



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

Covering the Drift

Volume 28 Issue 1 - January 2024

Washington State Council

Fly Fishers International



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ALL FISH, ALL WATERS

What Does The FFI Do For You?

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Invite Someone To Join The FFI

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President Steve Jones

It takes a plan to pull off a fishing trip with friends

First you've got to consider whether to go to familiar water or someplace new. Would you like a guide? Do you need a guide? Who's driving and when? Cabin or camp? If you're renting a cabin, do you cook or eat out? And once you decide, there is the next question of who cooks which nights? It gets even more complicated when you bring boats and even more complicated when you've got to organize river shuttles. It's a crazy amount of detail, yet all of us figure it out several times a year. A 2019 study by an industry group called the Recreational Boating and Fishing Association found that there are about 7 million fly fishers in the U.S. that each go on about 11 outings each year.

That's a lot of planning.

So, it stands to reason that since September the directors of the Washington State Council of FFI have been at work on a plan themselves. Of course we fish, but this plan is about going after a different trophy: you.

Directors of Washington State Council FFI joined this board because they believe there is value in an organization of fly fishers dedicated to education, conservation and community. The question for us has always been how to deliver on that mission. It's not as easy as it sounds; first of all Washington is a big state. Since September, directors have held monthly Zoom meetings when we've puzzled through these questions and we're ready to share our plan. Over the next three years we want to make this organization more engaging for you, more useful in your fishing and more meaningful in its conservation and advocacy efforts. We want to make you happy you joined and proud to tell a friend they might want to think about joining too. We want to make FFI matter, for you.

Here goes.

In the next three years FFI will host at least three casting and tying events each year.

In 2024, we will start at the Fly Fishing Show Feb. 17-18 at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue where Washington State Council FFI will have a booth and host the FFI Learning Center there to teach fly tying, knots and other basic skills. Also on Feb. 17, FFI will host a reception at 4:30 after the show and before the beginning of the Fly Fishing Film Tour at 6 p.m. Watch the FFI Website, Instagram and Facebook for a package deal that will offer you admission to the show and our reception Feb. 17. Stop by the reception to grab a snack and a beer and catch up with friends. There will be a presentation on an important campaign to designate several new Wild & Scenic Rivers on the Olympic Peninsula and drawings at the end for a new Thomas & Thomas 5wt. fly rod and other gifts. Watch your email and our Instagram and Facebook for ticket details.

On May 4, the FFI Fly Casting Fair will once again be held. The location is still being studied but it will be in the greater Puget Sound area. This year's fair will offer an expanded focus on the new FFI Skills Development Course along with classes with the distinguished roster of FFI Certified Casting Instructors and Master Certified Instructors in our state. Then in September 2024, we will take the Casting Fair on the road to Vancouver, where we will hold our first event in that part of the state. Look for details on the date and location in our spring newsletter.

Next year, we also want to introduce as many FFI members and clubs as possible to the Casting Skills Development Course. FFI is putting on a push nationwide to help members improve their cast and lead more toward seeking Certified Instructor status. The first step in the effort is to show members what the Skills Development Course is all about. FFI Director and CI Marion Hiller and Master Casting Instructor Molly Seminik are offering Skills Development now in the Bellingham area. In spring, FFI Director and CI Jim Black and Washington Director and Casting Coordinator Neal Hoffberg are going to be offering the same program in the South Puget Sound area. We're taking the Skills Development Course to your neighborhoods.

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FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

Home Water Continued:

Beyond events in 2024 we want to rekindle links with our Eastern Washington clubs with an eye toward holding an FFI event in Spokane in 2025. In 2025 we also want to create an event focused on fly tying and resume holding an annual membership meeting to conclude the directors election and present awards to members who make noteworthy contributions to our sport.

Then looking out to 2026, we want to hold a multi-day event similar to the Washington State Council FFI Expo held for more than a decade in Ellensburg, WA. Covid put the brakes on the Expo and we are looking ahead to 2026 to bring back another event that draws from every corner of the state.

That's the rough outline of the plan. FFI directors hope you will become as engaged with the mission as we are. If you've got thoughts on the goals, please write to me at president@wscffi.org

Thanks.

In closing, I want to welcome the newest members of Washington FFI at the 4th Corner Fly Fishers of Bellingham.

The club voted in November to become affiliated with Fly Fishers International. Thanks to Frank Koterba, club Treasurer, who invested the time in learning about FFI and the benefits we offer affiliated clubs. And thanks to all the members of 4th Corner who gave us the thumbs up.

For your viewing pleasure, some of the Atlantic Salmon flies that you can find on the WSCFFI website.



Jock Scott



the Captian



Green Highlander



the Captian



What Does The FFI Do For You?



Fly Fishers International (FFI) is a network of serious anglers who care about the environment and each other. They started in 1965 in Oregon and now they have clubs all over the world, including 21 in Washington and Alaska. We're serious conservationists. We helped make Catch-and-Release a household phrase and the law on many rivers. And we are not just fishing for fun, we support causes like the Northwest Youth Fly Fishing Academy, Project Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery, which help veterans and women with cancer. We also put our money where our mouth is working to save fishing access to important waters like the Grande Ronde and Yakima rivers. And FFI works to help its members and the public learn the sport with fly casting, tying and fishing instruction. FFI is the real deal, and you should join them if you love fly fishing and want to see the sport thrive.

