

# Alpine Fly Fishers

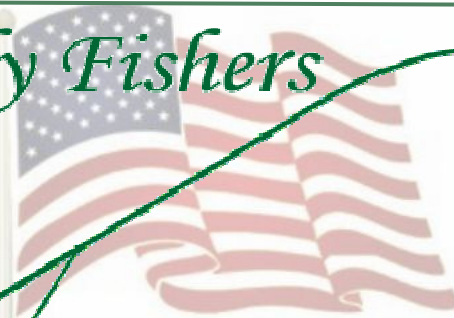
Our Next AFF Meeting



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

Charter Club

1000 Stewards member



**No Meeting**

Go Fish

## The Dead Drift - July 2021

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

Our Zoom meetings are in hiatus just as our in-person meetings have always been during July and August. We will have one more Zoom meeting in September, just to be on the safe side, then in October we will start our in-person meetings. Looking back to February of 2020, our last in-person meeting, seems like forever ago. I truly hope that all of you have 'kept the faith' in the club and will return to join us again at the Puerto Vallarta restaurant in Puyallup.

I have heard of squirrels in the attic (had that once) but not in down spouts. The other day I heard a heck of a racket coming from the corner of the house, which I finally placed as outside the house. A woodland squirrel, one of the smaller brown and orange belly variety, had gotten itself into my gutters downspout. Roofs and gutters, when they are dry, are great places for seeds to be collected when the wind blows them out of the trees. We hadn't had any rain for a week or so and the gutters were dry so the squirrel must have been walking along the gutter eating the seeds and found the hole down the downspout. Being fearless and stupid it went down the pipe looking for more seeds. But, the pipe offered no traction so it could not climb back out, hence the racket as it tried. I had to remove the pipe from the two story house so it could escape. Then again, that would have been a great chance for some tying material....naw, I wouldn't do that to the little thing.

I know I said I was ordering an Echo Shadow II, 3wt. Euro style fly rod/reel but that is not going to happen. Echo can not get any of its fly rods in due to production shutdowns and such related to Covid. That darn virus strikes again. Sometime down the road I will get the outfit, but it may take a year or so. Sorry about that. But, I will let you know how the 2 weight Echo Shadow II handles in the bigger rivers from a drift boat. I suspect the larger fish and faster water could overpower the rod, but I have a Plan B. I will bring my Hardy fly rod with me, it is a 10 foot 4 weight rod. It may not be as sensitive on the tip but it will have the back bone to handle the faster water and larger fish. I will still use the Euro fly line (level and very thin) but I may have to go from the 5X tippet to a 4X. That remains to be seen.

If you are traveling anywhere within the States this summer, best to book your hotel rooms and more importantly, the guide services for your fishing trips. People are suffering a series infection called PCS (Post Covid Syndrome). They are booking trips for fishing like crazy. Get yours booked now!

Steve Worley gave a good presentation about fishing on the Yakima River during its normal high water levels. There are very few places to wade fish during the summer due to the high levels so the best way is naturally from a boat. If you do try some wade fishing then please use extreme caution when doing so. We want to keep you around for a long time.

*"Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink, I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is. Its thin current slides away, but eternity remains." Henry David Thoreau*

Good Fishing & Stay Safe



Larry



# Fly Fishing International

## Fly of the Month

July 2007

### Spruce Moth

By Bob Bates



When you take advantage of the various FFF related conclaves, shows, fly tying expos, etc. you will be amazed at what you find and learn. For me I also have a chance to photograph flies that people have developed or improved to make their fishing more successful. That was the exact situation I found at the 2007 Western Rocky Mountain Council Fly Fishing Exposition, in West Yellowstone, MT June 30, 2007.

Renee Menard from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho was showing us how she ties a fly that floats better in the North Idaho streams she fishes. She fishes a lot of riffley water, and this pattern has better buoyancy and rides higher. It bounces better in the currents and doesn't go under water when it gets wet. She also uses it in every alpine and lowland lake she fishes. If fish are rising she will let it sit, but if nothing is happening then she will strip it a little.

It is her go to fly from March and to October. The rest of the year it is usually too cold to fish, and the water is a little stiff on top. Much of the year it imitates the caddis flies on many waters, and in August it is a good imitation of the Spruce Moths found in some of the cutthroat streams.

