



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE **GARDEN HACKLE**

Volume 17 Issue 5

May 2017

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President Gene discusses the May club meeting, new board members and some of the plans for the year.

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Club program this month is the Lamphere's on Eastern Washington lakes and Fly Fishing for Pike and Tuna, casting and lots more.

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Outing Report – Plans for May and June outings are in the works.

The Leader's Line

By President Gene Rivers

**Greetings South Sound Fly Fishers**

The good weather we were all hoping for is here!! Lowland lakes are open and fishing has been good. Coastal cutthroat fishing has been excellent. It's time to wet those fly lines.

The WCCFI Ellensburg Fly Fishing Fair will be over by the time you read this. Hopefully many of you had the opportunity to attend.

I am excited to report that we have filled two vacancies on our Board of Directors. Jim Maus and Max Doerge have offered their expertise to our Board and will help with important committee activities. Welcome and thank you Jim and Max!

A unique program is scheduled for SSFF's May meeting on Tuesday May 16. Reuben and Tom Lamphere will present a program on Fly Fishing Eastern Washington Lakes. Reuben and Tom are commercial fly tiers and provide a unique assortment of fly fishing supplies to local fly shops. One of their specialties is tying materials. They will have supplies and materials on display and for sale at the meeting.

Additionally, Tom and Reuben are knowledgeable fly casting instructors. They frequently perform casting clinics. Prior to the meeting they will help members with their casting. Bring your own fly rod or just come out back on the lawn if you just want to watch.

Plans are in the works for a Fall Fly Tying class. Also the Board is considering an Introduction to Fly Fishing Seminar and/or a Women's Fly Fishing Seminar this Fall. Details will be available as plans unfold.

John Sabo has been providing some great prizes for our raffle. Be sure to stop at John's table at the meeting.

See you on May 16 at the meeting,

Gene



Beda Lake

The May Program

By Gene Rivers



Our May Program will be provided by Reuben and Tom Lamphere. The PowerPoint portion of the presentation will be on Fishing Eastern Washington Lakes. They will discuss everything from fishing Chironomids for trout, how to deep line them, a little about chasing small mouth bass and throwing streamers for larger trout. They will also discuss how to catch crawfish.

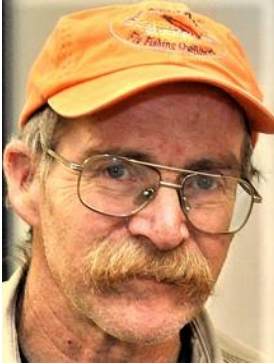
Tom and Reuben are a father and son team that owns Beach Men Fly Tying Co (beachmenflytying.com). They are commercial fly tiers from the Port Orchard area and supply local fly shops with a large assortment of flies and fly tying materials. They are experts on dying fly tying materials. I have asked them to bring fly tying materials for display and sale at our meeting. They have an amazing amount of unique materials and supplies for the fly tier. They also teach fly tying.

As expert fly fishers the Lampheres have experience fishing many species on the fly including trout, salmon, pike and tuna. They are happy to answer any fishing related questions.

The Lampheres will also demonstrate casting techniques and help members with their casting outside prior to the meeting. This portion will be outside on the lawn behind the Fire Station. So feel free to watch or get some free casting instruction from these experts prior to the meeting. It is best to bring your own rod if you are interested in help with your casting technique.

Outing Reports

By Jim McAllister Outings Chair



The Back Cast--April Outings at Long Lake and McIntosh Lake

April outings were impacted by cold windy weather. The outing on Long Lake April 22 had limited success. The April 29th outing on McIntosh Lake was not very good on Saturday but on Sunday the weather was better and we caught and released many fish.

The Forward Cast--May's Outings and Events

The Washington Fly Fishing Fair took place May 5th and 6th at the Ellensburg rodeo/fair grounds. This is always a great event featuring fly casting, fly tying and seminars on many aspects of fly fishing.

Jim Maus and I were part of the fly tying sessions and we met lots of fly tiers and fly fishers over the two days. The fair is sponsored by the Washington State Council of FFI and they have a dinner/auction with net proceeds all for conservation and education.

