

List of Topics for Discussed at the September 16, 2019 Free State Fly Fishers Leadership Team Meeting

Summary of Leadership Team Decisions, Agreements, and Follow-up Actions

Leadership Team members present: Rich Batiuk, Gary Grey, Luis Santiago, Tom Gooding, Frank Bowne, Mark Bange, and Mike Mattia.

Advance Scheduling of Club Meetings and Events

We need to be confirming dates, meeting speakers, fly tying session leaders, etc. at least 3-4 months in advance and the dates and locations for outings at least 1-2 months in advance to enable members to schedule these on their personal calendars and to give Cliff Young enough advance time for make his publicity notifications and contacts.

Decision: Agreement to target firming up the details of our club meeting, events, and sessions at least 3 months in advance.

Action: Provide Mark Bange with ideas on speakers for upcoming 2020 FSFF club meetings starting with February.

Discussion: Some initial ideas for future meeting speakers include:

- representative from Casting for Recovery
- representative from Heroes on the Water
- asking one of the riverkeepers from the local watershed associations
- speaker discussing preparation for cold-water fishing.

Scheduling More Hands-on and Demonstration Opportunities

Recommendation for working towards scheduling hands-on and demonstration activities and events once every month to two months throughout the year in addition to our June meeting devoted to hands-on/demonstrations. Ideas include:

- Casting demonstrations
- Making mini sink-tips
- Knots and building leader systems
- Fly fishing from kayaks
- Other sessions similar to the fly fishing for pickerel session hosted by Joe

Are we committed to building these into our regular schedule of club sponsored events and activities?

Agreement: Strong yes, move forward with scheduling more hands-on and demonstration opportunities, targeting Saturdays on which we have not scheduled fly tying sessions. See **Attachment A** for an initial list of hands-on and demonstration sessions which can be added to.

Discussion:

- We could set up different tables to enable multiple members to get directly engaged in the topic of the hands-on session.

- We could set up an on-site/on-stream fly fishing class so the members can get on the stream fly fishing experiences.
- We could set up more specialized fly tying sessions e.g., building poppers as well as a fly tying 101 session.

Scheduling Future Dyeing Sessions

Members have expressed a strong interest in more Icelandic wool dyeing sessions as well as possible bucktail and hackle neck dyeing sessions. Are we ready to schedule some more sessions for 2020?

Agreement: Yes, let's schedule more dyeing sessions into the future.

Discussion: Let's definitely schedule a bucktail dyeing session.

Action: Mike Mattia has a connection with a deer processor who could provide us with a significant number of bucktails. Mike will follow up to determine if this is practical in terms of treating the bucktails for long term use as fly tying material.

Better Addressing the Needs of New Fly Fishers

Is this a real issue that we need to address? If so, how?

Agreement: Agreement on the need for not only for scheduling a fly tying 101, but we need to schedule a fly fishing 101 class.

Discussion:

- If we want to target building up new members as well as addressing the needs of our existing members, than hosting more 101 classes, focused both on fly fishing and fly tying, should be a priority for the club.
- Need participants to RVSP in advance so we know exactly how many participants we need to prepare.
- We will need to advertise significantly in advance, focusing on Bass Pro Shop, Tochtermans, Anglers, etc.
- Target early spring or late fall, targeting good weather, and be able to host part of the class outside as well as in the clubhouse.

Action: Luis Santiago will reach out to a Trout Unlimited colleague to get a copy of their 101 class curriculum.

FSFF Involvement in Heroes on the Water and Other Volunteer Opportunities

Do we want to be more proactive in setting up opportunities for members to volunteer at these events into the future?

Agreement: Let's not make such volunteer opportunities a club-sponsored event, but help advertise such volunteer opportunity events and encourage our members to participate if they are interested.

Discussion:

- The prior Bass Pro related events the club has been invited to participate in are great.
- Better to invest our energy in other the events and sessions we have already discussed.

- Let's respond to volunteer opportunities that fall into our laps, but not proactively pursue volunteer opportunities ourselves.

Any Changes Needed in the Club's Holiday Party

Before planning for the club's next Holiday Party gets underway, are there any changes we need to make to enhance the party into the future?

Discussion:

- The management and staff at the Mike's are great to work with.
- Good food, great raffle, and good venue so no changes are needed.
- Luis Santiago is looking at purchasing good fly tying vise and a fly tying kit as well possibly a fly rod at raffle prizes at the Holiday Party.

Agreement: No changes needed to the Holiday Party.

