



Covering The Drift

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Leader's Line

By Bob Shirley,
WSCFFF President

The past few days have been busy. A long drive alone to Illinois and back to handle family business, an Expo in Idaho Falls where I ran into WSCFFF VP East Jerry McBride and his wife, and helping the FFF find a new Executive Director and make some strategic changes which will impact the Federation for some time to come. At this time I would like to welcome our new Executive Director, Peter (Van) Van Gytenbeek, and would like to assure him that he has my full support and

the support of this Council. Congratulations Van, and congratulations to our new Assistant E.D. Bob Wiltshire. More changes are afoot, and it is a very exciting time to be involved with the Federation. I hope you agree with me and will help when asked to participate.

One of the key topics of interest within the Federation these days is the relationship between Headquarters in Bozeman and the Charter Clubs and Affiliate Clubs. Our hope is that we will form more Charter Clubs in the future, and that we can come up with incentives to encourage our Affiliate Clubs to actively recruit not only club members for themselves but to have a definite interest in expanding the number of Federation members within their club. Various ideas are being discussed, and your input is encouraged to help us make constructive changes. We wish to also open up communication between the clubs and the Council while serving FFF members not interested in club membership. I would encourage any club for example to actively support a mentoring program to encourage kids, women, and beginners to join up and become better fly fishers by your example.

Fly fishing has experienced tremendous growth in the last few years, but the Federation, the Councils, and the clubs are not

experiencing the same levels of growth. Each of us should encourage new fly fishers in any way we can. More fly fishers does not mean fewer fish or diminished fishing opportunity. Because we are conservative with the resource by nature, the more we encourage fly fishing the more potential benefit there will be to the fishery. Catch and release properly done with barbless hooks may be the single most important concept or practice to the future of sport fishing. We invented it, we share it freely, and most importantly we practice it.

Thank you for being members of the Federation of Flyfishers.

Encourage others to get involved and to join with us in charting the future of fly fishing.

Region 2 Sign Project

By Jerry McBride,
VP East and Conservation Co-chair

The Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCFFF) has committed to get 10 signs for Region 2 lakes put up in 2004. These signs will be like the ones you have seen at the Lenice chain and at Amber Lake (near Cheney, WA) for a number of years.

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Here is where the signs will go:

<u>Lake</u>	<u>Sign Co-Sponsor</u>
Lenice	Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club
Nunnally #1	Puget Sound Flyfishers
Nunnally #2	Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers
Lenore #1	Larry Gibbs
Lenore #2	Overlake Fly Fishing Club
Lenore #3	North West Fly Fisherman
Lenore #4	Yakima River Fly Fishers
Dusty #1	Seattle Police Department FFC
Dusty #2	Dry Side Fly Club
Beda	Dry Side Fly Club

Each sign will have a message specific to its location on fishing regulations and present the message in English, Spanish and Ukrainian. The sign will include a statement in English that says "In cooperation with the _____ (Fly Fishing Club) and the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers."

The angle iron frames that will hold the signs have been completed. The signs will be ordered as soon as the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife completes the information that goes on the signs.

My best estimate is that we will be installing signs in July and August. Once I have a projected delivery date for the signs I will put together a schedule and contact fly fishing clubs to recruit people to do the installation.

that would have adversely affected steelhead fishing.

Secretary:

Larry Gibbs, Sumner, WA

For the past two years Larry has been the Treasurer of the WSCFFF and this year was nominated to assume the job of Secretary. He is a member of the Puget Sound Flyfishers (PSF) and a member of the FFF for the past 4 1/2 years. He is also a charter member of the Yakima River Fly Fishers Club (YRFF). Within PSF he is a Board member and Education Committee Co-Chairman. He was the Fishing Hole Coordinator for the 2001 & 2002 & 2003 Northwest Fly Casting Expo at Trophy Lake. He likes to fly fish in Washington, Montana and British Columbia and to tie a few flies. He is active on three MSN fly fishing boards as assistant manager and uses those boards to spread the word about the FFF and about Catch and Release.

Treasurer:

Carl Johnson, Monroe, WA

Carl has accepted the nomination for Treasurer. He is a current member of the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club, and the Northwest Fly Anglers. Carl was a member of the Northwest Legends Party and Auction committee. He is the

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Nominated For WSCFFF Offices

Each year there is an election of Officers and Directors for WSCFFF. A ballot is included with this newsletter.