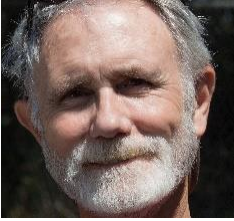
SSFF outings in May are still being planned. I will discuss the outing and you can sign up at the club meeting on May 16th.

Outings are fun and a faster way to learn about fly fishing. You can never learn all there is to know about this sport. Outings provide you an opportunity to increase your knowledge and gain the skills and techniques to help you be a more successful fly fisher.

Again, we will discuss the upcoming outing at the May club meeting. You can call me most evenings at 360-970-2953.

Jim

THE SOAPBOX



Don Freeman

Conservation and Political chair

Greetings

It's spring now, according to the calendar, despite the spectacular storm that ripped through the area on May 4th. One of our club members was out on Munn Lake when the clouds rolled in and was astounded at how quickly the downpour erupted, nearly flooding his pram with rain water and making him painfully aware to how vulnerable he was from the violent lightning strikes. This sort of event is rare here on the west side, but many of us will be heading for the eastside soon, where thunder/lightning storms are much more common. The main danger is from the extreme down draft winds that usually accompany these events. The winds quickly raise waves that easily swamp small boats like most of us use. Next in line are lightning strikes, especially if waving a graphite lightning rods disguised as a fly rod.

The best defense against these potential catastrophes is just being aware of conditions. At the first sign of impending storms; dramatic wind shifts, rolling black cumulus clouds, distant thunder and sudden drops in temperature, head in to shore and find a low spot to sit out the storm. Avoid sheltering under trees or in your vehicle, as the lightning selects the highest available grounding structure. I was caught in an extreme lightning storm in Florida last year, during which we scurried out of the boats and onto the beach where we burrowed into the sand. There were strikes all around us, some only yards away. I've cowered through mortar attacks that weren't that threatening, so once again, the best defense is to just stay aware and be proactive if you even suspect a storm is imminent.

Next subject. Since I'm thinking about spring and the increasing numbers of folks who will be sharing our resources, I want to talk about poachers. The fine weather brings out all types of folks, and you may be seeing behaviors that you consider inappropriate and are often illegal. I had several messages last Sunday from folks who saw multiple incidents of blatant poaching at our own Munn Lake here in Tumwater. Anglers both from shore and from boats were openly fishing with bait and harvesting large trout. Three individuals in kayaks bragged about using night crawlers to other anglers, who were rightly offended. So what should we do?

The prime piece of advice from enforcement officers is "Be a Good Witness". Keep in mind that those offenders who are knowingly breaking the law are aware that they are committing a criminal act, regardless of whatever rationalizations they might have. The best course is to photograph them without being obvious about it. Then, if you are comfortable with doing so, ask in a nonconfrontational manner if they are aware that the fishery is catch and release, or a selective fishery.

There will be instances when they are simply ignorant of the regulations (laws). Advise them that they are subject to fines and loss of equipment if caught. Often they apologize and release their catch. Putting dead fish back in the water for the eagles beats a \$125 fine and loss of license. Deliberate poachers may be defensive and likely aggressive. If you encounter a belligerent response, back off quickly, and attempt to contact enforcement officials. The Poaching Hotline number is (877) 933-9847.

Although WDFW Enforcement is badly underfunded and understaffed, they care about these offences and will do their best to respond. If available, Washington State Patrol can also respond to wildlife crimes. Note the time and type of offense you witness, photograph the incident with a cell phone if you can do so without raising any hackles, and if possible identify the vehicle the poachers are using. Enforcement officers will be grateful for the information. Even if they are unable to detain the offenders on that occasion, this evidence can be used in the future to prove a pattern of misbehavior. Be a good witness and don't let righteous indignation endanger you when dealing with poachers. Stealing a trout isn't worth the penalties these people are risking, nor certainly any violence that they might offer to anyone who confronts them.

