FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
Washington State Council

Covering the Drift

Volume 28 Issue 3 - July 2024

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FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL
Washington State Council

FLY CASTING FAIR

September 21
Campus of Clark College
Vancouver, WA

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday Sept. 21, when the Washington State Council is putting on another Fly Casting Fair on the campus of Clark College in downtown Vancouver.
Please save the date.

Invite Someone To Join The FFI

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Home Water

President Steve Jones

FFI is giving awards this year to five members who have made notable contributions to the sport and our organization.

Aaron Culley is being inducted into the Washington Fly Tying Hall of Fame for his outstanding ability creating and tying flies and his willingness to share his ability with others.

Molly Semenik is receiving the Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Casting Instructor Award for her long commitment to the craft and the leadership she has provided the Washington Council and FFI nationwide as it works to make casting instruction a doorway to FFI membership.

Neal Hoffberg is receiving the Fly Fisher of the Year Award for his steady effort over the last three years organizing casting instruction for our annual Fly Casting Fairs at Ballinger Park. Neal has been the patient organizer who has put together teams of Certified Instructors to create a truly new FFI event.

Randy Allen and **John Wendt** are both receiving the Pat Herd Education Award for their long commitment to teaching fly fishing in their fly fishing clubs. Randy is a member of South Sound Fly Fishers in Olympia. John Wendt is a member of Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds.

FFI gives awards because we appreciate commitment. It's that simple. We enjoy our sport and we want to share it, but there is no way FFI can be in Olympia week after week teaching middle schoolers how to fly fish like Randy is doing. However, we can help by making clear to Randy that we appreciate the patience, organization, knowledge and determination it takes to pull it off. And by "pull it off," what I mean is after all the work in the classroom he led an outing in June where more than 40 of his middle school students got the chance to catch a fish on a fly. Give me a minute to think about that.

Another thing about our recipients this year is that we are recognizing a diverse range of contributions, not just those that are most visible or easily quantifiable. Anyone who watches Molly toss a double-haul recognizes her casting skill. What they don't see is the hours she spends on the phone, on Zoom, on her computer, on the road helping create FFI's new effort to make casting instruction an invitation into FFI. The new approach to Fly Casting Skills Development is revitalizing our organization in Washington and nationwide and Molly is at the center of it.

In all honesty, we hope these awards have a ripple effect too. Awards inspire others, foster a culture of excellence, spur organizations in new directors. We want all of that for FFI and we hope these award winners help lead us there.

And one final tip of the hat goes to Washington State Council FFI director Sam Matalone who conducts the award nomination and judging process. During pandemic, our recognition program was dormant. Sam led its revival by putting the award nominations online with a streamlined form and quick submissions. An awards committee made up of three directors make the selections, not the council president. The consideration is sincere and based on genuine achievements. Go to our website at WSCFFI.ORG and click on the "About Us" tab to find awards. The nomination function is always live, so you can view award criteria and nominate someone at any time.

I'm happy our award winners are part of FFI. I wish them all the best. And did I mention Randy Allen took more than 40 middle schoolers fishing in June all on the same day? It took school busses to get all the kids to the pond. I'm exhausted just thinking about it. Well done Randy.

WSCFFI Awards Nominations

By Sam Matalone

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.

Of the seven awards categories 5 individuals are being recognized in 2024:

- **WSCFFI Fly Fisher of the Year**

Neal Hoffberg for his tireless work in managing the Casting Affair events in 2023, as well as his extraordinary efforts on so many other different challenges the Washington State Council.

- **Washington State Council Fly Tying Hall of Fame Award**

Aaron Culley received the Fly Tying Hall of Fame Award . Aaron is an excellent teacher, well versed in all tying variety of patterns. He, especially, excels at tying Steelhead and Atlantic Salmon flies. He volunteers at numerous events each year.

- **The Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Casting Instructors Award**

The recipient of this award is none other than **Molly Semenik**. Molly demonstrates and teaches the art of fly casting to 100s of people each year. In addition Molly mentors prospect FFI Casting Instructors as well as FFI Master Casting Instructors.

- **Pat Herdt Education Award** (individual)

This year there will be TWO awards recognizing:

John Wendt

Randy Allen

These two very talented and dedicated individuals devote countless hours setting up various programs to teach young and old, beginners to advance participants about Fly Fishing.

No submissions were received this year for the Washington Conservation Award, The Mackay Conservation Award, and the Club Education Award.

Volunteers are the life blood of our organization. Please congratulate this year's awardees and be on the look out for someone to nominate next year.

WSC Board of Director Elections

Three new director candidates for the FFI board
And eight current directors seeking new terms

The Washington State Council has a great board of directors and because of the fluke of the calendar, many of those directors are up for re-election in 2024. Richard Plunket who stepped in last year as VP Conservation needs to be formally elected, plus we have three new candidates for the board in Ruth Sims, Aaron Culley and Dareld Thompson. Put it all together and there will be 11 names on the ballot that will be distributed later this month. The candidate profiles appear here. The electronic ballot will list candidate names only to make it simple to understand and cast your ballot. Thanks again to all the candidates for taking the time to help make the Washington State Council the best it can be.

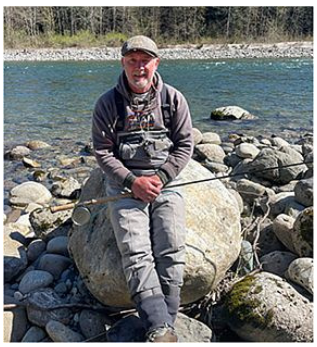
Sam Matalone

Director and Webmaster

I started my love affair with all things fly fishing at about 12 years old. I love to fish and I use to have to buy shads at $0.19. I carefully looked at the how they were constructed and decide I could tie them just as easy. My father loaned me the money to start tying flies. Soon, I started supplying my father with all the he could use and was selling to several local stores. This start me on a path that has encompassed most to my life. I join a local fly fly fishing club, California Fly Fishermen Unlimited, where I met some of the most generous and talent people who took me under their wings and taught me to use a fly rod, to tie flies better, to understand the need for conservation and to enjoy nature. As soon as I was able to drive, they elected me to the board of the director of the club.. After getting married and completing college the simple life I knew got very complicated and for the next 20 years focused on family, career and occasionally fishing, I was not too active in preservation of our natural resources and the sport of fly fishing. I am a member of the Washington State Council FFI, for the past 20 years. I started doing their web work, then was elected to the board of directors and most recent I have taken a position as Chair of the International Program Committee for the FFI.

I believe that the future of our sport depends on the natural resources which we are entrusted with. It is about the fish, very simply put. Everything else in fly fishing evolves around conservation. I have derived so much pleasure for this sport, made some fantastic friends, and now what to be part of enhancing the experience for future generations.

Dareld Thompson



I grew up near Pontiac Michigan and joined the USN in 1987. I was stationed at Miramar Naval Air Station in San Diego and then Naval Air Station Whidbey Island in Washington State. I left the Navy in March of 1995 but stayed in Northwest Washington and have lived here ever since. I have always liked fishing but always wanted to learn how to fly fish. After getting out of the military I had plenty of time to explore the rivers in the area and immediately started learning. I got the Steelhead bug right away and after a whole lot of time trying to catch one, I finally did and I have not been right ever since. I also tie my own flies and started that at the same time I started fly fishing. I have learned a lot doing both and after almost thirty years I still enjoy the passion as much as I did when I started. I also enjoy time with my family especially my two grand children who are three and six. They like being outdoors as much as I do and should be good students for me to teach about fishing.

Aaron Culley

Aaron Culley is a Washington state native and fly fishing enthusiast, member of Fly Fishers International, (All fish All Waters), and a certified casting instructor (FFICI). Aaron has earned the gold level of fly tying skills with the Fly Fishing International Fly Tying Group. Aaron has earned tying awards for the Fly Tying Challenge in years 2022, 2021 and 2020. He is also a member of Trout Unlimited and other conservation outdoor organizations.

Aaron is an avid fly tyer and 30+ year member of the Northwest Atlantic Salmon Fly Guild. He is accomplished at tying Classic Atlantic Salmon full dress flies. Aaron ties nearly all the flies he uses fly fishing warm water, saltwater and cold waters. Material management, acquisition are integral skills he has learned for producing classic Atlantic Salmon flies.

