



# FLY PAPER

March 2022

## LOOKING UPSTREAM

- March 17 General Zoom Meeting
- Presenter Joe Rotter from Red's Fly Shop
  - Fly Fishing the Yakima River and Beyond
- March 18-20 **Quincy Lakes Official Club Outing**
- Come for a day a few days but bring warm clothes. The area can cool off at night and get windy at times.
- April 7 Board Zoom Meeting
- April 9-10 Casting Clinic - Outside/In Person General Meeting
- Walla Walla Point Park, across from Lowes, by the pond
  - Time Slot Training - Reservations Required
  - Instructor requests that participants be vaccinated and masked.
  - After the last
- April 22-24 **Blue Lake Official Club Outing**
- General WA Lakes Opener on Sat.
  - Best Attended Outing of the Year
  - See below and on the Outings webpage for more details
- May 5 Board Meeting
- May 12-15 **Big Twin Lake Outing**
- See the Outings webpage and this newsletter for more details
- May 19 General Zoom Meeting
- Presenter TBA
- May 21 WVFF Auction
- On Line Auction and at the Eastmont Community Center
  - More information coming on this event

## WVFF Casting Clinic April 9th

**BREAKING NEWS – 1/3 OF THE SPACES HAVE ALREADY BEEN RESERVED - BOOK NOW**

How is your casting in the wind? Ever thought it would be good to learn how to cast with your 'non-dominant arm' just in case? Are you, or a friend new to fly fishing and like some

professional help with the basics? You name the casting topic, from curve casts to distance casting and we'll get you a training session.

Your club has arranged to have FFI Certified Master Caster, Aaron Culley out of Cle Elum, come to the Walla Walla Point Park and teach a variety of fly casting techniques. Each group of 1-4 will be schooled, on one topic of their choice, during their 50 minute session. If you plan to attend, please honor the instructors' wishes, be vaccinated and wear a mask. And now for the who, what, when, where and how.

#### WHO

- Vaccinated WVFF members and their guests.
- Any level of experience is welcome. First timers to the ultra-experienced !

#### WHAT

- Bring your own gear and tie on a fluff of yarn to your tippet. No hooks.
- Please wear a hat and glasses for safety.

#### WHEN

- Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> 9 am – 4 pm
- Sunday April 10<sup>th</sup> 9 am – Noon (Overflow)

#### WHERE

- Walla Walla Point Park in Wenatchee – East of the Town Toyota Center
- Beyond the Loop Trail path and at the swimming area.
- See the map below.

#### HOW

- Starting at 9 am, 50 min. instruction sessions will commence, covering that groups chosen casting topic.
- Each session will consist of a maximum of four students.
- The first person to sign up for each of the six time slots will choose the topic to be covered.
- A total of only 24 people can sign up for the Saturday clinic.
- If needed, our instructor will stay for a half day on Sunday the 10<sup>th</sup> of April.
- There is a baseball tournament that weekend, so parking could be interesting.
- An outdoor WVFF General Meeting will occur in this location after the last class. Hot Dogs and sides will be burnt to order, so come hungry. More details to follow.

**CONTACT ME ASAP TO SIGN UP OR IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS**

**BRUCE MERIGHI [BRUCE401@NWI.NET](mailto:BRUCE401@NWI.NET) OR 509-679-2274**



The clinic will occur in this lagoon area. Exact location depends on the river level.

**SPONSORSHIPS NEEDED FOR**  
**NW YOUTH CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING ACADEMY**

Mike Clancy & Jim Brosio - Retiring Co-Directors

The staff and students of the 2019 Academy would like to thank all the organizations and individuals for their generous support in donating funds and sponsoring our youth in 2019.

A very successful Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy was held during June 2019. There were 21 well-behaved, enthusiastic boys and girls, ages 12 to 16 attending. All were a pleasure to be around. Each learned a wealth of information for use in their life as future conservationists and fly fishers. Many caught their first fish on a fly they learned to tie at the academy. Application for the 2022 academy is now open.