The state budget is still being worked on by the Legislature. Hopefully by next month we will be able to report on the WDFW budget process, license fee changes, conservation projects and fisheries management changes the Department will implement.

Don



Photo by Howard Nanto

Membership

by VP Randy Allen, Acting Membership Chair



Please welcome our newest member to the Club

Chris Kliem

Chris joined SSFF at the April meeting. As our newest member he joins his mom and dad, John and Martha Kliem who are both members.

Put a fly on his tippet and Chris is ready to fish for trout, salmon, steelhead, coastal cutthroat, and bass.

Chris, we'll make sure you meet and get to know Jim McAllister, our Outings chair. He will appreciate any help you can provide organizing our outings. Welcome to SSFF!



Gary Kellogg with a nice one

South Sound Fly Fisher Fundraising



By John Sabo

Fundraising Chair

Raffle Report

Thank you; to all the club members who participate in the club's monthly raffle and to all of you who donate raffle items or fill fly boxes. We are looking forward to even more interesting and useful raffle prizes in the coming months. By the way, we have some empty fly boxes to be filled...fly tiers, please see me at the back of the room at our May meeting. Also, I would like to remind the club members that the "raffle" is an independent subcommittee of the club that is self-sustaining, and uses no club funds, and only exists to provide fun and entertainment for the club members while raising much needed revenue.

Alan Harger Fund

The club has received generous donations of fly fishing gear and equipment, with the stipulation that the items only be used to generate monetary donations to the club's Alan Harger Fund. Alan was a long- time supporter of the Club and Fly Fishing in the South Sound. Al's will established the Fund, in his name, to support the NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. Since that time, the Club has maintained the Fund, which makes annual donations to the Academy.

The club continues to welcome cash donations and donations of fly fishing gear and equipment that is targeted toward sustaining the Al Harger Fund. See me at the Raffle Table before the meeting.

The donated fly fishing gear will be on a table at the rear of the room at the next meeting, May 16th. All funds raised will be deposited in the Al Harger Fund, for the benefit of the young fly fishers at the Academy. Stop by the table before the meeting (items will not be available after the meeting), and find just the things you need for this fly fishing season.

SSFF Patches

Official SSFF Patches are available at the Raffle Table for only \$5. These can be placed on a cap, shirt, jacket, or fly fishing vest to show your membership in the club.

Fly Tiers and Casters

The fly tying tables will be back, before the meeting, at 5:30. Also, fly casting will start at the same time behind the fire station. Parking is available behind the station for the fly casters.

John

Treasurer's Creel

By Dave Field



Dear SSFF Members,

You may have noticed that the Federation has changed its name to Fly Fishers International (FFI) and it has a new logo which is at the top of this Garden Hackle newsletter. SSFF remains an affiliate club within what was the International Federation of Fly Fishers (IFFF) now known as Fly Fishers International (FFI).

No matter what changes take place at the national or international level, your membership in SSFF continues to provide you with the knowhow, skill building and comradery you want and expect from your own fly fishing club.

South Sound Fly Fishers has excellent meetings offering plenty of information on fly fishing, frequent outings and hopefully the informative newsletter "The Garden Hackle." These are just a few of the many benefits of being a member of SSFF.

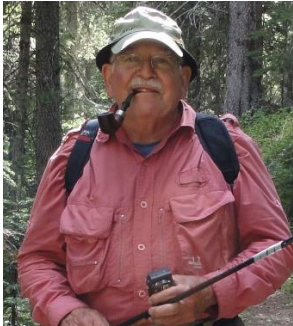
You are also doing your part for conservation and education because SSFF supports such organizations as Project Healing Waters, Casting for Recovery, The Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy and SSFF works in cooperation with WDFW in maintaining the Munn Lake project.