Aaron has fly fished around the northwest as well as Louisiana for redfish and Bahamas for bonefish, Mexico/Belize for permit, tarpon, barracuda, snook and jack crevalle and New Zealand for trophy trout.

Aaron has served as President of the Overlake Fly Fishing Club (Washington State) and board member of the Washington State Council of the Fly Fishers International, receiving the Washington State Council's Presidents award in 2009. He has taught entomology, fly tying and casting to youth groups at the state level and at the fly fishing expo events at the international expos.

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WSC Board of Director Elections

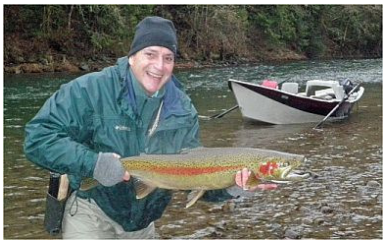
Jim Black

Secretary

Jim has been fishing his whole life. Fishing started for Jim in the 60's in Tacoma. His dad was in love with the outdoors and fishing was a big part of what the family did. Jim built his first rod in the 60's and has tied flies since then also. His biggest passion in fishing is casting. Lefty Kreh taught Jim a dynamic Roll Cast at a trade show back in 90's and when he got done told Jim that he would love fishing even more if he improved his casting. Jim took that to heart and he recently got his Casting Certification from the FFI. He now provides free casting lessons to members of his fly club, Olympic Fly Fishers of Edmonds. For the last two years Jim has volunteered at the WSC FFI Casting Fair running the Casting Challenge and Walk-In clinic. He also coordinated the volunteers for the 2023 Casting Fair. Along with fishing he has worked with TU to measure water culverts for fish passage and restore streams.

Steve Jones

President



Steve has been a member of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers in Vancouver for about 20 years where he served as club president, conservation director and other roles. He joined FFI in 2013, became newsletter editor in 2017 and president in 2019. Steve wants to continue his contribution to the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International and help keep it the lively and successful group members expect.

Neal Hoffberg

Vice President West

Neal has been a member of the FFI for nearly 20 years. He is also a member of the Washington Fly Fishing Club of Seattle where I serve as Committee Chair for Education and Programs. Neal teaches fly tying twice a month with the WFFC and volunteers with Project Healing Waters, Seattle where he teaches both fly tying and fly casting. Neal says, "volunteering has taught me how important and rewarding giving to others is. I am committed to the goals and objectives of the FFI."

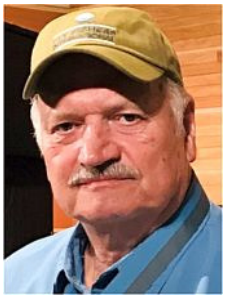
Jim Maus

Treasurer

Jim is current treasurer of the Washington Council and has a passion for fly fishing and fly tying and he enjoys sharing his knowledge with those new to the sport. He is a Life Member of FFI and currently serves on the FFI National Board of Directors as the Treasurer. He is a charter member of the FFI's Fly Tying Group. Jim has been active in the Washington State Council for more than 25 years and has served the Council as Senior Advisor, Treasurer, Secretary, Director at Large and as a National Director. Jim is a long time member and past President of the Puget Sound Flyfishers club in Tacoma and a member of the South Sound Fly Fishing club in Olympia.

Larry Gibbs

Director and Newsletter Editor



Larry is the newsletter editor and he also mails a welcoming letter and a dozen flies to all the new members of the FFI within Washington and Alaska. Larry joined the Board of Directors in the very early 2000's and has held the positions of Director at Large, Treasurer, Secretary and Auction Coordinator. He is a Life Member of the FFI, belongs to the FFI President's Club and he is a sustaining member of the FFI program, 1000 Stewards. He is a life member of the FFI Fly Tying Group and served as the FFI national auction coordinator for five years. He was on the FFI Board of Directors for two years. Larry was also on the FFI Advisory Committee for the FFI BOD. Larry is president of the Alpine Fly Fishers Club, which is a FFI Charter Club located in Puyallup. He also belongs to the North Idaho Fly Casters. He is an all waters fly fisher, but prefers to fish for trout and smallmouth bass in the rivers of western Montana and eastern Washington with both graphite and bamboo fly rods. He is a retired law enforcement officer.

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WSC Board of Director Elections

Robert Gerlach

Director

Robert is a retired general contractor living in Gig Harbor, who has been angling the Pacific Northwest for over 30 years. The fly rod captured his attention in the early 2000s and he picks up a gear rod rarely now. He became a Certified Casting Instructor in 2013 and for more than a decade led the casting instruction program at FFIs annual Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. Robert says, "I find just about as much pleasure throwing a perfect loop as I do hooking a great fish, well I said almost! It is an honor to serve on the Board of Directors of the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International and have a hand in "PASSING IT ON" to future generations."

Mike Clancy

Director and Government Affairs

Mike began fishing as "a little guy" as he says and took up fly fishing in 2000 after retirement. He attended the Puyallup Sportsman Show that year and overheard FFI members Bob Shirley and Larry Gibbs talking about a club called the Puget Sound Fly Fishers in Tacoma and he joined. "I have absolutely enjoyed our sport and relationships I have made from that day on," says Mike. Mike rapidly became involved in club activities and became a director of the Washington State Council of FFI in 2003. He has served as Secretary, Vice President (West) and presently the Government Affairs Director for the Council where he distributes information about WDFW meetings and issues to FFI clubs and various other sport fishing organizations. For 12 years Mike was co-director of the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy which FFI operates in cooperation with the Washington Chapter of Trout Unlimited. Mike says "I am very proud of The Academy and appreciate the support that we receive from the fly fishing community to make this week-long event a life-long experience for the future fly fishers of our sport."

Richard Plunket

Vice President Conservation

Richard joined FFI in 2014 and belongs to three fly clubs as well. As conservation VP Richard is "hoping to be helpful in educating and protecting what we can with an emphasis on not losing anymore." There is a family picture of Richard fishing with a cane pole and balsa bobber at the age of two or three. The family left that lake in Michigan and settled next along the Umpqua River in Oregon where he learned to hunt and fly fish and he learned about conservation from his father, a teacher and naturalist. He landed his first Steelhead on the North Umpqua (without Dad's help) at thirteen. Richard says "I like to build rods, tie flies and catch fish, but I love to be on the water."

Ruth Sims

Director

Yá'át'ééh! Kinłichíi'nii nishłį́. Naałani bashishchiin. Ákót'éego diné asdzáán nishłį́.

Hello! I am born for Red House Clan. I am born to Many Enemies Clan. In this was I am a Navajo woman

Growing up in Seattle I have been fishing since I could walk and fly fishing since 2014 by way of fly tying. As an electro-physics and robotics engineer I have always seen the natural world in numbers, free body diagrams and relativity so casting to me is a scientific art. In Sept 2022 after 15 months of studying and practice I passed the CI Exam. Prior to this FFI exam event there were only 2 women in Washington who were FFI certified CIs. I have taught casting for fly fishing fairs, fly fishing clubs, a fly shop, the Mayfly Project, for Indigenous Fly Fishers (New Mexico), for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and for individuals looking to develop their fly casting skills. I absolutely love seeing different casting skills "click" while people are learning to cast as well as the excitement of a first fly caught fish. I enjoy backpacking to alpine lakes, swinging flies for winter steelhead and wandering the tropical flats for tailing fish. My favorite fish to catch is coho on the strip but I will literally fish for almost anything that swims because I love the researching/education part of targeting a new species.

One Fly Casting Fair done in May

Next Fly Casting Fair Is On September 21

The May Fly Casting Fair in Ballinger Park was a rainy success. Or, it was a success despite the rain would be another way of saying it. Either way you look all the class space available in our roster of casting classes was filled. Feedback was good and the rain didn't dampen the fun, although it may have limited the crowd.