FFI Conservation Efforts:

- ◇ Acquisition of Ebsen Access completed in 14 months, demonstrating the team effort by FFI.
- ◇ New opportunity: Acquisition campaign for Yakima Canyon Ranch access point on the Yakima River.
- ◇ Western Rivers Conservancy leading the Yakima Canyon Ranch access campaign with support from Washington FFI.
- ◇ Encouragement for others to join the acquisition campaign.

FFI Initiatives:

- ◇ Involvement in Project Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery for conservation work.
- ◇ Annual Fly Fishing Academy for teenagers in partnership with Washington Trout Unlimited.
- ◇ Education and outreach at the ongoing Fly Casting Fair in Lake Ballinger Park
- ◇ Future plans for a similar fairs in Vancouver, Spokane and elsewhere
- ◇ Plans for a new three-day Fly Fishing Expo in 2025.

What does FFI do for you and your club?

- ◇ Sustained efforts to provide fishing access to rivers and lakes.
- ◇ Protection of fly fishing opportunities for all fish in all waters.
- ◇ Educational materials for enhanced knowledge and enjoyment.
- ◇ Community support for influencing policy and land management.
- ◇ Opportunities for new friendships through fly tying, casting, and fly fishing.
- ◇ A stake in the preservation of the sport and a way to contribute to its future.

Your membership makes FFI effective

- ◇ Your \$35 annual membership sustains the national organization
- ◇ Regional councils raise their own funds separately
- ◇ Your membership helps regional councils thrive
- ◇ Information on joining FFI at WSCFFI.ORG, with membership fees of \$35 for one year or \$90 for three years.

Your membership and more than 10,000 others nationwide make it possible for FFI to offer club insurance that benefits us all

- ◇ FFI's master policy provides insurance for fly clubs covering:
 - ◇ Directors and Officers Liability
 - ◇ General Liability at club events
 - ◇ Umbrella coverage for club activities
 - ◇ Hired or non-club-owned automobile liability coverage

Those are practical benefits that protect our members and save thousands of dollars annually in insurance costs for affiliate clubs

Please join FFI today to take advantage of these benefits and help sustain them for all members of Fly Fishers International

WSCFFI Awards Nominations 2024

By Sam Matalone



Members affiliated with Washington FFI are engaged in education, conservation, and environmental stewardship statewide. Since the formation of Washington FFI in the 1960s, our members and affiliated clubs have played an invaluable role in conserving and protecting countless acres of stream and riverbank. We bring people together in the vigorous defense of ecosystems and committed efforts to share the best in fly tying, casting, and fishing skills.

Each year, the Washington State Council gives up to 7 awards for excellence in education, conservation and leadership to various members and affiliated clubs. In addition, there are numerous national level awards. Each year we go through a nomination and selection process. You and your colleagues are the engine that drives that and FFI awards are a way to say thanks and invite deeper commitment.

Awards nominations will be open from February 1st, 2024 until April 15th, 2024, with the finalists to be announced in May 2024.

To review the awards along with the criteria for each of the 7 Washington State Council Awards, go to: <https://wscffi.org/award/>

Or

Go to the home page on our the Washington State Council FFI website (wscffi.org), on the menu bar at the top of the page place your cursor over “ABOUT US”. A drop down menu will appear, click on “AWARDS”.

On the “Awards Page” you will find:

- All Washington State Council FFI Awards and criteria
- Past Council Award recipients
- National Award Recipients (WSCFFI members)
- On Line Nomination Forms for the following awards (active link starting on February 1, 2024:
- WSCFFI Fly Fisher of the Year
- Washington State Council Fly Tying Hall of Fame Award
- The Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Casting Instructors Award
- Washington Conservation Award (club or organization)
- Mackay Conservation Award (individual)
- Club Education Award
- Pat Herdt Education Award (individual)

After reviewing the awards, the next step is to nominate one of the unsung heroes in our organization. There is a link to the nomination page on the home page of our website (www.wscffi.org) active on February 1, 2024 and on the awards page.

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

In addition to this article in the newsletter, beginning Feb 1, 2024, we will be using our various social media account to keep everyone aware of the various awards, key dates and updates.

It is our desire to get the most qualified candidate for each award. Within all groups there are many unsung heroes who may not get the recognition they deserve. Please, help us to make sure every qualified award recipient is identified.

Watch our Facebook and Instagram posts for more information.

Send in those nominations!

You have until April 15th, 2024

Which will be way more entertaining than preparing your taxes!