Dave



Photo by Howard Nanto

Club Stories from Kevin Ryan



THE OLD CLUB PATCH

Sometime after founding the club, some of the members, probably after a night's unrestrained revelry, set out to design the original club patch. The name of those on the design team has been lost to posterity, probably to their eternal relief. If they were here today, they would no doubt be relieved to hear that they had achieved anonymity. I used to have one of those original patches, but it has been lost in the jumble of fishing paraphernalia accumulated over the years. However, I introduce to you now, probably for the first time for most of you, an image of that original club patch and appropriate tying instructions for the fly depicted thereon. After I joined the club, several of us newcomers, such as Mel Hurd, John Conklin, John Daly, and myself, dubbed the "fly" as the "Sweeney Nymph", in honor of (and as a bit of a poke at) our remaining active founding member, Dale Sweeney. He took the ribbing good naturedly, but he was probably grinding his teeth, nonetheless.



Stunning, isn't it?

Per the Hackle, tying instructions for the hitherto secret and fabulous "Sweeney Nymph" are as follows:

Hook - 16/0 or better, or maybe a small anchor.

Body - an old red sock or Chinese flag.

Tail - dyed red, yellow, and black buzzard feathers.

Wing - two old buzzard wing primaries and dyed in red, yellow, and black.

Hackle - several pieces of red construction tape and yellow crime scene tape, cut in strips and spun on.

“Presentation tactics:

As you can see, this unique pattern once graced our club emblem. Dale (Sweeney) claims the fly was man’s earliest pattern and that it was discovered among the writings of the ancient Egyptians. The fly is very effective for snagging submarines and enticing mermaids if retrieved erratically with short strokes.”

However, the old fly, as old flies often do, began to lose its charm and Hackle records reveal that that old distinctive patch began to fade away towards the end of 1976.

PATCHING UP THE OLD PATCH

The September 1976 edition of the Hackle reported the following developments:
“If you’ve ever looked at our club emblem, you must have concluded that the designer was a half- crazed whaler from Newfoundland. I hope I’m not offending any of our older club members who may have had a hand in the creation of this gem; but to me the fly looks like it was tied with an old red sock for a body and a couple of quills from an old buzzard. Anyhow, what I’m leading up too is this: we would like to design a new patch for the club. We already have an idea I think you will like which we will show you hopefully at the next meeting. In the meantime, dream up an idea or two of your own for a new design. We’ve done some checking on costs, and it looks like we’ll have to do some fund raising to pay for the new patch. That’s one reason for planning another auction this fall. Before we take any action, however, we will bring it up for a vote.”

The end for the old original patch came in early 1977. The entry in the garden Hackle of February 1977 reported as follows:

“New Club Patch Ordered

A couple of weeks ago, Mel (Hurd) and I finally ordered the new SSFF patch. The total cost is \$278 for 170 patches, or about \$1.63 each. Our plan is to give one patch to each paid up member of the club, and sell the rest at \$2.00 apiece. They should be here in a couple of weeks, and you will be proud to display one on your fishing vest, sport coat or pajamas. Buy two or three - there’s none other like it!”

See you on the water,

Kevin



Club Bulletin Board

Meeting Night Activities

With the return of daylight time and warmer weather the club will offer casting practice on the back lawn of the fire station before the state of club meetings. Fly tiers are welcome to arrive at 5:30 and set up their tying vices on the tables by the windows.



SSFF embroidered club logo patches are for sale at \$5 each at the back table at club meetings. Get them for hats, vests and jackets.

Important Notice: Coastal Cutthroat Trout Volunteers Needed

The WDFW Coastal Cutthroat trout initiative is looking for stream volunteers to count redds in local streams. Call Bill Young 360-426-8416, if you are interested in volunteering to help further the scientific study of these fish in the South Sound.

Steelhead license plate available for purchase

Steelhead specialty plates are available for sale and revenue generated from plate sales will be used by the Washington Department Fish and Wildlife to help support activities critical to conserving populations of native steelhead.

The initial price of special wildlife-themed background plates ranges from \$54 to \$72 depending on the vehicle, in addition to the regular license fees. More information on how to purchase a steelhead license plate, please visit the Washington Department of Licensing website at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/specialdesign.html>

Please do not park in the Fire Station driveway during SSFF meetings. If the parking spaces are full in front of the fire Station please use the parking area behind the building.



Willy worm says thank you for keeping the emergency vehicle driveway clear for our Medics and Firefighters!



