



THE GARDEN HACKLE

South Puget Sound Fly Fishers 50th Birthday Edition

Volume 19 Issue 2

February 2019

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The Leader's Line

President Wayne Dixon Sr.



Hello Fly Fishers,

Psycho-Fishing Therapy - How to Deal with the Winter Blues

As I look out my office window on this cold February snowy day, I realized most of life is at a standstill. There aren't many cars on the road, people all over the Northwest have harvested their groceries, gasoline and beverages to settle in for a winter snowstorm that blanketed our region. It is amazing how much of an effect this storm has had on so many people. I work in the assisted living profession and most of my clients need 24/7 care. What does this have to do with fishing? Keep reading and you'll see.

People that take care of our folks don't have the luxury of just picking up the phone and calling in sick. They have people that depend on them. For most of us it comes down to a simple choice, we either go outside or stay in and weather the storm.

Life can offer the same unintended consequences as a storm. Throughout our lives we are faced with challenges that can be overwhelming to some or just another day at the office for others. It's the unintended consequence that we need to evaluate, and use our discernment to determine what we can do about it or simply "stay safe and warm inside" Winter is generally a slow time of year for fishing. So how can we use our sport to escape the winter doldrums? I would say that if you are ever feeling like staying in and waiting out the winter is your best option, it's time to reevaluate.

There are so many ways we can add to our Fly fishing experience other than getting a fly wet.

We have a lot of opportunity to offer folks that want to participate in some aspect of Fly Fishing right here in our club. In the upcoming months we will be placing a calendar on our web site to keep all our members informed on all events the club offers as well as other venues. This year we also plan on a lot of outings and mid-week outings as well. Jim McAllister and Max Doerge have been working tirelessly on building a schedule for the convenience of our members. As you know Gene Rivers our Programs Director is planning to step down but has managed to fill most of this year with programs. We are in need of someone to pick up the torch and continue the work that Eugene so remarkably accomplished. This is a great time to step up and learn. The work has all been done for this year so there is a cushion. Another opportunity to escape the winter blahs and participate. Thanks again Gene for all your hard work.

Another member who has contributed so greatly for many years to our club is stepping down so we currently find ourselves in need of a Conservation Chair on our board. Another great chance to step into a role that will be fulfilling and is a very visible part of our organization. Again, since Don Freeman has laid such a solid foundation for us to build upon the learning curve is low. Don is also agreeing to stay on as an advisor so there is no fear of being put in a position where you're left hanging out to dry. We as a board are very supportive, we do need an individual to step up and fill the role. Another opportunity is our education area, we are getting ready to teach our Fly Fishing 101 class at Olympia Parks and Recreation. Dave Field has spearheaded this event and it is one of our most profitable and fun, in my opinion. There is always the chance to teach others, so if you ever wanted to participate in this venue we welcome you.

So as you can see opportunities are abundant, and are just waiting for that person to step into the role. We are thriving as a club with participation from younger folks, all our outreach programs, and of course our supportive affiliates. If you want to escape the winter blues, here is your chance to do something related to fly fishing other than staring out the window waiting for spring. Take a step to better mental health, get out of the house and help Your Club. Stay warm, safe and positive!

Peace,

Wayne



Photo by Howard Nanto



Brian O'Keefe

Brian O'Keefe is a renowned fly fisher and photographer. Brian has collected and observed aquatic insects most of his life. He will show us the most common bugs and critters that trout eat and cover the fly patterns that imitate them. Brian will then drill down and focus on stonefly patterns.

Brian will show the six most common stoneflies in the Pacific Northwest- their life cycle, fly patterns to imitate them, when and where to fish and the techniques needed to effectively fish them. There are stoneflies in almost every clear, cold, unpolluted stream in Washington. Some stoneflies are big, some are medium sized and some are smaller than some caddis. Trout love them, in all stages. The information provided will apply to your favorite streams in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Montana and even Chile and Alaska. You will see lots of Brian's fish and macro insect photos as he discusses the world of Stoneflies.

You will feel more dangerous as a fly fisher after seeing Brian's presentation.

Come see and hear from one of the most well known fly fisher and photographers in the world. Brian, lives in central Oregon, and he's coming to help us mark our 50th birthday celebration. Brian is currently is on tour with The Fly Fishing Show as appear around the country.

