



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

Covering the Drift

Volume 27 Issue 4 - October 2023

Washington State Council

Fly Fishers International



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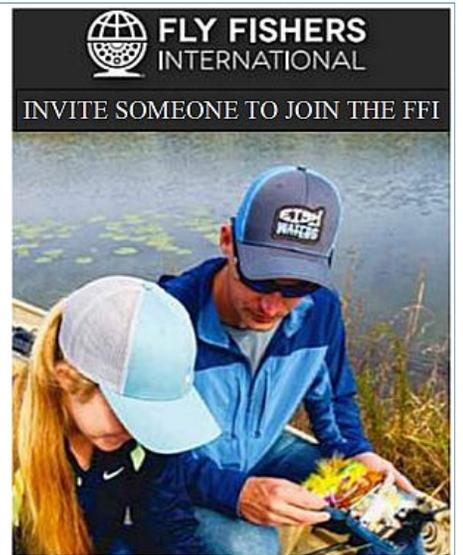
Busy Year Ahead

Fly Fishing Events Around

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Invite Someone To Join The FFI

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FLY FISHERS
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Washington State Council

Home Water

An August Obsession



President Steve Jones

During late summer from Humboldt Bay to the fjords of Southeast Alaska, most coastal cutthroat trout that have access to the ocean spend time feeding in salt water - and that's where you'll find me too.

Puget Sound fishers have the luxury of being able to target searun cuts nearly year round along its more than 1,500 miles of shoreline. It's marshes, sand spits and oyster strewn river deltas provide a rich habitat for *Oncorhynchus clarkii*. Sand lance and shrimp along the shorelines, sculpin and sticklebacks in the bays and a drifting feast of spat, eggs and amphipods provide cutthroat with a movable feast in Puget Sound. Numerous parks and public beaches allow lucky residents a chance to fish for them at their leisure. And we've got the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition and its tireless leader, Greg Shimek, looking out for the health of the fishery to boot.

But there is another coastal cutthroat fishery that's bigger, harder to get to, muddier, full of wind fall and tidal channels, subject to more wind, bad roads, fewer beaches and thankfully lots of fish. The bays and estuaries of the Pacific Coast and the rivers that feed those coastal environments are a little appreciated nursery for a large and healthy coastal cutthroat population. The Nemah, Naselle, Clearwater, Bear, Smith and Palix all flow to Willapa Bay and host largely untouched populations of cutthroat. The cutthroat habitat and fishing opportunities continue as you head south of the Columbia to Youngs Bay near Astoria, to the Nacanicum, the Nehalem and the gold mine of cutthroat in the five rivers that flow into Tillamook Bay. And don't get me started on the abundant fishery around Coos Bay. With a kayak or canoe and close attention to the tides you can get into those semi-salty pools at the edge of tidewater and enjoy remarkable fishing. Beach the canoe and walk upstream and every pool will reward you. Best of all, in late summer those fish that have been foraging in the estuary since spring floods are moving back to their natal streams. It's the best time of year to find that 18 incher that has spent so much time in salt the coloring on its back has shifted to a mystical green or beyond—the legendary “blue back.”

Despite a wide range of habitats and individual populations up and down the coast, most cutthroat that live there conform to the same loose calendar of behavior. They spend winter and the spawning cycle in fresh water and drop toward the estuaries in spring. Flows are commonly too high to target them then. They spend late spring, summer and early fall feeding along the edges of saltwater where they target the downstream migrating salmon smolt and the schools of sand lance and tidal bait fish. Years ago a bait fishing friend introduced me to fishing for cutthroat with “clam necks” for bait. He would dig clams and use the necks for cutthroat bait. It was effective and an eye-opener for what goes on in the estuary. Cutthroat are down there terrorizing everything.

Cutthroat from larger rivers, such as the Snohomish and Skagit in Puget Sound, the Bear in Willapa Bay and the Nehalem on the Oregon Coast, tend to return to the rivers in early fall. Searuns native to smaller streams often remain in the estuaries until winter rains swell the creeks. One of the most memorable days I've spent cutthroat fishing was in October 2016 with my late friend John Bohrsen, when we anchored off this particular hole on the Nehalem (not saying where) and brought fish after fish to hand. The fishing was stupid good, so good we motored to town for an early dinner and a cigar, then came back for the evening high tide where the fun continued. We ended the day putting the boat on the trailer in pitch black. I fish that spot in October in memory of John. The fish usually join the celebration too.

When I began fishing coastal cutthroat in the 1980s, there was precious little written about the species. Harvest limits were few and poorly enforced, particularly on remote coastal rivers. That began to change in the 70s and with publication of Les Johnsons “Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout” in 1979. Biologists, fisheries managers and fishers began to wake up to the opportunity and the threat to coastal cutthroat. Stricter harvest limits and catch and release regs in the 80s brought cutthroat numbers up and showed everyone that management was both necessary and effective. In 1982, Amato Press published a book of fly patterns created by the Rainland Fly Casters fishing club of Astoria that included a wealth of searun cutthroat patterns. Publication of Steve Raymonds “The Estuary Flyfisher” in 1996 lifted the sport and the science even higher with the first detailed analysis of the estuary food chain and how cutthroat thrive in it.

And through it all, coastal cutthroat flourish without the benefit of hatchery programs that dominate other trout fisheries. Sure, there are hatchery programs on some rivers, such as the Cowlitz in Southwest Washington, but those programs are few and isolated to inland waters. The true coastal cutthroat populations that swim to Puget Sound and the Pacific estuaries are virtually untouched by hatchery genetics. Coastal cutthroat are healthy survivors, masters of their universe, nimble predators and a worthy quarry for any fly fisher and now is the time. See you on the water.



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

Busy Year Ahead

By Steve Jones



For members of FFI in Washington, 2024 will be a busy year. The Washington State Council will be leading or participating in three events in different parts of the state between spring and fall in an effort to reach as many FFI members as possible and recruit new members.

FFI will lead events in Seattle and Vancouver and participate in a Bellevue show in an effort to take FFI's message on the road to as many people as possible. Since the Covid pandemic fly fishing has enjoyed a surge of popularity in Washington and nationwide. Fly fishing was a logical pursuit during pandemic because social distancing is built into the sport. And it continues to appeal to people because of its simplicity and the artful in-water casting that connects the angler with fish, and nature. With its focus on teaching skills and techniques now is the time for FFI to grow with the sport.

Our 2024 outreach will kickoff in February at The Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue where the Washington State Council will host the "Learning Center" at the show where participants can learn fly tying techniques, knots, casting skills and more. The **Feb. 17-18** event at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue is one of seven Fly Fishing Shows nationwide next year. Fly Fishers International struck a deal with the show promoters to host the Learning Center at each of the shows. In return, FFI is receiving booth space and front-page billing in online promotional materials across the country. Bellevue, WA | The Fly Fishing Show That means FFI councils in Massachusetts, Colorado, New Jersey, Georgia, California and Pennsylvania are pitching in just like the Washington Council to put FFI's best foot forward at the shows.

Then on **May 4**, the Washington State Council will host its third Fly Casting Fair at Ballinger Park in the Mountlake Terrace neighborhood of Seattle. Like past year's fair, the May event will feature a rotating series of the best fly tiers in the Northwest, introductory fly tying classes and a full day of casting classes for beginners and advanced fishers.

