



Garden Hackle



Volume 11, Issue 2

South Sound Fly Fishers

Feb 2011

Program

By Jason Small

February 15 Bob Triggs Alaska and Kamchatka

Leader's Line

by Don Freeman

We've had some of those Harbinger of Spring breaks from the weather that offer a break from cabin fever in February, so I hope many of you managed to get out and wave a stick last week. Some of the rivers were in good shape for steelheading, and this is the time of year that some of us look forward to fishing for resident Coho fishing in the South Sound. This is one of my favorite winter pursuits, so I have volunteered to ghillie for this month's outing.

On February 26th, we are going to stage our first all recreational "Fish IN". We will go into more detail at the Feb 15 meeting, but in a nutshell, this will be a lot like the Munn Lake sampling logs, and cutthroat tagging projects that we've done with WDFW in the past few years. We will field recreational fishers on beaches and in boats from the Narrows Bridge south. We'll keep a log of fish caught, size, take scale samples, photos, and so forth. We'll have a couple of boats out with VHF and live wells so the biologists can evaluate health, growth, origin and so forth. Some of the fish are differentially marked, so we hope to discover where the salmon distribute until they make it back to the harvest.

The general objective is to generate more support for late release Coho. In years past, this resource was one of the prime fisheries in the region. Some very active anglers caught hundreds of fish over the season, and this fishery appealed to a wide range of anglers: fly fishers, trollers, spoon and spinner casters – all enjoyed success both from the beach and boating. I also see this project as a good step in building working relations between the recreational public, Fish and Wildlife (or whatever they'll be called in the future) and the Tribes. Under the current political and economic climate, if we don't all start speaking with a common voice, fish and fisheries will be swept under the rug.

We'll be combining efforts with clubs and shops in Tacoma and Gig Harbor to create a one day snapshot of stock in the south sound. Retired and active WDFW biologists will be on hand to assist and observe the catch.

At the next meeting, I will bring in some beach and boat rigs, flies and leaders that have worked for me in the past. Peter and Gwill will be organizing, assigning locations collection efforts.

The Next Meeting is
Tuesday Feb 15th
7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Bob Triggs

Alaska and Kamchatka

North Olympia Fire Station

5046 Boston Harbor Road NE

I'll have more detail on the 15th.

Conservation

By Gwill Ging

Munn Lake- On January 24th, eight SSFFers fished Munn Lake to collect information to assess the survival of trout planted in 2010. The generally held belief was that trout do not survive over winter in Munn Lake and that restocking will be needed each year. The purpose of the January "fish in" was to begin assessing whether this commonly held belief is accurate. Although few fish were caught, those that were landed were healthy and in great condition, including Larry Hall's 20" rainbow trout. SSFFers that used fish finders reported seeing good numbers of fish, indicating that survival so far looks promising. We will be doing additional data collection "fish ins" in the coming months, although recording of your observations at any other time would still be valuable, and would add to our understanding of the over-winter survival issue. A sample data collection form to record your observations is included with this month's Garden Hackle.

Legislative- There are several issues of relevance to the SSFF that are currently in the works. First, bills (SB5669 and HR 1850) that would merge the State of Washington's three natural resource agencies (fish and wildlife, parks and recreation, and conservation office) into a single entity have been introduced in both the House and Senate. The merger would result in the Fish and Wildlife Commission becoming strictly an advisory committee, and eliminating its authority to hire and fire the Director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife. Why does it matter? The general public, including recreational fishers, will lose an open forum to have a meaningful voice in the fishery management decisions that involve the allocation between the recreational and commercial fisheries, long term sustainability, and conservation.

State Senate Bill 5437 is another measure to weaken the Commission as it give the Chair of the Senate Natural Resources Committee the power to remove unconfirmed members of the Commission for any reason. Of interest is the fact that it is the committee chairperson who decides whether or not to hold the hearings that are necessary for the confirmation of an appointed Commissioner. Senator Ken Jacobsen was the previous Natural Resources Committee chairman and during his last term, he attempted to emasculate the Commission when it began to advocate a more conservative and long term sustainability approach to the management of salmon. Jacobsen's district included Ballard, home to Washington's largest commercial fishing fleet.