2020 was going to be Jim and my last academy. Jim has been involved for 16 years, I have been involved for 14 years and we are going to pass the academy onto 3 solid, dedicated new Co-Directors. John Gravendyk, Bruce Merighi and Carol Anderson, all from the flyfishing community and Pat Hesselgesser, Chair (WCTU), is also going to volunteer. The group has decided to attempt to conduct an academy this year, 2022 at Hicks Lake in Lacey at the Gwinwood Christian Center. However; we are limiting the applicants to 12 this year. We will be following TU National, CDC and local health recommended regulations during camp.

The academy is a youth education project of the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and is made possible with the help and support of the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International. Our goal is to open the door for today's youth to learn conservation and fly fishing, regardless of financial means, for any serious minded youth willing to do the work.

TU and the FFI have been the main financial source of support, along with some very generous individuals and businesses; we trust this will continue in the future. TU chapters and FFI clubs have generously sponsored youth to attend the Academy. *Editor Note: WVFF Donated \$300 in 2019.*

The Academy Steering Committee is requesting TU chapters and Fly Fishing Clubs to donate at the \$500 level. Enrollment fee is \$300.00 per student. However, it costs approximately \$1,000 total, per youth, for the 7 days. And no applicant is turned away because of funding.

The academy can be a life changing experience of our youth's attitude about stewardship, conservation, and fly fishing. The knowledge they learn about the abundance of life in our rivers, lakes and streams is invaluable and it is imperative that we preserve this event for our current youth so they become our future conservationists and fly fishers.

Our request to you is that your organization budget to contribute to the academy in 2022. Your support is needed to make the academy a success. Please send your contributions payable to:

WCTU, and "Academy" listed in the "For" section of the check, c/o Mike Clancy, 2531 Simon Lane NE, Olympia, WA 98506. Our website is: [nwyccffa.com](http://nwyccffa.com)

*We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for their future. FDR*

The Washington Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Academy will be held from June 19 - 25 at the Gwinwood Community Center in Lacey WA. The camp will only accept 12 students this year, ages 12 to 16. More Information at: [nwyccffa.com](http://nwyccffa.com)

## LOOKING DOWNSTREAM

By Greg McEwen

Building any organization from the ground up takes extreme commitment and alignment of expectations from all involved. Whether it's a business or a club like the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers, success is dependent on specific goals and clearly defined action steps to achieve those goals.

The Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers began on the Wenatchee River. On a crystal clear Saturday morning, I decided to spend a few hours on the water. For those that are new to the area, there was a time when the Wenatchee River was open. I moved to the Leavenworth area in 1980 and purchased a home on the river. For many years I had traveled over the mountains to the Leavenworth area to fish and hike. It was always a dream of mine to live on the river and fish for (primarily) steelhead from my backyard. Two years later they declared steelhead an endangered species and the steelhead fishery was shut down.

This one Saturday morning, I decided to head down river close to Wenatchee and fish some water I had never fished. I was working my way down river when I came upon another fly fisher and stopped to chat. It didn't take long to realize he was very experienced and knew that stretch of the river well. We had fished together for about an hour when he invited me up to his house which was located on a bluff above the water we were fishing. To make a long story short, this gentleman's name was Bill Barnett and the water we were fishing was known as "Bill's Hole". I didn't realize at the time how lucky I was to have met this incredible man.

Months later I was attending a Trout Unlimited meeting in Leavenworth and struck up a conversation with this person I was sitting next to. I mentioned to him that I wish there was a local fly club. Prior to moving to Leavenworth, I was involved with the Overlake Flyfishers in Bellevue. We had been involved with many projects

around the state, most notably on Rocky Ford. This person shared my desire for a new club and we met that next week to talk about how we could make this happen. Enter Ray Bull. I told him about meeting Bill Barnett and said I would reach out to him.