Agreement: Use FSFF funds to buy a large, special prize or two for the Holiday Party. The Leadership Team approved investing \$200 for Luis Santiago to purchase of two Holiday Party raffles.

Action: Rich Batiuk will reach out to Don Vance to ask him to initiate planning for the December 2019 Holiday Party by first contacting Mike's Crab House to reserve the date for the Party.

Ideas for Further Improving Our Spring Swap Meet

See the attached email exchange with Mark and Luis following this spring's Swap Meet for their excellent feedback on ways to improve future Swap Meets. For example, for next year's Swap Meet, we need to send out flyers in advance to all the regional fly fishing clubs like PPTU and White Clay Fly Fishers, Antietam, others to further increase the participation. Can we agree on what changes are needed in advance of our spring 2020 Swap Meet?

Agreement: Make the following changes starting with the spring 2020 Swap Meet:

- Schedule the Swap meet later in April to improve the chances for better weather.
- Schedule the Swap meet to not conflict with Lefty Kreh's Tie Fest.
- Ensure everyone who is selling stuff is a member. If they are not a member, then they need to pay the FSFF membership fee in order to have a table.
- Encourage people selling stuff make a 10% donation to the club based on what they have sold.
- We need to add more tables.
- Need more club members to sign up help in prepare for, set up and work on the day of the Swap meet.
- We need bigger and better signs directing people from the parking lot to the clubhouse.
- Consider asking a club member to be located in parking lot and help direct people to the clubhouse.
- Set the hours as 10 AM to 1 PM.

Action: Rich Batiuk will look into using Ford Hall or the Boy Scouts hall for the Swap Meet as a secondary backup in the case we are facing foul weather. He will work through the DFRC board in making this request.

Action: Luis Santiago will look at some dates for Swap meet for spring 2020 to avoid conflicts with other shows or fly fishing related events.

Increasing FSFF Visibility by Participating in Local and Regional Fishing Shows

Need to firm up plans for club participation in upcoming fishing shows based on excellent feedback from Leadership Team members. Which fishing shows do we want to target in the 2019/2020 season?

Agreement: Initially target the following three shows with the leads shown below who will make contact with the organizers of each show and make arrangements for Free State Fly Fishers to have a table at the show and seek volunteers to man the club's table:

- Heroes on the Water in Odenton, MD—Mark Bange
- Lefty Kreh Tie Fest—Luis Santiago
- Saltwater Fishing Expo at Annapolis Elks—Mike Mattia

Action: Mark Bange will contact Harry Steiner about date or dates he has in mind for inviting Free State Fly Fishers back to Bass Pro Shop for our fly tying demonstrations.

Getting More Club Members Involved in Club Operations

Who can we target to encourage to get more involved do what to help out with club operations? We really need a new fly tying coordinator as our first priority.

Recommendations: FSFF members we should target to contact to get more involved in club operations: Mark Jacobs, Joe Bruce's cousin, and Wayne Blake-Hedges (target for fly tying coordinator role).

Action: Leadership Team members will continue to forward to Rich Batiuk the names of club members who may be interested in getting more involved in club operations.

Setting Priorities for Improvements to the Club House

Working from the attached feedback from Leadership Team members file, we need to establish a clear set of priorities for investments in and improvements to the club house and approve the needed expenditure of funds.

Agreement: The Leadership Team members agreed to move forward with the following investments for use by the club as a whole:

- Purchase a small tripod, web camera, and upgraded LCD projector. Lead: Luis Santiago
- Purchase folding chairs with built in cushions that can be stacked on a cart. Lead: Tom Gooding
- Build and install two large cork bulletin boards—one for the wall right next to the entrance door and the second next to the door to the back storage room. Move the current 'memorial' cork bulletin board to the adjacent wall. Lead: Rich Batiuk
- Purchase new curtains: Lead: Rich Batiuk
- Purchase new window shades: Lead: Rich Batiuk
- Work with a digital graphic company to get a higher quality graphical image of our club logo. Lead: Luis Santiago
- Purchase a new club logo to replace the club logo placed outside of the front door. Lead: Luis Santiago

Action: Rich Batiuk will follow up with John Scarborough and ask him to schedule the fall 2019 and spring 2020 clubhouse clean up days.

Action: Get rid of the broken chairs immediately to prevent any accidents. Lead: Rich Batiuk

Action: Rich Batiuk will ask John Scarborough to have the clubhouse's fire extinguisher re-inspected.

Paying Dues by Credit Card on Our Website

If we want to do this, how do we go about making it happen?

Agreement: Put this topic on hold for the time being.

