

## 14th Annual Northwest Fly Tyers Expo

by Al Brunell

The 14th annual Northwest Fly Tyer's Expo was held in Eugene, Oregon on Saturday, March 23, 2002. Approximately 175 talented fly tyers from the west and as far as Washington D.C. made this annual event another great success.

This year festivities included an excellent line-up of tyers, which included FFF Buszek Award winners, Oregon Council Fly tyers of the year winners, professional tyers, authors and promising up and coming amateurs. Every form of the fly tying art was demonstrated, from Atlantic salmon patterns to good old fishing flies by these talented individuals that gave so freely of the time and abilities.

The material tables and silent auction tables were loaded throughout the day with a wealth of excellent materials, books and flies.

There were so many quality items it became a dilemma of just what to bid on or what materials to buy.

A great day of tying culminated with a sit-down banquet, a awards ceremony and oral auction. The banquet, in my opinion, as well as many favorable comments received, was probably the best meal we have had at the facility. And a person did not have to suffer through a long buffet line.

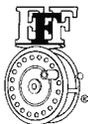
Special thanks go out to the clubs and club members who staffed the event. The gate was capably handled by members of the Cascade Family Fly Fishers. The material sale was organized and staffed by members of the McKenzie Flyfishers.

The Silent Auction was organized and staffed by members of the Sanitam Flycasters and the youth tying area was manned by members of the Mid-Willamette Flyfishers and Linn-Benton Family Flyfishers. Our council treasurer, Mary Jo Pitts, did



her usual outstanding job enticing people to buy tickets for the bucket raffle. Elise Marchando and Becky Wood did a wonderful job selling memberships and merchandise from the FFF Booth.

One would have to say the Northwest Fly Tyer's Expo was a success, whereas; we had the best fly tyers in the west, great fellowship, fabulous auction items and excellent foods. Plus, if you want to evaluate the event in the good old American way, we realized a sizeable increase in revenue.



# President's Message

by Keith Burkhart

This is my last message as president of the Oregon Council. I have to say that I have thoroughly enjoyed my terms as president but I am moving on to other pursuits in the Federation of Fly Fishers.

I was elected president of the Council when it was formed in 1988 and served in that position until 1993 at which time Greg Pitts was elected president. Greg served until 1999 when he was elected president of the Federation of Fly Fishers. At that time I was re-elected president and have served in that position until the July council meeting this year. Over the years the council has grown to be a council within the FFF that is looked at as how a council should be run. I would like to take a small portion of the credit for that but Greg Pitts deserves most of the credit along with a fine group of officers that have served over the years. We have become a financially successful organization, publishing 4 books and over 2 dozen fly tying videos, providing an annual scholarship for a graduate student at Oregon State University, funding various conservation and education projects throughout the state and presenting what is unquestionably the finest fly tying show in the world, the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo. I know that your new officers will continue the tradition that Greg and I started.

At the July council meeting a new officer team was elected. Your new council president is Tony Brauner from Grants Pass. Tony was previously our council secretary and is a past president of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. Phil Hager of Bend was elected by the board to serve as secretary. Phil is currently serving his last term as president of the Central Oregon Fly Fishers and has been intimately involved in their "Kokanee Karnival." Mary Jo Pitts of Eugene is continuing as your council treasurer. Mary Jo also has the duty of managing our council database, which has been recently updated. Your new FFF National Directors are Jim Boyd and J.D. "Skip" Hosfield, both of Eugene. Jim has been a director for the past 3 years and Skip, who has a long history with the Council, is returning to an active role. Phil Hager was elected the

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|  |                |
|--|----------------|
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| FFF Casting .....                      | Al Buhr        |
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| Awards .....                           | Keith Burkhart |
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# 2002 N.W. Fly Tyers

The Oregon Council would like to thank the following list of companies and individuals for their generous donations that made the oral auction, silent auction, bucket raffle and the material sale at this year's Expo a great success. We try to list every donor but occasionally we might miss someone. If we have missed your name, please accept our apologies and please let us know.

