



# Garden Hackle



Volume 11, Issue 5

South Sound Fly Fishers

May 2011

## Program

By Jason Small

Our July general meeting will feature Leland Miyawaki. Leland began fly fishing in 1968 when he sent away for a complete flyfishing outfit. After receiving his new rod and reel, he laid down his spinning rod forever and began to teach himself to cast and tie flies. Exactly one year later to the day, he caught his first fish on his own fly. Leland has fished most of the streams and lakes in California, Oregon, Idaho, Washington; the well-known hotspots in New Mexico, Wyoming and Montana; the great steelhead rivers in British Columbia; and one well-guarded secret river in Idaho. Leland fishes and guides on the local Puget Sound beaches for searun coastal cutthroat with his surface fly exclusively – the “Miyawaki Beach Popper.” He loves ditching his fleece and waders to fly south for bonefish and permit. He is a fairly accomplished speycaster and without too much of a push, would chuck it all and become a steelhead bum. He is currently the fly fishing manager of the [Orvis](#) store in Bellevue, Washington.

### Program Synopsis:

Almost 15 years ago, Leland tied up his first “[Miyawaki Beach Popper](#).” It is a surface fly that Leland casts off the Puget Sound and British Columbia beaches to catch wild coastal cutthroat and coho salmon on his 6wt rod. Leland will also show us how to tie his famous popper and, more importantly, how to fish it.

### Leader’s Line

by Don Freeman

### Summer Greetings

For me the new web page is the big excitement of the season. Kudos to everyone involved with getting it up and running; I’m putting a reminder in my Outlook program to go there at least once a week. In the summer months when we’re all traveling and camping, fishing and boating, this gives us the opportunity to share our adventures when we seldom actually see other members face to face.

The Next Meeting is

Tuesday May 17<sup>th</sup>

**6:30 PM – 9:00 PM**

### Club Members

**Casting, equipment, knots, bugs and tying, photography, safety, and conservation**

**Gloria Dei Church**

**1515 Harrison, Olympia WA**

I know for instance that Gwill had a great vacation to Loreto, many club members have made multiple killer trips to the Eastside lakes with incredible results, I’ve been on a couple of successful salt water excursions myself, had some good spring steelheading and still haven’t seen or shared any photos with more than a couple of members. I’d like to hear some news of the Academy program this year. I’m sure you’re sitting on at least one stellar jpeg of your experiences this summer you could share without giving away the farm, so send it in to Ryan, and we’ll have a monthly update, “July Jaw Droppers”, or what have you.

The salmon are returning in good numbers up and down the coast, but since I’ve been out of touch for a couple of weeks, I really don’t know what else is currently hot. A quick recommendation on lakes or streams that are working would be a welcome contribution to show and tell photos if you’re feeling generous.

I hope to see everyone at the July 19th meeting, but it’s my 25th anniversary, so I may choose discretion over valor. I was really looking forward to Leland’s presentation on beach fishing, but will try to catch him during the day. Jason has arranged for a chance for our members to fish with Leland for the day, so I highly encourage any cutthroat enthusiasts to massage your schedules that day.

### Conservation

By Gwill Ging

No report this month

## Outings

by Peter Brooks

The destination of the July outing will be Merrill Lake in Cowlitz County, just north of Cougar. The outing will be the weekend of July 15th through the 17th. If you are interested in participating in this outing, please contact Peter Brooks immediately. You can email at [brookcommerce@qwestoffice.net](mailto:brookcommerce@qwestoffice.net) or phone 236-9176. This outing will feature camping, fishing for large rainbow and brown trout, using large flies to imitate Hexagenia mayflies, and fishing in the dark. If you have never experienced a "Hex" hatch, here is a great opportunity to do so.

The outing(s) for August are not planned at this time. Rumor has it that the Pink Salmon run could be fairly strong this year. So, watch the Garden Hackle and the website for breaking information.

## SSFF Membership

by Ryan Haseman

The new SSFF website is up and running! Be sure to check it out. We will be updating the site regularly with up to date info on programs, outings, classes and other club related info. There will always be 3 fly fishing related videos at the bottom of the page that will change regularly. You will also be able to find the newsletter here, and the fly of the month. Periodically there will be fly fishing articles posted by members or others in the fly fishing community. A special thanks to Skip Morris for writing an article for the website.

To see the new SSFF website go to:  
[www.southsoundflyfishers.org](http://www.southsoundflyfishers.org)

We currently have 70 paid members for 2011. If you would like to continue your membership and have not renewed for this year, PLEASE make sure you get your \$30 to me as soon as you can. We will accept cash or check either at the general meeting or you can send your checks to PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507.

