



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

Covering the Drift

Volume 26 Issue 2 April 2022

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FFI International Members

The Country of Georgia



“One thing nobody debates though, is that Georgia has one of the most unique natural landscapes and cultures on our planet. Georgians are people of mountains and rivers.”

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Invite Someone To Join The FFI

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Home Water



President Steve Jones

Fishing, Community, Conservation

Those three words define what it means to be an FFI member.

Despite two years of pandemic most of us have figured out safe ways to gather outdoors and fish. And pandemic didn't halt the ability of affiliated clubs to sustain conservation efforts and for Washington FFI members to raise a substantial share of funds to conserve the Ebsen Fishing Access site on the Grande Ronde in Eastern Washington. Now many clubs are joining a separate campaign to raise funds to acquire the Yakima River Ranch on the river of the same name in Central Washington.

What's been missing from the core list of FFI values is community. Now, we're turning that around too.

The Washington State Council of FFI will resume in-person events with a Casting Fair Aug. 13 at Lake Ballinger Park in the Mountlake Terrace neighborhood of Seattle. The day-long event will offer a walk-in casting clinic, a skills development course and four detailed classes in specific casting skills taught by FFI certified instructors. In addition, FFI will host some of the best fly tiers in the Pacific Northwest in a rotating series of tying sessions that will go on inside the Lakeview Room at the Mountlake Terrace Senior Center at the site. There also will be information and programs for FFI's Women Connect, FFI Youth Programs and displays by Project Healing Waters that serves disabled veterans. To keep us all on our toes, we will have a coffee truck on the site in the morning and a taco truck for lunch and refreshments in the afternoon.

With the exception of the detailed classes in specific casting skills, the program will be free. Want help solving that annoying tailing loop problem you've got? Want to figure out the double-haul or develop a better roll cast? We'll offer help on Aug. 13 at Lake Ballinger. Bring your questions to the walk-in clinic and spend time with a Certified FFI Casting Instructor. The process will be simple. Bring your own rod. Stop at the registration desk when you arrive and describe what you want to learn, or the problem you want to address. You will be matched with an instructor either individually or in groups of 2 or 3 to work on the skill.

There may be a brief wait for time slot with an instructor. If so, head to the casting skills development area where you can do a series of drills, cast to targets or do a variety of other skills challenges. Bring a buddy and make a day of it. Better yet, bring your whole club and make a day of it.

For the best experience, register for one of the four detailed classes in specific casting skills. Those 90-minute sessions - two in the morning and two in the afternoon - will provide you with the concise instruction that FFI is known for. Classes will be delivered by Certified FFI Casting Instructors. Our Summer newsletter will contain a complete list of classes and instructors who will join us for the day. The fee for each class will be \$35 per person. Attendance will be limited. Our summer newsletter will include links to register online and reserve your spot.

Other than those classes, the day is free to FFI members and the public. Gather your friends and fellow club members and join us. We look forward to seeing you.

Awards

Elsewhere in this edition of *Covering the Drift*, there is a story on the new online nomination process for the Washington State Council's annual awards. Special thanks to Washington FFI Director and Webmaster Sam Matalone who thought the council needed a simpler method to nominate colleagues for awards and encourage members to participate. Rather than just talk about the problem, he fixed it. The result is a simple online form that describes our awards and allows members to fill out submit nominations online. I encourage you to do that today.

Members affiliated with Washington FFI are engaged in education, conservation and environmental stewardship statewide. Since the formation of Washington FFI in the 1960s our members and affiliated clubs have played an invaluable role in conserving and protecting countless acres of stream and river bank. We bring people together in the vigorous defense of ecosystems and committed efforts to share the best in fly tying, casting and fishing skills. You and your colleagues are the engine that drives that and FFI awards are a way to say thanks and invite deeper commitment. Please, take a minute today to review the awards and nominate your friends for their hard work. Thank you.

GiveBig - Washington Gives Fund Raiser

GiveBig Washington....Again

Fly Fishers International is participating in GiveBig Washington, the region wide giving event May 3-4 when nonprofits explain their mission to the broader community and ask for financial support. The event creates an online showcase for dozens of non-profit organizations to introduce themselves to the community beyond their membership. More than 90 outdoor and environmental organizations participated last year. Groups from the Wild Steelhead Coalition to the Wild Fish Conservancy and the Coast Salmon Foundation will invite their members to log into the May 3-4 event and donate not only to their cause, but others that interest them.



 ORGANIZATION

Fly Fishers International Inc.
Washington Council



Last year, Washington FFI had nearly two dozens donors. Half of them were not FFI members but contributed to our work.

As members of FFI your dues sustain the national organization. The Washington Council receives very little of that money. Most of its operating budget for the council was earned at the annual fly fishing expos that we have been prevented from holding because of the ongoing pandemic. We've joined the GiveBig campaign to fill that void.

Your Washington Council of FFI supports, enhances and preserves fly fishing opportunities in Washington through education and environmental stewardship. Since 1965, Washington FFI has played a vital role in conserving trout, salmon and steelhead, saltwater and warm water fishing statewide, sustaining public access and inviting teens, women and disabled veterans into our sport.

Donating to Washington FFI through GiveBig will help sustain those efforts through the pandemic and beyond.

In coming weeks we will be explaining our accomplishments and our goals and asking you to donate to our mission. Go to GiveBIG 2022 (wagives.org) to learn more and join us May 3-4 at GiveBig Washington.

<https://www.wagives.org/giving-events/givebig22>

When you go to **wagives.org** do a search for Fly Fishers International and the this link will appear. Just click on it and you will be taken to the proper place to read about what we do and who we are.



 ORGANIZATION

Fly Fishers International Inc.
Washington Council



Fly Casting Instruction Library

Join the FFI and you will have access to some great videos & instruction

Fly Casting Library



Lesson

Change of Direction, casts that are modifications of...

[Read More](#)



Lesson

Pick-up and Lay-Down Cast, quietly pick up a fly and...

[Read More](#)



Lesson

Roll Casting, a forward cast without a backcast

[Read More](#)



Lesson

False Casting, a classic back and forth fly casting motion

[Read More](#)



Lesson

Fundamentals of a Cast, what is a loop and why is it...

[Read More](#)



Fly Casting Video Library

Watch Master Casting Instructors

[View all videos](#)



Teacher's Package

Find the resources needed to give a class on basic fly...

[Read More](#)

If you don't belong to the FFI, join now.
If your membership is about to expire,
please renew now.
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Popular Pages



Find A Casting Instructor

Looking for an FFI Certified Casting Instructor? Search our directory.



Fly Casting Skills Development

Want to improve your casting skills? Use the Fly Casting Skills Development...



Video Resources

The Fly Tying Video Library is the place to find videos from different tiers around...