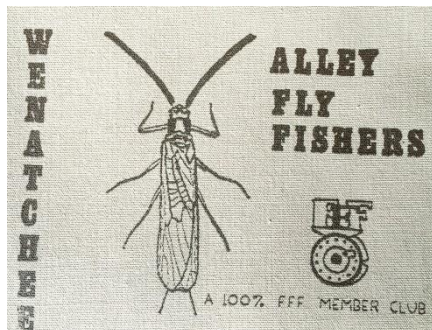
I contacted Bill that next week and he was thrilled at the prospect of a fly fishing club in Wenatchee. We made a trip to the Tri-Cities to attend a Federation of Fly Fishers regional meeting. Our goal was to get advice on how to go about starting this club. The rest is history!

My love of fly fishing and fly tying has continued to grow over the years. My work and the years I spent as a single dad raising two little girls severely limited the time I had available to be active in WVFF. I am looking forward to being involved in the growth of the club and our sport once again. I commend those (most notably Gary Anderson) for keeping the fire lit and continuing the growth of the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers.

#### And a Little More about our roots by Bruce Merighi

Volume 1, Number 1, the first club WVFF newsletter was sent to members. It was called the 'Cast – O – Gram' and it first came out on February 1985. It was four pages of typed, as in typewriter, by Greg and Tori McEwen and Greg has recently rejoined the club. Yeah ! It featured an encouraging message from the new club president Ray Bull, encouraging the 29 'paid and pledged' members to each help make the club a success by involvement and hard work. "The board will provide the direction and leadership (my pledge), but it is only you as a member that can make the club work for you successfully. Be involved. Provide your thoughts, ideas, time and effort." (Editor's Note: My how times have not changed. 90% of the work is still done by 10% of the members. Oh, and by the way we are still really needing a Secretary.)

Original members, that are with the club today are Gary Anderson, Ty Duhamel, Greg McEwan, John Murio and Gordy West. By March they had 32 members and yearly dues were \$20. The Cast-O-Gram's quote of the month was, "The average fisherman has 66 pounds of muscle, 40 pounds of bone and 3.25 pounds of brains. That may explain a lot of things." In March of '85 they started a 'Name the Newsletter' contest which resulted in the first, 'The Fly Paper' being distributed that June. Outings happened up at Chopaka, the Okanogan, Yakima and Kettle rivers, plus steelheading on the Wenatchee.



The first WVFF patch

# President's Message March 2022

Greetings Friends,

Like the fabled Phoenix bird (I think the translation was wrong... I think it was a fish but that is another subject) rising from the ashes, the WVFF is coming back. Truth be told with the leadership of our board and the faith of our members in the sport, we never really went away.

Thanks to Bruce Phillips who put a note in the local news website NABUR about WVFF, I had the privilege of bragging about our club to Mitchell Roland of the Wenatchee World for about 30 minutes today. It was a delight to talk about our conservation work, our outings, our education and sponsorship of young people for the annual flyfishing camp and Bruce's work for casting for recovery. I also outlined the great outings and programs that we enjoy and how much we would like to share these activities with more and younger people. Thank you for making it a fun and proud moment for me.

The article will be out this or next week, so keep an eye out for it. The timing could not be better either with our desire to bring in more members and with the decision to move forward with the fund-raiser.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our meeting in two weeks and on the water (hopefully not the ice!) at Quincy Lake. Mike Schmuck made a point of mentioning Burke Lake as well so some of us should prospect those waters as well.

The fund-raiser, scheduled for the 21<sup>st</sup> of May, is shaping up and likely will morph into some sort of live event. With masks coming off, the March meeting may be our last virtual gathering as April is out of doors. When live meetings start in the fall (or maybe June?) it will be fun to have live guests join us, although there are some advantages to having some of the more distant but interesting presenters "visit" us virtually. More about that later.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing everyone in the flesh. It is an odd irony, this insular sport... with it's mystical (to non-fishermen) long rods, misplaced reels and strange fat lines. And don't get me started on the Muddler-this and the chirono-that. So we gather to go fishing together and yet spend the whole day barely in earshot on the water, giving the evil eye to anyone who ventures within our 60 foot (I thought mine was more like 80!) casting range. That's ten times the standard Coronavirus social distancing.