Puget Sound Fly Fishers Fair is Coming July 29th 2017

With only three months to go our 60th Anniversary celebration Fly Fishing Fair is shaping up to be a great event. We have 13 presentations scheduled including techniques for catching tiger muskie presented by Mike Sturza, topwater tactics with Leland Miyawaki, open water cutthroat skills by Bob Triggs, introduction to fly fishing with Rueben Lamphere, fly fishing photography brought to you by Carol Ann Morris, BC steelhead with April Vokey, panfishing for everyone with WDFW's Bruce Bolding, tuna on the fly with Anil Srivistava, stillwater tactics with Skip Morris, smallmouth fly fishing featuring David Paul Williams, new and exciting information about Coastal Cutthroat Trout thanks to WDFW's James Losee, and kayak fishing in Puget Sound with Justin Waters.

Topics are designed to cover all interest and skill levels from fresh brand-new beginner to the seasoned angler. One of the most rewarding elements of fly fishing is that you can always add to your skill set and you reset your game. Ask yourself if there is a species you haven't chased, a technique you need help with, a style of fly fishing you haven't tried yet. Be sure to save July 29, 2017 on your calendar to attend our celebratory event.

As the host club we also will be recruiting members to help on the day of the event. We will need room hosts to introduce guest speakers, people to staff the Silent Auction tables, fly tyers, casting instructors, personal watercraft owner/operators to share their craft with fair goers, folks to assist with sales of used books, and members to participate in the Swap Meet buy/sell/trade activity. Expect to see sign-up sheets circulating at the May and June meetings so help PSFF out by volunteering your time and talents.

And speaking of the Silent Auction, Mike Saville is spearheading this activity and needs your help in providing auction items for the fair goers. It can be fly fishing related or general interest since not all attendees will be fly fishers. Items could be spa services, Bed & Breakfast stays, group meals at a nice restaurant, one day trips, hosted boat rides for a small party, unique products and services. I know many of you have been in a wide range of careers and industries so think back to your work and social contacts and ask for one contribution. Let's make this auction a winner. Let Mike Saville know what you have to offer; msaville2011@hotmail.com , (253)2507507

Fly of the Month*



Muddler Minnow

Ask most anglers this infamous question: “If you could have only one fly to use to catch fish anywhere, anytime and under any conditions, which fly would you choose?”

Many will come up with the same answer: the Muddler Minnow. Whether used in warm or cold, fresh or saltwater; no matter if you are out to catch trout, salmon, steelhead, bass, panfish, bonefish and any other species – you name it – the Muddler will catch them all.

Originated in 1937 by Don Gapen, the Muddler Minnow was intended to imitate the ubiquitous Sculpin, and was popularized by Montana fisherman and fly tier Dan Bailey. Designed to suggest the large, blocky head and tapered body and tail of the Sculpin, the Muddler has accounted for many fish in most waters around the globe.

The Muddler incorporates matched turkey quill strips for the wing and deer hair for the head of the fly. Matched turkey quill strips provide a nice tall silhouette for the tapered body and tail of a Sculpin, yet are thin in profile and easy to cast. Deer hair is a material with unique properties allowing it to be “spun” - rolled around the hook, and “flared” – the fibers bending sharply and creating a large volume of material in a relatively small space. Another unique property of deer hair is that each fiber is hollow, thus providing buoyancy. This can be a problem when you want to sink a fly made with deer hair, necessitating weight in the fly or a fast sinking line to counteract the hairs lifting effect. But the hollow makeup of deer hair can be an advantage too. Dry flies suggesting grasshoppers or stoneflies including the Letort Hopper and Steelhead Caddis are cousins to the Muddler. Deer is also used in flies for Bass as “Bugs” - big dry flies suggesting frogs, mice, and whatever else the fish can imagine in the sometimes wild color combinations. And variations of the original abound - including the Matuka Muddler, Spuddler, Marabou Muddler and others

The Muddler will always be a favorite pattern with its universal appeal to almost all game fish. We’ll focus on the techniques of tying the Muddler and some tricks for tying the turkey quill wing and spinning and flaring the deer hair head. From there, you’re encouraged to see what you can come up with for your own variation of what is soon to surely become your new favorite fly.

