



# FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Washington State Council

# Covering the Drift

Volume 28 Issue 2 - April 2024

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## Fly Casting Fair May 4

9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Mountlake Terrace Ballinger Park



Fly Fishers International and Mountlake Terrace Recreation

# Fly Casting Fair



WSCFFI CASTING  
FAIR – MAY 4,  
BALLINGER  
PARK

This year will see the WSC holding the annual casting event on May 4th from 9:00am until 4:30pm.

Classes will include beginning fly casting, Intermediate and advanced casting, women's beginning casting class and spey casting.

The event will include fly tying classes and demonstration fly tiers.

## Invite Someone To Join The FFI

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FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL

INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN THE FFI



# Home Water



*President Steve Jones*

The Fly Casting Fair is returning to Ballinger Park on May 4 and we're looking forward to seeing you there. What began as a simple outdoor event to engage with FFI members as the pandemic ended, has become a popular way for fishers to engage with FFI's skilled casting and fly tying instructors and get together with friends after a long winter.

In addition, the Washington State Council is proud to announce a second Fly Casting Fair in Vancouver, Washington on Sept. 21 on the campus of Clark College in downtown Vancouver. Fly tying and other indoor activities will take place inside the college student union. All casting classes and demonstrations will take place on the lawns just outside the student union.

Both events will feature our roster of classes from beginner to advanced led by FFI Certified Instructors. Besides that, both the May and September events will focus on the Fly Casting Skills Development Course, or FCSD as many call it. The purpose of the course is exactly what the name says: skills development. It begins with a simple practice course made up of two measuring tapes laid parallel, about 8 feet apart. Centered between the tapes are four targets at 25, 35, 40 and 50 feet. The caster stands at the bottom of the course and works to perfect a cast to each of the targets. It sounds simple, and it is. But perfection at each distance with various casting styles from overhead cast, to roll cast, to side arm cast, to off shoulder cast takes practice and that's the whole point.

I caught a Portland Trailblazers game recently and arrived at the arena early enough to catch the team's 19 year-old phenom Scoot Henderson running the court at full speed, catch a pass and pull up in the deep corner for a three-point shot. Again and again he ran the drill. Many shots fell in the hoop, most didn't, but there was no mistaking that he was getting better.

Wish that we were all 19 again but fly casters can get better with practice and the FCSD is the way to do it. I've laid out the course and worked on it several times during dry winter days and I found it relaxing. To be sure, there is lots more to the process when you are led through the skills by an FFI Certified Instructor, but the concept is the same. Practice adds precision to your cast and enjoyment to the sport.

The Northern California Council of FFI had a well attended Skills Development event in February. The Oregon Council offered something similar at its Albany Expo in March. Now the Washington State Council is joining the campaign with a focus on FCSD at the May 4 Fly Casting Fair. A recent edition of the FFI Insider email asked readers to "Level Up Your Casting Skills" with FCSD. Molly Semenik, a Master Casting Instructor and Washington Council member shared the email an endorsement: "I like Level Up." I do too.

By "level up," people mean they want to improve something they already know, learn new skills, enjoy something more. That's what FCSD is all about.



Support Local | Support Fly Fishing

## Thanks for Joining Us!

FFI's effort at the Fly Fishing Show was a success. We engaged with hundreds of FFI members and other Washington Fly Fishers. The FFI "Learning Center" at the show taught dozens how to tie flies, tie knots and appreciate the basics of a good cast. We introduced the membership to a new conservation strategy for Olympic Peninsula rivers and we made new friends. Thanks for to all and tight lines!



## *Washington Fly Fishers International Fly Casting Fair*

*Sat May 4, 2024 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM*

*Mountlake Terrace Ballinger Park, 98043*

Fly Fishers International and Mountlake Terrace Recreation

# *Fly Casting Fair*



The Washington State Council of FFI will hold a Fly Casting Fair May 4th at Ballinger Park in Mountlake Terrace Washington. The day-long event will offer Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Women Casting, Spey Classes and an introduction to Fly Tying course geared for all ages. There will be Fly tying demonstrations, a free Walk-in Casting clinic and Casting Skills Development Course led by FFI certified instructors. Please bring your own equipment (not required for fly tying course). Except for the Spey Class, the recommended rod is 9ft 5wt. You have 7.5' of leader with a yarn fly attached. We will have a minimum number of loaner rods. The WSCFFI highly recommends that you wear a hat and sun glasses or other protective eyewear. Sun screen is recommended.

