FFF ClubWire
Welcome to the October / November 2010 issue of the ClubWire e-mail news service for clubs.

- FFF Member e-newsletter –
If your not getting our monthly FFF Member e-newsletter and would like to. It’s easy to sign up. Go to
http://visitor.constantcontact.com/manage/optin/ea?v=001oqwWjY62mfmliHsoPjzZRg%3D%3D and just enter
the e-mail address you would like it to be sent to.

Book & DVD Reviews

Classical Controversies by Lawrence Threadgold (reviewed by Bruce E. Harang)
Self Published via Lulu Books
http://www.lulu.com/browse/search.php?fListingClass=7&fSearch=Classical+Controversies
116 pages, softbound, illustrated, Color and B&W, suggested price $31.72

A very interesting little volume directed to the age old fireside discussion (sometimes heated) regarding wet fly versus
dry and upstream presentation versus down. This is a well written overview of the history of these differences of opinion
by some of the most influential fly fishers of the past two centuries. The illustrations, especially the reproductions of old
materials, are well done and very interesting in their own right. The list of references is important as it lists the published
sources documenting these arguments which allow those interested a clear avenue to follow upon. The author ends the
book with a suggested basis of consensus to rationalize the various views. Interesting food for thought is presented in the
proposed Fly-fisherman's Code, though fireside chats are going to be a lot less colorful if it is widely adopted. This is an
excellent overview of some of the most controversial aspects in the history of fly fishing.

Montana's Best Fly Fishing by Ben Romans (reviewed by Bruce E. Harang)
Headwater Books/Stackpole Books, Mechanicsburg, PA 2010
283 pages, softbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price $29.95

A very well written, illustrated, and produced volume detailing fly fishing in some of Montana's most popular waters.
Eighteen of the most famous rivers are covered in this volume including: the Bighorn, Yellowstone, Gallatin, Madison,
Jefferson, Beaverhead, Big Hole, Rock Creek, Blackfoot, Clark Fork, Bitterroot, Missouri, Smith, Kootenai, Flathead,
South Fork Flathead, Middle Fork Flathead, and North Fork Flathead. Each river section includes a site map with state
location map insert, a general description of the river and its fish, when and where to fish, hatches and productive flies
and rigs, a graphical hatch chart, directions to fishing access points, and recipes and photographs of suitable fly patterns.
The writing style is easy to read and comprehend. The graphics and photographs are very high quality. The photographs
of the rivers are well done in that they give the reader a "sense of place". If you are new to trout fly fishing in Montana
this is a must have volume that will become a good friend. If you are a veteran of the Montana Rivers, this volume will
very likely provide you with some new options and ideas. This is a beautiful volume providing the reader with good
value.
I'm the easiest guy to buy for at Christmas. Give me a good knot book and I can stay busy, content even, until Valentine's Day, maybe Easter. So when fishing illustrator Joe Mahler told me he'd just completed work on an illustrated knot book, well, I was excited for him. . . . and for me.

Mahler's new book, Essential Knots & Rigs for Trout, is a top-shelf, lovingly and beautifully illustrated primer for those of us who love to fish with a fly. And it's published by Stackpole Books, the trusted name in fly fishing tomes. Despite the title designation "For Trout," many of the leader and terminal ties are effective and efficient for small to medium saltwater species, too.

Essential Knots is intelligently partitioned into seven sections. It begins with knots for attaching backing to fly reel and runs logically through the full fly fishing system, with a couple of chapters at the end dedicated to multi-hook rigs and strike indicators.

What sets this book apart from the lower order knot books is Mahler's choice to include knots like the 16-20 Knot (a.k.a. Pitzen), Seaguar, Orvis/Becker, and the Eugene Bend, none of which are your everyday knot-book fare. But these are all knots I've used and now champion. Of particular interest to me is Mahler's chapter on leaders and the art and info depicting multi-fly rigs, which will can benefit fishers of waters both sweet and saline.

