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An Executive Committee of the Board of Directors met in May 2015, in Denver, Colorado to review the strategic plan that existed at that time for Fly Fishers International (FFI) with the task to confirm and define a strategic direction for moving the organization forward. The Board of Directors (BOD) approved resolutions that were recommended by the Executive Committee for implementation of the strategic direction at its Annual Meeting in Bend, Oregon, August 2015. Data that were reviewed during the meeting in Denver that became fundamental to the strategic direction that was approved by the BOD were industry data that revealed only 12 percent of customers who purchased fly fishing rods, reels and other equipment knew FFI existed and even fewer of those are members. The Mission and Vision Statement of the FFI were updated and approved in Bend as follows:

**Mission:** The Mission of FFI is to support, enhance and preserve fly fishing opportunities. Fundamental to this mission is environmental stewardship and education.

**Vision Statement:** FFI is the only outdoor sports organization exclusively representing fly fishing for all fish and all waters. Our core connection is education. We strive to be the best fly fishing educators in four areas: casting, fly tying, fly fishing skills and conservation.

The approved strategic direction generally was to improve visibility and awareness of FFI and to attract a higher percentage of those who fly fish to become members of our organization and contribute to our growth and significance as an outdoor organization that represents fly fishers. Brickhouse Creative subsequently was hired in June 2016 to assist development of methods to accomplish the above as a comprehensive rebranding of FFI. Although rebranding is an ongoing process, the initial phase of work has been completed, providing guidance and basis for many of the major achievements of the BOD during 2016-2017, as follows:

- **Three Pillars:** Three sample populations of fly fishers, representing approximately 14,000 individuals of both FFI members and non-members were surveyed to gather information on what is most
important to them and what they considered most important for an organization like FFI to be providing their members. The results were consistent across the three sample populations, differing demographics and whether member or non-member. They told us that available education in all areas of fly fishing was important, they support conservation of natural resources and they wanted to feel a sense of being a part of a fly fishing community and form friends who are fly fishers. Thus…Conservation, Education and Community have become the three pillars of our rebranding efforts and the three major themes we offer to our members and the recreational public at large.

- **New Name and Logo:** One of the first steps we took to change our appearance and recognition was to change the name of our organization to Fly Fishers International…a name that is simpler to use and remember. New logos were developed for the new name and these changes, that have been received very well, were made public in April 2017 coincidental to publication of *Flyfisher* magazine with a new design consistent with the new name and appearance under a new publisher.

- **Conservation Partnerships:** Conservation of natural resources is fundamental to our continuing opportunity to enjoy fly fishing and although our conservation work has substantially expanded, especially during the past year, FFI has always maintained a conservation philosophy and voice on behalf of our members. However, we have expanded our conservation role and presence among outdoor recreation organizations and industry this year by forming Conservation Partnerships with other organizations. We now are a member of the Policy Council of the Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership (TRCP), which allows us to collaborate on national and regional conservation issues in partnership with more than 50 other organizations. This puts FFI in a position of being recognized as a major organization that represents fly fishers specifically and keeps us informed on emerging conservational issues so that we can provide timely sound biological, social and economic
opinion as either a single organization or collaboratively with other organizations through the TRCP. Most importantly, it is through our new partnerships that our voice becomes a powerful collaboration of millions of outdoor recreationists speaking on the importance of natural resource and public land and waters conservation. FFI have offered such Conservation Action of more than a dozen important conservation issues during this year.

- **Public Land and Waters Policy:** The Conservation Committee developed a “Policy on Public Lands and Waters of the US” that was adopted by the BOD as policy and fundamental philosophy that serves as the foundation for how we serve the Pillar of Conservation on behalf of our membership.

- **Learning Center:** The Education Committee has developed a 12-hour curriculum on fly casting, fly tying, fish and conservation that will be formally introduced at the 2017 International Fly Fishing Fair in Livingston, Montana as the new “Learning Center”. This will be the initial curriculum that will serve as a prototype for evaluation and expansion as the emerging Learning Center and represent our Pillar of Education.

- **Industry Partners:** A new program has been developed with our Industry Partners; whereby, our partners provide all or expanded portions of their product lines at substantially discounted prices for those products to be used for FFI, Council an Club fundraising and educational activities. FFI in exchanges serves as the clearing house for orders, provides quality control regarding use and accounting of products and lists the company as an Industry Partner on our website with approval of the partner.

- **Fundraising Plan:** A comprehensive Fundraising Plan and Policy (Plan) was approved by the BOD, followed with approval of an Implementation Plan that is underway. The Plan generally is focused
on large donors, planned giving, annual solicitations and foundations that award grants. A 5-year subscription to a database with software has been purchased that is updated annually to list all pertinent information regarding thousands of individuals, corporations and agencies that donate annually. The Development Committee has written case Statements for conservation and education, a professional grant writer has been engaged to begin submitting up to 12 grant proposals this summer. Both conservation and educational programs of FFI will be expanded as new funding is generated.

- **Pillar of Community:** Both the Chairman and CEO/President consider communications and delivery of programs and member value to our Councils and Clubs a very high priority. Expanded communications through social media and participation in Council Presidents Committee meetings, Learning Center curriculums, funding for Council programs and a new Liability Insurance program for Charter and Affiliate Clubs are part of these efforts. Two new projects will be proposed for approval by the BOD for implementation during 2017-2018. One of these will be conducted by the Membership Committee to gather data from a sample of long standing Clubs regarding traditional annual calendars they consider fundamental to their success and growth. These data will be used to develop a suggested model calendar of activities we will offer to new and developing Clubs to assist their success. The other project that will be undertaken by the Education Committee will be to identify deliverables that can be provided in the form of curriculums, class and workshop outlines and supporting materials, instructors and program presenters to assist those clubs implement their selected calendar of activities. It is through these growing and successful Clubs that the fundamental sense of community will exist and be maintained for all members.
President/CEO Report
Len Zickler

Budget Process
As agreed to by resolution at the 2015 FFI BOD meeting, all future strategic organizational initiatives would be identified and included as budget items in future budget review processes. As was the case in 2016, in 2017 our strategic initiatives were identified and budgets established. Major initiatives identified for 2017 included rebranding, website development, membership development, the Learning Center and fundraising.

Annual Fair Changes
Both revenues and attendance at the 2016 Fair were down. We believe 2016 was impacted by the very successful Fair in Bend Oregon. Several changes were implemented for 2017 to attract more local attendees and increase the number of vendors participating.
To accomplish this goal several specific changes have been implemented. First, in cooperation with the city of Livingston, we will be conducting our first Fishfest - a celebration of fly fishing and conservation efforts on the Yellowstone River.
We plan to attract more people from the surrounding communities, the event will include family activities, free clinics, food trucks, live music, a beer garden and outdoor vendor space. Additionally, a special effort has been undertaken to advertise the event throughout the communities of Livingston and Bozeman. Social media outreach has been extensive and the response has been quite good.
We have made available a special gift package for volunteers that has been positively embraced.

Marketing & Branding
Major part of our work in 2016 and 2017 has been focused on marketing and rebranding. A great deal of work was accomplished by the marketing committee, Board of Directors and Council Presidents. A big thank you goes out to all involved. The discussions were robust, thoughtful, respectful and resulted in great decisions regarding the future of FFI.
Key results of the work effort included identification of our key messages and the three pillars that set our organization apart from others - Conservation, Education and Community. The most significant change in 2017 came with the change of our name to Fly Fishers International. Much of our current work is focused on our rebranding efforts, including website redesign, logo design and collateral material.

**Organizational Awareness**

As part of our marketing and rebranding efforts a comprehensive survey questionnaire was shared with members and nonmembers in 2016. One of the most telling results of the survey was a general lack of understanding of what FFI is doing in conservation, education and general support for the fly fishing community. A common question asked by members and clubs is "what is FFI doing for its members?".

As a result of the survey questionnaires, FFI is now engaged in a comprehensive effort to increase the general awareness of our programs and the positive impacts we are having throughout the fly fishing community. We are doing this with several specific actions:

- **Conservation and Access Positions** - we've established a process through the conservation committee to respond to important conservation and public access issues at the national level. After thoughtful consideration, FFI is taking a stand on important conservation issues and letting the public know what our position is in support of the fly fishing community.
- **Social Media Leveraging** - we are making a special effort to highlight important activities occurring at FFI. Specifically, we are boosting selective Facebook posts on issues or activities of importance to the fly fishing community. The result of this effort has been a 60% increase in followers on Facebook.
- **iF4 Sponsorship** - we have teamed with Bird Marketing Group to sponsor the International Fly Fishing Film Festival (iF4). Included in the sponsorship was a one-minute video highlighting FFI's new directions.
- **Rollout Video** - with the assistance of our marketing consultant, we've accomplished a roll of video which can be viewed on our website and YouTube.
- Anthem Video - we are currently producing what we refer to as our "anthem" video which will describe in greater detail FFI's new directions.
- Conservation Video - in support of our conservation efforts and activities, a promotional video is being produced for fundraising purposes by councils and clubs. The video will highlight our support for a variety of conservation activities as well as our advocacy for the maintenance of access to public lands and water.

**Flyfisher Magazine**

With the selection of Bird Marketing Group for the publication of our magazine Flyfisher, we are making a concerted effort to align our magazine with our mission, vision and the three pillars of our organization. The general categories of Conservation, Education and Community will be prominently and consistently featured in each issue of the Flyfisher.

Additionally, the Bird Marketing Group has been successful in attracting more advertisers to our magazine. We expect this trend to continue.

**Fundraising & Development**

2016 brought a new policy on fundraising activities for organization. As a result, our development committee is taking a much more comprehensive approach to our fundraising efforts. The development committee has been working on case statements as the basis for our fundraising activities. Our key statements will lay the groundwork for all fundraising out-reach efforts. Additionally, the development committee will be organized into specific working groups for particular targeted fundraising activities.

To support the fundraising activities several specific actions have been taken including:

- The purchase of a grant software management system
- The hiring of a contract Grant Writer
- Targeted fundraising appeals which specifically identify our needs as well as our accomplishments
- New Annual Report Summary which will focus on our specific conservation, educational or community projects and identify the positive impacts our organization is having.
Community Outreach (Clubs & Councils)
In further support of council and club activities and in an effort to expand answers to the question "what is FFI doing for me?", staff and leadership has made a special effort to reach out to both clubs and councils regarding our activities in new directions.

Staff and leadership has spent a great deal of time this past year meeting with council leaders and clubs to describe our new directions and answer specific questions from our councils and clubs regarding their needs. To assist in this effort in the future, we have implemented a club and council impact questionnaire. This reporting process has been very helpful in identifying the specific programs and fundraising activities accomplished by the organization nationwide.

In response to input from clubs, we have implemented a new affiliate club insurance program. Today at approximately 25 affiliate clubs have signed up for the new insurance and we expect support for the new insurance program to increase.

We continue to be remain available to assist clubs and councils with collateral material in support of the rebranding of the organization.

Leadership development throughout the organization continues to be an important issue. We will be under taking a leadership development and education program over the next year. Additionally, we are considering annually rotating at least one Board of Directors meeting at locations around the United States to further enhance communication with our councils and clubs. Stay tuned for more information on when and where this will occur.

Membership Development
We implemented a membership recruitment campaign in 2017 because we lost over 280 members in 2016. As of June 30, 2017, we are only 324 members away from accomplishing our goal of 12,000 total members by the end of the year. Kudos go to our councils and the special effort they have made to accomplish this goal.

FFI continues to investigate creative ways to attract a more diverse and younger membership. There are a lot of great models across the country from clubs were successfully accomplishing this goal. We will be sharing several new programs for councils and club consideration in the future. The "May is for Mentoring" program is one example.
Industry Partnering
Our membership has strongly voiced a desire to develop strengthened relationships with Industry partners. In order to accomplish this, we have implemented a new industry partnership program.

Additionally, we will be making a special effort to reach out to industry partners at ICast in Orlando Florida. Further, we are taking steps to strengthen our relationship with The Fly Fishing Show and will be assisting councils at eight shows produced around the United States in 2018. Our outreach will include sponsoring a welcome reception for vendor participants at the shows.

Our vendor partnership program will include special recognition of our industry partners both in Flyfisher magazine as well as our social media and website.

Secretary’s Report
Herb Kettler

This year’s activities as secretary have been varied. Minutes were taken and published for the Board of Director’s Meeting, the Executive Committee meeting, three Board of Director’s teleconferences and four Executive Committee teleconferences. Once again, I had the pleasure of serving as Awards Committee Secretary. This year the FFI give out 13 awards (exclusive of the casting awards) in addition to 20 Awards of Excellence. The opportunity to insure that many of our hardworking and deserving members receive the recognition they deserve is a privilege.

Although not a part of the Secretary’s duties, I was the workshop chairman for the 2017 Fly Fair. Over the past several years we have substantially increased the number of workshops and the income these workshops bring to the organization.