Finally, in **September** the Washington State Council will host a Fly Casting Fair in Vancouver to reach the large fly fishing community –and many FFI members—in Southwest Washington. The one-day event will be similar to events at Ballinger Park and include both tying and casting instruction. The exact date and location of that event will be announced in our winter newsletter.

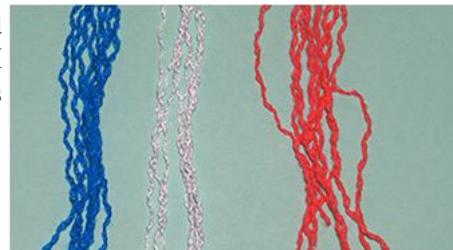
FFI is in a good position to become a friend and guide to all the new people coming to our sport. We've got the knowledge, the skilled instructors and with these events we are taking a helpful approach that can win friends. On top of that, we have the benefit of the fact that trout and salmon live in beautiful places. For newcomers seeking a bond with the outdoors fly fishing is attractive. FFI has the know how to turn that curiosity into a solid connection.

Lower-cost Fly Tying Alternatives EP type Fibers

By Sam Matalone

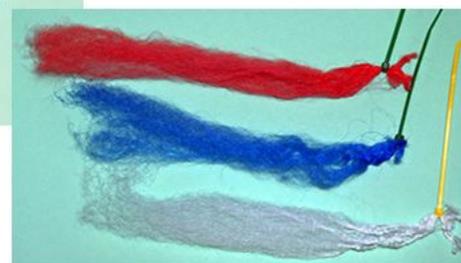


In this article we will be talking about how to create a low cost alternative to EP type fibers, named for - Enrico Puglisi, an innovative enthusiast who has had a huge impact on fly tying. The process is very simple. It does not require very few tools but the right type material is very important. The material which we will be using is called "Bonnie Cord" and can be found at most fabric stores. The material comes in an array of colors. I often find I cannot get the exact color I want, but that is not a problem. This material readily accepts color and it is very simple to dye.

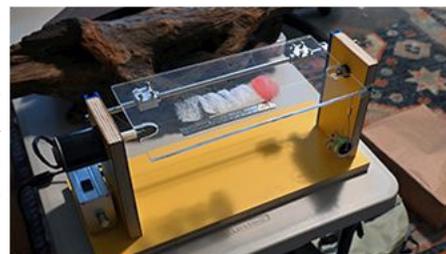


The first step is to unravel the Bonnie into individual strands.

Using a finer tooth pet brush, gently stroke/comb the fibers of the Bonnie Cord; continue brushing the fibers until they are separated. I find using 6-8 inch of cord works extremely well. When completed, I use a tie wrap to keep the fibers bundled together.



If you have access to a Dubbing Brush machine, the cost of generating a dubbing brush is less than 10 cents per brush (neglecting the cost of the dubbing brush machine, which ranges \$60 - \$100). However, I routinely loan out my machine and I estimate the overall cost of a brush off of my machine is approaching 25 cents per brush, considerably less than the branded EP fiber.



Here are a couple of flies I tied with dubbing brushes and EP type fibers.

This fly was tied with two dubbing brushes, one white and one reddish in color. Then I simply made a couple turns with a red hackle. It is a very simple fly to tie and it will catch fish.



Below is a url on youtube that demonstrates how to tie a bait pattern using a dubbing brush.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PtCou5cR5RQ>

The second fly was tied using two colors EP type fibers (white and a green) and a few strands of micro flash material. I used an alcohol based pen to couple the fly and to enhance the color. By tying with an all white EP type fiber you can change the color of your fly top to your liking.



Below is a url on youtube that demonstrates how to tie a bait pattern using a EP type fibers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DRksd7ItFKI>

Continued on page 5

Fly Tying Tips and Other Assorted Pearls of Wisdom

By Sam Matalone

“It is cheaper to tie your own flies! The easiest person to lie to is yourself”



This was an article I wrote in 2011 for the FFI magazine. Included is a link to the original video on using a simple method to paint poppers that inspired me. Since then, I have used this technique to enhance feathers, to alter the color of bait fish patterns, and to get a more realistic color match to nymphs and dry flies. This article is as an extension of the possibilities when using EP material. Additionally, since 2011 there are now numerous articles/youtube videos on painting, enhancing flies and feathers using many different coloring methods.

Unabridged version

As with any hobbies that can be all consuming, fly tiers are always trying to adapt or improve the flies we tie. We steal shamelessly from each other and then pass along what we have learned. This article is no different.

Recently, I was demonstrating how to carve balsa wood poppers at the Washington State FFF Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, WA. I thought this would be something unique and would draw some attention. To my surprise, in steelhead and salmon country, there was limited interest in learning to carve a popper.

However, there was a lot of interest in the method I used to paint poppers for the show. Basically, I was painting with an airbrush that uses felt tip markers. I saw this demonstrated three years ago on a YouTube video by Curtis Fry.

Since then, I have used a number of different types of markers to paint poppers, touch up/enhance salt water flies, nymphs, dry flies and color feathers when I could not find the material I needed locally.

I use a Copic Air Brush System. It is extremely flexible, requires basically no cleanup and it is a rapid color change system. It only takes about 10 seconds to change colors. Finally, it is fast drying. Too good to be true? Well, you just need to see one work. Curtis Fry's video is still on YouTube! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ba7zcbFkxvE>)

The setup and use of a Copic or any other “marker type” Air Brush System is beyond the scope of this article, due to limited space. But, let's just say you connect the airbrush to an air source, put a marker in the holder and spray. To change the color, just change the marker. It truly is that easy. The potential uses of these types of systems are only limited by the creativity of the user.

Below, I will show you some of the potential uses. But, before we talk about the uses there are a couple of things to consider before using a “marker type” Air Brush system. The absolute critical factor is what type of “marker” you are going to use. I basically use only permanent markers. On occasions when I know I will be applying an epoxy type finish or other “non” water based finish, I will use the water-soluble markers which tend to blend a little better.

Another point to consider is where you will get your air pressure. When I am at the different fly tying fairs, I will use a can of compressed air. This can get to very expensive and the pressure varies as you use the can of air. (Expanding gas acts as an AC unit and lowers the temperature of the can of compressed air in turn lowering the pressure.) Typically at home I use an air compressor with a regulator. Each air compressor is slightly different and you will have test it out to determine what is the best operation pressure. (I use between 20 and 60 psi.)

Now let's get to the fun part! You can use the system to paint poppers whether they are a smooth or a rough surface; you can use it to apply the final touches on the head of a larger streamer or salt water fly; you can even use to dye some feathers that special color you can't find; and last, but not least, you can use it to put selective barring/mottling on your flies. The key to all of these uses is a little practice.

Let's talk about painting poppers. In a few minutes, you can spray your popper with several different colors in a pattern that is appealing to you and it will look great. You can improve the appearance of you popper by using stencils to add a pattern. (See pictures below) Create your stencil, place it where you want a pattern, then just spray. That is all there is to it. Now you can use a hole punch to make ‘eyes’. Dip the hole punch into your paint. Then lightly touch the punch to the popper to transfer the paint. Let it dry. More time drying is always better. The final step is to brush on a hard finish. I use from one to three coats.