## Fly of the Month:

by Ryan Haseman

### Fly of the Month:

July 2011

Hexagenia Cripple

Hook: Daiichi 1720 #6

Tail/Body: Natural Ostrich Herl

Thorax: Yellow Deer Hair (spun)

Wing: Natural Deer Hair

Hackle: Yellow Grizzly

Thread: Yellow or Grey

If one was to create a Washington State fly fishing bucket list, fishing the hex hatch on Merrill Lake would surely be on such a list. The opportunity to throw size 4 dry fly patterns at big browns is a thrill in of itself. Doing so in total darkness adds certain uniqueness to the experience

## 2011 Officers, Directors & Committee Chairman

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**Web Site** [www.southsoundflyfishers.org](http://www.southsoundflyfishers.org)

SSFF Box 2792, Olympia WA 98507

### 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 Aug 13<sup>th</sup>

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that makes it a must do trip.

The peculiarity of the Merrill Lake hex hatch has fostered a sort of “cult following”, where hearty (or maybe misguided) souls meet at the boat launch just before dusk. Here they will exchange small talk, maybe a pattern or two, then head out on their float tubes, pontoon boats and car toppers to find a spot on the lake and wait for the darkness to fill in the landscape. As the sun drops below the horizon, one of the biggest of all mayflies, *Hexagenia limbata*, start coming off the water.

Brown trout emboldened by the cover of darkness and 2 inch long protein snacks emerging on the surface, throw caution to the wind and will take imitations readily. One great imitation to use is a *Hexagenia* cripple.

This pattern is based on a standard mayfly cripple pattern like the Quigley’s Cripple. This pattern is designed to look like an emerging mayfly or one that is sort of stuck between phases and has either died or will shortly here after, (hence the name cripple). Sometimes trout key in on these “crippled” mayflies because they are a guaranteed meal. Using a cripple pattern can be very effective especially during a heavy hatch.

To tie this fly, start by creating a tail with the ends of 2 ostrich herls. A good trick is to leave your thread at the tail tie-in point, then palmer the herl up the shaft and then wrap the thread through the herl to reinforce it. The thorax is spun deer hair. Spinning deer hair is definitely a more technical technique but not impossible. Get a book or do a little searching on the internet and you should be able to find enough instruction to get you on your way.

Here you will want to tie your thread off and trim your deer hair to the shape you want, then tie your thread back on and finish the fly with the deer hair wing and a few wraps of hackle.

When on the water only the hackle and wing should be dressed with floatant. This fly is made to sit almost vertical in the water, and it doesn’t hurt for it to sink a few inches.

Tie a few for your box and enjoy. Don’t forget to bring a head lamp.

## Upcoming Events

July 16-17, 2011 – 12th Annual Metolius River FF & Bamboo Rod Fair, Camp Sherman, OR. [www.campshermanstore.com](http://www.campshermanstore.com)

August 31 – Sept. 3, 2011 – FFF National Fly Fishing Fair, West Yellowstone, WY., [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://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](http://www.salmonfest.org)

## Education

by Chuck Pfeil

Well we just passed the halfway point in 2011 and I think it’s been a pretty good start to our education program. We began the year with three fly tying classes thanks to Janet Schimpf and followed that up with an ‘on the water’ workshop by guide Jim Kerr in Forks; and later this month master casting instructor Carl Zarelli will be teaching some of our members spey casting.

I do plan on scheduling another intermediate fly tying class for the October/November time period. Perhaps some steelhead & cutthroat patterns? And I’m still checking into a rod building class but that’s proven to be a little more challenging.

If you have some ideas about other classes you like to see offered please let me know. I would greatly appreciate your ideas.

## NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING ACADEMY

We enjoyed another successful Academy this year, we graduated 21 boys and girls that learned the basics of fly fishing and conservation. We again were privileged with incredible instructors from both the public sector and private sector. With the support of over 50 volunteers from the South Sound Fly Fishers of Olympia and The Puget Sound Fly fishers of Tacoma and the Olympia Chapter of TU, not necessary in that order, this event would not have happen.

The event would not happen without financial support from many Washington fly fishing clubs, Washington TU chapters, WCTU, WSCFFF, local corporations and private individuals. This is an all year event for the staff in preparation for the one week program for the kids. I am very proud of our Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy.

The boys and girls have an excellent foundation for their future in fly fishing and conservation. Preparation for next years Academy has already started.

They are the guardians of the future for our sport of fly fishing.

by Mike Clancy, Co-Director, NWYCFFAcademy