Tying the Muddler Minnow



Step 1

For a deeper-sinking version, a conehead or metal bead can be added first or wire for weighting wrapped around the shank. In modern times, the fly is often tied without any added weight and the depth controlled through the fishing approach or line style. Mount the hook in your vise securely with the shank level. After attaching the thread, wrap back to a position above the point.



Step 3

Attach the braided body material at the front of the body space. Secure it as you wrap the thread back to the tail (above the point) and then wrap the thread back to the front of the body space. Wrap the braid forward in one continuous smooth layer. Tie off and trim the excess.



Step 4

Select a small clump (two dozen fibers or so) of Fox Squirrel Tail for the underwing. Clean out the shorter fibers by holding the tips of the fibers in your left hand and removing the shorter fibers from the base with your right hand. Clean the hair well, as any extra fibers make securing the hair all the more difficult. Tie in tightly on top of the shank with the tips extending back just past the tip of the tail. Trim off the excess and wrap over the butt ends.

Step 5

Select either a symmetrical turkey quill with even length fibers on both sides or a matched pair of quills with similar length fibers on opposite sides of each quill – one has long fibers on the left side and the other has long fibers on the right side. Open your scissors to where the points are the same width as the hook gape. Slide them into the quill to separate out a strip that is then the same width as the hook gape. Cut the strip out as close to the base of the quill as possible. Match the strips and place back-to-back the same as the tail. Follow the same steps to secure the wing as used to tie in the tail. When viewed from above, you should have a narrow knife-edge view of the strips. Trim the excess and secure the butt ends.



Step 6

Select deer hair that is on a GOOD QUALITY TANNED SKIN. It is imperative to get good quality hair that is soft and hollow and therefore will spin and flare correctly. Avoid hair that is on a hard, stiff dried skin. If the skin is dried and hard enough to drive nails with, the hair will be thin, brittle and have lost its' hollowness – all factors you want to avoid. Cut out a clump about the size of a pencil or pen in diameter. Clean out the short fibers and underfur thoroughly. Place the hair against the fly and measure the tips back to the middle of the wing. Transfer the hair to your left hand. Trim the butts about ¼” beyond where the tie in point is. Place the hair on the BACK side of the wing and take three loose wraps around the hair and the hook. Placing the hair behind the wing allows it to spin freely before encountering the wing.



Step 7

Follow the techniques description – “Spin and Flare.” Roll the hair and spin it around the hook completely, then tighten the thread and flare the hair. Often the hair will tend to clump and not distribute evenly, leaving a large amount on one side and not much on the other. If you have this happen, SLOWLY unwrap first one wrap, then another. As you undo the second wrap, a point will come where the hair springs loose from the hook. DON'T UNWRAP ANY FURTHER! When this

happens, the hair is now loose and can be spun further to even out the distribution. As long as you are slow and careful this process can be repeated until the hair is nicely spread around the hook. Make a few more tight wraps, pull the thread forward through the hair add a few more wraps and then finish the head.



Step 8

Trim the head to the desired shape. A standard “bullet” shaped head will be bulky and buoyant. A shallow, wide “wedge” shape is effective to make the fly dive and dart with an enticing swimming motion. Experiment and see what you like best for your fishing. One option is to leave the head larger and simply carry a pair of scissors with you when fishing. This way a quick trim can modify the head and therefore the way the fly fishes to suit your needs at the time.

Give the Muddler Minnow a try – in any color or style it is an effective fly for anything that swims!

If you need help or have any questions, feel welcome to email anytime at
info@modernclassicsflytying.com

*Fly of the Month is produced by Fly Fishers International (FFI). Thank you FFI for sharing with member clubs.



South Sound Fly Fishers

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, CHAIRS & Meeting Information

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Club Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month except December. Doors open at 5:30PM with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:00 pm. All regularly scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station, 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA.