



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

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Covering the Drift

Volume 27 Issue 1 January 2023

Oregon Council FFI

NW Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo
See page 3



Washington State Council's Fly Casting Fair

April 29

Northwest Youth Conservation Fly Fishing Academy

See pages 12 & 13



Give a very special Christmas or
birthday present!
Submit an application TODAY!
VERY LIMITED SPACE
Only 13 spots left

Invite
Someone
To
Join
The
FFI
See Page 24

 **FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN THE FFI



Home Water



President Steve Jones

Mark your calendars for April 29, 2023 for the next FFI Casting Fair at Lake Ballinger Park in the Mountlake Terrace neighborhood of Seattle.

Your Washington State Council of FFI welcomed more than 300 visitors to the first such event at Lake Ballinger in August of 2022. Now we're coming back with another event that will include instruction for beginning and advanced casters, an innovative Walk-In Casting Clinic and an expanded Casting Skills Development course. Also in April, we will add Spey Casting classes to the roster of events. Many people told us they wanted instruction in two-handed casting and we're happy to announce we've secured access to the beach area at Lake Ballinger where instructors and students in waders can work in the water learning spey skills. We've also expanded access to more lawn space at the park to give classes and clinics more room to spread out to accommodate visitors.

The event will be centered at the Mountlake Terrace Senior Center on the park grounds. In addition to casting events on the lawns and water, the April 29 event will have double the number of fly-tying demonstrations going on throughout the day in the Lakeview Room at the Senior Center, plus a series of classes on fly tying in a separate classroom in the center.

In addition to watching and learning from some of the best casters in the sport, you will also be able to grab a bite to eat at the April event. The Senior Center kitchen will be open during the day offering hot coffee for sale in the morning and a deli lunch for sale through early afternoon. A number of people said the limited lunch service we offered in August wasn't enough, so we're coming back with a menu available on your schedule. The goal in April is to improve on everything you enjoyed in August while we expand into more space, more class offerings and more convenience for FFI members and the public.

To help us grow into the larger role the Washington Council is entering into an event partnership with the Recreation & Parks Department of the city of Mountlake Terrace. The partnership will allow us to make use of more space in the park at reasonable expense. It also will allow us to reach out to a wider group of Mountlake Terrace outdoor recreation enthusiasts that share our love of fly fishing. As our sport becomes more accessible our membership grows. More members and partners help us in our mission to preserve and enhance fly fishing opportunities through education, conservation and environmental advocacy in Puget Sound and statewide. And we're looking beyond Puget Sound too. Washington Council directors Len Zickler and Claude Kistler are studying the possibility of holding an FFI Casting Fair in the Spokane area where they both live.

Washington State contains a myriad of fisheries, from the famous steelhead rivers of the Olympic Peninsula, to the clear cold cutthroat streams of the Cascades, to the high trout lakes of Eastern Washington and lowland bass ponds of the Columbia Gorge. One positive that came out of our pandemic years was how many people reconnected with the outdoors. Hiking, camping, kayaking and fly fishing all enjoyed waves of new interest. Now is an opportunity to extend a hand to those new to the outdoors and show them the real joy of landing a fly on a delicate rise, then coming tight to a beautiful rainbow trout. Now is the time to share our knowledge of fly fishing and the meaningful relationship it builds with the natural world. The Casting Fair April 29 on Lake Ballinger is one way to do that.

Another way is for you, members of the Washington Council, to reach out to your fishing friends and ask them to join FFI. Larry Gibbs, membership director for the Washington Council, has asked all the board members to do the same. I think Larry has the right idea. My fishing friends are important to me so it makes sense to invite them into the important work FFI is doing. Kuni Masuda, a longtime friend invited me to join FFI in 2015 and I'm glad he did. I enjoy this organization and the work it does. Now I need to pay that forward. My plan is to register one new member for Washington FFI every month in 2023. Please join me in the effort. Make the ask. Tell a friend that FFI is getting the job done on education, on conservation, on environmental stewardship. Ask that friend to join us.



**March 10 & 11
2023**



NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

@nwflytyingexpo

The NW Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo is a fly tying & fly fishing expo for new and experienced fly fishers. The has many options for all anglers from attending classes. At the Expo you will have the opportunity to:

- View 72 Fly Tyer Stations
- Explore 50 Exhibitors
- Observe Casting Demonstrations
- Choose from 90 Classes on tying, casting, & fishing
- Participate in Raffles & Silent Auctions daily
- Attend the Banquet & Auction



Plan on attending the Fly Tyer Expo in Albany

The Oregon Council FFI along with several Oregon fly clubs puts on this great event every year, but naturally they had to cancel for several years due to the Covid restrictions.

I have been attending this event for decades and always enjoy being there, visiting with many friends from around the country, bidding on silent auction items and hitting the raffle tables.

I will be working the FFI membership booth. Swing by and say hi if you come on down to Albany.

Larry



Website Update

By Sam Matalone

Website Update Is Complete!



After what appears to have been a long process, our website has been upgraded to take advantage of many new features. The site is now 100% compatible with all smart phones, tablets and computers. The site will automatically adjust the display image to best fit whatever device you are using. In addition, we have added more security features so can conduct online surveys, start a classified section, or create a forum about any aspect of fly fishing. Eventually, we can setup a real digital newsletter with active links, videos, direct connect to social media accounts. This update prepares us for the future. As we start to utilize these different options on the website, you will see a gradual change.

If you would like to see any other changes or have any input or would like to be work on the website please send an email to:

webmaster@wscffi.org

Website Update Is Complete!

A screenshot of the Northwest Youth Fly Fishing Academy website. The header features the organization's logo (a blue circle with a white fish and green leaf), navigation links (Program, Camp, FAQ, Contact, Library, Payments), and a red "APPLY" button. The main content area has a large background image of a fly fishing rod and reel. Overlaid text reads: "Northwest Youth Fly Fishing Academy" and "June 18 - 24, 2023 Shelton, Washington".

Fly Tying Tips and Other Assorted Pearls of Wisdom

By Sam Matalone

"How many tying capes do you need?" Correct answer: Just one more!



Quick Tips

Quick Tip #1: Room temperature Dyeing

With Covid, supply chain issues, and whole host of other issues, acquiring good material is extremely difficult. Even harder is to get the color you want. So I have resorted to dyeing for my fly tying needs. Well, dyeing can be a very active and time consuming process. So I was excited when I saw a new class of dyes that can be done at room temp.

To go from this;



To this was worth a try.