On numerous occasions, I have used the “marker type” Air Brush system to color feathers. It is best to use permanent ink if you plan to fish with the fly. If the fly is going to be mounted, you could use water-soluble markers; but, I don't recommend it.

I mainly use this technique to dye feathers for tying Atlantic Salmon flies. The trick here is to spray the feathers lightly and let it completely dry and repeat the process until you get the desired color. It is best to start with white feathers, but you can use any colored feather. With a colored feather, the best you can do is to make it slightly darker or create a pattern on feather.

I will conclude this article with a series of pictures that shows you a few of the things you can do with a “marker type” Air Brush system. The limits of what you the system are only limited by your creativity.

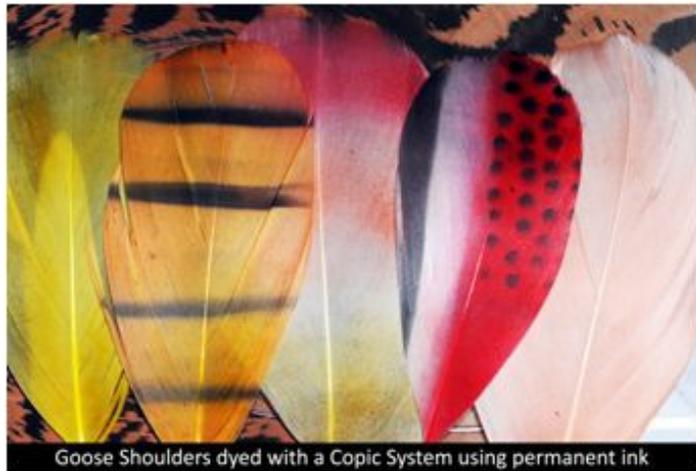
Continued on page 6 →



Commerically bought bodies base coat painted with a Copic System



Deciever Type streamers, before and after.



Goose Shoulders dyed with a Copic System using permanent ink



Mallard Shoulder dyed with a Copic System using permanent ink

Make your Own Balsa Wood Popper

by Leroy Cook
Sam Matalone

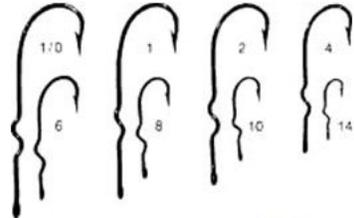


I was tying some flies for a trip to the Clearwater in September when a friend sent me an image of a small skater. After looking at the image of the fly, I was having a hard time understanding how he got the fly to have such a smooth and distinctive body. At first, I thought it was deer hair coated with a UV resin. After closer inspection, I figured out the body was a made out of some type of cork, wood or corkie float, etc. So, I decided to try to make a few. Hence, the inspiration for writing this article. I am not so sure I will ever use it on Steelhead, but it has given me some ideas for Silvers in the ocean.

Lets Talk Hooks:

First and foremost, you can use any hook to tie a popper. But, there are many popper type hooks you can buy. It is just a matter of your own preference. Here are just a few. However, the most critical aspect of a "popper" type hooks is that once it is glued to the hook, it does not rotate.

If you are unable to get popper hooks, you can use any hook and by laying down a solid thread foundation and using either super glue or epoxy to seal the hook inside the popper.



Mustad 33903 Ringed, bronzed, special kink in an extra long shank popper hook.



Waspsi Popper Hook

The start to creating your popper is to determine the style. Below are just a few different styles to consider; but you are only limited by your imagination.

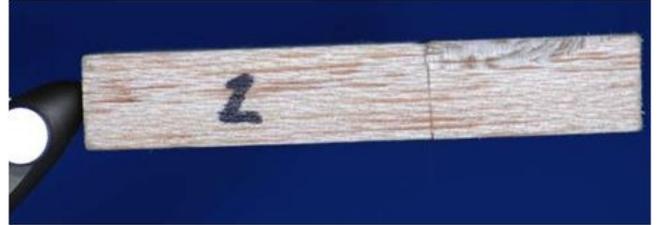


Carving a balsa wood popper.

Determine the size you want your popper to be. Bigger is better..... Bigger Fish! The balsa wood shown above is a 3 1/2 inch piece of 3/4 x 3/4 inch strip which easily be found online or at most craft stores. The number on the popper denotes the step. I have drawn a line on the balsa wood to define the length of the popper.



The second step is to shape the popper. Using an X-acto knife or any other sharp knife, make small cuts at the back of the popper. When you are learning how to carve, go with just small cuts. When carving try to maintain a flat bottom. (That is, only carve on 3 sides of your popper). It can be helpful to actually sketch out the final design on the balsa wood.



I have omitted one picture from the sequence because, it did not really add any value. You continue removing excess balsa wood and your popper begins to take shape. Go slowly.



Slowly make the final adjustments to your creation by making smaller cuts and trying to make sure you have symmetry left side vs right side of your popper. The final few cuts are the most critical, if you make a mistake here, it may be hard to recover.



You are almost done. Using a small file, an emery board or 600 grit sandpaper, begin to smooth out the all the irregularities and imperfections. Continue to sand until it is extremely smooth. Once completed you are now ready to mount the popper on a hook. This is relatively easy. On the flat surface of the popper (i.e. the bottom) using a straight edge and a X-acto knife, or any other cutting instrument you prefer, cut a small slit on the bottom of the popper. (try and get it as close to the center of the back of the popper and the front of the popper. (The more centered it is the easier it is to control the popper on the water) The slit does not have to be any deeper than the depth of the "kink" of your popper hook. Work the hook into the slit and using a good glue/epoxy attach your popper to the hook. Once dried, using a wood filler, epoxy or any other sealer coat the popper and again let it dry. Once it is dried re-sand the popper and you are ready to paint it.



Below is a youtube url which starts with a piece of balsa wood and goes through the entire process to a finished popper. It is a great video to understand the basics of making balsa wood poppers.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FEDZnc6x0bw>

How to enhance your enjoyment in fly fishing by casting better.

By Don Simonson



The FFI established the Certified Instructor Casting Program. (CICP), in 1992. Since then, we have contributed over 1000 certified qualified casting instructors to the fly fishing community. FFI has also established a casting education program with several different options.

The CICP is now in the process of expanding its scope to include under its umbrella the Casting Skills Development Program, (CSDP).

Through the FFI learning center we will provide the CSDP. This is a fun casting event allowing one to improve their casting skills. FFI also conducts periodic regional fly fishing expos/clinics which allow certified instructors to conduct workshops at all levels of casting expertise from beginning to advanced.

We at the Washington State Council FFI are here to assist you if you are interested in conducting a casting outing at your fly club, casting group, or individual event. Whether it is a CSDP or an instruction workshop we can provide the Certified Casting Instructors and the necessary equipment to help you present it.

Please contact us with questions or comments.

Don Simonson
MCI, CBOGE, L2 examiner
WSCFFI Director at Large

Fly Casting Tip

FALSE CASTING

WHAT IS FALSE CASTING?

False casting is the classic back and forth fly casting motion everyone has seen. It is necessary to false cast when fly fishing because we're casting a long, weighted line instead of a simple weight, bait or lure as used in spin or bait casting. False casting allows us to change cast distance, change direction, and dry a wet fly.