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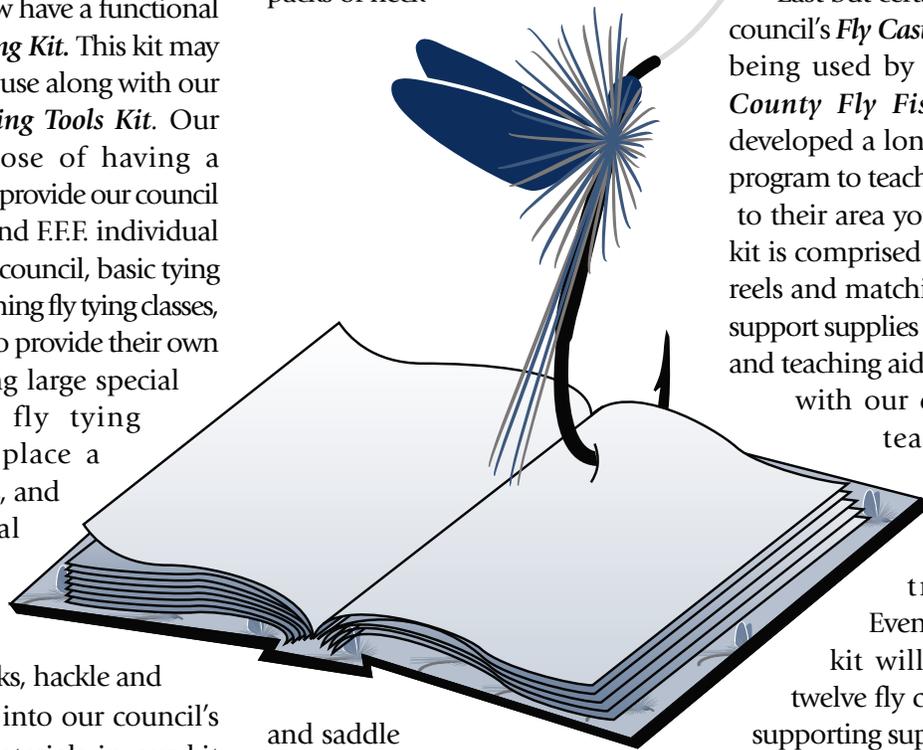
# Education Report

by Don Y. Abing

The development and maintenance of your Oregon Council's fly fishing teaching kits has been a very rewarding challenge for me. Great news for all council members! Our "in state" traveling fly fishing kits have grown by one more kit. We now have a functional *Materials Fly Tying Kit*. This kit may be requested for use along with our council's *Fly Tying Tools Kit*. Our council's purpose of having a materials kit is to provide our council member clubs and F.F.F. individual members in our council, basic tying materials for teaching fly tying classes, without having to provide their own supplies. Making large special purchases of fly tying materials can place a burden on clubs, and F.F.F. individual members who have limited budgets.

Various hooks, hackle and hair are packed into our council's new kit. The materials in our kit aren't a specific collection for tying specific fly patterns. Instead, the materials are for providing supplies to teach and develop the techniques for tying dry flies, wet flies, nymphs and streamers. However, with some careful planning, enough materials can be assembled from our kit to provide specific ingredients for some traditional fly patterns. Many

thankful acknowledgments are given to *Tom Gilg* and the *Mid-Willamette Fly Fishers* for providing our council a generous donation of materials they recently received. This one great source of tying supplies made our council's fly tying materials kit a reality. Our council also added several packs of neck



and saddle hackles. In order to keep your kit a functional teaching aid, our council will provide additional materials as needed.

Our council's *Fly Tying Tools Kit* has been upgraded with new tools and a total of ten tying vices. Eventually, our tools kit will top out at twelve vices with supporting tools. Included with the tools are Federation teaching pamphlets. The

F.F.F. pamphlets provide excellent and inexpensive teaching materials for students. The grand fly fishing folks from Renzetti, Inc. are helping me organize and streamline our tools kit. With Lily Renzetti's help, our council's tying tools kit will be more user friendly.

Last but certainly not least, our council's *Fly Casting Kit* is presently being used by our *Washington County Fly Fishers*. They have developed a long range fly casting program to teach beginning casting to their area youth. Our council's kit is comprised of ten fly rods, fly reels and matching fly lines. Some support supplies like tapered leaders and teaching aids are also included with our casting kit. These

teaching tools are conveniently housed in a large but handy traveling case. Eventually, our casting kit will be expanded to twelve fly casting outfits with supporting supplies.

Any Oregon Council club or F.F.F. individual member residing in Oregon desiring to know more about incorporating these wonderful fly fishing teaching kits into their programs should write or e-mail me. Please send me a letter outlining your teaching program and goals. Your council will make every effort to accommodate your needs with these valuable resources. While on



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the topic of valuable educational resources, I'm reminded to tell all about the great news that was given to me at your council's last leadership conference.