One big reason for that success was the Overlake Fly Fishing Club and its volunteer coordinator Steve Foisie. They were FFI's well-organized volunteer partner for the day. Special thanks goes out to our team of FFI Certified Casting Instructors Ryan Smith, Pat Peterman, Tom Cammarata, Todd Somsel, Marion Hiller, Ruth Sims, Don Simonson, Jim Black and Frank Koterba. Students were really engaged during the day and it was thanks to instructors that reached out to participants. The same is true of Washington State Council director Neal Hoffberg who organized the teaching team. Neal has been involved with coordinating the instruction program for each of the past 3 Casting Fairs and we're all the better for his consistent effort.

This year the event benefitted from the expanded Fly Casting Skills Development courses. The FCSD, as it's commonly referred to, attracted steady attention from visitors. Frank Koterba led the effort and during the day FFI awarded participants two Bronze, five Silver and three Gold level awards. Besides Frank, three other instructors led participants through the course that day including Aaron Culley, Marion Hiller and Robert Gerlach. Part of visitors' success on the FCSD, was the adjacent Walk-In Clinic led by Jim Black where participants could get help swatting bugs in their cast. Thanks also goes out to Bill Reisbick and Howard Levens for leading both morning and afternoon classes in beginning fly tying and Washington State Council fly tying director Sam Matalone for bringing a skilled team of tiers to the event throughout the day.

Now the focus shifts to Saturday Sept. 21, when the Washington State Council is putting on another Fly Casting Fair on the campus of Clark College in downtown Vancouver. Please save the date.

Taking the "show on the road" to Vancouver is a new opportunity to engage with our growing membership in Southwest Washington. And what better place for casting classes than on the quad at the center of a community college. Classes will be organized on the football-field-size lawn stretching south of the student union in Gaiser Hall. Inside the hall, we will have an expanded roster of expert fly tiers at work. We're adding a tying theater where some of FFI's leading tiers will be projecting their techniques the audience. Space limits our tying effort at Ballinger Lake to just a few tiers at work at one time. Space won't be a limit in Vancouver, where we will have dozens of tiers at work throughout the day in Gaiser Hall. Just like at Ballinger Lake, we will have box lunches and coffee available and a comfortable place to gather with fellow fishers.

Our partner in Vancouver is Clark-Skamania Flyfishers, a 49-year old club with a thriving membership. Club member Bill Victor has taken on the role of volunteer recruiter and coordinator. Washington State Council FFI also is getting help from FFI Certified Master Casting Instructor Mary Ann Dozer of Sisters, Ore., who is helping recruit Oregon's FFI Casting Instructors to help with our Washington event. Outreach is going well.

Thanks to all who attended the May event at Seattle's Ballinger Park and we look forward to engaging with a new group of FFI members and affiliated fly clubs in Vancouver in September. With any luck, it shouldn't be raining.

Frank Kortuba at work with a caster on the Skills Development course. →

Steve Foisie lending a hand at the Walk-In Clinic. →

Don Simonson and Todd Somsel in front of crowd for demonstrations. ←

Fly Tying Tips and Other Assorted Pearls of Wisdom

By Sam Matalone

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

Taming the Automatic Bobbins

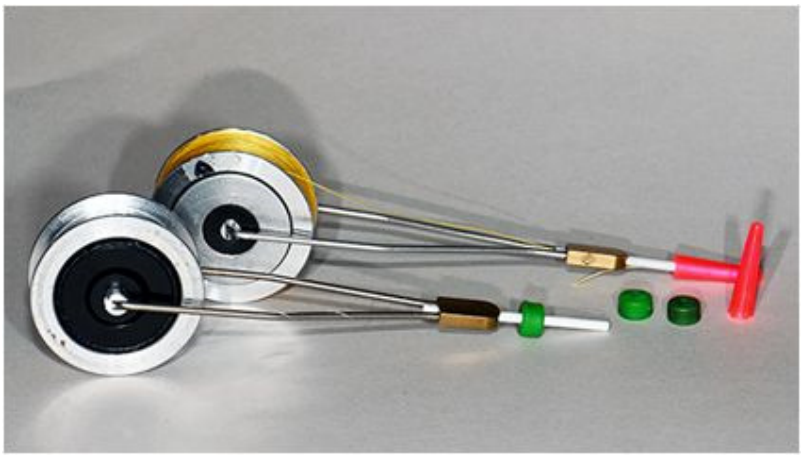
by Sam Matalone

This quick tip is for a select few fly tiers that use automatic bobbins. They are great when you are tying. BUT, there can be a lot of frustration associated them, especially when you are done tying or you want to switch thread color. If you are like me you have to look and try to find where you place the rubber/plastic thread holder. (The automatic bobbin users will understand what I am talking about). About a year ago I saw someone posted a picture on FaceBook of a Nor Vise automatic bobbin with a thread holder attached to the bobbin. After close inspection, it was a very simple but clever modification. So I decided to a make a few to relieve some of my frustration when tying (every little bit helps especially when you are trying to set Bronze Mallard on a Lady Caroline) .

The approach to making this thread holder is not difficult at all and there are literally 100s of options and the component parts you can use to assemble this. I took the simplest route, I used machine screws and bolts made of brass. Brass is extremely easy to work with, it is forgiving and easy to file down with just fine sandpaper.

The part list is a follows:
Screw size 2-56 or 4-40 (you can go larger, personal choice here)
Screw nut to match screw size
Small o-rings, to fit the screw size you have chosen

Total cost is about $1.50 with the o-rings costing about $1.20. Now there are lot of options here as to "How Fancy" you want to get: Stainless Steel, Chrome, Black Chrome, various color o-rings, different screw head shapes etc.



Above are two Nor Vise bobbins, so the thread does not retract after you are using it, you need to place a small "cap" over the bobbin opening or slide a rubber collar over the shaft trapping the thread between the bobbin shaft and rubber collar.

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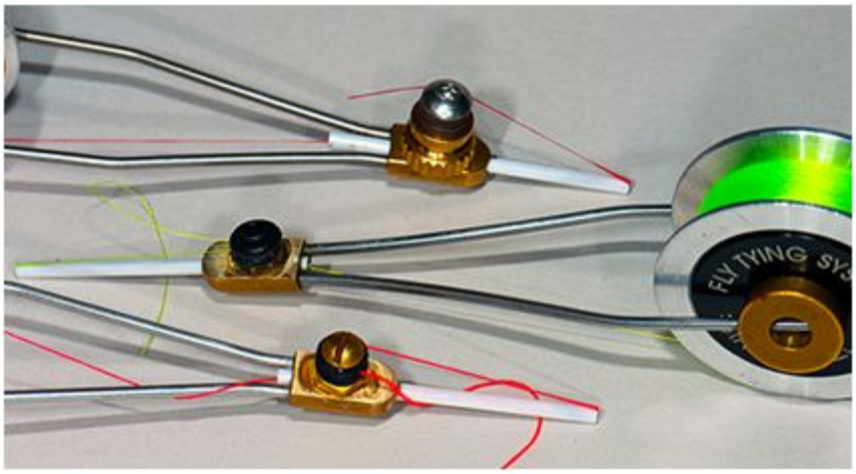
Various component parts require to make a thread holder. I have shown 3 different sizes screws and nut combinations with appropriately sized o-rings. The only real challenge here is to get the screw lengths such that with the o-rings in place that they extend beyond the base of the nut. If you can not get the correct screw length, no problem, just file it flush with base of the nut. (please note the odd looking nuts is call a knurled nut, little bigger but my preferred method)



Once you have fabricated your thread holder, lightly sand the area where you want to attach the thread holder, light sand the base of the nut, then clean the recently sanded area with Isopropyl alcohol. Once dried, use a little super glue to attach the thread holder to the base. That is all to it!

Extended Mayfly Bodies
by Dan West

This is a method I developed to create extended body mayflies that are very durable, light weight, and float well. Though the process may seem complicated, it is not. After a few tries, you will begin to master the technique. This article is really 3 articles, part 1 is creating the extended body, part 2 demonstrates attachment of the extended body and tailing fibers, and part 3 is tying the wings, thorax and legs. Since this is a heavy picture article, we will be only discussing part 1 and 2. Don't worry! Part 3 will be in our October Newsletter.