I have had the honor of being the Secretary of the organization since 2004. As of July 31 of this year I will retire from the Board of Directors and as Secretary. I will never forget what has been accomplished in the last 14 years. We have evolved from an informal Board with more than 40 members and an informal structure to a much more responsive and focused organization. The last 3 years have been especially important.

I look forward to following and supporting the FFI in the future. The friends I have made and the experiences I have enjoyed will never leave me. Finally
Finally, I wish to acknowledge the commitment of my wife Georgie in supporting this effort.

Treasurer’s Report
Jim Maus – Treasurer

The following pages, which contain Mr. Maus’ report, are numbered 12A through 12J.
Conservation Report
Dave Peterson – Conservation Chair

I. Committee Membership
Dave Peterson, Committee Chair; Great Lakes Council Conservation VP
Rhonda Sellers, Operations Manager and Conservation Coordinator, FFI Office
Tom Logan, Senior Advisor, FL Conservation VP
Rick Williams, Senior Advisor
Debbie Sharpton, Southwest Council Conservation VP
Open, Chesapeake Council Conservation VP
Michael Whitney, Eastern Rocky Mountain Conservation VP
Jeff Skelding, Eastern Waters Conservation VP
John Troiano, North East Council Conservation VP
Lowell Ashbaugh, Northern California Conservation VP
Tom Smith, Northern California Conservation VP
Joe Nagle, Ohio Council Conservation VP
Sherry Steele, Interim Oregon Council Conservation VP
Ralph Eicholz, Southern Council Conservation VP
Chuck Fisk, Gulf Coast Council Conservation VP
Jere Anderson, Texas Council Conservation VP
Brad Eaton, Upper Midwest Council Conservation VP
Jack Whitney, Washington State Council Conservation VP
Gilbert Biles, Washington State Council Conservation VP
Duane Marler, Western Rocky Mountain Council Conservation VP
Jim Schramm, FFI Legal Counsel
Bob Groskin, Chair, Salt Water Committee
Bob Tabbert, Conservation Senior Advisor, Chair Cold Water Committee
Verne Lemberg, FFI Conservation Advisor Emeritus
Jim Yuskavitch, Osprey Editor

II. Conservation Grants Program
The FFI Conservation Grants Program was formally renamed in 2017 and the term “small grants” is no longer used. The criteria for grant awards were also revised, eliminating the requirement for Council matching funds.

The 2017 budget for grants was $15,000 which is dispensed in individual grants (normally $1500 per grant). Most grants are also funded at some level by the sponsoring Council. 11 grants were awarded this year. They include:
• Florida Council, University of Miami, Peacock Bass Research - $1500
• Oregon Council, Central Oregon Flyfishers, Spring Creek Acclimation and Youth Angling Pond - $1500
• Western Rocky Mountain Council, USFS, Bazinet-Mill Creek Wetlands Acquisition, Upper Yellowstone River Basin - $1500
• Great Lakes Council, Anglers of AuSable-Grayling Fish Farm Litigation $1500
• North East Council, Margaree Salmon Association-Lake O’Law Brook Salmonid Enhancement Project $1500
• Northern California Council, Putah Creek Trout- Putah Creek Wild Trout Restoration Project, Young of Year Habitat Enhancement $1500
• Southwest Council, Golden State Flycasters- Equipment to Support Steelhead Restoration $1500
• Southwest Council, San Diego Fly Fishers-Bio Assessment of Nine Mile Creek- $500
• International, Turneffe Atoll Trust, Building Alliance Momentum for Turneffe Atoll Habitat Protection- $1500
• Ohio Council, Mad River CleanSweeps-$1300
• FFI Steelhead Committee, Wild Pacific Salmon: A Threatened Legacy -$1500

III. New Scholarship/Internship Programs
At the request of Chairman of the Board Tom Logan, the Committee developed and approved new Conservation Scholarship and Internship Programs which were subsequently approved by the FFI Board.

The Fly Fishers International Internship and Scholarship Awards programs provide monetary support to outstanding upper level (juniors and seniors) undergraduate students (internships) and graduate students (scholarship program) who are pursuing degrees in fisheries or closely related fields. Each year, one scholarship and one internship award (generally $2000) will be given to help ensure the development of future leaders in the field of fisheries conservation. Awards will be recommended by a sponsoring FFI Council and the FFI Board of Directors will approve and fund the scholarships.
IV. Conservation Actions/Policy Positions

Public Lands and Waters of the United States Policy
In an unprecedented and far reaching policy statement the Conservation Committee and FFI Board of Directors adopted the FFI Public Lands and Waters of the United States Policy. That policy, authored by COB and Senior Conservation Advisor Tom Logan, says in part:

“It therefore is FFI Policy to advocate for the essential protection of public lands and waters of the United States for their ecological, recreational and economic function and value and to endorse as public policy the administration of these lands to include applicable law, finance, policy and management responsibility, as necessary to assure enjoyment, health and other public benefits. It is our position that any proposal to change, transfer or liquidate ownership and or management responsibility of public lands has a significant likelihood to adversely affect the biological health, function and wellbeing of natural systems and the wildlife species they support.”

It is anticipated that this policy will guide FFI’s conservation actions and organizational memberships for many years to come. The policy was widely disseminated and all FFI members received a copy.

Expanded Strategic Partnership with Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
The FFI’s partnership with the TRCP has been strengthened. FFI is now an active member of the Standing Water Working Group. In this role, FFI is able to sign on to many more policy letters consistent with our Public Lands and Waters policy and expand our impact on important national conservation issues.

Conservation Actions
Led by Senior Conservation Advisor and COB Tom Logan, this subcommittee took the following Conservation Actions:

• Letter to Secretary of the Interior Zinke on the Department’s Review of National Monuments
• Supported and became a member of Now or Neverglades, a movement to promote conservation of the Florida Everglades.
• Wrote to the USFS regarding Custer Gallatin National Forest Mineral Withdrawal
Other issues being evaluated or monitored include Dry Creek Restoration Project, Lower Kings River and several other issues.

IV. New Conservation Partnerships
The Conservation Committee approved two new Conservation Partnerships during 2017. They are:

• **Keep Em Wet** - Keepemwet is a conservation organization devoted to releasing fish in the best condition possible. It’s a motto for minimizing air exposure, eliminating contact with dry surfaces, and reducing handling. It’s a movement to empower anglers to take small, simple steps to responsibly enjoy and share fishing experiences. Their goal is to minimize the impact of catch & release angling on fisheries by uniting conscientious anglers, organizations and companies to promote science based practices for handling fish that are released.

• **Single Hooks** - Single Hooks is a Conservation group that advocates the use of single (circle) hooks in place of multi-point hooks to advance successful catch & release across all recreational angling and use of circle hooks in all commercial line-and-hook fisheries to minimize by-catch of non-target species. Single Hooks has supporters in over 30 countries.

V. Procedural Revisions and Committee Realignment
The Committee approved changes in criteria for Conservation Grants and is in the process of revising procedures for approving Conservation Partnerships.

The Committee also reviewed current Conservation Subcommittees and approved additional subcommittees. The committee reactivated some existing subcommittees and created several additional subcommittees to ensure that we can respond effectively to an increasing number of issues and expand the impact of our conservation efforts.
VI. Activities Associated with FFI Roll Out
New Catch and Release brochures for both fresh water and salt water were developed to reflect current best practices and a new design reflecting the FFI rebranding. Also, copy was completed for a new FFI Personal Conservation Brochure to be completed in 2018.

VII. Learning Center Conservation Workshop
Brad Eaton and Dave Peterson developed and presented the “beta” version of the Learning Center Conservation Module at the Livingston Fair. Evaluation data is now being used to revise the presentation.

VIII. National Fish Habitat Partnerships
The 16 National Fish Habitat Partnerships (NFHP) that currently operate in the continental US oversee the funding of much of the conservation habitat work done annually in the US. NFHP funding is primarily thru the US FWS and NOAA, and is directed principally towards native and anadromous fisheries. FFI remains active in a number of these partnerships, particularly the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture (EBTJV), the Atlantic Coastal Fish Habitat Partnership (ACFHP), and the Ohio River Basin FHP.

IX. Whitlock-Vibert Box Program
The Whitlock-Vibert Box Program, led by Conservation and Operations Coordinator Rhonda Sellers, continues to supply these boxes to organizations on a world-wide basis and produces significant revenue for FFI. During the past year, 5052 boxes were sold, generating $18,944.00 in revenue.

X. Goals for 2017-18
In addition to established Committee responsibilities, the following goals have been established for 2017-2018.
• Implement the new Conservation Scholarship and Conservation Internship programs, offering at least one scholarship and at least one internship.
• Expand the Conservation Grant Program from 10 grants annually to 15 annually.
• Recruit and assign subcommittee chairs and implement the new Subcommittee structure to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the committee.
• Implement a new public awareness program by publicizing completed Conservation Grant projects through the FFI E-News. Publish at least five articles on Conservation Projects.
• Complete a “Practice Personal Conservation” Brochure
• Continue to review and revise Conservation Committee procedures to increase the committee’s responsiveness.
Fly Tying Group
Tom H. Logan - Chair
Jerry Coviello - Vice Chair

Executive Committee: Tom H. Logan, Jerry Coviello, Treasurer Fred DuPre, Secretary Mike Stewart, Past Chairman Jim Ferguson and Past Chairman Carl Ronk serve as the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee conducts business of the Fly Tying Group (FTG) and its Board of Governors (BOG) as specified in Bylaws of the FTG.

Board of Governors: The BOG is comprised of 21 members that serve 3-year staggered terms. New and returning members of the BOG are elected by the membership of the FTG each year by way of a Survey Monkey Ballot. The Chairman, Vise Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary each serve 1-year terms and are elected by a quorum attending the Annual Meeting. The BOG meets by quarterly Conference Calls and the Annual Meeting.

Achievements: Activities of the Board of Governors of the Fly Tying Group (BOG) generally are designed and implemented to achievement of our Purpose, which is to preserve, enhance and support the art of fly tying as a historic element of the Fly fishing experience. We do this primarily through teaching and sharing of information on all aspects of fly tying. Specific programs that currently are of high priority and accomplishment include the following:

- Fly Fishing Learning Center: The Vice Chairman, Jerry Coviello, has completed the BOG Fly Tying Module of the Learning Center curriculum that will be implemented during the 2017 Fly Fishing Fair. The Module is being prepared as a PowerPoint presentation with supporting documents as references for use by future instructors who are anticipated using the Module.

- Demonstration Fly Tier Invitations: Invitations to tie as a Demonstration Fly Tier at the 2017 Fly Fishing Fair resulted in 76 members volunteering to demonstrate their fly tying skills and knowledge during the fair. Those have been scheduled for tying during specific time periods on Friday and Saturday of the Fair. Nine Featured Fly Tiers also will be tying, representing 4 foreign tiers and 5 past Buz Buszek Award recipients. Invitations and scheduling have been conducted in accordance with the approved Protocol for Management of Demonstration Fly Tier Invitations.

- BOG Rendezvous, Raffle and Booth: Member Chuck Colling chairs the committee responsible for planning the BOG Rendezvous,
BBQ and Raffle that will follow the BOG Annual Meeting on Tuesday morning of the Fair. All FFI members are invited to attend the Rendezvous, enjoy the BBQ and participate in the Raffle, which is the primary fundraising event of the BOG. Donations to the raffle are welcome and should be mailed or taken to the FFI Headquarters, marked for the BOG Raffle. Mr. Collins also chairs the committee responsible for planning, set up and staffing the BOG Booth at the Fair. All planning and preparation is on schedule.

- **Fly Tying Awards:** The BOG has reviewed and voted by confidential ballot regarding the nominations for the Buz Buszek Memorial Fly Tying, Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching and Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement Awards and forwarded voting results and recommendations/selections to the Awards Committee for approval and/or ratification.

- **The Fly Tying Video Library:** The Video Library is another educational resource that has been constructed as an online library of more than 226 links to videos that have been posted by some of the most skilled and innovative fly tiers around the world to share their methods and the materials they use for tying some of their favorite fly patterns. Additional videos are added to the library on a continuing basis. The library is posted on the FFI/Tying webpage.

- **The Instructor Resource:** This is an project that was begun a number of years ago to develop a library of documents and other instructional resources intended to assist planning and implementation of fly tying classes and workshops by Councils, Clubs and members. It is being redesigned with new materials incorporated for posting on the FFI/Tying webpage. Initial redesign is planned for completion by August 2018. It is anticipated that this library of teaching materials will be an important contribution of the BOG to the Learning Center.
Casting Instructor Certification Program
Rick Williams - Chair

Fly Fishers International’s Casting Instructor Certification Program started in 1992 based on a vision that Mel Krieger had for flycasting – to do for fly casting instruction what the sports of golf, tennis, and skiing had done to promote competency in their instructors and teaching curriculii. All of these sports had an official certification process for their instructors. Aspiring golfers, skiers, and tennis players could readily find a qualified instructor in their field merely by contacting the certifying bodies in the respective sports and requesting the name of a qualified instructor in their area. For tennis, it was the United States Professional Tennis Association; for golf, it was the Professional Golf Association; for skiing, it was the Professional Ski Instructors of America.

