



# Garden Hackle



Volume 12, Issue 1

South Sound Fly Fishers

January 2012

## Program



**Winter steelheading is in full swing and we want to get you in on the action.**

We have bundled our January program with education and an outing to make for some outstanding opportunities for SSFF members. Here's our lineup for January.

### **January 14th ~ Fly tying workshop for steelhead flies:**

Ryan Haseman will be teaching you how to tie steelhead flies recommended by Olympic Peninsula guide Jim Kerr. The Workshop will be held at the [Evergreen Shores Beach Club](#) at 4:30pm. Materials and pizza will be provided, participants must bring their own vises and tying tools. To sign up contact Ryan Haseman at [ryanh@southsoundflyfishers.org](mailto:ryanh@southsoundflyfishers.org)

Workshop fee \$10/person

### **January 17th ~ General meeting program featuring Jim Kerr of Rain Coast Guides:**

Jim Kerr has been fly fishing, river fishing, saltwater fishing, a fishing guide, and working on the water his entire life. Jim resides on Washington's Olympic Peninsula where he is a full time fishing guide for steelhead, trout, and salmon. His guide service has been featured in "Northwest Fly Fishing," "Western Outdoors" and "Fly Fishing and Tying Journal" magazines as well Doug Rose's new book on fly fishing for winter steelhead, "The Color of Winter." He can also be seen from time to time on The Outdoor Network, and Northwest Outdoors TV, as a fishing guide for anglers such as Skip Morris, and doing fly tying demonstrations of his original fly patterns.

The Next Meeting is  
Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup>  
7:00PM

**Jim Kerr**

Winter Steelheading

**Olympia Community Center**  
**222 Columbia St NW, Olympia**



### **January 21st ~ All-day steelhead clinic by Jim Kerr:**

This workshop is designed to get walk in fly anglers comfortable with a variety of spots and techniques that will put them in fish around the west end of the Olympic peninsula.

Here is the way it works. We meet at the crack of 8:00 am at Jim's house in Forks and sit down to breakfast and coffee. After breakfast we will look over maps of good walk in water on some creeks and big rivers.

Then we will grab a bunch of gear and head out to fish a spot or two, discuss and demonstrate some different techniques and generally try to get everyone on the right track. We will talk about lines, rods, flies and presentations. I will have a variety of rods rigged so that you can get a feel of some different systems. I will also have half a dozen or so spey and switch rods for you to try out, as well as 20 or more different spey lines you can try on your own rod.



Around 1:00 we will break for an oversized lunch, and then head to some more spots and continue. The day ends around 4:30.

Clinic Fee \$50/person **limit 8 people**. Hurry spots are filling fast! To sign up email Chuck Pfeil at [chuckpfeil@comcast.net](mailto:chuckpfeil@comcast.net)

**January 21st & 22nd ~ Steelhead outing on the Olympic Peninsula:**

Come chase big winter steelhead with us on the Olympic Peninsula. Participants are welcome to stay in Forks. Visit the [Forks chamber of Commerce website](#) to find lodging.

To sign up and/or receive more info email Jason Small at [orangeradishphoto@gmail.com](mailto:orangeradishphoto@gmail.com)

For all other questions or comments pertaining to SSFF Steelhead month, you can contact us [here](#) or comment below.



**Leader's Line**  
by Don Freeman

**Greetings**

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone at the first meeting of the year. That the 17th at the Olympia Community Center. We will send out additional reminders prior to the meeting. Please arrive early if you can so we can catch up

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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](mailto:ronaldvs@me.com) by Feb 12<sup>th</sup>

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on our annual dues with Matthew. We want to take care of business and get on to the programs; Larry Phillips our District 6 WDFW Biologist is coming to formalize our adoption of Munn Lake, then Jim Kerr of Raincoast Guides in Forks will give us some insights on fishing the peninsula. I've fished both steelhead and salmon with Jim, and advise you not to miss this presentation.

For outdoor fun, resident Coho fishing in the sound remains pretty good, especially a little north of us. Try the narrows when the tide is moving. Avoid very high exchanges, as you'll have a hard time finding room for a back cast.

Aside from that, for a little more driving, there are steelhead in the Kalama, and of course on the Peninsula. I haven't spoken to anyone who's been to Munn, so I don't know how the lowland lakes are fishing.

### **Conservation**

By Gwill Ging

Greetings. I hope you all had a great holiday season and have high expectations for 2012. I'm looking forward to expanding on some of the actions that we've undertaken in 2011, as well as taking on some new project. Please continue with you suggestions and recommendations.