Cleaning up the Groups IO Email List

Agreement: We will notify non-paid members they need to sign up as members in 2020 to continue to get access to the group emails and the electronic newsletter. Lead: Frank Bowne and Luis Santiago

Sharing Membership List with All Club Members

Are we supportive of sharing updated listing of members so member know how to contact other members, respecting those members who have asked that their contact information not be shared with others?

Agreement: We will share the names and email addresses of members, after removing those members who asked that their contact information not be shared, twice a year—spring and fall—with all members.

Leadership Team Review of Revised Club By-Laws

Mark Bange is drafting up a proposed set of revised by-laws, updating the 1970s version currently in place, to reflect how the club current operates. Are we comfortable recommending this proposed set of revised by-laws to the full club membership for review and approval?

Agreement: The Leadership Team agreed with all of Mark Bange's recommended changes to the club's original 1975 by-laws as well as Rich Batiuk's additional minor edits building on Mark's excellent text changes. The revised draft club by-laws along with a copy of a marked up of the original 1975 by-laws will be shared with all club members via email from Rich Batiuk, informing members that the revised by-laws will be formally presented at the October club meeting. Mark Bange will take the lead in walking members through the six major changes proposed to the current By-laws at the October meeting. The transmittal email message will also inform club members that they will be asked to approve the revised draft by-laws by a show of hands in favor at the November club meeting.

Next Steps in Addressing Club and Officers Liability Issues

Rich Batiuk is looking into how to best address potential liability issues, particularly related to club sponsored outings. How big of a concern is liability to us as the club's governing body?

Agreement: We need to work address this liability issue as they relate to club sponsored outings. The Leadership Team agree to secure the expert counsel to recommend options for how the club can address the issue of liability for outings.

Big Picture Schedule of Club Sponsored Events and Activities for 2020

Agreement on a big picture schedule to share with club members starting with the October meeting.

Agreement: At the October meeting and via the Fall 2019 newsletter, Rich Batiuk will share a summary of the key decisions and agreements from the September 16 FSFF Leadership Team meeting with the full club membership.

Club Officers for 2020

Are you all interested in one more round as officers in 2020? And are we in agreement that the vice president should step up to be club president starting in 2021?

Agreement: Everyone agreed to stay in their current elected positions—Rich-President, Gary-First Vice President, Luis-Second Vice President, Frank-Secretary and Tom-Treasurer—and two director positions-Mike and Mark, pending a vote by the membership at the November club meeting.

Action: Rich Batiuk will put forth a slate of recommended officers reflective of the 2019 officers at the October club meeting. He will ask of the members present any recommendations for other candidates for any of the five elected positions. Following the October club meeting, Rich will email out the list of candidates for the five elected positions to all club members, notifying them that voting on the 2020 elected officers will take place at the November club meeting.

Other Topics

Anything else we need to discuss as a leadership team at this time?

Agreement: The Leadership Team agreed to make the following investments, consistent with past years investments:

- Provide \$100 to each of the regional river keeper/watershed organizations—Magothy River Association, Severn River Association, South River Federation, and West/Rhode River Keeper.
- Make the club's annual payment to the DFRC.
- Make an appropriate contribution to the Boy Scouts contributing to purchase of salt for the facility's water treatment system.

Agreement: We need to include more trout fishing outings in the club's schedule of outings into the future.

Agreement: Work to schedule "fly-specific" outings into the future.

Attachment A
Ideas for Topics for FSFF Sponsored Hands-on Sessions

Ideas from Joe Bruce:

1. Making mini sink-tips
2. Knots and building leader systems
3. Don't let your hooks be your leak link.
4. Rigging the kayak
5. Making a camera holder for the yak
6. Demonstrating my wire bender for articulated connectors
7. How to attack pads
8. Fish catching retrieves with the fly rod
9. Fly tying tips for bucktail and calf tail
10. Fly tying tips for feathers and more
11. Homemade insect repellent that won't hurt the fly rod

Ideas from Rich Batiuk:

- Mark Bange teaching his kayak fishing class for FSFF members on a Saturday at the clubhouse, with the club providing lunch for all the participants
- Icelandic wool dyeing session
- Hackle necks dyeing session
- Bucktail dyeing session
- Casting demonstration where club members bring their own fly rods and get group demonstrations and instructions (casting instructors: Luis Santiago, Joe Bruce, Duber Winters, others?)
- Joe Bruce's shallow water fishing presentation with demonstration of techniques
- Joe DeMeo teaching a class on tying better Clouser's
- Class on building and tying better poppers
- Duber Winters' streamside trout 101 class (during the spring trout season)
- Preparing for cold weather fishing