President:

Bob Shirley, Tacoma, WA

Bob has served WSCFFF in several capacities, our Conservation Director for three years, Vice president West, and he represented

us as a National Director in Gatlinburg, Tennessee and Livingston, Montana. Bob has been nominated to continue as WSCFFF President. He is past President of the Puget Sound Fly Fishers, a member of Alpine, Yakima River and South Sound Fly Fishers, and board member of the Washington Wildlife and Recreation Coalition. He was very active working against the 1999 Legislative Session bills

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current FFF representative for the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club. Carl is a life member of the FFF. He has been a member of FFF for over twenty years and wants to give something back to the organization. Carl divides his fishing time between Washington and Western Montana.

1st Vice President Westside:

Mike Clancy, Tacoma, WA

Mike has been on the board for two years. The first year he was a Director at Large and the second year, 1st Vice President Westside. He was very active in the organization of the WSCFFF booth at the Fly Fishing Show at Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue. He worked with Bob Shirley in coordinating the fly tiers and greeters. He also worked on the committee to help organize the successful 2004 WSCFFF auction in Bellevue. He enjoys working with the WSCFFF board and continues to work to make fly fishing a fun and quality sport.

1st Vice President Eastside and Co-vice President Conservation:

Jerry McBride, Loon Lake, WA

Jerry has accepted the nomination for 1st Vice President Eastside. He was WSCFFF President for three years, Membership Chair for a year

or more and previously Vice President Eastside for a couple of years. He has been FFF representative for the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club (IEFFC) in Spokane for about eight years. He is an active supporter of FFF and IEFFC conservation projects, and also he has agreed to be Co-director of Conservation with Gordon McKay.

Vice President Communication:

Bob Bates, Spokane, WA

Bob is the current Vice President Communication, and has agreed to stay on in that position. Duties of this position include editing *Covering The Drift*; serving on the National FFF Communicators panel; working with the FFF website sub-committee; maintaining the WSCFFF club-contacts e-mail list and maintaining the WSCFFF web pages. He represented us as a National Director for 2 years. Also he writes the Fly of the Month column for the FFF website. For over 40 years, he has been writing and editing; it is almost as long as he has been fly tying and fly fishing. He is a member of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, an active participant in club projects and an active supporter of FFF conservation projects.



Vice President Education:

Len Zickler, Federal Way, WA

Len has been nominated to fill the position of Vice President Education. He is an active member of the Puget Sound Flyfishers as the chairman of the conservation and program committees. As conservation chair, Len spearheaded a cooperative effort with the Pierce County Conservation District on a variety of streamside restoration projects. As a professional land use planner, Len has been active in developing policies that promote fish habitat friendly development. Len was born and raised in Spokane and considers the lakes and rivers of Eastern Washington his home waters. Len is a life member of the FFF and Trout Unlimited.

Vice President Membership:

Irv Conner, Wenatchee, WA

Irv is a Certified Public Accountant in Wenatchee. He is active on several boards and is past president of the Wenatchee Valley Flyfishers. For several years he has handled the duties of Membership Director for the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers and has accepted the nomination for Vice President Membership. He is very interested in fly fishing for Steelhead.

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Co-vice President Conservation:

Gordon McKay, Bothell, WA

He volunteered for the position of Co-vice President of Conservation for the WSCFFF. Gordon has supported the Evergreen Fly Fishing Club (EFFC) as the FFF Representative for two years. He also worked as the club auction and Christmas chairperson, served on the Conservation Committee, worked at the Fishing for Kids program at Silver Lake and represented the EFFC and the WSCFFF to the Stillaguamish Implementation Review Committee. He will be attending the Wild Steelhead Summit. He is very dedicated to the activities of his club and the FFF. He worked on the WSCFFF first annual Auction Committee and enjoyed supporting the WSC and the FFF at the show. If elected will represent the WSCFFF at the National Conclave in West Yellowstone this year. He enjoys working for the council and supporting the council and its members. He loves to fish for steelhead and trout.