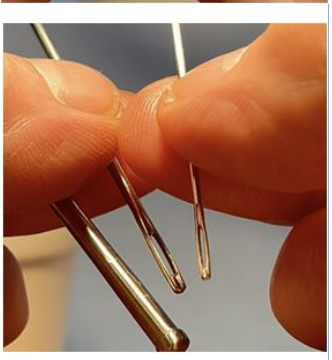
Additionally, we are trying to improve everyone's overall learning experience. We are adding a link to a video of Dan demonstrating his technique at the end of this article. We will also put the link on FaceBook and our website.

Note from the newsletter editor: Dan West will be demonstrating how to tie these extended body flies at the Washington State Council Fly Casting Event Sept 21st at Clark College, Vancouver Washington. The day-long event will feature dozens of expert fly tiers at work inside Gaiser Hall on campus and a variety of casting classes and activities on the lawns outside.

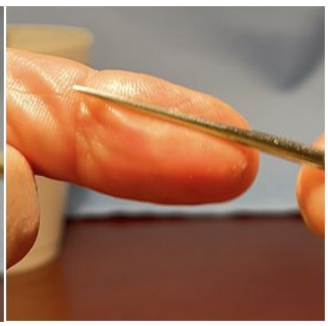
Dan will be a featured tier who will be demonstrating this technique in a class room style setting. This will be your opportunity to ask Dan questions i.e., on the big screen.

Part 1

Extended bodies can be made in various sizes, colors and with segmentation, if desired.



I use various size needles for smaller bodies, and nails that I shape down to the desired profile for the larger bodies. I cut or grind off the nail heads and chuck in a drill, then shape on a belt sander while spinning the drill. While still in the drill, I go through finer and finer grit sand papers till very smooth (1000 grit +). Then polish with buffing compound and leather belt.



Just a small amount of tacky wax is needed. Spread it evenly on the mandrill. This is primarily for the dubbing to grab the needle for the weaving process. Overton's works great for this.

Spread wax well up the needle or nail. It also aids in sliding the body off.

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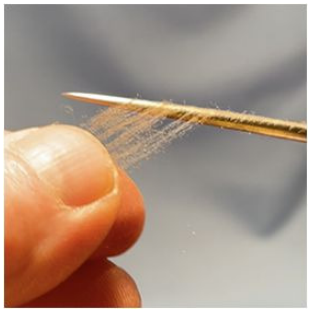
I have found Wapsi Superfine to be the best choice of material for making these. It is made of long, strong synthetic fibers.

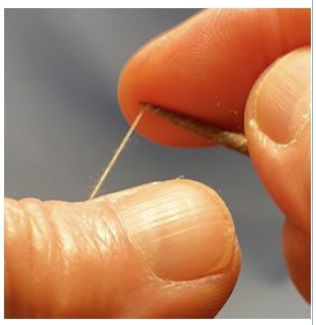
Pull out very small wispy tufts of material at a time.



It's important to keep the dubbing "webby" as you wind it up and down the needle. Very thin even layers are key to keeping a uniform appearance. Notice the steep angle – wrapping the dubbing at a steep angle going up and back down are important for strength and uniformity. As I wind up to the point, I put my finger on the point to keep the dubbing from jumping off the end before winding back down. I always end this step at the base of the body. It's good and easier to make them longer than necessary as you will be cutting them to the desired length. Larger bodies take considerably more material than the smaller ones, I try to keep the point sparse than the tie in area near the base of the body. I'm always surprised by how little dubbing you actually need. In fact, using to much just adds bulk and soaks up more resin, creating a heavier body. Play around with seeing how little you can get away with.

I like putting all my dubbing in the box type dispensers. This allows me to control the amount of material as well as the length to be used in segmenting the body.

This step shows how to get the look of segmentation on the body. Start by pulling out a very small wispy piece, in this case it's Light Cahill over Callibaetis Wapsi Superfine. Get it started near the point with one and a half turns or so.



Once it grabs, gently pull it out a bit and twist it in one direction to cord it up making a thin thread.

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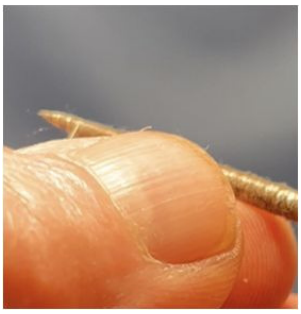
Wind it down the body evenly spacing your turns.



This process can be a bit tricky and will take a little practice to get the feel for it. It doesn't always go well for me, and there are times when I need to make a couple attempts to get it right!

Here is the finished body almost ready for the resin.

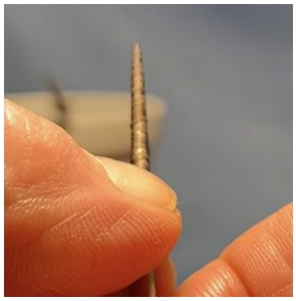
I clean up all those fuzzy bits with a quick singe from a lighter. This also kind of welds all the fibers together. (This photo looks like I'm setting it on fire, but it's really just a very quick up and down)

The next step is applying the resin. I use Solarez Flex formula. It's very thick and remains flexible after curing.

I am usually making several of these at a time (this really helps with consistency). I apply a few drops of resin to a piece of plastic and avoid getting resin on my hands. Roll the body in the resin in the same direction as you wound the dubbing. It will only soak up so much, then apply good pressure to a cleaner part of the plastic to wring out excess resin. Even a very large body will require very little resin. One or two drops should wet out several bodies.

The next two steps show how to put the bend in the body.

With your UV torch on and held a foot or so away from the body, move the body into the light while spinning for a split second to partially cure. Now slide the body halfway off the needle using your thumbnail. It might bunch up a bit before it pops off, and that's okay, you can gently pull it back out. It should still be soft enough to put the desired bend in it. If you cure it to long it will kink when you try and bend it. You may have to play around a bit with this "pre-cure" process, depending on the power of your UV torch and battery strength. I have found it better to error on the side of under curing.



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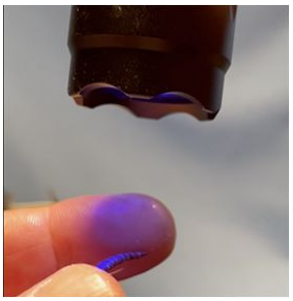
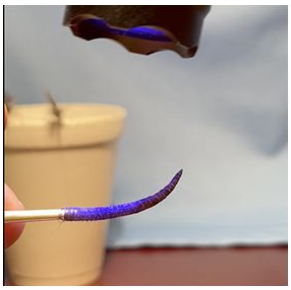


Hit it with your torch while holding the desired bend.



Finishing the cure.

At this stage, you can clip off some of that excess length at the butt of the body, but suggest you hold off on trimming to exact length until you go to tie your fly. Also, clip off a tiny bit of the tip to create a small opening for the tailing fibers to exit. **End of part 1.**

Part 2

Tying the fly!

I have been using hooks that have a “klink” style bend to them. FM5065’s are a good choice, also Firehole 315’s. This bend lends itself well to the shape of a mayfly, also hangs down enough to keel the fly nicely.

Here I am sizing the body to the hook by holding the body next to it and trimming to the desired length.

This will be the tie in location. Note the angled cut on the body, this helps with the tie in.

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Open the end by snipping off a tiny amount of the point or cutting a split in it for the larger mayflies.

Run the hook down the hollow body opposite the bend and exit well behind the tie in point. Take your time to align and pierce the hook through the body so you get it the first time and not put a lot of holes in your body.

Here I have slid the body down out of the way to start the thread. Select your tailing fibers (moose body hair in this case). I also use micro fibbets, Hairline Mayfly Tails, and CDL, depending on the fly. Attach your thread and run the tails down the hollow body and out the end. Align the tips, check your length, and tie down to the top of the hook. On smaller flies, it makes it easier to insert the tail fibers before attaching to the hook.

Tails in place, lined up, ready to tie down.

Ready to tie the body into position.

On large mayfly bodies I place a dubbing ball just behind the tie in point. This fills in the large hollow and keeps the body from crushing and distorting when tying down.

Continued on page 15 ⟶

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Advance thread to the tie in point.

Slide the body up and over the dubbing ball to your tie in point. Angle the body toward you a bit and catch it with one loose wrap and lightly snug, the body will roll to its upright position with consecutive wraps.

