



Garden Hackle



Volume 11, Issue 10

South Sound Fly Fishers

October 2011

Program

By Jason Small

This month, we will have Gwil and Gary up front talking about Munn Lake. They will cover how to fish it, and talk about our club's involvement with WDFW in managing it as a trophy fishery. If you'd like to learn about a quality fishery right here in town, or would like to get involved, this meeting is for you. Hope to see you there.

Leader's Line

by Don Freeman

Summer Greetings

We're getting down to the last couple of meetings of the year, and that means it's time for some annual housekeeping. The club, its activities and events are only as good as the members make it. Each year, general members step up to serve on the board to enable the programs, educational opportunities and community contributions to take place at all.

In October, we select candidates to replace outgoing board members, and then elect the replacements in November, which is the last meeting of the year. Typically, we agree to serve for two years, but personal and professional lives often require more frequent appointments.

This year, we have the following changes to make:

Outings. Peter Brooks has been spread so thin this last year that he can no longer provide planning and leadership for monthly outings. This situation prompted the board to re-evaluate the current system, and we're making the suggestion to combine Programs with Outings. The actual field activities will be cut back to quarterly events, which will be more ambitious in scale. We will also make efforts to coordinate the program and possibly educational offerings with the field experiences. In the past we may have had a club presentation on fishing in Mexico, followed by a trip to a local lake. Our new policy will be to try to reinforce what we've just learned through practical application.

So, although we are losing a valued officer in Peter, we don't have to replace him at this time, as

The Next Meeting is

Tuesday October 18th

7:00PM

Gary Kellogg & Gwill Ging

Will talk about fishing Munn Lake

North Olympia Fire Station

5046 Boston Harbor Road NE

Jason small has agreed to take on the re-vamping of the two programs.

Education/Membership/Newsletter. Ryan, Chuck and Ron are arranging a swap amongst these three offices, which will also involve more emphasis on the website. Frankly, I'm a little confused on how these are going to be resolved, so I'm looking forward to seeing the proposal at the meeting with the rest of you.

Raffles: While not an official board position running the raffle is an important component of each meeting, and provides a steady source of income for club activities. Joe Uhlman has had this sole responsibility for far too long now. I have made numerous pleas to the membership, public and private, but no one has stepped forward. We're going to try again to find a new raffle czar this month, then, if no one is willing to assume running the raffle, we will have to accept that the club doesn't want it any more. We will provide a raffle for the next two meetings to finish out the year.

Conservation

By Gwill Ging

Elwha River Restoration

The demolition of the two Elwha River dams has finally begun, after so many years of work by a great many individuals and groups. I first heard of the Elwha River when I attended the UW College of Fisheries in the early 1970's and read about its role in the development of the Port Angeles area through the production of cheap electrical power,

but at the great cost of its magnificent fishery resource. Since the dams lacked fish ladders, all but the lower 5 miles of the Elwha River were blocked off to five species of salmon, steelhead, bull trout and sturgeon. The spawning habitat in the still accessible lower river degraded overtime as floods removed the smaller sized spawning gravels, while the dams prevented their replenishment from upstream sources. Fluctuations in river flow in response to power generation needs, resulted in dewatered redds, and stranded fry and juveniles, and on occasion adult fish when project shut down completely.

I was a new to Washington State, having driven out from Michigan to further my education in the early 1970's. I knew little about salmon, steelhead and or any of the other fish that migrate from the ocean to rivers to spawn. How could this happen, and why hasn't anyone done someone to fix the problem caused by the dams, I naively asked? A "public policy decision" was the response. Electricity was needed to fuel the development of Port Angeles. Salmon and steelhead were plentiful in the region and could be obtain elsewhere. Fish ladders were expensive and had never been constructed at dams as high as the 105' tall Elwha Dam.

Fifteen years later, my path once again crossed the Elwha River, this time as a biologist with a resource agency. Various conditions had changed, leading to a window of opportunity for restoring anadromous fish runs to the Elwha River. Salmon and steelhead populations were in serious declines, while the upgrade of a Bonneville Power Administration transmission line eliminated Port Angeles dependency on the power produced by the two Elwha Dams. Equally important was the change in public policy that reduced the bias that heavily favored energy producers that made it nearly impossible to get meaningful mitigation to restore the fishery and wildlife resources affected.

I am waiting excitedly to see the salmon, steelhead and other anadromous fish return to the Elwha River when dams are completely removed. I've had the pleasure to hike and fish in this beautiful watershed, and it will be even more spectacular with return of leaping salmon and steelhead. Check out the Olympic National Park webcams showing the ongoing demolition of the Elwha and Glines Canyon dams at <http://www.video-monitoring.com/construction/olympic/js.htm>.