**To sign up for the event go to the url below:**

**<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/washingtonflyfishersinternational/1147114>**

# Fly Tying Tips and Other Assorted Pearls of Wisdom

*By Sam Matalone*

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

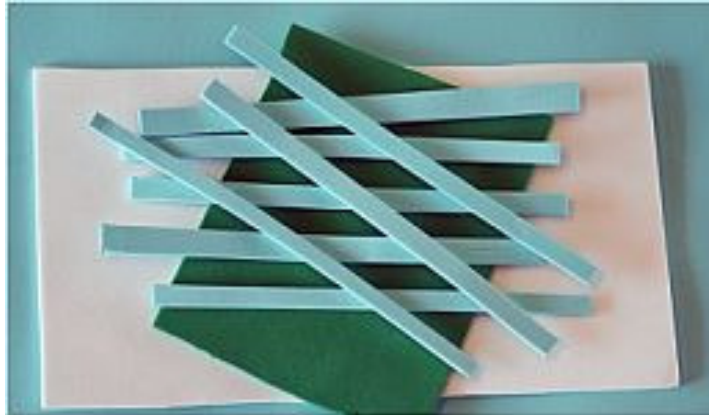


## Quick Tip #1 “For Nor Vise User and Others”

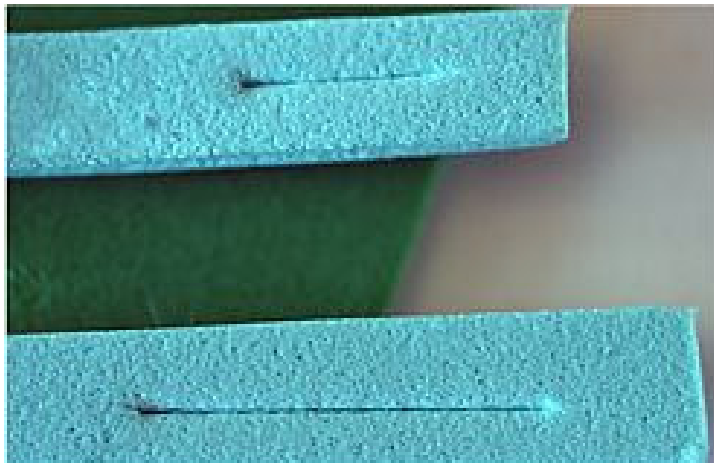
I occasionally use my NorVise with the automatic bobbin system when I am tying “fishing” flies. Unless you have a NorVise automatic fly tying bobbin, you may not fully understand a source of my frustration. In a nutshell, to use the automatic bobbin system, you must transfer thread, floss, wire, etc to a special spool designed for the automatic bobbin. The problem is to remember what size thread or other material is on a given spool.



Using hair bands and tape, you can mark the spools but eventually the information is lost.



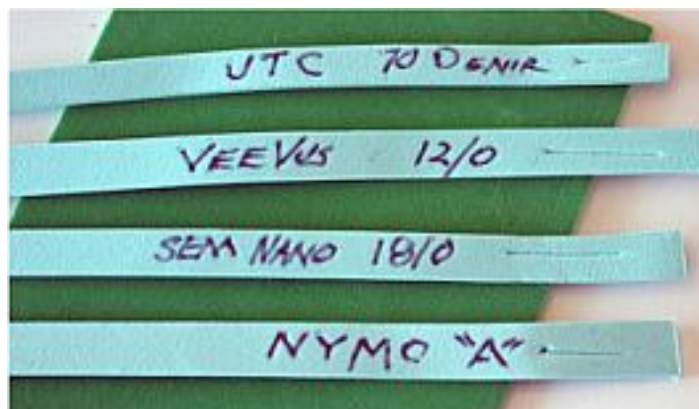
A simple solution is to utilize 2 mm foam which you can purchase at most craft stores for about a \$1.00 a sheet. Cut strips of foam approximately 3/8 of an inch by 7 inches.



At one end of the strip cut a slit approximately 1 inch long down the center of the foam.

Continued on page 6 →





As you transfer thread to the automatic bobbin spool, simply write directly on the foam close to the slit the information as to the material type, size , etc.



Wrap the foam strip around the automatic bobbin spool and insert the end without the slit into the slit and gently pull the foam strip tight.



As a bonus:  
Using slightly wider and longer strips, you can easily manage your all fly lines, too.



## Buz Buszek Fly Tying Award Library

Fly Fishers International's Fly Tying Group has launched a new learning center for today's fly tiers and future tiers: the Buz Buszek Fly Tying Award Library. The Library is an on-line repository of materials offered by the recipients of the namesake award, that is presented to individuals who have demonstrated highest skills in fly tying and made significant contributions to the preservation of the art form of fly tying.

Currently there are over 54 recipients of this award whom have generated a tremendous amount of written/video material aimed at making us better tiers. Their contributions will be added to the library over time. You are invited and encouraged to visit this site often.

Below is a link to the Buszek Library.

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Learn/Buz-Buszek-Library>

or

From the Fly Fishers Home page Go to the drop down Menu Learn>Bus Buszek Library About Wayne "Buz" Buszek Library The Fly Fishers International Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award Library is the online resource where educational and instructional materials created by recipients of FFI's Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award are memorialized, proudly displayed, and available to all.



Named in honor of Wayne "Buz" Buszek who was noted for his creativity, precision, and standard of excellence for fly tying materials, Buszek award recipients have demonstrated highest skills in fly tying and made significant contributions to the preservation of the art form.

We speak often of legacy in reference to fly fishing but the Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying Award Library represents a way to leave behind a legacy of tying knowledge and experience for the benefit of others.

Introducing Wayne Luallen

The 1st Bus Buszek to be featured in this truly unique library is Wayne Luallen, the 1991 award recipient. You will be impressed it what he has donated to the FFI. In addition to Wayne, the next award recipients to provide material for the library are Al Beatty, the 1999 recipient, and Gretchen Beatty, the 2019 recipient.

The following video features one of Buz's personal friends Don Lieb tying the Western Coachman, one of Buz's signature flies.

Don is joined by Chairman Emeritus of the FFI Board of Directors Tom Logan, who conducted the interview in 2022. At 103 years old, Don still teaches fly tying instruction.

[https://player.vimeo.com/video/901310252?badge=0&autopause=0&player\\_id=0&app\\_id=58479](https://player.vimeo.com/video/901310252?badge=0&autopause=0&player_id=0&app_id=58479)



## Fly Casting Tip



### Fly Casting Video Library

The presenters in the videos listed are Bruce Richards and Dok Arvanites. Bruce and Dok, FFI Master Casting Instructors, provide short all-inclusive presentations on each cast listed below. You can also more information on casting instruction by clicking [here](#).