Goals of the Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP)
The FFI established its certification program with fifteen of the best-known names in American flyfishing. Our goal was to enhance the sport of flyfishing in three important areas:
1. To educate flycasting instructors;
2. To establish communication between instructors;
3. To offer learners a more accepted entry into our sport and a more qualified group of instructors.\(^1\)

After announcing the idea at the FFF Conclave in Calgary, Alberta, in July 1992\(^2\), Mel wrote a letter to those fifteen names on August 4, 1992, asking them to join him and the FFF in the effort.\(^3\) The Casting Board of Governors (BOG) was incorporated in the fall of 1992 under the auspices of the FFF. Its founding members were iconic figures in American fly casting or fly fishing. They were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gary Borger</th>
<th>Mel Krieger</th>
<th>Barbara Rohrer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Leon Chandler</td>
<td>Al Kyte</td>
<td>Doug Swisher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chico Fernandez</td>
<td>Steve Rajeff</td>
<td>Lou Tabory</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


\(^3\) Allan Rohrer, email to Macauley Lord, March 2, 2001.
The CICP has always operated with considerable autonomy internally, but also with considerable support from the Board of Directors. This is much appreciated by the CBOG.

Present Status of the CICP

Today, 25 years later, the Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP) includes nearly 1750 instructors in 40 countries worldwide. The CICP has three levels of instructor certification: Instructor, Master Instructor, and Two-Hand Instructor. Two-thirds of our instructors (67%) live in the United States. We have 60 instructors in Canada, but none in Mexico! Presently, the program’s growth is split evenly between North America and countries throughout the world.

Today (2017 data) the CICP looks like this:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CICP</th>
<th>Total</th>
<th>US</th>
<th>US: %</th>
<th>Int’l</th>
<th>Int’l %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor (CI)</td>
<td>1392</td>
<td>976</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>416</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master (MCI)</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>158</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>101</td>
<td>39%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Hand (THCI)</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>1742</td>
<td>1170</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>572</td>
<td>33%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Last Decade

The CICP expanded dramatically internationally starting in 2006 in response to increasing interest in FFI instructor certifications following the termination of the FFF-Europe program. While several other casting instructor organizations exist that offer instructor certifications, most are quite restricted geographically and serve a local or regional group of instructors. Most are in the UK. Several of these programs are very high quality, and the CICP has worked hard over the last decade to build and maintain good working relationships with instructors and leaders in those organizations. Instructors from these organizations, and elsewhere in the world, are drawn to the FFI Casting Instructor Certification Program for two
primary reasons: 1) CICP certifications offer a global standard of recognized high quality; and 2) certification with FFI’s CICP and listing on our website offers these instructors (many of whom are professional guides) the opportunity to connect with traveling US anglers.

**Growth since 2015**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2015</th>
<th>2017</th>
<th>CICP Growth</th>
<th>US %</th>
<th>Int’l %</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructor (CI)</td>
<td>1178</td>
<td>1392</td>
<td>+18%</td>
<td>+18%</td>
<td>+18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Master (MCI)</td>
<td>192</td>
<td>259</td>
<td>+35%</td>
<td>+35%</td>
<td>+35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two-Hand (THCI)</td>
<td>75</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>+21%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>+25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

A comparison of the CICP instructors levels and numbers of instructors between 2015 and 2017 shows steady and consistent growth in the program, both in the US and Internationally. Growth is higher for both MCI and THCI levels than CI and is occurring at equal rates in the US and Internationally. Growth in the MCI and THCI instructors bring increasing credibility and prestige to the CICP and FFI. We are working to bring the growth in the CI level up to match the higher instructor levels.

**Raising the Quality of the CICP Program**

Over the last seven years (2011 – 2017) and continuing, the CICP has focused on upgrading the quality of our instructor tests, including a much greater emphasis on evaluating instructing ability during the CICP testing process. Study and preparation materials for all three CICP tests are also being updated to improve candidate preparation, including perhaps positively influencing pass rates for exams.

**CI Test.**

A new CI test was released on April 1, 2015, and has been well received by both candidates and examiners. Substantial effort has gone into developing several study aids for those interested in gaining their CI Instructor certification. These include
a) **Fly Casting Instructor (CI) Performance Test Tips** prepared by the CI Test Committee,
http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Portals/0/Documents/Casting/Certification%20Tests/CI_Test_2015_Tips.pdf,

b) **Casting Instructor (CI) Preparation Video**, prepared by CBOG members Bruce Richards, Molly Semenik, and Bruce Williams,
http://www.flyfishersinternational.org/Casting/StudyMaterials/CertifiedInstructor/CIPreparationVideo.aspx, and

c) The **Casting Instructor Study Guide** prepared by the CICP’s Professional Development Committee. The study guide is available on the FFI website.

**New MCI Test.**
An updated MCI test has been approved, again with greater emphasis on teaching ability, and will be released in early 2018. Study materials, and tips for candidates will be developed over the coming half-year to support release of the new exam in spring 2018. Materials from the new MCI test will be integrated into L2 and L3 training modules for examiners, so they are also up to speed prior to release of the new MCI test.

**THCI Test.**
The THCI test was updated in late 2014 to also add greater emphasis on teaching ability and assessment; however, a major revision to that test will likely be undertaken in the next few years to incorporate more on modern short head two-hand casting and fishing techniques.

**Raising Quality Standards and Training for CICP Examiners**
Paralleling the quality upgrade in our instructor tests was the launch (in 2013) of the Examiner Development Pathway (EDP). The EDP program aims to increase training for examiners, increase consistency in testing, and increase communication among CICP Examiners. Starting in 2018, only instructors who have been training and validated by the EDP program will conduct CICP tests.

About 40% (114) of existing Master Instructors (MCIs) have signed up for the EDP program, with more than half of those already participating in one or more examiner training workshops. Thirty-three (33) examiners had completed their Examiner training by the time of the 2016 Fair. Presently,
fifty-five (55) participants have completed their EDP training and are validated to serve as Examiners in 2018 and beyond. By year’s end, we hope that 65-70 participants will have completed their EDP training and become validated as Examiners.

**EDP Events in 2016-2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>EDP</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wentworth Australia</td>
<td>Sept 2016</td>
<td>L1 &amp; L2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tokyo Japan</td>
<td>Sept 2016</td>
<td>L1 &amp; L2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pleasanton, CA</td>
<td>Feb 2017</td>
<td>L1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Atlanta, GA</td>
<td>Mar 2017</td>
<td>L1 &amp; L2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Albany, OR</td>
<td>Apr 2017</td>
<td>L1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Euro Clave, Italy</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>L1 &amp; L2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Java, Indonesia</td>
<td>May 2017</td>
<td>L1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingston, MT</td>
<td>Aug 2017</td>
<td>L1 &amp; L2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Fly Fishing International Learning Center**

Fly casting is an essential skill in fly fishing, and increasing casting knowledge and proficiency can increase an angler’s enjoyment and participation in the sport of fly fishing. The CICP is committed to supporting education in fly casting through the FFI Learning Center (LC). At present, the CICP envisions contributions to the LC to focus around three distinct areas:

a) An introductory module (2-3 hrs) within the overall Learning Center’s Introduction to Fly Fishing Workshop.

b) A 3-Tiered Casting Skills Challenge that presents, teaches, and challenges participants to improve basic fly casting skills that can lead to greater success and enjoyment in fishing and casting.

c) An extensive catalog of fly casting skills workshops running the full gamut from introductory casting skills to advanced skills including saltwater casting and two-hand casting.

The CICP’s contribution to the LC program (over time) will include many teaching workshops on casting techniques, casting mechanics and fundamentals, and fishing-related casting workshops and programs of both general and specialty interest. General workshops include (for example)
presentation and distance casting; while specialty workshops might include, saltwater casting or two-hand casting. Many of these workshops are presently well developed and given each year by MCIs and Governors at the Fair, so it will be relatively simple to update them and include as LC curriculum in future years.

**Goals for the CICP through 2017**

My tenure as Chair of the CBOG and CICP ends at the 2017 Fair. Carl Zarelli will serve as the next CBOG Chair. Over the last 4 years, we have successfully upgraded all three CICP tests, and having a cadre of trained examiners – presently ~60, but likely around 70 by the end of 2017 – available worldwide, which should be sufficient to meet the testing needs of the CICP. These accomplishments are the result of deliberate and coordinated planning between David Diaz, previous CBOG Chair (2011 – 2014), and myself over the last four years.

Many Governors and MCIs have devoted significant volunteer time to the CICP quality upgrades achieved and those still underway on the three CICP tests, the development and delivery of the Examiner Development Pathway, and the new Fly Fishing International Learning Center. These programs have been very successful and are contributing to increased visibility, respect, and stature for the CICP within FFI and within the global fly fishing community and industry.

I am assisting Carl in developing specific goals for the CICP over the next several years. Those include:

1) Expanding CICP interactions with FFI members and the public by supporting regional continuing education-focused events more fully, and the

2) Continuing to develop and implement the Fly Casting workshops, curriculum, and implementing the Fly Casting Skills Challenge program as part the developing FFI Learning Center.
Overview
During the past year, the LC planning committee has gone through a series of transformations from its name to job description titles and adjusting tasks to perform. And most importantly, understanding that the LC is a website based educational center. In order for the LC to be successful, the website must match the high quality of the curriculum being offered. Additionally, the LC needs to understand its consumers needs and stay current. Mark Parker, Nike’s chief executive recently said, “the future of sport will be decided by the company that obsesses the needs of the evolving consumer.” The LC is a work in progress and will continue to evolve for a few more years. At this point, the LC has settled in and is working hard to be prepared for the upcoming Fair in Livingston. It is important for everyone on the BOD to understand that this year the LC is offering 12 classes with the intent of running them as a “trial run” and precursor for the 2018 Fair. The classes for this year have all been taken from the Beginning Fly Fishing Workshop. As a result of this trail period, it will be important to derive as much information as possible from them. All 12 classes will have:

- An introduction of the LC for the participants
- A student evaluation form
- An independent class observer, if possible
- An exit interview with each instructor and a few chosen students.

With this information, adjustments will be made to both the class curriculum itself and to the Beginning Fly Fishing Workshop Agenda.

The year ahead will be very busy. Not only will the LC planning committee be busy but all functions of the FFI will be as well

The LC goals for the 2018 Fair in Boise:
- The Boise Fair is the official roll out for the LC!
- Offer the Beginning Fly Fishing 2-Day Workshop for women & co-ed.
- Offer separate classes that are taken from the Beginning Fly Fishing Workshop (and a few more).
- Have the LC tab open for business! Meaning that all the materials from the Beginning Fly Fishing Workshop (and a few more items) will be available for free or for purchase.
- Have all LC marketing materials ready to hand out and present where appropriate.

In order to complete the above goals for 2018 five major areas of focus need attention-starting September of 2017, if not before.

1. Learning Center tab website development
   The website will be our MAJOR mode of communication. As David Diaz stated: “The way you receive the message determines how you feel about the interaction”. We will have annual shows and a few sporting shows where we will offer our services, however the website will be the main point of distribution for both FFI members and potential new members. The website needs to be dynamic and interesting, including graphics and animation. Content offerings will be both free and for purchase. The website will need to be developed and managed by a professional. Content might include:
   - Text box listings for example: “must have equipment”, “12 must have flies” etc…
   - Video clips 3 minutes on website and longer videos for purchase
   - Articles: short information based with longer versions available for purchase
   - Collections of topic related articles for purchase
   - Pod Casts (2019)

   **Recommended Action for BOD**
   Determine the cost of a LC website developer for the LC and hire a developer by March of 2018.

2. Quality Assurance Procedure
The LC Team Leaders will write a recommendation to the BOD for quality assurance for all curriculum offered by the LC. Not only does the curriculum content need to be of the highest quality but those that personally deliver it must be as well.

3. Author Contract/Agreements
   The LC Team Leaders and Rhonda will write up Author Guidelines including contracts and/or agreements.

4. Education Curriculum Development
   On going, the LC and the BOD need to set in place a method of development for the future of the LC.

5. Media component to the LC
   As the LC develops, all developers/instructors need to keep social media posts current and active.

Museum Committee
Sherry Steele - Chair

Fair
Many people visited the museum during the fair. Our visitors returned to the fair and stopped at the museum booth to express how pleased they were and impressed with the collection.

Museum Activities August 2016
   1) Reviewed activities since last visit in August 2014
   2) Worked with Judy on current activities and museum status
   3) Updated Sherry’s PC remote access to museum documents and Past Perfect files.
   4) Added all Sherry’s Museum documentation to the FFI Server Museum file. (There may be some duplication at this point).
   5) Setup new email communications for museum. Email: museum@fedflyfishers.org All emails to this address will forward to Museum chair: Sherry Steele. Rhonda will have access to this account as she has with all others at the office.
Communications to this email will be answered and responses copied to Rhonda.