#### **Kennedy Creek Cutthroat Spawning Surveys**

Cuts in the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's (WDFW) budget have forced them to eliminate or forego important data collection efforts. Larry Phillips, the WDFW biologist for our area has requested our help in the collection of sea-run cutthroat trout spawning data.

WDFW would like to include Kennedy Creek as an index stream to help it assess the health of the sea-cutthroat population. WDFW's budget does not allow it to hire sufficient personnel to conduct all the spawning surveys and is increasingly relying on volunteers.

The Kennedy Creek survey reach is about 3 miles long. The goal is to conduct weekly spawning surveys by walking Kennedy Creek from late January through the end of April. Pre-survey training will be given to teach volunteers how to identify cutthroat redds, and what data to record. For safety reasons, we would want volunteers to be paired up – and it's just more enjoyable that way. A two-person team should be able cover the survey reach in a couple of hours, and with greater participation even less time.

I think this project would be a very good fit for our club to undertake, given our previous involvement with the installation of "cutthroat identification" signs around South Sound, our advocacy for extending their protection in the Deschutes River, and our strong interest to protect and enhance this great catch-and-release South Sound fishery.

Larry Phillips will be at our January 17th meeting to describe the Kennedy Creek spawning survey in greater detail.

If your are interested in participating, you can reach me by phone at 360-866-9116, or by email at [gwilljan@msn.com](mailto:gwilljan@msn.com).

### **Outings**

Sea programs above

#### **Fly of the Month:**

#### **Purple Peril**

Hook: Daiichi Tiemco 7999 size 6

Body: Gold Flat Mylar Tinsel

Body: Purple Angora Goat

Rib: Gold Oval Tinsel

Hackle: Dark Hen Hackle (or Purple)

Wing: Squirrel, brown bucktail or woodchuck



This month South Sound Fly Fishers has declared it to be Steelhead month. We have provided opportunities for steelhead education, steelhead fly tying and best of all steelhead fishing.

It only stands to reason that the fly of the month be a steelhead fly, and a good one at that. The Purple Peril is a fly that has stood the test of time. It was originated by a man named Ken McLeod in the 30's on our very own Northwest rivers.

The Purple Peril is a rather simple fly, and has the same style as many other northwest hair wing patters. It is also a smallish fly with a sleek profile. Sometimes when the water is low and clear a big gaudy, bright colored fly will actually scare fish away. This is when you break out your small dark flies.



To tie the Purple Peril, start by giving the fly a wrap of gold tinsel a slight way past the tip of the hook. Here you can add a tail or do without. Now tie in the oval tinsel and start dubbing your goat hair. The classic profile is a cigar shape but a tapered profile looks good as well. All that is left is the wing and a couple wraps of hackle. Keep your wing sparse because it is easy to go overboard here. Also be sure to trim the wing butts at an angle to make it easier to form the head. That is one way to make sure you get a nice small even head.

Again, this fly is pretty easy to tie, but can be effective at the right times. Put a few in your box for those occasions and have fun.



## **2012 NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY**

Here we are in 2012 and getting ready for The Academy again. The SSFF organization can be proud of their history with The Academy and we should look forward to carrying on that commitment. We are now accepting applications for the 2012 Academy and we anticipate another good year. Jim Brosio and I are committed to making this another great event for the kids, but we will need your help. We can not do it without you. So please plan on helping for the event this year on June 24-30, 2012. Trust me, this is a very rewarding and enjoyable event. These kids are the future for the sport of fly fishing. Mike Clancy

### **Visit to Kodiak Island's Saltery River**

By Paul Sparks

This month the Olympia Trout Unlimited Chapter will offer a fly fishing oriented program featuring Oly Chapter member, and old time Alaska hand, Paul Sparks. Sparks will present an account of a visit with his son Morgan at an isolated fisheries weir on Kodiak Island's Saltery River. Expect a riveting story with professional quality photography, fish stories, fish pictures, more fish pictures, and bears. All this comes with only modest embellishments, helpful hints on surviving in the bush on a budget, fishing and living in close quarters with bears, and a close-up look at the molars of one of the largest bears in the history of the planet.

The program will be part of the regular Olympia trout Unlimited meeting on January 25th, 2012 at the North Olympia Fire hall, 5046 Boston Harbor Rd, NE. The doors open at 6:30 PM, followed by the program at 7.

