FEATURES

36 The Wapsi Story
The world’s largest fly tying materials company
By Terry and Roxanne Buszek

50 A Legacy of Excellence
Tom Morgan shapes the modern rod industry.
By Jerry Kustich

76 Focus on the Fly
Grayling flies

78 Biology on the Fly
Conserving a native species

95 Fly Tips
How to revive slimed CDC

98 Casting
Reeling, piling and parachuting

104 Fly Fishing Humor
Dr. Grayling will see you now

108 2016 Fly Fishing Fair Recap

138 2016 Photo Contest Winners

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The Federation really is a unique organization of fly fishers, but I suspect many of you, like me, didn't discover that until you joined. And you probably wouldn't have joined unless a friend invited you. Some of you still may not know a lot about the Federation and what it does for fly fishers. Herein lies our problem. We are some of the best fly tiers, casters, fishers and even teachers in the world, but we don't communicate with each other and our members as well as we should, and we certainly don't tell nonmembers who enjoy the outdoors who we are or that we even exist. The result is that people like me invite others like me to join, and that is not adequate to grow and achieve the success vital to our organization. Fortunately, we understand this and the general solution is a priority we – President Len Zickler, the Board and myself – are addressing.

I didn't know what the International Federation of Fly Fishers (Federation) was when I joined. It wasn't an international organization at the time. My fly-tying instructor and mentor encouraged me to join, and the notion of connecting with a group of fly tiers and fishers was compelling.

He had motives that didn't occur to me until after a few classes when he recommended that I, one of his students, tie flies at what was then called “conclaves.” I attended and still remember my first impression of that event: “This is one of the most dedicated and sharing groups of folks I've ever encountered.” I enjoyed the group and new opportunities to learn more about fly tying and fly fishing seemed endless at these events we now refer to as International Fly Fishing Fairs.

I was a wildlife biologist supervising Florida's wildlife and endangered species research program. It wasn't long before then chairman of our conservation committee, Verne Lehmberg, invited me to join that committee. Little did I imagine that today I would become a Senior Conservation Advisor and also have this incredible opportunity to serve as your Chairman of the Board of Directors. And, I am honored.
From The Chairman of the Board

Our work actually began more than a year ago when we started developing a new Strategic Plan that is based on the Mission Statement, which is to support and preserve fly fishing opportunities where they naturally occur around the world. We intend to do this by doing what we do best—teach all aspects of fly fishing and expand our efforts to engage in activities that advocate conservation of our natural areas that support fish and their habitats. You will soon hear about the Fly Fishing Academy that will deliver planned educational opportunities for our members and those who want to become accomplished fly fishers and future members of our organization. You also will hear a renewed emphasis on the statement made years ago by Founder Lee Wulff—by teaching a person to fly fish, we create a conservation steward of tomorrow. We recognize that through education we improve our skills and enjoyment of fly fishing. Yet it is through conservation of our natural resources that we assure this enduring opportunity for ourselves, our children and future members of the Federation.

We also contracted with a company that specializes in “branding” to develop our message. This will define clearly and simply what we are and deliver that message so nonmembers recognize our brand, remember it and join in support. That brand and message is the central theme of our education, conservation, fundraising, membership growth and services.

Now there’s one more important detail. I commented earlier that we don’t communicate well within our organization. Len and I are sensitive to this and are committed to improving timely communications from headquarters through councils and clubs and receiving their communications. So, please watch your club and council newsletters and websites, E-news and the Federation website and certainly look to our articles in next issues of Flyfisher.

We fully intend to enhance the value of your membership and grow our organization and its visibility among those who share the outdoors, especially with fly rod in hand. Don’t hesitate to ask questions and make suggestions to Len or me. We need you to achieve our mission and encourage younger women and men to join and enjoy fly fishing. What we do today assures the health of fisheries and our opportunities to fly fish tomorrow!

The Federation really is a unique organization of fly fishers, but I suspect many of you, like me, didn’t discover that until you joined.

From The President and CEO

I am very excited to assume the reins of the IFFF as your President and CEO. I look forward to continuing my close relationship with our new Chairman of the Board, Tom Logan. Together we have outlined a plan of action to implement the strategic vision the organization adopted in Bend, Oregon, in 2015.

Some exciting changes are coming. As Tom and I travel and talk to clubs and councils, we are very sensitive to the questions: “What is the organization doing for me?” “Why should I join the organization?”

Perhaps some of you have asked these same questions. I find that most people who’ve been involved have an easy time with the answer. Like me, many of you take away more from the organization than you invest. I find great joy in sharing the gift of fly fishing.

I will never forget the first time I took my grandfather’s cane pole to a stream near the family’s summer cabin. While I had no clue what I was doing and flailed away with the old pole, I felt like the last boy in the woods! I came to love the outdoors, the natural world, clean water and wildlife.

This is a legacy we should all want to share. I’ve shared this experience with my sons and daughters, and now with my grandchildren. I’m really proud of my children, because as Founder Lee Wulff suggested, when we create fly anglers we create the conservation stewards of tomorrow.

SHARING THE FLY FISHING LEGACY

By Len Zickler, President and CEO

I am very excited to assume the reins of the IFFF as your President and CEO. I look forward to continuing my close relationship with our new Chairman of the Board, Tom Logan. Together we have outlined a plan of action to implement the strategic vision the organization adopted in Bend, Oregon, in 2015.

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continued on next page ...
It is through our organization’s conservation and education programs that we grow. We have committed ourselves to conservation through protecting public access, a variety of conservation projects and support for public policy protecting clean water and healthy habitat.

The Fly Fishing Academy is designed to develop world-class curriculum in fly fishing skills, fly casting, fly tying and conservation.

Stay tuned for several specific new benefit programs designed to support councils and members at the club level. We continue our desire to help councils and clubs to remain a strong voice in support of the fly fishing community. We hope to roll out these new programs in early 2017.

We are busy continuing to support our members and the legacy of our quiet sport.

As I reflect on my early days back on the stream, chasing fish and observing nature – and how they shaped my life – I believe it’s vital we all seek ways to ensure that the legacy of fly fishing continues so others can experience the joy that is only found on the water! Tight lines!

How to Tie!!
Wonder Wings

By Gretchen & Al Beatty
GAB Publishing, 2016

12 chapter e-book, $4.99/download
This is a first in a series of fly-tying books that teaches the reader how to tie a single discipline and do it well. In this book, the reader will learn how to tie Wonder Wing flies from soup to nuts so to speak. You will learn how to “manufacture” the perfect set of wings in much less time than it takes to “locate” them by searching through a bunch of feathers or a neck. Have you noticed how elusive the perfect set of wings can be to find? That will never again happen when you can “make” them quickly using large size cape feathers, pheasant body feathers, mallard, blue-eared pheasant, etc. The book leads the reader through a standard Wonder Wing application then teaches how to improve the design to provide a better on-the-water experience. Most of the flies illustrated in the book are divided, standing-up wings, but it also includes the same wings with a parachute hackle application and a range of Trude-style applications. The instructions will advance your fly tying experience AND get you on the water faster. Try it, you’ll like it!
Kuni Masuda began fly fishing in Idaho in the late 1970s. Work took Masuda to Boise and the inviting rivers invoked memories of fishing Tenkara as a boy with his grandfather in Japan.

Memorable fishing experience
Idaho’s Silver Creek north of Boise was his favorite destination. The drive from Boise through rolling fields of alfalfa and time on the water were a welcome relief from Masuda’s tech job, but he wasn’t having much fishing success. He was getting the hang of casting but the fish ignored his fly until one afternoon in July 1979 when another fisherman lent Masuda a hand.

The stranger in a wool hat and canvas vest demonstrated the importance of a soft drift as the fly moved over holding fish, and how to set a hook. He also gave Masuda a trico spinner. “The tiny fly sat low in the water, probably a size 22 or 24,” Masuda said, remembering. “It was a perfect day on the river, recalled Masuda. “My regret is that I wish I had kept his name.”

Reason for being a member
During the summer, he met many fishermen on Silver Creek who were Federation members and in the early 1980s he attended the FFFWI Expo in Boise. He saw expert fly tying for the first time and watched a caster deftly cast a line more than 80 feet and happily show others how. Masuda was impressed with the knowledge Federation members had and their willingness to share. That is how he has approached the sport ever since.

What others say
“Whether it is sharing the water, fly patterns, rod building or just a good time, he is generous to a fault,” said Bart Phillips, a frequent fishing partner. “The man loves to fish and he loves to solve fishing problems. I am not sure what drives what but he is focused on trying to find the right fly and right technique for the occasion.”

Added fishing friend Timothy Buckley: “He is one of the most experienced fly fishers, and innovative and skilled fly tiers I know, and yet watching him on a stream or lake is like watching a child make discoveries for the first time.” And Masuda doesn’t hesitate to share his knowledge and enthusiasm.

“I have witnessed Kuni sharing his observations with complete strangers,” Buckley recalled. “From a distance I watched Kuni effortlessly strike up the conversation. When it was clear the other guy had not been having any success I watched Kuni pop open his fly box and begin showing him the flies that were working for us.”

It’s a practice that benefited Masuda as he learned the sport 45 years ago and a reason he serves as an IFFF director today. “The Federation has become a way to give back the encouragement and knowledge I received from its members,” Masuda said. It’s a way to say thanks to the fisherman in a wool cap and canvas vest who was so important that long ago afternoon on Silver Creek.

This profile was written by Steve Jones, a retired writer from The Wall Street Journal and member of Kuni Masuda’s club in Vancouver, Washington.
Matanuska Lake Access Stabilization Project
By Jan Schnorr

Four years ago, I recommended the Alaska Fly Fishers (AFF) undertake a project to stabilize, rehabilitate and improve a well-used float tubing access site at Matanuska Lake near Palmer, Alaska. This informally created float-tube launch area had become increasingly unstable. Following AFF approval, I began seeking information and assistance because I had no stabilization expertise and AFF had not undertaken any similar projects in the recent past.

Matanuska Lake is part of the Alaska State Park system, so I contacted Dan Amyot, Alaska Department of Natural Resources (DNR), who explained the permit process. During the next several years, we developed and modified plans based on DNR recommendations. We eliminated rebar in the plan for anchoring due to frost heave problems; instead 8-by-8-inch treated timbers were anchored using sideboards to stabilize the 12-step staircase. Sideboards were attached to the timbers using four, 6-inch TimberLok screws on each side. This proved to be a challenge as most of the staircase required digging into the slope. During the next several years, we would need construction and bank rehabilitation expertise I lacked. I then reached out to Southcentral Trout Unlimited (TU) to gage its interest in partnering with AFF. It graciously offered to share its rehabilitation expertise and cover some costs.

During the next several years, we developed and modified plans based on DNR recommendations. We eliminated rebar in the plan for anchoring due to frost heave problems; instead 8-by-8-inch treated timbers were anchored using sideboards to stabilize the 12-step staircase. Sideboards were attached to the timbers using four, 6-inch TimberLok screws on each side. This proved to be a challenge as most of the staircase required digging into the slope.

Since float tubers would be using the trail using a four-wheeler and 5-gallon buckets. After that project, we moved inch deep step runs but soon found leveling timbers and packing soil that was not possible. Due to the steep slope, we had to reduce the step runs in size to 12 to 15 inches to keep an 8-inch step rise (a nationally recognized size). Since we were stabilizing a steep slope, we needed additional fill soil and soils back along with transplanted gravel. Fortunately, we had access to vegetation and leaves on top to make the park’s gravel pit; all we (12 AFF and TU volunteers) had to do was move the fill material 150 yards down a narrow

Before the project, the bank was steep and unstable.
This project has been a wonderful learning experience for AFF club members and me. Many thanks go to Kleweno for serving as “engineer and project foreman;” Eric Booton (Southcentral TU) for rounding up TU volunteers; John Brown (AFF and TU) for his four-wheeler to haul gravel; Amyot for guidance in securing the DNR permit; and all the volunteers who brought their enthusiasm, energy and willingness to work on this project.

After the AFF project, access to the lake was much easier and safer for area float-tubers.

For those interested, the National Parks Service website at fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/trail-management/trailplans/ has numerous documents about stabilizing trails, stairs and the re-vegetation process.

Jan Schnorr of Anchorage, Alaska, is a longtime member of the Alaska Fly Fishers and an avid fly fisher who loves float tubing on lakes and introducing the sport to others. After retiring from university teaching, she served for 10 years as a member-at-large on the board of directors and spearheaded numerous activities. She now co-directs the Project Healing Waters Anchorage program.

New York County Donates To Veterans Fly Fishing Program

By Gabe Osterhout

Broome County (New York) recently donated $10,000 to the local fly fishing program for veterans to pay for travel to fishing destinations and lessons. Broome County Executive Debbie Preston, Broome County legislators, IFFF BC Flyfishers Club and Director of Veteran Services Brian Vojtisek joined the Broome County Veterans Fly Fishing Program recently to discuss the donation.

“As you know, veterans hold a very special place in my heart and I’m willing to help them out in any way that I can,” Preston said. “Fly fishing is a wonderful activity and I’m on board with anything we can do to help our local veterans live the best possible life they can after sacrificing a part of their life for this country.”

The mission of the Veteran Fly Fishers is to lift the morale and support the welfare of Broome County veterans. “We want to thank the county executive and Brian Vojtisek in the Veterans Services Office for this wonderful donation,” said Gary Romanic, vice president of the Broome County Veterans Fly Fishing program. “This money will go a long way in not only getting the veterans to prime fly fishing areas, but also to provide instruction to those who have never fished before.”

He added: “This program fits into our mission of helping veterans financially and in adjusting to a return to civilian life.”

Nick DiNunzio for the BC Flyfishers was the contact for this story about the one-time donation.

For more information contact Gabe Osterhout: 607-341-3164 gosterhout@co.broome.ny.us.
A Youth Fly Fishing Experience
Washington State Council hosts event
By John M. Newbury

On May 2-3, members of the Washington State Council (WSC), the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, the Spokane Fly Fishers, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing, and an entomologist from the Washington State Department of Natural Resources office in Colville, shared their passion for fly fishing with the students of Jenkins High School in Chewelah, Washington. During the two-day event, the students were introduced to aquatic entomology, fly tying and fly casting. This highly successful event presented fly fishing to 385 students.

The students were attentive, well behaved, polite and thankful. After the classes, many of the students shared their appreciation with the volunteer instructors telling them “thank you” and shaking their hands. Some of the students were “born naturals” when it came to tying a fly and casting. Hopefully someday, they will have the same passion for the lifetime recreational activity that the volunteer instructors brought to the event.

Since the event, I’ve received several calls from parents wishing to know where and what to buy their children so that they can get started fly fishing. I have been asked to return to the high school the last week of classes this year to teach a full day of fly tying to 25-30 students wanting to advance their skills. The fly fishing educational experience was a huge success!

The WSC wants to conduct a number of these “introduction-to-fly-fishing experiences” each year throughout the state to help ensure new fly fishers for generations to come and stewards of our beloved waters.

John M. Newbury of Chewelah, Washington, is Vice President of Education for the WSC.

Buszek Award recipient Jim Ferguson is just one of many fly-tying demonstrators who will share their skills at the 2017 expo.

Photo by John Kimura

Oregon Council
Invests in your fly fishing future
By Sherry Steele

The Oregon Council (ORC) of the International Federation of Fly Fishers’ (IFFF) annual Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Expo is March 10-11 in Albany.

The council has held the expo for 28 years. The purpose is to give back to IFFF members and everyone who enjoys the sport of fly-fishing.

The expo focuses on education and networking among companies and individuals both domestic and worldwide. Our ORC members believe the more we get people together the more we learn.

Conservation of our waters is of utmost importance. The volunteers (200) that help host this annual event are key to our success. The funds raised during this two-day expo are used for scholarships, conservation and IFFF club grants.

The event grows bigger and stronger every year because fly fishers care about the fish and our beautiful waters. We invite everyone from anywhere to join the expo, take one of the 95 classes, visit with representatives from 50 companies that provide products and services, watch more than 200 fly tyers teach their art and learn to cast to enhance chances of success with that elusive fish.

Join the more than 2,500 people who have fun, network and help protect our waters. For more information, visit www.nwexpo.com.

Sherry Steele is council president and expo chairperson, steelefly@msn.com

The highly successful WSC event introduced 385 students to fly fishing.
The favorite grayling fly, the Parachute Adams.

Survey Results for Grayling Flies

Survey Results for Grayling Flies

FEDERATOR'S FAVORITE FLIES

And the favorite grayling pattern is ...
In 2016 the completion of the Willow Lane Boat Ramp was celebrated at a September 29 ribbon-cutting ceremony. Cutting the ribbon (from left) are Tom Governale (ITY of Boise Superintendent of Parks), Paul Roberts (Division Chief Boise Fire Department) and Jim Kazakoff (BVFF Treasurer).