6) **Donations of fly tying materials will not be accepted that have feathers.** All tying materials that have feathers were looked at and removed from the building unless they were fully enclosed in plastic and are contained with mothballs. This is for the protection of the museum collection.

7) While going through the materials we were able to pull together items for the auction/raffle in 2017. The hook packages created came to an estimated retail value of $1,596.00. All there are ready for sale.

8) **The museum will no longer be able to accept bulk loads of books or magazines.** Any first addition and/or signed high value books will be considered on a case-by-case basis. Please contact the museum chair if you have questions about book donations.

9) A book sale space has been established in the library and these extra-donated books are for sale for $2.00 each.

10) We added a new volunteer to the museum committee. Her name is Patty Gnuse email: pgnuse@gmail.com. She lives in Bozeman and will be working on signage for the displayed items in the museum. In the future she may be logging items in Past Perfect and learning the software. Patty’s commitment is to try to come to the Museum 2 times a month to help out. She may need Office 360 in the future in order to be able to help with other paperwork.

11) The collection needs to be protected from the extreme heat in the summer time. It is also a concern for the staff that has to work and be productive under these extreme heat conditions. It is my recommendation to obtain quotes from local contractors for the addition of air conditioning.

12) The lighting is still a problem and the replacement bulbs for the old track lights are a problem and expensive. I am suggesting that along with the air conditioning (most likely exposed ducting) that the lighting be upgraded to new technology.

13) There is a new art collection coming our way from a single donor. Part of the collection will be reserved for a display around 6 pieces at a time, swapped out every 6 months so the display stays fresh. The remainder will be available to sell the fund improvements to the museum. The donor is fine with this plan.

14) The visitors from Japan were extremely impressed with the museum. Fishing Vision spent 2 hours filming in the museum.
15) We gave a private showing to the Japanese on Saturday. They were so impressed with our collection of Japanese Bamboo rods and art that Kuni Masuda will be working with them to perhaps consider sending us more items.

16) We are working with the donor for the Grant display to re-write our temporary loan to a permanent loan agreement. This is a work in progress.

17) I am requesting that the funds raised for the museum have an account that is just for the Museum so the dollars are there to maintain and improve the displays in the museum.

18) Suggesting that we add/change our name of the museum to: FFI Museum and Research Center

19) Finally…. an idea to start a group: “Friends of the FFI Museum and Research Center” Basically a group formed to request grant dollars donated to help the museum and not to be co-mingled with other federation funds.

20) If you have a donation or an Estate collection that needs to be considered for the museum contact the museum chair for help in determining what will be a fit and available space to display it.

Museum Committee Members
Sherry Steele – Chair
John Kimura – Photographer
Jim Crislip – Volunteer
Jim Ferguson – Volunteer
Kuni Masuda – Volunteer
Patty Gnuse - Volunteer
Al Beatty - Advisor
Gretchen Beatty – Advisor
Jim Fisher - Advisor
Flyfisher
David Williams – Editor-in-Chief

*Flyfisher* magazine has undergone a dramatic transformation in 2017 with a new publisher, a new format and a new editor-in-chief as part of the essential branding process. Bird Marketing Group, Inc., known for publishing *Fly Fusion* magazine and developing the International Fly Fishing Film Festival tour submitted the winning publishing proposal in a competitive bidding process. The format features more fly fishing content, more pages, and higher quality paper and images with a focus on serving our existing membership and attracting new members. The editor-in-chief is a non-fiction book author and outdoor magazine writer and a member of the Fly Fishers International board.

For 2017, the magazine remains a semi-annual publication. The first issue in the new format was mailed to all Fly Fishers International members along with a free copy of *Fly Fusion* magazine. The next issue of *Fly Fusion*, mailed to some 30,000 *Fly Fusion* subscribers, will include an 8-page insert featuring an interview with Tom Logan, Fly Fishers International Chairman of the Board. This insert and another one in a future issue of *Fly Fusion*, is a perfect means of getting our organization and message in front of thousands of fly fishers who are not FFI members.

*Flyfisher* will continue to be filled with fly fishing content, with a mix of FFI conservation, council, casting, fly fishing skills and fly tying information. For each issue, councils are requested to provide a short article, supported by high-quality digital images, highlighting the good work being done on a local level. For 2018, we anticipate expanding publication to a quarterly format to better serve our FFI membership.
Annual 2016 Council Reports

Council Presidents Committee
Tom Gadacz – Chair

Report to Board of Directors July 31, 2017

1. Changes in Membership. Attached is the latest membership of the Council Presidents Committee. It also includes other FFI members who are on the CPC monthly calls and voting members. Recent changes include the Chesapeake Council represented by Dianne Tidy and Pete McCall; Gulf Coast Council – President Michael Jackson and alternate Kyle Moppet; Southwest Council President Bill O’Kelly; and Texas Council President Jim Gray.

2. At the March meeting candidates were reviewed for Board of Director positions. Two documents were developed by BOD Chair, Tom Logan, and were sent to all candidates, renewing and new. One document described the strategic view and the responsibilities of Board members and the other was a questionnaire requesting a response. Four returning members and 7 new members were recommended for election to the BOD.

3. At the April meeting the CPC recommended that the Federator of the Year Award be renamed the Fly Fisher of the Year Award. This recommendation was forwarded to the Executive Committee and BOD.

4. At the May meeting the CPC reviewed and recommended FFI Annual Awards. Secretary Kettler informed the selected candidates of their award.

5. The CPC received monthly reports from the President Zickler, Chair of BOD Logan and Director of Operations Sellers on the development and implementation of changes in FFI.

6. CPC Support of FFI Fair.
   a. Todd Heggestad coordinated the items and received several contributions including guided trips, fishing equipment and other items. Councils were requested to submit items which can be auctioned/raffled at the FFI Fair.
b. Carl Johnson organized fly plates from each Council. Each Council was requested to select and submit a fly to represent their Council. Carl will mount them and they will be available as auction items at the Fair.

c. Councils were also requested to volunteer at the Fair. Volunteering for even a few hours during the Fair was strongly encouraged.

d. Councils were also encouraged to make a contribution to the Awards Banquet.

e. Slightly used fishing items are requested for a raffle/auction at the Fair by President Len Zickler.

f. All Councils submitted a member of their Council to receive the Council Excellence Award.

7. FFI Membership efforts were initiated this year. Each Council was allotted $300 for initiatives to increase membership and retain current members. In addition, Councils with the most net gains in membership will receive rewards. We also need to continue to encourage each Council to identify a Membership Chair/VP and have regular meetings of the membership chairs or a Council representative.

8. Council Annual reports. Councils were strongly encouraged to submit a Council Annual Report summarizing the activities of their Council. This is in addition to the Annual Council Financial Report.

9. Update Membership of Council Boards. Michael Schweit volunteered to coordinate updating the rooster of each Council. This is a work in progress.

Membership

Presidents
Pete McCall/Dianne Tidy – Chesapeake Council
Bruce Brown – Eastern Rocky Mountain Council
Sam Decker – Eastern Waters Council
Tom Gadacz – Florida Council
Dennis O’Brien – Great Lakes Council
Mike Jackson/Kyle Moppert – Gulf Coast Council
Burr Tupper – North Eastern Council
Dave Pellone – Northern California Council
Jeff McElravy – Ohio Council
Sherry Steele – Oregon Council
Dick Handshaw – South Eastern Council  
Ronald Knight – Southern Council  
Bill O’Kelly – Southwest Council  
Jim Grey – Texas Council  
Todd Heggestad – Upper Midwest Council  
Carl Johnson – Washington Council  
Bud Frasca – Western Rocky Mountain Council

Len Zickler – FFI President & CEO  
Tom Logan – Board Chair *  
Jim Maus – Treasurer *  
Herb Kettler – Secretary *  
Jim Schramm – Legal Counsel  
Molly Semenik – Board  
Rhonda Sellers – FFI Office Manager  
Dave Peterson – Conservation  
Frank Johnson – Fly Tying  
Jerry Coviello – Fly tying  
Rick Williams – Fly casting

* Voting member in addition to Council Presidents or designee

Chesapeake Council
Vacant – President

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

The Chesapeake Council (CC) includes the states of Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

Name of last Council President  
Ken Tidy (served 4 years; outgoing December 31, 2016)

Council Board Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VP</td>
<td>OPEN</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Members
608

President’s Comments
No current President

Plans to hold a major Chesapeake Council event in 2018 are being discussed with the Charter and Affiliate Clubs in the region. If this program goes forward the CC anticipates having a final plan and working committee before Fall 2017.

Education
The Fly Fishing Show; Lancaster, PA: The Chesapeake Council set-up a double booth that contained a teaching fly tying station for multiple students, offered fly casting lessons both days, and interacted with the show attendees. Tom Cooper documented the show and educational opportunities with video clips loaded to Utube. The CC sponsored a CE program for CI candidates, potential candidates, CI's and MCI's on Sunday and was attended by 20 fly casting enthusiasts. The CC sold raffle tickets on a beautiful Skip Hosfield custom built 4 wt. Bamboo Fly Rod.

Antietam Fly Anglers Fly Fishers Rendezvous (FFI Charter Club), Waynesboros, MD: This one day event is held on the Potomac River and
includes casting on the grass and in the water. The event was supported by the Chesapeake Council with local FFI CI's providing fly casting instruction at all levels in single handed and spey casting.

**Virginia Fly Fishing Festival, Doswell, VA:** The Chesapeake Council provided volunteer staff to work the FFI booth during the show. The volunteers (CI’s, Club Presidents or Members of the CC Board) talked with the public, sold raffle tickets and performed various other tasks as needed. The Chesapeake Council has not received a final report or accounting from the FFI for this event.

**Family Fly Fishing Camp, Pylesville, MD:** This one day family oriented event includes basic fly casting, fly tying, knots and entomology. Lunch and fishing are included to make this a perfect opportunity for Mom, Dad and the kids to learn a fun outdoor activity together.

**Pennsylvania Fly Fishing Museum Heritage Day, Boiling Springs, PA:** The PA FF Museum Heritage Day includes the Pennsylvania Fly Casting Competition and it was won by an FFI member and CI from Maryland. The weather was very hot and the CC created a “cooling spot” with free bottled water offered under a canopy (shade) with camp chairs. The booth attracted lots of visitors.

**COMMUNICATION:** The Chesapeake Council maintains a website and a Facebook page. We have challenged the FFI Clubs in our region to “like” our Facebook page and we will “like” their Facebook page. Tom Cooper has filmed and edited more than 50 Fly Fishing videos that are available on Utube and through links on the Facebook page. The videos vary from Fly Casting instruction with Jim Rainey, CI; interviews with fly fishing manufacturers on their products at the shows; and other topics of interest to those who are fly fishing or interested in learning to fly fish.

**Volunteer Hours**
Volunteer hours are underestimated since many Council members do not track their hours. Based on the teleconferences held, events attended and time spent on various other duties our best estimate is 1200 hours.

**Financial**
The Financial Report was sent directly to the FFI office by CC Treasurer, Don Waters.
**Bamboo Rod Raffle:** A 2 pc, 4 wt. bamboo fly rod with 2 tips was hand-crafted for the Chesapeake Council by “Skip” Hosfield. The rod was raffled in October 2016 and the winner is an FFI member from a Charter Club in the region. The raffle netted about $250 after expenses and a 2017 donation of $500 to the FFI Educational Fund.

**Elections**
The 2016 election for the Chesapeake Council Board of Directors and Officers was not held due to lack of nominations from the membership and unplanned turnover in BOD members during the year. This was a major issue as the CC moved into the 2017; but is slowly being resolved through outreach to the Charter and Affiliate Clubs that provided new Board of Directors members that are transitioning into officer’s positions when it is appropriate. Experienced BOD members are sharing the President’s duties and working as a team to keep the CC moving forward as new Directors join the Board.

**Eastern Rocky Mountain Council**
**Bruce Brown - President**

**Council Membership**
Ending December 31, 2016 = 719

**President’s Comments**
2016 was a formidable year for the ERMC. For the first time in many years, a Board of Directors were elected and Executive Officers formerly appointed. We also held a regional expo, in an attempt to begin communication and fellowship between clubs and ERMC members.

**Conservation**
Our main efforts this year were to open communication lines within the council, membership drives and education activities.

**Education**
A number of our clubs hold annual and regular education activities. We are also very active in area Project Healing Waters events. The ERMC also participates in the annual Fly Fishing Show in Denver, providing a Learning Center with many areas of fly fishing/fly tying instruction. As President, I
continue to run a Fly Fishing Merit Badge Program at the Denver Area Council’s High Adventure Camp Tahosa, as well as, help with merit badge instruction at Camp Tahosa’s summer camp.

**COMMUNICATION**
The ERMC has a Facebook page and as President, I routinely send out emails to club contacts with news and information.

**Volunteer Hours**
812 hours

**Financial**
2016 Beginning funds = $4,668.32/Ending funds = $2,945.81. Total funds spent was $1,722.51, which predominantly funds used for the Regional Expo and BOD Election expenses.