Simple, clear written descriptions accompany the artwork, but Mahler's visuals are so expertly and vividly rendered that the written is almost unnecessary. And that's a good thing, since trying to follow written directions from a knot book is confusing, like trying to follow driving directions from a slow talker.

You've seen Joe Mahler's illustrations in most all the good fishing publications recently and you'll see much of his work in Jon Cave's new casting book, due out late this year. Pick up Mahler's book and you'll see why the magazines love his illustrations -- they're exceptional and accessible, just like his new book.


What Has The FFF Done For Me?

By Skip Hosfield

This is a question we often hear among club members when they are approached to join the Federation. I suppose it is an attitude to be expected in an age when fly fishing has expanded far beyond anything imagined by those of us who helped to found this international fraternity of fly fisher’s. Speaking as one who served many years in membership development, at both the regional and national level, I shall try to provide a response to this question.

Anyone who was not already a fly fisherman in 1965 when the FFF was founded cannot really know the nature of the world of fly fishing at that time. I have been a fly fisherman all my life. My father was a fly fisherman and I learned it from him, as most people did then. I moved to Oregon in 1958 and I never met another local fly fisherman until the McKenzie Flyfishers was started in 1964.

There were obviously lots of them around, but they didn’t advertise or proselytize. Unless one had a relative or friend who was a fly fisherman, chances are there was no opportunity to learn. Prior to the founding of the McKenzie Flyfishers there was only one fly fishing club in Oregon – the Flyfishers Club of Oregon. Unless you are a member of the Portland business or professional community you have little chance to enjoy the fellowship of other fly fisherman.

Those of us who were fly fishing in 1964 were such a small part of the sport fishing world that we did not even exist in the eyes of those who made our laws and managed our angling resources. There were no magazines devoted to fly fishing. There were very few books written about fly fishing. You had to be living in a major city in order to have access to a fly fishing shop. If you were a fly tier, you were probably self-taught from basic instructions in one of the three or four fly fishing books in print at the time. And you had to order your materials from catalog descriptions. The really
accomplished fly tiers were rare, and most of those were tying professionally full or part-time, and typically they jealously guarded their methods.

Fly rods and tackle in general had changed very little for fifty years. After World War II fiberglass rods were being manufactured but that technology was in its infancy. The big tackle boom was in spinning rods and reels which originated in Europe. Fly fishing was such a small specialized market that it comprised a very small part of the production of the major fishing tackle manufacturers.

All this began to change in 1965. The FFF was founded for the purpose of getting fly fishing clubs linked together in common purpose to promote fly fishing as a favored method of angling and to give fly fishermen a unified voice in the management of our angling resources. Its leaders adopted Lee Wulff’s maxim that, “A good game fish is too valuable to be caught only once.” The FFF waged the fight to establish the principle of catch-and-release.

Another purpose of the FFF was to publish a magazine devoted entirely to fly fishing. No publisher was willing to risk a publishing venture on a market presumed to be so small. With the publication of The Flyfisher in 1968 we had the first magazine exclusively for fly fishing. After the FFF had shown what the potential market could become, commercial fly fishing magazines began to appear.

When the McKenzie Flyfishers organized the original Conclave of Flyfishers in 1965 they established the paradigm for all FFF conclaves which have followed. It would be based on education, information sharing and outreach. It would finally shatter the shell of exclusivity which surrounded this sport in the public mind. The most famous and revered anglers in America would come to these annual gatherings and freely give their time and knowledge. The fly tying demonstrations at FFF conclaves soon attracted tiers from everywhere. Tiers which had been working in isolation for many years were soon coming into contact with one another and sharing methods and ideas. This initiated a fly tying renaissance which continues to this day.

From the nucleus of a dozen or so clubs represented at the first conclave, FFF members have gone out and organized many hundreds of fly fishing clubs throughout the United States, Canada and many other countries throughout the world. The growth of FFF during the 1970s brought forth a corresponding growth in the fly tackle industry bringing an exponential increase in the availability and quality of fly fishing tackle of all description. This growth has been paralleled in the publishing industry which now churns out more magazines, books and videos than anyone could have imagined forty years ago.