Director at Large:

Jim Maus, Tacoma, WA

Jim was Secretary of the WSCFFF in 1997 - 1998 and served as Treasurer of the from 1998 - 2002. He served two terms as a WSCFFF National Director. He helped organize the highly successful 1998 and 2000 WSCFFF Auctions. He served as chairman of the Fly Tying Committee at the 1997, 1998, & 2000 WSCFFF Jamborees. He is a past President of Puget Sound Flyfishers in Tacoma, and a long time member of the South Sound Fly Fishers in Olympia. Jim is seeking to stay on the board as a Director at Large.

Director at Large:

Ben Dennis, Winthrop, WA

Ben is a Director at Large, serving his second year. He is founder and past president of Methow Valley Fly Fishers, a long-time member of Overlake Fly Fishers and former board member of Washington Rivers Council. Working with NMFS and WDFW, he was able to reverse closure of the Methow river system. He helped secure six catch & release lakes in Okanogan county and enlisted the help of members of the Methow Valley Fly Fishers to restore a spawning creek that has become a very successful "bedroom" for steelhead. He serves on the Board of Twin Lakes Aquifer Coalition, an activist group that is working with State Legislators and Government Agencies to restore Twin Lakes' fishery. Ben also guides, instructs and has a spot within a recreational booking agency in the middle of Winthrop where he disseminates fly fishing wisdom and sells fly fishing equipment.

Director at Large:

Tyler Laurenti, Yakima, WA

Tyler was on the Board last year and has accepted the nomination for Director at Large this year. He is currently the President of the Yakima River Fly Fishers and is also a member of the Overlake Fly Fishing Club. Though his personal "home waters" are the in the sage and sand of central Washington, Tyler can be found anywhere in the Pacific Northwest in search of fly water. Tyler is currently working on gaining mastery of the relatively unexplored sea perch fishery.



My Montana Loop

By Larry Gibbs, WSCFFF
Treasurer

The Montana fishing loop, no it is not a new knot, it was my quick fishing trip to Montana. I made a big loop starting from Missoula to Craig to Dillon (then back to Missoula on my way home).

I had a very good trip, total driving distance was 1501 miles or 2401 kilometers. On Sunday evening I checked the weather report for each area that I was going to be in on the dates I was going to be there and discovered that a snowstorm was going to be following me around the state. *Great, just great.* (Sort of hard to get the sound of sarcasm into writing.) But, you take it as it comes so I headed out on Monday morning. I drove through some snow flurries on the way to Missoula, the upper hills were covered in it but the lower lands were just cold.

On Tuesday morning I met the guide. This was one of the guided trips I bought at the WSCFFF auction. We headed off to the east and fished the upper Clark Fork River. The Clark Fork is the biggest river in Montana; it has the most volume of water flowing out of the state. We were in the upper waters, above the Blackfoot and Bitterroot, so the waters were fairly clear and not very big.

We normally would have been fishing big dry salmon flies, they had been hatching for the past week, but the cold weather stopped that. So, Mike Hillygus, owner of the High Plains Drifter Outfitters, put on some huge big yellow streamers.

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The snow level was just above us, but we only got a lot of cold rain. I didn't mind, the fishing was good and that is what counted. Later on in the day it actually got half way decent for a while until the snow showers and rain started trying to get us again. There were several different hatches coming off the river, a yellow mayfly, (size 12 or 14) and a smaller dark gray mayfly (size 18). However, the trout were not working the surface.

That night I drove to Helena and spent the night. Snow showers went on all night, but there was no large accumulation. I got up early on Wednesday morning and drove to Craig, to meet up with my guide, Mark Raisler. Marks's trip was another trip I bought at the WSCFFF auction.

The Missouri River was in the middle of a snowstorm when I arrived. The drift boat had a couple of inches in it, but it got blown out as we drove down to our launch site. We were going to drift my favorite part of the Missouri River, what we call "The Canyon" area, which is home to a lot of big browns and rainbows.

My line kept freezing on me the first half of the day, those stiff fly lines just don't cast like they should. Weather wise it was just plain bone chilling cold all day long. I never warmed up, there was a cold wind blowing right up the canyon. But, the fishing was fantastic. I can honestly say that that was the best fishing day I had ever had on the Missouri River.

