



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 17 Issue 11

November 2017

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President Gene discusses SSFF current events.

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This month's program features longtime friend of SSFF outdoor writer Chester Allen.

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Outing wrap up for the year.

The Leader's Line

By President Gene Rivers

Nice Rainbow from a local lake



Photo by Gene Rivers

Greetings South Sound Fly Fishers,

Is it really November? It doesn't seem possible. Fishing has been very good in October and November. Our lowland lakes receive some nice plants in the Fall to give opportunities for those that are prepared for sudden weather changes. These plantings are always listed on the WDFW website. Check them out if you are looking for a place to fish.

Gene Working Munn Lake Shoreline



Photo by Howard Nanto

Many members have been successful chasing the annual November run of Chum salmon. Sea Run cutthroat and resident Coho fishing has also been good. If your schedule permits it's a great time to get out.

We are happy to have Chester Allen return to present our November Program. ***Fly Fishing for Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass in the Northwest*** will be Chester's topic for his visit to our club this time. Chester will have copies of his books for sale including copies of his most recent book ***Yellowstone Runners***. Chester will sign copies for anyone who purchases any of his books.

Our Board of Directors has set the date for our Biennial Auction and Potluck. Members are encouraged to bring family members and friends to this event. Details will be published in the Garden Hackle each month from now through April. Please be sure to consider supporting SSFF by donating. In the past the emphasis has been on Experiences such as outings, hosted dinners, guided fishing trips, time share visitation opportunities etc. We will discuss this at each meeting between now and April and answer any questions you may have. Also feel free to ask any Board members about this upcoming fun event.

Our November meeting is election time for SSFF. Be sure to attend.

I hope to see you at the November meeting. Go fishing if you can. Happy Thanksgiving to all the SSFF families and friends.

Tight lines,

Gene

The November Program

Don Freeman Program Chair



The Limelight

BASS FISHING IN THE PACIFIC NW

On November 21st we will once again welcome Chester Allen to regale us with his experiences and tips on fishing for bass in the Pacific Northwest. Not everyone thinks of using the long rod to pursue bass in our area, but they are missing a bet! Chester will fill us in on how, where and when to enjoy an overlooked opportunity in our own region.

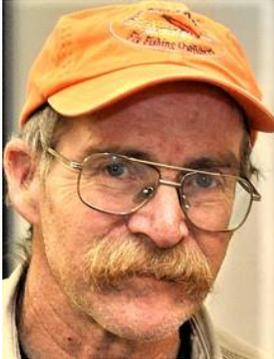


I am also willing to bet that he will have copies of his books for sale with autographs. I am lacking his latest edition on fall fishing in Yellowstone Park myself, from which Gene Rivers and Max Doerge have just returned and plan to get one at last.

Don

Outings

By Jim McAllister-Outings Chair



Greetings Fellow Fly fishers

What a great Outing we had at Hoodspport the last Saturday of October, our annual Chum Salmon rendezvous. We were to meet at Haggen store parking lot at 7am, but I was held up and missed the meetup point with the other club members. Fortunately they went on ahead to Hoodspport without waiting for me.

SSFF members Max Doerge, Mark Brownell and Loren McAllister all hooked some big ones. There were many fish and many fishers, but everyone was friendly and helpful. The weather was bright and sunny and there was little wind. It was one of the best outings the club has ever had at Hoodspport.

Battling a big Rainbow at Munn Lake



The Munn Lake outing was greeted by rain and cold wind. Hopefully we will have better weather the next time we have an outing at Munn. Good weather is iffy this time of year but at the club meeting November 21st I will see how much interest there is in having one more club outing this fall. Be prepared for a show of hands on one more outing before Old Man Winter sets in.

Tight lines,

Jim



Greetings South Sound Fly Fishers,

This month I want to talk about a project/issue I've been peripherally involved in for the last 5 years or so, and to solicit help from members who want to participate. The issue is overcrowding and exploitation of the remaining viable runs of steelhead and salmon in our state. I am most knowledgeable about the situation on the Olympic Peninsula since I frequent the area more than the regions east of us, but the challenges are similar.

That the populations of wild steelhead and salmon have shrunk to a small fraction of their former glory is no secret to North Westerners. Those runs closest to the larger population centers and most developed areas have of course, suffered the most. Due to habitat degradation and over harvest, steelhead fishing in Puget Sound streams has nearly ceased to exist. Lawsuits and ESA listings have closed waters once renowned for huge runs of large fish. When the "S Rivers" (Skykomish, Sauk, etc.) north of Seattle were closed to fishing to preserve native populations, anglers from this large population area were forced to go further afield.