Please mark reminders on your calendars for **September 26, 27&28, 2003**. Your Oregon Council has committed resources to conduct a three day special event in Seaside, Oregon. Your council's new fly fishing show will be hosted by the *Rainland Fly Casters*, and the *North Coast Jr. Fly Casters*. The site of this mini-type conclave will be the Seaside Civic Convention Center. For several years many of our council members have asked for our famous Fly Tying Expo to be more than just a wonderful "one day show." However, the formula for continued success should not and cannot be changed. Our early spring Fly Tying Exposition will remain a permanent and highly popular one day event without the extra commercial venues, seminars and programs that are associated with two or three day mini conclaves, or the great week long affair hosted by the national office in Montana.

Long and careful planning and research have already been expended on this council project. Including our council's great fly tying venue, this event will host seminars, programs, fly casting venues and related commercial vendors. Actual and varied fly fishing opportunities

will also be available in the Seaside area, Clatsop County and Southwest Washington. It should be noted that, as a council of F.F.F., our new and great fly fishing function will be our Oregon Council's first mini fly fishing show. Presently, there are no intentions of making next year's three day show an annual affair. However, our council plans to conduct additional research to see if future three day events can be held in other areas of Oregon.

One of the main themes of next year's mini conclave is providing an affordable fun filled experience for all fly fishers, commercial vendors and program providers. I'm happy to report that after my presentation at our council's last leadership meeting, everyone attending embraced my affordability ideals for this great project. After many years of discussion, our council will finally join other F.F.F. councils that enjoy the benefits of conducting successful regional conclaves. Our special fly fishing event next year is really about the dedicated and hard working member clubs within our Oregon Council.

The greatest and most ambitious effort will be the gathering and assemblage of representatives from all of our council member clubs, under one roof, in informational booths, at the Seaside Convention Center. Visitors from many locations will have the most unique

opportunity to learn the existence of every club within our council. At our new council show club representatives will have a great opportunity to sign-up members for our Federation and receive valuable credit for gathering new Federation associate members. Another incentive for our member clubs is the potential signing of new members for their own clubs. Also, our council club representatives will have a fabulous opportunity to share their conservation success stories and concerns with many visitors.

More information about our council's efforts to promote and conduct an extraordinary three day, fabulous fly fishing show will soon be available. Your council's special event committee are the following and benevolent volunteers: Keith Burkhart, ORC FFF President; Mary Jo Pitts, ORC FFF Treasurer; Barry Olson, ORC FFF Membership; Tom Gilg, ORC FFF Conservation; Bob Gabler, Santiam Fly Casters; Rick Mac Farlane, Northwest Fly Fishers; Jeff Mac Lean, North Coast Jr. Fly Casters; and yours truly. Please make every effort to contact any of our three day event show committee members if you have any questions, concerns or ideas to share.

*D.Y. Abing,*  
VP-Education - ORC FFF



# Ted Williams:

## *A Perfectionist with Rod and Reel*

By Pete Thomas  
(c) 2002, Los Angeles Times

Ted Williams the baseball player will be remembered for his many remarkable accomplishments: his .344 lifetime batting average, .406 in 1941 his .438 on-base percentage, his 521 homers.

Ted Williams the fisherman posted some pretty impressive numbers as well. How's this for a grand slam: 1,000 Atlantic salmon, 1,000 bonefish and 1,000 tarpon, all caught on a fly rod.

Indeed, Williams' proficiency with a bat was, in many ways, matched by his proficiency with a rod and reel.

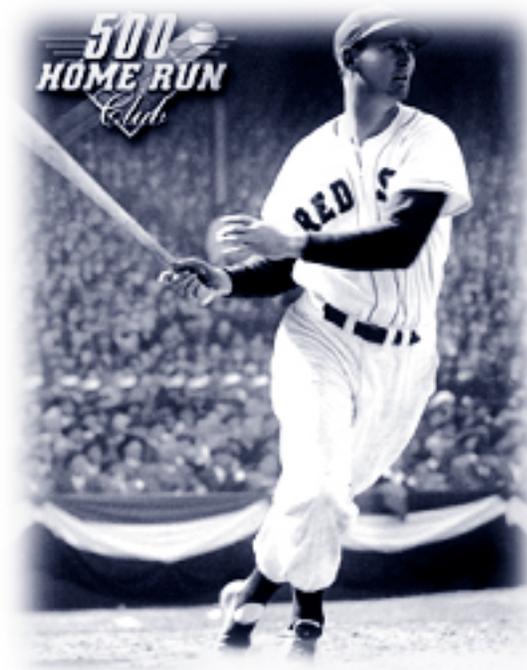
"I was host of the 'American Sportsman' TV show for 20 years and got to fish with most of the world's great fishermen, and (Williams) was the best all-around fisherman I ever met," said Curt Gowdy, 80, also a legendary sports broadcaster.