Three Receive Cuttcatch Reward

Senior Conservation Adviser Rick Williams recently announced that three members completed the Cuttcatch Challenge: Bryan K. McBride, Vic Kopnitsky and W. Todd Humphrey. The challenge encourages IFFF members to catch four subspecies of cutthroat trout.

Bryan K. McBride

California’s Bryan K. McBride of Bakersfield started his adventure August 4, 2016, on George Creek in Box Elder County (Utah) when a 12-inch Yellowstone cutthroat inhaled his Elk Hair Caddis. The creek is on the upper north side George Peak. The next day on Wolf Creek in Weber County he caught his second fish when a 7-inch Bonneville cutthroat took his Elk Hair Caddis. Several days later on August 8 in Lincoln County, Wyoming, he found LaBarge Creek – a great place to advance his Cuttcatch Challenge goal. There he captured a 14-inch Colorado cutthroat on another Elk Hair Caddis. His journey was concluded the next day when a Black Leech tricked a 14-inch Snake River cutthroat living in the Grey’s River into inhaling it. The river is located in Lincoln County, Wyoming.

Bryan McBride traveled to two states to capture his Cuttcatch Challenge Award, taking a little less than a week to complete his goal. What about all of you reading this announcement? Are you up to the challenge? Let us know if you have completed the challenge so we can feature you in this section of the Flyfisher.

continued on next page...
Vic Kopnitsky
New York’s Vic Kopnitsky of Oneida managed to capture four subspecies of cutthroat trout from June to August 2016. His adventure started on June 6, on Sharktooth Creek in Fresno County, California, when a 8.5-inch Paiute cutthroat inhaled his size 16 Adams; the location on the creek was near the waterfalls. A few weeks later on July 10, on Rio Costilla in Taos County, New Mexico, he caught his second fish when a 9.75-inch Rio Grande cutthroat took his size 16 Dorato Hare’s Ear. Then August 21 in Yellowstone National Park, Wyoming, he found the East Fork of Specimen Creek above the manmade dam – a great place to advance his Cuttcatch Challenge goal. There he captured a 9-inch Westslope cutthroat on another Dorato Hare’s Ear.

His journey concluded several days later when a size 16 Adams tricked an 11.5-inch Greenback cutthroat living in Zimmerman Lake in Larimer County, Colorado.

Kopnitsky traveled to four states to capture his Cuttcatch Challenge Award, taking a little less than three months to complete his goal.

W. Todd Humphrey
California’s W. Todd Humphrey of Redlands traveled to two states to capture his Cuttcatch Challenge Award taking a little more than a year to complete his goal. He could have stopped there but ‘just meeting the goal’ wasn’t good enough for him.

During the next several years, he caught seven more subspecies of cutthroat trout and on many of them he used a Tenkara rod. The seven cutthroat trout included Snake River fine-spotted, Yellowstone and Bonneville (July 2012); Alvord (July 2013); Humboldt and Colorado (July 2016); and Bear River (June 2016).

We think Humphrey has set a new bar for everyone reading this announcement. Are you up to the challenge? Let us know if you have completed the challenge so we can feature you in this section of the Flyfisher.
Fly Tying Olympics
Get awarded for fly-tying skills
By Al Ritt

I don’t know many fly tiers who aren’t interested in improving their skills. It may be a matter of wanting to add a new pattern to our box. Or it may be the enjoyment of mastering something new. We all run up against challenges we feel we can conquer, but are a struggle. With experience, we unravel the intricacies of new techniques independently but often it’s a time-consuming trial and error process. Even upon completion, we often wonder if there was an easier way or a technique that could have resulted in a more durable fly. Maybe you have a mentor for help. Online videos can be helpful, but if unsure if you can trust the video? What is the producer’s skill level as a tier and teacher? Where should you turn?

The International Federation of Fly Fishers is a successful and trusted teaching resource since its inception. Several years ago, a group of tiers within the Federation formed a focus group dedicated to helping tiers become better teachers, demonstrators and tiers. That group is the IFFF Fly Tying Group and it recently launched a program that is enjoyable and educational, the Fly Tying Skills Award Program. Members are probably familiar with awards such as the Buz Buszek Fly Tying, Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching and recently established Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement awards. Recipients of these awards are nominated, reviewed and voted on. The Fly Tying Skills Awards are self-motivated. Labeled bronze, silver and gold, such as Olympic medals, Fly Tying Skills Awards are initiated by the recipient as they progress through the three levels. How do you achieve each award? Learn a set of skills and techniques as you tie the flies in each level of the program. The Bronze Award teaches relatively basic, but crucial fundamental skills. Ideally participants work with a mentor, but that is not a requirement. The completed set of flies is submitted to an evaluator who confirms proportions, consistency and other criteria. The evaluator scores and comments on the flies. Then that evaluation is double checked by a second evaluator. The intent is to verify the skills and instructions are understood and the techniques are mastered. It also provides feedback to the participant to expand the learning process. Following completion of each stage, the participant moves to the next level until all three are achieved. Each successive level requires more advanced techniques and builds on skills already mastered.

To journey down the fly-tying improvement path, visit the IFFF website, click on the “Tying” drop-down menu, then select the “Fly Tying Skills Awards Program” or Click Here.

Good luck, I am anxious to see your flies! 🎣

Al Ritt is co-chair and board of governor’s member of the Fly Tying Group and author of the book, “25 Best Most Versatile Flies” (Stonefly Press, $39.95)

The 2016 Buz Buszek Memorial Award Recipient Jim Ferguson of Salem, Oregon is one of several members who have earned the Gold Award. Other members, as of this publication, are Frank Johnson (Sheridan, Wyoming) and your editors Gretchen and Al Beatty (Boise, Idaho).

“Hooked on Fly Fishing from A to Z” is a wonderful introduction to the world of fly fishing. Often seen as complex or intimidating, this graceful form of fishing is anything but, and this book shows young readers just how easy it can be. Broken down into simple-to-understand pieces, children can quickly connect the dots on how to get started in this amazing sport, literally from A to Z.

Book orders: 504-251-8800 or walgamotte.shannon@gmail.com

Support The IFFF
Conservation
Restoration
Education

Hooked on Fly Fishing from A to Z
Beverly Vidrine

FLYFISHER Fall 2016 - Winter 2017
Onchorhynchus

Committee advocates for wild steelhead and salmon

By Pete Soverel

T
o provide advice to the IFFF on salmon/steelhead conservation, management and policy, I will highlight current onchorhynchus (salmon, steelhead, searun cutthroat) conservation issues in which the IFFF Steelhead Committee (SC) has been engaged in or, in my view, ought to be under its charter.

I have been a member since inception in 1984 and served as chair from 1989-1999. The Steelhead Committee, open to all interested IFFF members, meets three times a year typically in Seattle or Portland. I will touch on the many issues the SC participated in over the past 30-plus years to give you a sense of our work, which has furthered more progress/science-based wild steelhead/salmon management.

MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

The Osprey: International Journal of Steelhead and Salmon Conservation. SC has published three times a year continuously since 1987. Authors include the luminaries of our sport, leading biologists, resource managers and legal experts. The Osprey is the authoritative source on steelhead/salmon conservation, management, philosophy and policy. You may browse past issues archived at www.ospreysteelhead.org/archives.htm. Please make a supporting gift through the IFFF website.

Sadly, West Coast wild steelhead and salmon are in deep trouble. Most populations are either already extinct or listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The causes are many but at heart, this deplorable state of affairs is the result of misguided management policies which have persisted in the face of overwhelming evidence of failure for decades. For flavor, consider the words of Assistant Secretary of the Interior W.W. Gardner, recommending that the Interior Secretary abandon preservation of Columbia/Snake salmon and steelhead:

"...the departmental committees have each assumed that the Columbia River fisheries cannot be allowed indefinitely to block the full development of the other resources of the river. If these fisheries were to be preserved...8 potential projects (i.e. dams) on the Columbia and 5 on the Snake would have to be abandoned."

Although these words were written 70 years ago, they continue to form the underlying basis for management decisions on the Columbia and other watersheds to this day. For example, since listings under the ESA 20-plus years ago, the federal government has yet to produce a plan (Biological Opinion - BIOI) to recover listed Columbia/Snake salmon and steelhead. Each of the five half-hearted BIOPs has been roundly rejected by the federal courts.

The logical take-away is that if the programs were state and federal management agencies are not likely to adopt/implement management practices that actually conserve steelhead. Under these circumstances, SC as the IFFF agent, has been a lead plaintiff joining with other like-minded conservation organizations in a series of lawsuits aimed at forcing management agencies to adopt policies that comply with the law:

• Challenged the legality of the federal Columbia River Biological Opinions. In each case, the courts have rejected the federal plans which, to my mind, simply confirm Gardner’s prescription for 70 years ago – the fisheries have to go.

• Sequential petitions under the ESA, which finally led to federal ESA listings for most West Coast salmon and steelhead stocks. These listings provide powerful tools to force management changes and are the underpinnings of SC lawsuits:

1. Challenging Elwha River hatchery-based recovery plan
2. Securing court prohibition of construction of a new steelhead hatchery on the Skagit River (Grandy Creek)
3. Puget Sound steelhead management

Policies: Puget Sound hatchery compliance and federal steelhead recovery plan

POLICY LEADERSHIP

SC has been continuously represented on a policy advisory group charged with advising the director of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife on steelhead and cutthroat management. In that capacity, we have been successful in:

• Developing, then securing Wildlife Commission approval of a Statewide Steelhead Management Policy
• Guiding steelhead management and conservation

In sum, your Steelhead Committee has been in the forefront of salmon and steelhead conservation and public outreach (The Osprey) throughout its 30-plus years of existence – all for very modest investments. I look forward to briefing you periodically on contemporaneous conservation issues and welcome your thoughts and suggestions. Contact Pete Soverel at soverel@msn.com.

Pete Soverel is the past chair of the IFFF Steelhead Committee.
Robert Marshall Cunningham, II

Robert Marshall Cunningham, II, 98, of Bartlesville, Oklahoma died on Monday, August 29, 2016 at his home.

Cunningham and Dave Whitlock were co-founders of the Green Country (Oklahoma) Fly Fishers, an IFFF club. During the years, he received many Federation awards including Midwest Council Special Award ('75); President’s Pin ('75); Don Harger Memorial Life Membership Award ('81); Man of the Year ('82); Conservation Award ('79 and '82); Order of the Lapis Lazuli ('87); Southern Council Outstanding Federator ('84); Teacher of the Year ('86); and White and North Fork River Association’s Outstanding Contributions to Catch and Release Practices ('90).

Besides his fly-fishing interests, he was very active with the Eagles Lodge and with the East Cross United Methodist Church (ECUMC) as a prayer ministry. He was also a 32nd Degree Mason.

He was born to Robert M. and Minnie Foërschler Cunningham, in Portland, Colorado, on February 14, 1918. He married Hazel Marie Hitch on June 6, 1938, in Clovis, New Mexico. He is survived by their children Roberta Cunningham Straight and Robert M. Cunningham III and their spouses James W. and Brenda, and grandchildren and great-grandson William H. Straight, Suzanne Straight Miller, and Richard Lloyd Cunningham and his son Joshua. He is preceded in death by his wife Hazel, parents, brothers James and Earl Cunningham and sister Ruth Phillips Evans. He married Sylvia T.C. Wood in Mustang, Oklahoma on November 22, 2000, and is survived by her children and their families, Frank C. Wood and wife Karen and their daughter Shelby Wood and Robert G. Wood and wife Nita and their son Christopher and wife Kaytie and their daughter, Abby Wood.

Memorial services for Cunningham were September 10 at the ECUMC. Cremation arrangements were under the direction of the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory. A memorial fund was established and those who wish may send their contributions to: Oklahoma Firefighters Burn Camp, c/o Green Country Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 1053, Bartlesville, Oklahoma, 74005.

Information from the Bartlesville Examiner Enterprise and the Stumpff Funeral Home & Crematory website.

Carol LaBranche

After 6 long years, on October 8, Carol LaBranche of Roseburg, Oregon, lost her battle with metastatic breast cancer. She was a warrior through and through. Many of you probably never knew the struggle that was happening inside because of her cheerful smile and positive attitude on the outside.

Carol was always willing to lend a hand, take on a new role and do whatever she could for others. After learning to fly fish in the early 2000s, she helped start the Umpqua Valley Fly Fishers in Roseburg. It was during this time that she began her involvement with the Oregon Council IFFF where she would later become its Secretary. She also worked to make the Albany show a success each year. In 2012, the Oregon Council recognized Carol’s contributions with the Federator of the Year award.

In addition to those roles, one of her more meaningful ones was to start the very first Oregon chapter of Casting for Recovery in 2004. Carol played a vital part of the program to the end. She was passionate about helping others struggling with breast cancer.

The fly fishing community, her family and friends have lost an irreplaceable friend. She was a one-of-a-kind person who has left her mark on all people fortunate enough to know her. She will be missed!

Information provided by Kim DeVries.

FLYFISHER Fall 2016 - Winter 2017
Jack L. Pangburn

Westbury, New York, resident and longtime IFFF member, Jack Pangburn passed away on Tuesday, September 20, 2016. He was a talented fly tier and artist who was a spiritual man giving freely of his time and talent. He donated artwork, books, flies, photography and his time to organizations he loved. Flyfisher editors, Gretchen and Al Beatty, were honored to receive a copy of his self-published wet-fly book and several fly pattern artworks rendered in colored pencil and line drawing. He often contributed to Flyfisher magazine; his last article on Green Drakes was published in the Spring/Summer 2016 issue.

Pangburn was a respected world-class fly tier, winning the world class open competitions at Partridge of Redditch (United Kingdom), the Mustad Scandinavian Open (Elverum, Norway), the World Tuscany Open, and the World Fly Tying Competition (Sansepolcro, Italy). That's a rare accomplishment for an American fly tier.

His original patterns and artwork appeared regularly in numerous magazines including this IFFF publication. He has been an Orvis fly tying instructor and an active member in a number of outdoor organizations including the IFFF. Jack was an ardent fly fisher and a participating conservationist. His greatest pleasure was fly fishing the streams in the Adirondack and Catskill Mountains.

He was the beloved husband of Shirley, loving father of Gregg, Cynthia Woebse, Debra Cangemi and Glenn. He was also the grandfather of Michael, Matthew, Lauren, Jacalyn, Sean, Brittany and Marissa and the great grandfather of Holly and Scott III.

Funeral services by Thomas F. Dalton Funeral Homes were September 24. Donations to the American Diabetes Association are appreciated.

Information is from the Thomas F. Dalton Funeral Homes, a Tom McCoy e-mail and your editors Gretchen and Al Beatty.

Margaret “Maggie” Merriman

Margaret “Maggie” Merriman, “Fly Fishing Lady of the West” passed away September 30, 2016. She was 80 years old. She was born to Harold Merriman and Catherine Sinnott on September 26, 1936, in Pasadena, California. Both parents were excellent fly fishermen. Maggie and her sister, Kathleen, learned from an early age how to fish and tie flies during time spent on the North Umpqua River in Oregon, the Gallatin River and the streams within Yellowstone National Park.

In 1958, Maggie graduated from the University of Arizona with a degree in fine arts. After extensive world traveling with her close friend Patsy Drummond Decker, she returned to the states and attended the Art Center School of Design in Los Angeles where she won several awards. She acquired her teaching certificate from USC and taught in Germany for one year. Maggie then traveled throughout Europe before settling in Sausalito, California, where she worked in wholesale furniture and art galleries, and produced modern art. As one of America's premier fly fishing instructors, Maggie began her long career by teaching fly casting and fly fishing techniques at the Nine Quarter Circle Ranch in the early 1970s. In 1978, she founded Maggie Merriman Fly Fishing Schools, which focused on woman anglers, and operated in Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming, Nevada and California. She excelled at teaching the art of proper casting techniques.

In 1981, Maggie worked as a design consultant for a fly rod manufacturer, developing her signature series fly rod for women. A year later, she designed and manufactured the first women's fishing vest, and launched a series of fishing accessories under her own label. She performed casting demonstrations, slide shows and lectures to fishing clubs, sport shows, and taught classes at the annual national Federation Fly Fishers Conclave. As a member of the Outdoor Writers of America, Maggie wrote for Fly Fishing Heritage, as well as authored a regular column on women's issues for Flyfisher, FFF’s national publication. Between 1995 and 1998 she created and coordinated the FFF National Women's Educational Fly Fishing Program. The Federation honored her in 1995 as ‘Woman of the Year,’ and again in 2003 as one of the “Legends of Fly Fishing.” In 2004, the International Women Fly Fishers awarded her the “Shining Star.” In the 1980s she met professor Paul Brown, her partner in life. They spent years fishing, teaching and traveling together until his passing in 1997.
Maggie continued her fly fishing schools in West Yellowstone (summer) and Huntington Beach, California, (winter) until her death. She is considered a pioneer in the sport and an advocate for women’s fly fishing. She was recently quoted as saying, “There are many new chapters to be written and I am highly encouraged as I look around at all the women involved in our sport today.”