I typically use Jacquard Acid Dyes for 80% of my dyeing. I often choose Fire Red dye and typically have problems getting a deep rich reds. I can achieve an acceptable Fire Red; however, it takes a long time in the dyeing solution. I can get the desired color in as little as 30 minutes to 6 hours depending upon how rich the color I want and the amount of material I am dyeing.

Continued on page 6 →

The new room temperature dye from Jacquard is a Procion MX Dye. This article is not about how to dye but rather the results.

I made a very simple comparison between the two methods, using the same brand, i.e. Jacquard. My goal was to see how long it would take to get a close color match between the Acid Dye and the Procion MX Dye.

Basic process for the Acid Dye comparison:

- 1) Wash the material with warm soapy water and thoroughly rinse before dyeing
- 2) Make a dye solution with a couple tablespoons of white vinegar. (Please note: the amount of dye you add to water will change the dye concentration, a little experience here helps to get your desired color)
- 3) Bring dye solution to 140 degrees F. (It is best to keep below this temperature to minimize damage to the material you are dyeing)
- 4) Control the temperature between 135 and 140 degrees F
- 5) 30 minute soak/cook time
- 6) Rinse the material until all the dye has been removed
- 7) Dry material with a heat gun (use a small amount of material)

Process with Procion MX Dye comparison:

- 1) Wash the material with warm soapy water and thoroughly rinse before dyeing
- 2) Using warm water from the tap approximately 100 degrees F, mix a dye solution such that you can not see through the glass jar.
- 3) Let the material soak for 3 hours

The materials used for this comparison were: Golden Pheasant Crest, a white inexpensive hen neck and some bleached bear hair. From my experience, these are the hardest with which to get good results.

Results of 30 minute acid dye versus 3 hours of room temperature:

Left Side is Acid Dye

and the

right side is Room Temperature Dye



The room temperature dye (3 hours) was not as saturated as the acid dye (30 minutes). I recharged the room temperature solution and returned it to the solution for an additional 6 hours. As a side note the Acid Dyed Golden Pheasant was as good as any commercially dye crest, it was just hard to show it with this picture.

After the additional soak for 6 hours:

Left Side Acid Dye

Right Room Temperature Dye



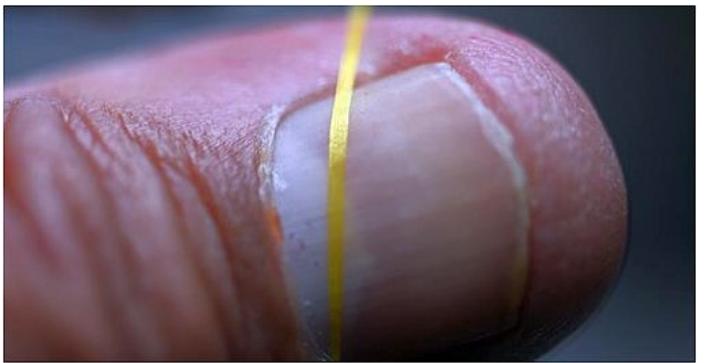
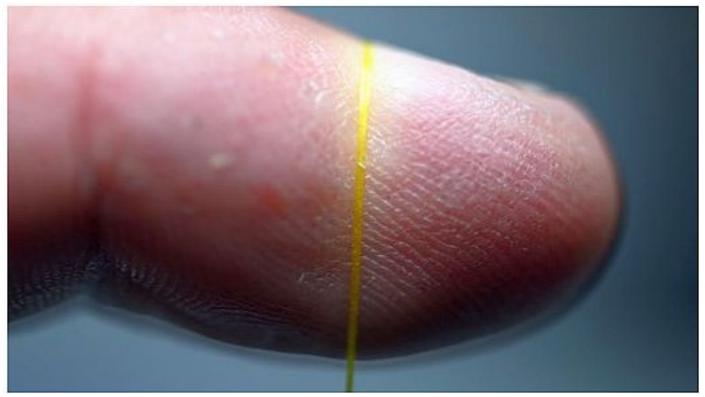
There is still a difference but it is much closer in color/shade then what the picture show. There is no doubt that if I extended the soak time for the room temperature process, the color would eventually the same. (you may be wondering about the Golden Pheasant Crest, well I really. really, liked the color so I did not return it to the dye dyeing solution)

In conclusion If you want to attempt to dye some material and do not want to hassle with setting up a hot dyeing process, these new room temperature dyes will work well. Just mix the dye in a jar, put your material in the jar and check it every 3 hours to see if you obtained your desired color.

Quick Tip #2: Simple way to split thread when used as a dubbing loop

The older I get, many things do not work like they used to. I am talking about my eye sight. It is getting a little harder to focus and see clearly. So, when trying to make some damsel nymphs with CDC, I used a split thread dubbing loop technique. I was having trouble splitting the thread for the CDC. Every time I used a dubbing needle to unwind the thread, the thread just spread apart as nice as can be. As soon as I put my finger on the thread to split it, it was not as flat as I hoped. I realized that when I used my finger, the thread would slightly collapse and make my attempts to split the thread more difficult. Now, if you use your thumbnail to aid in splitting the thread, it becomes much easier. The trick here is to not let the thread touch any part of your skin, which will cause the thread to slightly compress.

Just by using your nail, you are able to keep the thread from compressing and it is much easier to split the thread.



Quick Tip #3: Real Cheap Fly Holder

I was recently fishing the Clearwater with a friend of over 50 years . As we were tying flies at night, he was storing his flies on small foam ring. The ring was a disk out of a “pool noodle”. Using an Exacto knife, just cut 1-2 inch sections. What a simple and a great way to sort flies as you tie them!

My favorite use of the “pool noodle” ring!



Fly Casting Tip

FLY CASTING: CHANGE OF DIRECTION / WHAT IS A CHANGE OF DIRECTION CAST?

Change of direction casts are exactly as the name implies. They are modifications of other casts that allow the presentation of the fly from a starting position to a finishing position that is generally several degrees to 180 degrees from the starting position. This is measured from the caster with lines to the start and finish targets. For example, a Pick-up and Lay-down cast to the same target would have 0 degrees change of direction. Picking up, false casting multiple times, and moving the target 20 feet to the left, we would measure the angle as a line from the caster to the starting position and from the caster to the finishing position.