The larger bodies will want to roll more than the smaller ones. You will see what I mean the first times you try this.

Thin UV resin to separate the tails.

To separate the tails if you want, you can apply a small amount of thin UV resin to the exit point, hold where you want and cure.

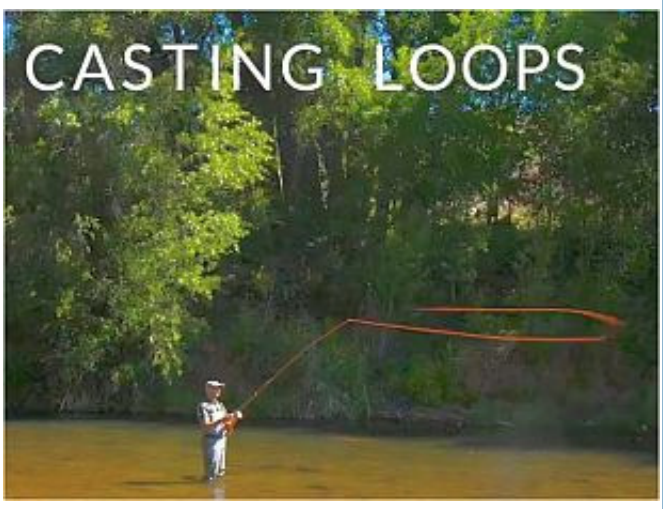
Holding the tails in position and curing the resin.
Ready for wings, thorax and hackle or legs. Part 3 will demonstrate all of that.

Ready for wings and legs.

See the next Newsletter for the rest of the story!

Fly Casting Tip

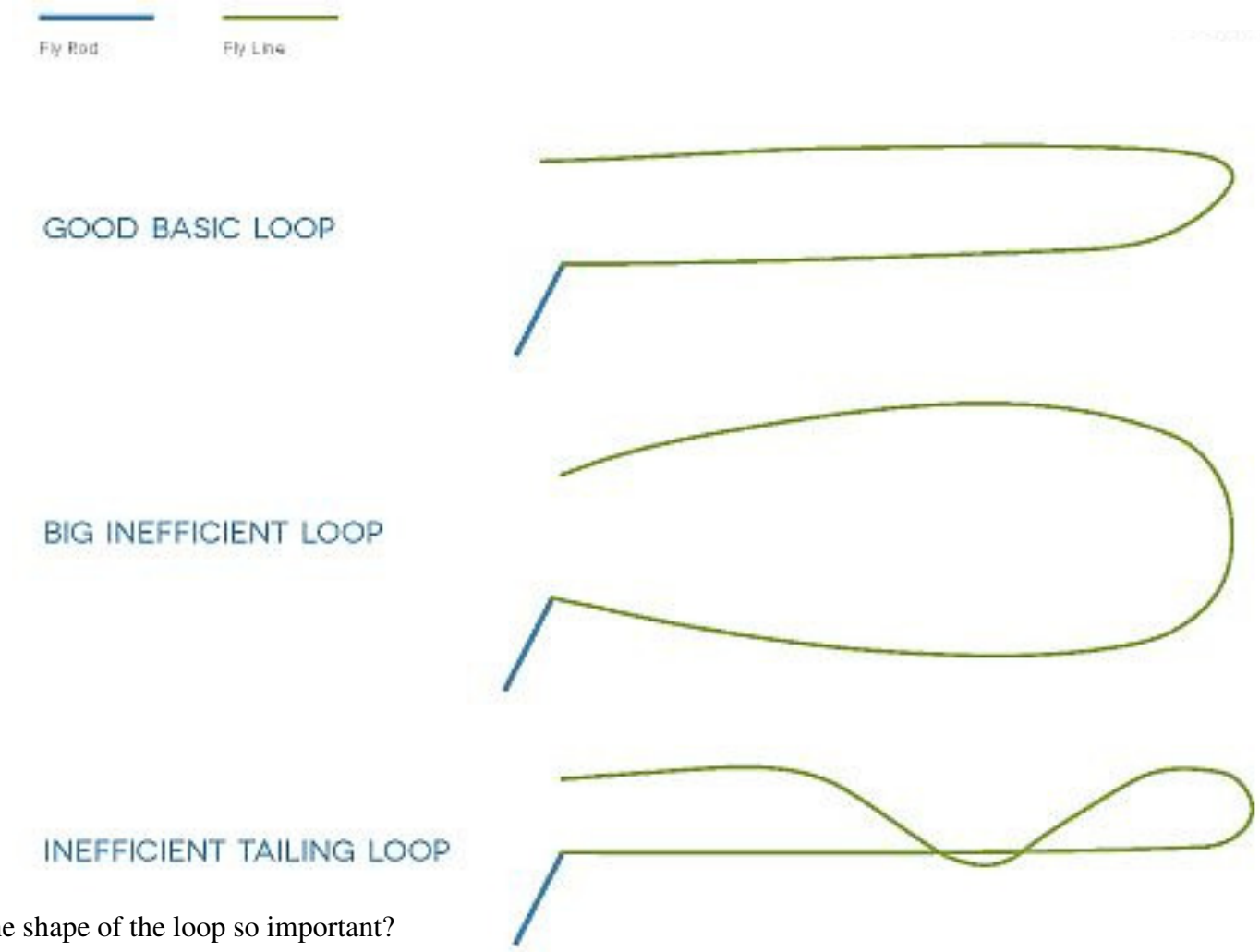
The Loop



Want to learn how to cast the perfect loop?

Well, you've come to the right place. You can watch the video and download our Fundamentals of a Cast lesson to learn more. If you are a member of FFI you can download the full lesson with tips from our Master Casting Instructors. If you are not a member, please join now.

What is a "loop"?
In fly casting we call the shape of the line in the air while casting the "loop". The shape of the loop is very important. Here are drawings of the 3 most common loop shapes.



Why is the shape of the loop so important?

In spin or bait casting, the weight we are casting is the weight of the lure, bait or sinker, not the line. When fly casting, we are normally casting flies that are too light to cast with spin or bait casting gear. Fly casting utilizes a special line, a fly line, that is the casting weight. Rather than having the weight of the lure pull the line off the reel, in fly casting the weight of the fly line itself pulls the fly through the air and delivers it to the target.

FFI 2023 Conservation Project Complete
Yakima Canyon Ranch purchase complete
Bighorn boat ramp now open

By Steve Jones

Purchase of the Yakima Canyon Ranch on the Yakima River is complete. The Washington State Council FFI and many FFI affiliated fly clubs contributed to the campaign to buy and preserve the property. BLM has taken possession of the land and on May 16 officially opened the the Bighorn Recreation Site. In 2023, Western Rivers Conservancy launched a campaign to purchase the 812-acre ranch and turn it over to BLM for management as part of its Yakima Canyon Conservation Area. Washington State Council FFI was proud to back the effort and directors thank all of the FFI members and affiliated fly clubs that joined us in donating to the campaign.

Bighorn is now open to us all, but it's not fancy. The site contains a spacious gravel boat ramp, 15 primitive campsites and several day-use and picnic areas. Curtis Bryan, Wenatchee field manager in BLM's Spokane District said the priority this summer was to do basic clean-up of the site and open it for public use. For now, there is no charge for campsites. Improvements are coming, but before they begin Bryan said the agency wants to gather ideas from the public for the best way to develop and use the property. For that purpose, BLM has created a website at Yakima River Canyon (blmyakimarivercanyon.org) where fly fishers can learn about the opportunity at the site and suggest ideas for how it should be used. For example, Bighorn has more trees than any other campground on the river. BLM wants to know how important that is to campers and whether management should be focused on preserving forest over campsite development.

Jim Cox, director of donor relations for Western Rivers Conservancy and Steve Jones

In addition to Bighorn, the acquisition also expands the public land at the Umtanum boat ramp downstream from Bighorn. For now, that area will be open to walk-in fishing, but BLM is considering expanding the Umtanum camping area into the new space. You can leave your suggestions of how the space should be used on the same website. The best part of the acquisition is that the ranch land is no longer under the threat of commercial development. Instead, it is now -- and will remain -- in public ownership with the priority on preserving the Yakima River and its trophy trout fishery. Thanks to FFI members for donating to the purchase campaign and making a big difference in preserving a river we love. Tight lines to all.