Learning how to false cast is an important step in the process of learning to cast so you can go fishing. The skills needed for false casting depend on a good understanding of the Fundamentals of a Cast and knowing the Pick Up and Lay Down (PULD) cast. Make sure you have mastered those two segments before you start false casting.

HOW TO FALSE CAST

Any false cast starts by picking the line up from the water or grass. You learned how to do that in the Pick Up/Lay Down segment.

Start with about 30 ft. of line laying out straight in front of you and the rod tip low, no more than 1 ft. from the ground, and pointing

at the line. Now at medium speed, raise the rod tip to about 10:30. At medium speed, this "lift" will take about 1 second. Done properly, the lift will drag the line across the ground or water, but not lift it from the ground or water. When the rod reaches the 10:30 position, quickly accelerate the rod to 1:30 and stop it there.

When you "stop" the rod at 1:30, the rod tip will decelerate and the fly line will overtake it forming a loop. As you learned in the Pick Up/Lay Down segment, wait for the loop to nearly straighten (fly line straight, leader still in a loop, see diagram below) then

smoothly accelerate the rod forward, back to 10:30, and stop. At this point in a PULD cast, you would lower the rod to the ground

or water and "lay down", or deliver the line and fly. When false casting, you don't deliver the fly at this point, instead you make another backcast. This process is repeated until the desired goal (change of direction or distance or fly drying) is accomplished and the line is delivered as in the PULD cast.



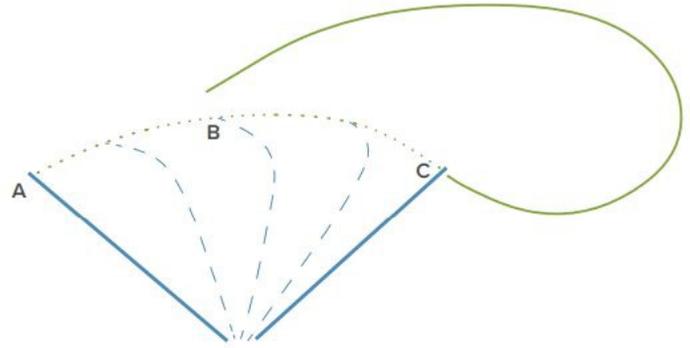
ADJUSTMENTS

The suggested casting arc of 10:30 to 1:30 is a good place to start, but won't always result in the loop you want, depending on how much line you are casting, and how hard you are casting. As you learned in the foundation cast segment, how much you bend the rod determines the casting arc. Here's how to adjust:

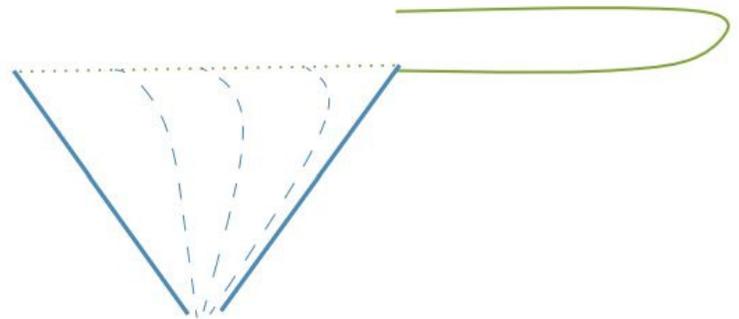
.....
Rod Tip Path

—————
Loop

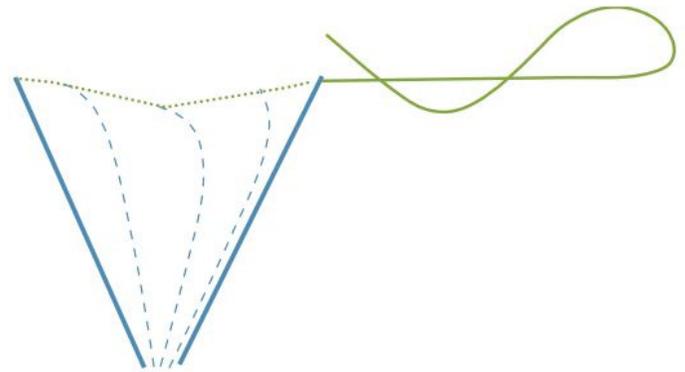
Look at the top leg of your loop. If it is not relatively straight, you need to adjust your casting arc. If the top leg is a big upward curve, your casting arc is too wide, as seen below. Note that the rod tip at positions A and C is much lower than at position B and that the rod tip path is an upward curve.



By narrowing your casting arc, you raise the rod tip at either end of the casting stroke, which allows the rod tip path, and loop top leg, to be much straighter, as seen below.



If the top leg of your loop dips down toward the bottom leg, that indicates that your casting arc is probably too narrow, as seen below. You can see that the rod tip is higher at each end of the casting stroke than in the middle, resulting in a dipping tip path. Widening the casting arc slightly will cure this problem.



At this point, you should have a good understanding of what a good foundation cast is, how to do a simple Pick Up/Lay Down cast, and how to false cast and deliver the line. That knowledge and skill is really all you need to go fishing!

Author: Bruce Richards | Casting Board of Governors – Emeritus | Master Certified Casting Instructor

FFI's Women Connect

FFIWC: A Summer of Celebrating Women Anglers

By Marion Hiller



Women anglers across the United States celebrated a summer of angling and educational opportunities, virtual and local, organized by FFI Women Connect, highlighting the contributions women are making within the fly fishing community and providing opportunities for women who share common goals and interests opportunities to connect with each other.

To kick off the celebration a Flyfishing Photography Contest was held throughout the summer. All who entered a photo won a zoom photography training session donated and lead by the well known photographer Brian O'Keefe.

Several zoom meetings featured women influencers. Kastine Coleman of Tight Loops, Tight Lines kicked off the month's celebration. Kastine is an internationally certified casting instructor, Canadian ambassador for FFI, and owner of Tight Loops, Tight Lines-a guided trip company, casting school and producer of her televising show,

Co-presenters Kaitlin Barnhart, the co-founder and National Director of the Mayfly Project and lead mentor, Jane Miller of Los Angeles shared the The Mayfly Project, a national organization Mentoring Children in Foster Care with Fly Fishing,

John Bartlett, presented tips and tactics on fishing for for carp on the fly. John is along the top anglers in the world when it comes to catching trophy carp on the fly.

Conservation minded Hannah Leonard presented What Happens Down Stream. Hannah is the Program Director of Sporting Lead Free, a non-political, educational initiative working to reduce inadvertent lead consumption by wildlife and people through the voluntary choice of lead-free ammunition and tackle.

A variety of summer angling opportunities were hosted by FFI Women Connect Council Liaisons across the nation hosted in local waters connecting women anglers through common shared experiences.

- Washington council and Palouse Women On the Fly (WOTF) hosted a multiple camping and fly fishing trip on the Lochas River in Idaho.
- Oregon council hosted a Women Connect 3-Day float down the famous Deschutes River canyon and a multiple day Campout on the Metolius River.
- California's Southwest Council in Pasadena hosted an all day Casting & FlyFishing 101 educational event.
- Ohio council hosted a FFI Casting Skills Workshop, and four different After Work Outings on various rivers throughout the state.
- Southeastern Council & Lady Anglers of the Southeast hosted a Women Fly Fishing Challenge held April through June.
- Pennsylvania Women Connect hosted Women's Intermediate Fly Fishing Class.