PRINCIPLES

There are some guiding principles to casting: Longer stroke – easier cast; fly line follows the path of the rod; and pertinent to this conversation, the 180 degree principle. The first key to changing direction is placing the backcast 180 degrees away from your target. This is probably the simplest and easiest way to change direction. Assuming we have already covered the basic cast, the change of direction is just changing the setup and direction. Let's use the clock to explain. First, assume you are casting to a fish at 12 o'clock. Suddenly a fish rises at 2 O'clock. You want to cast to this fish because, of course he is hungrier and bigger! To make this cast, your backcast needs to be 180 degrees away from where you want the front cast to go. If the fish is at 2 o'clock, the backcast would need to head to 8 o'clock. When you pick up the line into the backcast, this needs to be toward 8 o'clock. This will set up the forward cast and prevent the line from crossing in the air.

The setup for the backcast on a change of direction can be quite simple. If a small change of direction, it might just be a change of the arm or wrist. If the change of direction is greater or uncomfortable, then it might be necessary to rotate at the hips or change the placement of the feet. As with most casts, it is important to square up to the target with the shoulders as much as possible. This will help drive the cast in the right direction.

CHANGE OF DIRECTION CASTS

The steps of this cast are the same as the Pick-up and Lay-down (see Pick-up and Lay-down Cast module). It requires that the line lies in a straight line in front of you on the water with the rod tip held low. Decide where you want your cast to go and make sure you face the target. Point the rod at the target. Smoothly accelerate 180 degrees away from your target and stop in the backcast letting the loop unroll. Then accelerate to a stop in the front toward the target and lower the rod tip to the water as the fly line falls.

2. ROLL CAST: FLY CASTING: CHANGE OF DIRECTION

False casting can also be used to change direction. False casting is making back and front casts continuously without presenting the fly (see False Casting module). The 180-degree principle applies here as well. When false casting, small degrees of change can be made. The shorter the line being cast, the more degrees of change. With roughly 30 feet of line in the air, cast a degree change of not more than 15 degrees for each false cast. After a forward false cast, the next backcast should be made pointing a few more degrees toward your ultimate backcast target which would, of course, be 180 degrees away opposite your final forward cast target. This should be done until the final target is aligned, and a presentation cast made. This is a great method when fishing to rising fish and can also dry the fly while changing direction, without, of course, casting over the fish.

3. FALSE CAST:

Not really a cast at all, but a repositioning of the line to an upstream position. The lob is wonderful when fishing an upstream to downstream position while facing across the river. This is the typical position for fishing nymphs and dry flies with droppers. The lob cast allows the fishing rig to float unimpeded from the upstream delivery position to the downstream recast position.

- a. The setup for this cast starts at this point where the downstream position creates tension against the rod.
- b. From this point, the 180 degree principle comes back into play. With the line and rig downstream on tension, reposition the hand toward the target.
- c. The lob is exactly that. Rather than a regular cast with loop formation the lob is a smooth acceleration, but with a round rod tip. Often this is done with multiple flies and weighted flies and the weight of the flies help facilitate the tension of the line to maintain during the lob.

4. LOB CAST: KEYS TO CHANGE OF DIRECTION

- » Back cast 180 degrees from intended target
- » Smaller changes are generally easier to control
- » Use the appropriate cast to achieve the necessary change

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Casting For Recovery Washington

By Trisha Campbell



Washington state is fortunate that we have two branches of Casting for Recovery. Both branches provide healing outdoor retreats to women whom have struggled with breast cancer. These retreats are no cost to the participants and provide opportunities for women to find inspiration and experience healing connections with other women and nature.

The first Casting for Recovery branch covers the Eastern side of Washington state, as well as Northern Idaho. Their retreat is held on beautiful Lake Coeur d' Alene in Northwestern, Idaho. It is being held June 9-11, 2023. Applications are open now at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E135959&id=986>

Casting for Recovery Washington covers all of Washington's residents, except the far Eastern counties. Their retreat will be held September 24-26, 2023 at Sun Mountain Lodge in Winthrop, WA. You can apply now to be selected at: <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=E135959&id=975>

In 2022 Washington also had the honor of hosting a special retreat focusing on providing services to front line health care workers who have faced breast cancer. Participants came from a three-state area to include Washington, Oregon and Idaho. All found great tranquility in Washington's mountain region of Leavenworth.



Fly Fishers International - Women Connect

By Trisha Campbell



Women Connect is a branch of Fly Fishers International with the goal of creating a community of women fly fishers who want to learn, share, and have opportunities to engage in fly fishing related activities.

Recently, Women Connect had a booth in FFI's virtual Fly Fishing Expo. They held classes on a variety of subjects that were all free with entry into the Expo. The classes varied from how to cast in the wind, various fly-tying classes to jewelry making. They also had a drop-in room to ask questions, meet new people and share fun adventures.

Women Connect is restarting their Zappy Hour (Zoom happy hour) presentations to keep you involved through the winter. These are free Zoom meeting on a variety of topics. The meetings will be the third Tuesday of the month at 6pm PST. Watch for links on Facebook or request to receive email alerts to activities by signing up at their email address womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org. November's talk was on the Women Connect trip to the Amazon. Eight women had a wonderful time fishing for Peacock Bass and other native species.

Along with their learning and social opportunities, Women Connect offers opportunities for Women's fishing adventures. Some are an actual Women Connect trip and some are hosted trips. They have an organized Redfish trips to Texas, a trip to the Midwestern Driftless Region and to the White River in Arkansas.

Women Connect has declared June as Women in Fly Fishing month. They are planning a variety of opportunities in Washington for free casting classes at the beginning and intermediate levels, as well as a fishing outing. Look for further information in future newsletters.

If you are interested in joining Women Connect, you can email womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org, follow on Facebook at FFI Women Connect, or the link at flyfishersinternastional.org/education/ffi-women-connect for more updates and information.





The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

By Mike Clancy



The 2023 Academy – The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is alive and well. Jim Brosio and I tried to retire in 2020, but because of Covid, we couldn't do it. We are SO fortunate to be able to turn The Academy over to three incredible new co-directors. John Gravendyk, Bruce Merighi and Carol Anderson have assumed the responsibility of The Academy along with Matt Tuttle camp director. The event is going to be conducted at The Panhandle 4-H Camp on Panhandle Lake west of Shelton. Unfortunately, they had to move the event to the new location, since the Gwinwood facility was not fulfilling their needs any longer. Please go to the Panhandle 4-H Camp website and you'll totally understand what a wonderful facility the new location is all about.

The Academy next year is the last full week of June, June 18-24, 2023. For new information and registration for the 2023 event is on the new Academy website @ www.NWYCFFA.COM. Did I say, registration is open, it sure is. I'm going to repeat myself - The new facility is West of Shelton, a little further next year, but, it's well worth it.