Curtis Bryan of BLM, Nelson Mathews interim president of Western Rivers and Jim Cox of Western Rivers.

BLM has created a website at Yakima River Canyon: **blmyakimarivercanyon.org**

CATCH AND RELEASE ARGENTINA : HOW IT CAME TO BE

By Jorge Tucco FFI International Ambassador Argentina

truccojorge@gmail.com

Today, it is hard to imagine a quality fishery where fly fishers do not return their catch to the water alive. This is the standard on the rivers in Patagonia. Releasing their fish is the practice of both fishers and guides. It is taken for granted, as if it had always been this way. It is not even questioned; what is more, many people are not aware that things were the exact opposite not very long ago. In fact, it was a real struggle to establish the culture of 'catch and release'. It took time, hard work and countless battles.

Many years ago, when I discovered fly fishing as a teenager, I obsessively searched for publications on the subject. Most, if not all, were written in English and came from the United States. As soon as I began to read, it became apparent that the concept of 'catch and release', which was frequently mentioned, was of the utmost importance.

The notion of 'catch and release' was introduced to Argentina by Joe Brooks, and those who fished with him between the mid '50s and late '60s carried on his legacy. Jorge Donovan may have been the one who grasped the concept and its implications better and faster, and probably the one who first persuaded me it was imperative to spread it and implement its practice in order to prevent the resource from being definitively degraded. Mel Krieger was also a great influence on my convictions and a keen advocate of 'catch and release' which he never failed to mention in his presentations or whenever the opportunity arose. While some of us had already adopted the practice, it was vital for others to do so as well in order to achieve real results in the fish population, especially in the larger, higher quality fish. In the '70s it was common practice to kill and take home the best catch, whereas sometimes the smaller ones were returned. This was, of course, exactly the opposite of what should have been done. The systematic killing of the larger fish would eventually result in a population of small sized fish, including adults. It could be called an inverted genetic selection, where instead of preserving good specimens and allowing them to reproduce, they were being killed. As long as the fishing pressure remained low, the resource could have resisted its degradation to a certain extent, but as angling became more popular, the outcome would have been devastating.

Although it was repeatedly explained in US publications in which anglers were encouraged to practice 'catch and release' and spread the concept, it was relatively new in the country, and was not yet widespread. In the places where it was practiced, such as private spring creeks, some rivers in national parks and so on, the quality of the fishing was much higher than where it was not. Besides, American fly fishers like Mel Krieger, whom I mentioned before, publications, specialized magazines and institutions such as Trout Unlimited and Federation of Fly Fishers among others, were truly committed to spreading the culture in their own country .

In the late '70s Jorge Donovan gave me a study carried out and published by Trout Unlimited showing the mortality rate of returned live fish at 4%. This meant that statistically, out of 100 returned trout, only 4 died, while 96 survived. Obviously, 4% mortality was much better than 100%, as was the case at the time, since most of the fish caught were killed. Fishing regulations in Patagonia allowed killing 4 trout or salmon per person, per day. Unfortunately, it was easy to kill more, which was what usually happened.

When I settled in San Martin de los Andes and became a professional fishing guide, I was fully aware of the importance of advocating 'catch and release' although it involved a drastic cultural change, a paradigm shift. It was the locals, especially, who had to be persuaded that it was the best policy to ensure long term quality fishing in the area which would naturally result in greater economic benefits for the community as a whole, when anglers from all over the world visited us.

On one of his trips, Jorge Donovan kindly gave me a movie called 'The Way of a Trout´, produced and edited by Trout Unlimited in the US. I repeatedly showed it in San Martin de los Andes and, with the help of a well-known fisherman and staunch supporter of the cause, Chiche Aracena, arranged for it to be aired on the only TV channel in Neuquén at the time, the very evening before the 1983 opening day of the fishing season.

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The movie was in English so I simultaneously interpreted it in Spanish. It tells the story of a determined fisherman who, after an extremely long struggle, finally succeeds in catching a good sized trout in a remote, hidden pool but decides to return it to the river after reflecting on the trout's life. Most of the movie shows what the trout has to endure, the enemies it has to avoid and the difficulties it has to face to survive and reach a good size, as only a small percentage do. The moral of the story is that trout which reach a large size are generally the strongest and best adapted, which is why it is essential to preserve them.

In 1981, Jorge Donovan (A renowned Argentine fly-fishing pioneer and enthusiastic angle. Donovan met Joe Brooks at a fly shop in New York and first brought him to Patagonia in 1955. Joe Brooks marked a paradigm shift in Argentine fly-fishing) and I drafted a fishing regulation project proposing 'catch and release' and 'fly fishing only' for a stretch of the Upper Malleo River. The project was welcomed by the Neuquén Department of Wildlife and everything went smoothly. However, the final meeting in Junín de los Andes, was interrupted by the untimely appearance of Ginés Gomariz, an experienced, multiple style fisherman, and a group of boisterous followers. They strenuously opposed the 'practices' which, in their opinion, only benefited foreign anglers (like the ones I guided) 'at the expense of the locals', and words to that effect. Unfortunately, the government officials became uneasy and decided not to innovate. That was our first failed attempt.

Ginés Gomariz wrote several sport fishing books and magazine articles. I had one of his books, actually a guide, in which he explained fishing techniques, besides fly-fishing, in the different environments in Argentina. We were mates and shared fishing outings on the Malleo and the Chimehuín. We often met at the 'boca' of the Chimehuín where he once took a picture of me after I had landed a 4-kilo brown. He had moved to Junín de los Andes in 1979 and set up a fishing store where he sold not only fly-fishing tackle, but spinning and trolling tackle and equipment to a diverse clientele. I suppose that his fear of change arose from the thought that customers would be discouraged from coming to the area to fish, thus affecting his business. He was by no means the only one; Héctor Sainz, another well-known angler from the city of Neuquén who also worked in a fishing store, opposed 'catch and release' regulations, too. In addition, fishing clubs in the city of Neuquén such as El Biguá and particularly Huepil Leufú loudly voiced their opposition to returning live fish to the water. Some of them simply couldn't conceive the idea and completely rejected it.

Unfortunately, many local people agreed with them. I argued that, on the contrary, 'catch and release' would not only prevent the trout population from being decimated, but would substantially improve the quality of the fishing area. This would bring about the arrival of a larger number of visitors who would be willing to pay more for the services of a fishing trip. I emphasized that my proposal only involved a stretch of the Upper Malleo River for experimental purposes. I truly believed that if I could make it happen, in a few years that section would offer far superior fishing quality to the rest of the rivers, so the idea would advertise itself and eventually 'catch and release' would expand to the other rivers. Perhaps others suspected this and it scared them.

Despite the numerous meetings and heated discussions at the Department of Wildlife to determine the fishing regulations, my conviction never wavered. By 1985 I had gained allies, fellow guides like Gustavo Olsen and Ramón Aranguren, as well as citizens from both Junín and San Martín de los Andes. I had also, not without difficulty, managed to found 'Fundación Salmónidos', a conservationist entity for the preservation of the quality of salmonid populations in Patagonia. As I had somehow been assigned the status of expert in San Martín de los Andes, I became their spokesman. I attended the meetings convened by the Department of Wildlife representing not only the foundation, but several institutions such as the Hotel Association, the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Hall itself. My counterpart in Junín de los Andes, their expert spokesman was, not surprisingly, Ginés Gomariz whose position was the stumbling block to the acceptance of our proposal. Needless to say, discussions continued being harsh and it seemed practically impossible to change people's minds. For instance, fishing clubs in the city of Neuquén refused to believe that successful contests could be held without trout being killed.

The turning point came in 1985 when Felipe Sapag, the governor of Neuquén, decided to create a commission comprising representatives of all locations in the province involved in sport fishing. This included towns like San Martín and Junín de los Andes, Villa La Angostura, Chos Malal, Aluminé and the city of Neuquén among others. Interestingly, the Argentine Fly fishing Association, with headquarters in Buenos Aires, also participated. The city of Zapala would host the meetings.