#### Materials list:

Hook: Mustad 94840, 12-16

Thread: Danville, 6/0, tan

Body: Orange dyed, peacock herl

Wing: Deer belly hair

#### Tying steps:

1. Tie three herls in by butts and wrap thread over the butts to a point about one third shank length back from the eye. This builds up the body a little.
2. Wrap herls forward to about the one third point, secure and trim excess.
3. Cut off a pinch of deer hair, and clean out the under fur if necessary. Keep the butts even, and tie the hair in with the butts to the rear. This is the reverse of what most tiers do, but it gives the fly more buoyancy.
4. After the hair is tied in, pull up the tips, half hitch and whip finish behind the eye. Trim some of the tips.

**Closing comments:** You don't always have to tie flies by the book in order to catch fish. If you think another way might be better, try it and see if it works. If it does work then teach it to the rest of us.

**Editors Note:** I have had some very good success and some not so good, with the Spruce Moth fly on the Clark Fork River in western Montana. Every year there is a hatch of them during the summer. Sometimes the fish really key in on them and will feed on the moth and other times they almost ignore it. Safe bet? Have a few in your arsenal just to be on the safe side. I remember a nice sunny day on the Clark Fork. The Spruce Moths were out and dropping into the water when they were spent. I was casting a dry fly, the Spruce Moth of course, and I spotted two real moths that had just hit the water about 18 inches apart. I cast my fly right between them and let it drift with the naturals. A nice sized Rainbow swam up from the bottom, I could see him very clearly. He swam up to the three offerings and decided to take the one in the middle, my dry fly. I really love moments like that.

## Back of Beyond

Stephen Neal

*In Wildness is the Preservation of the World - "Henry David Thoreau"*

### Storytellers

Autumn had draped its arms around Ireland, wind and rain tore the mist, as the traveler walked the uneven sodden earth road. He had been hiking for three days, at night he slept upon the open ground on the lee side of rocks or outcroppings. Below him lay a small fishing village. He hoped he would find welcome here, a respite from the blustery weather, drizzle and approaching night. He scanned the village before him, it was burrowed into a large swale that protected it from the full force of the sea's inhospitable winds. The wind laid a heavy hand on this part of the green isle. The cluster of cottages and small shops were made up of rock that had been dislodged from the village's pastures and paddocks. The thatch for the roofs came from the reeds on the local ponds and marsh. The wood and timbers of each home were once part of the great forest that had covered Ireland. The villages roots went deep into the murky midst of time.

He was heartened by the smoke rising from the town's chimneys, the prospect of warmth helped sustain him as he drew closer. His worn and frayed home spun clothing was still serviceable but did little to prevent the days dampness from reaching his bones. His shoes and pant legs were splattered with mud, his slight frame bent forward, letting gravity pull him forward so powerful was his weariness. The staff in his right hand, polished by hard use, bore more of his weight than it had at the beginning of his journey. It was not just the miles that taxed his tired body but also lack of food, it had been almost three days since he had last eaten. His last meal, two small, dried biscuits washed down by cool water from a roadside spring on his first travel day, had long since ceased fueling his body.

He smiled inwardly when he spotted a lighted window with a small figure peering out-into the falling night. The ember of his dearest wish began to glow, fed by the oxygen of hope. Our traveler was a Seanchai, (Storyteller); a man versed in the history and legends of Éire. He was, local historian, genealogist and a walking library, the repository of folk wisdom and culture. He fervently hoped that he would be welcomed and that his stories would bring him dry lodging, food and at least a week's stay to recuperate, before moving on.

Times had changed, in his prime he was welcomed wherever he roamed, his stories were still strong and sorely needed, but after two world wars fear and distrust held sway. Added to these hurdles was the emergence of radio and TVs, in most modest sized towns with radios and TV's, fewer people were interested in inviting a traveler into their homes and had little need for the skills and entertainment that our storyteller provided. This small village with no TV antennas held the promise of an appreciative audience, and the wee one staring out the upstairs window drew him towards the door.

To the child in the window the wanderer appeared more apparition than physical being. As the traveler drew nearer to town, the boy recognized the man from his Seanathair's (grandfather) description. He vanished from the window and raced down the stairs calling for his Seanathair. Daideo, Daideo, (grandpa) it's the storyteller just like you told me; he's coming towards our door. The boy's excitement was infectious, long had his Seanathair told him tales about the storyteller that used to visit his hearth, and about the storyteller's charge, to keep and hand down Ireland's history and cultural heritage. The Storyteller's history was not dry book knowledge, but the rich primordial stew of living and breathing people, their struggles, foibles, triumph, and tears. He brought to life the natural and manmade storms that shaped Ireland's history. He kept alive the flame of our shared humanity. The boy hungered to hear the stories that his Daideo loved.