What Maggie loved most about her sport was that fly fishing is a pathway to observing nature, that it is often enough to sit on the riverbank, feel the clean clear water moving around your legs and to be connected to Mother Earth. For the thousands of anglers she taught, the joy she brought to them through fishing, and to her fishing buddies around the globe, she will be greatly missed.

Maggie is survived by her sister Kathy Merriman Malone formerly of Bozeman, Montana, and now Encino, California; her nieces and nephew, Molly and Kevin Nave of Spokane, Washington, Clint and Kristi Campbell of Bozeman, Montana, Wendy and Dennis Dougherty of Spokane, Washington; great nieces and nephews, Sean, Luke, Claire, Catherine, Ashley, Stephanie, Ian, Anna, Campbell, Daniel, Erin, and Stephen.

A celebration of Maggie’s life will be held streamside next summer. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Casting For Recovery at CastingForRecovery.org.

Information provided by Clint Campbell, Merriman’s nephew.
**November 2016**

19-20 **International Fly Tying Symposium**  
Somerset, New Jersey. The EWC is teaching and demonstrating.

**January 2017**

13-14 **Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo.**  
Boise, Idaho. www.bvff.com

14 **West Michigan Fly Show by the GLC.**  

19-22 **International Sportsman Expo.**  
Sacramento, California. NCC will have a booth at this event. www.sportsexpos.com

21 **Northern Ohio Fly Fishing Expo.**  
North Coast Fly Fishers. www.nciff.net

28 **Fly Buy.**  
Long Beach Casting Club. Long Beach, California. swciff.org

**February 2017**

4 **Greater Cincinnati Fly Fishing Show.**  

25 **Fly Fish New Hampshire.**  
NEC will have a booth and provide public workshops.

**March 2017**

10-11 **ORC Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo.**  
Linn County Expo Center, Albany, Oregon. www.nwexpo.com

11 **Red Stick Day.**  
Red Stick Fly Fishers, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. www.rsff.blogspot.com

17-19 **Great Waters Expo.**  
St. Paul, Minnesota. www.greatwatersflyexpo.com

**April 2017**

14-15 **Eastern Idaho Fly Tying & Fishing Expo.**  
Idaho Falls, Idaho. www.srcexpo.com

**May 2017**

5-6 **Washington Fly Fishing Fair.**  
Ellensburg, Washington. For information, email flyfishalso@frontier.com

**June 2017**

16-18 **GLC Fly Fishing School & Conclave.**  
Roscommons, Michigan. www.ffglc.org

**August 2017**

1-5 **IFFF Fly Fishing Fair**  
Livingston Montana. fair@FedFlyFishers.org
The Wapsi Story

The Worlds Largest Fly Tying Materials Company

By Terry and Roxanne Wilson

New this autumn from Wapsi:
Awesome Passum Zonker Strips
A century ago fly tying and fishing icon Theodore Gordon, as most others, hunted to acquire his own tying materials. While touring the 75,000 square feet Wapsi fly tying materials plant we couldn’t help wonder what Gordon and his contemporaries might think in viewing huge bags filled with Angora goat dubbing dyed in 28 different colors or a machine filled with bucktails, all dyed fluorescent orange. Most of the incredible array of materials we use today have at some time passed through this remarkable company.

Wapsi Fly began in the corn fields of east central Iowa when war veteran Lacey Gee returned to his hometown in 1945 and started a new tying materials company named for an excellent smallmouth bass stream, the nearby Wapsipinicon River. Gee, credited with discovering turkey marabou as a fly tying material, operated there until 1973 when an enterprising, college-educated, young farmer named Tom Schmuecker and his wife Ann bought the company.

Tom Schmuecker’s father had been president of the Iowa Poultry Association and had the knowledge and equipment to start Schmuecker in the chicken business. He bred a high-quality strain of grizzly chickens and sold the feathers to Gee at Wapsi Fly. When Gee decided to sell his company, Schmuecker seized the opportunity. He later gifted his chickens to Joe Keough, whose nephew is Bill Keough of Keough Hackle. Joe Keough sold the flock to Iowa’s Ewing Feather Birds and the flock remains today.

Schmuecker not only sells products for the fly tying industry but he is an enthusiastic fly fisher and fly tier. As a side note to this article, Schmuecker and six other fly fishers founded the Hawkeye Fly Fishers in the autumn of 1972.

The Schmueckers worked and raised their growing family in Iowa until 1978 when Tom read an article written by the legendary Dave Whitlock that described the enormous trout being caught in north Arkansas. A visit to the area revealed not only a trout haven (the famous White River, Norfork River, Little Red River and nearby Taneycomo) but also multiple impounded lakes and many warm water streams, harboring nearly every North American warmwater species. Mountain Home, Ark., became the new home of Wapsi Fly and it remains a perfect fit to this day.

Karl Schmuecker, general manager, in one of the company’s warehouses. His invaluable knowledge of Wapsi’s business has helped make it the world’s leading tying materials source.

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Joe Schmuecker, production manager and part chemist, in his dyeing room where he supervises preparing materials for sale.
Guiding this fledging industry to prominence was anything but easy. It required long hours and pioneering innovation to repurpose or build the machinery required for producing mass quantities of fly tying materials.

Schmuecker’s skills in design and engineering are simply amazing. Wapsi’s first dyeing vat offers a case in point. It was a porcelain baby bathtub that held only 16 buck tails at a time. Today’s stainless steel vats that Schmuecker designed dye 500 at once. Manufacturing the more than 400 colors held in their database is a remarkably extensive and complex process.

The demands of the growing company quickly morphed into a family enterprise. Ann Schmuecker sacrificed her teaching career to play a critical role in Wapsi’s success and rapid growth. While raising their sons, she helped manage the business, including human resources and training personnel. It’s hard to imagine Wapsi’s rise to become the world’s largest fly tying materials company without her invaluable contributions. In addition, she was active in organizing and planning Federation events for the Southern Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers and she is one of the founders of The Damsel Fly Fishers.

Tom Schmuecker, owner, in his office. The shop where he builds and modifies plant equipment is located a few steps away.

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In early October of 1987, having just completed a major expansion of its facilities, tragedy struck. It was 6 p.m. while Schmuecker was demonstrating his skills at the tying vice at the Southern Council FFF Conclave held annually in Mountain Home that he learned of a massive fire at the Wapsi plant. On any other evening, he would have been in his office and his early detection might have prevented the horrific damage. One building was nearly a total loss and smoke and water damage was significant throughout the facilities. Schmuecker recalled: “A faulty fluorescent light fixture was responsible. It was devastating, of course, but in that situation we learned how valuable our employees, friends and family really are. They all pitched in and did whatever they could.” Remarkably, Wapsi was back up and filling orders later that same month.

The misfortune had another beneficial outcome: the Schmueckers’ eldest son, Karl, returned to Mountain Home to help with the recovery. As an engineering graduate of the University of Arkansas, he brought the same creativity as his father to practical problem solving. Karl Schmuecker eventually became Wapsi’s general manager after what Tom describes as “my 20 years of micro-managing.” Karl Schmuecker describes himself as “Wapsi’s King Kong Techno-Weinie,” which evokes an image of a 21st century nerd, but that significantly understates his value. He has an encyclopedic knowledge about all things Wapsi. He knows and understands the machines, the processes, inventory, the inner workings of each department, business trends, new materials, new products, and maintains relationships with those in related industries around the world.

His siblings are just as intimately involved in the operation. While Tom Schmuecker remains as the owner and company president and Karl is general manager, brother Joe Schmuecker is the production manager and younger brother Eric Schmuecker, the family’s most talented fly tier, also helps with the company. A visit with any member of the family quickly reveals their passion for fly tying and fly fishing. Each is a skilled fly tier and their promotion of fly tying, including many charitable efforts, is extensive. Twenty years ago, Wapsi began supporting Boy Scouts groups by providing tying kits and materials. The impact of Wapsi’s generosity on our sport is enormous and ongoing.

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As already noted, Wapsi is a company of creativity and innovation. After 43 years, Tom Schmuecker still spends about 60 hours a week at the plant, and while “a fair amount of that time is spent in my shop” it often produces better equipment for solving production problems. He invented barbell eyes. This example of genius came from filling bead-chain eyes with solder to add weight to smallmouth flies. He spent the summer creating masters to make a mold for manufacturing. Can you imagine Clouser Minnows or any of a thousand other patterns without barbell eyes?

Another wave of Wapsi innovation emerged when its non-fly-tying employees gathered in one room and provided with tying vices, tools, an assortment of materials and written fly tying instructions. They were then left to tie flies. The results were a real eye-opener. Some set up the vice incorrectly while others were confused by seeing a picture of the application of head cement. Enlightened by their feedback and misconceptions, the Wapsi Fly Tying Handbook was revised accordingly. The book, which accompanies each tying kit, is the most widely sold and used fly tying manual ever written.

New synthetic products are introduced into the marketplace every year and all must be handled and dyed in bulk. Fifteen hundred kilos of ultra chenille is just one shipment. Natural hides like rabbit, mink, raccoon, and pine squirrel...
Dubbing fur is clipped from animal pelts and stored in huge bags before blending into various dubbing mixtures.

(pioneered by Joe Schmuecker) are precisely cut into zonker strips. The newest product that will be showcased this autumn is Awesome Possum Zonker Strips. It dyes beautifully and comes in a number of stunning colors. Every product is packaged in the correct amount then shelved in a warehouse so that orders are filled and packaged for shipping. There are two separate shipping departments; one ships only to fly shops in the United States while the other ships to more than 60 foreign countries in every corner of the globe. Wapsi’s conference room is adorned with many fly plates purchased at the Federation’s fundraisers containing flies tied by the art’s masters. There are also many framed awards. The Federation honored Wapsi in 1995 with the Lee Wulff Award for innovative business, and Tom Schmuecker was the Southern Council “Tier of the Year” in 1996. In 2012, he was honored by Fly Tier Magazine with their Lifetime Achievement Award, and he was inducted into the Trout Nature Center Hall of Fame at Arkansas State University-Mountain Home in 2013. Numerous other awards recognize the mountainous contributions made to our great sport by Tom Schmuecker, his entire family and Wapsi Fly.

Terry and Roxanne Wilson of Bolivar, Missouri, are longtime Flyfisher contributors focusing on warmwater fly fishing. Their new book, “Crappie Fly Fishing: A Seasonal Approach,” is available through their website at theBlueGillPond.com or e-mail them at terryWil@windstream.net.
A Legacy of Excellence

Tom Morgan contributed to the shape of fly fishing today

By Jerry Kustich
Before fly fishing became the mainstream attraction that it is today, it was once a somewhat folksy pastime practiced by a diverse gathering of outdoor enthusiasts. Seeking the pleasure of solitude in secluded peace filled niches while skillfully stalking the most mystical of quarry, these devotees found poetry in the presentation of an artfully tied fly and meaning in the music of a gently flowing river. Despite the solitary nature that characterized fly fishing back then, there were many visionary pioneers whose expertise in one discipline or the other would selflessly provide the foundation for the modernization of the sport. From the explorers to the fly tiers to the rod builders, remembering our historical roots is perhaps the only way to honor those who have contributed significantly to what fly-fishing is today.

In the realm of fly rods, Tom Morgan was one of the men who led the way. In 1949 when Morgan was a child, his family built the El Western Motel along the banks of Bear Creek in Ennis, Montana. From a very early age, fly fishing began to define Morgan's life as he grew up fishing Bear Creek, Odell Creek, the Madison River and many of the other waters that flowed throughout southwestern Montana. By the time Morgan was a teenager, he became a highly touted guide on the Madison and other local waters. In 1961, he bought a fly shop in Ennis from his brother. As a result of spending much time in the mountains exploring the natural wonders of the area, Morgan developed a keen sense of contemplative insight about life and an acute intellectual curiosity about how life works. Consequently, during his fly shop years he often studied the structure of fly rods and wondered why they could not be improved in a way that allowed them to blend art and form into a more harmonious function.

With the aid of silent partner Sid Eliason, Morgan's creative urge led him to purchase R. L. Winston Rod Company from Doug Merrick in 1973. Established in 1929, Winston was long revered as a premier leader of crafting world-class bamboo rods. By the early '60s under Merrick, the company also added phenolic resin fiberglass rods to its offerings. While spending five years refining his skills in San Francisco where Winston was located, Morgan hired guide and fishery biologist Glenn Brackett in late 1974. During that time, they both worked closely with former Winston employee Gary Howells to update the entire bamboo process.
With Howells’ help in 1976, Morgan moved the shop to Twin Bridges, Montana. Sharing the same passion for fly fishing, they also shared the same vision for creating fly rods that were true reflections of their commitment to both the sport and the craft. Brackett eventually gravitated to bamboo operations and later became a minority owner in the ‘80s. As Morgan gradually relinquished his bamboo duties, he embarked upon a journey that would establish the basis for how modern fly rods would be judged well into the future.

At first Morgan continued Winston’s line of fiberglass rods, while utilizing a working relationship with blank provider J. K. Fischer. Along with Brackett’s input, Morgan added the “Stalker” series of small fiberglass rods in the late ‘70s that are still highly sought after today. But not only concerned with rod performance, Morgan was also a stickler for cosmetic perfection, thus every aspect of rod construction was scrutinized and enhanced as he strived to produce the best rods ever made. When Brackett and Morgan hired me in 1984 I can attest to the stringent “not in my rod” standard they both demanded, a policy reflecting their belief that the fly rod was a hallowed instrument connecting an angler’s soul to the sublime world of trout. When Morgan and Brackett were not building rods, they were out fishing with them.

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Each bamboo strip is milled to Tom Morgan’s exact specifications.

Photo Courtesy of Tom Morgan and the TMR Website
Upon the advent of the graphite era in the late ’70s, fiberglass gradually faded in favor of a material that potentially held much more promise for building lighter rods with smaller diameters. From the onset Morgan was totally dedicated to graphite rod design. His dedication resulted in a number of rod mandrels around which many rod blanks and prototypes were cast. During those years Winston cultivated a working relationship with Gary Loomis who would manufacture blanks. Utilizing the cutting-edge IM6 material for its blanks, by the late ’80s Winston was producing one of the finest series of graphite rods. Using the spigot ferrule design for smooth transition of energy throughout its entire length, this rod was created for the astute angler. Cosmetically flawless, the IM6 series green rod cast a fly perfectly as well. Because the line weight of each rod was designed to exactly match the corresponding double taper line designation, the rods were a dream to fish. It was all about excellence.

After selling Winston in 1991, Brackett decided to stay on as Morgan planned to start a new high-end custom rod business after his non-compete clause ran out. Unfortunately, Morgan’s life took a drastic turn in 1993 when he was diagnosed with a pernicious form of relapsing remitting multiple sclerosis (MS) that evolved into a chronic progressive type of MS, but that setback did not deter Morgan. However, after marrying very talented ex-schoolteacher Gerri Carlson in 1995, the MS flared up while they were just getting Tom Morgan Rodsmiths off the ground. The recurrence of the disease left Morgan using a wheelchair and very much impaired. During that difficult period, I was honored that Morgan asked me to help train Carlson to build rods utilizing the exacting skills he and Brackett had imparted upon me a decade earlier. In the process, I was touched by the dignity with which Morgan dealt with his challenging fate. Twenty years later, Tom Morgan Rodsmiths continues on. Although physically incapacitated these days, Morgan remains upbeat about life while continuing to exude an undying love for fly fishing. In addition to tending for Morgan’s welfare, Carlson’s crafting skills ensures that each year they produce about 70 of the most elegant and smooth casting graphite rods imaginable. The company also makes about 15 exquisite bamboo rods yearly and has added a line of innovative new-age fiberglass rods as well. Always creating, Morgan told me they have recently added two more bamboo rods and a series of newly designed four-piece graphites to their offerings. Although Morgan has not been able to cast many of the rods he has designed, in his mind he knows exactly how they feel. While Carlson now does most of the rod making, her attention to detail still reflects Morgan’s high standard of quality.

The Tom Morgan Rodsmiths logo on the brass ring in the reel seat means the product is the best-of-the-best in workmanship.
Tom Morgan and Gerri Carlson have been a winning couple since the mid 1990s. Superb workmanship is the trademark of a Tom Morgan bamboo rod.
Morgan’s will to overcome inconceivable hardships while continuing to creatively express his life-long devotion to fly fishing is an inspiration to all of us who love trout and their environs. After recently casting my vintage IM6 rods, I personally attest that his creations will always live on as true manifestations of his commitment to excellence.

The IFFF Board of Directors recently recognized Morgan by awarding him the Lee Wulff Award to acknowledge his “business for outstanding innovation in the fly-fishing industry through its products." He earned the award through hard work and dedication. The IFFF is proud to thank Morgan for all he has done for the sport we all love.