Directional Change Casts Instructional Video  
Reach Mend Instructional Video  
The Belgian Cast Instructional Video  
Curve Casts Instructional Video  
The Roll Cast Pickup Instructional Video  
How to Put Slack in Your Fly Line Instructional Video  
How to Control Your Fly Line Instructional Video  
Off-Side Casting Instructional Video

#### Popular Pages

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

Fly Casting Skills & Drills  
Want to improve your casting skills? Use the Skills Development Programs for fly...

Log onto the FFI website at: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/>

Then hold over LEARN and the drop down will include **Learning Center Resources** then click on **Fly Casting** then on **Casting Videos**.

<https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Learn/Learning-Center-Resources/Fly-Casting/Casting-Videos>



Video of Dok Arvanites showing the Belgian Cast method



# NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



Adventure plus learning and fly-fishing equals tons of fun at the upcoming June 22 – 29 2024 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy.

For the past 20 years, The Academy has been introducing youngsters to the world of fly angling, aquatic conservation, and the serious work of becoming stewards of the natural world. This year's class of 16 boys and girls will gather at beautiful Panhandle Lake near Shelton Washington for an intensive weeklong program teaching them fly casting, fly tying, aquatic entomology, fisheries conservation, and stewardship practices.

Each student receives a fly rod-reel combo and a sling pack with flies that they will fish with on Panhandle Lake, in provided watercraft, and at nearby streams where they will be able to put into practice their new fishing knowledge and catch some trout on a fly they tied.

The Academy is a program of The Washington Council of Trout Unlimited with significant support from the Washington State Council Fly Fishers International, local businesses and private Fly Fishing Clubs.

**This year's academy is completely signed up** with 16 wonderful boys and girls 12-16 to learn the sport of fly fishing and fly tying. If you have a child or grandchild, consider sending them to next year's 2025 Academy.

For more detailed Academy program information or to make a donation to help fund the overall operational costs of \$1800 per student.

Please go to our website at <https://nwyccfa.com/>

The cost of the weeklong camp is \$500 per child.





# 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

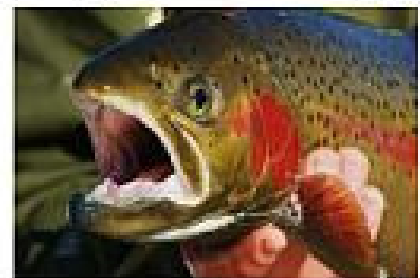
\$500 Enrollment Fee - Limited Scholarships Available

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.

Class is full but donations really appreciated



Flyfish.academy



# Conservation Fly Fishers International

By Richard Plunket  
VP of WSC Conservation

## “Leave No Trace”, Using Bio-degradable soap in the Wild

There's a myth surrounding Bio-degradable soap, and that is that it magically disappears.

There has been a lot of new, or renewed interest in the great outdoors recently. Even before Covid changed the way we travelled and spent our free time. Whether you're fishing streamside or a high mountain lake, just camping, or living in a van collecting content for your social media presence. Everywhere I look I see this mistake being made.

While Bio-degradable soap is a great choice, it's still soap, and should never be introduced directly into a water source. A quick Google search can give you all the science. **It requires contact with soil and time to biodegrade** before it can safely enter our waterways. It needs to go into a hole away from any water source or delicate plant life.

Most of this new generation of outdoors people are very environmentally conscious. Especially concerning plastics, but this message doesn't seem to be getting enough airtime. In the backcountry it's more important than ever. Many small streams and high lakes are such fragile environments in this regard. With more and more people spending time there this ranks right up there with “toilet paper blooms” and we simply need to do better.

My hope is that we can educate as many people as possible. Even if it's one person at a time.

I was raised with “Leave No Trace” and it was always instilled into me to leave a place better than I found it. I can't remember who said it, but I heard someone say “lets start with not losing any more” and save as much as we can. Our privilege of wild places comes with the responsibility of being good stewards, may it always be so.

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Note from editor: I did a quick Google search and found these links that will really explain the importance of why you don't put any kind of soap, bio-degradable or not, directly into our streams or lakes. Look them up.

**Muskoka Watershed Council:** <https://www.muskokawatershed.org> > Watershed Blog

**The Great Outdoors Stack Exchange:**

<https://outdoors.stackexchange.com/questions/25335/what-is-the-safe-distance-of-washing-with-biodegradable-soap>

**Cascada Travel:** <https://www.cascada.travel> > Blog > Sustainability

Biodegradable literally means that the ingredients used in the soap can be broken down naturally by bacteria, rather than remaining in the soil. A soap is ...

**backcountryattitude.com:** <http://www.backcountryattitude.com> > biodegradable\_soap

**SectionHiker.com:** <https://sectionhiker.com> > Frequently Asked Questions  
using biodegradable soap from sectionhiker.com



# FFI Conservation Partners



Coral Gables, FL

[nick@bonefishtarpontrust.org](mailto:nick@bonefishtarpontrust.org)

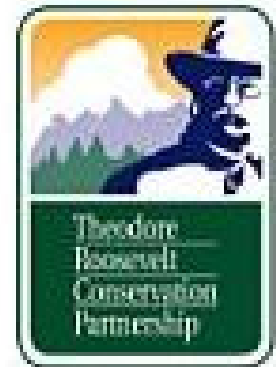
<http://www.bonefishtarpontrust.org/>



Champaign, IL

<http://www.fishconserve.org/>

[info@fishconserve.org](mailto:info@fishconserve.org)



Washington, DC

<http://trcp.org>

## Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps

[frvc64@verizon.net](mailto:frvc64@verizon.net)

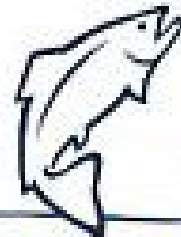
<http://www.frvc.net>



Amherst, MA

[sarah@keepfishwet.org](mailto:sarah@keepfishwet.org)

<http://www.keepfishwet.org/>



**TROUT  
UNLIMITED**

## Idaho Conservation League

Sandpoint, ID

[ICL@idahoconservation.org](mailto:ICL@idahoconservation.org)

<http://www.idahoconservation.org>

## San Gabriel River Conservancy

Glendora, CA 91741

<http://www.SGRC.org>



Single Hooks

United Kingdom

[suam@eden21.co.uk](mailto:suam@eden21.co.uk)

<http://singlehooks.org>

Arlington, VA

<https://www.ru.org>



**WESTERN RIVERS  
CONSERVANCY**

Portland, OR

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

## Want to understand more about conserving our resources?

The presentation, Conservation & the Flyfisher, is a good place to start.