Jim and I would like to thank all the folks that participated in the success of The Academy during the past 18 years. And what a blessing it's been to still be friends with past Ghillies and Students on Facebook. All the boys and girls are quality folks, many married with families and many very successful with their education.

Thank you everyone. Thank you.

Mike Clancy

Give a very special Christmas or birthday present this year!

*By Carol Anderson
V.P. Education*



Give your kids, grandkids, nieces, nephews', or your neighbors' kids an exciting week at the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy scheduled for the last week of June 2023.

This premier Washington State Fly Fishing camp for kids 12-17 sponsored by Trout Unlimited and supported by Washington State Council FFI is now available for sign-up on the Academy website: www.flyfish.academy.

When you give this hands-on summer fly fishing camp to a kid in your life, they will learn a unique combination of fishing and science designed to develop lifelong fly fishing enthusiasts. It is a gift of learning and memorable experiences that lasts forever.

The NWYCFFA has a long and successful history. Established in the early 2000's, the Academy has operated every year since except 20/21 due to COVID restrictions. This year's 2022 Academy's marked the final camp at Gwinwood in Lacey, WA, and an end to a nearly 20yr relationship. The Academy's new co-directors have chosen to move the camp to a newly updated venue at Panhandle Lake Camp near Shelton, Washington to be closer to small rivers and situated on a fully stocked trout lake.

The 2023 Academy features a completely revised curriculum of current science information and fly-fishing skills. The program is perfect for boys and girls ages 12-17 and is suitable for both the eager beginner and kids who have already had some fly fishing experience.

Spending time in nature has always been a joy for kids and families, especially during summer vacations. We have observed a decline in youth fishing participation perhaps due to busy family life and a lack of fly fishing education venues. As younger generations replace outdoor experiences with time in front of a computer monitor, they often lose their connection with nature.

Given a chance, adolescents are keen to be outside and to learn to catch fish. The NWYCFF Academy is an excellent opportunity to refresh a love for the outdoors. Academy attendees learn Fly Fishing skills, conservation science, and to grow self-confidence by experiencing task affirming accomplishments.

The Academy provides a valuable life-changing experience; benefits that carry on throughout a teenagers' life.

Continued on page 13

The new NWYCFFA hands-on curriculum reinforces:

- ◆ Patience: standing quietly in a river or lake, waiting for a perfect catch is an exercise in patience; something you won't find online in an age of instant gratification.
- ◆ Creative Outwitting: Fooling a wise old trout into taking your fly, trout are remarkably selective in their feeding habits. Learning to fool the fish takes careful observation and problem solving skills – understanding fish habitats and habits. Students practice these skills daily as they scan the water, air, and nearby plants for signs of what fish might like to eat.
- ◆ Practice, Practice, Practice: There are no shortcuts to becoming a great fly fisherman; it takes practice and perseverance. The more participants work through prescribed daily lesson practice, the better they become.
- ◆ Skills Challenges: Students master sessions on basic entomology, fishing rigs, casting, fly tying, knot tying, and the occasional challenge of untying those knots, reading the water, water safety, catch and release techniques, and careful observation skills for the sign of trout rising to a fly they crafted.
- ◆ A Restorative Escape: Kids who learn to fly fish have an exceptionally healthy outlet for the stressors of daily life; for whatever stressors may come their way.
- ◆ A Totally Fun Summer Camp Experience: The Academy offers young people a supportive and fun environment that provides for unparalleled personal growth. During the Academy week participants practice a variety of opportunities to build character and interpersonal skills.
- ◆ Life Skills Building: Attendees become confident, independent anglers who will champion conservation and stewardship through their lives. They become valuable team members in the fight to preserve all waterways. Each participant engages in fun lessons, discussions, and activities that teach the importance of conservation and become a steward for our environment.

Don't wait, sign your "kids" up now! The NWYCFFA has only 13 spaces left for 2023. We encourage you to sign-up before the end of the year.

Visit the NWYCFFA website to sign up today! www.Flyfish.academy



Conservation
Fly Fishers International

Policy on Public Lands and Waters of the United States

And Position Statement

Fly Fishers International is a global organization dedicated to the support, enhancement and protection of the recreational opportunities and enjoyment of fishing with the artificial fly. We do this through teaching all aspects of fly fishing and most importantly through our advocacy, demonstration and voice for conservation of our natural resources. Clearly, conservation of fishes and their habitats is fundamental to our opportunities and those of our children to fly fish. Those habitats largely are the connected waters of the United States, the streams, lakes, rivers and estuaries that must remain clean, healthy and functional. Just as important are the health and wellbeing of the watersheds that recharge, nourish and protect the function of our wetlands. These habitats collectively reside by ownership, law and public policy as public resources and lands. Many are managed and protected by state or federal agencies or environmental law on the public behalf, while others are protected by private interests or environmental organizations in perpetuity as conservation easements. Regardless of ownership or legal designation, they collectively are much more valuable than simply as wetlands, watersheds and fish habitat. These are the habitats of a vast array of wildlife, plant and insect species, including those that may be threatened or endangered with extinction across our country. What must not be forgotten is that these very landscapes of minerals, waters and plants are essential to our own quality of life as human habitat. These are the landscapes that grow the plant communities that produce the clean air we breathe and process carbon dioxide into oxygen. The wetlands that clean and recharge our sources of fresh water are necessary to our lives. There is no question that these lands must be protected for our recreational interests and our own quality of life as humans. Not least of importance is the economic value of access to these public lands and waters for study, enjoyment and appreciation. These values now exceed three quarters of a trillion dollars returned back into our economy each year. Federal lands alone return \$650 billion dollars and support an estimated 6 million jobs.

Theodore Roosevelt recognized the profound values of public lands when he “applied his presidential prerogatives in setting aside and preserving for public benefit a number of scientific, historical and scenic sites” with his 1903 designation of the Pelican Island National Wildlife Refuge on the east coast of Florida. This was the first of what now comprises millions of acres across our continent that serve the public benefit he recognized. Unfortunately, our public lands and the biological, social and economic values they represent are now threatened with narrow interests by those who seek to transfer budgetary responsibility and/or liquidate these essential public lands!

It therefore is FFI Policy to advocate for the essential protection of public lands and waters of the United States for their ecological, recreational and economic function and value and to endorse as public policy the administration of these lands to include applicable law, finance, policy and management responsibility, as necessary to assure enjoyment, health and other public benefits. It is our position that any proposal to change, transfer or liquidate ownership and or management responsibility of public lands has a significant likelihood to adversely affect the biological health, function and wellbeing of natural systems and the wildlife species they support. It further is our position that any such proposed action should receive full evaluation for public review and comment in the form of an Environmental Impact Statement under provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act. It is through such Policy and position that opportunities to enjoy fly fishing will endure.