And if Williams, who died recently, was considered a perfectionist on the field, you should have seen him on the water.

Sammy Lee, a Birmingham, Ala., talk-show host, met Williams in 1992 in Florida to tape an interview for his fishing show. It was the beginning of a friendship Lee valued above all others.

Reached recently at his home, he recalled the time Williams invited

him to spend a week at his cabin on the Miramichi River in New Brunswick, Canada. Lee, a former pro bass fisherman, had taught Williams a thing or two about how to put a largemouth on the hook,



but he was new to fly fishing and thus was in for some schooling he'll never forget.

Williams wouldn't even let Lee on the river the first day; instructing him instead to watch and learn from its bank. Lee gave his full attention to the master, knowing that when his time came, he would be under intense scrutiny.

On the second day, Williams sent Lee wading precariously down

river, entrusted with one of Williams' signature fly-casting rigs.

"It was basically my first time free fishing in a river like that, and it was my first time fly fishing," Lee says. "And I have this man critiquing me? Talk about pressure!"

The pressure proved too much. While Lee was trying to negotiate around a large rock, the swift current caught him.

"I go head over heels," he says. "My waders fill up and my feet are sticking straight up in the air. And I remember thinking, 'I don't care if I die, as long as I don't let go of the rod and reel' because this is Williams' rod and reel we're talking about."

When Lee regained his footing, he glanced toward the bank at Williams, who barked, "Why are you looking at me? You can't catch anything looking at me!"

Later that day, Lee was told by Williams' personal guide that the cantankerous old slugger had been thinking along the same lines as the fallen fly caster.

He said to his guide, "I don't care if that (SOB) dies, as long as he doesn't let go of my rod and reel," Lee recalls with a laugh.

That was just Williams being Williams, Lee assures. The Hall of Famer who refused to tip his cap to fans during most of his illustrious

career with the Red Sox would willingly give the shirt off his back to any of his many close friends.

Williams' love of fishing, and of the great outdoors, went far beyond the mere acts of casting and retrieving a fly, waiting for the magic moment of the strike and then playing the fish.

He demanded of himself the perfect cast, the perfect retrieve and, once a fish was hooked, the perfect fight. His thirst for knowledge was insatiable; he learned to read rivers as well as he could pitches.

Whether on the Miramichi or in the tarpon-rich waters closer to his home in Hernando, Fla., Williams was a purist in every sense.

He meticulously tied his own flies the night before each outing and brooked no interruptions while he did so.

"You did not come downstairs and if you did, you did not initiate conversation you did not interfere whatsoever during his fly-tying time," Lee says.

Williams was respectful of those fishing with him only if they took the sport as seriously as he did and didn't bungle along the way.

Permit, tarpon and bonefish were among Williams' favorites, but never was he more in his element except perhaps when he was at the plate than amid a run of migrating salmon.

"He always told me that Atlantic salmon was his favorite because he thought that presenting a fly in a river to a migrating salmon offered the greatest challenge of any other game fish," Lee says. "He told me that salmon were the purest-fighting fish he ever went after."

And he went after them often. Williams reportedly turned down an offer of \$100,000 to serve as an advisor for Robert Redford in his role in "The Natural" because the salmon were running.

The salmon of the Miramichi inspired him to buy a cabin on its banks. He went after salmon in Russia in the summer of 1991. He headed them off on the Cascapedia River in Quebec in 1993. That was where he fooled an estimated 35-

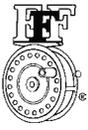
pounder with a long cast of a dry fly. But the fish won its freedom after an epic battle the angler talked about for the rest of his life.

In those years that remained, Williams' life had been slowed considerably by a series of health problems that eventually took away even his ability to cast.

But there was one milestone that remained: his induction, on Jan. 31, 2000, into the International Game Fish Association Fishing Hall of Fame.

After entertaining the crowd with tales of his exploits with rod and reel, Williams brought about an eruption of cheers and applause when he did something he refused to do on the baseball diamond: He tipped his cap to his fans.