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"



Methods to Improve Hackling Your Flies

Recently I was watching a Zoom demonstrator and at one point, when the demonstrator was tying off the hackle, he trapped a few hackle fibers which ultimately faced forward detracting for the finish fly. He referred to this and stated he would just cut them out. Then someone stated there must be a better than just cutting them out. (most of the audience were learning how to tie flies) So I decided to send the host of the Zoom meeting an article I wrote for the Washington State Council FFI Newsletter on wrapping and tying off hackles. Well, when I reread the article, I notice I have forgotten to include a few methods for tying off the hackle. So, at the bottom of this article, I have included what I thought I added with respect to tying off hackles or for that matter any feather where you do not what to trap any hackles.

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

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

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

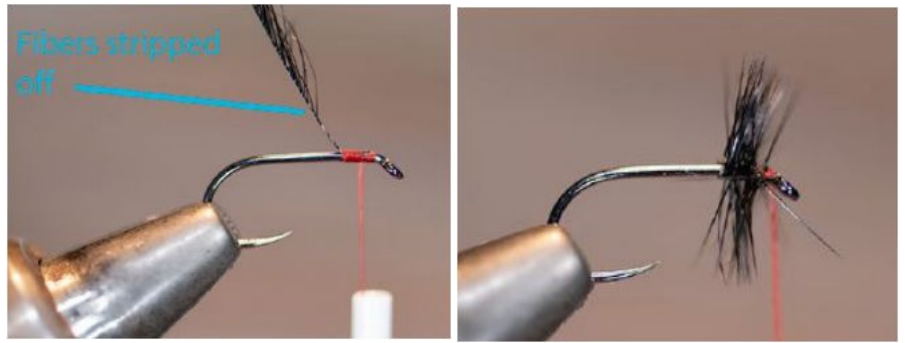


Another method for hackling flies is to strip the hackle fibers from the top edge of the hackle, (dull side facing you as described above) Make each successive wrap is in front of the previous wrap.



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



When it comes to tying off the hackles there are just a few things to remember.

- Your tying thread must be in front of your last hackle wrap
- You must have some space between your last hackle wrap and the eye of the hook.

After this it is just a matter of choosing a method you feel comfortable with. In this article I will only write about the two methods I employ. The 1st method is to work your tying thread through the hackle fibers by moving your thread back and forward until the thread is on the stem of hackle. If there are trapped fibers use a fine point needle to pull the hackle fibers from under the thread. Once no hackle fibers are trapped make a couple wraps before cutting off the stem.



Please note, on the close up photos you do not see any trap hackles. In addition this was achieved without the need of any fine point object. It was accomplished by moving the thread back and forth to avoid any hackle fibers.



The 2nd method absolutely guarantees you do not trap any hackle fiber. In this method as you are nearing the completion of the hackling process, you need to decide where you are going to tie the hackle off. This is personal preference but I personally like to tie off the hackle on the far side of fly or at the bottom. Once you decide determine how much hackle you will need to get to your tie off point, strip off a small section of the of the hackle stem to create a tie off point without any hackle fibers. (much easier to visually see this in the pictures below) Then you simply tie off the hackle on a bare stem with no hackle fibers to trap.

Please note, there are not hackle fibers trapped, the thread is in front of the hackles and there is space between the hackle and eye of the hook. This method works every single time. Though it is a little more time consuming than the previous method.



Both methods work and with a little practice you will determine what method is best for your style of tying.



Making you own/custom Dubbing Low Cost Alternative By Alex Belonga Sam Matalone

Recently I was trying to purchase a particular color of dubbing. I had the color code and not one of the local shops had the color I wanted. I finally located the material and when it arrived, the color was not a match. It was sort of close but it was much darker than my original sample. So, I had to lighten it up. Once I started the process, I decided to make a lifetime supply and do it myself.

Since it was time to write an article for the newsletter, I thought this might be an article for our low cost alternative section. What really tilted the scale when I saw an example of custom dubbing by Alex Belonga on one of the different forums I subscribe to. The stuff was awesome to say the least.

The process employed is quite simple and require very little practice to master. The tool requirements are minimal. A couple of pet hair brushes (with the thin metal pins) and/or a small inexpensive coffee bean grinder) The examples in this article utilized the following process:

- Cut up your underfur to desired length (•add your flash fibers
- Mix the fibers using your hands, small blender or a pet brush
- After Mixing cut the fibers again
- Mix the fibers once more, stop mixing when you have a uniform consistency of color and texture.

Green snowrunner underfur is being used here. (you can get literally tons of this stuff from a couple patches!) Thou snowrunner underfur was use here, one can use a host of other material such as Finn Raccoon, polar bear, Temple Dog, etc. etc.

Added a little flash material such as Angelina fibers from Etsy or starburst fibers from Fly Tyers Dungeon. Or, some of the various different flash type dubbing from a whole host of various suppliers. (personal preference will be the driving factor here). You do not need to add much. Start out adding a little at a time until you get the desired results.



Finished product



A few example of other dubbing material created using snowrunner underfur and Angelina fibers.

Hot aqua



The YouTube videos listed below will do a far superior job of explaining how to blend your dubbing material then I could possible put on paper. They also have numerous hints and suggestions which will accelerate you the learning curve.