Approved Board of Directors – February 27, 2017

Questions?

Contact the Conservation Coordinator at conservation@flyfishersinternational.org

FFI Japan

Submitted by Kuni Masuda

2022 Handcraft Show in Tokyo, Japan

Written by Yamashiro-san



Kuni Masuda

The Handcraft Show has been held for 32 years, almost every year since 1988 by Tokyo's "Tsuruya Tackle Shop", the oldest fly-fishing pro-shop in Japan. It can be said that it is one of the largest held flyfishing events in Japan, and although there were two years when it could not be held due to Covid-19 Pandemic.

Initially, it was a small event focusing mainly on fly-tying and handcrafted bamboo rods from the Tsuruya's bamboo rod building classes, but it has expanded to include artwork such as crafted landing nets, fly-boxes, various carvings and paintings. Today, travel agencies that conduct fishing trips to foreign countries and publishers of magazines and books about fly-fishing also participate in the Show.

Normally, it was held in February ahead of the opening of the fishing season, but due to the Covid-19, this year the scale of event was slightly reduced, and postponed to October. FFI Japan had been planning to debut at this show in 2020 but it was canceled and two years later, it was finally restarted again in Tokyo, Japan.

As shown in the attached images, we lined up six types of brochures at our booth so visitors could freely take it home. Also, we were selling FFI logo pins, patches, decals, caps, etc. A major objective of joining this event is to raise awareness of FFI-Japan. We set a large flat monitor and viewed the FFI's website, still photos and videos of programs presented at the 2021 Virtual EXPO.

A lot of fly fishers stopped by at our booth and took our brochures. "What kind of organizations are you?" How to become a member?" "What are the benefits of membership?" There were many fly fishers who asked questions and we handed our brochures and explained them in Japanese. JFFA, currently the sole FFI affiliate club in Japan, also participated in the show, and was attended by Furusawa-san, the President, Kawakami-san, club Secretary, and other members, so we could talk to many visitors about our cooperation relationship with the affiliate club.

In Japan, the fly fishing population has been aging. A major challenge is how to connect the younger generation to the fly-fishing world. Many of the visitors were veterans of the elderly generation, and there were many scenes which they exchanged the greetings with "It's been a long time!" This event may be a place for elder fly-fishers who confirmed their wellness. On the other hand, we also found younger visitors and beginners, and were reminded of the importance of such events like this. The show can be a good opportunity for easy entrance to the fly fishing world for the younger generations.

The author of this report is an old friend, Yamashiro-san, the organizer of this event, and the owner of Tsuruya Fly Shop, and has supported to hold this event since 1988. I remember very well that we all brought it to a small hall, set it up and held the show. It was so hard that when I asked Yamashiro-san if it was too hard and worth it, Yamashiro-san said to me his concept that planning to hold the show in the hope that Japan fly fishing would be more encouraged and broadcast, even though he has his own business. I hope that it will continue to be held every year in the future.

In Japan, the recovery from Covid-19 has been slow, and it cannot be denied that there were few exhibitors and visitors from other than Tokyo areas this time, but the next show will be held in February 2023. We, FFI-Japan, are also planning to join the show again to realize further raise awareness, expand our membership, and collaborate with as many fly fishers as possible.

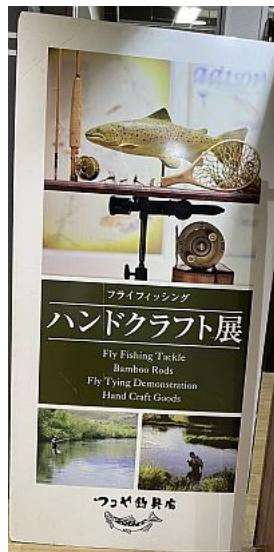
Masao Sakaguchi

FFI Ambassador in Japan

Photos on Page 16



FFI's first affiliate club, JFFA in Japan



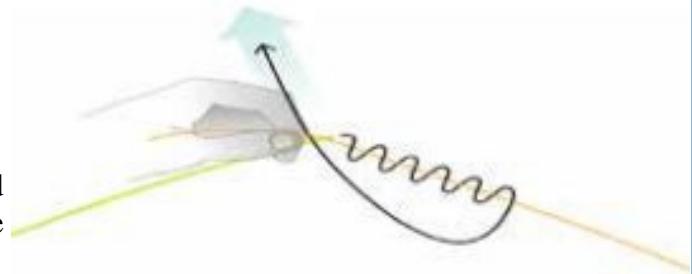
International Ambassador, Masao Sakaguchi



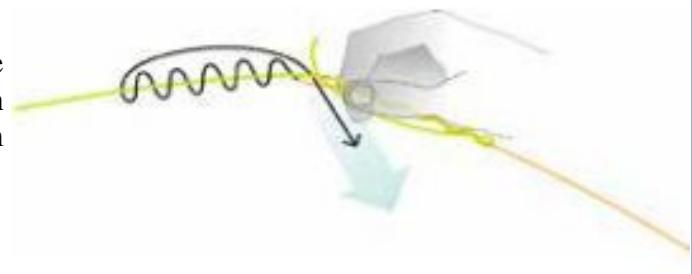
Blood Knot

The Blood knot can be used to join two lines together. The Blood Knot is a tried and true fishing knot and a favorite of fly fishermen. The Blood Knot can be used to add tippet to a leader, but it is also a good knot to connect backing to fly line, or fly line to leader, in place of a loop-to-loop connection. The strength of the knot is increased by making at least 5 and up to 7 wraps on each side of the knot. It works best with lines of approximately equal diameter.

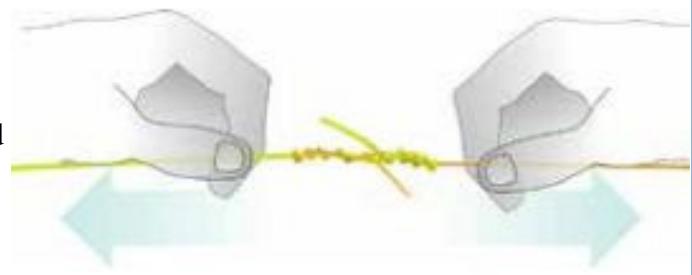
1. Overlap ends of lines to be joined. Twist one tag end around the other making five (5) turns. Bring tag end back between the two lines.