# 2002 Federation of Fly Fishers McKenzie Cup Award Winner

## Southern Oregon Fly Fishers

by Tony Brauner

**Editors Note:** *After this article was written, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers were selected to receive the McKenzie Cup. This is the highest award for clubs presented by the Federation of Fly Fishers.*

Southern Oregon Fly Fishers is into its ninth year of existence and has changed course frequently in its pursuit of quality habitat and conservation programs. Initially, SOFF attempted to create and generate its own habitat projects but this attempt was very difficult to sustain and was only moderately successful. Next, attempts were made to contact local watershed councils in the Rogue Basin and partner up on mutually beneficial habitat endeavors. This contact was and remains today quite successful, as Southern Oregon Fly Fishers has worked on a multiplicity of projects in the Applegate, Illinois Valley and Middle Rogue Watersheds in the Rogue Basin. Some of these projects have involved issues of water quality, macroinvertebrate study, fish carcass seeding, dam removal and tree and shrub plantings and some of these projects have received both national and statewide acclaim. Change is again taking place in this conservation arena, as current Habitat Chair of SOFF, Jim Tehan is

now partnering with the Bureau of Land Management and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to generate even more quality habitat venues in the Rogue Basin. For example, this year SOFF worked in concert with Chuck Fustich and Allan



Richey of the ODFW on a salmon carcass seeding project on the West Fork of Evans Creek and a tree and shrub planting on Dutcher Creek in

the Middle Rogue Watershed. This successful strategy to join forces with the agency entities although somewhat new to SOFF, has proven an excellent conservation opportunity for the Central Oregon Fly Fishers and the Rogue Fly Fishers, just to mention two clubs that are highly successful in this area. While SOFF has been immersed in habitat projects, there has been a lot of really well done educational activities sponsored by this Club. One of these activities involved a women's casting day on the Casting Pond at the All Sports Park in Grants Pass. SOFF was able to invite two lady and one-man fly fishing and FFF certified casters from the San Mateo area in California. The level of instruction was excellent and the 25 lady fly fishers that took part in this casting venue were quite pleased with the class. SOFF paid for lodging and meals for these three certified instructors and SOFF club members took these three casters to the Rogue River on the Upper Rogue and the Holy Water for the salmon fly hatch. Southern Oregon Fly Fishers has raised the bar to some very high standards in its quest to achieve the goals of the club, the Oregon Council and the Federation of Fly Fishers and SOFF is always attempting to improve the quality of its endeavors.



# Conservation Break-Out

by Thomas Gilg, VP Conservation

I'd like to thank those that attended the 2002 Leadership Conference and participated in the conservation breakout session. Unlike prior conferences where simply meeting one another and sharing ideas was the principle outcome, this year's session was geared towards creating some sustained multi-club and Council efforts.

Specifically, the session participants started the creation of a long-lived "Conservation Concerns, Endorsements and Suggested Actions Plan" that I will post to the Council's new web site (hopefully in August). Armed with markers and poster boards, the process used to develop the content for this plan was:

1. Inventory the conservation passions, concerns and skill sets within the Council and its 21 member clubs.
2. Have each participant distribute 3 votes towards those 1-3 conservation items of most interest to their club.
3. Tally the votes to create a prioritized list of items.

4. Identify willing individuals and clubs with the appropriate skills to act as contacts and intellectual leaders on the top items.
5. Identify the resulting "affinity groups." In other words, willing individuals and clubs with common interests who can hopefully accomplish more by joining forces.
6. For each identified affinity group, develop a brief write-up that covers: issue title, scope of issue, timing of issue, suggested actions and talking points, and who the leaders and participants are.
7. Vote on the top 3 items that we would encourage statewide focus on.

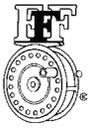
In all, we identified 18 conservation items being worked by the fly-fishing community, and a long list of federal, state, private and non-profit entities that we need to work with or influence to be successful. The top 6 items identified and subsequently addressed in detail (title, actions, owners, etc.) were:

1. Riparian habitat protection and improvement (11 votes)
2. Water quality and quantity

protection and improvement (9)

3. Tracking and educating the State Legislature (7)
4. Wading into the wild and hatchery fish debate (5)
5. Participating in spawning surveys (4)
6. Dealing with angling regulations and fly-fishing only waters (4)

Again, I will be posting the detailed action plans for these 6 items soon, and hopefully some multi-club and Council activity will result. The intention is that this plan will be reflected upon and revised at next year's leadership conference, and time permitting, we can detail out additional items. Again, the Plan is intended to be a long-lived document that expresses the conservation stances of the fly fishing community, mobilizes the fly fishing community into joint action on a few items and builds our overall capacity to act.