It's vitally important that we maintain our ability to influence decisions that have a bearing on our recreational fishing opportunities, as well as the conservation of the resources that we value. But to do so, we need to speak up and let our elected officials know what we want. The Coastal Conservation Association has developed a neat and easy way to contact your representatives, based on your zip code. I encourage you to check out the following link and use it to contact your elected representative.
 (www.votervoice.net/core.aspx?aid=966&issueid=23640&atid=18252&siteid=0&app=GAC&isvisited=false). I can be reached at 360-866-9116 or gwilljan@msn.com , if you have questions.

Outings

by Peter Brooks

For our February outing we will be pursuing resident Coho in south Puget Sound. We don't have all the details worked out yet but will by the February 15th meeting. So, please come to the meeting to learn more.

The March outing will be held on March 26th and the location is Munn Lake so please mark your calendars. More information will be coming.

The April outing will be to Price Lake on April 23rd and Ryan Haseman will be our ghillie.

There will be sign up sheets for all three of these outings at the February meeting.

We look forward to seeing you there.

SSFF Membership

by Ryan Haseman

Please remember, YOUR DUES ARE UP!! Please get your renewals in to us ASAP. A renewal is \$30 for the whole year. (What a deal!!) I will be taking check or cash at the general meeting this month, or you can send a check to our PO box. Please make the check out to South Sound Fly Fishers.

Our PO Box address is:

PO Box 2792
 Olympia, WA 98507

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Web Site <http://www.ssffoly.com>
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General Meetings

When The third Tuesday of every Month except December.
Where North Olympia Fire Station (Boston Harbor Fire Station)
 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE
Time 6:15 PM Doors open,
 6:30 P.M. Social Time
 7:00 – 9:00 P.M. Meeting and Program

Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00PM at North Olympia Fire Station (Boston Harbor Fire Station) Every one is welcome and encouraged to attend.

Newsletter Articles

E-Mail articles to Ron Smorynski at ronaldvs@me.com by Jan 9th

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Fly of the Month:

by Ryan Haseman

Fly of the Month:

Marabou Clouser

Hook: Mustad C70SD

Under Wing: White Marabou

Over Wing: Dyed Marabou

Flash: Pearl flashabou or mirror flash

Eyes: 5/32" dumbbell eyes

Thread: white

In 1984 Bob Clouser developed the original clouser minnow consisting of buck tail, metallic dumbbell eyes and hook. Since then fly fishermen have been creating all kinds of variants from this very effective pattern. A very popular Puget Sound variation is the Marabou Clouser.

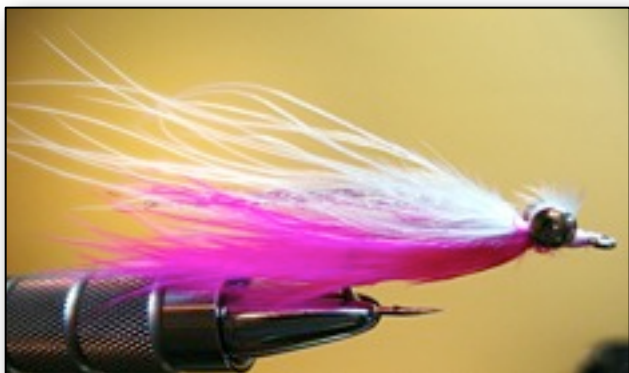
The Marabou Clouser stays true to Mr. Clouser's light over dark theme to imitate the general impression of a baitfish. Instead of using buck tail, we replace it with marabou.

This fly tied in pink is an excellent resident Coho pattern. Gig Harbor Fly Shop's Gary Marston, calls this fly his "go to fly" for the Puget Sound.

Here are a couple of tips when working with marabou. Marabou can be a little tricky to work with. It is so soft and light it wants to float around everywhere and stick to everything, making it a hassle to manage. Put a small glass with an inch or so of water by your vise so you can dip your fingers in it. Now when you are ready to tie in your marabou, wet down the marabou a little, this will make it much easier to work with. Like a lot of materials in fly tying, be careful of how much you use. It is easy to pile on the material because you think that the fish will see your fly better this way. Every good tier and fly fisher I know will tell you, go sparse!

When selecting your marabou at the fly shop it is a good idea to take it out of the package before you buy it and examine the feathers. For this particular fly you want to look for feathers that have long barbs. That will give you more flexibility in the size of your fly.