The FFI Learning Center has many resources to help you on your journey as a flyfisher. Members of FFI get full access to all the materials. Not a member? [Join now](#) to access our incredible resource.

# FFI International News

## Flyfishing in Shangri-La: Bhutan Opens Her Rivers to the World

By Bryant Dunn  
Submitted by Sam Matalone  
FFI International Coordinator



Bryant Dunn



The morning sunlight had not yet touched the calm and cool surface of the river currents flowing around my legs nor the ancient footbridge which perched precipitously a few feet above me, leading to a hilltop temple some 2000 vertical feet higher up the ridge. The warm golden fingers of the new day were progressively descending the valley walls as I lifted my fly fishing line from the water and propelled another delicately delivered fly cast in the shadows of the towering Himalayas.

Although fishing that morning nearly 20 years ago was productive, what is far more memorable was the scene that lay before me. I was wading in a pristine freestone river at the foot of the world's tallest mountain range in the Royal Kingdom of Bhutan, a petite and remote country that was largely unknown across the greater globe. It felt like I was exploring a secret fishery nestled in the clouds high above the modern world with all of its chaos and frenetics far below. The temples, stupas, chortens and distant Dzong, along with the opaque fog of incense smoke that hovered above the valley floor, accentuated the landscape for an unforgettable and magical fishing experience.



### The History of Fishing in Bhutan

Trout fishing was hardly new to the kingdom, in fact a permitted trout fishing season was first established in 1974 for introduced brown trout and native snow trout as anglers were welcome to fish during the non-spawning season in many parts of the country. Certain reaches were off limits due to cultural considerations and fishing in the late fall was closed during the brown trout reproductive period.

The British began exploring Bhutan in the late 1700s, both as invited and uninvited guests. Soon after, the British penchant for fishing led to anglers casting fly spoons on horse hair or silk lines for whatever fish might lie in wait, submerged in Bhutan's magnificent free-flowing rivers. Eventually, as in many river systems across the globe, brown trout (*Salmo trutta*) were introduced and competed with indigenous snow trout (*Schizothorax richardsonii*, which are not true trout but members of the Cyprinidae family). These two "trout" have coexisted ever since with each reproducing naturally across the northern half of the kingdom.



Continued on Page 14

However, in the opinions of most knowledgeable anglers, especially those with significant experience fishing across the Himalayan Range, the real attraction of Bhutan's fishery lies to the south in the larger, warmer waters that flow into India and eventually into the Mother River, the Brahmaputra. Within those southern rivers lives a fish of spiritual and religious significance within Bhutanese culture and one that is known to grow to the size of a man and is famed as one of the hardest fighting freshwater fish on earth, the mythical Golden Mahseer.

The Golden Mahseer's original range spanned from Afghanistan in the west across Pakistan, into north-central India and Nepal, next through Bhutan, traversing India's eastern Arunachal Pradesh reaches and eventually populating in Myanmar to the east. The Golden Mahseer (*Tor putitora*) is the Himalayan's alpha piscine predator, an ambush specialist who is capable of attacking other fish at lightning-fast speeds while also feeding omnivorously on fruit, leaves, insects and detritus.

The physical appearance of Golden Mahseer reflects a marriage of tarpon and snook perhaps, gleaming golden flanks with silver and celadon-tinted scales near its backline and a blood orange, tequila sunrise hue to its anal fin and lower half of the tail. The Golden Mahseer's lengthy gill plates shine mercurially and encompass a snow-white interior mouth that expands to inhale baitfish and other food sources, including other *T. Tor putitora* and its smaller but feisty cousin, the Chocolate Mahseer (*Neolissochilus hexagonolepis*). Barbels add to its ability to sense vibrations in the water column and miniscule variations in water temperature, all contributors to the fish's ability to position itself in likely ambush locations, often near confluences where small streams enter larger river systems.

However, Golden Mahseer, also referred to as Sernya among other names, are one of the eight holy symbols of Mahayana Buddhism, the predominant form of Buddhism in the kingdom. In part, because of the cultural aspect of the Golden Mahseer's place in local religious culture, fishing for these golden ghosts was not allowed. In short, mahseer fishing in the southern rivers was off limits.



### Science, Conservation and Angling Tourism

Some of the sensitivity surrounding mahseer fishing also existed because up until 2015, no meaningful scientific study had taken place regarding mahseer in Bhutan and therefore population levels were unknown, migratory patterns, if any, were unclear and spawning behavior was undocumented. The mythical fish of the southern kingdom truly was a mystery.

However, in 2014, a radio telemetry study was approved which would result in the electronic tagging of at least 100 adult mahseer, both Golden and Chocolate, in the Manas River system of southern Bhutan. The study, initiated in 2015 and completed in 2019 by Dr. David Philipp and Julie Claussen of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation, would lead to capturing data on mahseer including their seasonal migration patterns and spawning locations. This groundbreaking study led to a wealth of data which finally told an accurate story of mahseer within the kingdom's southern reaches.