Jerry Kustich worked 21 years for Winston Rods until he and Glenn Brackett founded Sweetgrass Rods in 2006, a company dedicated to building fine bamboo rods. Kustich has written several articles and four books including “Great Lakes Steelhead” with his brother, Rick. His other works are reflective stories about life and fly fishing. His latest book is “Around the Next Bend.” Contact Kustich at BooBoy724@gmail.com.

A close look at the stripping guide on a Morgan bamboo rod gives a sense of the quality of the rod.
Grayling
A subtle revolution
By Charles Jardine

Photo By Alex and Charles Jardine
The river is changed now. A place of washed gravel, weed that has lost summer-rich magnificence; a place of somber water, russets, tans and purples, decaying leaves and melancholy. Yet things stir – lithe shapes which twine through the fall layers like nervous smoke: grayling.

I have come to love Grayling. And yet I grew up in a world that suggested I should despise this innocent little treasure of streams. To understand this madness, you have to understand past tweedy pomposity of streams of the English chalk lands. Had I been born and raised in the North of England it would have been a very different story. I wasn’t. So I grew up in the belief that grayling was the thief of the stream-born insects required for the over indulged, corpulent spring creek trout of the south. Grayling had to die; and in their masses. I remember the lifeless mounds, senseless slaughter. Madness.

Let us be clear, grayling have a near divine right to be finning their way through English, Welsh and increasingly, Scottish currents … some might argue (similarly to whitefish*) more right, than trout. We are odd on this tiny green and sceptered land.

But that was then. Now?

I give you grayling: Cult hero and heroine. Cherished, loved and sought after with a fervor that is bordering on religious mania. I should add, though, that grayling have been prized for generations anywhere above the English home counties. Now this rapture has spread – to anywhere it can be found. We like grayling in the UK.

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So why this grayling change of fortune? Several things, really. Competition – there I have said the ugly word.

Had it not been for rising interest and brilliance of eastern European fishers – The Czechs, Poles, Austrian, German and of course, the Scandinavians – the French, too: OK, let us just say that whole European bloc, became seduced with the lady of the stream. In many ways, we would still be clattering about in the piscatorial dark ages, had it not been for this competitive drive to develop and perfect the emerging styles, tactics and fly designs you and I now see as mainstream. And it was, I firmly believe, the growth and deep fascination for competition and the almost single minded targeting of grayling, that in turn, led to a litany of specific styles and even tackle refinement. A subtle revolutionary, the grayling.

Europe and also, the UK was, suddenly awash with fly patterns fashioned to meet specific tactical grayling needs; flies that now festoon almost every fly box as a result. And with the flies have come the leaders, rods, lines and a whole fly fishing world of change. Fascinating.

Grayling are now rightfully revered as a species and in some cases worshiped by some. A quarry that has defied slaughter and returned to the South of England, especially, offering a prolonged season for anglers and ringing cash tills for riparian owners. With increasing geographic spread in the north and offering fishing of a very different character to the lauded salmon rivers of Scotland. Fascinating times.

Why though? I am just not sure why the sudden interest in grayling. It is not as though they fight like wildcats; they are exciting and full of panache, but not a battle that would be talked of in Valhalla. They don’t get to be vast sizes in the UK; a fish of three pounds will have you opening a bottle of Dom Perignon and, in Europe and Scandinavia a five-pound fish will have you eyeing up a grand vin vintage in celebration.

However, be careful for what you wish (or indeed, fish ) for. Grayling are as gentle as they look, and are wholly intolerant of rough handling. Given that grayling are the focus of serious national and international competitions they have as a result, had to endure greater fishing pressure and ever more efficient methods of catching them; greater numbers are being spirited from their watery homes than ever before. As a result, a moral dilemma ensues. How on earth do we square the conservation and ethical circle? It’s a conundrum.

One thing is certain we must, simply MUST, urge care and consideration.
I know from experience at some low-key contests where I have flexed a rod, we have wrestled with this ethical question and put the fish first; the participant only having to demonstrate capture to the bank-bound controller via the briefest of glimpses; thus, offering speedy catch and release. None of the unpalatable business of hefting the delicate form from the water then laying the grayling along a hard measuring tray, getting it verified – and on and nauseatingly, on, that we so often see at larger internationals. Not good, in my humble opinion. I digress.

But there can be no denying, that, with the grayling’s cult status, have come a cornucopia of methods and tactics which have touched so many mainstream methods – and for a variety of fly fishing situations. The emergence of long, light-line rods, especially. Years ago, I never would have considered swinging and sweeping a 10- or 11-foot, 2-or-3-weight rod on our hallowed spring creeks. I do now; on almost every occasion.

Leaders, to some extent, have taken over the necessity of fly lines per se – even RIO is now making mainstream leader-like fly lines* to embrace the Euro/French nymph styles – and with specific colored sectioned leaders to match. Suggesting, that this area of the sport is not quirky, faddy or plain mad, but mainstream. Casting a leader is not now the preserve of the Tenkara enthusiast … and it is indeed casting … with a rod AND reel, what’s more.

Grayling have also had some of us reevaluate fly patterns; in so doing, developing designs, shapes, ballast specifically to meet this fish’s quirks and feeding patterns – and color fads. Weighting small nymph patterns is now a high art form; all manner of alternative bead colors, not just straight gold beads adorn our hooks – copper, black, pink, gunmetal, you name it, are used. We have come a long way from the then ground breaking Czech nymph designs of only a few years ago. We have also been assiduous in our search for dubbing blends, seeking color twists and subtle edges in our concoctions; nuances of shades that will switch a fish on, as opposed terrify – soft purples, pinks, hints of blue, iridescence, flecks of ultra violet – gosh! So bewildering, but fun.

Now: Grayling fishing and beyond. Only a few years ago, fishing short lines, upstream, with weighted patterns, even in the rough and tumble fast water confusion of say, a Colorado or Montana stream, using nothing more than a leader, would be viewed as the creation of the lunatic asylum. Not anymore. Mind you, closed-quarter methods, given the current penchant for long leader styles are not suddenly redundant for grayling – or anything else, just left wanting when fishing for this shy creature in clear and “skinny” conditions.

We simply have not the room, nor the reach, in this short article to embrace the sheer volume of styles and advancements made because of this unobtrusive, almost reluctant hero of a fish. I urge – no – demand, that you get

*Photo By Charles Jardine

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yourself George Daniel’s book “Dynamic Nymphing.” It’s all there. However, as I finish this article a friend, Rob Denman (and now Coloradan resident) and I, have just emerged from Colorado’s Yampa and Elk rivers having caught a succession of heavy fall browns and bright athletic headstrong rainbows. Our rods: 10-and-11-foot ESN 3-weight Sage and almost exclusively styles and fly patterns developed for grayling. The grayling’s reach is global and the adopted fishing styles open to piscine interpretation: anywhere. Try them.

I would, though, just like to put in a bit of a good word for grayling and the dry fly. We must, as fishers (not necessarily the fish, however), applaud those joint designers – Hans Van Klinken and the late Hans De Groot for, during a night of (I am told) interesting wine consumption, coming up with the near perfect search dry fly of all time: The Klinkhåmer. The pattern’s effectiveness, especially amid the turbulent, often ferocious current, of rivers in Scandinavia – and beyond, is legend. One pattern to never leave home without. Designed for grayling – the scourge of trout everywhere!

Nor should you leave that other grayling fail-safe, behind: The Griffith’s Gnat – in diminutive sizes (18’s and lower) in your box. Wait a minute! Or an “F” fly (named after Marjan Fratnik – arguably one of the first people to use CDC in dry fly patterns). Don’t forget those either – I have some wonderful memories of fishing this tiny fragment of Duck’s derriere on the turquoise, and opaque rollercoaster rivers of Slovenia: rivers that humble the boldest and brazen wading gurus, but where a grayling will sweep to the surface and pick a tiny passing micro grey fly with ease and accuracy of a hungry acrobat. I love the unpredictability of dry fly fish for grayling: a game of will or won’t they. Lovely.

I could go on and yet the essence of grayling fishing – certainly for me – is not necessarily in the catching. More, it is about the time and space this lovely little creature inhabits. It is about friends and fishing with my son Alex, especially in the sepulchral depths of winter: a world of bare trees, raw umber reeds and slivers of fishy light in the dark wintry river currents. It is also about a tiny little spring creek a mile or so from my home in Wiltshire, a stream that winds through meadows like a crippled snake. The river flowing over a mixture of mosaic pebble shallows and deep plodding depths; that, by degrees, holds big and little fish. A place where fish flee at a mistimed rod movement or hint of line splash or flash. A grayling from here is rejoiced. Prized. But that river’s character transcends. My old black labrador Midge and I wait expectantly for the falling leaves, the first rains of winter and darkening somber landscape dripping in damp. That is the time when we both sparkle like the grayling of that stream. Can’t wait.

Charles Jardine is a well known author, angler, photographer, artist and longtime friend from Wiltshire in South West England. We are pleased to include this article by Jardine, in this last issue of Flyfisher produced for the IFFF by Keekee Publishing.
Focus on the Fly

By Verne Lehmberg

Grayling flies have their roots in Europe where the various grayling species are much more widespread than in North America. While experienced fishers claim any fly that will catch a trout will also catch grayling, during the years certain patterns have attained status as particularly suited for grayling. In England, the Waterhen Bloa Northern Spider is favored when large dark olive mayflies (Baetis rhodani) are hatching. Known as soft hackles in North America, the Spider patterns also include the well known Partridge and Orange, Snipe Bloa, and Snipe and Purple. Similar soft hackle flies are mentioned in Dame Juliana Berners “A Treatise of Fysshynge wyth an Angle,” 1496. They have been used since then throughout the grayling season in the North of England. They may be fished on the surface, in the surface film or just under it, where the soft undulating hackle give the fly the illusion of life. Montana’s Sylvester Nemes popularized soft hackle flies in the United States and many modern tiers including Marvin Nolte continue to tie them for coldwater species. Grayling seem to like dark dry flies. The traditional Griffith’s Gnat and Black Gnat work well when midges are on the surface. They also take the newer Blank Buster, Klinkhämmer and Green Magic flies. These parachute emerger patterns have an abdomen that hangs beneath the surface, allowing fish to see them at a greater distance.

The Czech and Polish nymphs had their central European origin in the mid 1980s during competitive fishing events. They are heavily weighted and fished on a short line along the stream’s bottom. The superiority of these realistic caddis larva imitations for grayling and the short-line fishing techniques used with them has spread their use and popularity across the fly-fishing world.

Verne Lehmberg from Dayton, Texas, is a long time Federation member and Flyfisher contributor. See more of his excellent photography in Biology on the Fly, next page.
Passenger Pigeons and Grayling

‘Intellectual tinkering’ to conserve a native species

By Verne Lehmberg

History

In 1813, John James Audubon wrote about an amazing spectacle, a huge flock of passenger pigeons that took three days to pass. Passenger pigeons would blot out the sky as they flew over Wisconsin and Michigan pine forests and Northeastern states. One observer calculated more than 2 billion birds in one flock alone. It is estimated there may have been as many as 3 to 5 billion passenger pigeons in the United States when Europeans first came to North America. By 1914, Martha, the last one, fell off her perch and died in the Cincinnati Zoo. Market hunters killed passenger pigeons by the millions shipping them back to Eastern kitchens where potted and braised pigeons were popular. The hunters, known as pigeoners in the 1800s, tracked their nesting locations by telegraph then trains carried the hunters to the highest density nesting colonies. Nesting in large numbers was an advantage for the pigeons because the limited number of predators in an area can’t make much of a dent in their huge populations, but man could, and did. An example of the devastating effect market hunting had on the pigeons can be estimated by the fact that in 1878 close to 15 million birds were killed at one of the last big colonies near Petoskey, Michigan.

Some hog farmers would use burning sulfur to poison the birds on the nest, eliminating competition because the pigeons ate acorns and other tree mast farmers fed their free ranging hogs. They also fattened their hogs on the dead pigeons. Clear-cut logging destroyed mast trees, mating colony trees and roost trees. These are the reasons given for the pigeons’ extinction, but the underlying reasons are human cruelty, avarice and indifference.

Other reasons are more speculative. Early biologists have noted that for some highly social species, such as the passenger pigeon, the population density must be high for successful reproduction. Between 1860 and 1900, there were no uninterrupted mass nesting. Reproduction conditions must be very exact for some species.
Grayling population in Michigan crashed for some of the same reasons the passenger pigeon became extinct. In the 1870s, trains brought fishermen to the fabled Au Sable River, where the beautiful Michigan grayling, formerly known as Thymallus arcticus tricolor, were known to be plentiful and easy to catch. One hundred-fish-per-person angling days were not unusual, and tons of grayling were shipped via iced boxcars to metropolitan markets. Just like the passenger pigeon, logging played a major role in grayling decline. The logging industry modified the streams with dams and channel control to float logs to market, logjams scourd the stream beds and the erosion due to clear-cutting and debris burning changed the rivers to make them unsuitable for grayling. The streams’ water warmed without shading trees. Grayling are stressed and develop diseases more easily at higher temperature and die above 77 degrees Fahrenheit. The eroded sand and silt washing into the streams covers the gravel they need to place their eggs. Grayling don’t dig redds as do trout but need areas of large gravel to spawn. The spawning beds were gone and the fish were history in most streams by 1885, and totally gone by the 1930s. Again, reproductive conditions must be just right for grayling to prosper.

There are six to 14 species of grayling worldwide. In North America, only the Arctic grayling inhabits streams in Canada, Alaska and a few streams in Montana. They also live in Siberian Arctic drainages. These grayling have been planted in high altitude lakes from California and Arizona to Wyoming. In the colder regions such as Alaska, they can live 12 years, and some people believe as long as 32 years. Montana biologists have recorded a 5-year grayling lifespan in the Big Hole River, whereas they can live 7 years in Alberta. They prefer water around a pH of 7 and 7 parts per million of oxygen. The habitat requirements are about the same as for brown trout, but grayling are more susceptible to pesticide pollution since their liver, a detoxifying organ, is smaller than in trout. Grayling prefer a sequence of pool, riffle, glide and run with coarse spawning gravel.
The grayling life cycle starts with spawning which usually occurs in the afternoon from April to June depending on water temperature. Dominant males defend a suitable gravel and stony spawning territories from other males. They aggressively gape their mouths and flash their colorful dorsal fin at intruding males, the color and length of which may indicate superiority to other males. The females swim into the male’s territory, and the male curls his large dorsal fin over the female. The pair vibrate and release eggs and sperm. The eggs are not as deeply buried in gravel as is usual for trout eggs, so are more susceptible to being washed away. The 5,000 to 6,000 eggs hatch in 12-to-20 days (around 135 degree Celsius-days) depending upon water temperature. Staying in the substrate, larvae absorb their egg yoke. They then inhabit the shallows as fry, eating zooplankton. As they grow to adults, the diet expands. They take insect species such as midges, mayflies, stoneflies and caddis. The few grayling that make it to sexual maturity may be 12 or so inches and 3 to 4 years old, depending on water temperature and growing season length. Three pounds is the record in Montana, but a grayling reaching five pounds and 19 inches is approaching record size in Canada. Larger fish will take other fish fry, but never lose their taste for insects, a fact appreciated by fly fishers.

Grayling Today
So where do they still exist? Alaska and Canada hold good grayling populations in habitats that have not suffered civilization’s ill effects. In the contiguous United States, 22 lakes in Wyoming, Idaho and Montana have good grayling populations, and these are genetically pure Montana Arctic grayling, Thymallus arcticus. Many European streams have healthy grayling populations of Thymallus thymallus, most notably the Traun in Austria, rivers of the Yorkshire Dales in England, River Tjulin in Sweden and River San in Poland. In the lower 48 states, fluvial or stream Arctic grayling were in all the Missouri River headwater streams above Great Falls, Montana, but now exist natively only in a few streams in the upper Big Hole River drainage. The Montana grayling (Thymallus arcticus montanus) was named a distinct population segment, and designated “A Species of Special Concern” by Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP), American Fisheries Society and others. They occupy only 5-to-15 percent of their historical range. They differ genetically and geographically from grayling found in Canada and Alaska. Montana grayling are divided into two genetic groups, fluvial (stream dwelling) Big Hole-Madison group, and the adfluvial (lake-dwelling) Red Rock Lake group. Both fluvial and adfluvial grayling have declined due to four factors: habitat degradation, introduction of non-native competitive trout, climate change and over-harvest by anglers.

Grayling from high-altitude Wyoming lakes can be taken on small surface flies such as Griffith’s gnats. This one rose to Callibaetis duns

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Habitat degradation comes in many forms: lower stream levels due to irrigation demands, decreased water quality due to silt from cattle, and the largest threat, dams. Both large dams and irrigation diversion barriers prevent successful graying spawning runs. They are a prime reason why so much graying habitat today is permanently impaired according to Montana graying biologist Emma Cayer. “Graying will travel 60 to 70 miles each year to spawn, overwinter, and reach cooler stretches in summer,” Cayer said. “Barriers definitely can hurt the population.” The fish need long stream stretches for migration between deep holding pools and shallow gravel spawning beds.

In the past, ranchers took too much water for irrigation. During the drought years of 1979-81, biologists noted a drop in graying population when irrigation for cattle hay meant not enough water for the fish. The Big Hole River was dewatered completely in some places during 1988. Lower water flows means the river heats more quickly in the summer, stressing or killing the fish. Although graying coexist with westslope cutthroat, they do not compete well with other fish, so any place that contains nonnative brook, rainbow or brown trout will not support a healthy graying population. These non-native trout outcompete graying, as stated in the Michigan State Board of Fish Commissioners 1880 report: “… the brook trout is the natural enemy of the graying … For this reason good graying streams should never be planted with trout; and it is hope that the people will have such care to preserving of the graying as not to allow it to be wholly destroyed.”

Climate change may play a major role for graying. Graying are on the edge of where they can exist in Montana streams, and the next century of warming could push stream conditions in the upper Big Hole beyond their limits of tolerance. If this happens, Montana fluvial graying would not survive no matter how much stream work is done to save them, and whether or not the fish are listed as endangered.

Montana Graying Recovery
What to do about the dwindling Montana graying has been discussed between agencies and argued in court since 1991 via suits brought by the Center for Biological Diversity, Earthjustice and others. They want the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS) to list the graying under the Endangered Species Act. In 2009, the Center for Biological Diversity, Federation of Fly Fishers and Western Watersheds Project joined in a similar suit. The proposed endangered species status of Montana graying has been in the courts for years, but in August 2014...

The grayling has very distinctively marked fins and the finely blue-dotted scales have unique black “Zorro” spots. Continued on next page...
Biology on the Fly

the FWS considered the Upper Missouri River Distinct Population Segment (DPS) of the Arctic grayling does not warrant protection. The grayling endangered species suits continue, with one by Western Watershed Project and allies unresolved at the time of this printing. Since 1995, state and federal agencies have developed and implemented an Arctic Grayling Restoration Plan to conserve the remaining grayling populations in the Big Hole River, Centennial Valley and other areas, and establish additional populations in other Montana watersheds within the Arctic grayling’s historic range (Upper Missouri River Basin). Reintroduced grayling populations seem self-sustaining in a few of these rivers, including the Ruby, and are doing very well in many mountain lakes. The Montana FWP biologists have worked diligently with local ranchers to keep the remaining grayling habitat healthy, the populations rebounding and the grayling off the endangered species list. Actually multiple agencies and organizations are working together for Montana grayling. The Arctic Grayling Recovery Program was formed with representatives from Montana FWP, BLM, USFS, USFWS, NPS, NRCS, Montana State University, and other groups.

Landowners tend to work well with fisheries agencies in voluntary programs than when under federal mandates. In a Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA) to protect and enhance Arctic grayling populations, landowners in the Big Hole River Project Area volunteer to enact conservation measures benefiting grayling. More than 33 families have joined this CCAA, protecting grayling in more than 155,000 acres of ranch land. Cayer said that 90 percent of the waters where grayling remain in the upper Big Hole is on private land. She works with ranchers developing grayling habitat improvement practices. To help Big Hole grayling regain access to upstream habitat on the Big Hole River, Cayer with other CCAA agencies and ranchers have restored stream channels, reconfiguring “channelized” or straightened stretches to their former meandering shape. The natural meander washes out deeper holding holes, refuges for the grayling and produces cleaner spawning gravel. They also constructed 42 small fish ladders over diversion dams, opening up 60 miles of habitat on the Big Hole and tributaries. The ranchers are using less water for grass irrigation, especially during summer low stream flow. Streamside erosion control is enhanced by the installation of off-stream stock watering systems, fencing and other grazing practices that keep cows from breaking down stream banks and decreasing water quality by adding to the silt load. The fencing is “wildlife friendly,” constructed so that temporary gaps may be made for wildlife in the winter, but keep cows away from streams during most of the year. Planting willows decreases stream bank erosion and shades the stream. Habitat quality has significantly improved and grayling numbers have greatly increased in numbers per mile.

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according to Montana FWP. Many ranchers take pride in their grayling conservation work. Montana Gov. Steve Bullock said, “These hard-working families proved that when a small group of dedicated citizens work together, great things can be achieved. The conservation of the Arctic grayling truly is a great achievement ….” Earthjustice attorneys think the effort is good, but insufficient to ensure the grayling’s survival, and getting that done requires Endangered Species Act listing and a national conservation commitment. Ted Williams, who received the first FFF Leopold Award, said in a 2016 article, “The Big Hole CCAA, a 20-year process now half complete, provides the most compelling evidence yet that, at least on private land, the ESA works best as a motivator for reform rather than a punishment for violation.”

Grayling Recovery in Yellowstone and Wyoming

Yellowstone fisheries biologists are in the process of removing non-native fish and replacing native fish, namely Yellowstone cutthroat, west slope cutthroat and grayling. Grayling Creek in the northwest portion of the park has not had grayling in it for years, but in 2015 nearly 100,000 grayling eggs and 10,000 native westslope cutthroat trout eggs along with 700 cutthroat fingerling were planted in the upper reaches of the creek. These plantings will be repeated for the next 3 years. For nearly 10 years, the park service and partner organizations have done the preliminary stream work necessary for grayling reintroduction. Primary in this effort was the modification of a natural stair step waterfall into a sheer drop structure to prevent rainbow and brown trout from migrating up stream, and successfully applied rotenone to the upper 35 miles of stream to eliminate non-native competitive fish. All this work has been done by personnel from the National Park Service, Montana Fish Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service and Turner Enterprises. After this rotenone treatment, no brown or rainbow trout have been found in Grayling Creek above the new waterfall. Grayling also inhabit a few high altitude Wyoming lakes in the Bridger Wilderness Area including Coyote Lake, Cross Lake and Blueberry Lake. These Wyoming lakes were stocked with grayling eggs obtained from Yellowstone National Park’s Grebe Lake. Between 1931 and 1956, 72 million eggs from the Grebe Lake collecting station were sent to at least 14 states, including other Wyoming locations. Grebe Lake fish came from Madison River spawning runs near Ennis around 1900. Today, the grayling that are being used to repopulate Grayling Creek and other creeks in the Yellowstone’s Madison River watershed actually come from the Big Hole River via Montana’s Axolotl Lakes.

Wyoming Game and Fish Department Regional Fisheries Supervisor Hilda M. Sexauer says the best populations are in lakes with a good stream inflow, good spawning gravel and rocks near where a stream enters the lake, deep enough water to act as a refuge during hot summer drought conditions and, most importantly, no competition from other fish including non-native trout. Many high-altitude lakes were chosen...
Biology on the Fly

for grayling stocking because there were originally fishless, not necessarily because they are colder. Grayling can stand water temperatures about like brown trout, but not the competition from the brown trout. Grayling eggs from their Wyoming brood stock lake where spawning beds are favorable are taken to a few of their lakes where reproduction is not sustainable, and also sent to other states for stocking in high altitude lakes.

Fishing for Grayling

The longest history of fly fishing for grayling is from Europe. Fly designs whose origin goes back hundreds of years are still in use today. Many English traditionalists prefer to use the Northern Spider or wet flies such as the Waterhen Bloa or Partridge and Orange, while lately heavily weighted nymphs that Pole and Czech flyfishers developed have become popular. These woven bodied and shell-backed caddis nymphs are fished upstream on a short line. Grayling are also easily caught on the surface with whatever trout flies match the local insects. Recent experience on Wyoming lakes has included grayling taking Callibaetis duns and unidentified brown drake duns. On Montana streams, caddis imitations including Gary LaFontaine’s Red Sparkle Caddis are very attractive to grayling. Most any fly will work with Alaskan grayling. My best grayling, a heavy 19-inch fish with a long dorsal fin extending back almost to the adipose fin, was taken on a Spuddler Minnow by accident while fishing for salmon. Fish this size in Alaska may be 30 years old, which was my age when I caught it.

IFFF, Native Species and Species Preservation

Why care about grayling or any other species being pushed towards extinction by man’s actions? The Native Fish Policy of the IFFF states that our organization supports policies and practices that recognize the value of native species and their conservation in native habitats, and their recovery in their historical ranges. All species have a right to exist, and have intrinsic value. As Aldo Leopold said about species conservation and management, “To keep every cog and wheel is the first precaution of intelligent tinkering.”

Grayling’s greatest extrinsic value to fly fishers is that they are fun to catch. Montana grayling should not go the way of the passenger pigeon or Michigan’s grayling. In 100 years or so, if the streams don’t get too hot and fluvial grayling are still in Montana streams, it will be because of stream management practices developed now and concern that people show today.

Verne Lehmberg from Dayton, Texas, is a longtime Federation member, excellent photographer and writer. He is Flyfisher’s “Biology on the Fly” columnist. Give him your feedback at VerneLehmberg@yahoo.com.

IFFF member Kevin F. McGrath is holding the IGFA World Record All Tackle Length Arctic grayling, 48cm which he caught in August 2014, from the Kazan River in Canada’s Northwest Territories. The Kazan is a Canadian Heritage River. Its headwaters are in the Kasaba Lake, and is world famous for grayling. McGrath caught this fish on a Chernobyl ant after trying more realistic surface patterns.

Photo courtesy of Kevin McGrath
Since 1970, some of the most gifted fly tiers in the IFFF have been given the prestigious Buz Buszek Memorial Award in the form of a small pin. The origin of the Buz Buszek Memorial Award stemmed from a Fresno, California, FFF club that started the award in memory of Buz Buszek, a California fly tier and fly shop owner. Two of the former tiers at the Buz Buszek Fly Shop, Darwin Atkin and Wayne Luallen, are among the recipients of this award. Darwin Atkin, Steven Jensen and the Phrozen Phantom Phlytyers group tied flies and constructed fly plates, which were auctioned to fund this pin.

Nominations for the Buszek Award are presented to the Awards Committee. Nominees are evaluated based on their tying skill, creativity or innovation, and sharing knowledge by teaching or publication. A few of the Buszek Award tiers' flies are shown on this page for all IFFF fly tiers to emulate.

Verne Lehmberg from Dayton, Texas, is a longtime Federation member and Flyfisher contributor. See his column, Biology on the Fly.
Hans van Klinken is well renowned for his ubiquitous parachute pattern, the Klinkhåmer Special. With so many iterations of this pattern, it is a bit difficult to get back to the history of the original fly as tied by Hans. In a 2012 article by Hans van Klinken titled “The Klinkhåmer Special – 25 Years Later,” published in Tom Sutcliffe’s blog, The Spirit of Fly Fishing, you can get some great information regarding this pattern straight from the originator himself (www.tomsutcliffe.co.za/fly-fishing/fly-tying/item/248-hans-van-klinken-on-his-klinkhamer-special.html).

According to van Klinken, the newly designed Klinkhåmer Special sought its first fish in 1984 and the rest is history. It would seem that this particular fly was most effective on the grayling found in van Klinken’s home waters and the suspended parachute design lent itself to effectively increasing hookups at the surface on these tiny-mouthed fish. All I know is that I have caught a lot of fish on this pattern over the years as it lends itself to a wide range of imitation of many aquatic insects including but not limited to midges, caddis and mayflies. Van Klinken has some thoughts on his original pattern and how it should be tied in the blog article mentioned above. I will present here my version of this awesome pattern as close to the original as I am able. Several of the tying methods that I use on this fly have been mentioned by me in this magazine under the Tying Tips section in several articles as follows: “Do-It-Yourself Peacock Chenille” Flyfisher Autumn 2013-Winter 2014, page 46; “Easy Parachutes” Flyfisher Spring-Summer 2014, page 38; “Parachutes and Zap-A-Gap” Flyfisher Spring-Summer 2016.

If you have never tried this pattern make sure to do so, you will never regret it. Easy to tie and very effective. Thank you Hans van Klinken!

Kelly Glissmeyer and his wife, Cathy, reside in Rigby, Idaho, where they participate in all things fly fishing. He can be contacted at KgGliss@hotmail.com.

Fly Tips
How to Revive Slimed CDC

By Kelly Glissmeyer

A big challenge in fishing CDC patterns is that they soon become fish-slimed and waterlogged and cannot maintain their floatability. What to do? After years of fishing CDC patterns, I have come upon a method to continue using the same pattern fish-after-fish. The steps are simple and quickly get me back on the water.

When your fly is slimed or waterlogged, immerse it in water and give it a few shakes to rinse it off. Dry the fly off with a towel or drying patch – Amadou or chamois are very effective for this. Place the fly in a bottle of dry-shake desiccant powder mixed with silica-gel desiccant beads and give it a good shake (several manufacturers sell this product or make your own as I do). The beads help un-matt the CDC barbules while the powder pulls the remaining moisture from the fly. Last, take a very small amount of liquid (not gel) floatant and work it into the CDC; an extremely small amount is all that is needed. Rub with a cloth to remove any excess then go fish!

Go from this ..

... To This!
At the Vise

Materials

Hook:
DAIICHI 1160, DAIICHI 1167 #8-#20

Thread:
8/0, for body, Spiderweb or similar for parachute

Body:
Super fine-type waterproof dry fly dubbing

Wing:
White poly-yarn

Thorax:
Three strands of peacock herl

Hackle:
Rooster saddle hackle.

At the request of many fellow fly tiers, Dena and Jerome Hebert created this book. It contains over 50 different fly tying techniques and step-by-step photos with instructions for tying over a dozen fly patterns. Jerome developed and used these patterns as a fly fishing guide pursuing bass, crappie, and large bluegill, in 1995-2005.

Books are available at AbayuRunsThroughIt.com 337-356-2991

Trim the brittle tips from three peacock herls and attach them by the remaining tips behind the post. Tie down behind the post to a point equaling the gap in front of the post to the hook eye. Build a peacock chenille and wind this around the thorax area both behind and in front of the wind post to the hook eye. Whip finish and trim thread and butts.

Advance thread to approximately the 7/8ths position down the hook behind the barb and begin the dubbing process. For this fly it is truly “less-is-more.” Most tiers use far too much dubbing. Start very thin and then build a gradual taper up the hook to the parachute post.

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Reaching, Piling and Parachuting
Mends and other casting tricks
By Tom Tripi

The last article was devoted to fishing small creeks and streams using short accurate casts. We're changing direction this time and focusing on large, wider streams. Along the way we'll be using longer rods and discussing a few easy casting techniques that will help everyone become more proficient casters.

My experience on rivers and wide streams came early in life and was totally unexpected. I had just graduated and was planning for my post graduate degree. However, Uncle Sam had other plans and in 1970 I was drafted. Six months later found me stationed at Loring Air Force Base in northern Maine a few miles from the Canadian border. My housing was near the Aroostook River, which at the time, was under 4 feet of ice and snow, frozen solid. Spring did eventually come and the Aroostook manifested as a wide rocky stream strewn with large boulders and sand bars. The water was clear and cold. The fish were countless. Had I found fly fishing nirvana? Well, I thought I had as until then my only fly fishing "experience" was on lazy southern bayous and ponds.

Now, my problem was how to fish that fast moving water. The locals used worms and corn. In fact, I don't remember ever seeing any fly fishing activity. I decided instead to explore the river to figure out where and how fish hid in the current, what nymphs and flies they ate and when rises occurred. But doing a little exploring was the extent of my "fishing experience" as I was soon transferred "down south" to New York and the former 110,000-acre Camp Drum Military Reservation.

It was located near many trout waters and even a spawning river for salmon. I went way past nirvana and found myself in heaven! But, I still had to learn how to fish those waters. So I purchased Joe Brooks’ book "Trout Fishing" and started to teach myself. The most difficult aspect of learning without actual instruction was the amount of trial and error casting while trying to "unlearn" bad habits I had to live through. I was stationed there for almost 3 years and taught myself a lot while fishing almost every day of trout season. When discharged, we moved to Plattsburgh, New York, on the banks of the big Saranac River. The Saranac had 'new' structure for me to learn; but more important, the fish were generally the same, although somewhat smaller and the key fly fishing techniques I had taught myself would definitely apply.

I learned that a primary requirement for fishing fast moving, larger water was to understand and master the importance of line control. The water can run very fast, it's well oxygenated and generally holds larger fish. A fly fisher would probably use a longer rod on such water, and in many situations it's almost mandatory. If you're fishing dry flies in strong currents with varying feed lanes you’ll be aerial mending and/or slack lining in some way on almost every cast trying to achieve a drag-free float.

The Ausable is one of the author’s favorite Adirondack rivers; wide pools and fast runs, perfect water to employ mends and other casting tricks while pursuing wild trout.