Gene Rivers

Club Outings

Jim McAllister Outings chair



Hello Fellow Fly Fishers,

There is better way to celebrate the club's 50th birthday than having an outing to fly fish the Skookumchuck River.

Here is the information on the February outing:

What: Steelhead outing

When: February 23, 2019

Where: Skookumchuck River

How: We rendezvous at Tumwater's Southgate shopping Center parking lot at 8:00am and caravan to the river from there. More details at the club meeting on February 19th.

Preparation: These can be strong fish requiring at least a 7 weight setup. We will be wading in cold water in the winter so please dress warmly and wear inflatable safety gear. We will provide you more details and can answer questions at the club meeting on January 19th. Bjorn at the Fly Fisher can help you with flies that work on the Skook.

Jim



Photo by Howard Nanto

Membership

Randy Allen Vice President



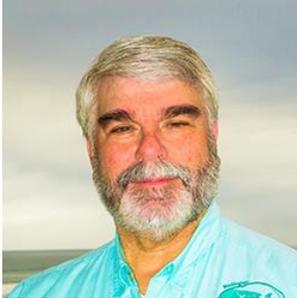
Hello Fly Fishers,

Welcome our newest member, Lee Yeager! Lee moved to Olympia from Texas last July 4th. He and his wife got to know western Washington well because she has family in Auburn. After retiring they knew the Northwest was where they wanted to live. Lee lived many years along the Texas coast and spent a lot of time fishing there. When he moved to north Texas he hooked in with the Red River Fly Fishing Club where he learned to fly fish and to tie flies. He spent a lot of time with the Red River members fly fishing for bass in the numerous warm water lakes nearby. He describes fishing for striped bass on Lake Texoma; this is one of few lakes where stripers will breed. What a thrill, hooking into those fish!

A few hours away he fished some cold-water trout streams in Oklahoma, and a little farther away in Arkansas, too. Now in Olympia Lee is really excited to fish for new species our area has to offer. Hooking into a steelhead or salmon would really light him up. We'll make sure you get to know our Outings Chair, Jim McAllister, really well!

I wanted to extend a timely welcome to Lee. As soon as I can get a photo of him we will run that so you can connect the name with his face!

Randy Allen



2019 Club Dues

Annual dues of \$40.00 are due for 2019. New members joining the club in their first year pay \$45.00. The extra \$5 bucks is to help cover the cost of producing a name badge for you. Cash or checks can be given directly to the SSFF Treasurer at club meetings. Checks should be made out to South Sound Fly Fishers or just the initials “SSFF.” The Treasurer will be at the table located in the back of the meeting room in the fire station to transact all club business.

No cash and didn’t bring a check book with you? No problem, just mail a check to the club’s post box. The address: South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA **98507**.

Remember that South Sound Fly Fishers is a non-profit 501 c (3) organization. SSFF promotes conservation and education. Your dues money is used for funding all conservation and operations of the club.

Fiscal year 2018 close and preparation and approval of the 2019 Budget

The 2018 financial records are being reviewed by an Audit Committee made up of Mark Brownell, Randy Allen and John Sabo. Thank you guys for doing this audit. The 2018 books and the 2019 budget need to be approved by the board of directors and the club membership. All this will be done by the March club meeting.

Jim Maus

Club Treasurer

Education

Max Doerge Education Chair



Greetings Anglers,

SSFF and the City of Olympia are offering another Introduction to Fly Fishing class on consecutive Monday nights beginning March 4th and running through March 25th at the Olympia Center. The classes will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on March 4,11,18 and 25th, 2019. In addition the class includes two hands on fly casting sessions on Saturdays starting at 10:00AM on March 9th and 16th at Capital Lake park. (Please note the revised dates for the casting classes).

Registration is now open with the City of Olympia Department of Parks, Arts and Recreation. Register on line or call 360-753-8380, or register in person at The Olympia Center (222 Columbia St NW, Olympia. WA 98501) Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 am-4 p.m. The class fee is only \$49 for the entire series including the two casting sessions.

Tight lines,

Max Doerge



Photo by Howard Nanto



SSFF Raffle News

We are doing well with the Club's Raffle and we thank 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 this year.

We have some empty fly boxes to be filled...fly tiers; please see me at the back of the room at our next meeting.

We expect to have items available, at the February meeting, for sale for the Al Harger Fund. Stop by the table before the meeting.

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.