With a deeper understanding of mahseer habits, movements and spawning behavior, the wheels were set in motion toward what might ultimately evolve into angling opportunities. However, mahseer conservation was of the highest priority and mandatory protections for mahseer were included in policies fueled by the Bhutan For Life project and other kingdom-wide initiatives. Additionally, there was no policy in place to oversee the legal implementation of mahseer fishing seasons, restricted river segments, usage allowances or infrastructure for a new recreational angling industry.



There was still much to address before mahseer fishing might become allowed. Then came COVID and the world shut down to everything but the most basic daily operations. Lockdown was as common a term in Bhutan as it was everywhere else and the effects of the pandemic hit the Dragon Kingdom hard. This disastrous chapter in human history triggered a need to supplement a shaken economy and tourism, one of Bhutan's primary economic drivers, was a crucial consideration in helping the kingdom get back on its feet once the crisis passed and the borders reopened.

With this combination of factors in play: a deeper understanding of Bhutanese mahseer, a growing acceptance of recreational fishing as tolerable within a Buddhist culture and the need to create new tourism-based revenue streams, Bhutan decided to open mahseer fishing to the world. But there were issues that needed to be addressed before a mahseer fishing program could be implemented. Fortunately, Bhutan had the unique benefit of being able to look to the strengths and weaknesses of other national recreational fishing programs and select what would work best for the kingdom's mahseer-specific fisheries and be most acceptable within its culture. Ultimately, several policies were developed with conservation, minimal impact and local community involvement at the heart of the burgeoning national policy. Toward this end, a small group of international advisors and consultants were chosen, in addition to fisheries biologists and specialists within Bhutan's government, to share the goal of designing the most modern conservation-based recreational angling policy on the planet.



Regulations included in the new policy were based on best handling and releasing practices such as minimal fish contact, catch and immediate release of landed fish, the mandated use of single barbless hooks and the need to be licensed through the new online fishing permit system. In addition, it was agreed upon that all international anglers would be required to hire a certified Bhutanese fishing guide and that no independent unguided fishing would be allowed for internationals at any time.

With the policy approved by the necessary government agencies, a fishing guide training program was developed and executed by an international team of certified guides, outfitters and scientists with mahseer conservation as its guiding light and a new era in global recreational fishing became visible on the Himalayan horizon.

## **Bhutan opens her rivers to the world**

Finally on March 13th, 2023 the first officially recognized recreational mahseer flyfishing expedition under the kingdom's new angling policy launched on the Punatsang Chhu river in southwest Bhutan. A group of three American anglers outfitted by Himalayan Flyfishing Adventures based in Thimphu, a support team of 13 fishing guides, whitewater specialists, transportation officers, cooks and camp assistants loaded into four sixteen-foot whitewater rafts equipped with fishing frames and casting platforms and descended approximately 56 kilometers en route toward the Indian border. This six-day/five-night adventure was the culmination of years of diligence on behalf of fisheries biologists, scientists, recreational advocates and explorers.



By all accounts, the expedition was a success and many mahseer, both Golden and Chocolate, were landed and immediately released by the international fly fishers.

Bhutan had officially entered the international angling market with a unique and exciting recreational offering many years in the making. Looking forward, the fisheries of Bhutan face many risks, including illegal fishing practices, hydroelectric projects, pollution, sand, boulder and coal mining and other economic and conservation challenges. However, based on the thoughtful, intelligent and conservation-based philosophy reflected in the kingdom's initial recreational fishing program, there is every reason to hope that days spent knee-deep in Bhutan's pristine rivers casting to the kingdom's remarkable fish species will not only attract international anglers but encourage the Bhutanese themselves to embrace this riverine recreation as they share their invaluable natural resources with the angling world.



## Our Industry Partners

translated 

We thank our Industry Partners who support our organization in various ways. They help us row our boat a little further down the stream as we are working to preserve the legacy of fly fishing for all fish, all waters.



### Fly Casting Skills Development

Keep an eye out for more of these Fly Casting Skills Development sessions. They will be held at various locations during the forthcoming years. They are fun, and will improve your casting hence your fishing.



### Join Us for Fly Casting Skills Development Sessions

#### Enhance your skills

Join Us to Learn More about the Fly Casting Skills Development Program

Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) is a fun way to improve casting skills for all fly fishers in a self-paced fashion. There are now four levels from beginner to advanced: Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. FFI's Fly Casting Education Program team is offering training sessions at upcoming events.

## PALOMAR KNOT

The illustrations in this lesson were drawn by Jo Starling Creative. The exquisite illustration of each knot makes it come alive on the page.

The Palomar Knot comes close to a 100% knot when tied properly. This is also a very good knot to use with braided fishing line.

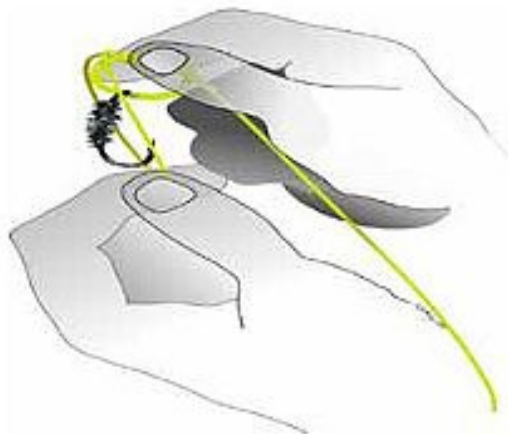
1. Double 6 inches of tippet and pass end of loop through eye of hook.