International Members

Submitted by Kuni Masuda

Written by Lado Sakvarelidze



Lado Sakvarelidze



Kuni Masuda

FFI Member & Entrepreneur and New Born (Self Taught) Fly Fisherman & Environmental Enthusiast

The country of Georgia is what geographers and political scientists call a transcontinental country. The country is located on the frontier of Europe and Asia, within the Greater and Lesser Caucasus Ranges and between the Black and Caspian Seas. Its people have strong aspirations for their country to integrate with and join the European Union and to have closer political and trade ties with the United States of America and United Kingdom. There are other countries, though, that don't support this idea and want to keep Georgia under their sphere of influence. The matter is often a subject of debate on the world stage of geopolitics.

One thing nobody debates though, is that Georgia has one of the most unique natural landscapes and cultures on our planet. Georgians are people of mountains and rivers.

Locals joke that they are not famous for fishing on the sea (the Black Sea) because historically Georgia was excluded from the sea and often subject of conquest and domination by regional powers like Classical Greeks, Persians, Mongols, Ottoman Turks, Safavid Iran and Russia. But, the mountains and rivers always belonged to them and that is where they felt free and independent.

Fishing on rivers is a national tradition in Georgia. It is most popular outdoor activity probably second only to running and hiking. And our rivers are not just rivers; we consider them masterful works of the creation. They're beautiful, stunning, often crazy and always adventurous, as are the natural landscapes that surround them. Often times we like to think that our national identity is blended into those rivers, mountains and landscapes.

These rivers are historical habitat for native Brown Trout that occur as four separate unique genetic in these rivers.

But Georgia experienced a historic turn a few decades ago that was not positive for native trout or our rivers and natural systems. Days of the Soviet Union came to an abrupt end in Georgia, and like other republics, Georgia entered a decade of political and military conflict, failure of state institutions, economic depression and turmoil. Environmental mismanagement, pollution, industrial impact and illegal fishing resulted in fish populations plummeting in our rivers. Some say that fisheries declined perhaps by an astonishing 80% or even more.

The scientists say that trout first occurred in fresh waters of Georgia, probably 2 million years ago. That was when land emerged on this small corner of the planet with the Caspian and Black Seas forming separately from the Mediterranean and river systems formed that connected with the two seas. Ever since probably these unique genetic forms of brown trout have been spawning in these rivers since, providing food and recreational opportunity for the ancient and historic communities that emerged on the banks of these rivers.

Some Georgians will tell you the very first trout and Georgian appeared on these rivers at the same time. Others might have a healthy argument on which arrived first, especially at the end of a day of fishing on one of those rivers, with Georgian wine and food, a nice spring evening and the sound of river as a backup.

Communities across this country are now working hard to stop decline of fresh water fish populations and bring back what would be considered healthy populations that are historically typical in these rivers. The ultimate goal will be to restore and manage for sustainability of these important fisheries in the long-term. Local recreational fishing communities are on the front of this effort.

These communities are trying to raise awareness of recreational fishing values and define recreational fishing as - fishing for aquatic animals (mainly fish) that do not constitute the individual's primary resource to meet basic nutritional needs and are not generally sold or otherwise traded on export, domestic or black markets. They are also trying advance arguments for correcting the current mismanagement of rivers and elimination of poaching (illegal forms of fishing) on rivers. The later issue seems to be a major one for a quick and short term effect, because it seems that some forms of illegal fishing (electrical, blasting) has for some people become a "recreational" habit and these people seem to be ill-informed of the fact that such fishing brings material environmental, social and even economic damage.

A local fly fisherman, Shota Jokhadze formed a local club more than ten years ago and helped organize an endemic trout breeding (hatchery) project.

Continued on Page 6 

He and his club have been on that front ever since. He now runs an endemic trout population restoration project that is sponsored by the Government Wildlife Management Agency. A few dozen fly fishermen assist him and a much larger group of spin fishermen are actively raising awareness about recreational fishing and “catch and release” culture.

I joined this conservation effort a year ago together with few friends, and it still amazes me that it was fly fishing that brought us here. We soon discovered that fly fishing and the fun and pleasure it brings is much more than just good fishing. Rather, we began to understand that protection and proper management of healthy rivers that support robust populations of fish fundamentally assures a much healthy country and environment for ourselves as we live and work. It also makes our country much better place for tourism. Further it connects those rivers and mountains to our everyday life and that makes it easier to stay close to those places that have so much in common with our roots, heritage, values we enjoy in life and the hopes we have for the future.

Few months after we first took our fly rods in our hands, a fly fisherman friend and member of Fly Fishers International (FFI) from USA, Austin Kane from Atlanta, GA, recommended that we check out websites of few organizations, including FFI. We not only checked it out, but we reached out to few of them. But it was FFI that responded with energy and capacity to support international memberships and programs. It was David Peterson, Tom Logan and Kuni Masuda who offered assistance and extended and a warm and welcoming invitation to join FFI, which we gladly did.

This was the same time we started a small campaign coordinated with our local fly fishing community to encourage our Government Agency responsible for management of natural resources to open some parts of rivers in national parks of Georgia for “catch and release” based fly fishing and spin fishing in exchange for day visit tickets sold to participating recreational fishermen. We are pleased to report that the Agency received our proposal very positively and suggested proceeding with an experimental project. This is to be a pilot project to evaluate whether such an initiative could give a strong boost to recreational fishing and promote a “catch and release” culture. It also is intended to evaluate whether recreational fishing will generate an important revenue stream to local economies and to Georgia’s National Parks Agency and Wildlife Management Agency management of fresh water fish populations in the Georgia.

We held a planning workshop with the local fly fishing club that has long advocated initiatives such as we propose. We then held meetings with groups of members of Parliament of Georgia and heads of sports, environmental, agriculture and economic development committees. These meetings were arranged by Viktor Sanikidze, a Member of Parliament of Georgia and supporter of outdoor recreation, himself an former professional basketball player and Euroleague star. Written documents that present the biological rationale with economic considerations that justify our proposal were prepared and supported our presentations. These documents and preparation for each meeting was planned with assistance from FFI.

The meetings were successful and the Agency of National Parks (Protected Territories) of Georgia has approved a pilot program to allowed fly fishing and spin fishing in Kintrishi National Park, on a specific area of Kintrishi River that is up to 5 km long. That section of the Kintrishi River opened to fishing on January 1, 2022, requiring “catch and release” with barbless, single hooks and artificial lures/fly for catching native trout. Data will be collected to document the recreational fishing that occurs, evaluate any effect on the fishery and river and serve as basis for expanding the project to other rivers and fisheries.

Our corps of fly fishers working on this initiative is now organizing a non for profit entity, Georgia’s Outdoor Alliance, that will become an “International Affiliate Club” of FFI. The new organization will be led by aspiring fly fishermen with a major goal to promote and advocate conservation of clean rivers and healthy fish populations in Georgia. The primary focus will be fly fishing, but promote sport fishing in general as a way to connect with and protect fish, wildlife and healthy natural landscapes for benefit of all.