Using a coffee grinder

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lj3Wys09Nu8>

DYI Laser Dub

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=paQSyTxRyTI&t=0s>

Hot Phatagorva



Making dubbing from acrylic wool using pet brushes <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uTytvz-9FAC>

DIY Dubbing -Fox Squirrel, Raccoon, Synthetic very good

video explaining some of the thinks to think about

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U_vp9bO0sSg

**Final Note: All the pictures in this article were taken by Alex Belonga

"LOOPS"
New Fly Casting Education Program
Coming Soon



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

In case you might have missed it, I am delighted to share the announcement of FFI's new casting education program "LOOPS." Pulling together the broad suite of FFI's casting education and instructor resources into one program, LOOPS will further elevate FFI as the leading resource for mentorship and teaching of fly casting skills. In order to ensure success of the program, a new governance model has been developed that will provide leadership and vision for both angler AND instructor education under one committee. This includes casting activities ranging from the Fly Casting Skills Development Program to FFI Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP).

As a part of this restructuring, the FFI Casting Board of Governors (CBOG) has officially been dissolved, and will now continue to oversee the CICP within the new governing body. I want to offer my heartfelt gratitude to the working group comprised of member of the newly-retired CBOG who developed this innovative new model. Their vision, hard work, and dedication to the positive transformation of FFI's status as a leader in fly casting education represents a profound leap forward for FFI's casting programs and activities. Huge thanks to Jonathan Walter, Willy George, Molly Semenik, Jeff Wagner, Rick Williams, Bruce Williams, Gail Gallo, Brian Henderson, and Jim Wigington for their vision, and to FFI Communications Director, Blake Parsons, who spearheaded branding and messaging for LOOPS.

The transition plan and program development for LOOPS will unfold throughout 2024, and we are committed to keeping you up to date. I am confident this new model will significantly enhance opportunities and support for clubs and councils in your effort to engage the members and fly fishing community in your area.

Best regards,
Patrick Berry
President and CEO

A press release announcing the launch of LOOPS was issued September 27, 2023. Here is that release.

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

FFI Launches Loops Casting Education Program

Fly Fishers International Launches LOOPS

New Casting Education Program

Fly Fishers International (FFI) is excited to announce the launch of Loops, a new fly casting education program providing instruction and engaging activities for fly fishing enthusiasts of any skill level. Supported by FFI's 1,100 certified casting instructors worldwide and a robust network of existing FFI clubs, Loops offers casting instruction for single and two-handed casting, as well as technique specific instruction for all coldwater, warmwater, and saltwater fly fishing. Loops represents the most significant leap forward in FFI's long history of providing industry-leading fly fishing education.

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FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

“For more than 30 years FFI has been at the forefront of teaching the essentials of fly casting for all fish in all waters,” said Patrick Berry, President & CEO of FFI. “As interest in fly fishing has expanded to reach new audiences, new destinations, and the ability to target almost any species of fish, Loops represents the evolution of casting education offered by FFI.”

Berry continued, “By expanding our casting education focus to nurture the distinctive fly fishing journey of each person, FFI’s new structure will provide opportunities to learn casting skills ranging from beginners to the most advanced. We look forward to sharing our knowledge and instilling a passion for fly fishing through the new Loops casting program.”

Jonathan Walter, chair of the Fly Casting Education Program, expressed his enthusiasm for FFI’s expanded casting programs: “After decades of experience providing instructor certification which will continue, it is clear there is growing demand for enhanced casting education. It has been an honor to lead the Casting Board of Governors, and now this expanded and inclusive Fly Casting Education Program. I look forward to supporting the Loops program along with FFI’s roster of certified instructors.”

The announcement of the new Loops program was made at the American Fly Fishing Trade Association’s inaugural Confluence event, with the full program launch in Spring 2024. FFI’s existing Casting Instructor Certification Program will continue to serve as the leading instructor program in the world. Positive response from the industry has been immediate and widespread.

Lucas Bissett, Executive Director, AFFTA: “Fly Fishers International’s commitment to supporting the fly fishing industry and broader community with engaging fly fishing education programs strengthens our collective ability to welcome people new to fly fishing, and offers opportunities for more experienced anglers to improve their skills.”

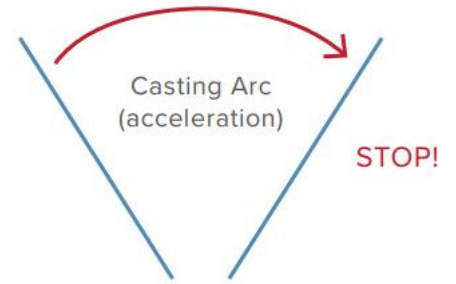
Fly Fishers International has the distinctive mission to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. FFI was formed by some of the most influential luminaries in the world of fly fishing and conservation back in 1964, and is dedicated to innovative strategies to engage, teach, and inspire the global fly fishing community.