*continued from page 2*

director-at-large to represent the unaffiliated FFF members in Oregon.

At the Council Leadership Seminar held in April, the number one goal was to hold some type of a fall fly-fishing event. To that end, the Oregon Council will be holding their first state conclave on the weekend of September 26-28, 2003 in Seaside, Oregon. A committee chaired by Don Abing is working out the details of the event to be held at the Seaside Convention Center. The event will include programs, clinics, seminars, fly tying, auctions and raffles over the three-day period. Look for the name the event contest elsewhere in the newsletter.

I was pleased to present Council Awards at the banquet of the Northwest Fly Tyers Expo in March. The Oregon Council "Federator of the Year" was presented to Don Abing of Astoria.

As our Council VP for Education, Don has assumed the duty of planning and staffing for our booth at the Pacific NW Sportsman's Show in Portland and coordinating the educational activities for the Council. Don is a longtime member of the Rainland Flycasters and is a life member of the Federation of Fly Fishers.

The Oregon Council "Fly Tyer of the Year" Award was presented to David Barlow of Salem, Oregon. David is a very skilled

tyer of full dress Atlantic salmon flies and teaches the art at the Creekside Fly Fishing Shop in Salem. David has been a very generous contributor of flies for use in fundraising fly plates for the Oregon Council.

The Oregon Council "Club of the Year" was presented to the Steamboaters of Idleyld Park, Oregon. The Steamboaters have an over 25-year tradition of protecting and enhancing the habitat and fisheries of Oregon's North Umpqua River. They, along with the North Umpqua Foundation, are protecting one of the jewels of the Northwest.

Planning is underway for our 15th Annual NW Fly Tyers Expo to be held on March 22nd, 2003 at the Lane County Convention Center in Eugene. Chairman Al Brunell and co-chair Garren Wood will be sending out the invitations to the tyers in December.

Finally, I would like to thank all the people over the last 18 years that have volunteered time to the Oregon Council. Nothing that we as an organization have accomplished would have been possible without their support.

I look forward to seeing you at the Fly Tyers Expo next year. I will be the one with a big smile on his face because all I have to worry about is not breaking the thread on the fly I am demonstrating.

## Oregon Council of Federation Fly Fishers

### SPECIAL CONTEST

How would you like to win an opportunity to stay in a nice motel room that is just a few yards away from pools of wild salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout?

Your Oregon Council is sponsoring its first three day fly fishing event in Seaside, Oregon next year. The dates for our event are September 26th, 27th and 28th, 2003.

Your council is seeking a name or title for our special event. Send your "name the event" titles or slogans to:

**"name the event contest"**  
c/o Oregon Council of FFF  
683 39th Street  
Astoria, Oregon 97103

*The winner of our contest will receive a stay for two nights (September 26 & 27, 2003) at the Seaside Convention Center Inn. The inn is located just across the street from the Necanicum River and the Seaside Civic & Convention Center, Seaside, Oregon. Our contest deadline is November 1st, 2002. Notification of winner will be mailed on November 5th, 2002. Good Luck and thank you for your support!*