Our intent is to expand the presence and influence of fly fishing clubs, communities and institutions with assistance of FFI, in Georgia and to continue working with our Agencies to implement more pilot projects in other national parks of our country. But we also will work to encourage municipalities and investors to engage in conservation projects outside national parks to create recreational fishing sanctuaries and parks. These will be special river areas designated for recreational fishing that will generate revenue to protect and manage rivers and fish populations. We hope this concept will eventually extend to the Black Sea territory. Our expectations in coming years are to see healthier waters, returning fish populations, more fly fishermen (local and visitors), fly shops, fly cafes, clubs, schools, guides and new jobs with small businesses.

Our present group looks forward to organizing Georgia’s Outdoor Alliance with the assistance and experiences of FFI. Our focus will be to grow a membership that is engaged in learning and advocates conservation of Georgia’s fish, wildlife and natural landscapes.

January of 2022 has brought a lot of snow, making access difficult to the wild Kintrishi River for fishing. But we are waiting for the right weather and moment. Soon, there will be more territories with good fish populations in our country and we hope to fish with other FFI members here in Georgia.

Photos of the Country of Georgia



Kintrishi National Park



Fly Tying Tips and Other Assorted Pearls of Wisdom

By Sam Matalone

“I have enough materials”- said no fly tyer ever

In this newsletter- tips on biots, photos, and composite loops. 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.

If you have a tip to share, please send an email (wasmaster@wscffi.org).

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

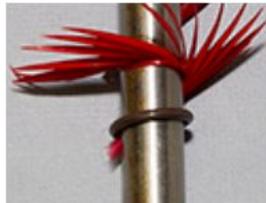
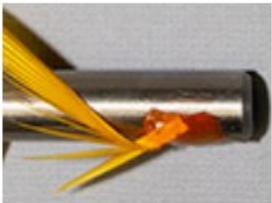
Quick Tips

Quick Tip #1:

Usually, with trout flies, I tie between 6-18 flies of a specific pattern; so, material prep is a key factor in how consistent the flies are and how fast I get them tied. Recently, I was tying a bunch of “prince nymph” style flies for an upcoming trip. As I was preparing my biots for 24 “prince nymph” type flies, I decided to share this little trick I learned 40 plus years ago when I was a member of the California Fly Fishermen Unlimited club.

Biot— the study, tapered barb, pulled from the wing feather of a goose or turkey. It is used to imitate the tail, body, legs, antennae or wings on many fly patterns.

Managing biots on the quill can be a real pain sometimes. A simple solution is to wrap the biot around some sort of a dowel. You can use anything from a pen/pencil to a small steel rod. I attach the base of the quill to the rod with UV glue and then wrap it around the dowel. At the end of the quill, I use UV glue to attach it to the dowel. (You can attach the quill to the dowel in a number of ways... from using tying thread to o-rings.) As you can see in the photos, the biots are splayed out. Now it is extremely easy to select the individual biots.



Quick Tip #2:

This next tip is about using a smart phone for improved photos of your master pieces. Today’s smart phones, which are remarkable pieces of equipment, enable anyone to be a good photographer! Having said that, here are a couple of ways to improve your pictures of the flies you tie.

Suggestion #1 - Use simple backdrops for your photos. Below are examples.

It is difficult to see the details in the first photo; however, the simplicity of the background helps the details “pop”. As you can see, light or dark backgrounds can be used.



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Suggestion #2 - Purchase a vblog (aka vlog- video log) light, ranging in price from \$10 to \$100+. They make life easier to capture great pics. Here is my reasoning. Photography is nothing more than managing light. (There is a little more than that; but, in simplest terms, if you control the light you will take great photos.) In an effort to control this light, before I started to use a blog light, I had to:

- 1) Work at developing an optimum light condition.
- 2) Move my vise to “stage” the photo.
- 3) Make sure the camera, light and subject matter were in predetermined positions (#1 above).
- 4) Then, move the vise to my fly tying table- if I were doing a step by step series on tying a particular fly.

This is my “stage”. Please note there are a lot of parts to this: a background, a light source, reflectors on the right and left of the fly to control shadows and brighten the subject, mirrors underneath the provide some backlighting.



Here is my setup for using a vblog light. All I do is put the blog light in front of my vise and take a picture. The light source is in a ring configuration, providing a fairly even illumination of the subject. It takes about 1 minute to take a picture. The vblog light helps the camera to optimize the setting before taking a picture.



The image of the left was taken with a vblog light source while the one on the right was taken with “my stage” setup. Both photos received the same editing process. There was minimal software editing on both pictures. You can certainly spend time on editing the picture on the left. (I was never able to get it to be as clear or as sharp as the blog light pic)

The fly was tied by Harry Lemire and was one of his “fishing flies”



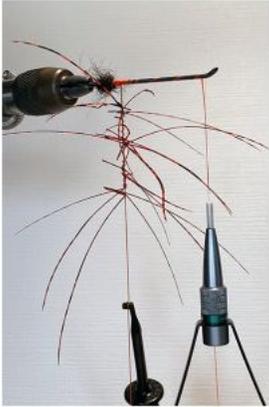
(All pictures for these articles were taken with a cell phone utilizing a vblog light source).

Quick Composite Loop

About three years ago, I saw a video on YouTube posted by James Lund tying “Fax Caddis”. The video does an excellent job in demonstrating various techniques, especially unique methods for tying an impressive caddis. One technique has become my “go to” method for making a composite loop of two material types with a slight variation. I tie a lot of steelhead flies. Using the split thread technique works well if you use a large diameter thread/floss; but, I prefer to use a looped thread method for making my composite loop.



In this demo, we will be making a generic type intruder section. First, we make a dubbing ball at the rear of this Waddington shank. Then, make a normal dubbing loop approximately 6-8 inches in length. In the upper part of the dubbing loop, I insert my 1st material. I am using Lady Amherst tail fibers; but, you can choose any type of material.



After I distribute the tail fibers to my satisfaction, I spin the dubbing loop normally. Now, this is very important for this process to work! Place some sort of clamp approximately mid way in your dubbing loop. Please note the clip attached to the mid section of the dubbing loop. This clip will prevent the top part of the dubbing loop from unraveling.



The bottom part of the dubbing loop is twisted and we need to get the twist out of the loop. There are various methods to achieve this. The simplest way is running a needle from the clip to the bottom of the loop until the dubbing loop opens back up.

Now, place your 2nd material into this section of the loop. Next, spin the dubbing loop normally. Notice that the clamp prevents the top part of the dubbing loop from spinning.



Now, place a 2nd dubbing spinner where the clamp is and remove the clamp. (If you only have one dubbing spinner, place a hackle plier at the bottom of the entire dubbing and remove the dubbing spinner.) Fold the bottom section of the dubbing onto of the the top section and tie it off. The two sections are parallel to one another. Spin the two sections together and you have a composite loop.



Once you are done building the composite dubbing loop, stroke the material rearward, making sure to comb out any trapped fibers. Make successive wraps in front of one another and tie off the dubbing loop.