Anyone engaged in fly fishing today has benefited in many ways from what the FFF has done and continues to do. The availability of high quality and relatively inexpensive equipment in an astonishing range of choice would not be possible without the growth of the sport which the FFF has fostered. Your fly fishing club would most probably not exist if not for the FFF. The proliferation of fly fishing shows is mostly the result of FFF activity to promote the sport and extend knowledge. Anyone who has attended the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo has the FFF to thank for the experience.

If you fish in Oregon, you can thank the FFF for the fact that efforts to eliminate all regulations restricting certain waters to fly fishing were defeated by the Oregon Council, FFF. If you enjoy the improved fishing on catch-and-release waters, you owe it to the FFF. The fact that fly fishing is now taken quite seriously by the ODFW is the result of efforts by members of the Oregon Council.

In conclusion, when asked by someone what the FFF does for him, turn the question around and ask him what he is prepared to do to continue the work of those who have gone before him, and who created the improved climate for the sport he enjoys today. The very least one should do is to join the organization and thereby help to build a strong membership base which will enable the FFF to remain a strong force in conserving, restoring and educating through fly fishing.

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 11
By Pat Damico – Taken from the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

Why does my line kick at the end of a cast? I was asked his question recently by an excellent caster from our club who practices frequently, which is why he casts so well. He was using a 3 wt rod and as his cast lengthened the end of his line did not straighten very well. In discussing the problem, I asked what kind of leader he was using and he said he did not have a leader or fly on the end of his line. Bruce Richard in his excellent book Modern Fly Lines has the following on pg. 70: "It should be mentioned that the tapered leaders tied to the end of fly lines continue the dissipation of casting energy.....Lines are designed to be cast with leaders. A properly designed line will have just the right amount of energy left at the end of a cast to turn over the leader and deliver the fly. If a line is cast without a leader, it will "kick" and be difficult to cast." A properly designed leader and "fly" will help when you are out lawn casting as much as it will when in a fishing situation.

A Fishing Nightmare
By Jim Gibson - from the St Joe River Valley Fly Fishers Newsletter

On Sept. 7-2010 we were on vacation from SW Michigan and it was the first day of a guided fly fishing trip. I was with my wife, fishing in the Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River in Wyoming and we had just finished lunch. We were situated down in a rocky canyon that was a steep three stories below the ridge. The fish were rising, so I stepped into the river to approach a wade and slipped down into a drop of unexpected speed. When my feet came to rest, I then tried to bend my right knee and it locked into horrible pain. I forcefully extended it and the pain then relaxed. After a short rest, I then tried to use the left leg to get up out of the hole I was in and then to my shock, it also locked up in pain exactly like the right. I then forced the left leg straight and the pain subsided. It was clear any bend in either leg beyond 3 or 4 degrees would result in huge pain and locked knee. After several minutes of reviewing options with my wife and the guide, who was 68 years old and with a bad back, it was clear we were far out of cell phone range in need of help in Grizzly and Rattle Snake country. At 63 years old, I was, without a doubt, in a very ugly fix.

The option of waiting for the guide to go back toward town into cell phone range and return with help would have taken around 3 or more hours. It was getting late. So after forcing myself out of the river using only my arms, pushing in a backward direction while dragging my rear end with extended legs pulling behind, out of the river. I then looked up at the ridge and assessed the situation. I felt I could possibly make it up whole way. As I could not see where I was going, I asked the guide and my wife to point out the best way up as I was moving backward. They would also have to clear the way behind me and help me at times shifting my legs. The guides pickup was at the top of the ridge and I could ride back to the hospital in the back of the pickup. It would be slow, but faster than they could get back to us with a helicopter or something to lift me out of the canyon.