Learn more about Fly Fisher International Women Connect at FFI Women Connect. Get up-to-date information on what's happening-event postings, activities and more Follow on Facebook, and check out our photos Follow on Instagram. Become a member of the group and all the benefits of being a member of FFI Join Fly Fishers International.

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

Follow on Instagram / Check out our photos.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Casting a Fly Toward Careers in Fisheries
&
Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

For over 20 years, the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly-Fishing Academy (academy) has been teaching not only the ins and outs of fly fishing to teenage youth, but also the importance of conservation science and stewardship. While not every graduate from the program will pursue a career in the sciences, all take with them an appreciation of nature and insights into how aquatic ecosystem functions.

All of us can look back to a time in our lives when an opportunity shaped our future. For Jakob Bengelink, biological science technician for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), his experience and the connection he made as a camper and long-time counselor at the academy opened the door to a career in fisheries.

The academy's overarching purpose might be all things fly fishing, but it also has a much wider purpose, evidenced by its mission statement: "Our mission is to inform, equip, and inspire a new generation of conservation-minded fly fishers." It's those efforts that continue to make a difference in the lives of campers and even help open the door for careers.

"The academy instantly impacted me as a camper, giving me better fly-fishing skills, and I enjoyed all the individuals at camp, from the directors to the counselors to the fellow campers," said Bengelink. "As a counselor, I kept coming back to give back and try to effect positive change in the young campers as I had a better grasp of fly fishing and conservation principles as I grew older."

The academy teaches the intricacies of fly fishing with topics such as fly tying and casting, combining them with lessons on fish biology, entomology, fisheries conservation, invasive species, and more. Campers are introduced to real-world topics in science by professionals such as Dan Spencer, information and education specialist and angling programming director for the Service's Western Washington Fish and Wildlife Conservation Office.

"Supporting partner programming such as this academy is a labor of love. It combines my passions for fishing and conservation and allows me to pay it forward for all the inspiration, support, and mentoring I received in my youth," said Spencer.

Thanks to the connection made with Spencer, Bengelink's path gained some clarity at the academy. Spencer encouraged him to apply to become an American Conservation Experience (ACE) internship at Quinalt National Fish Hatchery. This opportunity led Bengelink to gain valuable fish hatchery and aquatic field experience that opened the door to his current role for the Service as biological science technician.

Now a fisheries professional, Bengelink's path has come full circle with a trip back to the academy. This time, he is representing the Service to teach the next generation of campers some of the everyday techniques used to better understand fish populations.

"It was great to explain cutting-edge aquatic tracking methods we use every day to youth who are just starting to build their interest in fish. The direct applications I presented connect fish with science and conservation," said Bengelink.

John Gravendyk, the director of the academy, had the opportunity to meet Jakob and learn about his journey from the academy to the Service.

"It was a pleasure talking with Jakob about his matriculation from academy camper to counselor to a career with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Providing an overview of the Service is a valuable part of our program and another differentiator between our program and others," said Gravendyk.

Among the many projects that Bengelink is a part of with the Service, one of the most important is the work currently being done on the Elwha River to answer the questions of how dam removals affect salmon and steelhead. His efforts in helping to both tag and track fish while also serving as a teacher of fisheries techniques to interns have had a great effect on the project and all those involved.

"When we take time to teach youth and our interns, I know we are having an impact, but it's especially rewarding when we both influence and follow the development of the next generation of conservation advocates and professionals such as Jakob. It's the icing on the cake that Jakob is now working for our office and making meaningful contributions to our conservation mission," said Spencer.



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

FFI Conservation



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

Conserving Resources for All Fish, All Waters

Conservation Grants Program Helps Local Communities

Apply for a Grant

Applications are Accepted Year Round

Conservation is one of the founding principles of the Fly Fishers International. Contributing over 50 years of conservation work, FFI is proud to continue protecting our fisheries and angling opportunities for the future. While FFI focuses on providing grants to its clubs and councils, grants from outside organizations will be considered as well.

Requirements of Grant Applicants & Guidelines of the Program

- ◇ Describe and quantify the problem and need
- ◇ Describe and quantify the anticipated solutions
- ◇ Describe and quantify the anticipated benefits
- ◇ Detailed budget information
- ◇ Names of other organizations/agencies providing funding and amount they are providing.
- ◇ Maximum award will be \$3,000
- ◇ Club or organization must receive the endorsement of the Council prior to submitting an application

Forms

Grant Proposal Guidelines (PDF) (Go to the FFI website)

Grant Application Form (fillable PDF) (Go to the FFI website)

Please note: You must **DOWNLOAD** the form in order to use the "fillable" form fields. The fields will not respond if you do not download it and save it to your computer. The download icon (paper with down arrow on top) is normally in the upper right corner of the page just below the URL address bar.

Over the past 12 years, the FFI has given grants to over 25 projects in the great Northwest. This includes the following councils: Washington State; Oregon; and Western Rocky Mountain Council (Montana and Idaho).

Please send your inquiries to our Conservation Coordinator.

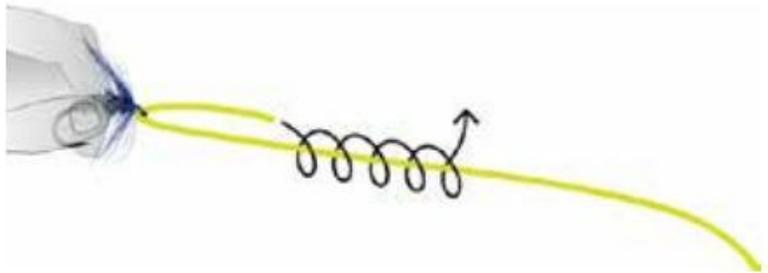
E-mail: conservation@flyfishersinternational.org

Phone: 406.222.9369 ext 101

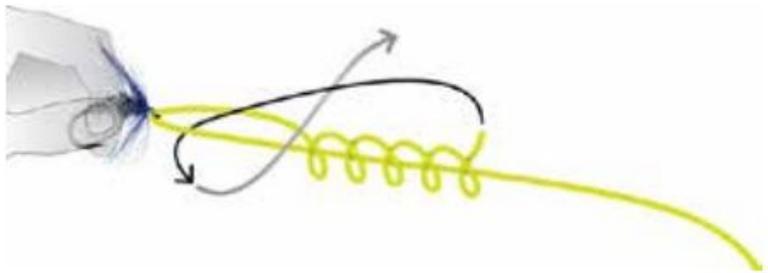
IMPROVED CLINCH KNOT

The Improved Clinch is a time-tested and very popular choice for tying a monofilament line to a fly. It is reliable and easy to tie. It can be difficult to tie in lines testing greater than 25 pounds breaking strength. It is not recommended for braided line.

1. Pass tag end of line through eye of hook. Place standing line parallel to tag end, then wrap tag end 5 or more turns around standing line.