This method works for me. I have tried it with up to 4 different types of material (2 material types in each of the sections). The reason I gravitated to this method was how little bulk is created and you are set up to build one smooth body. (See the base of the dubbing loop.)

WSCFFI Awards Nominations

In our last newsletter, we talked about the annual Washington State Council Awards.

The time is here. We are now accepting nomination for the following awards:

WSCFFI Fly Fisher of the Year

Washington State Council Fly Tying Hall of Fame Award

The Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Casting Instructors Award

Washington Conservation Award (club or organization)

Bill Mackay Conservation Award (individual)

Club Education Award

Pat Herdt Education Award (individual)

The following url will take you to the WSCFFI awards nomination page:

<https://wscffi.org/2022-washington-council-ffi-awards-nominations>

(just copy the url and paste it into your browser)

On this page you will see the criteria for each award, a nomination button for each award which will redirect you to a nomination page which you can fill out online.

If you have any difficulties with the on-line nomination process, please send an email with your nomination to:

webmaster@wscffi.org

We will notify you that we received the nomination.

Awards nominations are open until June 17, 2022, with the finalists to be announced in August/September timeframe.

We will use FaceBook and Instagram to highlight each award separately and to solicit nominations. It is our desire to get the most qualified candidate for each award. Within all groups there are many unsung heroes who may not get the recognition they deserve. Please, help us to make sure every qualified award recipient is identified.

Send in those nominations!



Northwest Youth Conservation
& Fly Fishing Academy

Youth & Conservation

By Mike Clancey



Application must be received by May 15, 2022. The number of attendees is limited

SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED FOR NW YOUTH CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING ACADEMY

The staff and students of the 2019 Academy would like to thank all the organizations and individuals for their generous support in donating funds and sponsoring our youth in 2019. A very successful Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy was held during June 2019. There were 21 well-behaved, enthusiastic boys and girls, ages 12 to 16 attending. All were a pleasure to be around. Each learned a wealth of information for use in their life as future conservationists and fly fishers. Many caught their first fish on a fly they learned to tie at The Academy. Application for the 2022 Academy is now open.

2020 was going to be Jim and my last Academy. Jim has been involved for 16 years, I have been involved for 14 years and we are going to pass the Academy onto 3 solid, dedicated new Co-Directors. John Gravendyk, Bruce Merighi and Carol Anderson, all from the flyfishing community. and Pat Hesselgesser, Chair (WCTU), is also going to volunteer. The group has decided to attempt to conduct an Academy this year, 2022 at Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. at the Gwinwood Christian Center. However; we are limiting the applicants to 12 this year. We will be following TU National, CDC and local health recommended regulations during camp.

The Academy is a youth education project of the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and is made possible with the help and support of The Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International clubs. Our goal is to open the door for today's youth to learn conservation and fly fishing, regardless of financial means, for any serious minded youth willing to do the work.

Organizations of TU and the FFI have been the main financial source of support, along with some very generous individuals and businesses; we trust this will continue in the future. TU chapters and FFI clubs have generously sponsored youth to attend the Academy.

The Academy Steering Committee is requesting TU chapters and Fly Fishing Clubs to donate at the \$500 level. Enrollment fee is \$300.00 per student. However, it costs approximately \$1000 total per youth for the 7 days. And no applicant is turned away because of funding.

The Academy can be a life changing experience of our youth's attitude about stewardship, conservation, and fly fishing. The knowledge they learn about the abundance of life in our rivers, lakes and streams is invaluable and it is imperative that we preserve this event for our current youth so they become our future conservationists and fly fishers.

Our request to you is that your organization budget to contribute to the Academy in 2022. Your support is needed to make the Academy a success. Please send your contributions payable to: WCTU, and "Academy" listed in the "For" section of the check, c/o Mike Clancy, 2531 Simon Lane NE, Olympia, WA 98506. Our updated website – www.nwycffa.com

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for their future. FDR

Mike Clancy, Jim Brosio, John Gravendyk, Bruce Merighi, Carol Anderson – Co-Directors
Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

Website: www.nwycffa.com

Facebook: NW Youth Conservation & FF Academy

Washington State Council, FFI, Government Affairs

By Mike Clancy, Chair



WSCFFI Conservation – It has been announced by FFI Livingston, there will be another virtual event on November 4, 5, & 6, 2022. The 2021 International virtual event was very successful with over 600 participants internationally. There will be conservation and education programs along with fly tying, fly casting and general programs.

The FFI ONLINE – “Weekly Workshops” Live weekly online classes from fly fishing experts are now being conducted and can be viewed on the FFI website – www.flyfishersinternational.org while you’re on the FFI website, check out the Learning Center and see an incredible presentation.

The Council supports many other conservation organizations in Washington, i.e. Washington Wild, a Seattle organization, we would like to congratulate their organization for successfully preventing a mining company, Imperial Metals, a Canadian mining company, in a proposal to pursue a mining permit at the source of the Skagit River. “The Skagit River is saved from an Upstream Mining Threat.”

Western Rivers Conservancy has set out to conserve the Yakima Canyon Ranch, which spans four miles of the Yakima River in Eastern Washington. They are promoting a program to purchase the 812 acre Yakima Canyon Ranch, which sits on two sides of the river along a dramatic horseshoe bend. The property is just north of Red’s Fly Shop. I would recommend our Council make a donation to support this event with Western Rivers. All donated funding has matching funding. After the funding is complete, the property will be donated to BLM for continued permanent maintenance.

The NWYCFE Academy – The co-directors announced that we will conduct an Academy this year the last full week of June. June 19-25, 2022. The event will be held again at the Gwinwood Christian Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. We have limited the amount of participants to 12, only this year. Boys and girls, 12 – 16 are welcome to submit an application and an essay as to why THEY would like to attend the event. We will be using the 16 page guidelines from CDC and TU for overnight camps. Applications may be acquired either from our website or contact me at mtclancy39@comcast.net or Jim Brosio at brosio@q.com Applications will be accepted until May 15th.

Alaska – In February, Bristol Bay Tribes, fisherman, and environmental groups in the Stop Pebble Mine coalition expressed deep disappointment with the EPA’s announcement to further delay the 404© Clean Water Act veto process to protect Bristol Bay from the toxic Pebble Mine. The EPA now has until May 2022 to add scientific and technical data in making their decision. The ADFG released good news about Bristol Bay this year. They predict 75 million sockeye to return, surpassing last year’s record breaking season by 10 million. But yet, 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.

Washington – The discussion over the Snake River dams is still alive. The environmental groups that claim it’s not the dams causing the salmon problems, its global warming. Senator Murray and Governor Inslee will make their decisions on dealing with the salmon situation by July 31, 2022.

WDFW received a briefing on the invasive European green crab recently. To learn about this new crab, I suggest you Google European green crab to learn about them. There is an incredible report on it on Google.