A note on the construction of this fly; make sure you tie your barbell eyes on top of the hook along with the white marabou. When your fly is in the water it will turn upside down and simulate the lighter colored belly of a baitfish.



Ties & photo by Ryan Haseman

Featured Member

by Ryan Haseman

Ben Guss

Olympia, WA

Member Since: 2009

Favorite Pursuit: SRCs in the salt

Ben Guss has been an Olympia resident for seven years. About four years ago Ben decided to put down his conventional gear and pick up a fly rod for the first time.

Although Ben likes to focus on learning the ways of the elusive Sea-Run Cutthroat on the South Sound Beaches, his favorite fishing moment was on the Olympic Peninsula fishing for wild winter steelhead. He was walking along one of his favorite OP rivers in the middle of the pouring rain and he thought to himself; "wow, it's raining, it's cold, and I haven't caught a fish yet, but I am having fun. There really must be something special about this sport."

After attending evergreen State College, Ben went to work for the Northwest Cooperatives Development Center. He is also on the board of the South Sound Community Farmland Trust. Ben also moonlights as a freelance photographer for various local community efforts, see his work at www.forwardphoto.com.



Next time you see Ben at the club meeting be sure and say hi!

Upcoming Events

February 18-20, 2011 – Central Washington Sportsman Show – Yakima, WA.

March 5-6, 2011 – Cabelas Captain Weekend, Lacey WA., www.calbelas.com

March 11 & 12, 2011 – NW Fly Tyer Expo – Albany, Oregon

April 9, 2011 – Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma present Phil Rowley, www.psff.org

April 9-10, 2011 – Sequim Fly Fishing Show sponsored by Greywolf FF, Sequim, WA., www.olympicpeninsulaflyfishingshow.com

April 16 2011 – Lacey Family Fish-In

April 29-30, 2011 – FFF Washington State Council – Fly Fishing Fair – Ellensburg, WA. www.washingtoncouncilFFF.org

June 19-25, 2011 – NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy – Lacey, WA.

June 23-28, 2011 – Big Horn Youth Adventure – Fort Smith, WY. www.bighornriveralliance.org

June 18, 2011 – Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair at Tye Lake – Monroe, WA. www.jimmygreenflyexpo.com

July 16-17, 2011 – 12th Annual Metolius River FF & Bamboo Rod Fair, Camp Sherman, OR. www.campshermanstore.com

August 31 – Sept. 3, 2011 – FFF National Fly Fishing Fair, West Yellowstone, WY., www.fedflyfishers.org

September 29- October 2, 2011 – Wenatchee River Salmon Fest – Leavenworth, WA.

Sept. 29 & 30th = Student Days, October 1 & 2nd = General Public - www.salmonfest.org

Mark your calendars now, for the April 9 & 10th opening of the two day Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Show at the Boys and Girls Club, 400 W. Fir St. in sunny Sequim, Washington. The host club, Greywolf Fly Fishing Club of Gardiner, WA. announced this new fly fishing event which fills a real need in NW Washington for a dedicated fly fishing show. Already, 30 exhibitors have signed up to attend, including equipment manufacturers, guide and destination companies, conservation groups, artists, and boat manufacturers. The exhibitor list is growing by the week. Also featured are fly tying and casting demonstrations including hands on casting with some of the new and innovative fly rods on display. Several local and regional tiers will attend; including Karen Royer, who is well known for her realistic fly patterns and Harry Lemire who ties classic Atlantic salmon flies without a vise. Five free seminars are planned by local peninsula experts, along with the world renowned author Skip Morris. Admission is \$10 and the show hours are 11:00 AM to 6:00PM Saturday, and 10:00 AM to 3 PM on Sunday. For directions, lodging information and other details check the show's web site: www.olympicpeninsulaflyfishingshow.com.

Education

by Chuck Pfeil

No report

The 2011 Academy

By Mike Clancy

Applications are now being accepted for the 2011 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must edit an essay explaining why they want to attend the Academy and a letter of recommendation is required from their school counselor or science teacher. The dates for the WSCFFF and WCTU sponsored event are June 19-25, 2011. The Academy will be held at The Grinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. To learn more about The Academy, go to www.nwycffa.org. The application is available on the website or contact Mike Clancy @ nwycffa@earthlink.net. This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and the basics of fly fishing.

Sequim gets a new fly fishing show

By Dean Childs, WSCFFF

South Sound Fly Fishers Newsletter