2. Bring the tag end of the line back through the first loop formed behind the eye. If you pull the tag end tight (close the knot) at this point, you have tied the Clinch Knot. However, if you do not close the knot, but instead pass the tag through the big loop as illustrated below, wet the knot, then pull the tag end tight and close the knot, you just tied the Improved Clinch Knot. Seat the knot by pulling on the standing line, and by pulling the tag end.



3. Pull standing line to close knot and cut the tag end close.



International News

Jorge Trucco is our International Ambassador in Argentina. He founded Patagonia Outfitters in 1978. (At the time there were virtually no guides, no lodges and nobody floated the rivers of Patagonia). In 1979, Jorge joined Fly Fishers International. Jorge has guided or fished with: Jorge Donovan, Bebe Anchorena, Charles Radziwill, Earl Worsham, Don Williams, Mel Krieger, Phil Miravalle, Art Lee, Leigh Perkins, Dave Perkins, Lefty Kreh, Trey Combs, Ernie Schwiebert, Billy Pate, Robert Duvall, Michael Keaton, Liam Neeson, Wilford Brimley, Greg Lemond, Wally Shirah, Paul Volcker, Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter. Barry and Cathy Beck, R. Valentine Atkinson, among many others.

Intro by Kuni Masuda

Alta, the Mystic River

By Jorge Trucco

We anglers know that all rivers have their own traits, stories, legends: their own mystic. Throughout my life I've fished many of them and sometimes felt I was fishing with ghosts. The Trafal, which Ernie Schwiebert called 'The River of Spirits' in his book 'Remembrance of Rivers Past', the Boca of the Chimehuin, the Malleo and have written and told stories about them all.

Nevertheless, one outshines them all: the River Alta in Northern Norway. There are many reasons why I believe the Alta is the most mystic and intriguing river I've ever fished. Firstly, it holds the largest Atlantic salmon on the planet; not easy to beat! Although its remoteness makes it hard to reach and access is difficult since most of it is private, it's without a shadow of doubt an unforgettable experience. Mystery shrouds its overwhelming landscape, its striking rock formations, birch forests, aggressive rapids, deep pools and above all its fish.

Alta in June, July or August means being in the land of the midnight sun. It never sets so fishing is from 08pm to 4am with a midnight lunch break, making it all the more mystifying. The Alta is a river of mystery and imagination, magic and surprise, sacrifice and reward. It's definitely a river of memories. The spirits are there, with you, in every bend and pool. When you fish the Alta the feeling that something extraordinary is about to happen is always present, and it often does.

Everything is special, including the boats which are like very long wooden canoes worked by two guides. The one at the bow rows and helps as does the one at the stern, except when anglers aren't fishing and he runs the engine. Fishermen usually share the rod and fish one at a time, taking turns on each beat or each fish landed.

The upper stretches of the Alta run through one of the deepest canyons in Europe: The Sautso Canyon. It stretches all the way from the Gabo Rapids to Toppen, the top, where the river disappears into a large cavern and the fish go no farther. In this 8-to-10-kilometer stretch there is a 'camp' called the Sautso Camp. Despite being a lodge, the locals still call them camps as they were known 100 years ago. There are some legendary pools at Sautso: Gabo, Valliniva, Nielo, Harestrommen, Tormenen, Svartfossen, Bolvero, Toppen among others.

Downstream from Sautso, below the mighty Gabo Rapids, there is a stretch called Sandia where Sandia Camp, overlooking the Mikkeli Pool, is located. This stretch comprises the most famous and beautiful pool in the Alta: Steinfossen. Another nearby magical pool is Sandiagoski, one of the most productive. And Stengelsen, the lower camp, whose stretch comprises fantastic pools like Granstrommen, Upper Stengelsen, Richardholla, Upper and Lower Sorriniva and Upper and Lower Detsika.

As hard as it is to get on the Alta, I've been lucky to fish it three times and all three camps. My first trip was in July 2008 when I fished the Sautso Stretch. The second and third trips were in June 2009 and 2022 fishing both the Sandia and the Stengelsen stretches. So, by now I know the entire river pretty well.

I distinctly remember that prior to my first trip all I wanted was to be on the Alta waters and catch a fish though I knew that salmon fishing depends on whether the fish are already in the river or not. Sometimes there are just no fish in the river and it's something you have to deal with.

Despite the high-water level that season, my wish was soon granted. I shared the rod with my good friend the late Bjornar Hermansen. He fished at Nielo and then it was my turn at the famous Valliniva, whose name or fame I was unaware of at the time. It didn't take long; I soon had a take and came up tight. Long story short, I spent a good 40 minutes playing the fish and ended up landing a 32-pound salmon. What a start! The pressure was off: I'd caught a real 30+ pound genuine Alta salmon! The rest of the week went by and I realized how difficult it is to catch a salmon on the Alta. Anyway, I caught several and left longing to return.

On my second trip I had the privilege of sharing the rod with Mollie Fitzgerald who, a year before, had caught an incredible 54-pound salmon. It was a great trip; I caught fish every day including a 36-pound salmon at Sandiagoski and some 32- and 33-pounders at Upper and Lower Detsika. Mollie did very well too, landing some large fish, especially at Sandiagoski.

Continued on Page 17 

My third trip to Alta was thanks to Andy Majerus' generous six-day invitation to share a rod. I was extremely excited! Andy is a keen, expert, sophisticated fisherman as well as an interesting, intelligent individual whose company is delightful. I'd met Andy on my previous trip in 2009 and he's come to the Limay and Chimehuin Rivers in Patagonia in recent years.

My tackle was very much like it'd been in 2009: two 15' 11-weight 6-piece stiff Thomas & Thomas Spey rods and the same reels: Abel Super 12 W, Tibor Spey 11-15 and Waterworks-Lamson Ultra-Light-Arbor; and the same Spey lines plus an unused traditional Spey line with interchangeable tips and also, surprisingly, an unused 750gr Skagit line that I'd totally forgotten about and almost left back home.

The first day we were assigned Steinfossen. I loaded one of my rods with the Spey line, added a Type 3 sinking tip and tied a Green Highlander 2" copper tube fly to the end of my tippet but my rig didn't work well. The line didn't match the rod and I had difficulty casting. That had never happened before with my Spey lines. It had to be a different line. Andy took my rod and tried to cast and, being a better Spey caster than I, also felt uncomfortable. I replaced the sinking tip by an intermediate tip and tied on a lighter Templedog fly that Andy gave me. Things improved and I managed to hook a very strong salmon that started taking line and backing towards the rapids. I couldn't stop him; he went into the Steinfossen Rapids and I lost him. Not a promising beginning.

Then I remembered I had the unused Skagit line that I'd never tried, so I loaded it on one of my reels and discovered how easy it was to cast. A real life-saver! I attached a 15ft intermediate tip to it, added my favorite Sunray Shadow fly that I'd tied myself and voilà...I was in business.

We spent the second day at Barila and Sandiagoski. I had high expectations of Sandiagoski as it's one of the best beats on the river and I'd caught a 36-pound salmon in 2009 after a one-hour fight. Andy started hot hooking an enormous fish that took his line and backing. After about 30 minutes the fish got off. Utterly frustrating! Then it was my turn on the lower section of Sandiagoski and on my second cast I came tight with a fish that fought like a freight train, using the current in the wavy water. If we were on one side of the river, he went to the other and if we switched, he would too. I thought I had him well hooked but after a good while he got off. When I reeled in, I found he'd bent the hook. Big disappointment! Days went by, Andy landed two fish and lost a real monster at Sorrisniva, probably in the 40-pound range. After a long fight, when we thought the fish was ready for the net, the hook broke.