WDFW announced full closure to coastal steelhead fishing, effective March 1, to support conservation following indications of lower-than-expected returns.

Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, Greg Shimek, Executive Director, announced proposed changes for 17 streams that enter into Puget Sound to catch and release for Cutthroat and Native Rainbow Trout from the retention fishery. This is supported by WDFW, CCC has supplied the data to WDFW for these changes after years of study and research.

Alaska Roadless Rule

FFI signed onto this campaign to reinstate roadless rules throughout the Tongass. Our logo appears on line seven of the list of logos. Thanks to Mike for keeping us in this campaign.

January 24, 2021 / Tom Vilsack / Alaska Roadless Rule / USDA Forest Service / P.O. Box 21628 / Juneau, Alaska 99802-1628
Re: Proposed Exemption of the Tongass National Forest from the 2001 Roadless Area Conservation Rule

Dear Secretary Tom Vilsack,

The undersigned 223 conservation, recreation and wildlife organizations, local business leaders, and elected officials from Washington State, are writing to request that you fully restore 2001 Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass National Forest and end old-growth logging on the entirety of the forest. With its old-growth trees effectively capturing and storing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, the Tongass is one of the United States' most important carbon sinks and a critical tool in the fight against climate change. Scientists have estimated that the forest accounts for about 8 percent of the carbon sequestered by all national forests. Protecting the Tongass from old-growth logging will not only preserve that capacity, but avoid releasing carbon currently stored in its trees.

The Tongass National Forest is federal land owned by all Americans and its management matters beyond just Alaska. Here in Washington State, more than most areas, we have a direct connection to Southeast Alaska in many ways. The Tongass National Forest is approximately 500 miles from the northern border of Washington State, the same distance as Boise, ID. Washington is the closest state to Alaska and shares close business, economic and cultural connections. Seattle is the home port for numerous cruise ships heading north through Alaska's Inside Passage to Glacier Bay National Park, immediately adjacent to threatened national forest roadless areas.

Roadless area protections sustain southeast Alaska's ancient forests including thousand-year old Sitka spruce, western hemlock, and western red cedar. Tribal communities currently rely on the Tongass for traditional uses that date back thousands of years and support communities' essential food security. The Tongass is also home to endemic species including brown bears, wolves, eagles, black-tailed deer, and world-class salmon habitat that support commercial and recreational fisheries. It is also home to incredible outdoor recreation opportunities like mountaineering and sea kayaking. The Tongass is also the ancestral and contemporary homeland of the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian peoples, and they have been the driving force of the effort to protect the forest. Their way of life is inextricably linked with these lands and waters. They hunt, gather, fish, and harvest medicines in the Tongass that their ancestors have stewarded for more than 10,000 years. Restoring full protections is aligned with the position taken by Tribes in Southeast Alaska and will allow their traditional use of the land to continue.

We share a rich cultural connection to salmon inspired by our local Tribes and natural history similar to our northern Alaska neighbors. The Tongass National Forest produces on average 28% of Alaska's annual commercial salmon catch, and 25% of the entire west coast annual harvest. A significant number of commercial fishing permits held in Southeast and offshore waters in Alaska have their home port in Washington State in places like Seattle's Fisherman's Terminal or Westport on the Olympic coast.

As part of planning for a future beyond large-scale old-growth logging, please also make a sustained federal financial investment in the Southeast Alaska Sustainability Strategy. Operating in full consultation with Tribal governments and local communities, this program will invest in Tribal priorities and will help them stoke the already robust fishing and recreation industries that are currently driving the region's economy.

Please fully restore 2001 Roadless Rule protections on the Tongass National Forest and end large-scale old-growth logging on the entirety of the forest.



Casting for Recovery

By Trisha Campbell



Join, Volunteer or Donate to a Casting for Recovery Retreat

Casting for Recovery is a national non profit organization that provides no cost retreats to female breast cancer survivors. We are starting another season of retreats and the national medical team is establishing retreat protocol in line with CDC guidelines. The 2022 season has 52 retreats scheduled across the United States. This is after a limited season of 32 retreats last year and none in 2020 due to Covid safety issues.

I'm happy to report, Washington has two retreats covering different parts of the state. The Eastern part of the state is served by Northern Idaho/Eastern Washington Casting for Recovery and the remaining areas are served by Washington Casting for Recovery. Both of these organizations are long standing branches of our national organization and are 100% volunteer based. Fundraising efforts are ongoing at a local and national level to fund these retreats. This year the Northern Idaho/Eastern Washington retreat will be celebrating their 10th retreat and 12 years in existence. Last year, Washington State had their 25th retreat season. I proud to have volunteer for both of these organizations for 13 years.

Northern Idaho/Eastern Washington just finished accepting applications for their retreat to be held June 10-12. The Washington retreat, will be held August 28-30. If interested in finding out more about Casting for Recovery, donating to your local retreat, volunteering or just looking at all the amazing services this organization provides, go to <https://castingforrecovery.org/>



FFI Women Connect

By Trisha Campbell



As your Women Connect representation for the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International, I would like to inform everyone of some great events to help promote women in fly fishing.

March was declared by Women Connect as Fishing with Youth month. In honor of this, the Palouse Women of the Fly organized a free event called, Introduction to Fly Fishing for Women and their Daughters. The events happened in Pullman, Washington on March 12 at two separate time slots to accommodate up to 5 sets of women and their daughters for each session. Four tables were set up to cover topics on how to put together a rod and reel, equipment needed for fly fishing, casting with a practice rod, and fly tying. One session was from 10:00am to 11:00am and the other 11:30am to 12:30pm.

There was a women's fly-fishing outing on March 31-April 2. Eight women went to the Olympia, WA area to fish for Sea Run Cutthroats. It was a blast for all involved. While this trip was full, but I will post future trip opportunities as they are scheduled. There will be an undetermined June trip to celebrate Women in Fly Fishing Month.

I will have the honor of being your instructor for free casting classes to be held in Pullman, Washington and Moscow, Idaho. There will be a beginning caster sessions and intermediate caster session. This is a series of three classes to be held on April 9, 16 and 23rd. All classes are 1 hour in length and will build on each other, so plan to attend all three. If you need to miss one, just let us know and we will try to work with you. Since this is an outdoor event, make-up dates due to weather will be in place.

You can sign up for the beginning casting classes at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/casting-classes-beginners3-sessions-tickets-292043589237>

The intermediate casting class sign up is at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/casting-classes-intermediate-3-sessions-tickets-292049506937>

Come join us and improve your skills, meet new friends and have some fun with this great sport.

The last event to mention is a Casting Fair that will be put on by the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International. This is an all-day event on August 13 at Lake Ballinger Park in Snohomish County, Washington. This is located between the cities of Mountlake Terrace and Edmonds. The plans are to have a Women Connect table set up at the event, along with multiple learning opportunities. See more information on this event in other newsletter articles.

As your Women Connect Washington Council Representative, feel free to contact me any time.