I have no idea how many fish I caught, neither one of us even tried

to keep track. I started off with rainbows and a few nice sized whitefish, then we moved into the brown trout area and I started catching browns and rainbows. According to the guide there are 5 species of rainbows in the Missouri River up in that area, and I probably caught all 5 species. I was catching nice 15 inch to 18 inch bows and browns. I will have to tell you about the one that got away sometime. The fly of the day was a size 20 and 22 midge nymph. I caught 90% of my fish on that fly. The only hatch of the day was a size 28 midge.

We got off the Missouri at 6:45 PM that evening and I headed for Dillon. I got in fairly late, but cleaned my fly lines and treated them like I had been doing every night, and then I hit the sack, still trying to get warm after the day in the canyon.

I got up early Thursday morning and drove over to The Frontier Anglers Fly Shop to meet Leon Sagaloff, a friend of mine and my guide for the day. He is the one who guided us for 4 days last September. That was the trip I won at the Livingston FFF Conclave in 2003. I picked up some neat items I had ordered through the Frontier Angler, including a rod tube for traveling, it should hold 6 or 7 rods.

The weather looked a little better, broken clouds with snow flurries. We headed up river to fish the upper Beaverhead River. At least this year there was some water in the river. Last year the water was so low because of the drought that I felt kind of bad fishing it. There were a lot and I mean a lot of obstacles under the water. I must have lost at least 2 dozen flies, if

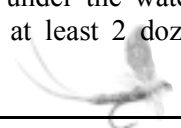
not more. I fished with nymphs and streamers all day, the old faithful black Woolly Bugger was the fly that had the best results and a Sven Worm the second best fly.

The fishing was a little slow but I caught a lot of browns. Not the bigger sized browns like on the Missouri, but they were in the 12 to 14 inch range and good fighters. We had periods of snow then sun then snow again, but it wasn't like that bone chilling drift on the Missouri, it actually got fairly warm at times during the day, then it would snow again. I did manage to break a section of my 11 foot 6 weight Sage XP fly rod, not sure how that happened, but it was while I was casting. So, guess I will make a trip to the Sage factory to get it fixed. But, I still had my Sage 6 weight, 5 piece SP.

Right about then I made a mental note to make sure I had 3 rods with me on each drift from now on. I had brought 3 other Sage rods but they were back in Dillon in my truck. Now all of a sudden I was down to just one rod, not a good feeling. We never had a hatch come off the water. I did see three mayflies, medium gray in color, size 16, but 3 does not make a hatch.

I ended the day with a good New York steak dinner in Dillon, then I headed back to Missoula to spend the night and I drove home on Friday.

All in all, it was a very good trip. I fished 6 inch streamers and size 22 midges. What a contrast. I was glad I had purchased those Montana trips at the WSCFFF auction, now I get to wait to see what trips we have at next years auction.



Passing of a Fellow Fly Fisherman: John Gaglioti

By Mike Clancy, 1st VP West

In February, the fly fishing community lost a friend. He was not a noted writer, hasn't produced any videos, didn't present any programs, but he was available anytime we needed a fly tier. He loved to talk fly fishing. He was scheduled to tie at the fly fishing show in Bellevue, but couldn't make it. He loved to fly fish and tie flies, and he was good. John Gaglioti, was a member of The Alpine Club and The Puget Sound Flyfishers. John collected a large library of videos and books over the years and his children, John and Cami, elected to donate his collection to the 2 clubs. These are quality items, it enhanced the Puget Sound Club library, but it set up The Alpine Club with a complete library. There were over 300 items. It was a very generous gift. All items were labeled "Donated in the memory of John Gaglioti by his children, John and Cami."



John Gaglioti practicing during a Spey Casting Class given for the Puget Sound Flycasters. Photo by Larry Gibbs

Passing of a Legend: Jimmy Green

By Randy Shaber, Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club

On March 13th fishermen all over the world lost a good friend. Many do not know him personally, but we all have benefited from his life long efforts to improve fly fishing equipment.

Jimmy Green was raised near San Francisco and as a teenager was introduced to fly casting at the Golden Gate Casting Club. A few years later he was selected to the US Casting Team and traveled to Paris to compete in the World Casting Championships. Jimmy won each event he entered and won the Amateur All Around title. He was just 18.

Jim spent four years in the army during WWII, and returned home to California for tournament casting and fishing. He then went to work for Winston rods. Later he worked at the Sunset line company where he experimented with plastic coated lines. Among other things, Jim introduced a better floating line using hollow glass spheres mixed into the plastic. His next job was with Fenwick as a rod designer. In his spare time he continued participating in various casting tournaments, often winning many of the events. At Fenwick he invented the Feralite ferrule used in most fly rods today and introduced the first production model graphite rod.