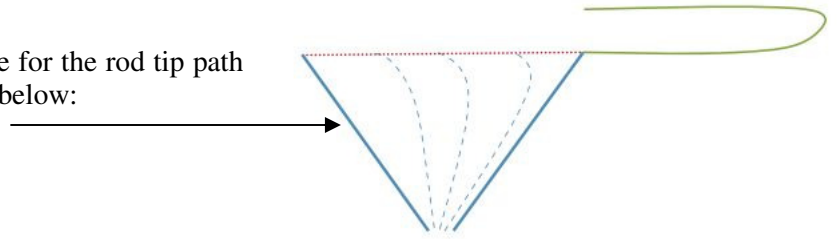
Fly Casting Tip

HOW DO WE CAST SO THE ROD TIP PATH IS STRAIGHT?

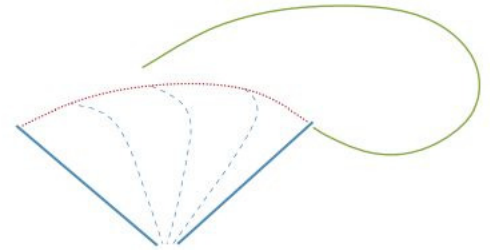
Simply, the rod tip path is determined by the “casting arc” and how the caster applies force to the fly rod. The casting arc is just the angle change of the fly rod during the cast, and it looks like this:



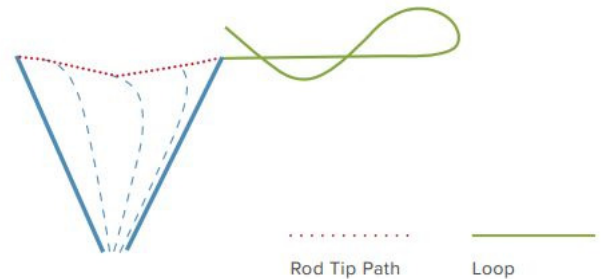
Because the fly rod bends while casting, it is possible for the rod tip path to be very straight. That would look like the drawing below:



In this next drawing the maximum rod bend is exactly the same as above, but the casting arc is too wide and that makes the rod tip path a big upward curve. That makes the top leg of the loop a big, inefficient curve too:



If the casting arc is too narrow, the tip path will dip down, and so will the top leg, creating an inefficient “tailing” loop:



Rod Tip Path Loop

KEYS TO THE FOUNDATION CAST

1. Top (fly) leg of the loop is relatively straight.
2. The loop has enough speed to get to the target, not much more or less.
3. Front and back loops are very similar
4. Adjust casting arc to match rod bend to maintain straight tip path.
5. Stop the rod quickly.

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

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FFI's Women Connect

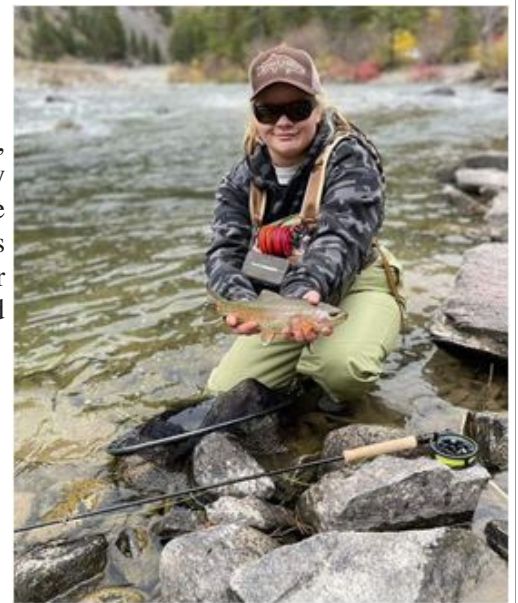
Fifth Annual Women Connect Fly Tying and Fly Casting Workshop Event Announced



Fifteen women interested in earning FFI's Fly Tying Skills Awards and/or Fly Casting Skills Development Awards will be gathering in Mountain Home, Arkansas on the world famous White River, March 12-20, 2024. Fly tying instructors Gretchen and Al Beatty and casting instructor Mary Ann Dozer will support participants toward meeting requirements for Bronze, Silver, and Gold levels. Questions? Contact Patty Lueken at plueken@luekenlaw.com

Helena Makes the Team

As reported last newsletter Women Connect supported the fifteen year old youth, Helena Fischer, who tried out for the United States Youth Fishing Team. She is only the second female to ever make the youth team. Congratulations to Helena! In the Woman Connect Newsletter, Karen Hall, FFiWC Council Liaison Coordinator posts an inspiring and heartwarming story of Halena's journey into fly fishing and her motivations that led her into fishing and to eventually try out for the U.S. team. Read about Helena in the WomenConnect Fall Newsletter...click the link.



The 3rd Annual Fly Fishers International Women Connect Driftless Rendezvous is Announced.

Reservations at the Cedar Lodge Resort in Whalen, Minnesota for twenty have been reserved for October 1-13, 2024. The event gave us each an opportunity to meet and get to know other women with a variety of experience and expertise, who share a passion for fly fishing.



