



Covering The Drift

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Leader's Line

By Robert Shirley,
WSCFFF President

This year the Casting Expo will be on September 24th in Tacoma at the Tacoma Elk's. Both lunch and dinner will be included and this should be one of the best Expos ever. My home club, the Puget Sound Fly Fishers, meet at the Tacoma Elk's and I can tell you that the food will be good, and the day will be memorable. There will be casting classes, Danish casting games, and casting competition.

We just returned from the FFF Conclave in Livingston, Montana. The weather was variable from 37 degrees one morning with snow in the hills up to the 80's with strong winds.

Several WSCFFF Board members attended the Conclave, some helped with an FFF membership/merchandise booth, some demonstrated tying or taught casting,

and some got awards.

Carl Johnson, Mike Clancy, Gordon McKay, Don Simonson, and I worked the booth and Bob Bates demonstrated tying.

Ben and Leslea Dennis both received President Pins for their work on the design of the new FFF brochure and other material which will help us get the FFF message out. Congratulations to Ben and Leslea, and thank you to them and the other volunteers for a job well done.

John Newbury was there demonstrating his very special brand of fly tying. There was always a large crowd of people around his table when John was tying, and gifts of newly tied flies delighted young and old alike.

Tony and Marilyn Vitale, John Reid, and Don Simonson taught casting and

tested prospective Certified Casting Instructors. Rusty Reid was there to brighten everyone's day. There were others from our Council who just enjoyed the Conclave, and after all that is what it is all about.

There were meetings to attend too - the FFF Board of Directors seated the new 24 member Board, the Executive Committee met on Wednesday, there was a Conservation Comm. meeting, a Membership Comm. meeting, well you get the idea. But, everything and everyone was focused on the same thing -- making the FFF bigger and better. We would like your help in doing that too. Volunteer to serve on a committee, become an officer, or teach tying or casting. You can easily do any of these things at the club, Council, or National level and your efforts are appreciated. We are always looking for good people to help us do good things.

Region 2 Signs Ready To Install

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By Jerry McBride,
WSCFFF
Conservation
Committee
Cochairman

Jerry says here!!

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Got your attention didn't I.

As you probably recall, the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCFFF) committed to get 10 signs for Region 2 lakes. 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. Ten sponsors have agreed to co-sponsor a sign with WSCFFF.

Here is where the signs will go:

<u>Lake Sign</u>	<u>Sponsor</u>	<u>Contact</u>
Lenice	Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club	Jerry McBride
Nunnally #1	Puget Sound Fly Fishers	Carl Zarelli
Nunnally #2	Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers	Gary Bates
Lenore #1	Larry Gibbs	Larry Gibbs
Lenore #2	Overlake Fly Fishing Club	Ron Miller
Lenore #3	North West Fly Fishermen	Don Schroder
Lenore #4	Yakima River Fly Fishers	Len Zickler
Dusty #1	Seattle Police Department FFC	Jeff Caldwell
Dusty #2	Dry Side Fly Club	Gary Hazel
Beda	Dry Side Fly Club	Gary Hazel

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 sponsor's name and the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers".

The signs with mounting frame cost \$250 each. WSCFFF is splitting the cost with the sponsors.

On July 7, 2005 a work crew consisting of Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club members Floyd Holmes, Gary Honeyman, Pat Kendall and Jerry McBride traveled to Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Region 2 Headquarters in Ephrata to mount the signs in the frames.

The completed signs are now available for installation at their respective sites. Installation information has been sent to the contacts. If you would like help install a sign get in touch with your club contact.

P.s. That basalt pile in the picture is not an installation site.



Northwest Fly Casting Expo.

2005

By Len Zickler,
 WSCFFF Expo Chairman

**Saturday, September 24, 2005 –
 Elk's Club, Tacoma, Washington**

The Washington Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers is hosting the Northwest Fly Casting Expo at the Tacoma Elk's Club. The EXPO this year will emphasize education and outreach to the general public. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!** - The EXPO is scheduled for Saturday, September 24th. Registration will begin at 8:00 AM. Both lunch and dinner will be included in the registration fee.

The event is modeled after the very successful Casting for Recovery program held each spring. The 2005 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 master or certified instructors and a clinic will be offered for those interested in the FFF certification process.

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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. Master fly tiers will demonstrate their skills and rod manufacturers will be on hand to share the latest the fly fishing equipment.