SSFF Stickers

Official SSFF Stickers are available at the Raffle Table for only \$10. These can be placed on your boat, truck, auto, motorcycle, skateboard, or virtually any hard smooth surface to show your membership in the club.

John Sabo

2019 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



NW YOUTH CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING ACADEMY 2019

Once again I would like to remind folks of this incredible opportunity for our 12-16 year old boys and girls to learn about our great sport of fly fishing and conservation. Various Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters and individuals will sponsor youth, The Bruce Ferguson fund, managed by PSFF, established in 2011, will sponsor 2 youth along with the Al Harger fund which is managed by SSFF. If you have a grandchild, neighbor, friend, son or daughter that would like to learn our sport, have them write an essay on why they would like to attend and they will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor or science teacher. The Academy is the last full week of June. June 23-29. 2019 at the Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey WA. We are on Facebook with lots of pictures and applications are on our website - www.nwycffa.com. Email: nwycffa@comcast.net Please contact: Co-Directors - Jim Brosio @ 360-943-9947 or Mike Clancy @ 360-753-1259.

Mike Clancy

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for their future” -FDR



Hello Fellow Fly Anglers,

Here is some of the press releases from WDFW via the State Council of FFI:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

Contact: Darric Lowery, 360-701-5145 for more information

WDFW seeks public participation in Scatter Creek Wildlife Area planning

OLYMPIA - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) will hold a public workshop Feb. 13 to kick off a planning process for the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area, which encompasses portions of the unique South Sound prairies. The wildlife area consists of six separate units that cover roughly 3,592 acres in Thurston and Grays Harbor counties.

The workshop is scheduled from 6 to 8:30 p.m., February 13th, at Swede Hall, 18543 Albany St. SW, Rochester.

The plan will propose actions for the management of the wildlife area over the next 10 years. This includes efforts to protect wildlife species and their habitat and enhance recreational opportunities where appropriate, said Darric Lowery, wildlife area manager. At the upcoming meeting, WDFW staff members will review the wildlife area's history, discuss the planning process, and ask for public comments, Lowery said. "We want to hear from the public about how people use this area as well as what recreation and natural resource values are important to them," he said. WDFW staff will work on the plan with the Scatter Creek Wildlife Area advisory committee, made up of citizens, neighbors, and other stakeholders. Lowery said the public will also have opportunities to comment at upcoming advisory committee meetings and when the draft plan is developed.

Information on the wildlife area's six units is available on WDFW's website at https://wdfw.wa.gov/lands/wildlife_areas/scatter_creek/.

Fish on!

Mike



(This is another story told by Gary Oberbillig, fly fisher and tier, mariner, college art instructor and former SSFF board member)

Fly Fishing from Horseback

I learned to fish in the rivers and streams of Idaho from my Grandfather Simpson. Grandfather grew up in Punxsutawney Pennsylvania. He learned to fly fish from his family. They brought fly fishing from Scotland when they sailed to America before the American Revolution. They first settled in the colony of Virginia, and then as time went on my grandfather's branch of the family moved to western Pennsylvania.

In the late 1800's Grandfather Simpson travelled out west looking for the color and excitement of the cowboy life during the final phases of westward expansion. Being well educated for the day, he became a school teacher when he was unable to find a job on a ranch or farm.

In his younger days he moved around a bit but eventually married my grandmother and together they raised four children of which my mother was the youngest. They moved a lot but then eventually homesteaded in the Great Lost River country of Idaho.

When I was about seven years old, Grandfather began taking me fishing with him. Under his watchful eye I learned the art and science of fly fishing. It wasn't too many years before I mastered this art and in the process became a lover of the outdoors and all things wild.

Often it comes to me that Grandfather brought me to the wilderness to fish so that I would come to care and protect the streams, fish and wildlife. In turn I taught my children and grandchildren these same life skills and values.

Since I began as a lad on the rivers and streams of western Idaho I have seen tremendous changes in the technical development and innovation of fly fishing equipment. To give you insight into these changes, let me describe the gear Grandfather Simpson used.



Photo by Howard Nanto

Grandfather fished with an eight foot telescoping metal fly rod. It was a stout rod designed to take all the punishment you would expect from ranchers and farmers fishing some of the most remote streams of the west. The tough survivability of a metal rod was a tradeoff with casting ability. As you might guess the rod had little flexibility and it was hard to cast. Another factor limiting the casting range was that the fly line was made of silk and these lines were usually “level.” The leader was made of gut and he kept in a “tin” about the size of a can that chewing tobacco came in. Everything was mounted on a pflueger reel. Even with all these limitations, Grandfather was able to cast at least 60 feet. His casts were short by today’s standards but he was able to cover the water and caught lots fish with this gear.