The guide was skeptical, but I felt I could make it. It took us an hour to reach the top. Fortunately, I have good upper body strength and we did not encounter any Rattle Snakes. We reached the Cody Wyoming Hospital around 6 PM. I cannot say enough good things about how well I was treated at Cody Hospital by all I encountered. After X rays and a MRI it was determined that I had a Bilateral Quadriceps tendon rupture and that immediate surgery would be recommended. I had torn the tendons of both legs connecting the quadriceps to the patella. The most common cause of a simultaneous bilateral quadriceps tendon rupture appears to be a sudden, violent contraction of the quadriceps mechanism with the knees slightly flexed and the feet in a fixed position.

I had a choice of first trying to go back to Michigan, braced up and in great pain. I would have had to be heavily doped up I assume. I would then have to try to line up surgery in either Kalamazoo or South Bend. The second choice would be having it done there in Cody immediately and going home for the Post Op. I chose the Cody route and It seems to have been the right choice. The surgery was done at 3PM on Wed. Sept. 8, a day after the event. I was kept there until Sunday morning Sept 12. We left at 9 AM and drove 23 hrs, straight though, back home. My son assisted with the drive and was able to get extended leave to do it. I have lined up South Bend Orthopedic to do the Post Op and have an appointment Friday Sept 17 to have the staples removed. So begins the long 9 to 12 month road back to recovery. My son and his new wife caught over 60 nice trout on the trip. I am sure I would have as well had I stepped in a different spot. I hope we can return in a year or so and try again.
Last week my wife, Lori, and I did a two day guide trip with Michael and his three sons, Jonathan (age 9), Andrew (age 10), and Joshua (age 14) on Dry Run Creek. Lori guided them on the first day and I guided them on the second day. They were first time fly fishers. They were polite, interested and a pleasure to guide.

I must say that Lori took the tough day. When you are introducing new anglers to fly fishing there is a learning curve. At first, exuberant young anglers try to fish too much line, set the hook too hard and tend to try and horse fish in. This generally results in lost flies, tangled lines and lost fish. The trick is to patiently work with them. You untangle their lines, replace their lost flies, work on their casting and explain why they lost the fish. When they do something right, you praise them. Gentle coaching will improve results over time. The proof is in the fishing. On a normal day on Dry Run Creek, many fish will be lost in the morning but the catch rate will improve throughout the day.

Based on the feedback I got from Dad and the boys, Lori did a masterful job. All the lads caught fish and they had a wonderful time. They were eager to continue fishing on the second day and their skills showed solid improvement. The original plan was for me to guide Josh, Andrew and Jonathan on Dry Run Creek in the morning and take Dad out in the afternoon. When I picked them up on the second day, I learned that the guys had so much fun fishing with Lori; they wanted to spend the whole day on the creek. Michael, being a caring father, gave up his afternoon so they could get in another good day of fishing. I knew that I had to step up to the plate, so I set myself a personal goal to have each of the boys land a trophy.

Fishing three anglers can be problematic. You are spread thin at best. I carried an extra boat net and enlisted Michael to help me net fish. We started off fishing hot fluorescent pink San Juan worms. It produced all morning. I rigged them on 4X tippet with a bit of lead to get the fly down to the bottom. I used medium sized Thingamabobbers for strike indicators. They float well and are extremely durable. We concentrated on deep fast water. Most anglers make the mistake of concentrating on big fish they can easily see. If those fish are not actively feeding, move on.

Joshua was the easy one. He landed several big fish. The biggest was a fat twenty five inch brown. I concentrated on working with Andrew and Jonathan. Andrew hooked a big brown. It was an epic struggle that went on for at least fifteen minutes. He was about to surrender to my big boat net when he took one last desperate run under a rock shelf and broke off the fly. Andrew was disappointed but still committed to catching a big one.