Tight Lines,

Trisha Campbell

t.k.campbell@icloud.com



Youth Education

By Carol Anderson
V.P. Education



There are two very exciting announcements from the VP of Education for this month's newsletter.

First, the Fly Fisher's International Youth Curriculum is finally in the process of being transferred to the FFI main website. This preliminary curriculum was presented at the Fly Fishing Expo November 2021 to parents, children and FFI clubs and councils. It received enthusiastic support from participants. Finding time to transfer materials from the presentation medium to our main FFI website has been slow due to a work overload at headquarters. We have Dutch Baughman and Rhonda Sellers to thank for clearing a path to make the transfer happen.

Kids are always looking for an adventure. Fly fishing can be one of those adventures, but it takes time and patience. The new youth education curriculum presents basic fly fishing skills so kids can easily understand the essential skills needed to actively participate. The curriculum content is designed to be "Kid friendly" and above all fun. Kids and their friends can quickly learn a single skill and then go on the water to practice. With lots of topics to explore kids will feel like they are on an adventure with the kids shown on screen. Orvis education has played a heavy role in the curriculum content as have other providers from you tube and our own knowledgeable young people.

The "Hold Your Own Academy" content section provides FFI clubs and councils with online training and a downloadable manual to plan and hold local fly fishing academies. The manual presents materials for initial planning, volunteer recruitment/training, safety, instructions for the actual on-the-ground of the academy program and much more.

Please remember that developing this comprehensive FFI Youth Curriculum is an Iterative process, so you may see changes in content material as soon as we post it. As always your thoughts, activities, suggestions and photos are welcome. I will be traveling all summer 2022 to film kids enacting the skills they learned from fly fishing online instruction.

Our second exciting news is the Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy will be held once again this coming summer and will introduce at least 12 youngsters to the world of fly fishing. The academy is to be housed at Gwinwood Retreat Center, a private campground on Hicks Lake in Lacey, Washington. The academy date is the last week of June this year. Instructors, mentors and youth will follow the Covid protocol guidelines from Trout Unlimited, FFI National, the CDC and local health regulations during the camp.

Unfortunately the Academy was paused due to Covid lockdowns and so this year we are really looking forward to working with a new group of youngsters. The NWYCFFA is a collaborative education project of the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International. Our goal is to open the door for today's youth to learn conservation and fly fishing, regardless of financial means, for any serious minded youth willing to do engage in this wonderful activity.



Continued on Page 19 →

The Academy is a life changing experience for our youth's attitude about stewardship, conservation, and fly fishing. The knowledge they learn about the abundance of life in our rivers, lakes and streams is invaluable and it is imperative that we preserve this event for our current youth so they become future conservationists and fly fishers. Hands-on activities are part of every class, helping to make the learning experience fun and memorable. Campers will tie their own flies, learn basic knot types, practice casting and identify locally-collected aquatic invertebrates. While examining the aquatic invertebrates, they will also learn about water quality and what impacts affect water quality. Safety in and around water is a must for all campers to learn as well. All youngsters will have a chance to actively practice their newly acquired skills and fish in the lake and streams.

Our request to you is that your organization budget to contribute to the Academy in 2022. Your continuing support is needed to make this year's camp and future camps a continuing success. Please send your contributions payable to: WCTU, and "Academy" listed in the "For" section of the check, c/o Mike Clancy, 2531 Simon Lane NE, Olympia, WA 98506.

Get more information about this year's academy from our updated website – www.nwycffa.com.

Tight lines,
Carol Anderson, VP Education



Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

In Wildness is the Preservation of the World
“Henry David Thoreau”

Back of Beyond

A Journey

Each step I took was punctuated by the backpacker's prayer "Dear Lord if you will pick them up I will put them down". It wasn't quite that bad but close; it was mid morning on Friday and Sean and I were just beginning a steep climb up a forested slope in the White River drainage. My lungs were sucking in oxygen, my body was buzzing from the affects of the Excedrin I had taken two hours earlier and the headache it was masking. The sky was pewter gray and threatening rain. But in spite of my bodies discomfort and less than perfect weather, I was where I needed and wanted to be, I was in the Back of Beyond.

Sean had called me the day before and asked if I wanted to go on a day hike with him, In short my answer was yes before he had even finished asking. A hike in the back country, hell yes would be more appropriate. We checked the next day's weather report and it called for a 60% chance of rain. Well then that meant that there was a 40% chance that it wouldn't rain so we agreed to meet at Sean's house at 9 o'clock AM. Next morning at 6 AM the alarm went off, my mind was clouded from the affects of a massive headache; it had been raining, heavy and steady since midnight. On the plus side I had packed my day pack the night before, so all I needed to do was take a shower, eat breakfast, make a lunch and then stuff my packs contents in a dry sack to protect it from the rain. When my headache continued to grow in spite of my wish that it would dissipate I popped an Excedrin. My phone rang around 8, Sean was checking in to see if we were still on for the hike as the rain continued to fall. Most assuredly was my answer.

At Sean's house I greeted Barbara, Sean's wife. As Sean puttered around at his final hike preparation tasks, Barbara showed me their collection of River Teeth. River teeth are the remains of tree roots that have been shaped by their time in the river's flow and their meet and greets with rocks, sand and other aquatic habitat. When they are finally deposit on the river's banks they have been ground down to their core and they very much resemble teeth. A very nice collection, indeed; keep sakes of river time and future time travel journey keys.

With my worlds view enlarged by Barbara and Sean's pack now carrying a tea pot and stove we said our goodbye's to Barbara and headed up canyon to our destination. State Route 410 weaves and winds with the White River's course as it flows from it birth place on Mount Rainer to Puget Sound. As Sean's car tires rolled on the wet darkened asphalt the rain lessened as we drove deeper into the depth of the canyon. By the time we had reached our jumping off place it had ceased to rain but it still threatened. We shouldered our packs and put one foot in front of the other and began our climb skyward.

This was the time when my lungs began to suck in oxygen and the Backpackers prayer began to whisper in my mind. Any time you hike in the Back of Beyond your body has to adjust to the task that you present it with. Your joints begin to loosen and open, your muscles fire signals of expansion and contraction and your chest expands to accommodate your inflated lungs efforts to supply fresh oxygenated blood to your firing muscles. Your heart rate also increases to enhance that flow of energy to your now demanding body. As my body adjusted, so did my mind and senses, they became more attune to my surroundings. My eyes drank in the beauty of my environment, and my ears heard Sean's words as he shared with me his knowledge of the area we hiked.



Continued on page 21 →

He recounted personal life history and events, people he knew and books that he had read. This cornucopia of knowledge and insight poured forth as we walked higher and deeper into this forest kingdom of the White River watershed. This was not a walk to conquer or cover distance, this was a walk of getting to know, we stopped frequently to look, listen and absorb.

