EUROPEAN FLY FISHING ASSOCIATION

United by true passion

Dear members

The year is drawing to a close and we are still deeply saddened by the sudden death of our board member and treasurer Christian Gubler a few weeks ago. In general, we all know that this is part of life, but it is still difficult to accept. For us as a Board, we have an unexpected situation to deal with. As already briefly announced, I have taken on the task with the help of the cash auditors and will act as treasurer until a new one is found.
Life goes on and so we are forced to put the future back on track.
We are looking for a new board member, who would like to take over.
Who feels called to take on this position?
An affinity for numbers and knowledge of English are required.
Due to the simultaneous seat on the Board, which shapes the future of EFFA, we are looking for a solution-oriented person, who makes decisions in the interests of the EFFA community. In a Board of 5, it is not always possible to see and evaluate all things the same. But it is important to agree with and stand behind the decisions no matter what.

The 2024 financial statements will of course be prepared by our task force.
In general, it can be said that we are in a good position and have managed all issues in terms of money very successfully. Our association assets will increase by around CHF 3,000.00 this year and our assets amount to CHF 17,000.00. The profit is due to the fact that we were unable to hold the EFFA International Event this year.

The position of treasurer is to be filled by spring 2025.

I will be happy to receive applications/questions via my e-mail address
d.difronzo@bluewin.ch

Date 15. 01. 2025

As announced, I will be stepping down in the spring after many years as President. It is time for new forces. We are looking for a new Vice President who would like to take over from Massimo Mateuzzi. He has decided to run for the office of President and has spent the last 2 years familiarizing the tasks with me. I will be happy to receive further applications/questions via my e-mail address d.difronzo@bluewin.ch

Deadline 15. 1. 2025

We are looking for **a president**

I will gladly accept applications/questions via my e-mail address d.difronzo@bluewin.ch

Deadline 15. 1. 2025

Important note:
According to the statutes, a person from the board does not necessarily have to be elected president, but any member can apply if they feel called upon to do so.

Here are some conclusions/thoughts on EFFA in recent years and in the future.

It is important to me that this community continues to develop, which is difficult because there are so many different ideas among the individual members. We have doubled in size as a community, after the turbulent years before my time, EFFA has calmed down and things are running relatively harmoniously. However, this growth has also brought other challenges. As in all associations, around 5% of the members are active and do all the work and the rest are there when the supporting program is right. This means that although we have grown enormously, only a few want to take on responsibility.
We are not an association in the true sense of the word, but a community of interest that has set itself a lot of goals. Led by a few idealists who are willing to give something back to the community and sacrifice a lot of their free time to do so. The sense of community United by true passion is lived, but it certainly can't replace what you get in clubs such as a soccer club, where you meet up almost every week.
I am very grateful to the country representatives, who always make an effort to set something up. Everyone, who has taken the opportunity has been able to benefit from the EFFA's network of contacts in various areas.

In my opinion, exchange across borders is taking place, but you have to be realistic, as the opportunities are not the same for everyone for various reasons.

I would like to give a few examples of what I have experienced since joining EFFA:
I have made new friends all over Europe
My casting has improved
I have been able to gain certificates
My knowledge of fly fishing/material has multiplied
I have fished rivers I was not familiar with
I was able to participate in organized events
I have built up a network of contacts that helps me several times a year.
Discounts at retailers etc.

Since I joined EFFA in 2010, I have received a great deal for a membership fee of 15 euros a year. The founding members of EFFA came up with the idea, the organization is up to the departments and countries, which can exert influence through their elected representatives. The aim of the EFFA was to unite like-minded fly fishermen in a European network and to raise the quality of certification to a high level in all countries. Implementation in the individual countries could not be more different.
It very much depends on the leadership and the members.

To summarize, the vision is still absolutely brilliant for me. We are well-known on the market and can compete with similar organizations. The big difficulty is to adapt to the spirit of the times/conditions and other priorities that are given by the borders and are constantly changing. To keep the definition of fly fishing against all trends, but not to exclude, but to try to keep the community on the right track. What we absolutely do not need are people, who polarize and push themselves to the fore with their skills. We should be a rallying network for fly fishing and its interests at all levels, true to our motto **United by true passion.**

Fly Casting Department
A key aspect of EFFA is the various certifications, which are not easy to achieve. Here too, the EFFA has created standards that are among the highest in Europe. According to the statutes, these standards must always be met for examinations, which has certainly increased the quality of instructors on the market in recent years. This is guaranteed by the Fly Casting and Fly Fishing department and the examination results show that the pass rate is not very high. Is this bad for the EFFA? Not in my opinion, and I speak from my own experience as a failed candidate, it has only made me stronger. It wasn't a gift, it was a rocky road and I was accompanied by various members of our community. This is the only way to maintain the level and it is up to each individual to acquire these skills. In my opinion, the decisive factor is the will to persevere and targeted training with mentors.
However, it is essential to optimize the development of younger people into instructors or even masters. It is essential to think about this in this department to avoid dying of obsolescence. It is certainly also worth optimizing the fact that many people go their own way after becoming instructors and no longer participate so much in EFFA. This is not necessarily just down to you, but the department should think about which offers could be of their interest.
For members who simply want to improve themselves, there are now opportunities in many countries to take part in an EFFA on Tour, meetings or workshops. Of course, more can be done, but that is not necessarily the main task of the association.