Early in the afternoon the catch slowed and we switched flies. We began fishing a size fourteen gray sowbug on the same rig as the San Juan worm. We began picking up fish immediately. I was working with Jonathan and he hooked a big one. He followed my instructions and let the trout run. We were finally able to bring the stout twenty four inch brown to the net. As we were posing for photographs, I went to remove the sowbug and noted another fly in the fish's mouth. I recognized it as one of my San Juan worms. Jonathan had landed the big brown that Andrew had lost an hour or so before. The same trout had fallen for two of my flies.

It was time for Andrew to land a big one. Michael had been working with him and he had hooked several big trout. Once hooked, the big trout were running either up or down stream and escaping into heavy cover. I went over and relieved Michael. The first thing I did was to tighten the drag down on Andrews reel. This is a delicate operation. I wanted the drag to be tight enough to wear down the trout but not too tight or it would allow the trout to break the 4X tippet (about six and a half pound test).

With the tighter drag, Andrew was able to put much more pressure on the trout. This allowed him to maintain tighter control on them and prevent them from moving into heavy cover. He still let them run but they did not run as far or as fast. He landed several nice fish including a fat and sassy twenty inch brown. About the time Michael walked up, he hooked a big one. He fought him hard but Andrew was able to gently work the large trout into my net. We took a minute to pose Andrew, Dad and the big brown. When we released the fish, he ran up under an undercut bank and we could easily see his broad tail only a few feet from us.

We fished for a while longer but it was time to head back home and the guys reluctantly left the creek. They had all caught a lot of trout and each had landed a trophy. There were smiles all around. I was intrigued with the brown that had
been hooked twice. All in all, a great day! Now is the perfect time to fish Dry Run Creek. It is choked with trophy trout and the weather is perfect.

**Regarding Foam Spiders**  
By Clay Gill – Taken from the Alamo Fly Fishers Newsletter

My little Grandson told me “get another one Pappy!” He had been stripping in the fly line as we caught Perch at Canyon Lake. It was misting rain. As hot as it was, it felt good to get wet. Storms were brewing and we were watching the horizon. We had three of our little guys out for a swim—and some Perch jerking. They love to go fishing. My grandson does not like to reel in the fish. He thinks it is cool to strip the fly line. So I hold the rod for him. He often sets the hook too hard.

The ammo that day was—the most “foolproof” fly you can employ for sure bet catching. It is the white foam spider. The fly is segmented two or three times. You Super Glue the body to the thread coated hook shank after cutting a slit in the bottom for hook positioning. There is something about the color white, and sometimes black and yellow. The fly is pestered constantly as soon as it hit’s the water. Fish can’t leave it alone. I guess it does not belong on top of the water. We were getting pops and bloop –non-stop, until a Bluegill got too close. They hit hard!

With the barb bent down flat it is easy to remove the fish. Then you have another kid move up in line to catch another. This is what kids want. Catching,—not fishing, creates Monsters. I started the same way and will never be cured. Back then,—a colorful hard foam popper from Thompson’s Liquor Stores was my bait. Half the store was sporting goods. It was a long time before I saw the connection between Whiskey and lures. It must have been good business? My fly rod was fiberglass with a simple Pfluger fly reel.

When you take these guys out to get started, remember about one in five fish is a Bass. Larger Bass can put a big bend in a fly rod fast. If the kiddos panic it can yank the rod away. The girls scream loud when this happens. But they hang on fairly well. We have been lucky so far. No one has let go yet! But who could get mad?

And why is it—they need to see every fish. “Lemmie look at it”! They need to touch it and look at the eye. When fish flip the girls scream. I would rather do this than boat a Tarpon. Really—it is the best fishing I know of. Perch jerking is crazy fun. It is almost the only thing they never tire of. Kids just love any type of fishing.

I tried a small hard body popper with no legs but switched back to the white-leg/body foam Spider very quickly. The foam model was a small number 10! The Bass still liked it. The legs make it seem much larger lending tremendous action.

I need to tie more. And keep them in the cars. You never know where you might be able to fish. Perch are everywhere. A multi-piece five weight travel rod is easy to hide in your cars. More that once it saved the day with an opportunity.