On the Olympic Peninsula, some of the last "viable" stocks remained healthy enough to allow continued angling, with extra attention to the wild winter steelhead that still returned. On the Klickitat fall Chinook and Steelhead attract heavy usage. The formula is pretty simple, as the number of rivers open to fishing and the quantity of returning fish declines, the pressure on those rivers remaining open has grown exponentially.

It is not only the recreational angler that over-likes the rivers. Regulations governing guiding are such in our state that each winter, a flock of outside guides descend on Forks during the wild steelhead season. They come from everywhere in our state and other Northwest states. Since this is the off season for trout guiding, the OP has become the winter Mecca. Interstate commerce law allows these out of state guides to secure licenses on an annual basis for the same cost as Washingtonians. There is no limit on the number of licenses sold, no requirement to show expertise in the region or the fishery, and little recourse to see that any taxes are paid to support local economies. These visitors do not have the same commitment to the area that locals may have.

Lee Kaiser - Hoh River April 2016



Photo by Don Freeman

Guided by Jim Kerr, Raincoast Guides

The problem has been increasing for years, and has now become critical enough that the state is finally taking public input on how to react to the problems, which I will describe briefly for now. The overcrowding subjects the limited population of returning wild steelhead to a staggering number of encounters with anglers. Some figures indicate that 80% of fish returning to spawn are caught and released at least once, and most are hooked multiple times. By definition, guided trips handle many more fish than recreational fishers, and these boats work every day. The quality of the experience obviously suffers when 14,000 angler days are recorded a single stream during this brief period.

Efforts began several years ago to restrict the impact of too many guides in the region. Proposals made by guides' groups have been made to cap the number of licenses. They intend to protect the resource, improve the quality of the experience for everyone and to insure that the licenses are only issued to professionals with a stake in the continued quality of the region. They want everyone to pay the taxes, follow the laws and ethics of angling and contribute to the conservation of the resource that their livelihood and culture requires.

Our neighboring states and provinces have already responded to protect their most valuable and sensitive fisheries. Laws have been passed that protect the resource, insure access of local populations, generate sufficient revenue to provide management and enforcement for the programs. These efforts have proven to improve the income many rural communities that have become dependent upon recreational tourism.

I am inviting our members to work with me to use our voices as a recognized conservation oriented club to participate in the process of bringing our state up to date. We need to match the carrying capacity of our resources to the pressures they endure, to improve the quality of recreational experiences, and most important, protect our wild resources from the over exploitation that has brought us to this point. It is not hyperbole to say that we have to move now if we want to preserve our most unique opportunities. It may already be too late, but that doesn't mean we can't try.

WDFW is holding public meetings seeking input from recreational anglers and professionals on how to meet these challenges. I attended the meeting in Forks last month as an individual, and now am asking the membership if we want to add our combined voices to the process, and for your help in formulating our recommendations. This is a very complicated issue including commercial and recreational allocations, escapement forecasts, carrying capacities and expectations for a quality outdoor experience. If any of this interests you, contact me and we'll create a working group. Catch me at the November meeting or write to the email address below.

Best regards,

Don Freeman

donfreeman74@gmail.com

South Sound Fly Fishers Fundraising

By John Sabo
Fundraising Chair



Greetings,

Save the date -April 21st for the SSFF Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction

The South Sound Fly Fishers' Family Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction will be on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Black Lake Grange Hall.

The dinner will be at 6:00 and the auction will start at 7:00. It will be a live-only auction and all funds raised will go to the club's conservation and service projects including support of:

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group and Kennedy Creek

Casting for Recovery

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

Project Healing Waters

The family pot-luck is always a success, with an abundance of hot-dishes, salads and desserts.

We hope to auction donations of "experiences and adventures" (fishing trips, gourmet dinners, etc.), and valuable items like rods, reels and gift cards, art, and fishing supplies. We are looking forward to evening of fun, fine food, friendship, fish stories, and entertainment as we generate funds to continue our club's conservation and education programs.