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**Eastern Waters Council**
**Patricia Decker (Sam) President**
January 1, 2016 to December 31,

**Council Board**
Sam Decker President
Richard Ross Vice President
Demetre Bove Secretary
Rodney Priddle, Treasurer
David Rosner, Membership
Michael Gallart, Education
Jeff Skelding, Conservation
Bob Groskin, National Salt Water Chair
Paul Gallo and Gail Gallo, Casting Advisory
Glenn Erickson

**Council Membership**
Ending December 31, 2016 547

**President’s Comments**
Continue working with our clubs to make them stronger. Making sure that Club President calls continue and trying to work out any issue that may
arise. These calls have been on going but I am going to make an effort to hold them more frequent. Three Clubs have been visited in the past year. EW joined one Club on a fishing weekend. We have started a Fly Tying event at the Clubs location hoping to generate good will and possibly increase membership. Three Clubs have signed up for this event. We started a program of "Giving a Gift of Membership" with a prize at the end of the period. Still working on the Grant policy for our clubs. EWC had Club members attend meetings of importance that were held within the clubs location.

**Conservation**
This year we have worked with FUDR to continue to improve the Delaware System. Unfortunately, due to the drought our goals were not met. There were two meeting with the Delaware Regulatory Board and we represented FFI in the meetings. They heard our concerns and we will continue to attend. The Sans Creek Project has been completed. Bob Groskin has attended several Salt Water Conferences within the East Coast and remains actively involved with the issues related to our coastline and fishery.

**Education**
Boy Scout Jamboree at West Point, Casting lessons all day International fly Tying Symposium, Kids Tying lessons all day for two days Fly Fishing Show Somerset NJ, Casting tune ups all day for three days

**Communication**
EW used social media for contact with members and periodic news blasts.

**Volunteer Hours**
Include time spent by Council members at shows, clinics, demonstration, etc that were Council Events. 926.5 hrs
Florida Council
Thomas Gadacz President

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Council Officers And Board

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Position</th>
<th>Name</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
<th>Phone</th>
<th>Alternate phone</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>President</td>
<td>Tom Gadacz</td>
<td><a href="mailto:thomasgadacz@yahoo.com">thomasgadacz@yahoo.com</a></td>
<td>727-360-8030</td>
<td>706-726-7899</td>
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<tr>
<td>VP</td>
<td>Tom Logan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tomlogan@comcast.net">tomlogan@comcast.net</a></td>
<td>850-212-5396</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Ken Hofmeister</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kentonhofmeister@gmail.com">kentonhofmeister@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>727-480-9187</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Ron Winn</td>
<td><a href="mailto:ron@winnaccounting.com">ron@winnaccounting.com</a></td>
<td>321-777-3341</td>
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<tr>
<td>Casting Lead</td>
<td>Pat Damico</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pat4jaws@hotmail.com">pat4jaws@hotmail.com</a></td>
<td>727-504-8649</td>
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<td>Community Relations</td>
<td>Bill AuCoin</td>
<td><a href="mailto:wmaucoin@verizon.net">wmaucoin@verizon.net</a></td>
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<td><a href="mailto:tomlogan@comcast.net">tomlogan@comcast.net</a></td>
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<td>Fly Tying Lead</td>
<td>Tom Logan</td>
<td><a href="mailto:tomlogan@comcast.net">tomlogan@comcast.net</a></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Ken Hofmeister</td>
<td><a href="mailto:kentonhofmeister@gmail.com">kentonhofmeister@gmail.com</a></td>
<td>727-480-9187</td>
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<td>Newsletter</td>
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<td>Programs</td>
<td>David Olson</td>
<td><a href="mailto:olsnflycstr@aol.com">olsnflycstr@aol.com</a></td>
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<td>305-669-5851</td>
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<td>Webmaster</td>
<td>M.E. DePalma</td>
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<td>954-563-2148</td>
<td>945-560-2930</td>
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FFI Florida Council Board Members 2016

Directors 2015-2017
Mark Benson
Kirk Burton
Pat Damico
Dave Lambert

Directors 2016-2018
Ken Babineau
Frank Catino
Walt Durkin
Jim Murphy
President’s Comments
Our goal is to promote fly fishing through education, conservation, preservation in a friendly family oriented manner.

Membership
Members at end of 2016 = 678. Number of members at end of 2015 = 656.

Net gain = 22. Activities to increase membership included presence at local fishing shows and boating events, casting clinics, fly tying events, and a FL Council Expo. To improve retention) we encouraged activities to meet members’ needs.

- We added one Charter Club, Gold Coast Fly Fishers to our Council.
- With the death of the Oscar Felieu, Sunshine Fly Anglers Charter club in the Villages dissolved.

The Northwest Fly Fishers Club was transferred from the Florida Council to the Gulf Coast Council by mutual agreement. They are geographically closer to the Gulf Coast Council and participate in their Council activities. We include the NWFF on our map of Florida fly fishing clubs.

Conservation
An FFI Conservation grant was proposed in 2016 and funded in 2017 for Catch and Release Practices with Peacock Bass. Investigator is Robert Roemer - $750.

We participated in several conservation conferences and proposals.

- We attended and participated in the FWC Snook Symposium on January 13, 2016 at the Caribe Royal in Orlando, FL.
- Submitted letters on February 8, 2016 to Governor Scott and major state legislators to support Florida Forever funding level that better mirrors historical allocations. Senator Thad Altman had proposed an amendment which would bond the $22.3 million for Florida Forever currently in the budget, ultimately authorizing over $222 million for the Florida Forever program.
• Wrote a letter on April 7, 2016 in support of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) reducing the bag limit for redfish within the Northwest and Northeast Management Zones from 2 to 1 fish based upon current stock assessments.

• Wrote or signed onto many letters and declarations for legislative support for clean waters, restoration and preservation of Florida water ways especially the many issues with the Everglades.

• We endorsed and encouraged all FL fly fishers to endorse the Now or Neverglades Declaration.

• We supported issues in common with the Florida Conservation Commission (FCC) which is chaired by former FL Governor and Senator Bob Graham. We intend to become an Affiliate Member of the FCC.

Education
We held our major activity, the Florida Council Expo, at the Plantation in Crystal River November 4-5, 2016. We had a great program.

In addition, many of the clubs in the Council held meetings, outings, casting clinics, fly tying demonstrations at various events such as boat shows. We also have a very active Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) programs in Florida with thousands of volunteer hours. We have one of the largest number of PHWFF programs in the country. See http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/programs/locations/florida

Communication
We have a very active FFI Florida Council web site. See link for more information.

Currently we do not have an active Council newsletter but most of the FL fly fishing clubs have either/both an active web site or newsletter about their activities. See the FL Council web site for a listing of FL fly fishing clubs.

In addition, I send out notices to all FL Council Board members and club presidents/contact person about FFI and Council activities.

Volunteer Hours
Estimated over 1,000 hours based on the FL Council’s Monthly Reports.

**Financial**
January 1, 2016 = $11,775.03
December 31, 2016 = $10,075.89 (Bank balance of $10,425.89 but outstanding check of $350.00)
Funds spent on Fair (net gain of $1,165.13), IT support, donation of $1,000 to FFI, banking and insurance.

**Great Lakes Council**
**Dennis O’Brien  President**

January 1, to December 31, 2016

**Council Board**
Dick Augustine, John Bebow, Roger Fechner, Deb Freele, Terry Greiner, Keith Groty, Colleen Jenkins, Mark Johnson, Jen Klabunde, Kevin Lounds, Terry Lyons, Dennis O’Brien, Dave Peterson, Brad Reynolds, Don Sawyer, Terry Tatarchuk.

**Members**
Number of members ending December 31, 2016:  804

**Presidents Comments**
Our goal this year is to continue working on the aquaculture (fish farm) on the AuSable River. Increase attendance at our Fly Fishing School and our New Fly Fishing Show. (just had the show) increased attendance to over 500. Will be starting small fishing schools around the state on fly casting and tying.

**Conservation**
These are the activities that the conservation committee worked on the year.

- *Actively participated in the effort to ban aquaculture (fish farming) in the Great Lakes. We testified in favor of HB 5255 which would have banned aquaculture. We also participated in a news conference and press interviews following the hearing. Although the bill was not voted on, the Governor’s office came out against Great Lakes aquaculture.*
• **GLC Grants** - The GLC provided conservation grant to the Anglers of the AuSable to fight the Marietta Fish Farm and the Conservation Resource Alliance to support removal of the Sylers Lake Dam.

• **Opposed the installation of a temporary weir across the Big Manistee River.**

• **Joined other groups in testifying against shimming before the Michigan Natural Resources Commission. Chumming in cold water streams was subsequently banned.**

• **Participated regularly in meetings of the Coldwater Resources Steering Committee, Warmwater Resources Steering Committee, Lake Michigan Citizens Advisory Group and other conservation groups.**

• **Became a member of the DNR work group supporting reintroduction of the Arctic Grayling in Michigan.**

• **Delivered testimony opposing a bill that would have allowed recreational gold mining in Michigan rivers. The bill subsequently died.**

• **Sent a letter of the Michigan DEQ opposing the Aquila/Back Forty mine on the Menominee River.**

• **Became a supporting partner in a research proposal to track the invasive New Zealand Mud snail.**

### Education

The GLC has held a Fly Fishing School and Fair in June of each year for the past 26 years. Education programs, classes and workshops for the beginner, intermediate and advanced fly angler covering all aspects of fly fishing. The 2016 GLC School and Fair was held on June 17-19 at the Ralph MacMullen Conference Center in Roscommon, Michigan.

For the past 17 years, the GLC has held a Fly Fishing Expo. This event focuses on fly tier’s demonstrating their tying skills, educations programs are also presented promoting all aspects of fly fishing. This year we changed venues and what type of event we wanted. So, no show in 2016. We held our new show in Jan. 2017. Will update later.

### Communication

The GLC publishes a newsletter quarterly. Past issues can be viewed on the GLC website at [www.ffffglc.org](http://www.ffffglc.org). The Council also produces a GLC brochure which are put in fly shops and Michigan welcome centers.
Volunteer Hours
1500 hours.

Financial
Beginning balance, January 1, 2016: $6,640.12
Receipts: $8,586.66
Expenditures: $10,147.19
Ending balance December 31, 2016: $5,079.59

Gulf Coast Council
Michael Jackson, Kyle Moppert – President

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

GCC Territory
At the end of 2012, the Gulf Coast Council divided into two councils, the Gulf Coast and Texas Councils. At that time, the Gulf Coast Council consisted of Louisiana, Mississippi, and lower Alabama. This year with the affiliation of the Fly Fishers of Northwest Florida and the Panhandle Flyfishers, the western-most section of the Florida panhandle was added to the GCC’s territory.

Council Board
President: Kyle Moppert, Michael Jackson
Executive Vice-President: Chuck Fisk
Treasurer: Leon Cuccia
VP Education: Tom Dempsey (CI)
VP Conservation: Chuck Fisk
VP Club Development: Marc Pinsel
VP Events: VACANT
Secretary: VACANT
VP Communication: VACANT
VP Outreach: VACANT

Directors
Ray Boudreaux
Dino Frangos (CI, MCI)

Syd Smith (MCI)
Fred Hannie
Members

246 members ending December 31, 2016 – This reflects about 120% growth from the 110 - 115 members when the Council was reorganized on Dec. 31, 2012.

President’s Comments

- When this council was reorganized at the end of 2012, the Council consisted of four (4) dues paying clubs and three (3) others who were in arrears. Some of these clubs were contemplating dropping their Federation status and/or moving their affiliations to another Council.

- In 2016, the Council continued to grow when the Kisatchie Fly Fishers affiliated with the Federation. The GCC now consist of 14 clubs, four (4) of which are Charter Clubs: Cane Country Fly Casters, Chickasaw Fly Fishers, Contraband Fly Casters and the New Orleans Fly Fishers. South Alabama has one (1) club; northwestern Florida has two (2); Louisiana has seven (7); and Mississippi has four (4).

- The highlight of this year was the third annual GCC Fly Fair, which was a success with over 180 in attendance and a profit of approximately $3,800.

- The Council again co-sponsored the 28th Annual North Toledo Bend Rendezvous - A gathering of fly tyers from across the region. “Rendezvous” is a highlight of tying for many tyers in this and the Texas Council and has served as the inspiration for the both Red River and Smallmouth Rendezvous. Some members of the Executive Committee are currently exploring the idea of a “Rendezvous” style gathering on the eastern side of the Council in the coming year or so.

Changing Of The Guard

The current GCC President, Kyle Moppert; Treasurer, Leon Cuccia; and V.P. Development, Marc Pinsel, have provided the Gulf Coast Council with
leadership for almost nine (9) years. In that time period, this group of leaders, along with a host of hard working volunteer GCC Federators have accomplished some great works, few of which are:

- We took charge of a Council following three (3) excellent but financially lackluster shows and when the Council had approximately $3,000 in the GCC account. **Note:** Council had started with $5,000 at the Council’s founding three (3) years before.