Daideo doted upon his garmhac, (grandson) sharing with him not only his love of the boy, but also the love that he could no longer share with his son, lost to the last war with Germany. The boy received a double dose of affection from his Daideo. Daideo, a fisherman by trade, and second father to the boy by circumstance, was a man born with a keen intellect, but providence had only provided him a rudimentary education. Daideo's astute mind and gentle soul allowed him to embrace the natural lessons the world around him taught. He listened to the wind, embraced the sea, knew the stories that the clouds told and the patterns of the waves. He recognized the ancient knowledge and wisdom of the creatures that populated his world and provided sustenance for his family.



Daideo, treasured knowledge and learning, and had always looked forward to the next visit by the storyteller to his home or village. The boy in his love for his Daideo eagerly anticipate his first encounter with the Storyteller. When the weary traveler knocked on the door, he was greeted by a Seanathair and garmhac, bursting with joy at his arrival as they welcomed him into their home. The boy was bursting with excitement, he was impatient to hear a story, but Daideo, with wisdom and grace made sure that the storyteller was placed in front of the fire to warm his bones and dry his damp clothing. As the storyteller sipped the proffered tea, his clothing steamed as the fire warmed his damp clothes. After a simple but wholesome meal of fish, potato, and vegetable stew, served with a dark heavy bread and fresh butter, there came an anticipated knock at the door. Neighbors who had also witnessed Seanchaí's (storyteller) arrival, had come by to hear his stories and welcome him to their village. The children's excitement was exposed in their haste to be seated so that it could be story time. They swaddled themselves in warm homespun wool blankets at their parents' feet. As introductions were made, glasses were filled with a rich amber liquid and passed into welcoming hands.

As his audience settled, Seanchaí filled the bowel of his pipe with a gift of tobacco, soon his pipe smoke and his clothing steam joined together as they drifted towards the ceiling timbers. He used this small interlude to clear his mind, he reviewed his journey and found it justified by his welcome, his muscles began to relax as the warmth of the hearth and his welcome seeped into his chilled bones. Turning his attention to his audience he searched his memory for the right tale for this evening's listeners. Taking a sip of Irish whiskey (nectar of the gods), he cleared his throat and cleaned his teeth with his tongue, savoring the whiskeys after taste, the story came to him and in a deep and resonant voice he began as his listeners in expectation leaned forward. Once upon a time!

Storytellers, the oral tradition of teaching, sharing, and passing on cultural history is as old as humanity. Storytellers are found in all cultures, they were revered and welcomed into palaces, towns, villages, hovels, homes, and campfires. The image of a storyteller telling a story as people sat around in a circle listening is the first image that comes to mind for most of us. Each culture's storytellers evolved unique ways of passing humanities history onto their audiences. This oral tradition of passing on knowledge and cultural history, has many names, for those who told the stories, and the way they were told: Bard – reciter of epic poems, Minstrel - medieval singer or musician, Kokopelli - fertility god, prankster, healer and storyteller, Story Knife - a traditional girls toy used to draw pictures on the ground or snow to tell a story, Hula - a story told through song, hand movements and dance, Sonnets - a story told in fourteen lines in iambic pentameter, Zajal - oral strophic poetry, Shadow Puppetry - ancient form of storytelling, Cunto - tale or short story, Fables – a story of fiction to tell a moral story, Rakugo - a Japanese storyteller, Griots, - African traveling poets, musicians and storytellers, oral historian, Calypso – evolved to play an important role in political expression by common people, Dreamtime stories – Stores told by Australia's aboriginal storytellers.

The tradition of oral story telling is still alive today, we know them as radio announcers, commentators, preachers, lectures, and podcasters. What we have lost though, is our local historians, the keepers of our cultural knowledge, wisdom, and shared humanity. Storytellers traditionally brought people together, emphasizing shared values, and helping us learn from our past mistakes. Passing on knowledge for growth, learning and fellowship. Way too many Oral presenters today point fingers, highlight our differences, and disparage others. The further we separate ourselves from the natural world and other people, the more complex and difficult life becomes.

Early storyteller taught natural history as well as human history, knowledge of plants and animals was essential to human survival, not just how and where to hunt and gather, but also the importance of our symbiosis with the whole ecosystem. We survived, grew, and flourished because we studied our natural world. There is wisdom and knowledge in the plant and animal kingdom that predates human existence. Our ancestors knew these lessons, but they have been for the most part, lost to us.