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 with a new "Danish" fly casting skill component. This should be a great experience and continue the "casting trophy" tradition! We look forward to your club sending a casting team – as many teams of four competitors as you chose!

Registration fees are \$35 for adults and \$10 for youth (entrance fee, demonstrations, competition, games, lunch and dinner). Individual casting classes will be offered at \$25 each. An optional casting certification clinic will be offered at a fee of \$25 to aspiring casting instructors.

The program details may be viewed on the WSCFFF website (washingtoncouncilfff.org), or at your local fly shop. If you are interested in the event, have suggestions for clinic topics, or want to volunteer please contact

Len Zickler (253-797-6850) for more information.

The Elk's Club is located in Tacoma at 1965 South Union, just two blocks north of SR-16, off the Union Street Exit.

WSCFFF Board Meeting Notes

By Mike Clancy,
WSCFFF Secretary

The Board of Directors held their quarterly meeting on July 9, 2005 at The Rodeo City BBQ restaurant in Ellensburg, Washington. This is an 'abbreviated' report on minutes from that meeting.

Mike Clancy, Secretary, certified the election of officers and Carl Johnson, 1st V.P. West & Treasurer welcomed the newly elected members, Vern Jeremica, Director at Large; David Williams, Director at Large; and Don Simonson, Director at Large to the board. New changes to the board are Carl Johnson is the new 1st V.P. West and Mike Clancy is the new Secretary.

Len Zickler resigned his position as Education Director, however; he will still continue to fulfill his commitment to the Board as chairman of The Expo, September 24th at The Tacoma Elk's. Len has been on the Board for over four

years, and he will be missed. Vern Jeremica and Don Simonson are on the committee for the Expo and reported that this event will be a quality program with lots of education and casting events.

Gordon McKay and Jerry McBride reported on conservation. The signs that the FFF and members clubs sponsored for the various lakes around Washington are ready to be installed. Jerry worked with the State long and hard on this project. Gordon reported that the NW Women Flyfishers is promoting a program to install a permanent toilet at The Ringer Road location on the Yakima River. They were refused a grant from the WDFW for this project, so they are contacting various clubs throughout the state to request financial support for this project. The Council would like to help with this project, David Williams and Gordon McKay will learn more about the program and report back to the Board. Don Simonson reported on a WDFW program – "Eyes in the Woods." It is a volunteer program dedicated to assisting the WDFW by using non-confrontational approaches to reporting wildlife crimes thereby protecting and enhancing our natural resources.

Irv Conner reported that as of June, 2005, we have 677 members in the FFF in the State of Washington. It was also stated that a "Life Membership" may be paid over a

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period of time, as little as \$50 a month.

Bob Bates reported that our web site is well received with lots of "hits" daily. The newsletter is also posted on the web site.

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org.

The Council elected to donate a picture with a fishing theme to the FFF for the auction at the conclave in Livingston, Mt. There was also discussion about the Council's booth at The Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue on 2-10-06 to 2-12-06.

The meeting started at 10 am and concluded at 3:30 pm. The next meeting will be held at the same location on October 8, 2005.

So You Want To Tie Flies

From FFF Clubwire

By Mike Livingston, Editor of the Deep Creek Flyfishers of San Bernardino, CA (Final installment continued from the June issue of *Covering the Drift*)

BOBBIN

The bobbin holds the thread. Basically, the bobbin is a tube with two springy legs that hold the spool of thread between the heels. The thread goes from the spool through the tube, which somehow helps control it. I don't know how. The older masters used to achieve the same thing by nailing a large button to the side of the table in front of the vice. To keep thread from unraveling on the unfinished fly, they'd just tuck the thread under the button. Maybe because too many novices were seriously injured by spouses after nailing a coat button to

the side of the dining room table ? at any rate, you need a bobbin.

Now there are bobbins and there are ceramic bobbins. Ceramic bobbins boast a smoother tube element so your thread is less likely to break. I've always held that if the thread breaks on my bobbin, I'll return it as defective. Maybe someday I'll return it and there won't be any more metal bobbins to replace it with and the shop will have to give me one of those ceramic bobbins I've always lusted after.