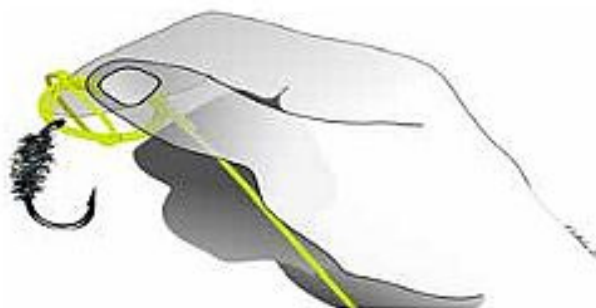
2. Tie a loose overhand knot with hook hanging from bottom.



3. Holding overhand knot between thumb and forefinger, pass loop of line over the hook. Slide loop above eye of hook.



4. Pull on both the standing line and tag end to tighten knot down onto eye. Cut the tag end close.





*Washington Fly Fishers International Fly Casting Fair*

*Sat May 4, 2024 9:00 AM – 4:30 PM*

*Mountlake Terrace Ballinger Park, 98043*

Fly Fishers International and Mountlake Terrace Recreation

*Fly Casting Fair*



**WSCFFI CASTING FAIR – MAY 4, 2024  
BALLANGER PARK**

By Neal Hoffberg

This year will see the WSCFFI holding the annual casting event on May 4th from 9:00am until 4:30pm. Classes will include beginning fly casting, Intermediate and advanced casting, women's beginning casting class and spey casting. There will be a walk-in clinic, no charge, to correct / tune-up your casting. We will have noontime casting demonstrations by our local Certified Master Casting Instructors. The event will include fly tying classes and demonstration fly tiers. There will be tables representing local fly-fishing clubs, Project Healing Waters, Federation of Fly Fishers International, Kids Academy and more.

Early registration is encouraged. Lunch may be purchased in advanced; there will not be any lunch sales the day of the event.

We look forward to seeing you at the event:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/washingtonflyfishersinternational/1147114>

# WSCFFI CASTING FAIR

This year's Casting Fair will be held on May 4th, from 9:00a.m. to 4:30p.m.

Once again, our lineup of classes and instructors is fantastic.

Classes include women's, beginning, intermediate and advanced courses.

Molly Semenik CBOGE CI MCI THMCI L-2 Examiner and Todd Somsel will conduct a spey casting course.

We will have lunchtime casting demonstrations by Don Simonson CI MCI L-2 Examiner CBOGE, Todd Somsel CI MCI THMCI L-3 Examiner and Molly Semenik, C.I. MCI Level 3, THMCI, COBG.

Classes will be taught by FFI certified casting instructors; Marion Hiller, C.I., Ruth Simms, C.I., Tom Camarrata, C.I. Pat Peterman CI MCI L-1 Examiner, Frank Koterba, C.I. and Ryan Smith, C.I. owner of Avid Angler Fly Fishing.

Have a flaw in your casting that needs fixing or want an early season tune up? Stop by the Walk-In Clinic.

A certified instructor will spend time with you, free of charge.

New to our event this year is the Fly-Casting Skills Development.

The FCSD is a fun way to improve your casting skills in a self-paced way.

There are four levels: Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold.

Take yourself through the different levels or better yet, come with friends and make a contest out of the FCSD.

There are targets and distance markers. Work on your aerial mending, curve cast, single and double hauling.

The sky's the limit!

No matter your experience, play around and see how much your fishing improves by working on your skills in a fun way.

The courses will have a C.I. to assist you.

The website, <https://wscffi.org/> has all the information and a link to sign up.

All of us at the WSCFFI look forward to seeing you there.

Tight lines, leaders & knots,

Neal Hoffberg

Casting Director, WSCFFI



## Fly Tying Group (FTG)

The Fly Tying Group's work revolves around sharing and teaching to provide opportunities for the fly fishing community to learn new or enhance their current skills. We share information through our newsletter, tying demonstrations at events, maintaining a comprehensive video library, and teaching about the art of fly tying on FFI Online. Click the links below for more information about our programs.

Whip Finish Journal  
Membership  
Fly Tying Video Directory  
Fly of the Month  
Fly Tying Skills Award Program  
Fly Tying Forum  
Fly Tying Grants Available for youth tying programs  
Board of Governors  
Find a Fly Tyer

Join the Fly Tying Group  
Be Part of Preserving the Art

1-Year Membership - \$20  
Lifetime Membership - \$285



Want More Info Contact:

[ftg@flyfishersinternational.org](mailto:ftg@flyfishersinternational.org)





# Women Connect Bulletin Board

Check out the Women Connect info on the FFI website



Minnesota's  
Driftless Rendezvous



2024 Driftless Rendezvous  
October 7-13, 2024  
Registration opening soon!

Join us once again as we return to the heart of the Minnesota Driftless area to fish for native brook and wild brown trout! Pricing starts at only \$400 for food and & lodging for the week! More info can be found at: [umcffi.org/women-connect/](http://umcffi.org/women-connect/)



## Welcome New Liaison—Washington State Council: Marion Hiller!



Marion Hiller, FFI Liaison for Washington State Council

A Washington state native and former middle school teacher, Marion grew up with a father who was an avid fly tier and fisher, who shared his knowledge exclusively with his two sons. After his passing, she became the caretaker of a family fishing camp in Montana, where she slowly grew a desire to become an independent and knowledgeable fly fisher. She joined the local fly club, 4th Corner Fly Fishers in Bellingham. Then encouraged by a good friend, she sought out Fly Fishing International (FFI), and eventually become a Certified Casting Instructor in 2022.

Since connecting with FFI she has joined women's adventures on still water, moving waters and on saltwater. Marion has provided instructional support to friends, Nooksack Salmon Enhancement events, local fly clubs, the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International Casting Fair, after school fly fishing class for middle schoolers, and other youth camps in Washington.