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My suggestion for rods to cover most big water situations you'll encounter would be a fairly fast 9-foot 6-weight, and a reel with two spools. One spool will hold a 5- or 6-weight line for easier casting and the other spool is for a 4-weight line with a finer front taper when more delicate dry fly presentations are required. Longer casts using lighter lines (than a 4-weight) tend to be more difficult to mend and control in faster water. And trying to land large fish on lighter line tends to excessively tire fish lessening their chance for recovery. A second rod would be a soft-action 9.5 footer for nymphing and wet flies. That extra 6 inches in the longer rod does wonders in controlling mends and final line placement as the cast is completed.

Fly line selection can consume at least another article but for this piece let me suggest spending a little extra money on a quality line; this is not the place to “go cheap.” My preference would be for a longer front end taper with a matched leader. Also, that leader should also be somewhat abrasion resistant as you’ll usually be fishing over rocky river bottoms.

Now that we’ve selected the right rods, lines and leaders we’ll really get down to business. You’ve got to be able to present flies realistically in order that fish are attracted to them. Unfortunately, we’re not fishing a slow moving stream or quiet pool. The water will be running fast and it will drag your fly across the current the instant it hits the water. Your job is to overcome that drag and presenting your fly with controlled slack in the line is the best way to temporarily gain a drag-free float.

The easiest “casts” to learn for adding distance to your drag free float are simple mends and slack line casts. One mend in particular is the aerial mend; it’s easy to master and effective for introducing lots of extra slack line. To complete the aerial mend make a standard forward cast so that the line is shooting straight out about 5-feet above the water. Then stop the forward rod motion and, as the line is shooting out, move the rod tip to the left (or right) then back to its original position. That to-the-side rod movement of just a foot or so will introduce a wide “C” shaped arc in the fly line before it settles on the water. Just determine on which side of the current’s flow you’ll need the mended line to land. Based on my experience the aerial mend has become almost an automatic part of my standard forward cast in moving water.

A variation of the aerial mend is the reach mend. Make a standard forward cast and as the line is shooting out simply reach and lower the rod tip onto the water at about 45-degrees to your right or left side, depending on current flow. My favorite aerial mend is a serpentine mend and is very easy to execute. Simply complete a standard forward cast stopping with the rod in a parallel position to the water, about chest high. As the line is shooting out through the guides to reach the fish, slowly wiggle the rod tip back and forth horizontally. The wiggling action introduces a series of “S” curves in the line that will then lightly drop onto the water creating an excellent slack-line presentation.

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My favorite slack line cast is the pile or parachute cast. The cast is just a forward cast aimed somewhat higher on the horizon than a standard cast. A good example would be to aim a standard cast at the top of a tree instead of the lower trunk. And while line is shooting toward the tree tops, simply lower the rod tip to the water causing the fly line to come back or recoil somewhat and fall onto the water in a series of tight “S” curves. A variation to this cast is to complete a standard forward cast aimed just above the tree top, (or higher). Hold the rod in that position until the cast is nearly completed then bring the rod tip down near the water or to your normal fishing position. The fly line will “parachute” back onto the water, piling in numerous curves and puddles creating great slack-line presentation. This is an excellent down-stream cast in fast water.

A serpentine mend just before it falls to the water; note the straight path of the fly line which is not impacted by the seven or so mends or curves.

The old saying that “chance favors the well prepared” holds true here. Take time during outings when the fish aren’t biting and practice the mends/casts I’ve covered in actual stream conditions. And while doing so practice variations – i.e. twisting your wrist, or arm, etc. You’ll discover little tweaks that will prove invaluable in real fishing situations.

Master Casting Instructor Tom Tripi is from Folsom, Louisiana, where he uses a fly rod and canoe to pursue his favorite fish, ties realistic insect flies, teaches casting to students of all ages and pursues astronomy in his spare time.
Dr. Grayling Will See You Now

By Jason Duncan

I don’t know how many fly fishers would be interested naturally in fly fishing around a mess of humanity. This writer is currently picturing some poor soul with a fly rod in hand, standing in a lovely stretch of river, elbow to elbow with fly fishing bozos on either side, and with scores of other fly fishing bozos stretching off into oblivion in every direction, as far as the eye can see. A grimace of frustration and disgust naturally graces the visage of this poor soul, unless, of course, he is one of those fine souls who can chat amiably along with the next common bozo and go on being the barber worthy of the title, in which case, that fly fisher would almost assuredly find himself in most comfortable company, crossing lines and tangling flies and somehow not losing his temper and sending an angry text to one of his loyal fly fishing buddies who chose to fish a less-populated stretch of river that day. And perhaps this poor soul would somehow manage to be, no doubt, a stranger to the next bozo who fouls up his life or causes him to lose (yet another) nice fish.

I am not that fly fisher. The lightly-fished and relatively unknown waters of New York and New England are the ones I prefer, the ones I don’t fish, and probably for good reason, too, as they don’t typically hold monster fish, but instead smaller, willookier fish. I prefer the solitude. I do not think this is unreasonable, I once fished a very short stretch of the (somewhat famous) East Branch of the Croton River and I counted 19 other fly fishers, which is about 18 too many. I intend to never fish that stretch of the Croton again, assuming, as with the rest of the planet, that the population will only naturally explode exponentially as this mortal coil spins about our friend the sun.

But, why do I pick these secluded (or, dare I say, reclusive) waters? Why do I choose to quarantine myself? Why do I seek out serenity alone? And is this a fishing issue, or is it a (gulp!) personal issue?

I would prefer to think it is a fishing issue, though, secretly, personally, I am afraid that it is not.

So… where can I go for help with this, my anti-social fly-fishing malady? Professional athletes seek out sports psychologists (think Tiger Woods, Alex Rodriguez, Ron Artest, Dirk Nowitzki, Shaquille O’Neil; probably not so much; Tom Brady? kind of a toss-up, really).

I can just now picture my fly fishing sports psychologist. He is European (natural, his of excellent breeding, experience, impeccable, and he will be very well thought of in certain fly-fishing therapy circles.

“Dr. Grayling will see you now.”

“Doctor, doctor, it hurts when I do this!”

“I’m not that kind of doctor.”

“I can picture our second session after this.”

“Doc, I like to fish alone.”

“Ok. So?” the good doctor replies.

“I like to be alone when I fish.”

“Ok. So?”

“I don’t like to be around other people.”

“Ok. While just fishing, or all the time?”

“Particularly fishing.”

“Ok. So?”

Is there such a thing as general, universal anti-social fly fishing disorder?

The answer seems explicitly obvious to this writer. I would venture to suggest that any poor soul anywhere would be hard-pressed to find a fly fisher on the planet who would prefer to be bunched up fishing with a mess of other fly fishing bozos in a decent fishing spot like one lone bird with a million other flamingos in a small Everglades wading pool.

Dare I ask: “Am I not the only anti-social fly fishing freak out on the water on any given Sunday?”

Dare I suggest: “Perhaps all of us in the sport might require at least a tiny bit of professional help? Or therapy? Or psychological treatment? To get us back to zero? To zap us back to normal?”

Or is going into the woods to live simply an excuse to fertilize what is already an anti-social personality, armed with an active imagination, a love for the outdoors, and a 5-weight fly rod?

Oh, all of the questions! All of the thinking! Oh, how it makes the mind spin! What if threatens to do to an otherwise outwardly normal fly fishing person? I can just now picture the poor receptionist in that good sports psychologist’s practice.

“Dr. Grayling’s office, please hold…”

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The mission of the IFFF is to support, enhance and preserve fly fishing opportunities, fundamental to this mission is environmental stewardship and education.

Our commitment to conservation, habitat restoration and the maintenance of public access remains a high priority for the Federation. We continue to expand our influence in the area of habitat restoration and the preservation of public fishing access through the investment of our financial resources and policy advocacy. In 2016 the IFFF provided financial or policy support for several important projects around the U.S., including:

**SandS Creek Restorat**

**Upper Delaware River, New York (Restoration)**

The IFFF in partnership with Patagonia and numerous other public agencies, provided funds for this very important comprehensive, stream restoration project in Delaware County, N.Y.

**Tongass National Forest, Alaska (Policy)**

IFFF urged the USFS to ensure amendments to the Tongass Land Management Plan in order to protect high-value fish habitat, including 70 of the most important, unprotected salmon watersheds and make protection of wild salmon, trout and steelhead their highest management priority.

**Peshastin Mill Access Project, Wenatchee, WA (Public Access)**

The IFFF in concert with other outdoor sports and public agencies, financially supported the purchase of public access along Wenatchee River in Washington State. The 1.0 mile stretch of low bank, riverfront will allow easier public access to the Wenatchee River for fishing and recreation.

**The Fly Fishing Academy Conservation Initiative (Education)**

The Fly Fishing Academy will be introducing a conservation initiative designed to support councils and clubs with basic conservation education and to assist with the design and implementation of local conservation projects and emerging conservation issues affecting local fly fishing access and opportunities.

In order to continue to our important work, the Federation needs your financial support! Please consider a one time gift or an ongoing, monthly donation to the International Federation of Fly Fishers. www.fedflyfishers.org/donate.aspx or call 406.222.9369.

Thank You

The International Federation of Fly Fishers wishes to thank all the sponsors, donors and volunteers who make this event a great success!

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**Great Lakes Council | Upper Midwest Council | Washington State Council | Eastern Rocky Mountain Council**
International Federation of Fly Fishers
2016 Awards

Federator of the Year
Tilda Evans
Kyle Moppert

McKenzie Cup
Central Oregon Flyfishers
High Plains Drifters

IFFF Conservation Award
Jere Anderson

Buszek Memorial Award
Jim Ferguson

Charles E. Brooks Memorial Life Award
Fred Hannie

Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award
Ray Ramirez

Darwin Atkin Memorial Fly Tying Achievement Award
James Schollmeyer

Dr. James A. Henshall Warmwater Fisheries
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Frank and Jeanne Moore Award
Yvon Chouinard

Lee Wulff Award
Tom Morgan

Leopold Award
Edwin Philip Pister

Roderick Haig-Brown Award
Rick Williams

Silver King Award
Phil Shook

President’s Pins
Will Godfrey
Molly Semenik
Bruce Harang
Kuni Masuda
Jessica Atherton
Judy Snyder
Rhonda Sellers
Melani Hajny

Council Awards of Excellence

Eastern Rocky Mountain
Ralph Rhoades

Eastern Waters
Joe Gerace

Florida
David Olson

Great Lakes
Dave Peterson

Gulf Coast
Ron Foreman

Chesapeake
Gary Kell

North East
Mark Berling

Northern California
Derrell Bridgeman

Ohio
Ken Dixon

Oregon
John Kreft

South West
Mas Okui
William O’Kelly
Robin Nicholas
Bart Hall

Texas
Dutch Baughman

Upper Midwest
Brad Eaton
Todd Heggestad

Washington
Chet and JoAnn Allison

Western Rocky Mountain
Dave Londeree
Renee Blythe
Duane Marler
Brittany Frasca

Casting Board of Governors Awards
Floyd Franke Award For Contributions to the CICP
David Diaz

Governor’s Mentoring Award
Gary Kell
Tony Loader
Tom Rueping
Bruce Williams

Governor’s Pin
Thomas Berggren
Willy George
Molly Semenik

Mel Krieger Fly Casting Instructors Award
Larry Allen
Dusty Sprague
David Barron
DARWIN ATKIN MEMORIAL FLY TYING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

This is an award created to recognize an IFFF member whose long-term contribution to fly tying is widely recognized and respected. This award is for outstanding achievement and demonstrated commitment of the person in significantly advancing the craft and art of fly tying. To preserve the integrity and prestige of this award, it is recommended that it is awarded judiciously and infrequently, but the frequency stipulation shouldn't deprive a truly deserving individual. This year's recipient is Jim Schollmeyer of Salem, Oregon.

During the years, Schollmeyer's work exemplifies the "outstanding achievement and demonstrated commitment" in "significantly advancing the craft and art of fly tying." He is widely recognized and respected for his literary and photography contributions with more than 200,000 books and many magazine articles in print. This lengthy list of titles are written by Schollmeyer or with well-known coauthors such as Ted Leeson, Dave Hughes, Tracy Peterson and Frank Amato is most impressive. The titles of the books demonstrate the wide geographic appeal of his work and include: The Fly Tier's Benchside Reference (reprinted in Dutch and Japanese); Tying Emergers; The Benchside Introduction to Fly Tying; Basic Stream Flies; three hatch guides (Lower Deschutes, Lakes, Western Streams); Nymph Fly-Tying Techniques; Patent Patterns; Trout Flies of the West; Trout Flies of the East; Inshore Flies (Atlantic & Gulf Coast); Fly Casting Illustrated in Color; and Flies for Western Super Hatches. In these, Schollmeyer has set a standard of quality especially in the photographic aspect of his work, which greatly assists tiers and instructors in visualizing the final product of a well-tied fly.

The many, many magazine articles Schollmeyer has published represents another venue for getting information and photography content to the fly-tying community. For example, his work on the contest flies for Patent Patterns in "Flyfishing & Tying Journal" has provided a format for satisfying some fly tiers' competitive spirits as well as offering readers a chance to see many patterns from across North America as well as South America, Europe and Russia. Schollmeyer's influence on the fly-tying community spans the globe.

Rey Ramirez of Brownsville, Texas is the 2016 award recipient. For many years he has shown great leadership in the field of fly tying innovation and teaching. He has been tying saltwater flies since the mid 1970s when there was little information about saltwater patterns and materials. Fortunately, he did find some guidance via the Outdoor Life Book Club. Eventually through the club, he obtained a copy of Joe Brook's book on saltwater fly fishing and the flies used at the time. The Blonde was one of the patterns he learned to tie. It was very easy to tie and best of all it caught spotted sea trout under lights like crazy. He mentioned in his award profile that, "I actually felt like I was cheating by using such a great fly." No matter whether he was cheating or not, as the years unfolded Ramirez became an outstanding fly tier and subsequently, a great instructor as well.

The Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award is presented to an individual who excels in teaching the art of fly tying to all skill levels. The recipient must demonstrate and teach the varied skills of fly tying and teach techniques developed by others and themselves and have experience teaching in both groups and individuals.

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Buz Buszek Memorial Award

The Buz Buszek Memorial Award is presented annually to the person who has made significant contributions to the art of fly tying. The recipient may be either an amateur or professional who displays tying skills, creativity, innovation and shares knowledge by teaching or publication. Achievements and contributions should promote the advancements of the art and qualification should be superior to other candidates.

Jim Ferguson of Salem, Oregon is this year’s recipient. He is a well-recognized fly tier who has participated in IFFF functions around the world. Ferguson is not only recognized for his demonstration skills but has gone the extra step by organizing various fly tying and fly show events – he is one of those people who is always there to help.

He is a dedicated fly-tying instructor, starting as a youth when he conducted fly-tying demonstrations at his high school. He continued fly tying demonstrations when he was a teacher at Cascade High School during its yearly hobby and craft show and in 4-H classes. In the years following his time in school, he became a career teacher but continued to demonstrate and teach tying classes regularly at fly shops in his community: The Valley Flyfisher, Creekside Flyfishing and the Orvis store.

In his spare time, he conducts numerous fly-tying clinics for the IFFF at the regional, national and international level. When not filling a position at a demonstration table, he often serves as fly tying chairman for numerous events (both at the local and national levels) including the world-renowned Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo that features about 175 tiers.

Continuing his love of teaching, Ferguson has developed numerous “pattern booklets,” each focused on an individual pattern. The “booklets” include a brief historical look at a pattern then subsequent pages include step-by-step instructions and photographs. Ferguson developed the booklets because he believes students learn and retain more when they have an in-hand document available for reference. His teaching materials are available at no charge for other instructors to use for their classes via a download section titled “Beginning Fly Tying” on his website ftfFlyTyingInstructorResource.org.

During the years, Ferguson has taught by example by winning or placing in 17-plus fly tying contests at the regional, national and international levels. Those events included the following categories: West Coast Hairwing Steelhead; West Coast Surface Waking Steelhead; Salmon Hairwing; Realistic Spey; Salmon Freestyle: Classic Featherwing Salmon Style; and Trout Streamer.

After taking a framing class from longtime Federator, Steve Jensen, he started mounting his Atlantic salmon flies in frames and donating them to various fund-raising efforts. His excellent work gained recognition and soon other groups including the Oregon Council asked him to frame flies for its auctions and raffles. On a national level, Ferguson has framed and donated flies that have brought thousands of dollars to the IFFF. Several of his pieces are on display at the IFFF Museum in Livingston, Montana.

During the years, Ferguson gained recognition for his fly-tying talent and in 2006 was awarded the Fly Tier of the Year for the Oregon Council and in 2012 the IFFF Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award. Now in 2016, he has earned the highest fly-tying award of all, the “Buszek!”