Elwha Dam see next page

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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 Nov 6th

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Munn Lake

Our club has signed an agreement with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to help pay for fish food that would provide for the stocking of larger fish in Munn Lake. To help determine the appropriate stocking levels, including the size of trout to plant, a better understanding of the population structure is needed throughout the year. This is important because it has a bearing on what we get for our dollars, and the quality of our fishing experience. Smaller trout cost less, but they are more likely to be eaten by cormorants and osprey before they reach a size that would make an exceptional fishing experience. Also, stocking at a level beyond Munn Lake's ability to provide sufficient food may result in skinny fish that are less likely to survive over winter.

After talking with Larry Phillips, the WDFW biologist for this area, the information that is most needed to make stocking decisions is catch per effort (numbers of fish caught, starting time, ending time) and size range (less than 12", between 12" and 15", over 15"). This is intended to keep our data collection simple, and hopefully will result in a better response from our Munn Lake anglers. Please keep a fish log with the following headings to help with the consistency in the data collected:

Date	Time Started	Time Ended	
Trout 12" or Less	Trout 12" to 15"	Trout >15.	

Periodically, I'll make requests for you to bring in your Munn Lake fishing logs, so that we can discuss the information with Larry Phillips and make our recommendations with regards to future fish stockings. Thanks in advance for your help.

Outings

by Peter Brooks

Our next outing will be held on November 5th. The goal is to fish for Chum salmon. If you have never done this, you are really missing something. Chum are probably, pound for pound, the hardest fighting of the five North American Pacific Salmon. The tentative plan is to fish in front of the Hoodspout hatchery. However, if someone knows of a better place, please let me know before the October club meeting (10/18/11). When I fish at the Hoodspout hatchery, I take my float tube and an anchor. Using the float tube allows me to get out beyond the "picket fence" of anglers. I can then spot and pursue pods of Chum as they mill around. If you are interested in this outing you can either sign up at the October club meeting or contact me. My email is brookscommerce@qwestoffice.net and my cell phone # is 360 878-0303. If I don't answer the phone please leave a message. I will get back to you. I will provide information on flies, tackle, and trip details to all who sign up for this outing. I will also talk more about this outing at the October club meeting.

SSFF Membership

by Ryan Haseman

Be sure to check out the website for new fly fishing videos, articles and other happenings in the SSFF world. If there is a topic you would like to hear more about let us know and we'll try to write about it. 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. You can also get a jump on next year and submit your renewal for next year as well. We will accept cash or check 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:

October 2011
 The Green Lantern
 Hook: Mustad C70SD Size 4
 Under body: Holographic Mylar Tinsel
 Body: Yak or Fish Hair (Chartreuse)
 Wing Yak or Fish Hair (Chartreuse)
 Thread: Chartreuse 3/0

“I shall Shed my light over dark evil. For the dark things cannot stand the light, the light of the Green Lantern!”

-Alan Scott

What does DC comic’s Green Lantern and his cheesy battle cry have to do with fly fishing?... Nothing, but after I was done tying this fly, my mind immediately went that way. If the Green Lantern had to use his intergalactic power ring to create an 8wt fly rod and reel set up, I would like to think that this fly would be on the end of his line.

After thinking “What the heck is this guy talking about?” you may also be thinking “What are you using this fly for?” Well, this answer to the latter is one of my favorite fall fisheries. Chum. We are rapidly approaching prime Chum Salmon season.

In my opinion an ideal Chum salmon fly is smallish (size 4-6), light (no weight added), and either chartreuse, hot pink, or cherise. Other fishermen claim other colors work well also, but these colors have worked well for me.

It is important when fishing estuaries that your fly does not sink very fast. Most of the time you are fishing in water that is only 2-5ft deep, if you are fishing a fly that is heavy you will inevitably be stripping your fly in fast in order to avoid hanging up on the bottom. This will undoubtedly lead to hooking fish in the back. While a back hook chum will certainly test your gear, it is unsportsmanlike and unethical. A light fly fished with an intermediate line will get you down into the strike zone and will greatly reduce the chances of a foul hookup.

The Green Lantern fly has an underbody of holographic or pearlescent tinsel. This is wrapped over the yak hair that you just tied down, and then covered with a layer of head cement or soft-tex. Next you will gather the yak hair and fold it up to the head of the fly and create a little bubble around the body of the fly. This is the same technique for tying a sparkle pupa. After tying down the yak hair, fold it back over again and form the wing. Now you can whip finish the head and cement it. I usually trim the wing up a little to thin it out.

Tie a few of Green Lanterns up and keep them in your salmon box for this fall, you will be glad you did!



Photo by Ryan Haseman

Education
by Chuck Pfeil
No Report