## Oregon Council Clubs

**Angler's Club of Portland**  
P.O. Box 9235  
Portland, OR 97207

**Blue Mountain Flycasters**  
1847 Westgate  
Pendleton, OR 97801

**Cascade Family Flyfishers**  
P.O. Box 5384  
Eugene, OR 97405

**Central Oregon Flyfishers**  
P.O. Box 1126  
Bend, OR 97701

**Clackamas Flyfishers**  
P.O. Box 268  
West Linn, OR 97068

**Columbia Gorge Flyfishers**  
220 Methodist Rd.  
Hood River, OR 97031

**Klamath Country Flycasters**  
P.O. Box 324  
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

**Knot-Me-Leaders**  
153 Alice Ave. S  
Salem, OR 97302

**Linn Benton Family Flyfishers**  
1524 S. Main  
Lebanon, OR 97355

**Lower Umpqua Flycasters**  
P.O. Box 521  
Reedsport, OR 97467

**McKenzie Flyfishers**  
P.O. Box 10865  
Eugene, OR 97440

**Mid-Willamette Fly Fishers**  
P.O. Box 22  
Corvallis, OR 97330

**North Coast Jr. Flycasters**  
92513 G Road  
Astoria, OR 97103

**Northwest Flyfishers**  
P.O. Box 656  
Troutdale, OR 97060

**Rainland Flycasters**  
P.O. Box 1045  
Astoria, OR 97103

**Rogue Flyfishers**  
P.O. Box 4637  
Medford, OR 97501

**Santiam Flycasters**  
P.O. Box 691  
Salem, OR 97308

**Southern Oregon Fly Fishers**  
P.O. Box 1144  
Grants Pass, OR 97456

**Steamboaters**  
P.O. Box 176  
Idleld Park, OR 97447

**Stone Fly Maidens**  
14145 SE Sieban Parkway  
Clackamas, OR 97105

**Sunriver Anglers**  
P.O. Box 4273  
Sunriver, OR 97707

**Washington County Fly Fishers**  
11429 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.  
Beaverton, OR 97008

## Oregon Council Officers 2000-2001

### Oregon Council – FFF

P.O. Box 2417  
Grants Pass, OR 97528  
Ph. 541-479-0009

### President:

*Tony Brauner*  
1455 NE Clara Way  
Grants Pass, OR 97526  
Home Phone: 541-479-0009  
E-mail: tbrauner@cpro.com

### Secretary:

*Phil Hager*  
60865 Defiance  
Bend, OR 97702  
Home Phone: 541-317-1075  
E-mail: philinsue@bendcable.com

### Treasurer:

*Mary Jo Pitts*  
987 Travis Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97404  
Home Phone: 541-689-4812  
Fax: 541-689-7596  
E-mail: pittsmj@aol.com

### VP Communication:

*Keith A. Burkhardt*  
2120 Robins Lane SE #101  
Salem, OR 97306  
Home Phone: 503-363-8324  
Work Phone: 503-375-3721  
Fax: 503-375-0070  
E-mail: valfly@integraonline.com

### VP Conservation:

*Tom Gilg*  
4861 Roseberry Street  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
Home Phone: 541-753-2199  
Work Phone: 541-715-2756  
Fax: 541-715-3788  
E-mail: tom@barbless.com

### VP Education:

*Don Abing*  
683 39th Street  
Astoria, OR 97001  
Home Phone: 503-325-5684  
E-mail: rainy@pacifier.com

### VP Membership:

*Cathy Tronquet*  
233 Mt. Echo Dr.  
Medford, OR 97501  
Home Phone: 541-774-9577  
E-mail: ctronquet@aol.com

## Oregon Council Directors & Committee Members

### National Director:

*Jim Boyd*  
3429 Stark St.  
Eugene, OR 97404  
Home Phone: 541-688-6100  
Work Phone: 541-687-1234 X2363  
E-mail: jboyd15@qwest.net

### National Director:

*J.D. "Skip" Hosfield*  
120 E. 37th Ave.  
Eugene, OR 97405  
Home Phone: 541-345-5029  
E-mail: skiphos@juno.com

### Council Director:

*Phil Hager*  
60865 Defiance  
Bend, OR 97702  
Home Phone: 541-317-7105  
E-mail: philinsue@bendcable.com

### Steelhead Comm.:

*Dick Bauer*  
1665 Evergreen Dr.  
Eugene, OR 97404  
Home Phone: 541-688-4980  
E-mail: umquafly@cs.com

### Saltwater Comm.:

*Dick Hanson*  
1500 NW 11th  
Corvallis, OR 97330  
Home Phone: 541-752-3866  
E-mail: rhanson@proaxis.com