Catch More Fish with a Better Cast

A zoom meeting with Mary Ann Dozer, Casting Instructor Mary Ann believes that you buy your own flies, no one casts for you. She demonstrated basic arm mechanics and explained why the use of the shoulder, instead of just the wrist and/or the forearm sets the foundation for a good cast. She taught about loop shapes and how the shapes are created. Participants actively participated by pantomiming steps to arm mechanics and the Pick-up Lay Down Cast, asking questions, and learning at-home drills for practice. Mary Ann presented a fount of knowledge with humor, excellent graphics, and easy to understand information.



Two Yakima Women Make Efforts to Bring Women Anglers Together

I recently met Jessica this spring during Red's Fly Shop Rendezvous while she tried out fly rods and practiced casting to enter Red's casting game hoping to win the grand prize. During our conversations she shared her desire to begin a women's fly fishing club in the Yakima area.

Here is Jessica's story.

I decided last year to start a women's club with my friend Shelly in the Yakima Valley. She has been fly fishing since childhood and she works in the industry. We are hoping to create an environment that attracts women of all skill levels and provides a platform for education and outreach. I'm also hoping to encourage ladies to meet me for group fishing weekends. I know a lot of women are hesitant to get into this sport because they have no one to fish with. I'm hoping women can connect with each other and meet up with me for some fishing time. But the latter has been the most challenging part.

I was born and raised on the Olympic Peninsula. I grew up salmon and steelhead fishing with my Dad. However, I didn't switch over to fly fishing until I moved to eastern Washington a few years ago. I feel like it was a natural transition for me and I enjoy much more than fishing with my spinning rod. I've gotten much more into trout and bass fishing since then.

Let's wish Jessica and Shelly the best outcome.



Learning, Sharing, Inspiration...It's Our Mission

- To create a community of women fly fishers where learning, sharing and inspiration are offered in a safe and non-intimidating environment, to develop and improve fly fishing/ tying skills and, offer new opportunities in a creative and fun manner.
- To encourage female leadership in FFI Clubs and the fly fishing industry as a whole by creating a platform where women can develop fly fishing skills and build confidence.

If you want to become a member of FFI Women Connect and discover the benefits of being a member or just find out more click on this link womenconnect@flyfishersinternational.org

You can also follow WCFI on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/ffiwomenconnect/> where event postings, activities and more are found.



Fly Fishing Camp

Shelton WA June 22 - 29, 2024

12 - 16 year old Co-Ed
All Equipment Provided

- o Introduction to Fly Fishing Equipment
- o Beginner & Intermediate Tracks For Casting & Tying Instruction
- o Macro Invertebrate Creek Sampling Field Trip
- o Stream Hydraulics - Trout Hangouts
- o Hours of On-Lake & In-Stream Mentoring
- o Techniques & Tactics for Success
- o Fisheries Conservation - Too Much Time to Fish
- o Ethics & Etiquette - Stewardship Awareness
- o Match the Hatch - Aquatic Entomology

Dorm Lodging - Students Given a Rod & Loaded Reel with a Sling Pack Full of Equipment - Full Meal Service

16 Students
become more

Conservation Minded & Effective Fly Fishers

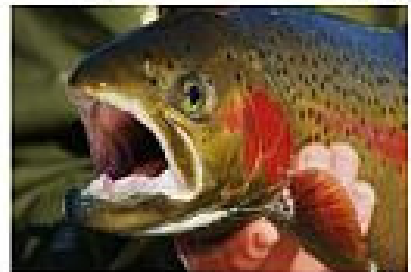
\$500 Enrollment Fee - Limited Scholarships Available

The academy is a non-profit youth education program of the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited & the support of Fly Fishers International, Trout Unlimited Chapters, N.W. Fly Fishing Clubs, Generous Individuals and Great NW Businesses.

Apply Now



Flyfish.academy





FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

FFI Conservation



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL

CONSERVATION ACTIONS

Fly Fishers International works to preserve and protect fishery habitats. Many times that protection comes in the form of biological opinion regarding policies and decisions by public agencies whose responsibility is to oversee the water body and surrounding habitat.

We base our decision about issues on a review of the existing policies or laws governing the agency's action and sound science-based facts. FFI will post a report on this page giving our members an overview of our recent actions. If you have any questions please contact the Conservation Coordinator at conservation@flyfishersinternational.org.

Please click on the subject matter below to read about the issues that FFI has taken a position. If you want to submit an issue for consideration by Fly Fishers International, please click [here](#) to review our process for doing so.

What are the issues?

Protect Bristol Bay It's home to the largest salmon fishery in the world.

Save the Boundary Waters BWCA is located within the Superior National Forest.

Climate Change Working to mitigate human caused climate change.

Conservation Legislation Monitoring environmental laws that provide regulatory.

Everglades Restoration The Everglades have been under threat for decades.

Mining Issues Mining is one of the biggest threats to rivers, lakes.

Public Lands and Waters Issues Public Lands and Waters are one of the greatest.

Saltwater and Marine Fisheries Issues Saltwater and Marine Fisheries are some of the most.

State Specific Issues Issues and actions relegated to a single state.

