



Garden Hackle



Volume 11, Issue 8

South Sound Fly Fishers

August 2011

Program

By Jason Small

We will have our club picnic at the North Olympia Fire Station. The Club will furnish Hamburgers and hot dogs. Members bring a dish.

Leader's Line

by Don Freeman

Summer Greetings

Sorry to have missed you all at the July General Meeting. Having invested the evening and the price of a very good fly rod on silver and semi precious stones, I can report that I therefore remain alive and wedded, even if not for another thirty one years.

I heard that Leland's presentation was both well attended and entertaining, and regret missing the program; especially as fishing the sound is my major local fishing passion. On this subject, pay special attention to queries from Jason in the near future, he is looking to the members for input on your interests in programming. Let him know what other types of fishing, travel, and outdoor activities you'd like to hear about.

And having mentioned salt water, the Humpies are here. Pink salmon have finally started arriving in the South Sound in serious numbers this last week. Members have been reporting success from beaches and boats, at Hoodspoint, Redondo, and Dash Point as well as other well kept secret spots. If you haven't experienced the fishing frenzy of huge schools of fresh 4-8 lb. salmon, you should give it a go at least once. A sturdy 6 or 7 weight rod, floating, intermediate or sinking line and small pink flies are all that is required. From the beach, a stripping basket is a huge asset, as are shooting head lines, two handed rods and orchard ladders. All you need though, is a heavy trout rod, some guys even use their five weights, but you'll likely be overmatched.

For more information, chat up the other members at the picnic during the next meeting, and consult with Bjorn at the Fly Fisher or the staff at Puget Sound Fly Co. in Tacoma on your way to one of the northern

The Next Meeting is

Tuesday August 16th

7:00PM

Club Picnic

North Olympia Fire Station

5046 Boston Harbor Road NE

area beaches. That's where you'll find most of the action, but some pinks and big kings have also started running in the Nisqually and Skokomish if you have the fortitude for full contact fishing.

You'll be getting phone calls from board members over the next week or two as we plan the annual picnic. This will be held at the usual meeting place at the usual general meeting time in an attempt to maximize attendance. It's proved hard to re-arrange schedules on weekends in the summer, so this year we're trying something new. Expect a call so we can estimate who all will be coming, and to coordinate side dishes.

Best regards

Conservation

By Gwill Ging

Many SSFF members have enjoyed fishing for resident coho salmon in Puget Sound. These fish are generally aggressive and readily take a fly, and are often around in the winter and early spring when fewer fishing opportunities occur. In recent years, however, the resident coho fishery has declined or has been inconsistent in population levels. We would like to see this fishery enhanced to provide better and more consistent fishing opportunities in south Puget Sound. Toward this end, SSFF is circulating a petition to present to the Puget Sound Recreational Fund Advisory Board to allocate more funds toward the late release coho salmon program. We have placed petitions in local fly fishing shops and sporting goods stores.

In connection with the resident coho salmon program, there is an interest to better understand where these fish go when they leave the hatcheries where they were produced and the areas they seasonally use. SSFF members will be asked to help by recording catch data and related information.

Outings

by Peter Brooks

The Pinks are coming. Being an odd numbered year, the Pink Salmon are running. By the second half of August they should be numerous enough to be worth fishing for. Our August outing will be to a public beach north of here to fly fish for Pinks. The date of the outing will be August 20th. The exact beach is yet to be determined but it will likely be up in the Tacoma area. If you are interested in participating in this outing please let me know. The three ways to do that are 1) email me (Peter Brooks) at brookscommerce@qwestoffice.net and provide your name and contact information, 2) call me at (360) 236-9176 in the evening, or 3) use the sign up sheet at the August club meeting which will be a BBQ at the Gull Harbor Fire Station. I will coordinate with those who sign up and provide outing information such as when, where, how, and coordinate carpools.