We could continue with examples of Ferguson’s talent and generosity but his qualifications for the award are obvious. Ferguson is deeply honored to be the recipient of the 2016 Buz Buszek Memorial Award and counted among the few who earned the right to wear the “golden feather pin.”
Federator of the Year

The Federator of the Year Award is presented annually to an individual(s) who has demonstrated unusual devotion to the IFFF and through outstanding contributions has benefited the Federation as a national or international organization. This award is bestowed upon an individual for achievements wide in scope and not limited to local or regional activities. The criteria require devotion and contributions to the IFFF in order to be consistent with IFFF’s objectives. Additionally, a minimum of five-years membership and service is required and that service should be voluntary rather than as a paid employee. Devotion and contribution to the organization should be consistent with IFFF objectives and superior to those of other candidates.

This year we have two recipients. They are Tilda Evans from Collbran, Colo. and Kyle Moppert from Baton Rouge, La.

Carl Johnson, President of the Washington Council, nominated Evans for Federator of the Year. She is a highly competent individual and an asset to the organization. Her accomplishments are best shared by quoting from Johnson’s nomination letter: “I have known Tilda since the Conclave in Livingston in 2007, the year she became Oregon Council President. Since that time, she has been an integral part of the Federation. She became a member of the Board of Directors in 2008. She has served on a number of committees, including the Executive Committee, Fly Fishing Fair Selection Committee and the Fly Fishing Fair committee. She also served as the Council President’s representative to the IFFF Board of Directors. Evans started fly fishing almost 20 years ago on the rivers and streams of Oregon seeking both trout and steelhead. She became a FFF member about the time she started fly fishing, serving on the Oregon Council Board of Directors for 11 years before becoming Council President. She served on the committee for the Oregon Council’s Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo for a number of years, including participating in the highly successful decision to move the event to Albany, a region. In 2005, she moved to Grand Junction, Colo., while staying active in the IFFF at the national level. While maintaining her active national board participation, she also became active in local IFFF and TU activities. I believe this active and lauded needs all of the criteria for this award.”

In addition to Johnson’s comments, Evans also has been active in teaching all aspects of fly fishing to women and kids. She helped to start a women’s casting clinic that gets maximum enrollment in the Portland area. She has taught kids in Grand Junction and Collbran. Evans believes getting new people, especially women and kids, involved in fly fishing is the best way to conserve our rivers and streams because we are teaching them to love the outdoors and ways to preserve it for future generations.

Our other recipient, Kyle Moppert, was nominated by Philip Greenlee, past president and CEO of the IFFF. From Greenlee’s nomination letter: “Few can match the devotion, effort and passion that Kyle has given our organization over the course of three decades. He was active in launching and growing an FFF club in Shreveport, Louisiana, and soon became a leader in the Baton Rouge club after relocating to that city. But Moppert was never content to confine himself to a single town. He soon became known as the FFF advocate throughout Louisiana, Mississippi and East Texas growing Federation membership and our sport wherever he could. He has served as a FFF national vice-president, on the boards of three councils, and Chair of Council Conclaves, expos and fly fairs, which he again is doing this year.”

“In 2010, Kyle was recruited to take over as president of the begotten Gulf Coast Council (GCC). Poorly conceived and almost broke, the GCC was much too large geographically reaching from Brownsville, Texas, into the Florida panhandle. Kyle came to me and suggested we consider realigning the boundaries of the GCC while forming the new Texas Council in the process. Kyle offered to give the new council $14,000 as ‘start-up funds’ from the GCC coffers. Today, two highly successful councils are the end result of his far-reaching vision. I think he should have received this award a long time ago.”

Evans and Moppert are both high-energy volunteers who just-get-things-done and dependly do what is needed with little or no direction. The organization is proud to recognize them with one of its highest honors, Federator of the Year. Good job to you both, you are most-deserving recipients!
Roderick Haig-Brown Award

The Roderick Haig-Brown Award is presented to recognize individuals who have made significant contributions to angling literature. The award is presented to an author of a book, books or combination of articles and books that embody the philosophy of Roderick Haig-Brown. This year's recipient is Rick Williams of Eagle, Idaho.

Rick Williams left received the Roderick Haig-Brown Award from Len Zickler, President/CEO.

Williams graduated from the College of Idaho with a double major: zoology and English literature. While he was at the college, Williams wrote some poetry. He went on to Notre Dame, then to BYU to finish his Master of Science and also Chair of the Certified Casting Instructors Board of Governors. In the book, "Backcasts: Historical and Global Perspectives in Fly Fishing and Conservation," Williams wrote a chapter called "A History of Conservation in the IFFF," 2015. View the chapter at www.fedflyfishers.org/Conservation/HistoryGovernance.aspx.

Williams is a most worthy recipient of this award for his contributions to conservation, the IFFF and the introspective writing that challenges us every day to do more for the world in which we live. Besides, he is a dedicated hard working Federator who serves on both the IFFF Board of Directors and also Chair of the Certified Casting Instructors Board of Governors.

Job well done, Rick!

Silver King Award

The IFFF Saltwater award is named after the highly prized saltwater trophy, the tarpon. The "Silver King Award" is presented to an individual who has made extraordinary contributions to the sport of saltwater angling over an extended period of time. The nominee may or may not be a professional in the sport.

Texas Council member John Janco nominated Texas native Phil Shook for the Silver King Award on behalf of the council for his contributions to the sport of saltwater fly fishing. A nationally known fly fishing writer and instructor, Shook first traveled to Mexico as a boy with his family in the 1950s. In more recent years as an angling writer, he has had the opportunity to visit and write about some of the best lodges and meet many of the best fleet operations, outfitters, guides, and captains in Mexico resulting in his book, "Flyfisher’s Guide to Mexico." Shook’s angling and travel stories have appeared in Flyfisher, Field & Stream, Outdoor Life, Flyfishing in Salt Waters, Fly Tyer, Fly Rod & Reel, American Angler, Fly Fisherman, Salt Water Sportsman and other magazines. He is the author of four fly fishing guidebooks, including Flyfisher’s Guide to Mexico; Fly Fishing the Texas Coast: Backcountry Flats to Bluewater; Flyfisher’s Guide to the Northeast Coast; and the Flyfisher's Guide to Texas. He is a member of the Outdoor Writers Association of America and past director of both the Texas Outdoor Writers Association and the Southeastern Outdoor Press Association.

Shook is at home while fishing the salt and cares so much for the sport. Time on the water is special to him and he shares the experience with many other anglers. We are pleased to recognize him for the second time with the Silver King Award.
Charles Brooks Memorial Life Award

The Charles E. Brooks Memorial Life Award goes to an individual who demonstrates a deep affection for the outdoors, is an innovative fly tier, has some background in writing books or magazine articles, is a member of the IFFF, and has some history of serving at banquets, seminars or regional conclaves. The recipient should have the enthusiasm of Charles and be “A character.” This year’s recipient, Fred Hannie of Lake Charles, Louisiana, certainly is qualified in all aspects of the award’s intent.

Hannie is an extraordinary innovative fly tier who has been featured in Fly Tyer Magazine (Autumn 2013 cover), is a book author (“Fly Tying with Monofilament,”) an educator, has written countless magazine articles and blogs. Hannie is a fly-tying personality and demonstration tier at the annual Texas and Gulf Coast Council expos. His realistic ties have also caught the eye of Hollywood and have been featured in a television series as well as independent films. To see this man’s remarkable talent, view samples of his work in Fly Tyer Magazine, Flyfisher, Fly Fusion, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, Hatches Magazine or his website: www.realisticflytying.net.

Hannie does an excellent job representing the goals of this award and the Federation. His accomplishments would make the award’s namesake Charlie Brooks proud.

The McKenzie Cup

The McKenzie Cup is given to the IFFF club(s) that made the most outstanding contribution to the organization. This year the organization is proud to award the McKenzie Cup to two great clubs. They are the Central Oregon Flyfishers from Bend, Oregon and the High Plains Drifters from Denver, Colorado.

Since 1979, the Central Oregon Flyfishers (COF) has been a supporter and contributor to the objectives of the IFFF. Currently an IFFF Affiliate Club, in 2015 COF members played a key role in the success of the IFFF 50th Anniversary Fly Fishing Fair in Bend, Oregon. They set an example of how a team of local support can make a big contribution and have fun in the process. They have ongoing education and conservation programs focused on youth, Project Healing Waters, and volunteering for various agencies like the Sisters Ranger District Program, the fisheries of the Metolious Basin, and yearly participation on surveys of Bull Trout and Redband Trout. Over the years, the COF has received 18 awards from various agencies and organizations for their conservation, education, and support efforts. In 2015 alone, COF volunteers worked a total 5,852 hours and traveled 32,071 miles to support club goals and local agencies.

High Plains Drifters, a charter club of the IFFF, is located in Denver, Colorado. The club’s activities and programs parallel the mission of the IFFF. It is one of the leading clubs in the West, promoting membership, education, conservation and fellowship in the art and science of fly fishing. The list of functions they provide their members and local community is impressive. Those items include an annual Kids Day (hosting 50 youth with ages from 6 to 15); free Fly Fishing 101 Classes; open fly tying sessions to encourage fellowship; numerous on-stream classes; fly casting and fly tying competitions scheduled throughout the year; and an annual Fly Fishing Show each January. They communicate regularly with their members and the public through monthly meetings, fishing trips, luncheons, a newsletter, a website and a Facebook page.

The IFFF appreciates all that these two clubs have accomplished and the enthusiasm they exhibit in doing so. The organization is very proud to recognize two of the best-of-the-best of its clubs with the McKenzie Cup Award.

Len Zickler presented McKenzie Cup to the Central Oregon Flyfishers (COF) and the High Plains Drifters (HPD). Pictured from left are Eric Steele and Karen Kreft (COF), Len Zickler and Tim Papich (HPD). Photo by BT’S Photography
The IFFF Conservation Award is presented to individuals, groups or organizations that have made extraordinary contributions to the conservation of fisheries resources. The award could be based on a single outstanding contribution or on a continuous prominent effort promoting conservation. This year the organization is recognizing the highly motivated Jere Anderson from Plano, Texas.

Fellow club member Dutch Baughman from the Texas Council’s Dallas Fly Fishers (DFF) club submitted Jere Anderson for this important recognition. Anderson has been a member of the DFF since January 1993. At his first meeting, he volunteered to be the Conservation Chair and has held that position ever since. His first encounter with a conservation issue was a fish kill in a feeder stream in the Trinity River system. In keeping with his action-oriented style, he sought out the pollution group in charge, the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, and became one of their water watch monitors, and one of their trainers who subsequently trained a group of DFF members to do three years of on-the-water monitoring.

In 1994, he became the Newsletter Editor which he still is doing today while writing dozens of conservation articles as well as the fly fishing and fly tying pages. His real impact came when the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) began an Angler Education Certificate Program and Jere was the driving force behind the first group of DFF Angler Education Instructor certifications. Still focusing on education, Anderson was instrumental in organizing the Southern Conclave in the late ’90s and later in helping organize public events at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center. In about 2002, the Boy Scouts of America developed a Fly Fishing Merit Badge and as the Outreach Chairman, Anderson was one of the leaders of the DFF club’s excellent program that has taught hundreds of Boy Scouts the Fly Fishing Merit Badge. He also teaches the TPWD Basic Fly Fishing Certification to hundreds of youth, women and senior groups each year. Then he catches his breath so he can lead a fly tying outreach program at a major outdoor store every Wednesday and Saturday. With the advent of the IFFF Fly Tying Skill Awards, Anderson became the second Texan to receive the Bronze Award, and is now an evaluator of the flies for this same award. He teaches the Fly Tying Skill Award program to any club who asks and helps them get their flies ready for review.

Anderson feels that teaching is one of the most important aspects of conservation and is often called upon by other clubs to help with public events teaching entomology from a ‘What Fish Eat’ perspective regarding fly selection and presentation. In addition, he has been the leading teaching-hour-volunteer in Texas angler education for a number of years. This year he is coordinating the Texas Council booth at the highly attended Earth Day Celebration in Dallas.

We could continue with his many accomplishments but we think by now you must see that Jere Anderson is one of those people who is making a major contribution to the world of conservation. He is a credit to the organization and excellent choice for the top IFFF Conservation Award!

Jere Anderson received the IFFF Conservation Award from Len Zickler left and Glenn Erikson right.

Photo by BT’s Photography
The IFFF Leopold Award is presented to an individual for outstanding contributions to fisheries and land ecology. The person should have followed an adherence to the land ethic espoused and demonstrated by Aldo Leopold, Luna Leopold, A. Starker Leopold and the other family members. Recognition for the value of all ecosystem parts, not only fish and wildlife but all biotic and abiotic components, are an integral part.

Edwin Philip (Phil) Pister from Bishop, California, is the recipient of this prestigious environmental contributions award. After reviewing the volume of data supporting Phil's nomination for this award, the documentation from Lew Riffle, Conservation Chair for the Santa Barbara Flyfishers, best summarizes his qualifications. Riffle wrote: 'Phil Pister is responsible for much we have today as our trout fisheries go in the Eastern Sierra if not the whole of California. His career spanned a time where we saw a shift from anthropocentrism to biocentrism in the post WWII 20th century. The right man at the right time it seems. He was influenced by Starker (son of Aldo) Leopold’s first wildlife classes at the University of California, Berkeley. In a time when one’s passions as a fisheries biologist was not so much a liability as it is today, he very resourcefully directed the recovery of the upper South Kern Drainage to the Golden Trout Wilderness. We have the purest golden trout living where they should, today, due to his foresight and management. Edwin Philip Pister, for whom it was named and was such an influence on Phil Pister’s career.'

After reviewing his qualifications, it is evident that Edwin Philip Pister is more than qualified for this award. He truly spent a lifetime dedicated to the teachings of the award’s namesake. We thank Edwin for that dedication!

Texas Council member Dutch Baughman’s nomination letter best describes this organization’s contribution(s) when he states, ‘The TPWD is deserving of this award because of their amazing commitment to conservation and education for the entire State of Texas, with particular emphasis on warmwater fisheries. Their influence involves trout and credibility in a multitude of activities in all of the State Parks is recognized as the primary leadership resource. They also have a genuine and dedicated partnership with the Texas Council-IFFF, the IFFF and the individual clubs across the state. Especially noteworthy is their leadership role in Fly Fish Texas at the state. They conduct the TPWD Angler Education Program that has certified thousands of qualified instructors for the state parks and fisheries in the state of Texas, with emphasis on conservation, entomology, restoration, catch and release, and education. They produce many articles and books to help people recognize specific species of Texas warmwater fisheries. Their publications also help people understand fish habitat, fishing techniques, ethics and etiquette. They produce the TPWD Reel Lines newsletter about fishing in Texas, as well as the TPWD Magazine.'

We could continue with TPWD accomplishments because they number 50 or more than we’ve listed here but we think you get the idea; they really do deserve this prestigious award. The 'Henshall' is not often given but when it is the recipient really does deserve the recognition.

Dr. James A. Henshall Warmwater Fisheries Award

This award is made in memory of Dr. James Henshall for his many contributions to warmwater fisheries. The award may be made to an individual, a club, a group or other organization for extraordinary achievements in conservation of warmwater fisheries. An individual or club must be a member of the IFFF but a group need not be a Federation affiliate. The nominee(s) should have directed a warmwater fisheries conservation project that makes a significant contribution to the protection, restoration or enhancement of a warmwater fishery. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) is this year’s recipient.

Len Zickler (left) and Glenn Erikson (right) present the Dr. James A. Henshall Warmwater Fisheries Award to Tim Birdsbod from Austin, Texas representing the Texas Parks & Wildlife Department.

Edwin Philip Pister

Photo by BT’s Photography
Frank and Jeanne Moore Award

This award was established to recognize an individual who has made an extraordinary contribution to the conservation of our fisheries resources and a notable contribution to community service. The recipient does not need to be affiliated with the Federation, can be recognized for single or multiple years, or for a continuous prominent effort promoting conservation. The award need not be presented annually but is only given on an “as merited” basis.

Extraordinary contributions are those that are superior and conspicuous in relation to others and consistent with the philosophies of the Federation. They should be recognized on a regional or national basis, not just locally. The recipient will have made a significant contribution to the preservation and enhancement of those fisheries resources utilized in fly fishing. Recognition of contribution to the community should be through community service activities consistent with the spirit of Frank and Jeanne Moore and their contributions to their community and state. The 2016 recipient of this prestigious award is Yvon Chouinard, founder and owner of Patagonia, incorporated.

Chouinard’s journey to recognition as one of the world’s conservation leaders had its beginnings in the rock climbing industry. He got his start as a climber in 1953 as a 14-year-old member of the Southern California Falconry Club, which trained hawks and falcons for hunting. After one of the adult leaders, Don Prentice, taught the boys how to rappel down the cliffs to the falconeries, he and his friends became so fond of the rappelling they started hopping freight trains to Stoney Point’s sandstone cliffs in California’s San Fernando Valley. There they eventually learned to climb up as well as rappel down the rock.