Club Raffle News

The monthly meeting raffle has a \$600 “profit” for this year, which was placed in the club’s operating account. Thank you, to all the club members who participate in the raffle at each meeting, and all the members who donate raffle items. Remember, we will continue to have interesting and useful raffle items at every meeting, so stop by before the meeting and get your tickets. We also have some empty fly boxes to fill for the raffle, please see me at the raffle table.

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.

Last Cast of the Day Gene Rivers Photo



Photo by Howard Nanto

Membership

by VP Randy Allen, Acting Membership Chair



Hello Fellow Fly Fishers:

Welcome aboard to our newest member, Dennis Olson! Dennis found the Club after hearing great comments about SSFF from everyone he talked to. And, we hope to live up to our reputation, Dennis.



You reported that you're interested in fishing for trout, steelhead, and coastal cutthroat. We have the guys to help! We need to get you hooked up with Jim McAllister, our Outings Chair, to get you on the water with our team. We're glad to have you with us, Dennis! I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our last regular meeting for the year on November 21.

Randy

Around the Campfire with Gary Oberbillig



(This is another story from longtime SSFF member Gary Oberbillig)

This story is about one of my visits to Ireland and fly fishing this fascinating country. Fly fishers around the world know that the Emerald Isle played a role in the development of fly fishing.

However, the main reason I made this particular trip to Ireland was not for fly fishing but for the lowly oyster. You see, the winner of the annual West Coast Oyster Shucking championships held in Shelton Washington advances to U.S. nationals in Maryland and if victorious, goes on to Ireland to compete at the World Oyster Shucking Championships.

In 1985 Diz Schimke a wonderful young man from the little town of Bow Washington, won the West Coast and National Championships and went on to compete in the world championships in Ireland. I had had a plan in the works for some time to go to Germany that time of year, so including a side trip to Ireland fit well into the itinerary. Going to Ireland after Germany would be an opportunity to report back on how a young man from Bow Washington did against best shuckers in the world. Of course, being in Ireland presented a golden opportunity to fly fish some of the idyllic waters of the Irish countryside. So I packed my trusty six-weight and a box of flies and flew off to Europe.

The World Oyster Shucking Championships are held in Galway, a city on the Irish West Coast. The Corrib River runs through the city and it is one of shortest rivers in Europe, running less than eight kilometers from Lough Corrib (a large lake) before it enters the ocean. I watched some of the local folks fishing Lough Corrib and the river Corrib. The fly fishers mostly used spey rods. Most fishers targeted Atlantic Salmon and a fish they called “Salmon Trout” which were really Sea Run Brown Trout. They have no laws preventing recreation fishers from selling their catch; so, one evening I ordered Salmon Trout at a local pub and learned the delicious fish I just eaten had been happily swimming the Corrib until caught by one of the locals that very morning.

River Corrib in County Galway



The boats used to fish Lough Corrib were interesting and an old picture of one with three Irishmen appears below. They primarily used a dabbling technique involving a very long rod and thread line to touch and skitter the fly across the water. They used Mayflies and Crane flies gathered and sold by young boys in the mornings. The fisherman threaded these live flies on small #20 size hooks. The ghillies would row the boats as the fisherman dabbled the flies. The Ghillie's job was to keep the boat parallel to the waves as they dabbled their way across Lough Corrib.



Fishing boats such as these have been on Lough Corrib for over a century

After the Shucking Championships and to really experience fly fishing in the Irish countryside, I traveled north to the Annalee river in County Cavan. The Annalee flows into the River Erne, which eventually joins the River Shannon before emptying into the Atlantic.

Fly fishing is popular near the town of Butlersbridge, so that is where I fished. I knew the owner of a B and B near the river and there was a handy pub just across the street. Many species of fish are caught in the Annalee and the trout can run over three pounds. I fished the area downstream from Butlersbridge. It was beautiful water; the Irish country side was lush. The fish, however, showed little interest in the Parachute Adams, Ginger Quill and the other assorted dry flies brought from Olympia.

On the first evening at the pub, I struck up a conversation with several of the locals. The Irish are friendly fishing folks, you know. One of the gentlemen was a friend I knew from the Mosel region of Germany. One of his hobbies was making his own Schnapps and he had given me a bottle in Germany to take back to the states. Although the bottle had made it out of Germany and into Ireland, I mentioned some concerns about getting the bottle through U.S. Customs. A good looking Irish lady spoke up and said not to worry, just to tell the customs officer that the bottle contains Holy Water from the Irish Knock Shrine. This suggestion brought howls of laughter from all the patrons.