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Jim Green at home on the Grand Ronde, April, 2002. Photo by Bob Bates

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Jim lived in a golden era. He loved his work and had the opportunity to fish all over the world during a time when much of the fishing was at its best. He developed lasting friendships with fishermen in many countries. He was well respected as a tournament caster, casting instructor, fisherman and his continuing contributions to the improvement of fly fishing equipment.

Jim and his wife Carol chose property near the mouth of the Grande Ronde for their retirement home. Gordon Olsen was the first of our club to venture up to Jim's house, and a friendship soon developed. A year or so later I too visited Jim and joined the group of

steelheaders who had discovered the wealth of Jim's knowledge and the warmth of his hospitality.

About that time Jim was very interested in the development of two hander rods and encouraged us to try them out. After overcoming our initial apprehension to the idea of two hand rods and the embarrassment of trying to cast the "Big Stick," we slowly began to realize its full potential.

Over the next few years, Jim taught us how to make graphite blanks, continued to school us in the art of overhead and spey casting, and encouraged us to participate in casting tournaments.

Jim is remembered not only for the

innovations he brought to fly fishing, but also for the way he interacted with everyone around him. He generously shared his love and understanding of casting and fishing with just about anyone and everyone who sought his advice. We already miss him but are grateful for all that he has given us.

Among his many honors, the Federation of Fly Fishers honored him with the Lew Jewett Memorial Award in 2002 as a proven teacher, fly-fishing innovator and significant contributor to fly fishing organizations

Ed. This article was first published in The Fly Leaf, May, 2004 newsletter of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, Spokane, WA.

WSCFFF Booth 2003

By Mike Clancy, 1st VP West

The WSCFFF/FFF booth at The Fly Fishing Show at Meydenbauer Center in February was a great success. The main reason was the volunteers who demonstrated their fly tying skills and the greeters who visited with the show customers. One of the goals was to talk about the FFF, WSCFFF and the member clubs.

That was very successful, we signed up a large number of new members for the FFF. The brochures we handed out explained what the FFF was all about and also listed the member clubs in the State of Washington. The plastic bag idea, with our logo, was a great idea, we stuffed magazines and brochures in the bags and handed them out with all our information. I think there was only one other booth that passed out bags, so our bags were utilized by many.

Another big hit was the camera used in the booth to magnify the flies that were being tied (See the next article). The camera, which was on loan from The Puget Sound Club, was built by P.J. Hicks. The show was for 3 long days, but it was fun meeting new people and getting to visit with the fly fishing experts. Thanks again to all the folks that helped, we'll see you next year.

Fly Camera

By P. J. Hicks,
Puget Sound Flyfishers

A couple of years ago I decided to build my own underwater camera. I am fortunate to have the equipment and skills to do this. My research turned up a company in Texas that specialized in security and surveillance equipment. The camera turned out well.

My fly fishing club, The Puget Sound Flyfishers of Tacoma, Washington, does a lot of tying classes and demonstrations to members, schools, and other groups.

Someone suggested we get a camera to facilitate viewing the flies as they were tied on our monitor thus allowing more people to see the operation from a closer viewpoint. I volunteered to make the camera and its stand. The camera has worked out very well and has generated a lot of interest in itself at places where we have used it.

At the Washington State Council of the FFF show in Bellevue, WA. This weekend I was asked to write up a little article about the camera so that other clubs might build a camera of their own.

The camera and its associated electronic parts require no

'building' so I will simply list the source and part numbers of the parts I used.

The stand is a little more complicated, but a reasonably skilled person should be able to make one quickly and inexpensively. The stand uses a tying vise desktop base and a 3/8" rod about 8" long. This rod is drilled and tapped 1/4x20 into one end to hold a 'U' shaped yoke which in turn holds the camera case. Keep in mind that the camera is only 1 1/2" by 1 1/2" square and about 3/4" thick and the lens sticks out another 1" or so. In use the camera is adjusted somewhat above the vise height and moved toward and away from the vise to focus it on the fly. The camera's standard lens must be replaced with the 16mm lens. You will find a small screw on the lens base mount. Loosen this screw, unscrew the standard lens and screw in the 16mm lens. Place the camera about a foot from the vise and screw the 16mm lens in or out to get the best focus, then lock it with the setscrew.