**Hey Everyone!** Here is some early info for next year's

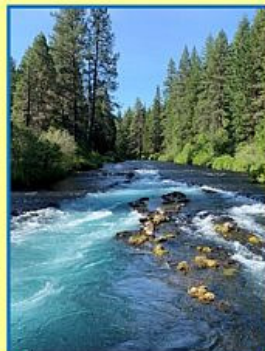
## Oregon Council FFI-Women Connect Camp Out: June 17—June 23, 2024

We will have our Annual Woman Connect 6 day Campout this Campout will be held on the Metolius River Oregon. We will offer daily get togethers by the fire: Flies to use, tying flies, how to fish the Metolius, conservation considerations, women's challenges in fly fishing, plus BBQ dinner and dining out together.

We provide limited tent sites only. Reach out to me and I will put you on the list.

If you have a van camper or any other RV type vehicle, you will need to reserve your own site. We will be at Allen Springs Campground. Please make your own RV reservation. <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/251577>

For more information, contact Candace Bell [sebcn3@gmail.com](mailto:sebcn3@gmail.com)



4th Corner Fly Fishers	Bellingham	<a href="https://4thcornerfly.com">https://4thcornerfly.com</a>
Alaska Fly Fishers	Anchorage	(PHWFF) <a href="http://www.akflyfishers.net/">http://www.akflyfishers.net/</a>
Alpine Fly Fishers	Puyallup	<a href="https://alpineflyfishers.org/">https://alpineflyfishers.org/</a>
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	<a href="http://www.clark-skamania-flyfishers.org/">http://www.clark-skamania-flyfishers.org/</a>
Clearwater Flycasters	Pullman	<a href="https://www.clearwaterflycasters.com/">https://www.clearwaterflycasters.com/</a>
Cowlitz Fly Anglers	Longview	Cowlitz Fly Anglers Facebook
Evergreen Fly Fishing Club	Everett	<a href="https://evergreenflyclub.org/">https://evergreenflyclub.org/</a>
Fairbanks Fly Fishers	Fairbanks	Project Healing Waters FF
Fidalgo Fly Fishers	Anacortes	<a href="https://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/">https://www.fidalgoflyfishers.com/</a>
Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club	Spokane	<a href="https://ieffc.org/">https://ieffc.org/</a>
Lower Columbia Flyfishers	Longview	<a href="http://www.lowercolumbiaflyfishers.org/">http://www.lowercolumbiaflyfishers.org/</a>
Northwest Fly Anglers	Seattle	<a href="https://www.northwestflyanglers.org/">https://www.northwestflyanglers.org/</a>
Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds	Edmonds	<a href="https://olympicflyfishers.com/">https://olympicflyfishers.com/</a>
Overlake Fly Fishing Club	Bellevue	<a href="https://offc.org/">https://offc.org/</a>
Puget Sound Fly Fishers Club	Tacoma	<a href="https://www.psff.org/">https://www.psff.org/</a>
South Sound Fly Fishers	Olympia	<a href="https://southsoundflyfishers.org/">https://southsoundflyfishers.org/</a>
Spokane Fly Fishers LLC	Spokane	<a href="https://spokaneflyfishers.com/">https://spokaneflyfishers.com/</a>
Washington Fly Fishing Club	Mercer Island	<a href="https://wffc.com/">https://wffc.com/</a>
Wasilla Fly Fishing Club	Wasilla	Project Healing Waters FF
Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers	Wenatchee	<a href="https://wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com/">https://wenatcheevalleyflyfishers.com/</a>

# 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](mailto: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 Boyle, 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**



## INVITE SOMEONE TO JOIN THE FFI

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.

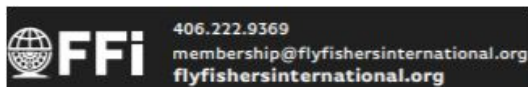
### WHY JOIN FFI? TOGETHER WE:

- PROTECT THREATENED WATERS AND 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!



Application Form on Page 26 —→

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	Sustainer - \$250 / Yr
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 • FFI Hat • Magazine Subscription • 1-year Subscription to OnWater App	Also Includes • 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) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

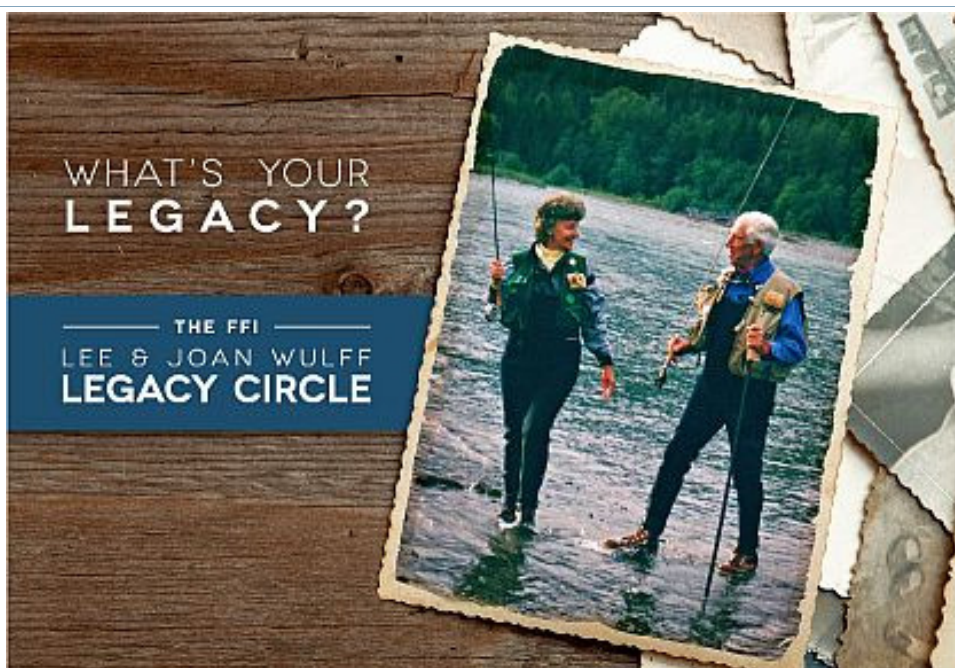
Specialty Groups: Fly Tying Group \$20/yr ☐ Guides & Outfitters Association \$30/yr ☐ Women Connect ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
(1 year Complementary)