- We led the two (2) GCC EXPOs in New Braunfels and San Antonio, after which the Council coffers contained over $28,000. **Note:** At the San Antonio EXPO, we auctioned the first fly plate that contained flies from all the then living Buz Buszek Awardees that have been constructed for many years.

- We conceived and led the efforts to split the GCC into a much smaller “revised” Gulf Coast Council and a newly formed “Texas Council”. After “cleaning” our membership rolls, the GCC was reduced to approximately 110-115 Federators and the Texas Council started with approximately 500 Federators, i.e. 350 from the GCC and about 150-160 from the Southern Council. The current Federation membership in Texas is well over 1,200 and the GCC is about 250, and while the GCC doubled in club numbers, i.e. 7 to 14 clubs, the TXC has grown from 15 to 21 affiliated and charter clubs, many which in both councils are newly established clubs and charter clubs!

- **FFI National Awards:** We have played major parts in the recognition of GCC Federators and others in surrounding Councils, who have received National Federation awards including: the Acadian Fly Rodders’ McKenzie Cup - the highest award for a Federation club; Buz Buszek to Walt Holman (SEC); Lew Jewett Memorial Life Award to Buddy Price (FLC); Dick Nelson Teaching Award to Bill Heugal (GCC); Charles Brooks Lifetime Achievement awards to Mike Huffman (SOC), Marc Pinsel and Fred Hannie (GCC). The University of Southern Mississippi - Gulf Coast Research Laboratory received the FFI Conservation Award, and the GCRL’s graduate student, Jason Tilley was recognized with the Robert J. Marriot Scholarship Award. The GCC President also led for
the recognition of Duane Hada (SOC) with the FFI’s Dr. James Henshall Warmwater Fisheries Award. During our tenure Robert Tabbert (GCC) received FFI Conservation Award AND the Don Harger Memorial Life Award. Additionally, Kyle Moppert was recipient of the first IFFI Council President’s Leadership Award AND the Federation’s highest annual award, the Federator of the Year. The GCC’s Tom Jindra was recipient of the Federation’s Highest honor, the Lapis Lazuli Award.

Through the National Federation Awards Committee, the GCC’s President, Kyle Moppert, bestowed the FFI Council of Excellence Awards upon: Brooks Bouldin, Ned Lunt, Sid Smith, Marc Pinsel, Leon Cuccia, Jeff Deuschle, Ken Koffel, and Ron Foreman.

Many other Federators and Clubs within the Council have been also been recognized with Council Awards for all that they have accomplished. [http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=gcc-awards](http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/index.php?page=gcc-awards)

At the GCC Fly Fair in September, the President, Treasure and V.P. Development announced their intent to step down as officers of the Council on or about January 1st, 2017. This team has been at the head of this Council for almost nine (9) years and feel that it is well past time for such actions. The Council Board has twice established Election Committees to find candidates for Officers and the Board. Neither of those Committees met that goal.

One candidate, for Council President, Michael Jackson, has stepped forward to take on the task of Council leadership/management. These officers have been working Michael for some time and will recommend that the FFI Executive Board appoint this him as interim President of the GCC, until such time as he may find candidates to be the GCC Council Executive Board and Board of Directors. Michael is currently (Dec. 2016) working on find officers and Board members.

**Conservation**
At the re-founding of the Council, the GCC Board of Directors voted to make conservation a major focus of the GCC, and they voted to donate 50% of the profits from the GCC Fly Fairs as research grants to the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory (GCRL) in Ocean Springs, MS. After the Council’s show in 2014, the GCC fulfilled this obligation with an original donation of $2,000 and then funds from our 2015 Fly Fair enabled another $1,700 to be donated to the GCRL. As a part of our commitment to conservation and fisheries research, the GCC plans to continue such donations to the GCRL with a check for $1,800 from profits from our 2016 Fly Fair.

For over 30 years, the folks at the GCRL have been single-handily responsible for keeping the "Gulf Race Stripers" from going extinct. This race of stripers was once extremely common in almost all coastal rivers from the Mississippi River to the Tallahassee region of Florida. Through the efforts of the GCRL, there has been real success with the comeback of this species from a tiny remnant population in one coastal river to breeding populations in to a number of northern Gulf of Mexico coastal rivers in Florida, Mississippi and Louisiana. The GCC is also interested in the GCRL’s research involving tarpon, gulf sturgeon, shrimp diseases, beach ecosystems and oil spills. To learn more about the GCRL:

http://www.usm.edu/gcrl/research/striped_bass.php

https://www.facebook.com/GCRLstripedbass

Education

The following are a number, but not all, of the GCC’s 2015 educational efforts:

- The GCC Fly Fair held Sept 16/17, 2016 was a success on many levels. Designed as a “low dollar show”, participants were treated to excellent food (i.e. Louisiana Catfish Courbtouillon), first class casting instruction by a remarkable team of CI s and MCI, over 30 invited tyers, great programs, and inexpensive accommodations from local hotels and the GCRL (i.e. show participants could have a bed in the dorm for just $15/night!) Prior to the first these GCC Fly Fairs, the vast majority of those in attendance had never before attended an FFI show. The next GCC Fly Fair is scheduled for on Sept 15/16, 2016 in
Ocean Springs, MS. As with the three (3) previous show dates, this show will be held on the second weekend after Labor Day.

NOTE: While the GCC has established that GCC Fly Fairs be held on the second weekend after Labor Day in Ocean Springs, MS, and the Ocean Springs Civic Center is already booked for Sept. 15/16, 2017, a final determination is subject to the desires of the membership and the incoming Board of Directors.

- In the Spring of 2016, six (6) TFO Education Fly Rods were donated by the Council to the Gulf Coast Research Laboratory’s Marine Education Center, [http://gcrl.usm.edu/mec/](http://gcrl.usm.edu/mec/) to be utilized in the only fly fishing children’s camp taught in this area of the county, [http://gcrl.usm.edu/mec/summer.camps.php](http://gcrl.usm.edu/mec/summer.camps.php) The GCRL Marine Education Center also plans on utilizing these rods to instruct the Boy Scouts of America’s Fly Fishing Merit Badge (FFMB) to boy scouts and to also instruct girl scouts to flyfish.

- The Acadiana Fly Casters, Lafayette, LA; the Cane Country Fly Casters, Natchitoches, LA; the Contraband Fly Casters, Lake Charles, LA; and the Red Stick Fly Fishers, Baton Rouge, LA each held successful regional shows.

- In 2016, all 14 GCC clubs held education day/classes, which were open to the public.

- Many GCC clubs participated in regional fishing education days such as the Easter Shore Fly Fishers, Fairhope, AL, participation in the Delta Woods and Water 2016 Expo and the North Louisiana Fly Fishers, Shreveport, LA, and Red Stick Fly Fishers, Baton Rouge, LA, participation in the National Hunting a Fishing Day festivities hosted by the Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries. At each of those events, hundreds of children were exposed to fly casting and tying.

- The Magnolia Fly Fishers, Jackson, MS, has continued their on-line fly tying course, “Arkansas Trout Fly Tying Course - Lessons in Tying Some of the ‘Must Have’ Flies for Arkansas Trout”. This manual and associated club-produced videos have been shared with the FFI Fly Tying Group.
• The Mississippi Coast Fly Fishers, Biloxi, MS, were very active in education through the Project Healing Waters, and the North Louisiana Fly Fishers also worked with several east Texas Federation clubs to host Project Healing Waters events.

• The New Orleans Fly Fishers held their annual Rio Tournament, with participants coming from across the Council.

• The North Louisiana Fly Fishers held another of their annual Masters Clinics, where they bring in a renowned personality for weekend classes.

• The 35 TFO teaching rods which were donated in 2014 by the GCC and GCC clubs to BSA Swamp Base, a BSA High Adventure Camp, were utilized by those scouts desiring to flyfish on their 60+ mile canoe trip through south central Louisiana’s Atchafalaya Swamp (i.e. the largest river driven swamp in North America).

http://www.bsaswampbase.org/ However, as Swamp Base is undergoing “growing pains” and currently does not have a proper venue from which to teach the FFMB, this year the Council only supplied a limited number of fly boxes filled with flies, to the Swamp Base participants.

NOTE: BSA Swamp Base plans rectify this venue issue in the coming year.

• Upon the re-organization of the GCC, it came to the Council’s attention that our region contains all or part of nine (9) Boy Scout of America Councils, each of which have Summer Camps. It was also learned that at that time not a single of these BSA Councils taught the Boy Scout of America Fly Fishing Merit Badge (FFMB) to their scouts attending those camps. With the goal of insuring that scouts in this region have the opportunity to earn the FFMB and therefore be exposed to fly fishing, over these three years, the council and member clubs have:

* Supplied 35 rods to the BSA Evangeline Council for FFMB instruction
* Supplied approximately 450 fly boxes, each containing six (6) flies to BSA Swamp Base participants. These participants have been from more than 30 states.

* Taught the FFMB at the BSA Calcasieu Area Council’s Camp Edgewood (i.e. the Contraband Fly Fishers supply the educational rods and teach this course)

* Taught the FFMB at the BSA Istrouma Area Council’s Camp Avondale (i.e. the Red Stick Fly Fishers supply the educational rods and teach this course)

* Has offered to purchase education rods for the Istrouma Area Council’s Camp Avondale in the coming year, if the BSA Istrouma Council follows through on their commitment of adding the FFMB to Camp Avondale’s regularly taught merit badge courses.

* Purchased six (6) educational rod outfits for the GCRL Marine Education Center for instruction of the FFMB to the scouts in the BSA Pine Burr Council (i.e. the Historic Ocean Springs Fly Fishers (HOSSFLY) assist with teaching these courses and has committed to supplying additional educational rods as necessary).

- In November 2016, the GCC and TX Council again co-sponsored The North Toledo Bend Rendezvous. This is the oldest, strictly-tying gathering in the South, where each year many of the very best Federation fly tyers from Louisiana, Texas and beyond gather at the North Toledo Bend State Park on the shores of Toledo Bend Reservoir for a weekend of tying flies and eating lots and lots of very good food! Held the first weekend of November, the North Toledo Bend Rendezvous remains one of the top tying events in the U.S.A. If you have never attended Rendezvous or haven't been in a while, you are hereby invited to attend... Hey, we haven't gathered on the shores of Toledo Bend and thrown this party for 28 years for nothing!!!

http://pages.suddenlink.net/w/Rendez/indexR.html

- All of the GCC clubs hold weekly or monthly fly tying classes, which are open to the public and advertised throughout their regions. Many of these classes are held at venues such as Orvis fly shops,
independent fly shops, Bass Pro, Cabala’s and other sporting goods outlets.

Communication
The GCC Website and Face Book Page have become our primary means of communication.

The GCC Website: contains well over 600+ photographs of GCC Federators and over 50 species of local, fly caught fish. The GCC web site contains a great deal of information on the Council, the Federation, Council events, clubs, Contacts, By Laws, GCC Speaker’s Bureau, Casting Certification and GCC CI’s, GCC CIs’ Casting Events/Schools, Educational materials available, The Gulf Streamer (older issues), How to Found a Federation club, Membership Information, GCC partnership with BSA Swamp Base, The Loop, The Osprey, GCC authors, 100+ GCC and other FFI regional tyers on the web, The FFI Fly Tying Group, Cane Rod Builders, GCRL Striped Bass Restoration, GCC Awards and History, and much, much more…
http://www.gulfcoastfff.org/

The GCC Face Book Page: The GCC’s continually updated FB page is one of the very best Federation / fly fishing FB Pages in the country and has proven to be an means of communication with large numbers of our members and has a large following from both inside the Council, as well as across the country. However, the Council’s leadership does not feel that this medium has not effectively replaced our quarterly newsletter

Newsletter: For years, the GCC published a quarterly newsletter that averaged well over 20 pages. With the loss of our newsletter editor prior to the 2015 Fly Fair, it was decided that due to the fact that many of these newsletter’s email announcements were ending in the Spam Folders of our members and less than 40% were ever opened, we would forgo the newsletter and emphasize our Face Book Page.

Moving forward: After two years, those on the Executive Board do not feel that the combination of Council website and Face Book Page have not met
the communication needs of our members and therefore the outgoing Executive board is recommending to the incoming Board, that the GCC newsletter be re-established.

**Steve Oliver’s GCC Club / Council Excel Program**

**Volunteer Hours**
The Federation’s smallest council in the Gulf Coast Council is very active

- Through our council and club shows, events, tying session, and etc. thousands of volunteer hours occur each year.
- Add to that total, the hundreds of more hours donated through Project Healing Waters and Reel Recovery.
- The council president alone donates well over 300 hours per year.