I can still picture Grandfather astride his horse catching dinner. Many cowboys didn’t have waders, so they just stayed on horseback waded their animals into the streams. The fish did not seem to be alerted by the smell of horses and cattle in the water. They were used to the smell of grazing animals out wading. So as long as the rider stayed on their horse all was fine. It was only when the rider dismounted and waded wet that the fish’s keen sense of smell would put every fish in the vicinity on high alert. You ever noticed that this same phenomena happens when you let your dog in the water. The ability of fish to smell a predator has naturally developed over the ions as man and wolves (think dogs) fished rivers and streams.

It is not surprising Grandfather caught so many fish with such primitive equipment. In those days the streams were full of fish. He caught West Slope Cutthroat, Snake River Fine Spotted Cutthroat, Rainbow, Bull Trout and Whitefish. In slow water and ponds he caught Largemouth Bass. He sometimes hooked scrap fish such as Northern Pike Minnows, Suckers and Bullheads but he usually he left them on the bank for the birds and scavengers that quickly gobbled them up.

Fly fishing has gone through many changes since Grandfather’s day. The number and variety of fish are not even close to they once were in many Northwest streams. But, fly fishing still attracts all the folks that enjoy the wonderous beauty of the fresh and salt waters found in the Northwest.



Photo by Gene Rivers

“The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of occasions for hope.”

Lord Tweedsmuir



Club Bulletin Board:

South Sound Fly Fishers was founded February 1969 so the club 50 years old this month!

Thank you to the SSFF founders and members that worked so hard to leave us the fish in the rivers, streams, lakes and Puget Sound that we enjoy today. May the conservation work we do hopefully preserve and protect the fish and waters so future generations can enjoy fly fishing.

Help Coastal Cutthroat Trout. Volunteers are needed by the WDFW Coastal Cutthroat Trout Program. Learn about these iconic fish as you work to help further their recovery. If you would like to help--Call **Bill Young** at 360-426-8416. Bill has been a volunteer studying these fish and their habitat for many years. Please leave a message if Bill is out doing a redd count on a local stream.

Please help our First Responders by keeping the Fire Station's driveway clear of parked vehicles during SSFF gatherings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please park in the lot behind the Station.

It is expected that Senate Bill 5617 Statewide ban of non-tribal gillnets, will receive a **hearing on Tuesday, February 12 at 1:30 P.M. in the Senate Ag, Water, Natural Resources & Parks Committee - JA Cherberg Building, State Capitol Campus, Olympia.**

Club Dues for 2019 are now payable. Dues are \$40 and can be paid by cash or check at meetings or by mailing a check to: SSFF at PO Box 7456 Olympia WA 98507.

Fly of the Month

LARRY'S LIGHTNING BUG



By Bob Bates

Comments:

Many anglers considerate it their go-to pattern, and it has even been specified as the only fly to use in a fishing contest. Note: Many of us do not condone fishing contests especially on public waters. Catch and release is acceptable, especially if the fish is handled carefully and returned to the water quickly. Aaron Cully tied this fly at the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, WA, May, 2008. This pattern is a creation of Larry Graham from western Washington. With the iridescent glow of the Mylar it could imitate a hatching insect.

Aaron said that this is usually a moving water pattern, but some anglers also use it in lakes. In moving water look for places where fish might be waiting to ambush an insect as it drifts by. Anyplace there are different currents like eddies near shore. Cast the fly so it moves along the current seam. If that doesn't work try a little deeper into the eddy. There however, there is not much time to attract a fish. It sometime takes a bit of skill to keep the fly from getting ripped out by the faster current. Mid stream boulders offer several more targets. The upstream face of the rock has a dead zone that fish can use as an ambush point. Cast the fly so it moves toward the front of the rock, and drifts around the side. The quieter water behind the rock is also a good resting place. Fish all the places where a fish can hold without spending a lot of energy.