1Butlersbridge over the River Annalee

Fly fishing in Ireland was a wonderful experience. The Irish people were warm and friendly. From a fly fisher's perspective, the history of the Erne and Annalee system seemed to mimic what befell many rivers of the Pacific Northwest. After WWII, hydroelectric dams were built and somewhat later water quality suffered. This combination caused many of the historical [Salmon](#) beats of Ireland to be flooded and the run of Salmon and Sea Trout declined to a tiny trickle. The fish void in the Erne system was filled by a huge influx of pan fish or what the locals called "course fish." By the mid-1980s anglers and the fishing industry decided it was time to apply political pressure on the hydro-power companies and polluters. This forced a reduction in pollutants entering the rivers. The power companies finally build fish passages around the dams. As a result, Salmon and Sea Trout stocks recovered and today the Annalee and Erne provide good angling.

In the end, Diz Schimke didn't win the speed shucking competition but he happily won First Place in the Presentation crown in the World Championships. I was happy just to be there to write his remarkable story and send it to the press back home. I was also able to fly fish some of the island's most beautiful and famous rivers. And finally, the bottle of schnapps (Holy Water) my German friend gifted me, went through U.S. Customs without a hitch.



Fly Fishing the River Annalee

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



It's not too early to start thinking about a candidate for The Academy for 2018. Any serious minded boy or girl 12-16 years old is eligible to attend the Academy. They have to write an essay explaining why "they" would like to attend the Academy and they will also need a letter of recommendation from their school science teacher or school counselor.

This experience is an invaluable life event for the youth that they will carry through their future lives. No youth will be turned away because of the lack of funding. The event is a youth education project of the WCTU and supported by the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International and members of South Sound Fly Fishers, Olympia TU and PSFF.

So please give it some serious thought, would your boys and girls, grandkids, friends or neighbors be a good candidate for The NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy for 2018? Enrollment for the 2018 Academy will be open on January 1, 2018. The week long Academy will be held June 24-30, 2018 at The Gwinwood Christian Center in Lacey, WA. Please see our Facebook page for great pictures.

Mike Clancy, Co-Director, 360-753-1259, www.nwycffa.com or mtclancy39@comcast.net



YOUTH OF TODAY ARE OUR GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE OF FLY FISHING



Club Bulletin Board

Meeting Night Activities Doors are open at 5:30 and Don Harold will use the club's camera and projector on the big screen to demonstrate how he ties some of his favorite patterns. Don is a production tier and you will gain by watching his demonstration before the start of the club business meeting and program.

Please...

Do not park in the Fire Station's main driveways during SSFF meetings. If parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full please use the parking areas behind the building.

Help Coastal Cutthroat Trout. Volunteers are needed by the WDFW Coastal Cutthroat Initiative. Learn about these iconic fish as you work to help further their recovery. Call Bill Young at 360-426-8416. Leave a message if Bill is out on a stream.



Photo by Howard Nanto



Club Bulletin Board

WDFW seeks public's help to simplify freshwater sport fishing rules

November 03, 2017

Contact: Steve Thiesfeld, 360-902-2662

OLYMPIA - State fishery managers are inviting the public to comment on proposals to simplify recreational fishing rules for Washington rivers, streams and lakes.

Proposals are based upon general policies for freshwater species - including trout, steelhead, bass, walleye, panfish, sturgeon, and shad - that the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) put forth for public review in September.

"We previously provided an overview of how we want to simplify fishing regulations for freshwater species," said Craig Burley, who heads WDFW's fish management division. "Now we're telling anglers how the proposed changes apply to their favorite stream, river or lake."

For instance, WDFW has proposed assigning most lakes, ponds and reservoirs to one of six standard seasons rather than setting a custom season for each water body. Also, the department has proposed allowing separate daily limits for trout and steelhead rather than one combined limit.

Anglers can now check the documents posted online to see how those and other rules would apply to specific freshwater areas, Burley said.

The proposed rules, listed by geographical area, are available on WDFW's website at http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/rule_proposals/. Comments will be accepted through Nov. 30. For a hard copy of the proposed rules, please call 360-902-2700.