**Marketing/Outreach**

- Continued to promote communications to all GCC members by council officers
- Maintain club president e-mail list and updated as club presidents change
- Regularly review and update FFI membership rolls
- Promoted our presence and events on Facebook
- Promoted the GCC and the FFI on numerous fly fishing web sites
- In three years (2013-16), increased Federation membership by 120% (i.e. 110-115 to 246 Federators)
- In September, 2016, held the Third Annual Fly Fair of the revised GCC
- Continued to foster the Council’s positive relationship for fisheries research with the University of Southern Mississippi Gulf Coast Research Laboratory

**Northern California Council**

*David Pellone  President*

January 1 to December 31, 2016

**Council Board**
President Ken Brunskill (1 to 6/16) & David Pellone (7 to 12/16), Ken Brunskill Secretary, Jim Berdan Treasurer, Lowell Ashbaugh Conservation, Mondy Lariz Communication (1 to 9/16), Frank Rinella Education, Roger Wachtler Outreach, Larry Lack, Mike McKenzie (1-8), Tom Smith, Cliff Sullivan

Members
663 members at year end 12/31/16

PRESIDENTS COMMENTS
2016 was a year of transition for the Board of Directors, member clubs and the activities of the council. The number of directors (9 at 12/31/16) and member clubs reached a low while the open positions within the board increased. The annual Hall of Fame dinner was brought back after an absence last year. 2017 is to be the year of change, renewal and action.

Conservation
Grants awarded:
Smith River-Fisheries Management Plan, USFS $15K, private donor $17.5K, CFFU $1.5K, FFI $1.5K and NCC $.15K
Putah Creek-Restoration, FFI $1.5K, NCC $.15K
Trout In The Classroom-GCFF, $.75k from NCC
Participated Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement to establish Klamath Restoration Corp. to monitor removal of 4 Dams
Cosponsored Salmonid Restoration Federation Annual Conference
Joined Friends of the River event at state capital
Wrote letters to support river flows, storage, water quality standards, protection and restoration of rivers & streams

Education
ISE Show-Sacramento, January fly tying demos and learning center
Fly Fishing Show-Pleasanton, February, fly tying demos, casting lessons, learning center, Trout in Classroom equipment and handouts
Fly Fishing Festival-Marin Rod & Gun Club, March, classes by guides &DFW, casting lessons, vendors, fly tying demos, raffle
Fishing Event- Shadow Cliffs, May, VA hospitals from MP & PA for 35 disabled veterans, included breakfast and lunch, council volunteers and VA staff
FFI Fair-Livingston, August, brought 3 VA disabled veterans to event for classes, fishing, manning VFFF booth at the High School
Fly Fishing Festival-Marin Rod & Gun Club, October, classes by guides, casting lessons, vendors, fly tying demos, raffle
Hall of Fame Dinner-MR&GC, October, honor outstanding member that made significant contribution over many years
VFFF Dinner-Fremont, November, crab feast & raffle to raise money for VA disabled veterans events all year
VFFF fly tying classes at VA hospitals in MP & PA for veterans twice monthly and at 3 clinics once monthly, all year

Comunication
NCC uses web site, Facebook, email and newsletter to communicate and contact clubs and members

Volunteer Hours
1238 hours, Time spent by council members at shows, festivals, fishing events for VA disabled veterans and demonstrations

North Eastern Council
Burr Tupper – President

Council Board
Ron Sowa (Vice-President), Fred Jennings (Secretary), Brian McArdle(Treasurer), Alan Erdossy, Aleta Connell, Joe Chui, John Bilotta, John Lemont, John McKernan, John Troiano, Leslie Wrixon, William Ciaurro

Members
404 Active members, 139 Inactive members

President Comments
2016/2017 was a very active year for the North Eastern Council. We participated in the following shows and events
Bass Pro National Hunting & Fishing Day (September)
- Introduction to the Certified Casting Instructors Test Process (September)
- Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Fly Fishing Fair (October)
- Coaching Seminar for the FFI CCI Casting Performance Test (November)
- BOD Meeting & Elections (December)
- Marlborough Fly Fishing Show Learning Center (January 3 days)
- Bass Pro Shop Hooksett, NH 6 Week Fly Tying Classes (January & February)
- Bears Den Fly Fishing Show (February)
- Fly Fish New Hampshire Show (February)
- LL Beam Freeport, Me Celebrate Spring Fishing season (March)
- Bears Den Casting and Tying classes (March)
- New Hampshire Fish & Game Discover Wild Day (April)
- Wear, NH Middle School Fly Tying (May)
- Massachusetts Fish & Wildlife Open House (June)
- Carroll School for the Blind fishing program
- Dartmouth College Outing Club fly fishing program (May)
- Participated in forum with US Secretary of Interior (June)

NEC has recruited 45 new members and signed up two (2) Affiliated Clubs. We are actively pursuing additional clubs. The council has developed a new web site and Facebook page.

**Goals and Objectives**
- Continue to pursue new members and clubs
- Begin tracking volunteer hours for events, clinics, programs, and especially administrative and overall support efforts.
- Prioritize committee focus and recruit chairperson and volunteers for each.
- Create state focus for the purposes of advocacy, conservation, education in local areas.
- Develop Fly Fishing program with and for Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife
- Create fly fishing workshops with New England Cabelas and Bass Pro stores.
- Continue to offer casting pre-certification programs
- Hold at least one FFI members event in 2017.

**Conservation**
NEC has participated in three area conservation programs
1. Provide funds for salmon restoration project on Margaree River in Nova Scotia
2. Provides funds for purchase of land for habitat restoration of Sea Run Brook Trout (Salters) in Massachusetts.
3. Provided funds for wild Brook Trout pit tagging program at 2nd College Grant in New Hampshire

**Education**

NEC has provided volunteers for the following educational programs.

- Dartmouth College Outing Club fly fishing program
- Bass Pro introduction to fly fishing, plus fly-tying classes
- New Hampshire Fish and Game “Let’s Go Fishing” programs
- Fly tying program for Vermont Project Healing Waters

**Communication**

- Completed the development of NEC web site
- Produced several e-newsletters for members and clubs

**Volunteer Hours**

Volunteers have logged over 750 hours in support of local and national programs, events and administrative support.

**Financial**

NEC continues to struggle with efforts to raise funds to support its many events and programs. It raised about $2500 from raffles. It is going to need to investigate other ways of raising funds going forward. NEC spent about $1500 for raffle items, conservation and education programs.

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**Ohio Council**

**Jim Stone**  President

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

**Council Board Members**

- Ken Dixon
- Steve Rose
- John Sabo
- Ed Jones
- George Vosmik
- Jeff McElravy
- Jim Stone

**Members**

Number of members in your Council ending December 31, 2016: 292
President’s Comments
The main goal for now is to grow the council’s membership and to get more participation from the members to help establish better fly fishing opportunities for those interested in the sport. The OHC makes its presence known at several shows and events each year to answer questions and to recruit for the council’s clubs. I hope to see in the future more interactions and shared events between the clubs.

Conservation
The OHC has a conservation officer that tries to stay abreast of issues around the state, and he participates with other conservation groups outside of the fly fishing world. Due to financial reasons, the council’s involvement in conservation efforts has been limited to helping clubs to do stream clean-ups and stream restorations.

Education
The OHC has been having an annual outdoor event known as “Ohio Council Warm Water Conclave” which occurs in June with a focus on warm water fishing. All of the aspects of fly fishing are demonstrated and visitors are encouraged to participate. The educational opportunities at the events that the council attends each year are utilized. Periodically the council is contacted by other organizations, such as the Boy Scouts, to convey information and to teach some of the fly fishing arts.

Communication
http://www.ohiofff.org/


Volunteer Hours
313

Financial
1/1/16:  $1345.46  12/31/16:  $1502.31
  • Expenditures:  $1052.82
  • Revenue:  $1209.67
Oregon Council  
Sherry Steele  President  

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016  

Members  
Council membership ending December 31, 2016 - 672 members and 16 clubs  

President’s Comments  
2016 was another very successful year. Our goals were to continue to keep our council finances healthy and we definitely met that goal. Membership and education is continuing to be our focus. The Oregon Council BOD is united in our direction. Our Expo continues to remain our major membership drive and fund raiser.  

Conservation  
We awarded 2 Conservation grants totaling 3,000.00, 1 club Grant 1,500.00 and 2 OSU Scholarships total 3,000.00  

Education  
We continued to sponsor The Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo (2days). The Expo provides 200 Demonstration Tyers, 80 classes on Casting, Tying and Fly Fishing.  

Communication  
Our Web site for the Expo provides all the communications for the membership.  

Volunteer Hours  
BOD members (23) plus volunteers (200 for expo) average an estimated 9,000.00 per year.  

Financial  
Beginning 2016 $56,537.53 Ending 2016 $59,546.10
## Directors, Board Members and Committee Chairs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Last</th>
<th>ORC FFI Board-2015-16</th>
<th>Club</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sherry</td>
<td>Steele</td>
<td>President &amp; Expo Chair</td>
<td>Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hillary</td>
<td>Burkhart</td>
<td>Secretary</td>
<td>Central Oregon Fly Fishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>Wilson</td>
<td>Treasurer</td>
<td>Central Oregon Fly Fishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jim</td>
<td>Ferguson</td>
<td>Exec Director</td>
<td>Santiam Fly Casters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert</td>
<td>Blount</td>
<td>Exec Director</td>
<td>Linn Benton Fly Fishers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J. D. &quot;Skip&quot;</td>
<td>Hosfield</td>
<td>Senior Advisor</td>
<td>McKenzie Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Kreft</td>
<td>Senior Advisor</td>
<td>Central Oregon Fly Fishers</td>
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### Club Reps

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
<th>Last</th>
<th>Organization</th>
<th>Club</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keith</td>
<td>Burkhart</td>
<td>Santiam Fly Casters(A)</td>
<td>Santiam Fly Casters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marv</td>
<td>Clemons</td>
<td>Cascade Family (C)</td>
<td>Cascade Family Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim</td>
<td>Crislip</td>
<td>Washington County Fly Fishers(A)</td>
<td>Washington County Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight</td>
<td>Klemin</td>
<td>North Santiam Spey Casters</td>
<td>North Santiam Spey Casters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rick</td>
<td>Mac Farlane</td>
<td>Northwest Fly Fishers (A)</td>
<td>Northwest Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Richard</td>
<td>Mace</td>
<td>Grande Ronde Fly Fishers (C)</td>
<td>Grande Ronde Fly Fishers</td>
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<td>Butch</td>
<td>Minich</td>
<td>Central Coast Fly Fishers (C)</td>
<td>Central Coast Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Greg</td>
<td>Pitts</td>
<td>McKenzie Flyfishers (A)</td>
<td>McKenzie Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dave</td>
<td>Roberts</td>
<td>Southern Oregon Fly Fishers(A)</td>
<td>Southern Oregon Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sherry</td>
<td>Steele</td>
<td>Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild (C)</td>
<td>Central Oregon Fly Fishers</td>
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<td>Bunnie</td>
<td>Steiner</td>
<td>Stonefly Maidens (A)</td>
<td>Stonefly Maidens</td>
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<tr>
<td>John</td>
<td>Ward</td>
<td>Rogue Fly Fishers (A)</td>
<td>Rogue Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tom</td>
<td>Wideman</td>
<td>Central Oregon FlyFishers (A)</td>
<td>Central Oregon Fly Fishers</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dale</td>
<td>Zemke</td>
<td>Klamath Country Fly Casters (A)</td>
<td>Klamath Country Fly Casters</td>
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### Committees & Chair Appointed Board Members

#### Awards Committee

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>First</th>
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<th>Role</th>
<th>Club</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Keith</td>
<td>Burkhart</td>
<td>Chair -Board member</td>
<td>Santiam Fly Casters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight</td>
<td>Klemin</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>North Santiam Spey Casters</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Communications Committee</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Keith Burkhart</td>
<td>Chair - Board member - newsletter</td>
<td>Santiam Fly Casters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Garren Wood</td>
<td>WEB Mgr - Marketing Chair</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Grant Committee (Conservation &amp; Club Grants)</strong></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Ward</td>
<td>Board member - after vote</td>
<td>Rogue Flyfishers</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Marv Clemons</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>Cascade Family Fly Fishers</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Education Committee</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dale Zemke</td>
<td>Chair - Board member</td>
<td>Klamath Country Fly Casters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hal Gordon</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>WCFF</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dwight Klemin</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>North Santiam Spey Casters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jim Ferguson</td>
<td>Board member</td>
<td>Santiam Fly Casters</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Membership Committee</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tom Wideman</td>
<td>Chair - Board Member</td>
<td>Central Oregon Fly Fishers</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Nominating Committee</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Marv Clemons</td>
<td>Chair - Board member</td>
<td>Cascade Family Fly Fishers</td>
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**South Eastern Council**
Dick Handshaw – President

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

**Council Board Members**
There was no official board during 2016. The unofficial organizers of the new council were Dick Handshaw, Gary Jones and Aaron Christiansen

**Members**
Number of members in your Council ending December 31, 2016 – no official members at this time.

**President’s Comments**
We held our first official board meeting in January of 2017. Although the board is still not as large as I would like, we are stabilizing our membership. At first we received resignations of about 6 former board members. We added a few board members and are moving forward with plans to
participate in a festival in Bryson City, NC where we will provide casting demonstrations, classes and fishing. Our main goal is to recruit members for nearby clubs.