In lakes I usually try around weed beds, especially if there are channels in the weeds. Pull the fly along the channel, and it is a thrill to see a fish to rush out of its cover to nail it. Holes in the weeds are good hiding places also. One problem is that the fish know where the weeds are and rush back into them for safety. So be alert and use a tippet strong enough to control the fish. Depending on conditions a floating or sink tip line is the thing to use. Also, if there are near surface weeds this pattern might be too heavy. If there are no visible weed beds try fishing near the bottom. Use a full sinking fly line, cast as far as you can, let it sink for a length of time, most of us count down the sink time. At the end of the sink time start a retrieve, and expect a hit at any time. If there are weeds on your fly you let it sink too long. If there are no weeds let it sink a little longer. Vary the sink time and retrieve until you have some good luck.

Materials list:

Hook: Tiemco 3761, 2xh, 3xl size 12 -
20 Weight: Bead and lead wire.

Thread: Olive, dun, brown and gold

Tail: Pheasant tail fibers

Rib: Copper wire

Body: Mylar or silver holographic tinsel

Thorax: Peacock herl, color side out black side toward shank.
One strand Wing: Hen feather with good color out to end.

Tying steps:



1. Smash down barb with smooth jaw pliers. Thread bead on hook with small hole to front. Put 6 wraps of lead wire on hook. Make sure that the lead wire is well imbedded in the back of the bead. Start thread near front of hook and wind to a point over the barb. Larry specified tungsten bead.



2. Tie in 9 to 11 pheasant tail fibers. The tail is a little more than a gap length long. Secure the tail on top of hook from the lead coil to the bend.



3. Secure the copper wire between the bend and lead coil, and wind thread to back of hook. Keep wire on the bottom of the hook. Move the thread behind back to the bead.



4. Use a soft loop to trap pearlescent Mylar. Wind thread over the Mylar back to the bend. Winding from front to back lets you hold the Mylar to keep it under control, and keep it on top of hook. Use small on size 20 hook and medium on sizes 16-18 hooks, and wide on larger hooks.



5. Move thread to back of bead, wrap Mylar forward to bead, and tie it off behind the bead. Do not cut Mylar. Spiral three turns of copper wire from the tail tie in point to about mid-shank, then put an open spiral to bead, and tie in there.



6. Trim copper wire. Pull Mylar back along top of shank, and wind thread over it to a point about half way between the tail tie in and the bead. Do not cut Mylar.



7. Anchor one peacock herl at about mid-shank, wind thread forward to bead, wrap herl forward in close wraps to bead and secure.



8. Select a hen feather with even color to the tips and barbs about half shank length long, Cut out tip of feather. Stroke some of the barbs away from the cut tip as shown. Put feather on top of hook with cut end facing backward as shown. Secure with only the weight of bobbin to hold it.



9. Carefully trim feather, pull Mylar forward and secure with light thread wraps. Trim Mylar leaving about a 16th of an inch. Put a little head cement on thread and whip finish right behind the bead

Closing comments: This is a great pattern that has taken all kinds of fish, including steelhead. Sizes are not given for beads and lead wire for all hook sizes. I usually start with a 1/8-inch bead for a size 12 hook. Pick the size of bead, tungsten or brass, to fit your needs. Your friendly fly shop owner can offer suggestions. A guideline for the lead is: Use a diameter equal to the diameter of the wire in the hook. It works when you are fishing without hatches, but it is excellent when there are hatches. Aaron mentioned that a smaller version worked great when PMDs were hatching. The largest PMD is size 16, and some are smaller than 20.

Thank you FFI for sharing this pattern



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS - 2019 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com

Vice President: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Secretary: Mark Brownell brownellmi@outlook.com

Treasurer: Jim Maus jimmaus@comcast.net

Past President: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Conservation: (Conservation Committee)

Education: Max Doerge mdoerge@live.com

Fundraising: John Sabo chrisonquince@comcast.net

Membership: Vacant (Randy Allen Acting) randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Outings: Jim McAllister Jimspacmule@msn.com

Programs: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Garden Hackle: Dave Field d_w_field@hotmail.com

Web-Master: Kody Eltzinga kelzingart@gmail.com

WSCFFI Representative: Mike Clancy mtclancy39@comcast.net

WEB SITE: www.southsoundflyfishers.org

USPS Mail Address: SSFF PO BOX 2792, Olympia, WA 98507

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. Unless announced otherwise, all regularly scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station, 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA.

The deadline for submitting material for the next Garden Hackle is **March 10, 2019.**