If you have little guys and want to entertain them for hours,—it is easy. Jump on the internet and select a good “Foam Spider” recipe. Follow the instructions and put it on a 6-7 foot light leader. Tie it with a loop knot so it has life like action at the “hinge”, and head out for Perch water. Just about anywhere is great. If you can see them in the water, you will catch them for sure. Always mash down the barbs!

What helped us was flooded brush at the edge of our lake. Recent rains have put several feet of water over brush that grew on dry shorelines over the summer. Most lake brush was packed with Perch. A cast to the edge and one twitch brought a strike. Many times they just pop it, and swirl around it. Jerking it away is a mistake. They will come right back. They compete for the bugs and are not bashful!

Simple and fun, kiddo’s won’t be bored! Large in rewards,—the lowly Panfish is a mighty warrior for a three year old. Perch jerking is good for everybody. I know adults who downsize daily pressures for a few hours to re-center the soul catching Perch. I have done it myself many times. I catch myself thanking each fish as they return to the water.

Perch jerking is one of the really great things in life. Inexpensive and highly effective,—it can probably best be described as,—“good medicine”.

**My Current Opinion**  
By Capt. Dave Dant – Taken from the Suncoast Flyfishers Club Newsletter

On Wednesday afternoon you get a call from your buddy who had a great day redfish fishing at Fort Desoto Park. They were everywhere, he tells you, and he hooked fish on three consecutive casts. You hang up the phone as excited as you can be. First light on Saturday morning you’ll be on the flat ready to do battle. You spend two nights tying the prettiest
redfish flies ever tied and when you get out of the car on Saturday you’re greeted by light winds and a beautiful sunrise. As you get back in the car at 10 am you can’t understand why you never got a take. Maybe your buddy was fishing deeper. Maybe the water temperature had changed, or maybe those beautiful creations from the other night were not what they wanted after all. You start the car, disappointed with the fishing but satisfied with how beautiful the morning was, and your attention drifts to the yard work that awaits you when you get home, trying to ignore that your buddy is going to rag you on your lack of fish.

All too often this scenario plays out again and again. Your buddy fished three days ago at the middle of an incoming tide as the strong current was pushing the fish across the flat on their way to rest in the cove a quarter mile away. You fished it at the top of incoming water and the first two hours of outgoing water and the flat was barren. What makes this scenario worse is that if you had chosen to fish the cove you would have had the best day fishing you have ever had, or if you had delayed your trip by 3 hours and waded the same flat you would have caught the fish on their way back down the flat.

Most of the time when we talk about current we discuss hard-moving water and how it affects fish on certain structures, such as sand bars, oyster bars, and bridge pylons. This is important for when and how to fish these structures but it doesn’t help us to understand how fish move and where to find fish on different flows of current. There is so much more to the current equation.

Current is what fish travel on. It is the road grid transportation system of the underwater world. This transportation is very complex because it changes everyday depending on wind and tide. It is very difficult to write about because it is so complex, and every bar or basin or pocket on a flat is different due to what’s going on at that particular time. It would take books worth of information just to start to explain, but I’m not going to leave you hanging, so here are some of the basics.

First, remember that tide and current are two different things. Tide relates to depth of water (the vertical movement). High tide is the time at which the depth of water will not get any deeper at that location. Have you gone by a bridge and the water is still coming in even though high tide was an hour ago? In the Florida Keys there are islands that have a three-hour time difference between the front part of the island and the backside. It takes that long for the water to travel through the fingered channels and across flats to fill up behind the island.

Current is the horizontal movement of water. If you are fishing a basin surrounded by a sand bar, and at the top of the incoming tide the water in the basin starts to wash over the sand bar, the water in the basin is not going to get much deeper, but you have a definite current created by the water rushing over the sand bar. Wind can create, strengthen or weaken current.