As we strode forth some of my occasional stops were to reach out and touch the mighty eight hundred year old or more Douglas Firs that towered above us and below us as we climbed. The grove of trees and the creek we followed are a small area of unlogged forest reserve. My body and soul drank in the wilderness as my mind drifted with Sean's words.

Our minds are our own personal time machines; with no effort at all it can transport us back in time and place. Sean's description of mushroom hunting brought forth images of wild fungus growing beneath the moss and needles with their caps pushing up small mounds of duff as they grew in height and girth as Sean hunted them in the fall of the year. The mushrooms blend in so well with their surrounding that it takes a well practiced eye to spot them. His stories of steelhead caught and released in wild northwest rivers, transported me North and West of our present geographical position to coastal rivers flowing into the Pacific. In the waters of these rivers swam chrome bright Steelhead fresh from salt water, with sea lice still clinging to their sides, displaying scars of life's encounters; each one enticing a fly fisherman to swing his flies. Those same rivers run through coastal rainforests dripping with moisture as green growing life explodes in abundance from the earth.

Sean introduced me to a man called Swan who settled on the western most part of our country in the 1800. As we ate our lunch and drank fresh brewed tea 59 stories above the White River Sean told me about Swan's life among the Makah's Indians and Swans friendship, observation and impression of the Indians of that time and place in our history. Sean recounted Swans observation on Indian feuds between tribes and random incidents of violence much like the feud between the Hatfield's and McCoy's, and the US Government judging those incidents as barbaric while embroiled in the American civil war with its own people embroiled in a brother against brother conflict of monumental consequences. One is deemed civilized and the other is not.

After our lunch we again entered the forest that Barbara calls the Star Wars Forest and retraced our steps back to the valley floor. This had been a brief foray into the Back of Beyond but our minds journeys had taken us beyond time and space. In times of reflection on life think about looking at a campfire. Now walk around that campfire looking deep into the flames and bright burning coals. In those 360 degree turns around that campfire



you will see something different from every different degree of vantage point, yet you are still looking at the same fire. You may step onto a trail expecting one kind of journey but you will go on many more than you ever thought possible, open your mind and breath there is no telling what you will find.

PS: If you are interested in reading more on James Gilchrist Swan he is more fully fleshed out in Ivan Doig's book "Winter Brothers, A Season at the Edge of America"

PPS: I took Terry on this hike a week later we both smiled a lot.

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

Welcome to the FFI Learning Center

The FFI Learning Center represents to premier source of fly fishing education material found anywhere online. Our quality-selected library of videos, articles, manuals, and workshops developed by FFI and sourced by some of the foremost experts in the world will inspire any level of fly fisher to improve their skills. So whether you want to learn the basics of fly fishing, polish your casting skills, twist up new fly patterns, or learn about conservation, the Learning Center is here to deliver generations of fly fishing knowledge found in a single online resource.

Fly Casting

Learn from some of the best fly casting instructors in the world. Lessons feature an array of casts, loop control, a teacher's package, and more. Peruse the Skills Development Program that can help improve your casting skills.



Fly Fishing Skills

A comprehensive source for instructional materials for all skill levels; Knots, Rigging, Casting, "the Catching Part of Fly Fishing", Fish Behavior and Habitats, Entomology, Reading Water, Safety and Etiquette, Equipment, and much more.



Fly Tying

Explore the Fly Tying Video Library, fly tying educational and instructional slide presentations for all skill levels, the Fly Tying Awards Program. See the Saltwater Flies Manual. Learn to tie flies here.



Conservation

Conservation education presentations and material pertaining to Conservation and the Fly Fisher, Personal Conservation, Practices of Catch and Release, and Understanding Freshwater Fish Behavior.



Go to the Fly Fishers International website and check out some of these great links.

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/>



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL (FFI) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with 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, providing FFI members the opportunity to leave a legacy in the sport we love.

FFI continues to focus on conservation, education, and community as the underpinning of our work. Our commitment to these principles provides the rock-solid foundation as we lean into the challenge of unprecedented times, and ascend to meet the needs of the evolving demographics of fly fishing.

JOIN FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL TODAY to help ensure that fly fishing can continue to instill the kind of passion it does today in so many of us.

WHY JOIN FFI? TOGETHER WE:

- **PROTECT THREATENED WATERS AND HABITATS** for current and future generations.
- **BRING TOGETHER EXPERTISE** in fly casting, fly tying, fly fishing skills, and conservation education and development programs.
- **ADVOCATE FOR POLICIES** and initiatives for conservation issues.
- **STRENGTHEN THE FLY FISHING COMMUNITY** by sharing knowledge and experiences.
- **PROVIDE RESOURCES** for fly fishing educators and professionals.
- **INSPIRE A SENSE OF RESPONSIBILITY AND CONSERVATION ETHICS** in people of all ages.

MEMBERS RECEIVE

- Access to an unmatched repository of knowledge through the FFI Learning Center
- Special offers and discounts • Recognition for special skills or achievements
- Access to a network of like-minded outdoor enthusiasts
- A chance to help make a positive impact on the sport

We've got momentum— Help us keep it going as a member of FFI. As participation in fly fishing has grown, FFI is providing enhanced opportunities to learn, sustained our commitment to conservation, and offers new and exciting opportunities to expand our community. JOIN US!



Membership Categories **Yes, I want to preserve the sport of fly fishing.**

- | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1-Year General \$35 | <input type="checkbox"/> Student (22 & under)* . . \$20 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3-Year General \$90 | <input type="checkbox"/> Business* \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Senior (65+)* \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime \$1,000 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Veteran* \$25 | <input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime Premium** . \$1,500 |

Note: General and Veteran memberships include spouses, cohabitating partners and children under 18 years of age. Lifetime memberships include spouses and cohabitating partners.
*Membership eligible for up to 3-year purchase (multiply price by number of years).
**Lifetime Premium member will receive a custom-built rod from TFO Rods.

PRINTED FLYFISHER MAGAZINE:
 \$10/yr U.S. residents \$20/yr International residents
 Lifetime and Business members will receive a free printed copy of Flyfisher. All members have free access to Flyfisher on our website.



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Name _____
 Address _____
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 Phone _____
 Country _____
 Email _____
 Club Affiliation _____
 Referred by _____
 Check Enclosed (Payable to Fly Fishers International - U.S. funds)
 Visa Mastercard Discover Amex
 Card# _____
 Exp. Date MM/YY _____ / _____ CVV _____
 Please do not share my information with organizations outside of FFI.



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

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

SURGEON'S LOOP

The popularity of the Surgeon's Loop lies in its simplicity as well as its strength

1. Double the end of the line.



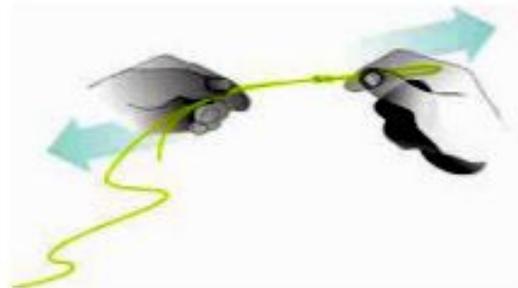
2. Make an overhand loop and tighten the knot.