There were scores of meetings and attendance was high. Besides my 'catch and release 'proposal, there were many topics on the agenda. For instance, the Argentine Fly Fishing Association advocated the total prohibition of trolling fishing as they considered it extremely predatory and a danger to the fish population due to the use of lures and spoons with treble hooks. In addition, trolling fishers had neither the attitude nor the intention of returning live trout to the water.

When I was living in Buenos Aires, and a member of the Association, I agreed with their position. However, after settling in Patagonia, I changed my mind as I realized that the livelihood of many inn owners, managers, employees and their families as well as the service providers depended mostly, if not wholly, on trolling fishing.

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The inns were located on the shores of large lakes such as the two on Paimún, but there were none on the rivers in those days. In my opinion, a possible solution was to negotiate a reduction in the number of daily kills, the use of barbless hooks, the establishment of protected spawning areas and even 'catch and release' areas instead of the total ban on trolling fishing.

With this in mind, when the day my proposal would be put to the vote came, I approached the representatives of the clubs from Neuquén, who were extremely worried about the prohibition initiative, and told them I understood their concern. Despite being well aware of their stand against 'catch and release' I inquired whether it was really important to them if only one section of the Upper Malleo River became 'catch and release'. After some consideration, they said that they never fished the area, that theirs was a different practice, so it did not actually affect them. I then expressed my willingness to use my four votes to help them prevent the ban if they would support my proposal. We reached an agreement. The votes were cast and, despite the opposition of the entities representing Junín de los Andes, led by Ginés Gomariz, my position won by a few votes. It was the first official 'catch and release' regulation passed in Patagonia or on any Argentine river. Victory at long last!

As was to be expected, the Upper Malleo River started improving rapidly until the quality of its fishing became incomparable to the Lower Malleo and any river where trout were killed and it soon acquired international prestige. Without a shadow of a doubt, 'catch and release' was the solution. The next challenge was establishing the practice on other rivers.

During the '80s, on the Lower Chimehuín River there were several access points for public use granted by Estancia Cerro de los Pinos (at present Tipiliuke Lodge), and Estancia Putkamer further downstream, where a public camp had been set up. This meant the river endured intense fishing pressure and constant depredation which made me avoid taking clients there. Unfortunately, this was not the only danger. There was once a fire at Estancia Cerro los Pinos as a result of a barbeque fire started by some visitors. Hundreds of acres of pine tree plantations were burned to the ground. Pedro de Larminat, co-owner and administrator at the time, was justifiably, extremely upset. During our conversations in search of a viable solution, not without hesitation, we considered the possibility of closing the accesses and we agreed to try and establish that stretch of the river as a 'catch and release' area. The Lower Chimehuín runs from its confluence with the Quilquihue River to the confluence with the Collón Curá River. We also thought it would be a great idea to use one of the ranch buildings to accommodate fishermen and eventually turn it into a lodge, which might have been the genesis of Tipiliuke Lodge.

The matter was brought up at a meeting of the Department of Wildlife in Junín de los Andes in 1992, where, as the representative of the Hotel Association of San Martín de los Andes, I submitted the 'catch and release' regulation on the Lower Chimehuin River for approval. In view of the success of the experience on the Upper Malleo, even Ginés Gomariz agreed. This was the second river in Patagonia where 'catch and release' was officially established.

Gradually, the concept of 'catch and release' gained followers among the local population. People became aware of the benefits for both fishing and the community. The first to understand this were the fishing guides, who quickly realized that their work depended on the quality of the fishing and its sustainability over time. It naturally followed that their clients became convinced and finally the local community as a whole supported it. At the dawn of the new millennium all the rivers in the Province of Neuquén were officially declared 'catch and release' rivers at last.

Later the concept and practice of "catch and release" spread throughout all of Patagonia and even on rivers in other countries such as Russia and Norway.

Today in Patagonia 'catch and release' culture is common knowledge and has been an example for the rest of the country, even in areas where there are no trout or salmon but dorado, tararira (wolf-fish) and pacú. This is the new paradigm and it is most probably why the rivers remain productive.

For additional context, a Joe Brooks Documentary. The Patagonia segment starts at around 43:00.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xo3s2Xj4qh8

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.

What is 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. FCSD is an expanded and redesigned version of the Fly Casting Skills Challenge. There are now four levels from beginner to advanced: Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. Below facilitators and anglers will find the links to all the information needed for achieving and confirming achievement at each level. The casting videos found in the Fly Casting Video Library teach many of the skills required to advance through the FCSD.

Angler Guide

The mission of the Fly Casting Skills Development program (FCSD) is to give all fly anglers a guide to learning and improving casting skills that address increasingly advanced fishing situations. It starts at the Foundation level, for true beginners to the sport who might be picking up a fly rod for the first time. It progresses through 4 levels of Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. These provide a broad, relevant range of fishing casts covering skill categories of loop control, accuracy, roll cast, presentation, change in direction and distance. Better casting skills open more fishing opportunities with less frustration. All fly anglers can benefit and should be proud of their accomplishment. There is even an opportunity for recognition of casting accomplishments with an award document and a pin at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels. Special mention should be made that this is a separate program from the Casting Instructor Certification Program. The FCSD program is not an examination and is meant to be done at the participant's own pace. Achievement of any of the 4 levels does not certify any teaching ability on the part of the participants. Simply stated, FCSD is something that a Certified Instructor might teach students to help improve fishing success, not what one learns to become a Certified Instructor. How to use the Fly Casting Skills Development program: 1. Start at the beginning and proceed in order. For some this means Bronze. It is tempting to skip ahead to Silver and Gold, but keep in mind that each level has unique skills and casts that build upon each other, so one could miss out by skipping over a level. Also, instructor experience reveals that many who struggle have fundamental flaws and inefficiencies in their casting. Spending a little time on Foundation Level and developing proper casting form will make everything easier, and most importantly, make the fly go where the angler wants! 2. Special note on Foundation level: This level is a great starting place for those picking up a fly rod for the first time, or beginners with some fishing experience. You will learn the foundation of fly casting: loop formation and control. FFI strongly recommends beginners start here. A good resource for understanding the mechanics of loop formation can be found in the FFI Learning Center.

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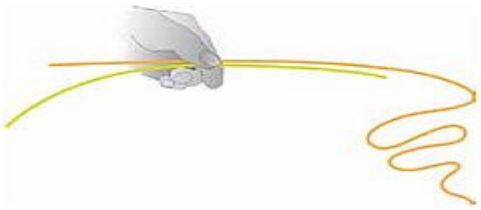
LEADER TO TIPPET
Adding Tippet to a Leader

Double Surgeon's Knot

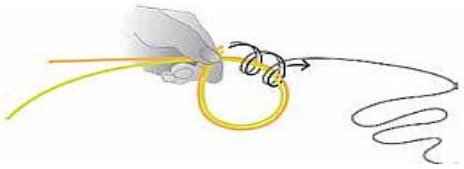
This knot ranks as one of the best and easiest to tie knots for joining lines of equal or unequal diameters. It can also be used to join lines of different materials. It is simply two overhand knots with the entire leader pulled through the knot each time. When properly tied, the Surgeon's Knot approaches 100%-line strength. It must be tightened by pulling on all four strands to properly seat the knot. To tie the Triple Surgeon's Knot, proceed to do a total of three wraps of the loop through the overhand knot (hence the triple in the name). While the Triple Surgeon's knot may be a bit bulky, there is some measure of added security with this knot.

1. Lay the line and tippet on top of one another overlapping each other by several inches.

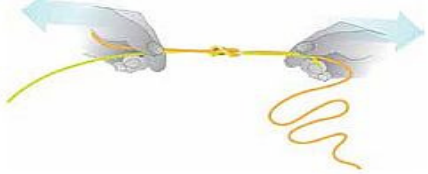


2. Form a simple loop. Pass both the tag end and the entire leader through the loop.

3. Pass both the tag end and the entire leader through the loop a second time (Double Surgeon's). (Optional: Pass both tag end and leader through the loop an additional time to tie the 'Triple Surgeon's Knot'.)