I should explain that unlike the Ponoï where salmon takes are very subtle and you usually need to let them take some line before you set the hook, it hadn't been the case with Alta salmon, whose takes were straightforward, hard and strong, sometimes even violent. All I had to do was lift the rod and set the hook. Well, this time they started being subtle. Every day I had countless bites and misses but was unable to hook them properly. Somehow, they'd get off the hook every time. I could've had a fish or two every single day but it just didn't happen. Having been in unfavorable situations before I managed to stay calm but started feeling I was under a spell.

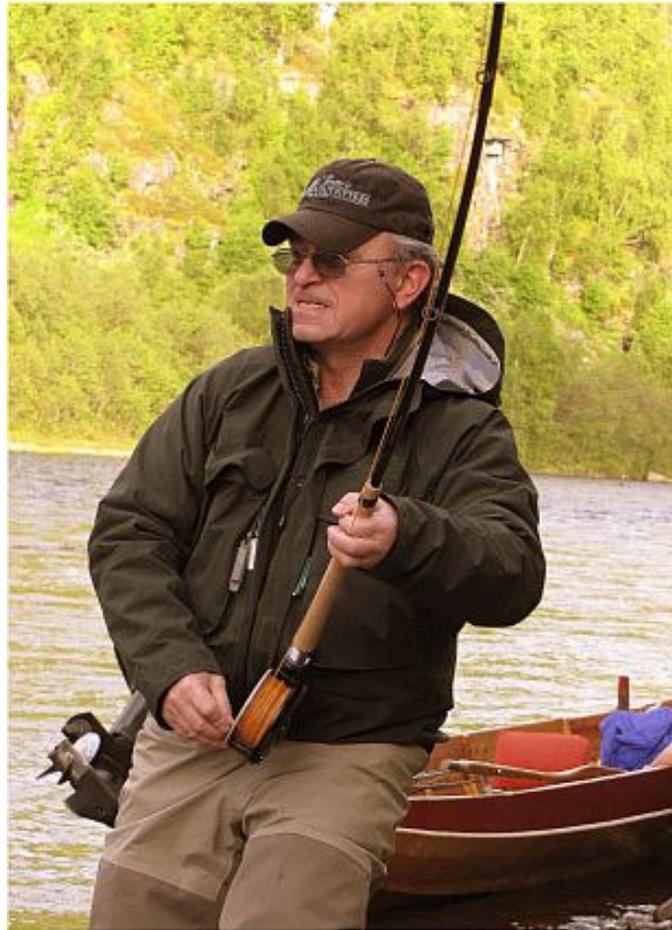
The last day arrived and master Alta guide Brynjar Olaussen looked me in the eye and said 'today is the day'. We started fishing Richardholla but nothing happened. Then it was my turn to fish Upper Stengelsen. And incredibly, I had four subtle takes in a row and missed all four. I just couldn't believe it. I was thinking I'd be leaving the Alta without landing a fish when, lower in the pool where action had slowed down, I felt a subtle take. I let the fish take the loop I had on my left hand and set the hook: there he was, solidly on. 'This time it'll work out' said Brynjar 'and this is a good fish'. The male salmon took off like a leviathan. We saw him jump about 150 yards downstream and keep going. We fought really hard to keep up with him before he spooled me. It was a good size silver fish, fresh from the ocean. The powerful salmon made three or four very long runs using the current and it took a great effort to keep him under some sort of control. Luckily, way down below the lower end of the pool the water becomes slower and the river gets wider so we chose a spot to make our stand and try to net him. It was no easy feat. After several attempts to rush off I finally managed to bring him in close and Brynjar netted him. We'd broken the spell! This fish had saved my trip on the very last day!

It was a beautiful, strong, picture-perfect male salmon, in the 30 to 35-pound range, just fresh from the sea. 'Thanks be to him, to Njord, for this time!' we said in appreciation to the gods. We also thanked the river and the salmon of course! We toasted with liquor using Andy's wooden cup. Then Brynjar smiled and said 'one is a thousand times better than nothing.' 'A million times!' I happily replied.

I've caught bigger fish on the Alta but this one will never be forgotten. No other fish has meant so much to me. I left feeling I'd accomplished my mission and was determined that sometime, somehow, I'd be back on the Mighty Alta, the River of Rivers.

Photos on next page

FFI International



Neal Hoffberg — Cedar River, WA



Steve Jones — Vail Creek, Colorado



A Little Fish Candy

Me on the Yakima River



Me on the Flathead River



James Goedhart - Marble Trout - Slovenia



Me on the Clark Fork River



Me on the Missouri River



Me on the Clark Fork River



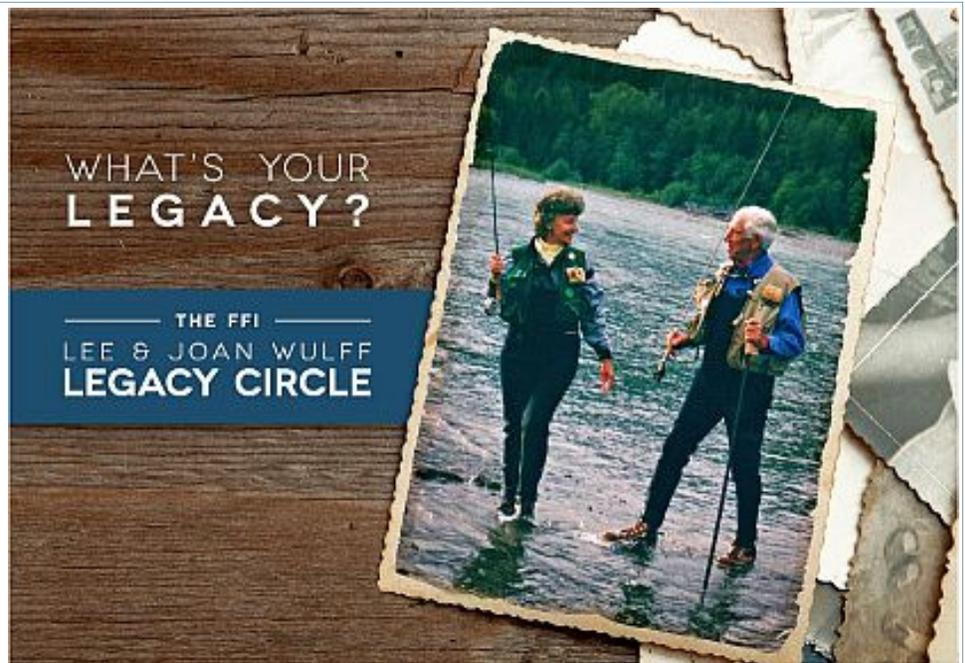


**Washington State Council
Fly Fishers International
Charter and Affiliated Clubs**



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/

Join the Legacy Circle



What is the Lee and Joan Wulff Legacy Circle?