Second, you will learn about current more quickly if you can touch the bottom of the water you’re fishing. For those of you who know me well, you know I’m not a fan of trolling motors. This is not as much about whether or not they spook fish (that’s another discussion) but it’s because you can’t feel the bottom and you can’t feel the water flow. When you pole about you can clearly feel when the push pole goes from a soft bottom to a much firmer bottom to a hard bottom, and furthermore you can feel when you have to push harder in certain sections of a flat, allowing you to determine where the current line is. The density of the bottom usually relates to the current that pushes across the bottom. Currents carry sediment and when the current slows down the sediment falls to the bottom. As a general rule the softer the bottom the weaker the current. This is not always the case but if you think about lower Tampa bay area flats, most of the flats near channels have hard sand bars on the strong current side and then the flats have grass growing out of the sediment left behind. Anglers that fish out of canoes or kayaks can feel the current as they paddle along and of course anglers who wade can see their fly line floating down current of them.

Third, you may not always want to look for fish where the current is strongest. Depending on your target species and a whole bunch of other variables, you may want to fish in an area into which the current pushed the fish, but now they are happy lying around in fairly calm water.

Fourth, places that two currents meet or split are great places to fish.
Fifth, when you find schools of bait fish, they are usually swimming into the current. When schools of predator fish are balling bait and pushing them to the surface, once the school of bait fish disperses to the point that the predator fish fall off, the school of bait will reassemble into a tight ball and swim into the current, where the whole process starts over again. Rather than riding your boat into the fish frenzy, if you set up current of the last place the fish surfaced, and turn your motor off, this will usually result in the fish resurfacing where you are.

Sixth, as the current travels along a flat or a bar on an incoming tide, as the water rises there is a weaker but definite current pushing the fish shallower. Fish react to both the strong current along the bar and the weaker current pushing shallower across the bar.

To catch fish day in and day out you need to fully understand currents and what the target species want with what the current is doing at that time. The way to learn this is to start by every place you fish, ask yourself: what is the current doing at this time? How is the underwater structure (even from miles away) affecting where I’m fishing now? Where are the channels and finger channels? Does the area I’m fishing having a gradually sloping bottom or a quick rise or fall? Is the bottom firm or soft? Where are the cuts in the bar or the depressions in the flat?

In the olden days we didn’t have the computer and we had to rely on charts to understand water flow. Now with aerial photos it is very easy to see the cuts and the water bleeding into certain locations. One little trick you can use next time you’re out is to take three pieces of citrus from the tree in your back yard and throw them out in different directions on the flat and watch them drift. You may just learn something.

Although the underwater environment in which fish live is much different than the environment above, in which we live, we can understand something about fish behavior by drawing some similarities. If you had to walk a long journey across an open plain in any direction in a twenty-knot wind you would probably walk down wind making your walk easier, unless there were dollar bills blowing down wind, and then you would turn around and try to increase your wealth by grabbing them. If you were surrounded by a bunch of other people you would try to get to the front, to get the first shot at the money. Fish don’t need dollars, they need food, and if you think about the current being wind in this scenario you can start to get a feel for how it affects fish. Sometime that food is blown into an area by that current and the current leads the fish right to it.

Do your homework, think about how the water is flowing and how hard it’s flowing and use it to catch fish.

**Upcoming FFF Council Conclaves**

**FFF Great Lakes Council - Fly Tying Expo**
December 4, 2010

**FFF Oregon Council - NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo**
March 12 - 13, 2011
Linn County Fair & Expo Center
[http://www.lcfairexpo.com/indexsite.htm](http://www.lcfairexpo.com/indexsite.htm)

**Keep Informed and Spread The Word**
We need more clubs to join the ranks to help in the conservation and education efforts of the FFF. If you would like to start a club or know of a club that might be interested in affiliating with the FFF please direct them to the Club Information pages below:

Please send an e-mail to [fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org) should your club have a fishing / tying event / banquet. We would like to add these events to our web site calendar of events. Provide the date, location, name of your club and a website address that I can link to direct our members for more information. The events calendar is on the following web page [http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4513](http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4513)