In other outing news, it has not escaped the notice of the Board of Directors that participation in most of the outings for the past two or three years has been light. We are wondering why that is. The Dry side outing is always well attended and the Prices lake outing has had good attendance. But, the other outings have not been well attended. The Board wonders if the venues are not appealing, or if the duration of the outing is the problem. We are contemplating changing the format from a monthly outing to a local fishery for a one day event to a quarterly outing to a more distant venue for an overnight/multi-night experience. For example, we would keep the Dry side outing for the spring event. In the summer we could have a weekend outing at Leech lake or Merrill lake. And maybe a Yakima River weekend trip in October. Then in the winter we might have a weekend trip to the Hoh River for steelhead. I'd like to know what you think. Are outings important to you? Would you participate if we had quarterly big trips as described above? Are there certain fisheries you would like to try? If you don't participate in the outings now, would any changes make you want to participate? If so, please describe them. I'd love to have your input. Please send me an email at

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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 Aug 13th

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brookcommerce@qwestoffice.net or give me a call in the evening at (360) 236-9176, or catch me at a club meeting. The August meeting would be an ideal time for you to share your thoughts with me.

SSFF Membership

by Ryan Haseman

We currently have 74 members as of last meeting. I would like to welcome Bob Droll, and Matt Kaphan to the club. Be sure to say hi if you see them at the meeting. Be sure to check out the website for new fly fishing videos, articles and other happenings in the SSFF world. To see the new SSFF website go to:
www.southsoundflyfishers.org

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:

August 2011

Guide Fly (mod for Pinks)

Tube: Eumer 2mm OD plastic

Body: Eumer Gold teardrop tube 22mm

Under Wing: Pink Crystal Flash

Wing: Pink Bunny Strip

Hackle: Pink Saddle Hackle

Head: Small Gold Monster Cone

It's August, and it's an odd year. If you haven't been in a coma for the past few months, you have undoubtedly heard about the massive horde of pink salmon swimming our way.

Pinks have a reputation for being aggressive, and therefore take a fly easily. With that said, fly selection can sometimes be trivial. In most cases, when we select a fly for returning salmon, it is a matter of function and color, rather than shape or representing a food source. Some would even argue that color may be less important as well. Most people you talk to say that pink is the color you want to fish when you are fishing for returning pink salmon, so we will go with that. Next you want a fly that will go to where the fish are and will have enough action to entice a "bite". There are many choices, in fact it is easy enough to whip up your own creation on the vice, and it will certainly do fine. But, if your creative juices aren't flowing, try tying a few of these.

This is the Guide fly from the Fly of the Month Article back in May of 2010. This pattern is great out in the salt for Cutthroat, but it is modified here with all pink, and a brass tube to get down a little deeper. The fly itself is very

simple. A little crystal flash, a piece of bunny strip and a couple of wraps of saddle hackle. What makes this fly unique is the monster cone for the head. The head creates turbulence behind the fly and causes the bunny strip to wiggle like crazy when being stripped in. If this doesn't piss off a nearby salmon, nothing will!



Photo by Ryan Haseman

Another choice for pinks could be a pink bunny, find the "how to" in the September 2010 fly of the month article.



Photo by Ryan Haseman

Upcoming Events

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

Education

by Chuck Pfeil

An Intermediate Fly Tying Class is being planned for October. Janet Schimpf will be teaching intermediate fly tying for up to 15 tiers and the class will begin sometime during the week of October 10th. This evening class will

run for four weeks and will probably be from 6 to 8 p.m. We are working on a location right now (probably the clubhouse on Black Lake where we held last fall's auction) so haven't landed on what night of the week this class will occur. The fee for this four week class will be somewhere between \$50 and \$60 and will include all tying supplies.

If you want to sign up for this class send me an e-mail or give me a call. I will have a signup list at our August 16th picnic. I will also have the signup at our September meeting but expect the class will be full by that time.

Also if you have particular types of flies you'd like to see taught in this class let us know so I can pass it on to Janet.