



FLY PAPER

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The Future of Fly-fishing

Fly-fishing's future as a classic outdoor activity that has been practiced and enjoyed by generations of avid anglers is in the process of undergoing significant change. For some time now, there has been some concern by these anglers that their beloved sport was being threatened by the lack of interest in fly-fishing by the "next generation" of twenty and thirty year olds who seem to have little interest in this pursuit. These young "millennials" appear to not have enough time or money to become involved in this "old-style" sport. There is hope, however, that fly-fishing will be embraced by this "next generation". There will be some changes that traditional fly-fishers may have some difficulty in adjusting to.

The answer to this dilemma is, of course, E.G. or electronic gaming. This young tech-savvy group has grown-up with electronic entertainment in many forms. So, why not merge "classic" fly-fishing with the present and future form of entertainment? The tech-industry has been successful in developing games that both educate and entertain the youth of America, and for that matter, the world. These new era games are incredibly realistic and can in many ways replicate any sport. Industry leaders, Electronic Arts and Nintendo, have "gamers" employed who have successfully tested the concept of "e-fly-fishing". Panel tests have been very positive, indicating a very significant business potential. With these positive results in-hand, these companies have invested in the development of "e-fly-fishing" as a sport. Today, the traditional fly-fishing industry is a \$2.1 billion dollar business. It is, however, declining at the rate of 5.5% per year. Gaming industry projections indicate a different trend as they see a very lucrative sales potential of \$2,850,000,000 with a growth trend approaching 10%.

A recent industry news release touted the merits of this outdoor-related activities. A test panel of "next generation" participants see many benefits in making changes from "old-school" fly-fishing to the newer "e-fly-fishing". In the future there will be savings in both time and materials as fly tying becomes passé', "Matching the hatch" will still be employed however, as the sportsman will now select from a menu that will provide options as to the targeted species, environment, climactic conditions, and local aquatic insects. The fishing won't always be catching either, as is the case with old-style fly-fishing. An e-fisherman's expertise will be tested considerably as they will have to select proper menu options in order to successfully hook and land an e-fish. Rods, reels, and line expenditures will also be eliminated as a Wii-like wand is being developed to replace the old-style tools of the trade. The fishing "wand" will be adjustable as to length, flex, and line-weight.

A meeting of old-style fly-fishers as represented by the International Fly Fishing Federation (IFFF) and these new-age outdoor enthusiasts is soon to be held at IFFF's headquarters in Livingston, MT. The result of this combined "look into the future" should result in the salvation of this treasured old-time sport. The meeting will be held on April 1st, 2014, which is, of course, is concurrent with April Fool's Day.

Anonymous

Outings

April 26-27 th	Blue Lake Opening Day Camp Out
May 3-4 th	FFF Fair – Ellensburg Tiers Needed
May 17 th	Big Twin Lake

Tom will also offer weekday runs to local lakes !

Dry Falls may come back into the rotation in May !

LOOKING UPSTREAM

April 17, 2014

WVFF General Meeting
Name tag !

Wenatchee Eagles Lodge

Wet Fly Hour	5:45 pm
Dinner	6:30 pm

Program begins at 8:00 pm
Richard DeLarenso on the topic of
Fishing for Alaska Kings

DOWN THE ROAD

- April 15th
Wenatchee Valley College Fly Class
- Tom Whiteside and Gary Anderson instructing. Contact info. on back
 - 7:00-9:30 pm / Sexton Hall # TBA
 - Need help on:
 - May 13th Fly Tying
 - May 20th Fly Casting

April 15th
Grant Application Deadline for NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy
Lacey nwycffa@comcast.net
Mike Clancy 360) 753-1259

May 3- 4th
WA Fly Fishing Fair 2014 Ellensburg
washingtoncouncilfff.org/test/Welcome.php

May 17-18th
Renton - Atlantic Salmon Fly International
The passion & art of the Atlantic salmon fly.



PRE- LAUNCH SOLITUDE - BLUE LAKE

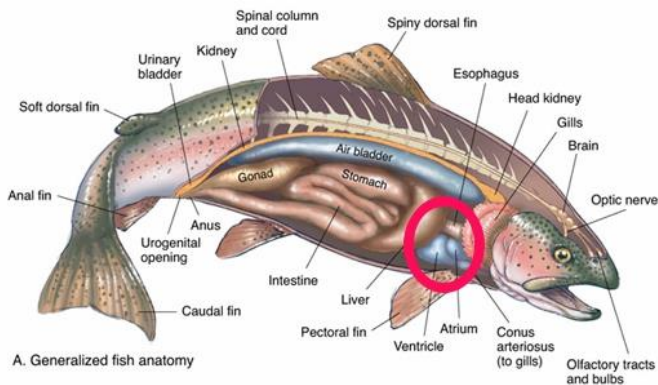
Securely Handling Trout

Without causing stress or damage by Tony Bishop

We all should know the rules for releasing a trout with the best chance of survival, but there is one rule that is almost never included in articles about successful releasing.

So, you have landed the fish as quickly as possible to limit capture stress and you are about to pick up the fish and get a few 'grip and grin' shots before release.

But, grip and grin, can all too often turn into grip and kill, and it is all down to where and how you grip the trout that can determine its survival.



Have look at the anatomical drawing above showing the main internal structure and components of a trout. Take particular notice where the heart is (red outline) - between and under the gills and liver, just above the Pectoral fins.

These three organs, heart, gills and liver are very susceptible to damage, although not always immediately obvious, unless the damage is very severe leading to immediate death. A fish subject to external pressure to the heart and other organs may swim away on release, but many die soon after.

Gripping a fish in the pectoral area using inward force and squeezing pressure will compress the heart and maybe the liver and gills. The outcome for the fish is not going to be good, even if it does manage to swim away on release.

One of New Zealand's best known guides, Tony Entwistle, writing in the *New Zealand Fish & Game Magazine*, has one of the best descriptions I have read on the proper handling of a trout. "Securely handling a trout without causing stress or

damage is a matter of a gentle touch, not a tight grip. To pacify a landed trout, simply place a hand vertically in front of its nose to prevent it from swimming forward and fold the palm to cover both eyes. This acts as a mask and immediately calms it down. Trout relax quickly when their eyes are covered.

Next grasp the fish's tail with the other hand, without excessive force. Some anglers use a piece of stocking for grip, but with good technique this isn't necessary. Securing a trout needs only gentle pressure between the thumb and forefinger, applied directly over the base of the tail, applied where it joins the body (hypural joint).

Apply pressure top and bottom through the first joints of the forefinger and thumb, rather than along the sides. The mistake is grasping the tail too far forward and using too much hand in doing so. Squeezing hard does not help as the fish slips more easily.

Now test the grip by lifting the fish slightly by the tail, keeping the other hand over the eyes for the moment. If the grip is secure the trout will not slip, but if it does resist grabbing at it with both hands. By quickly slipping a hand in front of the nose, and covering the eyes again, a lot more fish will be saved from premature release.

With a positive grip on the tail it is now possible to begin lifting the trout safely for a photograph or release.

Avoid squeezing the fish around the soft belly area behind the pectoral fins because this causes discomfort and can potentially cause serious damage to internal organs. Instead slide the free hand under the pectoral fins, orientating the hand so that the trout's head rests along the index finger, with the pectoral fins spread out between thumb and little finger.

The trout will be nicely balanced and the soft tissue in the belly area will not be supporting any weight. Lifting the trout this way, and returning it to the water between photographs minimizes any distress which could reignite its struggles. Turn the fish belly up when removing the hook. Handle trout gently and with respect and they won't panic or stress, ensuring their revival for release without damage and a minimum of fuss."

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Board Meeting Minutes March 6, 2014

Present: Gary Anderson, Al Smith, JoAnn Lane, Eric Rainbolt, Tom Rowe, Tom Whiteside, Rob Winters

Absent: Danny Horan, Steve Harvey and Bruce Merighi

President Rob Winters called the meeting to order at 5:36 p.m. February's board and general meeting minutes were approved as submitted.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

President: Rob Winters introduced Mike Kaputa from the Chelan County Natural Resources Department who provided current information relating to land acquisition in the Stemilt-Squilchuck Watershed.

- In 2006 there was a proposed parcel exchange that would have allowed real estate development in the area. After consideration it was concluded that "the four sections should remain in state ownership" rather than being transferred to private ownership.
- Phase 2 of the project is to acquire land known as the Longview Parcels. During the past two years, successful grant applications have made it possible for these parcels to be purchased; May 15, 2014 is the tentative closing date.
- However, some of the grant money is subject to "10% funding from local sources" (in this case \$230,000-240,000 of which approximately \$180,000 is currently assured). There has been "good response" from local irrigation districts and several other local groups like Wenatchee Sportsmen.
- Management of the land will be "similar to that in the Colockum-Squilchuck Wildlife Area."
- WVFF is being asked to contribute to the "local funding". Either a contribution or a "letter of financial commitment" to be paid out over the next 5 years can be used to meet the 10% requirement mentioned above.

After his presentation Mike answered numerous questions from board members relating to both the acquisition and its planned uses. Rob also:

- Reminded the board of the need for upcoming event volunteers. Possible tying instruction for Leavenworth schools has been added to previously published lists.
- Thanked Treasurer Al Smith for his work on closing of the 2013 budget and the preparation of the 2014 budget for February submission to the membership.
- Reported that Pat Herdt and he have purchased fly-tying materials approved at a previous meeting.

Of Note: Additional Discussion/ Announcements:

- Bruce Merighi will report at the next meeting on the second stage of the ALEA Grant.
- There was some concern about the number of dinners *served* as compared with those *paid* at February's general meeting. Rob, Al and Gary will talk with the Eagle Aerie to clarify expectations and receipts.

Membership: Eric Rainbolt had no report.

Treasurer: Al Smith reported that he has filed the required 990 report with the IRS.

Outings: Tom Whiteside said the 2014 outings schedule is current with possible additions as fishing conditions develop/ change.

Old Business:

- Eric Rainbolt moved that “the boards approve Tom Rowe’s making final arrangements for the updated and expanded website” as presented at January’s board meeting and included in the 2014 budget. Tom Whiteside seconded; motion carried.
- Al Smith moved that the WVFF rent a storage unit for the club’s items (other than the library) at a cost of \$420 for 1 year. Eric Rainbolt seconded; motion carried. Rob Winters will make arrangements for the contract to be signed and the 12-months’ rental fee paid. Each board member will be issued a key to facilitate access for club members needing the stored items.

New Business

- Following discussion, Al Smith moved that WVFF contribute \$3000 for 2014 and \$1000 per year for five (5) additional years (ending in 2019 for a total of \$8000) to the acquisition of parcels in the Stemilt-Squilchuck Watershed as identified by Chelan County representative Mike Kaupka. Tom Whiteside seconded; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 6:58 p.m. JoAnn Lane Secretary WVFF March 11, 2014

General Meeting Minutes March 20, 2014

General Meeting: President Rob Winters called the meeting to order at 7:24 p.m.

General Reports: New Member Casey Cooper and Guests Mike Strong and Morgan Wagner were introduced.

- **Vice-President: Steve Harvey** reported the **Wenatchee Valley Sportsmen’s Show** “went well.” Whether there will be a show in 2015 is yet to be determined.
- **Outings: Tom Whiteside** reminded members of the Lenice Lake outing March 22-23.
- **Publications: Bruce Merighi** reminded members they need only let him know and he will provide the *Fly Paper* via email.
- **Conservation/ Education: Rob Winters** requested that those able to assist with upcoming Ellensburg activities let him know of their availability. **Tom Whiteside** and **Gary Anderson** need assistance with the **WVCC Fly Fishing Class** on **April 15** (lines, leaders and knots; **May 13** (Fly Tying); and **May 20** (Casting). Those helping with the casting session should try to bring “moderate action rods.” The class meets Tuesdays from 7 – 9:30 p.m. Contact Tom or Gary for information about the classroom location. 60% of the class tuition goes to support WVFF Conservation activities.
- **Of Note:** There are three (3) spots remaining May 12-16 for fishing Diamond Belle Ranch at Walker Lake near Wauconda. Anyone interested should contact **Jim Mathews**. Fishing was very good last fall with large trout landed. Non-fishing spouses will find great opportunities to hike, bird watch, read, visit and enjoy the lodge’s decks and great room with huge stone fireplace.

New Business: Rob Winters described the board’s decision to recommend a donation to the purchase of Stemilt Basin Land. (See March 6, 2014 board minutes.) Fred Kunzmann moved the club accept the board’s recommendation; Eric Rainbolt seconded. The total club expenditure of \$8000 with \$3000 paid immediately, followed by \$1000 per year for 5 years was approved unanimously.

Program: Gary Anderson introduced Jim Gallagher of Troutwaters Fly Shop located in Ellensburg and Cle Elum (<http://troutwaterfly.com/>). Jim shared his in-depth knowledge of fishing the Yakima River where he guides. He described the Yakima as being “a unique river—three rivers in one.” Topics included knowing Yakima insects, tying abstract flies the fish will accept, techniques for tying stonefly nymphs, prospecting “if the fisherman doesn’t know what’s going on,” and “drowning the fly.” Following his presentation, Jim answered members’ questions. Jim can be contacted at 509.962.3474 in Ellensburg or 509.674.2144 in Cle Elum.

President Rob Winters adjourned the meeting at 8:57 p.m. JoAnn Lane WVFF Secretary



Washington State Council

Of The Federation of Fly Fishers

P. O. Box 2422, Olympia, Washington 98507-2422

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org



MAY 3, SAT. 9 AM-5PM AND MAY 4, SUN. 8AM-3PM

KITTITAS VALLEY EVENT CENTER ELLENSBURG

The WSCFFF Board and fair committee encourage you to come see and partake in the variety of tying, casting and learning events. Free seminars will be given that may include Fishing the Upper Columbia, Steelhead Fishing in Washington, or maybe Bass Fishing in your backyard. Along with the free seminars there will be Workshops at various fees on casting, from beginning to expert including classes designed for women.

A FFF Nine Hole Casting Course will be available both for competition and your knowledge, the cost FREE. See how good you are in the areas that you have perfected and find out where your cast needs more work. Tasks of the course are "The Multiple C", "The Obstacle", "Reach Right & Left", "Pile it Up", "Fly First", "Tighten Up", "Get it Under", "The Non-Stop", "What's Comfortable". Fun for anyone, regardless of experience, walking from hole to hole along the nine hole casting course. Each hole presents a different real fishing situation which you get to solve by learning more about fly casting. You will pick up some valuable new ideas about how to cast for fun or fishing. Bring your own equipment...or equipment and instructors are available to guide you along the course.

Private lessons with a Certified Casting Instructor will be available for a fee. These men and women know their casting to a "T" and will work with you on your cast.

About one hundred tiers will be tying flies on Sat and Sun for your enjoyment and learning. The techniques and tips will be available to you for the asking. Some tiers will be as young as 13, yes 13. Fly tying isn't just for the mature aged person. These young tiers are good and will show you how to tie their patterns with any tips available. Every type and style of fly by all ages of tiers will be tied, find those that interest you and watch how the experienced do it and pick up all the tips you can.

The WSCFFF through your support can continue our mission to conserve and restore our resource's and educate fly fishers in their sport and grow advocacy for fish and fisheries.

Last but not least there will be vendors available with tying materials, rods, reels, lines and a full spectrum of items needed for fly fishing that you can try out, buy and question for the quality and uses for your casting and fishing styles.

FFF members and youth under 16 get in for free, nonmembers cost is only \$5.

FOR SALE BY MEMBER

1995 22' Tioga Motorhome Walkabout 460 Asking \$ 12,500

Sleeps Four - 39,900 miles - New Tires, Batteries, AC Generator, Cover and Microwave. Oven, completely serviced, towing package, 24 cubic ft. exterior storage box.

509-682-4653 Jim Mathews or write to: PO Box 3176 Chelan WA 98816

OUR EVOLVING DINNER ARRANGEMENTS

BY ROB WINTERS

We get a great deal from our hosts, the Eagles. They cannot afford to subsidize us nor should they have to. We need to be mindful of their needs and to make adjustments. To this end we have started to collect food and beverage data so all parties can make an informed decision.

There have already been changes in meal service instituted to help keep the Eagles track our requirements and to collect payments. I know there were implementation hitches last month and those will be discussed with our hosts. Please note that if you find the "tab" process irksome you can still use cash just as we always have. I did that at our last dinner and came away fed and with the drinks for which I paid.

Ultimately we may also need to consider other options to keep things affordable from both parties' perspective. What we cannot do is ignore our hosts' needs. No one likes change or inconvenience but in this case we have to rethink what we expect in order to keep a long standing relationship intact.

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A FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS AFFILIATED CLUB



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*** Membership Dues are due on January 1st of each year ***

MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SUBMIT INFORMATION, SALE ITEMS, PHOTOGRAPHS, ARTICLES OR FISHING STORIES.

E-MAIL YOUR SUBMISSION TO *BRUCE MERIGHI* BY THE 1ST OF THE MONTH.

PDF and WORD versions of the newsletter are available via e-mail, upon request.