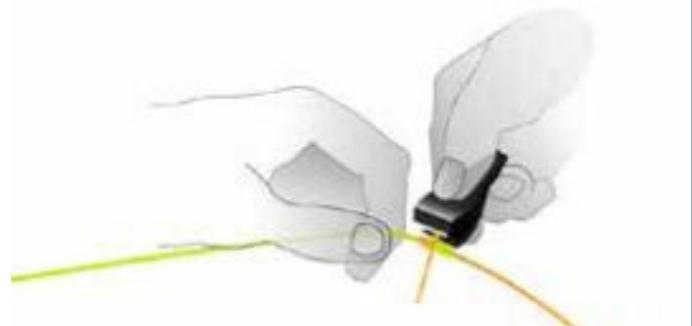
2. Repeat with the other end wrapping in opposite direction the same number of turns. Then insert the second tag end through the loop between the two lines, in the opposite direction from the first tag end.



3. Slowly pull lines in opposite directions. Turns will wrap and gather. Clip ends close to the knot.



4. Cut the tag ends.



Washington State Council
Affiliated Fly Club Conservation/Education Activates



Spokane Fly Fishers Club

By Claude Kistler

The winter months are especially busy for the Spokane Fly Fishers. After a two-year COVID shut down, the club resumed their annual Fly Auction and with the help of a spirited auctioneer, 35 bidders (22 successful) bid on nearly 100 fly box lots (approx. 1300 flies) and netted the club nearly \$3000 to support various speaker, and club expenses.

Our December activity continues with our annual member Holiday dinner followed up by the start-up of our beginning and intermediate six week fly tying classes in January. Mid-February signals the start of our annual eight week Fly Fishing School which covers equipment, knots, still and moving water tactics, entomology, fish identification, water safety and conservation.

In addition to the class sessions, the school also offers the approximate 40 registrants three weekend casting sessions and concludes with a final on the water casting session and pizza lunch at a nearby lake. In mid-March the club conducts their annual raffle to raise funds to support our Conservation and Education activities. Club members donate new and slightly used equipment such as rods, reels, vests, boots, shirts, waders, hats, etc. Desired items also include donated guided trips and a pontoon boat or two to help members get into the spirit of another year of fly fishing. While all of this is taking place, our Outings Committee is busy identifying locations and hosts for about 12 to 15 club outings to area and regional lakes, streams and rivers that begin in late March and run thru the following October. The Spokane Fly Fishers is an active year round club and we invite all to join us as we promote the sport of fly fishing through education, application and conservation.



Fall fly fishing: Sunset, Tioga Pass - Yosemite National Park - Neal Hoffberg



Why I Fish Small Dry Flies

By Neal Hoffberg

I recently received a call from a member of my fly-fishing club, (Washington Fly Fishing Club, founded 1939) suggesting that we add fly tying articles or a 'fly of the month' to our newsletter, 'Creel Notes'. The suggestion for the first article (you can file this under no good deed goes unpunished) is that I write a column on why I tie and fish small flies. Fair enough. The only concern I had in doing this is that the column would probably have spiritual overtones of fly fishing and be deeper and longer than the bible. Reading between the lines, you now know why I tie and fish small flies. As Thoreau said, 'many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that is not the fish they are after.' Allow me to elaborate on my journey.

I started fishing in my early twenties. I had the best Shakespeare rod and Garcia reel that money could buy. The drawers in my VW Camper were filled with Mepps spinners, gold blades and Rapala lures. The refrigerator had mayonnaise, ketchup, cold cuts and jar of Pautzkes Balls 'O Fire. The cheese on my sandwich was, you guessed it, Velveeta. I would drive north out of Los Angeles up U.S.395 to Bishop, California. Camped along Bishop Creek I would spend a week chasing planted trout up and down the river or probe the depths of Lake Sabrina and South Lake.

Fast forward several years. I was talking to a friend about fly fishing. Howard said fly fishing is too technical. Take your Shakespeare rod, Howard said, add a short leader with a clear torpedo shaped bobber, followed by a short section of tippen with a dry fly tied on the end. Bam! Game on! I was fly fishing without a fly rod. No perfection loops, surgeon's knots, Orvis knots. This was easy, fast and much simpler than true fly fishing. Tight loops? My Shakespeare rod didn't require a tight loop to get that dry fly thirty feet from the boat. (You now know where my inherent wrist problem comes from). One day I invite my brother, David along. He flips out. Fishing with a fly on the end of a spinning rod is the best!

Continued on page 19 →

No more night crawlers! David races home. But instead of buying a spinning rod, he heads straight to Ned Grey's Fly Shop in La Canada. Ned's shop is down the block from JPL. It's the place where the moon-shot guys go to shop. Scientists and fiberglass rods. Computer geeks and bamboo. Ned Gray's is where the great fly tyer, Steven Fernandez began tying and selling his flies at age twelve! My brother invites me to go with him to Ned Gray's. I tag along but pass on the journey into real fly fishing. Traditional fly fishing is way too deep for me. 9 ft. 5 wt? Backing, double taper fly line, tippet? Do you need a slide rule to figure all of this out? Where the hell is that jar of Pautzke's? That's a joke! Yes, my humor can be as dry as a bottle of Frogs Fanny. Speaking of which...several years later David invites me to go fly fishing with him. Something in me has changed. I am open to the idea. We drive less than an hour from Los Angeles to Piru Creek, now dry due to beer parties, drought and wildfires. David takes out his fiberglass rod with an Elk Hair something or other tied to the end of the tippet. Where's the slide rule to calculate leader and tippet size?" I ask. "What are you talking about? Simply divide the size of the fly by three and voila! You have your number. Ned's shop may be in the same neighborhood as JPL. But fly fishing isn't rocket science!" It takes me a year to realize that my brother is right. Fly fishing isn't rocket science. Having spent that season fishing with David and going back and forth between my spinning gear dry fly set up and the fiberglass rod, the following Spring I find myself at Sport Chalet (I was told that fly rods are not sold in stores where the name ends in 'mart'). What do I buy? "Come on!" A nine-foot five weight St. Croix with a Ross reel. I know, you thought that I would buy a Fenwick fiberglass rod. Now that I am serious about fly fishing I return to Bishop Creek and the Eastern High Sierra with the St. Croix in hand. Most of the fly fishing in the Eastern Sierra is done on Hot Creek – not to be confused with Hat Creek in Northern California. You can nymph Hot Creek – and many do. But the Creek is really a dry fly angler's paradise. Wild rainbow and brown trout up to twenty inches sipping Female Comparaduns, Trico spent spinners, BWOs and Caddis. All size eighteen to twenty-four. (PMDs and terrestrials are bigger, of course).