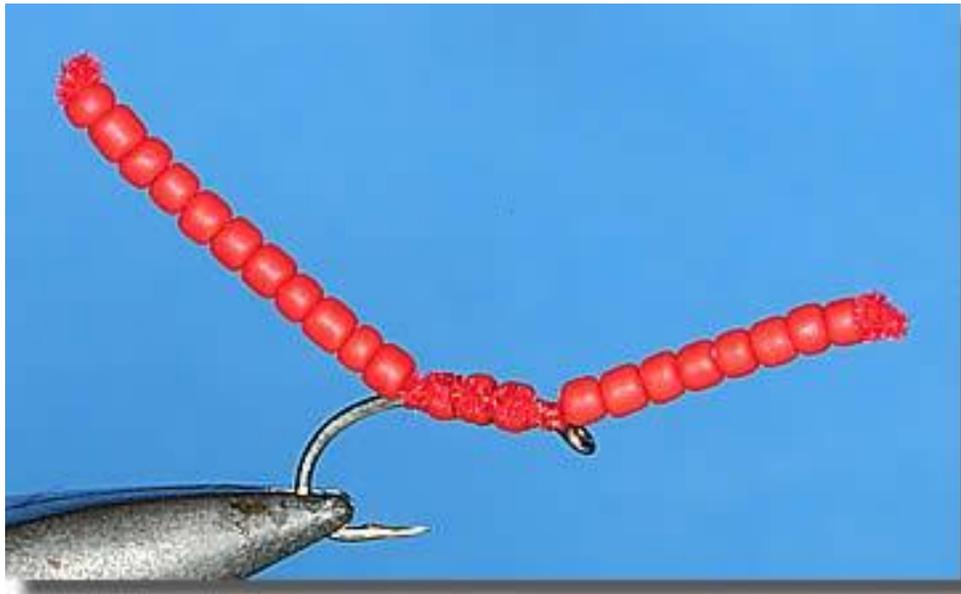
The public will also have the opportunity to comment on the proposals during the Dec. 8-9 meeting of the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission. in Olympia. The commission, which sets policy for WDFW, is scheduled to take action on the proposals during its January 2018 meeting.

"We know our regulations are complex and can be difficult to follow," Burley said. "This is the first step toward making fishing rules easier to understand."

Burley said this is the first phase of a three-year effort to simplify sportfishing regulations throughout the state. Fishery managers are scheduled to work on salmon fishing rules during 2018. They will address shellfishing regulations and rules for other saltwater fisheries in 2019.

Fly of the Month

BLOOD WORM, VARIATION



By Bob Bates

Undoubtedly you have seen many versions of the San Juan Worm, but this version has some advantages. Steven Jackson, Kenmore, WA tied this and several other patterns at the 2008 Northwest Fly Tyers Expo in Albany, Oregon. Fish at Pay-To-Play lakes where Stephan hosts anglers have seen every variation of San Juan Worms or Bionic Worms. Since this pattern is a little bit different the fish accept it with aggression.

The weight of all the beads makes it sink faster than other versions. It is usually suspended 6 inches off the bottom using a strike indicator. If you strip it or pop it the Vernille (**Ultra Chenille**) will wiggle a little, but it doesn't fold back against the body like a regular Vernille pattern. I know the fish don't seem to mind the folded Vernille, but it doesn't look pretty.

Stephen got his beads from Joe Warren who wrote book on using glass beads. These beads are uniform in diameter and hole size. Differences in hole size with some cheap beads make threading the Vernille difficult.

Materials list:

Body: Vernille, mini (1 mm), red

Beads: Glass seed beads, Frosted red

Hook: Daiichi X point 120, 10 & 12

Thread: 8/0 red

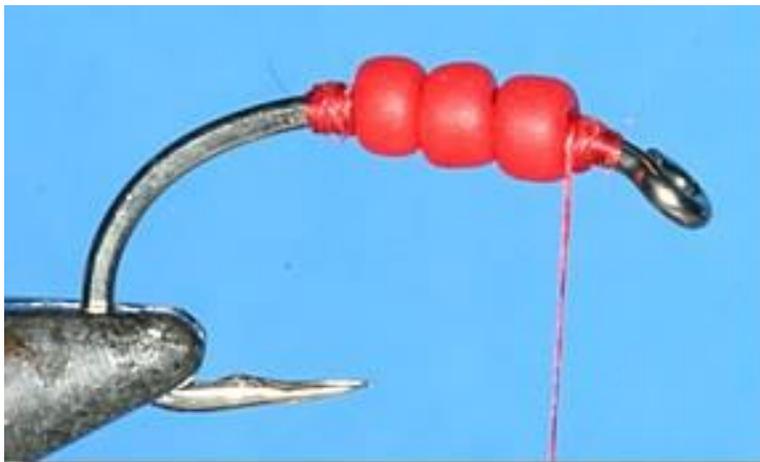
Tying steps:



1. The materials list is in a different order than most instructions because the first step is to string the beads on the Vernille or Ultra chenille. Cut off a 3- or 4-inch piece of Vernille. It is possible to use a 3-inch piece, but tying the required overhand knots is easier with a 4-inch piece. Tie a tight overhand knot near one end.. At the other end, melt about 1/4-inch of the Vernille so you have only the thin thread core. Don't hold the flame too close or you will have a fire in your hands. Steven didn't say he was counting the beads, but he has tied so many of this pattern that he knows when he has enough. For stubby fingers pick up each bead with hackle pliers, and thread the Vernille through it. Tie an overhand knot in the Vernille. Leave a little space to tie the Vernille and beads onto the hook. Root beer colored beads are sometimes added to simulate the hump on some worms.



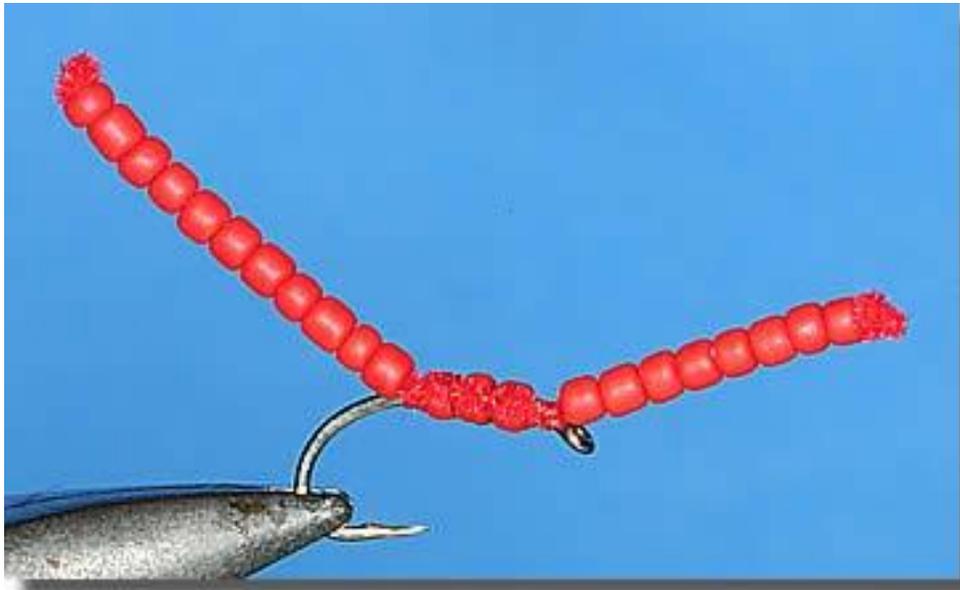
2. Wind a thread base on the hook. He makes sure at least half of the shank is covered to satisfy Washington State regulations, which define a fly as “A lure on which thread, feathers, hackle, or yarn cover a minimum of half of the shank of the hook.” WDFW 2007/2008 Sport Fishing Rules. Can whip finish and cut thread.



3. If necessary put glass beads on shank to fill in the gap in the Vernille/bead body. Wind a thread cone behind the beads so they don't slide back too far and whip finish. Reattach thread in front of beads on hook, and build a little thread cone.



4. Start tying down the Vernille/bead body. In this case put a couple of thread wraps at the front of the beads. Loosely move the thread over the first bead, and put a couple winds of thread between the first and second beads. Repeat the process putting a couple of thread winds between the second and third beads. Move behind the last bead, and repeat the process moving forward. The Vernille/bead body will wiggle and move if not too tight.



5. Trim excess Vernille in front and sneak a whip finish over the beads. Put a drop of head cement on the whip finish.

Closing comments: This pattern is better than the original San Juan Worm or Red Worm. Fish haven't seen as many copies of this one, so they will think that is something to eat. Tight lines.

SSFF thanks FFI for sharing the pattern

High in the Okanogan



Photo by Howard Nanto



The Elwha

Photo by Roger Mosley



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. December 10th will be the deadline for the next issue of the Garden Hackle.