3. Pass the loop through again (Double Surgeon Loop). Pass the loop through again for a Triple Surgeon Loop.



4. Hold the standing line and tag end and pull the loop to tighten the knot.



5. Cut the tag end.

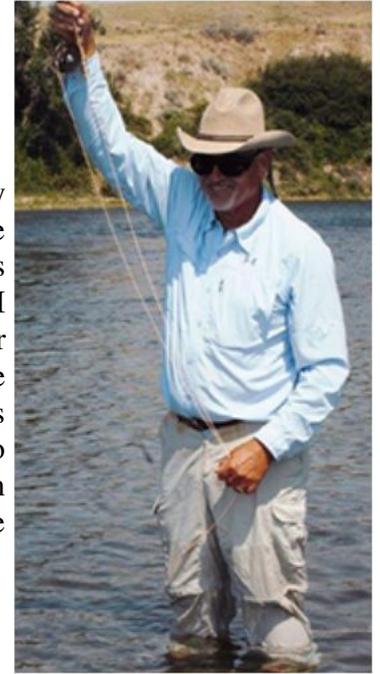


Meet Some of the WA State Council's Board of Directors

Carl Johnson

Past Council President

I began my journey as a fly fisher in 1966 (wow over 50 years ago) when I used my fly rod to toss flies instead of bait in the streams near my house in New Jersey. Over the years through job locations and travel I have fished in at least 19 of the states as well as Mexico. I belonged to fly fishing clubs in Tennessee, Louisiana and now Washington. I truly enjoy fishing streams and rivers for trout although I have been known to fish for anything that swims. In 2004 I joined the Council as Treasurer and added VP Westside in 2005. In 2006 I was elected to my first 3 year term as President. I served for 13 years as president. It has been my pleasure to be part of the Board that has worked so hard to serve the fly-fishing community. In 2020 Maura and I moved from western Washington to Montana where we had a cabin since 1999. We made a few changes to the place converting it from a second home to a full time home.



Don Simonson

Director

I was born and raised on Camano Island. Moved to and lived in Seattle during my 32-year career with IBM. During that time a member of the Washington Fly fishing Club introduced me to the sport of fly-fishing. I have been a member of the WFFC for 42 years serving in most of the officer and chair positions including its president in 1994. I have been teaching fly tying and fly-casting for over 39 years. I joined Fly Fishers International in the 1980's and am a lifetime member. I am a Master Certified fly casting instructor and am a member of the Casting Board of Governors. I have served as a Director at large on the WSCFFI for a few years taking responsibility for our fly-casting efforts throughout the state.



Sam Matalone

Webmaster

I grew up in Northern California and started my passion for fly fishing at the age of 11. I was extremely lucky to have been surrounded by very good fly fisherman who taught me to cast, tie flies and to understand the role each of us plays in ensuring the future of our sport. I have associated with the Washington State Council FFI for over 10 years. I retired as an Engineer from Texas Instruments after 30 years.



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
OR CALL 406.222.9369 TO JOIN TODAY!**

*See enclosed mail envelope for payment options.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF: Ed Lyle, 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

Fly Casting Fair

August 13 · 9 a.m.

Lake Ballinger Park, Mountlake Terrace, WA

- › Walk-in Casting Clinic
- › Casting Skills Development
- › Casting Workshops
- › Fly Tying



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Washington State Council



www.wscffi.org

Editors Notes

By Larry Gibbs



THE GREAT ESCAPE. Yes that was a very good movie with Steve McQueen. But that is how I feel as we leave the heavy restrictions behind us. Over two years of semi-isolation. That had to come to an end. I am president of the Alpine Fly Fishers club and the last time we had an in-person meeting was February of 2020. We finally broke that spell this March. Over two years of trying to hold a club together with no meetings. It makes it even harder because we are mainly a social club and we have always enjoyed our monthly meetings. Yes, we bought a Zoom account for the club and that did help a little but we never had as many members during a Zoom meeting as we did during our in-person meetings.

The WA State Council has not been able to have group gatherings for the past two years either. We used to have a yearly Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg but we decided to move it to a new location. Well, Covid stopped that idea cold. We were going to have a casting event in the Seattle area in 2021 but we were unable due to the restrictions. So, finally we get to have a **Fly Casting Fair**. August 13 at Lake Ballinger Park in Snohomish County, real close to the King County line with easy access off I-5. I sure hope you can make it to this event. I would imagine that many of our casting abilities have taken a hit these past two years had this will be a very good chance to help improve your casting and test your skills. From beginners to experts, this **Fly Casting Fair** will cover it. More in the July edition.

There is an interesting article about the country of **Georgia over in Eastern Europe**. They are starting to make a big difference in conservation and Catch & Release trout fishing. I sure hope all goes well for them, they have a massive undertaking. See page 7.

Please read the article on page 3 about **GiveBig Washington**. That is our only fund raiser this year. If you can go to the site and donate some money we really would appreciate it. All of the Board of Directors for the WA State Council have contributed to a Matching Fund, so whatever you donate, it will be doubled from the matching fund. We board members do this because we feel strongly about the FFI and all the good that they can do for us, the fly fishers and conservationists in Washington State. Starting on the 19th of April you can go to GoBig Washington and donate. The main event will be on May 3 & 4, but there is nothing wrong with an early donation.

Washington State Council's **Awards Nominations**, see page 12. Go to our WSC website and read up on the criteria used for award nominations. If you know of someone who has done exceptional work in any of the categories, please consider nominating them for an award. The WSC Board of Director members who are on the Awards Committee will consider all applications and make a decision on who should receive the award this year. It is important to recognize people who are out there doing something that benefits our fly fishing world. Some awards require the person nominated to be a FFI member, others do not.

Looks like the fly tyers back on the east coast will have to start tying up a new fly. The **Joro Spider**. Biggest problem with fly tying is that the spider can get as large as the palm of your hand (Yuk!) which would make a tied fly really difficult to cast, but it can be done. They invaded the state of Georgia (USA) and are spreading rapidly. I hope they don't make it over here.

I am the Membership VP for the Washington State Council, which then made me a member of the Membership Committee for Fly Fishers International. At a recent monthly Zoom meeting of that committee several of the members were happy to report that fly fishing events/gatherings were starting to happen again after being closed for two years. I guess the fishing event in Lansing, MI was the biggest he has ever seen. People are coming out of their caves and enjoying themselves again.

The next issue of Covering the Drift will have a number of articles about our upcoming **Fly Casting Fair** this August. As I mentioned above, you really should take the day off and come to this casting / tying event. As the name implies, it is mostly about casting, but we will have a number of fly tyers giving demonstrations, plus booths on Women Connect, Youth Education and Project Healing Waters. Saturday, August 13. Mark your calendars. Check out page 28