Warmwater Fisheries Issues Warmwater Fisheries are often in danger from dewatering.

Steelhead and Salmon Issues Steelhead and Salmon are some of the most threatened.

Donate to FFI's Conservation Work

We are protecting the legacy for fly fishing in All Fish, All Waters®.

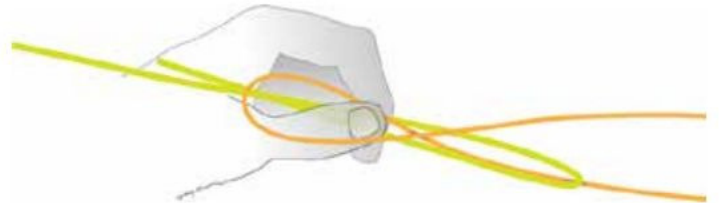
FLY FISHING: KNOTS & RIGGING

BACKING TO FLY LINE

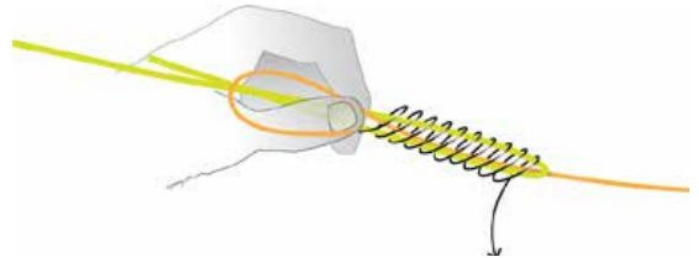
ALBRIGHT KNOT

The Albright Knot is one of the most reliable knots for joining lines of greatly unequal diameters or different materials such as monofilament to braided line.

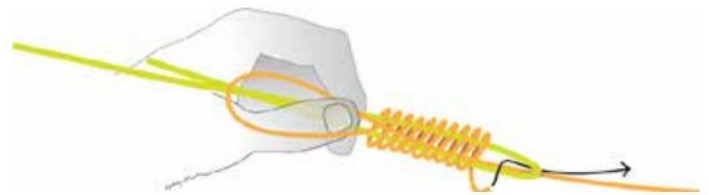
1. Make a loop in the heavier line and run about 10" of the lighter line through the loop.



2. Hold the three lines between your thumb and index finger. Wrap the light line back over itself and both strands of the loop.



3. Make 10 tightly wrapped turns. Feed the tag end back through the loop and exit the loop the same side as it entered.



4. Hold both ends of the heavy line and slide the wraps to the end of the loop. Pull the light line to tighten and clip tag end close to the knot.



5. Cut the tag end.



A Little Fish Candy



Steve Jones caught this 18" Cuttie in October in a river



Neal Hoffberg at Tuolumne Meadows, Yosemite, CA at 9,500 feet



Mike Clancy & his brother on the Yellowstone



Mike Clancy on the Missouri River



Environmental Director Richard Plunkett knows how to fish a streamer.



Fishing Story Next Page

Environmental Director Richard Plunkett knows how to fish a streamer.

Submitted by Neal Hoffberg

Written by Richard Plunkett

Well, it rained in Oregon

I was invited to join my friend Richard Rees on an adventure, to fish the Williamson River.

I picked Rich up at the airport in Portland so we could drive together. The ride through the Cascades along the Santiam River was beautiful! I stopped along the way to check out the Breighthenbush River. I have a bamboo rod who's taper carries the name. Briefly wet a line, more ceremonially than anything. I must return one day and venture upstream.

Once through the town of Bend, and on to Chilaguin, we checked in to the casino's hotel.

Our guide was promptly out front at 7:30 a.m. and I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Marlon Rampy. I grew up fishing the North Umpqua and surrounding area, so I recognized and was comfortable with a character who has spent long hours of fishing as we loaded up and headed for the launch. Just as we neared the river, he stopped me and he said "I need you to do me a huge favor..take everything you know about trout fishing, and leave it in the truck!"

The weather had turned cold and the overcast sky was going to provide us with some cover. We launched the drift boat and eased away from shore. Started out stripping a streamer, and stripped a streamer, and then stripped a streamer! That's when it happened...the fish was just on, and headed down stream. Big pulses of energy! Light drag on set and careful palming of the reel! Right when we thought we'd have to give chase, it settled and I was able to start bringing it back upstream. I remember Marlon saying "OK, good you've got the fly line back on the reel!" He had warned me of all the tricks these fish will try and now I can attest to it. Sometimes palming the reel, sometimes gently helping the fish take line, I used all the tricks I knew as well! What a battle! We were both stoked to get this fish to the net. The first of 6 fish landed and several that broke off or spit flies.

This piece of water is quite unique. The structure under water is like nothing I've seen. We had mink scamper along the shore. Shared moments with a muskrat. Eagles, hawks, Kingfishers, Canadian Geese and Mergansers were just some of our winged companions.

It ws a priviledge to be guided by Marlon Rampy, and grateful for his experience and ability to overcome our lack there of.





**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/ |
| 4th Corner Fly Fishers | Bellingham | https://4thcornerfly.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.