Camera Source – SuperCircuits, Video Security, One Supercircuits Plaza, Liberty Hill, Texas, 78642, 1-800-335-9777 - Call or write for their catalog.

Camera

PC169 Series Color Microvideo camera, PC169XS..... \$89.95
DC12-500R power supply \$14.95
EXT25 25' video/audio/power extension cable \$19.95
ENC169XS ABS Enclosure of camera \$14.95
ML-16MM 16mm Micro lens w/15 deg field \$29.95

Total \$169.75 + tax

Stand – Will depend on the ingenuity and scrap box of the builder but should not be more than \$15 to \$20. The extension cable and power supply can sometimes be purchased at Radio Shack or other electronics supply type stores for less.



The camera is so small that it does not interfere with the people directly watching the tier, and the image on the TV is large enough for several people to watch it together.

AnglerNet

By Paula Del Giudice,
National Wildlife Federation

At its meeting on April 10, the Washington Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers voted to join the National Wildlife Federation's (NWF) Angler Network for those individuals and organizations concerned about the impacts to coldwater fisheries in the Northwest from global warming.

The FFF joins other organizations including: Save Our Wild Salmon, Wild Salmon Center, Climate Solutions, Oregon Council of Trout Unlimited, Oregon Anglers, the Oregon Fishing Club, University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group, Northwest Energy Coalition, and the Idaho and Washington Wildlife Federations.

NWF hosts a "low volume" listserv for the organizations and individuals who are part of the Angler Network to provide up-to-date information on actions that can be taken. The listserv is also used to provide news on the issues related to global warming for organizations to keep their own membership informed.

If you'd like more information on the Angler Network, contact Paula Del Giudice, director of NWF's Northwestern office in Seattle at delgiudice@nwf.org or (206) 285-8707 ext. 101

Northwest Fly Casting Exposition 2004

By Len Zickler,
Vice President Education

The Washington Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is exploring a new direction for the Northwest Fly Casting Expo in 2004. The EXPO this year will emphasize education and outreach to the general public. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** - The EXPO is scheduled for Saturday, September 25th at McDonald Park in Carnation, Washington.

The event will be modeled after the

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very successful Casting for Recovery program held each spring. The 2004 NWFCE will offer a series of casting and fly fishing classes for beginner to advanced fly fishers. In addition to beginning casting clinics, classes will be offered in advanced presentation, the two handed rod, the salt water flats, casting for greater distance and more!! All classes will be taught by FFF certified or master instructors and a clinic will be offered for those interested in the FFF certification process.

A youth program will be incorporated in the day's activities to encourage young casters and provide a fun introduction to fly fishing and casting.

As in past years, a competitive casting event will provide participants the opportunity to show off their casting abilities. The competitive event will include distance, accuracy and skill components. This should be a great experience and continue the "casting trophy" tradition!

We are trying to make the day both a rich and affordable experience. While fees have not yet been officially established, we anticipate a basic registration fee of \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth (entrance fee and lunch). The individual casting or fishing classes will be offered at \$25 a class. The competitive event will have a separate entrance fee. – Tentatively set at \$40 per team.

The specific program details will be finalized by mid May – so look for information in your local fly shop, WSCFFF website (www.washingtoncouncilfff.org) and/or future mailers. We are looking for volunteers, particularly for publicity. If you are interested in the event, have suggestions for clinic topics, or want to volunteer please contact:

Dick Raisler
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E-mail: raisler@cnw.com

or Len Zickler
Phone: (253-383-2422)
E-mail: len_zickler@msn.com
for more information.



Mel Kreiger making a point at the 2003 Fly Casting Exposition. Photo by Bob Bates



To left is the Overall Team Champion plaque. Each year the names of the winning team and its members are engraved on it. Photo by Vernon Young

Below Jerry McBride is casting for distance in the competition portion of the 2003 Northwest Fly Casting Exposition. Photo by Bob Bates



Understanding The Cast*

By Don Simonson, FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor

ARTICLE #1

Fly casting like golf or tennis requires certain hand, wrist, arm, and shoulder motions to produce a good final product. In fly casting that final product is a nice narrow controlled loop of the fly line. When I attempt to learn a new physical motion I want to know **what** I must do, **why** I need to do it, and **how** I am going to do it.