In our self-absorption and arrogance of believing that we held dominion over all other species on earth we have royally screwed over our own home. It is time to be humble and admit our faults and failures and embrace this planet we call home. There is much knowledge of the natural world that we need to reacquire. There are still storytellers among us who have cultural knowledge about our earth, and we need to sit around them and listen and learn.

Once upon a time, man was part of the natural world and learned from it, it is time for humanity to embrace it once again. There is deep wisdom there.

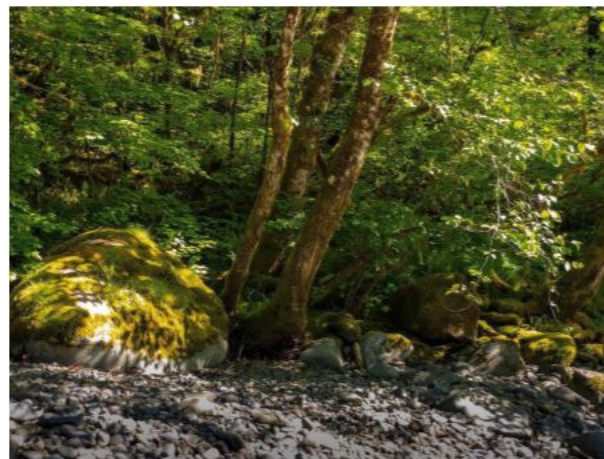
If this has piqued your interest, I would recommend that you check out this video on YouTube. "Dance With Life"  
<https://youtu.be/O0AC9tT2iYk>

Stephen

The world is out there, the journey starts the minute you leave the door, go outside and truly live.

*"When given the choice between being right or being kind, choose kind –  
Dr. Wayne W. Dyer*

*"Many go fishing all their lives, without knowing that it is not fish they are after" -  
Henry David Thoreau*



*~ In The Past ~*

The Newsletter of the Alpine Fly Fishers  
'The Fly Line' -  
Vol. 5, No. 10

October of 1977

Gary Ritchie, Editor



This *~ In The Past ~* article was published in 1977. The information it contains is 44 years out of date and is not accurate.

*This is a historical document only.*

**Program:** The harvest trout are here! Our speakers are Phil Baker and Don Madden. Phil will discuss how to fish for (and catch) sea-run cutthroat in the streams and Don will discuss some techniques for catching them in the salt water. It promises to be an interesting and timely program.

**Reminder:** Any time now you can begin turning in your favorite fishing slides to be aired at the December meeting.

**Door Prizes:** Lamaglass LTD 7.5 foot glass rod blank with instructions  
Berkeley flat butt leaders  
Cortland fly line cleaner

**October Fishout:** The next scheduled AFF outing will be October 15-16 on the Toutle river. The Toutle usually carries a good number of searun cutthroats, and the Toutle-Green system has steelhead and silver salmon as well. As is our custom, nothing formal has been arranged, but several of us will no doubt be going because this has become another of the popular club outings. We'll talk more about it at the meeting. One caution—hunting season opens the same weekend so reserve early and paint the word "cow" on your back. Day use only at Harry Morgan Park. If conditions are normal, that weekend should see fish everywhere. However, the Toutle has been extremely low and extremely milky from glacial silt this season. AS of this writing, (9-19-77) the river is still out and not fishable. Hopefully it will clear by mid October.

**Pattern:** If you're up for tying this month, this pattern is highly recommended by Ed Foss for taking searun cutthroat. Fish it wet.

Dead Chicken

Thread: Black Nymo or equivalent

Hook: size 6 or 8, 3X long

Tail: Red

Body: Thick yellow chenille

Rib: Embossed medium silver tinsel

Hackle: Soft grizzly, tied long and full



## No Club Meetings in July or August

### Future Zoom Meetings and In-Person Meetings

Our next **Zoom** club meeting will be on **September 28**. Then on **October 26** we will have our first **in-person** meeting since February 2020. Wow. That meeting will be like our normal September meeting. Everyone can spin tall tales of their exploits while fishing or travelling. We meet again on November 23. There is a change for our Christmas meeting this year, we will have it on December 28, the 4th Tuesday, 3 days after Christmas rather than a week before Christmas. This will be one of the few years we can have it after Christmas because of how the days fall in the month.