Fly Fishing Department
We certainly got off to a good start here, but unfortunately we have not been happy in the last 2-3 years due to various circumstances. The whole corona situation in particular has exacerbated the problem again, but things have also changed. Potential candidates are simply no longer willing to sacrifice a week for the course. I've personally experienced people coming in, who didn't have the skills to pass the course and thought they could fill the gaps in a few days. A change of direction was necessary.
The FF board no longer wanted to face the new challenges and so we are now in consultation with new people to offer a solution adapted to the situation. It is important that we do not lower the level, but the path to becoming a guide will now lead via a

preliminary examination in fly tying / casting / 1st aid. Only those, who have passed the preliminary examination will be admitted to the workshop / final examination. We are currently in the trial phase and expect to be able to award the first guides with a diploma in 2025.

Fly Tying Department
The task of the department is to bring the tyers together through the EFFA Open and to promote the exchange among each other. Through the tying instructions in the new media, we also set standards here and not only give EFFA people the opportunity to take themselves to a new level. In the meantime, we also have various pro tyers who started out in the EFFA with different suppliers of fly tying materials. The board has unanimously refrained from certifying fly tyers, as we do not see enough clear evaluation criteria here. There are also opportunities to strengthen the whole thing through tying groups in the countries, especially in winter.
The FT Board unanimously appointed Andy Paschek (A) and Matthias Di Biasi (I) to the Executive Board for the new year. They have implemented the planned strategy of doing more on Facebook/Instagram, improving the quality of the binding instructions and increasing their presence in collaboration with Bernhard Nussbaumer very well.
We congratulate them and look forward to the next steps.

Conservation Departement
In the department, we work with the new media and recommend petitions. We are also constantly trying to exert influence through our network of contacts. We simply can't do more with this structure because it eats up our financial resources. In reality, we would need a legal department here in order to be able to act effectively. When the company was founded, the amount of 15 euros was set for the simple reason that this amount can be paid roughly anywhere in Europe. This is not a large amount for most people, but it is a large amount for the countries in the Balkans and I believe that this is still more effective for our mission.

In general
What I am personally most pleased about is that, with a few exceptions, we have managed to meet as equals. There used to be a divide between instructors and members, which I couldn't understand at all, because at the end of the day we are all fly fishermen. The culture of discussion has also improved a lot and there have been no more resignations due to heated discussions.
In summary, there is certainly still a lot that can be optimized, but in a voluntary structure it seems almost impossible to me if certain circumstances do not improve. As mentioned at the beginning, the approach is to increase the proportion of active members, who take on more responsibility.
We have already achieved one major goal, we have significantly rejuvenated the Executive Board and now it is up to you to show us new ways / approaches.
True to the motto:

If you stand still, you have already lost.
This is my last newsletter as President and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the trust you have placed in me. In particular, I would like to thank all the Board members, who have supported me over the past few years and have always helped me to

correct my weaknesses. To my critics, I would like to say that we have open positions on the Board and you have the chance to do better.

As EFFA is a matter close to my heart, I will continue to be available in one form or another.

It has been an honor to be your president.

Here you can find us at trade fairs:

Fair Duisburg (D)
10.-12-1.2025
https://www.angelmesse-duisburg.de

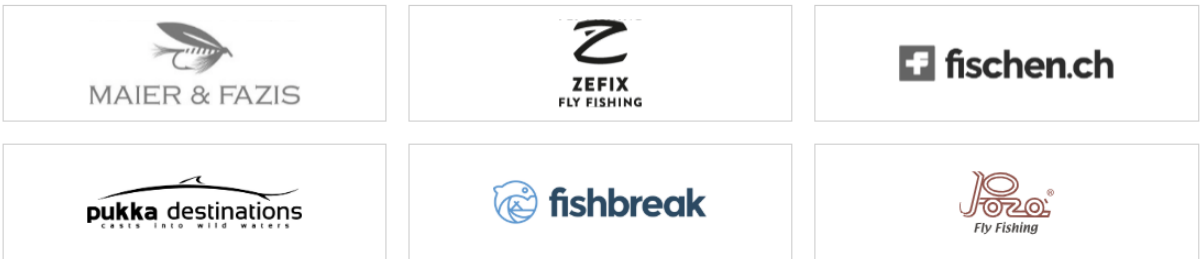
Fair Wels (A)
February 1-2, 2025
https://fishing-festival.at/ausstellen/downloadbereich

Fair Rimini (I)
February 7-9, 2025
https://www.pescareshow.it/en/rimini

Fair in Spreitenbach (CH)
February 8/9, 2025
https://ssfm.ch

Fair in Lingen (D)
February 22-23, 2025
https://www.angelmesse-lingen.de

Fair Aqua Friedrichshafen (D)
March 7-9, 2025
https://www.aqua-fisch.de

The annual schedule 2025 will be published on the internal page as of 31.12.2025

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