in the pocket.

**WSC Casting Event This Summer:** The Board of Directors of the Washington State Council FFI are busily working to put together a one day casting event where you can get instructions on improving your casting and get involved in some fly casting games. For those who are fly tyers fear not, we will have a couple excellent tyers creating some really good examples of flies. We are aiming for the event to take place in August on a Saturday, but the date and location have yet to be chosen. More on this event in the future.

**1000 Stewards Program:** On page 22, I placed a notice about FFI's Thousand Stewards program, FFI 1K. This is a great way for you to give a donation to the FFI and you will hardly feel the spending of the donation each month. Why not join me, Larry Gibbs, and the Washington State Council in becoming a contributing member of the Thousand Stewards program.

**Hopes for 2022:** I have high hopes that this year, 2022, will be much different than the past two years. I am president of a fly club and we have not had an in-person meeting for the past two years, actually, so far, the past 25 months. I really hope that we can start having in-person meetings again. As I indicated in the first paragraph, the camaraderie we experience when having in-person meetings is a large part of being a fly fisher and belonging to a club and organization like Fly Fishers International.

Have a great year!