FFI established the Lee and Joan Wulff Legacy Circle in 2019 as a way to honor the tremendous imprint Lee and Joan have left on the world of fly fishing and the contributions they have made to Fly Fishers International. Planned giving through your estate can be one of the most transformative gifts to FFI.

Why Join?

There is perhaps no more profound way to establish your legacy withing the sport of fly fishing than by naming Fly Fishers International as a beneficiary in your estate plan.

How Your Bequest Will be Used

Your gift to the Lee and Joan Wulff Legacy Circle will be used to fund the Education and Conservation programs of Fly Fishers International.

What You Need to Include

Legal Name: Fly Fishers International, Inc.

Designation: Lee and Joan Wulff Legacy Circle

Employer Identification Number (EIN): 23-7037444

Address: Fly Fishers International, 1201 US Highway 10 West, Suite E, Livingston, MT 59047

Sample Language in Estate Document

Residual Gift: "All the residue of my estate, including real and personal property, I give to the Fly Fishers International, Inc., located in Livingston, Montana."

A Percentage of the Estate: "I give _____ percent of my estate to the Fly Fishers International, Inc., located in Livingston, Montana.",

A Fixed Amount of Money or a Designated Property: "I give \$_____, (or describe the real or personal property, including legal description or exact location) to the Fly Fishers International, Inc., located in Livingston, Montana.

Please Let FFI Know

Maybe you have already included FFI in your estate plans or you are going to do that now. Please let us know. We would like to honor your legacy and acknowledge your generosity that directly impacts the future of fly fishing.

Need More Information?

Please contact Patrick Berry, the President and CEO of Fly Fishers International at pberry@flyfishersinternational.org.

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

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 card envelope for payment options.
PHOTOS COURTESY OF: Ed Gephart, 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

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 application on the next page



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN THE FFI



**ALL FISH,
ALL WATERS™**



406.222.9369

membership@flyfishersinternational.org
flyfishersinternational.org

Mail to: Fly Fishers International
 1201 US Hwy 10 West
 Suite E
 Livingston, MT 59047



<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org>
 406-222-9369

Please fill out this form carefully and legibly, the form will be the basis from which your FFI Membership will be built.

FFI Membership Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

State/Zip _____

Phone # _____

Email _____

Club(s) Affiliation _____

Paid by: Check Cash Card Square Total Paid: \$ _____

Card # _____ Expire Date: ____/____/____



FLY FISHERS
 INTERNATIONAL

Membership Levels

Each FFI Membership level includes full access to the FFI Learning Center, Online access to both spring and fall issues of the Flyfisher Magazine, and discounts and benefits from a huge variety of FFI partners.

*First time joining the FFI? Mark this box *Renewing your FFI Membership? Mark this box

Standard - \$35 / Yr <input type="checkbox"/>	Advocate - \$75 / Yr <input type="checkbox"/>	Steward - \$125 / Yr <input type="checkbox"/>	Sustainer - \$250 / Yr <input type="checkbox"/>
Includes full access to FFI Learning Center, Online	*Includes all Benefits of Standard Membership!*	*Includes all Benefits of Standard Membership!*	*Includes all Benefits of Standard Membership!*
Access to Fly Fisher Magazine Discounts and Benefits from FFI's Partners	Choice of FFI Hat, or 1 year subscription to Flyfisher Magazine Hat <input type="checkbox"/> Subscription <input type="checkbox"/>	Also Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFI Hat • Magazine Subscription • 1-year Subscription to OnWater App 	Also Includes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Airflo Fly Line • FFI Hat • Magazine Subscription

I am 65 or Older I am a Veteran Youth Membership Age 22 or younger
 (\$10 Discount per year for either) (\$15 Discount per year) \$ _____

Specialty Groups: Fly Tying Group \$20/yr Guides & Outfitters Association \$30/yr Women Connect \$ _____
 (1 year Complementary)

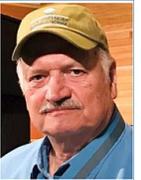
Printed Flyfisher Magazine: \$15/yr USA \$25/yr International \$ _____

Choose the number of years you wish to purchase: 1 - year 2 - year 3 - year \$ _____



Editors Notes

By Larry Gibbs



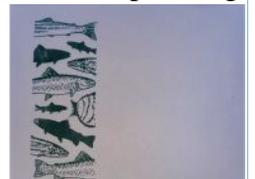
This summer sure did fly on by. But now we are in the time of falling leaves, cooler temperatures and fish hungry to bulk up for the winter.

I do like being out on the rivers of Washington, Montana and Wyoming. Western Montana is my favorite stomping grounds, or should I say casting waters. There are some rivers you can drift and virtually never see another person fishing. But then there are some that have become very crowded with multiple hundreds of people fly fishing. Those rivers I stay away from. Sure they may be the most popular and well known, but then you are competing with so many other people that it sort of takes some of the pleasure out of fishing.

When I hit the water and do a drift, I am there to relax. Just the guide and myself and nature in all her glory. During the fall, I love all the different colors that reflect off the river. The yellows, oranges and reds mixing in with the green of the evergreens. Just writing this floods my mind with hundreds of fishing trips I have taken during the fall. Seeing the deer that come down to the river to drink, an occasional black bear, foxes, eagles, and osprey. The wonders of nature all preparing for the long winter.

For a number of years now I have not been able to cast all day, my shoulder and the arthritis in my hands makes me limit my casting. The guides I have been fishing with, I have been with them for many years now. When we anchor up to fish some good looking seams in the river, or a nice looking hole, I do a couple of casts then I pass the fly rod to my guide and tell him to do some fishing. I get a kick out of watching the guides catching fish. The vast majority of the time when they are guiding, they never get to fish. They don't want to offend the client and I can't blame them. But for me, I don't mind it at all and when they hook up a fish, I man the net if it is necessary and unhook the fish to be released.

If you look at page 19, the Fish Candy page, you will see some photos of me. Some of them are when I was fishing the late fall and early winter on rivers like the Yakima, the Clark Fork and the Missouri. I snuck one in there to show you the largest smallmouth bass I have ever caught, that was on the Flathead River in the spring. I love it when the guides voice goes up a few notches because he realizes that I have hooked a very nice fish. They get really excited when that happens. That female smallmouth that I caught put up a heck of a good fight. I love feeling the amount of power a smallie has, they really hit hard and fight like crazy. Obviously I landed the smallie, we took a very quick photo and got her back into the water ASAP. She was full of eggs and I can only hope she had a successful spawning season, so other smallies can become as big as her.



A DOZEN FLIES FOR NEW FFI MEMBERS!!!

For over 20 years I have been giving trout flies to people when I was working the booths at different sporting shows. If they signed up at the event, I would give them a dozen trout flies. A little while ago I got to thinking about the people who sign up on their own, either from a club meeting or on line just because they want to belong to a great organization, the FFI.

So, I am starting a fly giveaway program for all new FFI members who sign up and were not at a show I was working. I will mail you a dozen trout flies. So, if you see an envelope that looks like the one above, it is not junk mail, nor spam mail, it is a gift from the Washington State Council to you. If you can't use them, give them to someone who can.

Winter Steelhead season is right around the corner I do believe. For those out there in the freezing water and air, remember to dress properly, keep warm and dry.