In time, his love for climbing took him to Yosemite National Park. After meeting John Salathé, a Swiss climber who had once made hard iron pitons out of Model A axles, the young Chouinard decided to make his own reusable hardware. In 1957, he went to a junkyard and bought a used coal-fired forge, a 138-pound anvil, some tongs and hammers, and started teaching himself how to blacksmith. He made his first pitons from an old harvester blade. The word spread and soon friends had to have Chouinard’s steel pitons. Before he knew it, he was in business.

There was soon enough demand for Chouinard’s gear that he couldn’t keep making it by hand. He had to start using machinery. In 1958 he went into partnership with Tom Frost, who was an aeronautical engineer as well as a climber. During the next nine years that Frost and Chouinard were partners, they redesigned and improved almost every climbing tool while making them stronger, lighter, simpler and more functional. By 1970, Chouinard Equipment had become the largest supplier of climbing hardware in the United States.

Also in the early ‘70s, Chouinard’s company began to see clothing as a way to help support the marginally profitable hardware business. In January 1972, the newly formed clothing company, Patagonia, was selling polyurethane rain cagoules and bivouac sacks from Scotland, boiled-wool gloves and mittens from Austria, and hand-knit reversible “schizo” hats from Boulder.

Patagonia was still a small company when they started to devote time and money to the increasing environmental crisis. Patagonia began initial steps to reduce their role as a corporate polluter by using recycled-content paper for catalogs and working with Malchen Mills to develop recycled polyester for use in their Synchilla fleece. Their distribution center in Reno, opened in 1996, achieved a 60 percent reduction in energy use through solar-tracking skylights, radiant heating and recycled content for everything from rebar to carpet. Also by 1996, Patagonia was making 100 percent of its cotton sportswear out of organic cloth.

The company’s focus on conservation has continued over the years and in 2002 One Percent for the Planet was founded by Yvon Chouinard and Craig Mathews (Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, Montana) to “encourage more businesses to donate 1 percent of their sales to environmental groups.” That organization now claims over 1200 members in 48 countries and by 2012 has contributed more than $100 million to environmental preservation.

As the ‘70s blended into the ‘80s, Chouinard continued to focus on clothing while also venturing into more vivid clothing colors than those other manufacturers produced. The runaway popularity of dramatic colors, and the growing appeal of some of Patagonia’s technical fabrics like Synchilla, created a new concern. The company began to grow at a rapid pace; at one point it made 108,000 jackets a week.

That rapid growth came to a halt in the summer of 1991, when sales fell during a recession and the bankers called in a revolving loan. To pay off the debt, the company had to drastically cut costs, dump inventory and lay off employees. The company learned a major lesson and has kept growth and borrowing to a modest scale ever since.

By 1996, Patagonia was making fabrics like Synchilla, created a new concern. The company began to grow at a rapid pace; at one point it made 108,000 jackets a week.

We could continue outlining Yvon Chouinard’s creative concepts but we think by now you can see his accomplishments set a benchmark for this award of the highest level of excellence. The IFFF is proud to present the Frank & Jeanne Moore Award to him for his lifetime of conservation work and effort.

Yvon Chouinard center, received the Frank and Jeanne Moore Award from Len Zickler left and Phil Greenlee right.

Photo by BT’s Photography

FLYFISHER Fall 2016 - Winter 2017
The president of the IFFF presents pins annually to individuals who have assisted him during his term in office. These are people who the president can depend on to be there to offer the president, and the organization, assistance. Both President Phil Greenlee and interim President/CEO Len Zickler presented pins at the 2016 Awards banquet.

Greenlee made presentations to IFFF members Will Godfrey for his many years of service, Molly Semenik for her work on the Fly Fishing Academy, Bruce Harang for his trademark work, and Kuni Masuda for his work on international relations, arranging a trip to Japan and helping the Japanese delegation come to the Fair this year. He then recognized IFFF office staff members Jessica Atherton and Judy Snyder for their long service to the organization; and Rhonda Sellers for her exemplary performance as the Operations Manager. Greenlee was most appreciative to the members and staff who made his job much easier.

Zickler recognized one of the IFFF office staff members Melani Hajny for her quick thinking and subsequent action. She used her 14 years experience as an EMT to provide assistance to a Fly Fair volunteer who had a heart issue and collapsed.

The volunteer was sent to Billings, Montana, by air transport where he had a pacemaker installed. Good job, Melani!
Casting Board of Governors’ Pins

The Chair of the Casting Board of Governors (CBOG) awards Governor’s pins in recognition of exemplary contributions in support of the Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP) in areas of administration, committee involvement or program implementation.

In 2016, three Governors’ Pin were awarded to Willy George, Molly Semenik and Thomas Berggren in recognition of their contributions to the CICP. CBOG Chairperson Rick Williams made the presentations at the Awards Banquet near Livingston, Montana. George and Semenik were both in attendance, while Berggren from Sweden was not.

Thanks to Phil Greenlee
For His Service 2008-2016

The IFFF Board of Directors and Interim President/CEO Len Zickler thanked Phil Greenlee for his service to the organization at the awards banquet. In a PowerPoint pictorial presentation Len Zickler reviewed his many accomplishments. They include his membership dating all the way back to 1968. He is truly one of the “founding fathers.”

Prior to his retirement, Greenlee’s day job included a long career in banking, finance and development. In his spare time, he served as Northern California Council Conclave Chair and as Council President. He joined the IFFF Board of Directors and took the Chairmanship in 2008. A year later in 2009, he became the Chairman/President/CEO and remained at that post until 2015. From 2015 to 2016, Greenlee started the retirement process by turning over some of his responsibilities to members of the Board of Directors but retained the President/CEO position. During his years of service, he used his many business skills to redirect the FFF from an organization in financial trouble to an international organization with close to a million dollar in the bank. We all are thankful to him for his dedication and service. Go with care, dear friend. We’ll see you on the water.

Len Zickler awards Phil Greenlee a plaque in thanks for Greenlee’s years of service to IFFF.
Floyd Franke Award for Contribution to the CICP

Floyd Franke advanced the mission of the Casting Instructors Certification Program (CICP) on several levels through his contributions as a Governor and later as the Chairperson of the Casting Board of Governors (CBOG). He foresaw that high standards must be maintained and laid the foundation for the Code of Conduct to ensure this was the case. He also established the Ethics Committee, the Two-Hand Casting Instructor program, Governor Membership terms, and opened CBOG Committees and CICP activities to participation by Master Casting Instructors (MCI).

This year the award goes to David Diaz from Birmingham, Alabama, who has demonstrated Floyd Franke traits and qualities while making significant contributions to the CICP. In his nomination letter Mack Martin says: "I worked with David years ago (about 2007) when he started pushing for Continuing Education (CE) for Casting Instructors (CI) and MCI here in the Southeast. I helped him prepare several CE programs that were the very first in the country and David later continued pushing for CE programs in other parts of the country when he became chair of the CBOG in 2011.

"After becoming the CBOG chair, David felt it was important to champion the CE concept to verify the competence of casting instructors and to resolve the many testing differences that existed in the evaluation of CI and MCI candidates from one part of the country to another. David, along with the help of others, put together the CICP and was responsible for organizing the first two Examiner Development Pathway (EDP) workshops at the Atlanta Fly Fishing School in June 2014 and May 2015. EDP's core elements were teaching activity, testing experience, participation in training workshops and casting competence.

"Testing consistency was not the only problem David identified. He also felt the CBOG was casual about elections of members and the organization's chairperson. As a remedy, he drafted policies for nomination of candidates for seats on the CBOG and election of the CBOG Chair, both of which are still in use today. You can find them posted on the IFFF website (www.fedflyfishers.org then click on the "casting" hyperlink).

"He feels one of the more important changes he made in the board member election procedure was requiring the candidate to write to the CBOG to describe qualifications and contributions that would demonstrate what service the aspiring board members would provide.

"One of the last items David addressed during his tenure as CBOG Chairperson was posting the minutes of the CBOG business meetings on the website. After reviewing his many accomplishments, it is no surprise that Diaz is the 2016 recipient of this prestigious casting award.

Congratulations on a job well done!

Photo by BT's Photography

CBG Chair Rick Williams right presents the award to David Diaz.
The Mel Krieger Casting Instructors Award is presented by the Casting Board of Governors (CBOG) in recognition of those who have made significant contributions to the IFFF Casting Instructor Certification Program (CICP), have dedicated themselves to fly casting instruction, and have shared their knowledge and enthusiasm for casting with others. This year the CBOG selected three people to receive this important casting award. They are Larry Allen of Tempe, Arizona, Dave Barron of Richland Center, Wisconsin, and Dusty Sprague of North Port, Florida. Jon Barrett tells us in his nomination document that Larry Allen often schedules casting events to help local clubs and to mentor casting instructors. He is one of the driving forces in Arizona for the Rio Salado Casting Club; a group that partners with local organizations and fly fishing clubs to offer mentoring, tips or advice to its members. In addition, Allen competes nationally in fly casting competitions and has done well. To Barrett, he's the pinnacle of what a truly great instructor should be.

Dave Barron started fly fishing in 1959, joined the IFFF in 1980 and has been a working guide in Alaska, Missouri, Arkansas and Wisconsin since 1989. Today, he operates Jacquish Hollow Angler & Angler's Inn, a full-time guide service plus bed and breakfast specializing in fly fishing for spring-creek trout in the waters of southwest Wisconsin. He has been teaching fly fishing and casting since 1984, is an Orvis-endorsed guide and has been the chair of the Certified Casting Instructor Testing Committee. During the five years he managed the casting education program, he developed workshops, clinics and programs that now are a major attraction at the annual Fly Fair.

Retired U. S. Air Force Major Dusty Sprague's passion is teaching fly casting and shallowwater fly fishing. He began fly fishing with guidance from his father, the late Judge H.G. Sprague. He has fly fished for fresh or saltwater species in much of the United States, Belize, Mexico, the Bahamas, and Canada, and has guided in Colorado, New Mexico, and southeast Alaska. Sprague has been a member of the Federation since 1972. He served 10 years on the CBOG developing the initial Master Instructor Study Guide and chairing the Masters Test Committee, among other CBOG committee assignments.

As an informational note, Mel Krieger certified Sprague as a Certified Instructor in 1998. Sprague later received his Master Casting Instructor certification in 2000. He is an emeritus member of the CBOG. Allen, Barron and Sprague are a credit to the IFFF and to the CICP. All three individuals exemplify the selfless dedication and enthusiasm that is appropriate for this special award named in honor of Mel Krieger (a founding member of the program).
The Governor’s Mentoring Award goes to an IFFF member, or members, for long and continued support of the Certified Casting Instructor Program through mentoring. Mentoring involves sharing casting knowledge voluntarily with individuals, groups or clubs to perfect member’s casting skills. Mentoring helps advance the Casting Program by educating and recruiting members into the instructor ranks as well and advancing casting instructors to more advanced certifications. This year’s four recipients are Gary Kell from Warren, Pennsylvania; Tony (Anthony) Loader, Eastwood, New South Wales, Australia; Tom Rueping, Lafayette, Georgia; and Bruce Williams, Paradise Valley, Arizona.

Let’s take a brief look at each person and see why they merit this special recognition.

During the period between 2007 and 2012, the Mid-Atlantic Council ceased to exist. Gary Kell continued, without the support of a council, to represent the IFFF and voluntarily teach fly casting on his own initiative. He remained committed to the program and has been very supportive of the new Chesapeake Council (CC) since it was formed in 2013. His knowledge of past council activities and his commitment to the new CC is one of the reasons they have been able to overcome many barriers. He is an excellent instructor who knows and demonstrates the subject well and can modify his approach to meet the student’s learning needs and capabilities. Kell is known throughout his part of the country for his patience and good humor that combined with his teaching skills and willingness to help makes him welcome at any event.

Tony Loader is a Master Casting Instructor (MCI) who is currently studying for his Two-Handed Casting Instructor (THCI) certification. He is an excellent instructor who prepared several students for their advanced certification in September. He is always available, always friendly and always spot-on in his advice. He is extremely good at diagnosing issues with casting technique and participates with other Australian MCIs at testing and casting clinics across the Southern Hemisphere. His nominator Andrew McKenzie tells us in his nomination letter: “I am sure if you were to talk with other MCIs here in Australia they would say similar good things about Tony. It would be wonderful for him to win this recognition and a boost for fly casting tuition here in Australia as well.” Obviously, the CBOG awards committee agreed.

Nominator Brian DeLoach tells us: “Two years ago, a couple of friends and I joined the IFFF and began the long process towards casting certification. CBOG member Eric Cook, upon seeing our obvious deficiencies, put us in touch with MCI Tom Rueping, who agreed to meet with us regularly while expecting no compensation. He worked with us for more than a year until we were able to pass our CI tests. A few months after my own certification, I expressed interest in the MCI path; he agreed to mentor me through the process and again refused any compensation for his time. He has graciously shared his wisdom and knowledge of the sport and seems as eager as I am for me to pass the MCI. Since he refuses all compensation, is there some way to appeal to the Federation for recognition of Tom’s efforts? In the short two years I’ve known him, I’ve seen him contribute more to the sport than I’d ever thought possible. Please let me know if there is a way to honor my mentor and friend and ...
recognize his work.” Obviously, the CBOG award committee listened to DeLoach’s request by presenting this award to Reuping.

Mark Huber wrote in his nomination letter, “I first met Bruce Williams, CBOG, MCI, THCI, in 2005 during my initial unsuccessful CCI exam. Following that failed exam, Bruce mentored me on the exam and six weeks later I successfully passed. Bruce continued to mentor me in casting and encouraged me to go beyond the CCI to other certification exams. Over the years of working with Bruce and getting to know him, I noted that he has quite a list of IFFF instructors who he has mentored in the program from their CCI to a higher level of certification. In the last 10 years, Bruce has successfully mentored eight CCIs, four successful MCIs, two successful THCIs and two current CBOG. This track record of success speaks to Bruce’s commitment to the CICP program and his willingness to invest his time in those showing interest in the program. It also speaks to Bruce’s ability to foster interest and motivate others to advance their knowledge and skill in casting instruction.” He is a credit to the CCI program.

All of these instructors have one attribute in common: dedication to helping their students get to the next level with their casting goals. They definitely bring to the table all that the Governor’s Mentoring Award represents.
2016 Photo Contest Winners

By Pat Oglesby

Fly Anglers in Their Element

1st: “On Point! – Fishing Buddies” by Rick Williams of Eagle, Idaho. Location: Owyhee River

2nd: “Fishing Lab” by Rick Williams of Eagle, Idaho. Location: Owyhee River

3rd: “Casting with Wilderness in Sight” by Bianca Klein of Emigrant, Montana. Location: Emerald Lake, Custer Gallatin National Forest

International Fly Fishing Experiences

1st: “Wild” by Peter Brooks of Tasmania, Australia. Location: Penstock Lagoon, Highland Lakes, Tasmania

2nd: “Caught One” by John Kimura of Alturas, California. Location: Hokkaido, Japan

3rd: “Flash of Blue – Bonefish Release” by Rick Williams of Eagle, Idaho. Location: Gardens of the Queen, Cuba

Native Fish of North America

1st: “Simplicity” by Ken Douglas of Delaware, Ohio. Location: Columbus, Ohio

People’s Choice Award

“Simplicity” by Ken Douglas of Delaware, Ohio. Location: Columbus, Ohio

Grand Prize Judge’s Choice

“Tarpon Reflections” by Trisha Campbell of Clarkston, Washington. Location: Punta Allen, Mexico
“On Point! – Fishing Buddies” by Rick Williams
“Simplicity” by Ken Douglas
"Tarpon Reflections" by Trisha Campbell
HELP US PRESERVE A BIT OF IDAHO HISTORY!

IF YOU KNOW THE WHEREABOUTS

of a copy of the movie please send an email to Jack Trueblood at steelheadjunction@cableone.net.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS MAN?

TED TRUEBLOOD

He was my father, Idaho outdoor writer and conservation leader Ted Trueblood, shown here with a wild Idaho steelhead, back in the early 1960s. Ted spent a lifetime fishing, hunting and writing about those passions, as well as working to protect Idaho’s natural resources. Most of the record of his career is archived at Boise State University in Idaho.

But there is a notable exception — something is not in that collection. In 1963 Ted and his friend C.W. “Doc” Jones, an Evinrude distributor, were in a movie produced by the Evinrude Company about fly fishing for steelhead in Idaho’s Salmon River. STEELHEAD JUNCTION was available for showing by rod and gun clubs and other outdoor-interest groups. It was a color 16 mm film, 27.5 minutes long.

We have checked with the successors to Evinrude, as well as archives and film libraries across the country and not found a copy. There may be one in someone’s attic or in the files of some rod and gun club.