4. Moisten knot and pull all four (4) ends tight.



5. Cut both tag ends. —15

FFI Women Connect Driftless Rendezvous

FFi Upper Midwest Council | Minnesota's Driftless Rendezvous | FFi WOMEN CONNECT

Join the FFi Upper Midwest Council & FFi Women Connect this fall for our 4th Annual Women's Driftless Rendezvous! This event will be held in the heart of the Minnesota Driftless. This area is known for its expansive trout habitat and beautiful, deeply carved river valleys with pristine spring creeks. This is an event hosted by women, for women! Registration includes food & lodging; all other travel/transportation, licensing, and guide trips are at your own expense.

Monday Oct. 7 - Sunday Oct. 13, 2024

Where: Cedar Valley Resort - Whalen, MN

To Register:
Info & registration will be posted on:
umcffi.org/women-connect/
Or contact: womenconnect.UMC.ffi@gmail.com

Pricing & Package Info:

We are offering tiered pricing which includes all food and lodging. Everyone will have their own bed. Participants will help with food prep & clean up throughout the week. Not included: guided fees, tips, licensing, transportation, alcohol. You will be responsible for bringing your own fishing gear (4-5 wt rods w/ floating line recommended). Individual participant pricing for the 2024 trip is as follows:

Private Room w/bathroom	Private Room (shared bathroom)	Double Room	Loft
$995.00	$875.00	$675.00	$475.00

Payments must be made prior and in full. In the event of a cancellation, refunds will be issued only if we are able to fill the spot.

We will have events planned throughout the week including topics and events such as: conservation, casting skills development, social events, Driftless ecology & entomology, and of course, lots of fishing!!!

Please note: This event will follow current CDC COVID guidelines. More information will be shared closer to the event for participants.

Getting there: Flights into Minneapolis (MSP) or Rochester (RST) airports.

What to bring: 4-5wt rod/reel with floating line, rubber soled boots & waders, net, polarized sunglasses.

Area Fly Fishing Shops & Guide Services: **Root River Rod Co (Lanesboro, MN), The Driftless Fly Fishing Company (Preston, MN), Women's Fly Shop/Driftless Angler (Viroqua, WI)**

Washington State Council
Fly Fishers International
Charter and Affiliated Clubs

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

Washington State Council	https://wscffi.org/
Fly Fishers International	https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/

Fly Fishers International
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.

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 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!

FFI
406.222.9369
membership@flyfishersinternational.org
flyfishersinternational.org

Application Form on Page 28 →

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 accrss 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 ☐	Advocate - $75 / Yr ☐	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 ☐ Subscription ☐	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

Fly Tying Rendezvous 2024

Registration is Open for FFI's Premiere Fly Tying Gathering

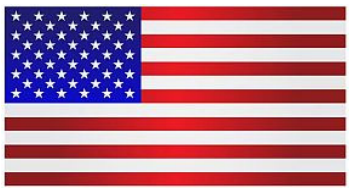
The Second Annual FTG Rendezvous, organized by the FFI Fly Tying Group, will take place in Farmers Branch, Texas on September 27th and 28th. Farmers Branch is a Dallas suburb and is 20 minutes from both of Dallas' major airports (DFW and Lovefield). Registration has begun, be sure to signup today!

Dallas, Texas
Springlake Event Center
2280 Springlake Road, Suite 100
Farmers Branch, TX

The event will feature demonstration tyers the Fly Tying Group who will show their skills Friday and Saturday. The event will offer a full schedule of events:

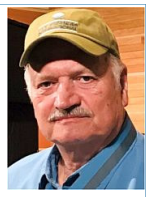
- Featured Tyers
- Classes and Workshops teaching a wide variety of Fly Tying subjects
- A FTG fly box exchange (a fun filled event from past FFI Expo's)
- A Banquet and Fund raising event Friday evening
- A chance to meet Fly Tyers from across the Fly Tying Group
- Rendezvous shirts, hats and pins

The Summer 2024 Issue of Flyfisher is out now!



Editors Notes

By Larry Gibbs



Summer time, a favorite time for many fly fishers. It was never really my favorite time however. Don't get me wrong, I went fly fishing during the summer but it can be a really hard time for the fish and that is something I was always aware of. Warm waters, even in the rivers, were always hard on the fish. Less oxygen thus more stress can really put the hurts to trout. Not so much so for bass, which is why I really enjoyed fly fishing for Smallmouth Bass in the rivers of Washington and Montana. When I did fish for trout I preferred the cooler running rivers. The Clark Fork River in western Montana usually kept fairly cool until deep into summer when the waters would get close to 70 degrees.

A very good alternative river during those times was the Kootenai River in upper northwest Montana. In the Libby area the river is very cool during the extreme heat of summer. The reason being, the huge dam. They draw the water out of the bottom of the dam rather than the upper water. That very deep water stays very cool, great for trout.

The upper Yakima River in eastern Washington is much the same. During the summer there are huge reservoirs that keep the river flowing fairly high and fast so all the farmers and ranchers down in the Ellensburg valley have plenty of water for their crops and live stock. The trout fishing can be really good that time of year.

But like I said, summer was not my 'most favorite' time of the year to go fly fishing. I enjoyed fishing in the spring, but that is always cut short by the rivers flooding during runoff of all the snow in the mountains. I also really enjoyed fly fishing on the rivers during the winter. Cold waters and feeding fish are a great combination. You just have to watch out for the icebergs coming down the river, well okay, they really are not icebergs, maybe just large chunks of ice flowing on by. Casting can be a challenge during winter, when it is 16 degrees out and your line freezes and ices up after each cast, your guides fill with ice, yea, that can be a bit of a pain. But, the fishing can really be great.

However, my favorite time for fishing was always in the fall. The leaves are turning colors, the waters are cooling and the fish are trying to bulk up preparing for winter. The last of the grass hoppers are out and about, along with a flurry of other fish edible insects and the fish are really going after them.

So, after you have had your fun this summer, give some serious thought to fishing your favorite waters in the fall. Fewer fly fishers are out and about, the weather is cooler and the fish are hungry.

If you were one of the people attending the casting classes at Ballinger Park this past May you were able to get some great tips on casting, that for sure will help you out this year. If you missed that event, fear not, for down in the southwest section of our great state there is another all day casting & tying event on September 21. I am sure you noticed a few articles and ads for it in this newsletter. If you skipped over it, go back a few pages and check it out.

Fly Casting Skills Development classes will be held at various times during the year. Some will be day long events like the one this September, and others will be primarily having casters work their way through the casting exercises to become far more efficient with their casting skills, hence, better fly fishers.

While you are out fishing and if you are with a fishing partner, that would be a great time to bring up the subject of joining the FFI and why they should. The more members the FFI has the more 'power' behind it's voice.

Here in Washington State and Alaska, if you are a new member of the FFI, I will be sending you a dozen trout flies in the mail. Not right away, first I have to find out that you joined, but when I do, I will mail them. Keep an eye out for an envelope that has some fish stamped on the left side, that will be from the Washington State Council as a thank you for joining this great organization. All of these flies will have been tied and/or donated by various members of the WSC Board of Directors. Speaking of the BOD, don't forget to go on line and vote for the directors. All of them are willing to donate a lot of their time to help all of the fly fishers in the great northwest.

When I first started tying flies I was 14 years of age. A neighbor, retired US Navy, was tying flies when I went over to visit, and he got me started. While I had been casting a bamboo rod for a number of years, I was totally self taught. At 14, I bought a fiberglass blank from Herters and made my own trout fly rod. For the next three years I would spend two weeks on the Metolius River in eastern Oregon really learning to cast a little more effectively and presenting flies for trout to take.

That was many years ago. Today, everyone has a far better chance to learn how to properly cast a fly and how to effectively tie a fly that fish will want. You owe it to yourself to take some of these casting and tying classes so you too can really start to enjoy this wonderful sport. For me, drifting down a river, casting to a rise or a good looking seam is what it is all about. For the past 27 years since I retired, that is what I have been doing and I have really enjoyed it.

Another thing I like about fly fishing are the people you meet. People from every walk of life can get together and have a very common thread, fly fishing, that allows everyone to talk and tell stories and relive the past catches and misses. Give it a try.