The following next few editions of the Creel Notes will include this article entitled Understanding The Cast. So first lets discover the “what” in producing a nice narrow controlled loop. When I teach a beginning student to basics of fly casting I want that student to leave that first class with the following three points that I feel are absolutely essential in producing a narrow controlled loop.

- 1 Remove the slack from the fly line before beginning the cast.
- 2 Begin the cast with the rod tip pointed at the fly line, (either on the water, or on the grass), and move the rod tip in a straight line path.
- 3 When moving the rod progressively accelerate the hand, arm, motion to an abrupt stop.

When I discuss substance and style issues with fellow FFF Master Certified Instructors, and Casting Board of Governors we will not totally agree on the individual tasks that need to be accomplished to produce a nice narrow loop. The above three points are almost always agreed upon.

Next Month (Article #2) we will discuss “why” we need to execute these three tasks.



ARTICLE #2

Last month we listed three of the most important tasks that need to take place to produce a nice narrow controlled loop. These three are:

- 1 Remove the slack from the fly line prior to beginning the cast.
- 2 Pointing the rod tip at the fly line move the rod tip along a straight line path.
- 3 Progressively accelerate the casting motion to end in an abrupt stop.

Now lets explore as to “why” these three tasks are so important. First we must realize that the fly rod is our tool in casting. This tool is nothing more than a flexible lever. The more efficiently we utilize this lever the tighter loop, and the further the fly line will travel.

The only thing the fly rod can do on its own is unbend, (unload). So we need to start bending the rod at the beginning of the cast and continue to bend it all the way to the abrupt stop to then allow it to do its thing and unbend, (unload). If we don't remove the slack prior to beginning the cast there will be no resistance for the rod tip to pull against. We rely on the resistance of the fly line outside the rod tip to assist in bending, (loading) the rod.

The fly line outside the rod tip is going to follow the path of the rod tip as we move it through the casting stroke. Consequently a straight line rod tip path will cause the fly line to project into a straight line path producing a narrow energy efficient loop. If the rod tip attains a convex or doming path the fly line will result in a large energy inefficient, uncontrolled loop.

Remember we want to gradually bend our rod through the casting stroke producing the maximum bend at the point we abruptly stop the rod. To accomplish this we need to continue to progressively accelerate our casting motion. Once we stop our stroke the rod takes over and does the only thing it can do and that is unbend (unload) taking

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* Don Simonson wrote seven articles on fly casting and published them in “Creel Notes” of the Washington Fly Fishing Club. He graciously offered them to “Covering The Drift.” It would take about 2 years to print them one at a time on our quarterly publication schedule, so your editor has decided to print more than one at a time as space permits. The first three are here, but study each one before going to the next.

(Continued from page 10)

the fly line with it forming the loop.

The next edition (Article #3) will address the “how” in making the “what” happen. Stay tuned.

I want to solicit your comments regarding these articles on casting. Please let me know your thoughts and suggestions by calling me or e-mail.

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donjoans@seanet.com

ARTICLE #3

Now that we understand the “what” and the “why” of our three tasks to produce a nice narrow loop in our fly line lets now investigate the “how”.

Slack can be removed from the fly line prior to the cast in the following ways.

- 1 When casting over water just execute a normal roll cast followed by the pickup.
- 2 When casting on grass either strip line in or simply back

up to remove the slack.

Moving the rod tip in a straight line path will require our hand, arm, and shoulder to execute a straight path. Visualize the hypotenuse of a right triangle. That's the path we want the rod tip to take. To accomplish this we should start with the rod tip pointed down at the fly line, now begin lifting and bending the elbow **without any bending of the wrist.** Continue this motion to a stop with the hand at a vertical position approximately even with your ear. I recommend the exercise of touching your ear by bending and raising your elbow with no wrist bending. The motion for the forward cast would be just the opposite. Starting at vertical with the elbow raised come forward by lowering and unbending the elbow stopping approximately 45 degrees or 10:30 o'clock.