### Newsletter Production:

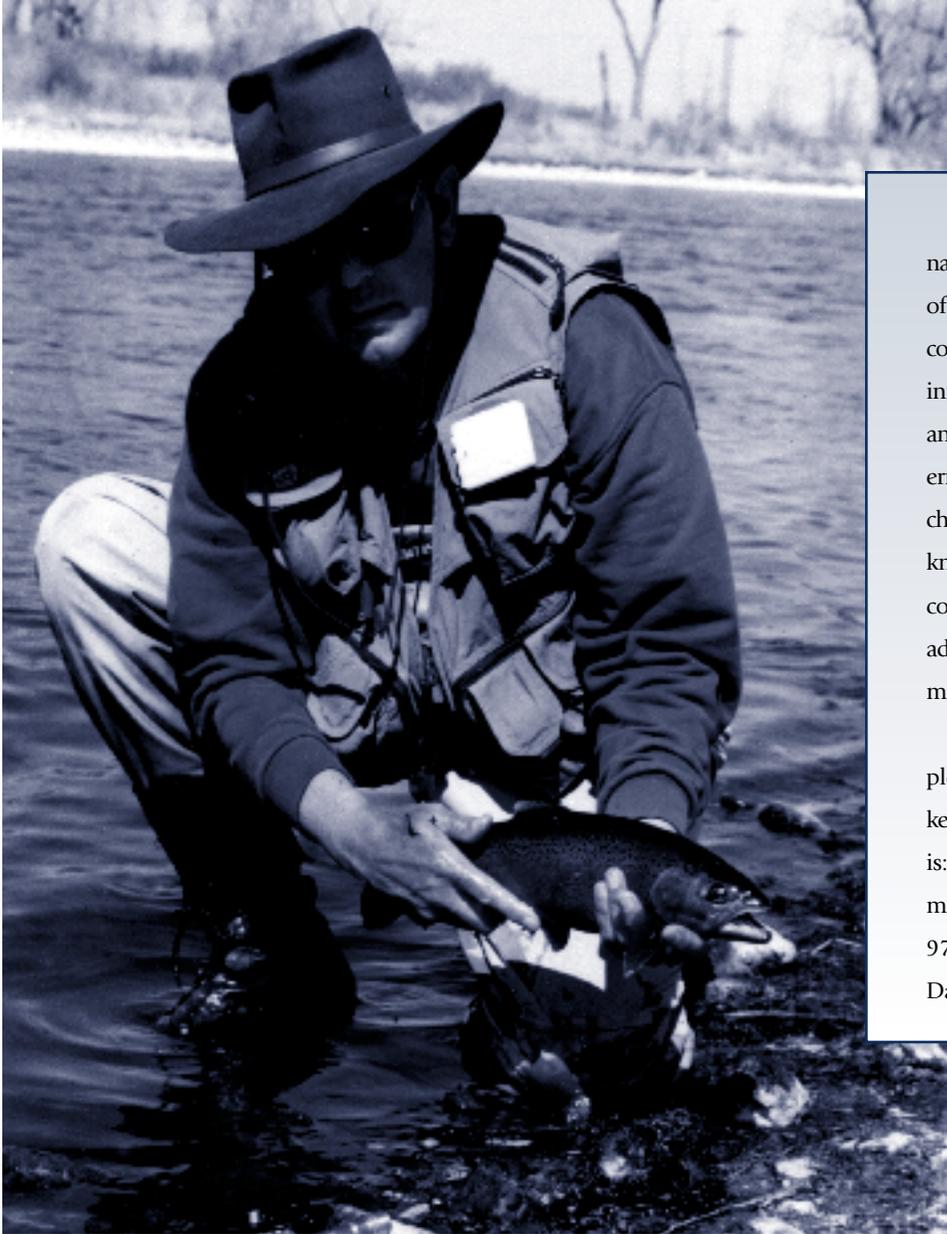
*Bryan Ostlund*  
5183 14th Place S  
Salem, OR 97306  
Home Phone: 503-371-1229  
Work Phone: 503-364-3346  
Fax: 503-581-6819  
E-mail: bryan@ostlund.com

### Fly Expo Chair:

*Al Brunell*  
33729 Terra Circle  
Corvallis, OR 97333  
Home Phone: 541-738-6399  
E-mail: Alleesnest@juno.com

### Awards Chair:

*Keith A. Burkhardt*  
2120 Robins Lane SE #101  
Salem, OR 97306  
Home Phone: 503-363-8324  
Work Phone: 503-375-3721  
Fax: 503-375-0070  
E-mail: valfly@open.org



Please take a moment to review your name and address as shown on the outside of this newsletter. The council has recently completed the new address database from information provided by the club rosters and the national FFF office database. If any errors have been made, or there are any changes that you wish made, please let me know. It was our intent to only mail one copy of the newsletter to each household address. If this is not satisfactory, please let me know.

As revised club rosters are available, please forward them to me so that I can keep the database current. My email address is: [pittsmj@aol.com](mailto:pittsmj@aol.com). Hardcopies can be mailed to 987 Travis Ave., Eugene, OR 97404. Mary Jo Pitts, Treasurer and Database Manager.

## The Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers

2120 Robins Lane S.E. #101  
Salem, Oregon 97306

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