In addition to variations in construction, there are two sizes of bobbins: standard and midge. Start with a standard bobbin. This bobbin will do fine tying flies down to size 20. After tying a few dozen size 22 flies, if you can still read newsprint and you're convinced that your fishing success hinges on offering flies too small to thread on a tippet no less see on the water, then get a midge bobbin. But beware: once you've got a midge bobbin, even if you hate fishing midges, you'll find yourself compulsively tying them anyway. This in turn will lead to a sense of premature aging and, if left unchecked, to self-destructive habits, like smoking imported cigars, or buying single-malt scotch-when you don't even drink.

SCISSORS

Every fly tier will tell you that next to your vice the most important tool is your scissors. They'll go on and on about how to and how not to treat your scissors, how frustrating it is to work with dull scissors and the attributes to look for in good fly tying scissors. Of course, scissor manufacturers lend a sympathetic ear.

My first pair of scissors were the

thrifty specials supplied with my tying kit. I tied probably 500 flies before I happened onto a pair of antique sewing scissors. Grandma's sewing scissors were sharper, more pointed and fit my fingers better than my special fly tying scissors. But these, after all, were not fly tying scissors, they were sewing scissors. I needed fly tying scissors.

Well as I said, scissor manufacturers (actually fly tying tool manufacturers) are very sympathetic to fly tiers. Scissors have numerous gimmicks: quick release grips, ice-sharpened carbide blades, you name it. And people buy this stuff. Aren't scissors scissors? How do you sharpen anything with ice? Just put some scissors in a little plastic bag indicating that they're specifically suited for fly tying. Simple as that. (I bought the ice-sharpened carbide steel.)

BODKIN

The bodkin is little more than a stick with a needle in the end, but don't buy a stick with a needle in the end. These just don't have the same feel as one of those surgical precision, brass-handled models ? and feel is everything in fly tying.

HAIR STACKER

Elk Hair Caddis will be one of the flies you tie most. You're going to need a hair stacker. What the hair stacker does is align the tips of hair nice and even to give your hair flies that Vidal Sassoon look. Some tiers have resorted to using large-bore gun cartridges for this purpose. Of course, these aren't milled to the same tolerances as a tying-specific hair stacker, and unless you know of someone in the local militia, the proper size cartridges are hard to come by.

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HACKLE GAUGE

Hackle is just another word for feathers, more specifically, the feathers found on the neck of a cock. If you plan on tying dry flies, you're going to be working with hackle. Hackle provides the legs and wings of many flies. When working with hackle, you need hackle tools. You just do.

When you turn pro, you no longer need a hackle gauge. By then, you can flex a hackle and immediately discern what size, as well as what type, fly it is best suited for. But you're not there yet.

A hackle gauge tells you precisely what size fly the cock grew a feather for, and properly sized hackle is paramount to the right profile, that is, the way the fly sits on the water, in your fly box, or on your desk at work. I'm not saying it will fish any better, but if you ever plan to show your flies to non-tiers, you have to be able to mimic what they're familiar with. (The Professional Fly Tiers Union assures me that more fish are caught on flies with properly sized hackle.)

HACKLE PLIERS

When working with hackle, you're going to want hackle pliers. These things grip the free end of the hackle and provide just enough tension when dangling to act like a third hand. My favorite tool. Enough said.

EYEBROW COMB

The hair you're going to be working with often contains this cute fluffy stuff near the hide. This provides a dense layer of downy insulation to

the animal. It's useless for flies; get rid of it. The best tool for this is an eyebrow comb. Hold the hair by the tips and run the comb through the butts to collect this unwanted undercoat.

I recently heard a story of a novice fly tier who was overheard at a local conclave suggesting to a major tying tool manufacturer the need for a brass model of this comb. He's been missing ever since. Don't let this happen to you. If you're male and you are uncomfortable buying an eyebrow comb, wait patiently outside the local drugstore. Wear a fishing vest to substantiate your claims. Then very quietly, very matter of factly approach middle-aged women entering the store and ask them to buy the eyebrow comb for you. Most will be sympathetic to your condition; many will return your change.

WHIP FINISHER

Most people when they begin tying flies learn to finish their flies with a few half hitch knots (made simple by the handle end of most metal bodkins; another reason not to settle for the stick with a needle in the end). But at almost any tying class there'll be someone with a whip finisher. This is one of those tools that just begs to be mastered. That technique ? it's the closest thing to ballet.

Whip finishers were the rage not long ago. "Soul tiers" still use them, but many professional tiers have become minimalist showoffs not using a whip finisher, not even using a bodkin to finish their flies. They tie their half hitches with no tools whatsoever. While this form of grandstanding may get you in good with the tiers at the conclave, it's just a phase. They'll be

returning to their whip finishers in a few years, only they'll be rusty in using them. Stick with your whip finisher and you'll have the jump on them.

PATTERN BOOK

What are you going to tie? Settle on your favorite, most used, most productive patterns and sizes. Buy a book. Ask other tiers about good books to start with. Expect to get different advice. Buy the book with the fewest patterns (the ones you need) but with many step-by-step illustrations and thorough instructions. Do not buy more than one book! There is a direct correlation between the number of illustrated patterns at your disposal and the initial outlay of money. Wait until you have the support of your family and others around you. Get them to buy you more books. That way you're less responsible for needing more materials.

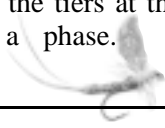
MATERIALS

Look to the patterns in your book to tell you what materials you need. While you'll need a little bit of this and that, some notes are in order regarding hooks and hackle.

PURCHASING MATERIALS

Do yourself a favor and send a non-tier with a list to do your shopping for you. Avoid shopping for fly tying materials yourself-even with a list. Something happens to tiers when they get in the materials section of the fly shop. The first thing to go is the list. Now I don't mean the tier throws the list away; I mean the list simply vanishes. Go ahead, poke your fingers into every pocket-you won't find it. The weird thing is that the list is there. You'll find it after you've unpacked your

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two grocery bags full of supplies. I really don't believe this is the tier's fault. I suspect that suppliers have isolated a neurochemical in the brains of tiers and manipulate it with subliminal messages and fluorescent lights which strobe at just the right frequency to hypnotize the unsuspecting. Non-tiers' levels of this neurochemical is much lower, so they are unaffected by this despicable manipulation.

HOOKS

There are basically two camps selling hooks. There's Mustad, with a box of 100 dry fly hooks selling for about \$8, and there's all the other manufacturers selling 25 to 50 hooks for the same price. While I've heard complaints that the cheaper hooks are ? well ? cheaper quality, I haven't noticed much myself. I find that a fly tied on a Mustad hook sticks in a willow branch just as well as the expensive hook, and it's always my tippet that breaks when I try to pull it free.

There are numerous designs of hooks, and sizes for every imaginable need. Hook sizes are typically listed in even numbers. I guess that was to leave room in between in case fisheries research showed that fish actually preferred flies tied on hooks one millimeter smaller or larger. In fact, some manufacturers, presumably with inside information, have begun offering some odd-numbered sizes. I need to buy some of these, just to test.

OK, so pick a brand, pick a model, and pick a size (start with the even numbers). But say you seine the muck around your boots one day and find the nymphs to be slightly smaller than what you've tied. What size hook do you buy? Well

that would be the next smaller number, right? Wrong. See, fly tiers have always been very creative, very far thinking, very protective sorts with Sardonic wit. I mean these folks were fishing with solid tackle hundreds of years ago while telling others their tackle consisted of rare and fragile materials. I mean silk fly line and horse hair leaders? Yeah, right.

So somewhere along the history of fly fishing one of the first capitalists (whom fly fishers both support and scorn) overhears a conversation suggesting that quail angles (bones taken from the breast of quail and sharpened into a hook shape) come in a variety of sizes. Late in the conversation, the fishers catch onto the evesdropping. Now they want the hooks, but they can't let on. This angling thing can't be too easy or everyone will take it up and the Union of Professional Fly Anglers will lose sorcery status-rather like the Wizard of Oz being exposed by a mangy dog, but not really. Anyway, these anglers opt for brilliant simplicity: deny the natural expectation. While smaller size would suggest a smaller size-specific number, let's assign a larger number to smaller hooks; in other words, let's make the size 18 hooks microscopic compared to a size 6. The moral here is think twice before agreeing to tie up a hundred size 26 tricos with hackle-tip wings for a buck apiece.

HACKLE

One of your greatest expenses will be hackle. You want good hackle, but you'll destroy many flies before they touch water, so don't even consider the premium stuff. Usually you can tell your supplier what you're tying and what size. They can tell you what you need.

Hackle is graded according to the density and stiffness of the "barbs" (which form the legs of the dry fly and translate to floatability), number of feathers and size of feathers. For starters, a #3 is fine, #2 if you're certain you'll be tying all the flies you'll use until you die (which may come sooner, the more money you spend).

Now, should you choose neck or saddle? Starting out, get a saddle. If you're on a tight budget or you're having trouble convincing your finance manager to fund you, look into buying half saddles of each color you need.

There are some twenty or so colors of hackle. If you were to buy a #3 grade saddle of each color, you can expect to give up at least one appendage of your body. If you do this without the knowledge of your loved one, he or she gets to choose which appendage.

STORAGE

By now you have a box of tools and several bags of feathers, fur, thread, and shiny stuff. Unless you're a bachelor slob like Steve Kopp who has this stuff scattered across his dining room table and spilling onto yesterday's breakfast dishes, you're going to need a place to store this stuff and a place to do your tying.

Fly tiers manage storage several ways. Some store their tying supplies in a tackle box. If you can do this, then you have exhibited great restraint with your credit card. Many tiers, however, need more space than what's available in the Bassmaster Tournament model tackle box. Some solve the problem with multiple clear plastic

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compartmentalized boxes thrown into a gym bag. Others buy furniture.

Rolltop desks are popular among fly tiers. There are often enough drawers and cubbys to lend the false security of organization. Rolltop desks have an added benefit for others living in the home: pull down the roller shield to conceal the mess and you still have a smart looking piece of furniture, that is, were it not for the multicolored sparkly mess strewn around it.

A fly tier can always point proudly to a rolltop desk as something of a status symbol.

“Oh yeah, I tie my own flies. There’s my desk.” But to develop the artsy right-hemisphere of your brain, do this: fish the first fly you tie. “But it looks like something the vacuum coughed up” you say. Don’t judge it, fish it. This is often a revelation for novice and seasoned fly fishers alike. When a fish takes that ugly “Hoover lint” fly, a light illumines every thought you ever had about the Forefathers of Flyfishing, matching the hatch, whether you really needed that new

four-wheel drive utility vehicle, the validity of intelligence tests.

Enlightenment can spawn some dysfunctional, rebellious actions. You may find yourself tying size 4, 3-extra long Dry Spruce flies to fish on Hot Creek because if a fish will take the Hoover Lint fly, surely they’ll be impressed with this radiant offering that looks like a foil-wrapped, ribbon-tied holiday gift. Eventually, this “I am God” attitude wears and you begin tying what you used to use on each of the waters you commonly fish-pausing once in awhile to experiment, only now more scientifically.

A Few Pictures From The 40th Anniversary Conclave



Wine and Cheese party gives you a chance to meet many people like “Van” Gytenbeek talking to Leslea Dennis (right side of picture)
A “Fish Walk” closed Main St, shops opened and people danced. Good thing the storm stayed south of town

Federation of Fly Fishers Membership Application

Full Name _____
Address _____
City / State / Zip _____
Phone home / work _____
Club Affiliation _____
Birth Date _____

Referred by: _____

Apply online at www.fedflyfishers.org

Please mail or call us at

Federation of Fly Fishers
215 E Lewis 406 222-9369
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Please check membership category

- Canadian memberships add \$5 per year All other countries add \$10 per year
- Individual Membership (\$35)
 - 3-year individual (\$85)
 - Senior Membership (\$25) for those age 65 and over
 - Family Membership (\$45) spouses and children under 14
 - 3-Year Family Member (\$100)
 - Youth Membership (\$15) for individual members under 14
 - Disabled Veterans are Free (Proof of 50% disability required)
 - Individual Life (\$500) payment plans available
 - Couple Life (\$750) pymt. plans available
 - Retail Membership (\$75) small fishing equipment stores
 - Sustaining Membership (\$200) commercial / manufacturing businesses

Check Enclosed (checks payable to F.F.F.) US Funds
 Credit Card Visa MasterCard Discover
 Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____



Display floor with vendors and fly tiers arranged together.



A WSCFFF Board member checking the goodies.



Another view of the display floor.



Three nice ladies watching Bob Bates, WSCFFF Board member, tie a fly from the new FFF Fly of the Month page. <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/flytying.php>

A few more pictures are on our website. Most photos by Bob Bates. The one to right by Carl Johnson. <http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/>



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