I go to wondering why, we of the solitary sport find such pleasure in being together and once again, it all comes down to stories. Malcolm Gladwell, in his book Blink: The Power of Thinking Without Thinking talks about the fact that when we lose a friend, or God forbid, a spouse, we lose a repository of our knowledge, a storage place for memories, maybe the list of names of our neighbors that you don't have to keep track of.

I think in our case, it is the stories we share. I can chat up John Cunningham about our 1998 meeting in a café in Spences Bridge on the Thompson River when I tried unsuccessfully to get him to guess that his article about conehead flies had gotten published. I still have the issue of Fly Fishing magazine that I had rolled up in my pocket to surprise him with.

Not all of us will go to Tierra del Fuego or Christmas Island. But we can all share stories about the over-educated rainbows turning up their noses at the best presentation of a size 20 fly on a 6x leader. In parts, we are all small players in the history of the sport. But as a group, we comprise a living, interconnected mind that can drive the forces that heal our wounded watersheds and bathe our bored children in fish tales until one of them surprises us by picking up a fly rod and asking to learn how it works.

This is the power of common shared love of something. And fly fishing is no exception. So my thanks to you all. You are part of my fishing brain and most importantly, my fishing heart.

See you on the 17<sup>th</sup>!

Steve Aguilu

## February 3, 2022 WVFF Board Minutes

Attended: Steve Aguilu, Dan Hammond, John Richmond, Gary Anderson, Bruce Merighi, Bruce Phillips, Wayne Steele, Al Smith and Bob Bartlett

Absent: none

Call to order: Time: 6:46 pm

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January 6 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve: Bruce M. Second: Dan Hammond

Vote: Unanimously approved after revisions to credit card payment information

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President's Report:

### Communication:

- Please check the grid above to assure that the numbers and emails are all accurate. All board members verbally confirmed their emails and phone numbers.

### 2022 Fundraiser

- Since this is the fundraiser "catch-up" from the previous year, Steve Aguilu assisted by Bob. We will ask for additional volunteers at the general meeting. Joe Roy has already expressed interest in helping.
- Target Month: May so that we have potential for one or two more meetings before summer and a live event.

- Potential locations: Maple St. Fire Station, Eagles, Pybus (Question for GM meeting)
- Day of the week: Saturday or evening (Question for GM meeting)
- Simple Location with Silent Auction. + or – Live online auction (Question for GM meeting)
- Bob will check on live on-line auction site (Methow Fly Fishers)
- Later in the season would make it more safe and even increase the likelihood of a live event
- Any results on available rooms to rent for silent auction? Steve and assistants to do live venue search. Need to start this immediately so volunteers will need to do the footwork initially due to work constraints of SDA. (Question for GM meeting)
- Goal will be to have volunteers, online auction site selected and silent auction venue proposed by the general meeting. (Question for GM meeting)

#### 2022 WVFF dues collection:

- Use Website – Credit Card/PayPal to collect:
  - PayPal now online on website, plus WVFF address/PO box for sending checks.
  - PayPal now depositing funds
  - PayPal also supplies credit card access
  - Will need to notify members via email and at general meeting (Information for GM meeting)
- Still \$35 per family annual dues. (Review for GM meeting)

#### Election of Officers for 2022:

- Steve Aguilu President
- Thank you, Dan Hammond for stepping up for VP.
  - 2023 President?
- No candidate yet for Secretary will split duties between Bob and Steve. I will continue to ask for someone to step up to facilitate communication and accuracy in records (Question for GM meeting)
- Other candidates remain the same

#### Vice President's Report:

- Dan will assume duties of fundraiser for 2023 and has kindly volunteered to help with vendor and member donor contact and other manageable tasks.
- Bob to help get Dan oriented to VP duties and other roles

#### Education

- Bruce M announced that on April 9<sup>th</sup> and possibly the 10<sup>th</sup> a Casting Clinic will be held for members and their friends. (Announce at General Meeting)
- It will be held at Walla Wall Point Park and the certified casting instructor will be Aaron Culley of FFI.
- Instruction in casting will require close contact with the instructor so we will ask for proof of vaccination from the participants.
- This will constitute our April GM meeting so there will be no evening meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of April
- Information in the Fly Paper