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

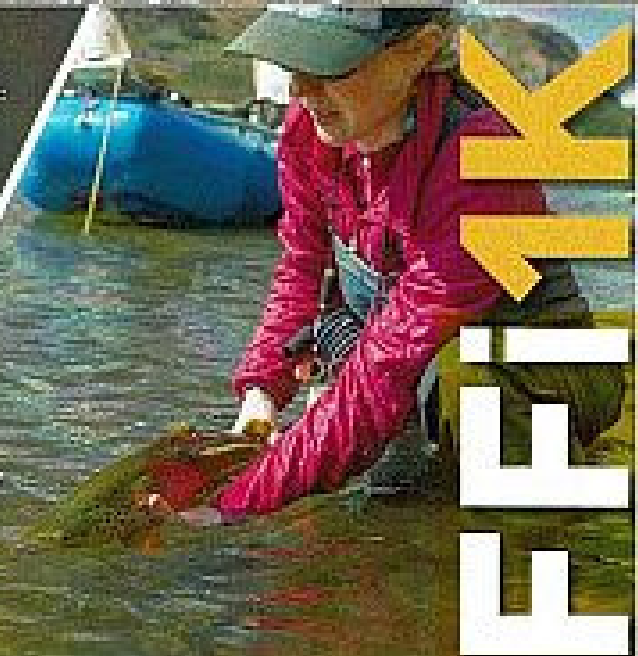
THE FUNDS RAISED BY THE FFI1K ARE VITAL to providing a solid foundation on which to continue to grow and expand our mission, and to support:

- **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 Gipe, David A. Thompson



FFI1K

FFI1K - BECOME A MEMBER OF 1000 STEWARDS OF FFI

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

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

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

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

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

Join the FFI1K Now

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™**



FFi

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



The fourth quarter of 2023 started in October. I had suggested to the Washington State Council Board of Directors that we implement a new policy of sending a dozen trout flies to the people who joined Fly Fishers International here in our great state of Washington. They agreed and many of the BOD members sent me flies that I could mail out to the newest FFI members, hence newest members of the WA State Council. I started mailing those out in December for all new members from the October and November lists. I will receive list for December and I will mail those out as well. Our council president, Steve Jones, wrote a welcoming letter that was included in the mailing along with the dozen trout flies. If you are one of the people who receive these, I hope you have a chance to use them. If they do not fit with your targeted species of fish, then please pass them on to someone who can use them.

Meanwhile, here it is, 2024. I graduated from high school in 1964, the year a group of people, many from WA and Oregon, got together and created the idea of the Federation of Fly Fishers (now known as Fly Fishers International). Back then I never even contemplated 2024, it would have seemed so far away, but here it is. I have fished a lot of waters in our great state, as well as Oregon, Montana, Wyoming, Florida, British Columbia and Ontario. I have fond memories from all of them with the fish I have caught and released.

As I was writing this, I realized that in the future there is a huge milestone. The year 2100. I will never see this but many of the people born in the last two decades stand a great chance of seeing 2100 roll around and those who are yet born will stand a very good chance to see that. I can only image what a celebration the world will give to that event.

You may be asking yourself, “What’s with this guy reminiscing about the past and thinking of such a future event?” “What on earth does that have to do with fly fishing?”

Well, let me tell you. If you want to go fly fishing, or even more so, if you want your children or your children’s children to be able to fly fish, then it will be organizations like the FFI that will make it happen. Our population will only increase in size and fishable waters will be under attack all the time. You need an organization like the FFI to be able to assist in many conservation projects, help protect our waters, both fresh and salt, and keep them open for decent fly fishing. To teach people how to cast properly so they can enjoy the experience. To teach them how to tie flies that they can then use to catch and release their own fish.

That is why I am asking you to join the FFI, or if you do belong now, then maintain your membership. While you are doing that, ask your fishing partners if they belong to the FFI. If not, seriously ask them to join. The more our membership grows, the louder the voice the FFI has in the political arena and the better the chance for future generations to be able to enjoy this great sport.



Join or Renew and Donate to Fly Fishers International. Help us keep fly fishing for the future.

The FFI had a sweepstakes the past few months and I was fortunate enough to “win/buy” six fly rods and some reels. Over this year I will eventually find new homes for these rods and reels. You, the reader, could become the owner of one of these if you attend one of our sponsored events this year. I am sure there will be a raffle of some sort at the Membership booth. If you do not belong to the FFI, you could sign up and become a member, and possibly win one of these rods/reels. OR, if you are already a member, then please RENEW your membership at one of our events and you will also be in the running for one of these rods/reels. If you renew, the extra year or three are simply added on to your existing membership.

With winter upon us, now is a great time to keep up your fly fishing skills. If you go to the FFI website you can open up videos on fly tying, or view and read about casting tips to help you with your presentations. Read up about some of the conservation efforts the FFI is involved with. Check out the Women Connect link, if you are a woman, then consider joining this great group. The FFI wants to help you enjoy fly fishing as much as possible.

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