There are two main areas of Hot Creek. A freestone, canyon section open to the public, and Hot Creek Ranch, a Private Ranch with cabin rentals, that flows through a meadow like an English Chalk stream. Wading is not allowed. Four weight rods. Six leader and tippet. Size eighteen and smaller flies (the PMD hatch and hoppers are the exception). Fourteen, fifteen inch and bigger wild rainbow and brown trout feeding on the surface. This is the real deal. The stealth and head hunting that's required. The silence during the pursuit. That's a big part of it. Remember Thoreau? The inner silence. I know the same is true for Steelheaders and Stillwater anglers.

Several years later I begin tying flies. Naturally, everything is tied for the Ranch. I am particularly drawn to tying size twenty Tricos. When my teacher said, "tonight we are going to tie a Copper John," I politely told him that I would be tying a size twenty organza spent spinner, male Trico. What did he care? He had my one hundred fifty bucks that I paid for the class! Dennis was free to critique the length of the tails on my flies. And critique he did!

Now some fifteen years into tying micro dry flies, I can say that it's the artistry and simplicity that has me hooked. Tying and fishing micro dry flies is in my blood. It's the journey from the tying vice to the water.

I know that many of you have similar thoughts about the flies you tie and where you fish them. It doesn't matter if the water is moving or still. My journey has me walking along a body of moving water looking for seams, structure and rising fish. Embrace your journey, wherever it takes you.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.

Tight lines. Happy Holidays and good health to all,

Neal Hoffberg
Committee Chair, Education & Programs WFFC
Director At Large – WSCFFI

This article has been revised from an earlier essay written for "Creel Notes" WFFC.



**Washington State Council
Fly Fishers International
Charter and Affiliated Clubs**



Alaska Fly Fishers	Anchorage	(PHWFF) http://www.akflyfishers.net/
Alpine Fly Fishers	Puyallup	https://alpineflyfishers.org/
Bainbridge Island Fly Fishers	Bainbridge Island	Bainbridge Island Fly Fishers Facebook
Caring Fly Fishers of Washington	Bellevue	Project Healing Waters FF
Clark Skamania Flyfishers	Vancouver	http://www.clark-skamania-flyfishers.org/
Clearwater Flycasters	Pullman	https://www.clearwaterflycasters.com/
Cowlitz Fly Anglers	Longview	Cowlitz Fly Anglers Facebook
Evergreen Fly Fishing Club	Everett	https://evergreenflyclub.org/
Fairbanks Fly Fishers	Fairbanks	Project Healing Waters FF
Fidalgo Fly Fishers	Anacortes	https://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/
Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club	Spokane	https://ieffc.org/
Lower Columbia Flyfishers	Longview	http://www.lowercolumbiaflyfishers.org/
Northwest Fly Anglers	Seattle	https://www.northwestflyanglers.org/
Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds	Edmonds	https://olympicflyfishers.com/
Overlake Fly Fishing Club	Bellevue	https://offc.org/
Puget Sound Fly Fishers Club	Tacoma	https://www.psff.org/
South Sound Fly Fishers	Olympia	https://southsoundflyfishers.org/
Spokane Fly Fishers LLC	Spokane	https://spokaneflyfishers.com/
Washington Fly Fishing Club	Mercer Island	https://wffc.com/
Wasilla Fly Fishing Club	Wasilla	Project Healing Waters FF
Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers	Wenatchee	https://wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com/
Washington State Council		https://wscffi.org/
Fly Fishers International		https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/



**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://smile.amazon.com)

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

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 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 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

Fly Fishers International

President's Club

The President's Club at Fly Fishers International represents the highest level of financial commitment to the organization and comes with exclusive benefits and opportunities as a way of thanking donors for this level of generosity. Over the course of FFI's history, the President's Club has been instrumental in our ability to ensure the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. Members of the exclusive giving circle can support any program or project at FFI that most inspires them, and at a level that recognizes their level of giving, including Platinum, Gold, Silver, or Bronze. The program allows for a pledge to be satisfied with yearly or monthly payment plans.

QUESTIONS? Email: operations@flyfishersinternational.org or phone: 406-222-9369 ext 4

Check out the FFI Donate page on line: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Donate/Presidents-Club>

The categories and their associated benefits are as follows:

BRONZE \$5,000 / Payable at \$500/ year or \$43/month

Benefits Include:

- Quarterly virtual President's Club meeting with exclusive special guest
- One-on-one meetings with the President and CEO for each member of the President's Club
- Opportunity to select the special President's Club Award
- Invitation to President's Club destination travel opportunity
- Specially designed President's Club pin, FFI President's Club sticker, and FFI hat

SILVER \$10,000 / Payable at \$1,000/ year or \$85/month

Benefits Include:

- Quarterly virtual President's Club meeting with exclusive special guest
- One-on-one meetings with the President and CEO for each member of the President's Club
- Opportunity to select the special President's Club Award
- Invitation to President's Club destination travel opportunity
- Specially designed President's Club pin, FFI President's Club sticker, FFI hat, an FFI T-shirt
- Exclusive individualized fly fishing instruction for President's Club members or person of their choosing

GOLD \$15,000 / Payable at \$1,500/ year or \$125/month

Benefits Include:

- FFI Life Membership
- Quarterly virtual President's Club meeting with exclusive special guest
- One-on-one meetings with the President and CEO for each member of the President's Club
- Opportunity to select the special President's Club Award
- Invitation to President's Club destination travel opportunity
- Specially designed President's Club pin, FFI President's Club sticker, FFI hat, and an FFI embroidered shirt
- Exclusive individualized fly fishing instruction for President's Club members or person of their choosing.

PLATINUM \$25,000 / Payable at \$2,500/ year or \$225/month

Benefits Include:

- FFI Life Membership
- Quarterly virtual President's Club meeting with exclusive special guest
- One-on-one meetings with the President and CEO for each member of the President's Club
- Opportunity to select the special President's Club Award
- Invitation to President's Club destination travel opportunity
- Specially designed President's Club pin, FFI President's Club sticker, FFI hat, an FFI embroidered shirt, and an FFI Yeti mug
- Exclusive individualized fly fishing instruction for President's Club members or person of their choosing.
- Unique, customized FFI Special edition fly rod when member reaches the \$100,000 level

Editors Note:

I am a proud member of Fly Fishers International and have been for over two decades. I really believe in what the FFI is doing and their goals. We are truly an "All Fish, All Waters" organization with strong beliefs in conservation and education. I belong to the President's Club, the Thousand Stewards program and the Legacy Circle. I would really like it if you, the reader, would join me in helping to support Fly Fishers International.