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

Choose the number of years you wish to purchase: 1 – year ☐ 2 – year ☐ 3 – year ☐ \$ \_\_\_\_\_



## 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 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.”,

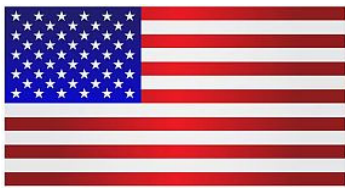
A Fixed Amount of Money or a Designated Property: “I give \$\_\_\_\_\_, (or describe the real or personal property, including legal description or exact location) to the Fly Fishers International, Inc., located in Livingston, Montana.

#### 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?

Fly Fishers International  
Donate  
1201 US Hwy 10 West  
Suite E  
Livingston, MT 59047



## Editors Notes

*By Larry Gibbs*



I hope some of you made it to the Fly Fishing Show in February at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. If so, did you check out the WA State Council booth, the fly tyers and the casting at the Learning Center? I hope you did, at least stopped by and said “Hi” to the volunteers working there.

How many of you made it down to Albany, OR for the Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo put on by the Oregon Council and Fly Fishers International March 8 & 9? If you missed it, mark it on your calendars for next year, it is a great event. They had around 50 vendors to check out and 45 workshops you could pick from. It is a great event, try to go next year for sure.

The **Fly Casting Fair** is returning to Ballinger Park **May 4** with a full day of skills development for fly casters and fly tyers. You REALLY need to attend this fantastic event.

There is also a fun casting event being set up for a couple fly clubs, more on that in the July issue as well.

On September 21st, an event similar to the Fly Casting Fair at Mountlake Terrace is being set up down in the southwest section of Washington State, at the campus of Clark College in downtown Vancouver. More on that in our next newsletter in July.

As you can see, the late winter and spring time is when you can attend some or all of these events in preparation for the late spring and summer and fall fly fishing that we have around the Pacific Northwest. Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana offer some unbelievable fly fishing opportunities on both their rivers and lakes and out in the salt.

If you haven't nominated someone for one of the WA State Council FFI Awards and you have someone in mind, better do so ASAP, April 15 is the last day for nominations. Go to the WA State Council's webpage at <https://wscffi.org/> click on the awards nomination article.

I hope you read the International article about Bhutan, sounds like it could be a very good fly fishing destination for some really great looking fish. I can't imagine the amount of work they have accomplished to be able to create a fly fishing experience that is backed by the government and untold hundreds of people. I bet the Bhutan experience will become very popular, so maybe you should consider getting in on the ground floor so to speak.

The Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International. Yea, that is a long title so we usually just shorten it to WSC. Right now we have 15 board members, people volunteering their time and expertise including fly fishing, fly casting, fly tying, conservation, education and more. Virtually all of the board members belong to at least one fly club, some belong to two or more. If you belong to a fly club, thanks for joining. You may want to consider volunteering for some duties within your club. I am sure their board of directors would really appreciate it. But, if you do not belong to a club, and you live reasonably close to one, then you really should consider checking out that club and attending a few meetings. The WSC puts on casting and tying events during the year, but we are limited by many factors. However, many fly clubs have events at various times all year long, plus their monthly meetings where you can interact with other dedicated fly fishers and have fun.

On page 22 there is a listing of fly clubs within the Washington State Council. Check it out and look for a club or clubs near you, go to their websites and see what they have to offer. Even if you are working a schedule that keeps you from attending their monthly meetings, they may have some special events during the year, dealing with things like fly casting or fly tying or fly fishing trips. You may be able to attend some of those.

Back in the Dark Ages when dinosaurs roamed the earth and I got serious about fly fishing, I joined a couple of fly clubs and got elected onto the Washington State Council board of directors. I even spent some time on the FFI board of directors. With those connections I have attended hundreds of special events and gone on many dozens of organized fly fishing trips. The camaraderie is great, you will meet many new friends who will be more than willing to help you in your efforts to master fly fishing. Check out the list of clubs and I really hope there is one near you.

For sure, you should go to the Washington State Council website and the website for Fly Fishers International and check out their many articles regarding all aspects of fly fishing. While you are on the Fly Fishers International website, and if you are not a member of FFI, then consider joining. The yearly cost is a drop in the bucket and if you want, you will get many, many times more out of being a member than if you were not. Help save our great fishing opportunities by becoming a member of the FFI.

The WSC board of directors has a Zoom meeting every month. A lot of discussion goes on during these meetings and many new ideas are considered. The March meeting mainly dealt with the Fly Casting Fair at Ballinger Park, but also covered the September fly casting fair in Clark County, as well as a number of other topics. All of our directors are volunteers who donate their time to make the WSC and the FFI a great organization to belong to. We are looking towards the future and we will try to make 2024 a very productive year for fly fishers. We are also looking at 2025 to bring you even more and better events. Many of the fly fishing clubs in Washington State are helping us and their volunteers work very hard when we bring you these casting and fly tying events. Please see if you can attend some of our events and check us out.