### Washington FFI joins the Amazon Smile Program



You can donate to the state FFI council with every purchase at [Smile.Amazon.com](https://Smile.Amazon.com)

Reward programs are everywhere these days. From the grocery to airlines everybody is rewarding a purchase by giving you credit for future purchases or contributing to a cause. Now the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International is one of the groups you can help when you purchase goods through Amazon Smile.

Amazon Smile donates 0.5% of the price of every purchase to the non-profit of your choice. It doesn't change the price you pay for goods. Amazon takes a sliver of its earnings from the transaction to donate to the non-profit you choose.

Washington FFI supports a range of education and conservation efforts every year from cash contributions. We support Casting for Recovery for women cancer survivors and Project Healing Waters serving wounded veterans. For years we've backed the annual Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy that has introduced a generation of teens to our sport. Last year we helped organize and fund a successful effort to preserve public ownership of the Ebsen Fishing Access on the Grand Ronde and we helped fund new signage for fishers on the Yakima River.

It takes cash to sustain these efforts, cash we usually raise through our annual Fly Fishing Fair and other events. That hasn't been possible lately. But everyone still shops. Many FFI members shop online at Amazon. Directors of the Washington State Council have joined the Amazon Smile program to help fund our work. You can help by shopping through Amazon Smile.

To join follow these steps:

Visit [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

Sign in with the Amazon.com credentials you ordinarily use to shop at Amazon.

Search the list of charities and select **Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA**. Make sure it says Seattle!

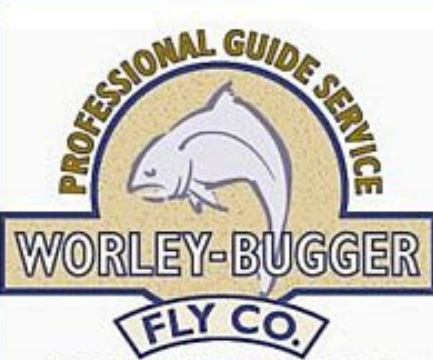
Bookmark [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) on your computer to make it easy to return to the charity site.

Every time you shop through Amazon Smile a portion of every purchase you make will help fund FFI education and environmental stewardship in Washington. Several FFI councils nationwide participate in the program so be sure to select Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA when you sign up.


Since our founding 56 years ago, Washington FFI has worked to support the 22 FFI member clubs in Washington and Alaska and design ways to promote and conserve fly fishing for all fish in all waters. Washington FFI pursues projects and partnerships that educate the public about our sport and the habitats that sustain salt and freshwater fisheries. We have a track record of success creating innovative education programs, sound conservation efforts and a strong community of fly fishers statewide. Help Washington FFI continue that success by signing up at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and selecting:

**Fly Fishers International Inc. Seattle WA** as your non-profit of choice. Thank you.

*Editors Note: I already had a link to Amazon on my computer but it did not open to Amazon Smile, so I copied the URL to the Smile site and opened up my link and pasted the new URL in it. Now I open to Amazon Smile when I click the link. It doesn't cost me any more money and the WA State Council FFI gets a donation from Amazon.* Larry



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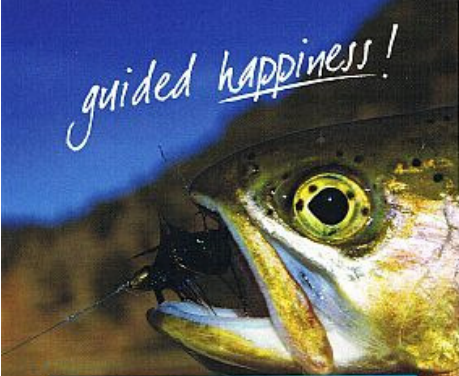



CENTRAL WASHINGTON'S PREMIER FLY FISHING OUTFITTER, PRO-SHOP  
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## Worley Bugger Fly Co.

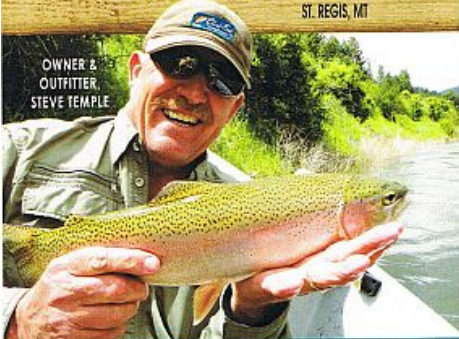
Steve Worley has some great guides and he has put together the best fly shop filled with a massive amount of fly tying materials and equipment. You really need to stop by the shop and check it out. Just take the Canyon Road exit off I-90 and turn north towards town, the Worley Bugger Fly Co. shop is on the left or west side of the road. Open all year. Stop by and say Hi!

guided happiness!