- Thanks to Bruce M. for helping Gary get this set up

#### Conservation Report:

- A \$5000 donation check from Roy Benion has been deposited!
- Methow club is working on an aerator for Little Twin Lake. Also west slope cut study in Methow River.
- Fish barrier teams needs equipment. TU barrier assessment team have a web site for more info.
- Three or more other possible projects TBD
- Project list by March meeting to get approved and funded before our summer break.
- Daniel: \$250 to replace the signage on Lake Lenore Kiosk.
  - WVFF and the Dry Side Fly club will split the total cost \$ 500. Spanish regulation pamphlets to post on the kiosk? The latter might make a nice club project, volunteers? (Question for GM meeting)
- Motion passes to support the signage. (Announcement at GM meeting)
- Kudos to Bruce M. for his proactive and enthusiastic promotion of the future of our sport. Can't have fish without good water.

#### Website:

- Thanks to Bruce M and Bob for continuing to work on the website, assisted by developer Patrik Hertzog to develop/finish website. (Announce at GM meeting)
- Thanks, also for the work that they have done on their own to rearrange the pages, put up content and test website function.
  - Email notification is being sent to WVFF members registered on site (about 45) and WVFF members not yet registered to encourage registration and use of site.
  - Fly Paper will have a full description of the sequence of pages and explanations of function etc. (Thanks Bruce)
  - Instructions on registration in the Fly Paper? Mentioned to Bruce... no decision but would like to follow through on this.
  - Track down the people who have paid and help them get registered. Asked Bruce Phillips to pursue this.
  - Need to add phone numbers to some of the member listings Bruce M. will set these registration entries to "required" even for re-enrolling members
  - Remind members that their emails and phone numbers. (Announce at GM meeting)
  - Message board for ad hoc fishing outings? It's a good idea but a chat room could be problematic. Who will work on this?
  - Extra profile on member list that shows fishing interests? Nice idea. Who will set this up?
  - Bob needs to fix the jump back to profile page.

#### Treasurer's Report:

- Budget: Revised and approved by unanimous vote. John will present to the members at the GM meeting.
- Club Financial Status
- Confirmed per John: Dues are appearing in club account

## Outings Chair:

- Al, Bruce P and Bob Bartlett met to formulate plan for 2022.
- Recommend that Outings schedule be published on web site at first of year
  - Schedule should list all known club outings
  - Additional outings added to schedule as they are developed
- Schedule posted on website (Dates and locations visible to the public with details visible only to members) Nice work gentlemen!
- 2023 Schedule Planning start in November of 2022 with update after spring WDFW program
- Host will bring food paid for by club funds
- We need to designate club sponsored outings for this year.

## Membership Report:

- Membership renewals/payment:
  - Existing members need to all register on new website
  - Need to announce/manage PayPal 2022 membership dues via website.
- New members?
- Vote on unregistered and new members at the next GM-meeting
- I would like an updated list of members (BP) at each board meeting with new members highlighted for a welcoming call prior to the next general meeting
- Let's continue brainstorming ideas to attract members, particularly a younger generation.
- Thanks to Bruce P for organizing membership information
- Monthly updated Excel email list
- Buddy system for member retention and collegiality.

## Program Chair:

- February 17<sup>th</sup> Member Meeting with the WDFW annual preseason program.
- All three District Biologists
- Will provide information via email probably Excel
- Can it be sent it Bob by the 16<sup>th</sup>? Ryan Fortier (PPT online).
- April Program, casting clinic 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> of April
- Bryan O'Keefe for March?
- Video from January meeting?
- Thank you note or email to Phil Fischer?

## Old Business:

### Board Decision-Making Process:

Let's talk specifically about an expedited member approval process.

--This is a "place-holder" since I plan to continue this discussion as soon as we're back to in-person meetings

## New Business: None

Adjournment Time: 8:52 pm