JOIN THE

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



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

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

**JOIN US IN SAFE GUARDING 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 insert for payment options.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF Ed Taylor, 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 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!



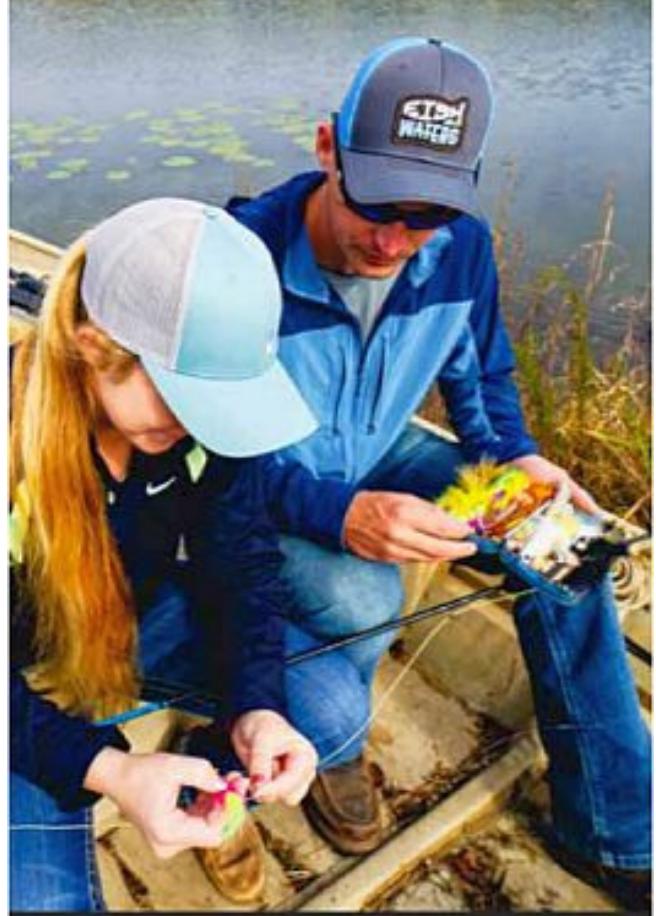
406.222.9369

membership@flyfishersinternational.org
flyfishersinternational.org



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN THE FFI



**ALL FISH,
ALL WATERS**

Membership Categories

- | | | | |
|--|------|---|---------|
| <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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$10/yr U.S. residents | <input type="checkbox"/> \$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. | |



1201 US Hwy 10 W Suite E
Livingston, MT 59047
P 406.222.9369 / F 406.222.5823
flyfishersinternational.org

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

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

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.



Editors Notes

By Larry Gibbs



The start of a new year, 2023.

For those of you who logged into FFI's Virtual Expo last November, I hope you enjoyed it. All kinds of classes and seminars and silent auctions. They had a great lineup of guest speakers, hope you listened in on some of them. It takes a lot of effort by many people to put on both virtual and live events. I scored some really nice items in the silent auctions, items that I will re-gift to my club and council as raffle items or raffle board items. For my club's fundraisers, I use both a raffle of 10+ items at each meeting and also I run a raffle board. I sell squares on that board for \$5 each and depending upon the items being offered, I will have the board valued at \$150 or more. I used to do the raffle board with just one item, but then it dawned on me that only a select number of members would want that particular item. So, now I offer over a dozen items that have a value exceeding \$150. These are items that I have been 'winning' in raffles and silent auctions over the years with the intention of re-gifting them back to the club. Doesn't cost the club anything, and if I want, I can declare the donations as a tax write off at tax time. The money the club makes from the raffles and raffle boards pays for the guest speaker and add a bit to the bank account.

Do you belong to Fly Fishers International? Do you belong to a fly fishing club? If you answered no to the first question, you really should consider joining the FFI. If you answered no to the second question, and there is a club somewhat near you, please consider joining that club. I have included a list of all of the FFI Charter and Affiliated clubs in Washington State. See page 20. If you answered Yes to both then thank you, we really appreciate it. Here is something to chew on when you are attending a club meeting. I know it is great to socialize at these events but if you could pick one person per meeting to talk to about joining the FFI, we could really increase our membership, hence the power or positive impact that gives the FFI while they are trying to save our fly fishing for future casters.

Mother Nature has finally started giving us that much needed snow up in the Cascades, snow that will feed our streams and rivers this year. We needed it. The fish needed it. It means more fun in the summer.

I am president of the Alpine Fly Fishers club, a Charter club for the FFI. I am also the newsletter editor. A few years ago one of the club's original members gave me the old printed newsletters dating back to 1973, when the club was first formed. In the newsletter I do for the club I include one of the old newsletters. I am up to April 1979. A very interesting fact was presented. In the edition of the 1979 newsletter, the editor, Ed Monger, noted that the FFF dues were \$15. You may think something like, 'how cheap' or 'what a great price', but it was actually really expensive.

Back in 1979, the purchasing power of \$15 was the equivalent of \$61.32 today in 2023. The FFI only charges \$35 for a standard membership and only \$25 for a senior or veterans membership. **Well worth it if you ask me!** Larry

For those of you who can make it, the Oregon Council FFI is starting up the NW Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo in Albany again. March 10 & 11. This is a great show. There are 72 Fly Tyer Stations, 50 Exhibitors, many Casting Demos, and you can choose from 90 Classes on tying, casting, & fishing. Raffles and silent auctions going on both days and a banquet and Live and Silent auctions on Friday night.

Meanwhile, in the background, our WSC President, Steve Jones, has secured the location for our very own, one day, Fly Casting Expo. Last year we had it at Lake Ballinger Park in Snohomish County. A great location. Lots of room for casting. We will be there again. We have secured the lake shore at the park so Spey casting lessons can be taught.

Naturally, we will have some of the best fly tyers in the northwest. Sam Matalone, Director on the WSC, will come up with a great group of excellent fly tyers that you can sit with and talk to about their techniques. The tyers love to talk to people and even they can pick up on helpful hints.

More on this later in our April edition of the newsletter.

We will have updates posted on our website and notifications going out on the various 'social media' sites.

April 29 is the Saturday when we will be doing this. Mark your calendars on your phone and on your walls. April 29.

I know this is the January 2023 issue of our newsletter, but I am sending it out before Christmas of 2022. It is a busy time of the year. Lots of people are travelling to and fro, so I wanted to give you a chance to read this newsletter a bit before the holiday rush. Take care out there and drive carefully.

Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to everyone.

Larry