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Steve & Peggy Temple have their fly shop just on the north end of St. Regis, right across the street from the road down to the boat launch.

Check it out!!!

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## VIRTUAL EXPO 2021

Fly Fishers International (FFI) has transformed its annual International Fly Fishing Expo into a virtual event for 2021, completely reimagining how fishing enthusiasts from around the world can enjoy the Expo from the comfort of their own home.

“Our goal is to have fun while learning and immersing ourselves in everything fly fishing,”  
— Patty Lueken, Chair of FFI’s Virtual Expo Planning Committee



The FFI Virtual Expo 2021 will take place November 5-7, and will be unlike any fly fishing show in the past.

FFI is pulling out all the stops to make the Virtual Expo the premier fly fishing event of the year. Teaming up with some of the best instructors, presenters, and fly fishing personalities in the sport, FFI Virtual Expo 2021 will feature workshops and presentations on casting, fly tying, conservation, women in fly fishing, travel, and much more. Similar to fly fishing shows, there will be vendors, break-out rooms, and entertaining activities—something for everyone.

Highlights will include:

- Fantastic classes and workshops from renowned “fishy” folks
- Compelling and important conservation workshops
- Fly tying demonstrations with some of the world’s best
- An online auction culminating in a virtual live auction on Nov 6
- Great giveaways
- Specialty classes on cooking, nutrition, tricking out your camper, “how it’s made,” and other topics to interest fly fishers and non-fishers alike.

“Building off of the incredible success of the FFI Online series — during which we brought the essence of FFI out to the international fly fishing community — the Virtual Expo will bring the fly fishing show experience to you.”  
— Patrick Berry, FFI President, and CEO





## Thoughts about the Virtual Expo

For many years now, getting onto two decades, I have traveled to Montana and once to Colorado to attend what used to be called the FFF Conclave, then we changed it to the FFF Fly Fishing Fair, then the FFI Fly Fishing Fair. This year it is the Virtual Expo. No travelling needed, just sit at home in the comfort of your chair and take classes and seminars from instructors from all over the world. Talk about fantastic!

I did enjoy those trips to the FFI events, no matter what you call them. At a minimum if you only attended the event you were going to spend at least 5 days on the road. But naturally, driving that far, especially to Montana, well you just have to get in a little fishing. On the way there or on the way back or both, I would stop in St. Regis and get in a couple days of guided fishing with Clark Fork Trout. So my trips were usually 9 or 10 days long. That cost a lot of money, but well spent. I did enjoy the camaraderie at the fairs, seeing old friends and making new ones.

This Virtual Expo won't hardly cost you anything. Sure, you will sign up for classes or seminars and pay a few bucks, but that will be a drop in the bucket compared to making the drive to Livingston. Think about it, you will only be spending a few dollars, dollars which will help fund the FFI in all of their endeavors, and you get to do it from home.

I am sure that in 2022 the FFI will start having regional expos. I think they plan on having them at different parts of the country. Those events will be very time consuming for the people putting them on, but if you attend them, you will get to see parts of the country you may not have been to in the past and do some fishing in all kinds of places while you are driving to the event and actually at the event. I will be attending some of these in the future.

But for now, please give this Virtual Expo a try. In July the FFI will be posting all of the events you can 'attend' via a Zoom session. When that list comes out this month I will be sending it to all of you so you can see what great choices you will have. Casting, tying, destinations, educational, conservation — all these things will be at your finger tips for a very small price.


Make sure you attend, then at our November meeting you can tell everyone which classes or seminars you attended and just how good it was.

Larry



# July / August 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"That beautiful season the Summer! Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; And the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood." - Henry Wadsworth Longfellow				1 July	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Delphinium	22	23	24
25	26	<b>27 No Meeting</b>	28	29	30	31

1 August	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 	19	20	21
22	23	<b>24 No Meeting</b>	25 gladiolus	26	27	28
29	30	31	"Whilst August yet wears her golden crown, ripening fields lush- bright with promise; Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly passing her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn." - Michelle L. Thieme, August's Crown			

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club  
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If you have an email address allow us to send this newsletter via the internet. If your email address has changed recently, please share your new address.

Visit our website at [alpineflyfishers.org](http://alpineflyfishers.org)

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