To progressively accelerate the rod to an abrupt stop I strongly recommend the caster audibly

repeat a phrase such as; kkkkeeerrr – wwwoommP, ppppooowwweerrr – ssssnnnnaaP, or sssssttttttooooooP. This will condition your mind to communicate with your body muscles to execute a motion starting slow, ever increasing to an abrupt stop. When executing the abrupt stop I suggest the caster push on the thumb, or squeeze the cork handle to emphasize the abruptness of the stop.

This concludes my initial three articles. I am prepared to continue with follow on articles on critiquing the cast, practice objectives, etc. For me to continue I need your feedback so please call me 206-932-4925, or e-mail me at donjoans@seanet.com with your thoughts. Also I solicit any suggestions on casting topics you would like discussed. No responses will be assumed as a “no” vote for future articles.

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Help Protect The Tongass National Forest

Ed: This information came from two sources: the Federation of Fly Fishers, Bozeman, MT and from Trout Unlimited, Portland, OR.

From: Kiza Gates,
Conservation Coordinator, FFF

I was recently contacted by the Northern Sportsman's Network (NSN) in Juneau, AK regarding preservation of the Tongass N.F. As many of you know we have supported this issue in the past. This time the NSN is looking for a different kind of support; they are trying to get 500 fishing clubs to sign-on to a letter directed to the Chief of the US Forest Service, Dale Bosworth. They believe that by getting individual clubs to sign onto their letter it will better represent the angling community. Fishing clubs can sign-on electronically through the Trout Unlimited website (link below). By partnering with the NSN and TU on this we stand to have much a greater impact.

The link is on our conservation webpage under the action alert section <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Conservationfront1.htm>. Even if your council is far removed from

Alaska, the Tongass NF represents an amazing fishing resource and is truly a one of a kind place. The NSN doesn't have a strict deadline for when they need the signatures but of course, the sooner the better.

http://publiclands.tu.org/tongass_reg.asp

From: Sam Mace, Wild Salmon Coordinator, Trout Unlimited, Portland, OR

The Department of Agriculture has currently proposed to remove our largest National Forest, the Tongass, from the Roadless Areas Conservation Rule. This is essentially breaking open 2.5 million protected acres to industrial timber operations.

Trout Unlimited is gathering signatures from fisheries conservation organizations and fishing clubs from across the nation for a petition to protect Alaska's Tongass National Forest.

You can sign your organization to the letter by clicking on the link above.

450 gun clubs from around the country have already signed on to a similar petition.

Whether you're a recreational fisherman, guide, commercial fisherman or subsistence user, the quality and future of your pursuit boils down to one common denominator: habitat. As a fisheries resource the Tongass is incredible; its streams annually account for roughly 1 million sport-caught fish, 160 million pounds of commercially caught and 1.2 million pounds of subsistence-caught salmon. A wilderness excursion in this country is often the trip of a lifetime for an angler. By protecting some of these areas we can guarantee our children will have places to fish that are still truly wild.

A copy of the letter to Dale Bosworth is on the TU and WSCFFF websites:

<http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/tongass.htm>

The WSCFFF board voted to join the petition and signed on to the letter. FFF Clubs are encouraged to sign on also.



**Federation of Fly Fishers™
Washington State Council**

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Federation of Fly Fishers, Washington State Council

Nominations for year 2004-2005 officers of the Washington State Council of Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCFFF) are given below. All members of WSCFFF are encouraged to vote, and send their ballots to WSCFFF, P.O. Box 921, Gig Harbor, WA 98335. Voting will close June 30, 2004 in Gig Harbor, and the results will be announced by the 2003-2004 Secretary. Succession is to the 1st Vice President, (1st VP), in the same part of the state, West or East, in which the President resides. There is space for a write-in vote if a member wishes to enter one.

<div><input type="checkbox"/> President: Bob Shirley <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Treasurer: Carl Johnson <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> 1st VP, East: Jerry McBride <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Co-VP Conservation: Gordon McKay <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> VP Communications: Bob Bates <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Director At Large: Jim Maus <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Director At Large: Dick Raisler <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Director At Large: Kip Keener <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div>	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Secretary: Larry Gibbs <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> 1st VP, West: Mike Clancy <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> VP Membership: Irv Conner <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Co-VP Conservation: Jerry McBride <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> VP Education: Len Zickler <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Director At Large: Ben Dennis <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Director At Large: Tyler Laurenti <input type="checkbox"/> _____</div>
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