**Conservation**
Nothing accomplished in 2016.

**Education**
Nothing accomplished in 2016.

**Communication**
Nothing accomplished in 2016.

**Volunteer Hours**
Approximately 25 hours from Dick, Gary and Aaron. Gary and I attended an induction into the fly fishing hall of fame luncheon in Bryson City in October of 2016, where we announced our intention to revive the South East Council.

**Financial**
Our bank account was still in the hands of our former treasurer who resigned as soon as we contacted him. He had held the role for ten years. Dave Derby, our treasurer and I have since taken over the account and now have the ability to spend money. We made a deposit of $300 this week.

**Southern Council**
Ron Knight - President

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

**Council Board Members**
Chris Allen, executive VP/secretary
Michael Ames, treasurer
Jon Tupper, VP communications
Mike Tipton, VP development
Ralph Eichholz, VP conservation
Michael Kyle, VP education
Maryann Townsend, VP membership
Michael Lack, fly tying chair
Kurt Moomau, board member
Zach Hoyt, board member

**Membership**
Number of members in your Council ending December 31, 2016  705

**President’s Comments**
Continue to work to improve finances after a couple of challenging years. We are beginning to try and get more of our clubs involved in the Southern Council activities, as well as get the Southern Council more involved in helping our clubs.

**Education**
Our Fly Fishing Fair in October at Mountain Home, Arkansas was a success. We moved to a new venue in The Sheid at Arkansas State University. This facility was great, and we should be able to iron out any minor issues in the next few years. This venue gave us better class rooms, a theater, a meeting hall, and as the College continues to complete the building, it will be even better.

**Communication**
We have been using several social media sites, as well as Constant Contact for staying in communication with the Southern Council membership.

**Volunteer Hours**
The 11 Board Of Directors Members Average Approximately 50 Hours Per Year In conference calls, emails and other phone calls each. The Fly Fishing fair averages 30 volunteers for 2 days, 8 - 10 hours each day. There were approximately 237 hours of educational workshops. Total estimated volunteer hours 1250 - 1400.

**Financial**
Beginning fund balance 1/1/2016 was $66,731, ending fund balance was $70,880.
Southwest Council  
Michael Schweit – President  

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016  

Council Board Members  
12  

Members  
Number in Council December 31, 2016 ~750  

President’s Comments  
This one is hard. I am just ending 8 years of being President. It was a thrilling, aggravating, fun, enlightening, frustrating and rewarding 8 years. We created a Fly Fishing Faire from scratch and then lost it when no one would take it over when our Faire Director moved to Pennsylvania in 2016. We doubled our membership in that time and connected the clubs to each other in ways not seen before. Our annual revenue went from 4K to over 60K (mostly from the Faire) and we have an active advertising program. We were also instrumental with helping Casting For Recovery launch their SoCal chapter and helped Project Healing Waters add on several facilities and clubs to their programs. The future will be up to the new President, Bill O’Kelly. He has been extremely helpful to me over the past 8 years but he will need support from the clubs and FFI local members. I wish him the best.  

Conservation  
Our Silver Creek Restoration Project has been taken over by the state Department of Fish and Wildlife. So we are unsure of our long-term role with seeing this through to completion. Other than that, it has been a lot of small programs like tree plantings.  

Education  
Not a lot is currently planned this year with the loss of the Faire. However, we will be running a surf-fishing tournament named Riptide Rendezvous on October 21  

Communication  
We continue to use MailChimp once a month to tell everyone what we are doing and have them use this to publicize their own activities.
Volunteer Hours
During the Faire, we typically ran around 200 hours per week from the entire BOD. Now, with the day to day, it is closer to 10 hours per week.

Financial
Due to our commitments to conservation, advertising, etc., we will run a deficit this year of ~10K. We should end the year with ~15K in the bank. More than enough to continue and/or resurrect any future events.

Texas Council
Jim Gray  President

Report ending December 31, 2016

Council Membership
Ending December 31, 2016 = 957
Current Membership = 1038

President’s Comments
For the prior 3 years, the council had worked to establish a recognizable brand, complete with logos, banners, fliers, social media presence and a large expo. The was very successful and the Texas Council is well established. Unfortunately, some clubs began to see the council as a competing organization, with it's own events and agenda. Club BODs felt that this focus on the Council was taking away from their events, and they were less interested in an state-wide expo, more interested in having the Council support the existing 6 major club events (TU TroutFest, Ed Rizzolo Fly Tying Event, Lydia Ann Tournament, Fly Fest, Fly Fish Texas, Oktoberfisch). Beginning in January of 2017, the Texas Council made a significant shift in direction. We ceased plans for a 2017 expo, and have reached out to all club presidents about how we can best serve them. For now, the Texas Council will act as an umbrella organization for all Texas clubs, focused on helping them promote and execute events, find speakers and attract new members.

One area where we will continue to have a visible role is as a focal point for state wide club recruiting. At all major state events for fishing and conservation, the council will pay for a booth and represent all Texas FFI clubs, giving prospective members relevant information on the clubs that are
As a council, we have been very successful with new members and new clubs, but we face a significant challenge with our largest, long established clubs. I've talked to the presidents of our 6 largest clubs, and each have expressed concerns about board members who question the value of the National Organization. One of my focus areas is to visit these clubs and talk about the changes that have been made at the national level, and how the Texas Council can help. Towards that end, I have created a 15 minute presentation that highlight the value of the organization at the state and national level. I've given that presentation 4 times, and have 3 more scheduled.

My goal for the remainder of 2017 is to make sure that our club are all on board with the direction and understand the value of FFI, and then to spend 2018 focused on new members, targeting new arrivals to Texas, young fly fishers and women. Texas leads FFI in membership growth and plans to continue this push.

**Conservation**
Many of our clubs are engaged in conservation efforts. Stream clean ups are the most popular. This year, the council joined the Austin Fly Fishers for a clean up on Brushy Creek, and worked with TU on a clean up of the Guadalupe River. We encourage clubs to participate through our social media, and offer financial and man power support for clubs that take the initiative to lead a conservation program. For the past 2 years, the council has had a presence at Earth Day Texas, reaching up to 20,000 people. We are exploring opportunities for conservation at the state level.

**Education**
Education is a cornerstone of Texas club activity. Many clubs partner with local fly shops and craft breweries for fly fishing, casting and fly tying instruction. At the state level, we partner with Texas Parks and Wildlife - Angler Education. The state trains instructors and for every hour of education provided, TPWD receives a matching grant of 24$. Many council members participate providing significant revenue to the TPWD coffers. Many FFI leaders volunteer significant time to provide instruction. For many clubs, 50% of the speakers are FFI club and state leaders.

**Communication**
The council has an active social media presence, as do most of the clubs.
The council works hard to promote and cross promote club events, and shares relevant information. Many clubs have a monthly newsletter, and the Texas council has a quarterly newsletter. There is an opportunity to share more information and one of the initiatives we are looking at is having an article from our club newsletter highlighted in our State quarterly newsletter. One place where we need to do better is regular communications with the presidents of the clubs, highlighting what we are doing at the state and national level.

Financial
2016 Beginning funds = $4,668.32/Ending funds = $2,945.81. Total funds spent was $1,722.51, which predominantly funds used for the Regional Expo and BOD Election expenses.

Upper Midwest Council
Todd Heggestad – President

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Council Board
Vice President: Vacant
Vice President for Illinois: Jen Ripple
Secretary: Vacant
Treasurer: Vacant
Casting Co-Directors: Lyth Hartz and Ivan Strief
Fly Tying Co-Directors: Paul Beckmann and Scott Nordby
Conservation Director: Brad Eaton
Membership Director: Stacie Spaeth
Social Media Director: Randy Brock
Project Healing Waters: Christopher Vincent
At Large Directors: Doug Harthan, Gerald Schwan, Dave Keene, Vaughn Snook

Members
Number of members ending December 31, 2017 = 419

President’s Comments
The 2016 calendar year saw an expansion of the Upper Midwest Council board of directors and a continuation of events and activities from the
previous years. Added to the board of directors was a vice president for Illinois, co-directors for fly tying and casting, a membership director, social media director, project healing waters director and an additional member at large position. Monthly board meetings have been held to discuss and organize events for the UMC membership.

2016 saw the second annual UMC Fly Fishing school and was again a very nice success. This was a combination of a Certified Casting Instructor preparation course co-taught by two Casting Board of Governors MCI’s and a two and half day fly fishing school. The fly fishing school used a group cohort model in which all the participants attended the classes together which provided a sense of comradery for all. Classes included fly fishing skills such as tying knots, fly tying, and fly casting and seminars on conservation topics. The on the water portion of the class was interrupted by bad weather.

The UMC was involved in several events throughout the region including:
- Fly Tying seminar with the Pine to Prairie club in January 2016
- Great Waters Expo with FFI members providing fly tying instruction and casting lessons
- Casting seminar with the Pine to Prairie club in June 2016
- CCI prep course and Fly Fishing school in July 2016
- Casting seminar with the Classic Anglers club in Green Bay in September 2016

Conservation activities included further support through the Small Conservation grant program for Bob Tabbert’s Relic Brook Trout project, assistance with the Washington County Watershed project and various conservation and fly tying seminars at state parks in Minnesota.

From an administrative standpoint, the UMC changed the registration of the Articles of Incorporation from Illinois to Minnesota in March 2016. The end of the year financial statistics included revenue of $3,798.81, expenses of $3,761.66 for a net gain of $37.15.
Washington Council
Carl Johnson – President

January 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Council Board Members
1st Vice President Eastside: Chet Allison
1st Vice President Westside: Bill Wheeler
Secretary: David Paul Williams
Treasurer: JoAnn Allison
VP Communications: Jim Maus
VP Membership: Peter Maunsell
VP Conservation Eastside: Gilbert Biles
VP Conservation Westside: Jack Whitney
VP Education: John Newbury

Directors
Len Zickler
Don Simonson
Larry Gibbs
Mike Clancy
Pat Peterman
Robert Gerlach
Vern Jeremica
Jay Woodbury
Gary Bevers
Kuni Masuda

Members
Number of members in your Council ending December 31, 2016 - 780 members and 16 clubs

President’s Comments
2016 was an interesting year for the Council. The President was absent for over 3 months in the summer on a bucket list trip to Alaska. This trip allowed me to visit the last club in Council, the Alaska Flyfishers in Anchorage. I attended the clubs July regular meeting and their Spey Clave in August on the Eagle. River. I was very impressed with the club and congratulate them on all their hard work.
The Council continues with our Fly Fishing Fair in May which raises the majority of the funds to allow the Council to operate during the year. We look forward to 2017 and 2018 which will have significant change for the Council with the end of Carl Johnson's 12 years as Council President in July 2018.

**Conservation**
The Council supported the efforts of the Wenatchee Valley Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited to purchase land along the Wenatchee River in Peshastin, WA. The Council also led and effort along with a number of Affiliated clubs to replace signage at a number of lakes in Grant County with the regulations in English, Spanish and Russian. Most Affiliated Clubs are very active in local Conservation Projects from river cleanup, invasive species removal, and other restoration projects.

**Education**
The Washington State Council hosts the Washington Fly Fishing Fair every year in Ellensburg, WA the weekend before Mother's Day. We have about 500 to 600 participations and volunteers. In addition, the Council also had a booth at the Western Washington Sportsman Show and the Fly Fly Fishing Show. Many of the CI's put on casting demonstrations and Council members put on tying demonstrations throughout the year. Shortly after the Fly Fishing Fair volunteers from the Council, led by VP of Education John Newbury introduced about 400 students of the Chewelah Middle and High School to fly fishing with sessions on fly tying, fly casting and entomology. The Council also supports the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy, Project Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery with both financial and volunteer support.

**Communication**
Washington State Council maintains our website: wscifff.org in addition sending out 4 newsletter every year quarterly via e-mail and mail.

**Volunteer Hours**
It is estimated that Members of the Washington State Council spent approximately 27,000 hours on behalf of the Council last year.
Financial
No report.

Western Rocky Mountain Council
Bud Frasca - President

The Council in the past year has had four Fairs which has resulted in good exposure and raised funds for their appropriate Clubs. In January, the Boise Valley Fly Fishers had a Fair and in March a Fair was held in Salt Lake City. April had the Snake River Cutthroats hold their annual event and the council held a Fair in Coeur d’Alene in May. All were very successful. The council has representation at all these events and receives fairly good exposure.

We are still having trouble getting members for our Council Board though and this makes it very difficult to run the Council effectively. We will hold a Board Meeting at the fair in Livingston and hopefully add a few members to the council board. One of our problems is the fact that the council is so large and covers Montana, Idaho; Utah and Alberta and makes covering the council a very difficult proposition for any one person.

The council is financially stable and will continue with major participation in the annual fair as we have members that are part of the Fly Tying Group and Board of Directors and workshop instruction and volunteer participation. Whenever the Fair is in Montana our council supplies more participants than any other council as it always has.

It is my opinion that for the council to flourish it needs to be broken up into a few smaller councils. That would make the councils more manageable for overseeing the individual clubs and probably create more club participation in the councils.