



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 19 Issue 4

April 2019

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The Leader's Line

President Wayne Dixon Sr.



Hello Fly Fishers,

A Rebirth of Life

It's that time of year again when we can experience nature's revival when the winter cold is gone and Mother Nature is again ready to present us with her bouquets of new trees and flowers, along with a new abundant supply of fish and wildlife. Again, to take advantage of these gifts and preserve them for future generations all she asks is that we all do our part to preserve and protect.

Conservation is one of the key elements in our mission statement as a club. Although we like to think of ourselves as conservationists, are we all really doing what we can to help our local streams, rivers, and ocean waters? Here are some facts that you may or may not have considered regarding our precious Washington State.

From the conifer covered slopes to the snow-capped volcanic peaks Washington has two major ecosystems that are under attack from rapidly growing human population and increasing water demands. These two systems are the Columbia Plateau and the Puget Trough ecoregions. Some of the challenges we face is these regions are Habitat Loss, because of the growing population and demand for more wine grapes we are experiencing a displacement of native shrubs. Also, water depletion is increased because of the decrease of the winter snow pack. Our Salmon suffer because of these challenges to our land conservation.

Who takes care or addresses these issues? We do, each one of us who loves the outdoors and wishes to preserve our natural resources. We should be taking steps to be involved in the effort to save our State. There are several ways to get involved and do that little extra bit. Through a collaborative effort we can make a difference. The Washington State Biodiversity Council is a great way to understand some of the issues and Puget Sound Partnership is a community effort of citizens, governments and tribes working together on these issues. There are over two dozen local organizations in the Puget Sound region looking for volunteers to help make a difference.

With the rebirth or life during this time of year I am challenging each and everyone of you to take a step this spring and get involved with some of our local agencies that are concerned with the environmental impacts on our State. This is a great time of year to experience some personal satisfaction and growth in our lives by shaking off the winter cold and getting out in the sunshine and volunteering with one of these organizations to make Washington just a little greener!

Happy Spring and thanks for all you do.

Peace,

Wayne



Raquel Crosier

WDFW Legislative Director

Raquel Crosier has been the Legislative Director at the Department of Fish & Wildlife since January 2016. She has a Bachelors degree from The Evergreen State College and a Masters degree in Conservation Biology from the University of New South Wales.

She is an avid outdoors enthusiast and that passion lead her to a career in natural resource policy.

She's worked in a policy role at the Washington State Legislature, Washington Audubon, The Northwest Power and Conservation Council and the Recreation and Conservation Office.

Raquel is an excellent speaker and knows the issues. Learn about our fisheries and the fresh and saltwater programs underway to protect and save our precious fishing resources.

.See you on the 16th.

Gene Rivers

Outings

Jim McAllister Outings chair



Greetings Fellow Fly Fishers,

The club will have several outings in April. Two outings will be on Saturdays and there is one midweek outing.

What: Fly Fishing for Rainbow Trout at Swofford Pond

When: Saturday April 20th (meetup at Southgate Parking Lot at 8:00am)

Where: Swofford Pond—south of Riffe Lake

Ghillie: Jim McAllister 360-970-2953

Gear: 3 to 5 wt. rods with intermediate slow sink line and 7-9ft leader and 2-3ft tippet. Bring an assortment of aquatic patterns on 8 to 16 size hooks. A floating devise is needed to fish this lake effectively. Bring appropriate clothing and safety gear. Remember to bring water and a snack or lunch if you wish.

What: Midweek Fly Fishing at Spencer Lake

When: Wednesday April 17th 8:00am--Noon

Where: Spencer Lake WDFW boat ramp

Ghillie: Max Doerge 360-790-6613

Gear: 3 to 5 wt. rods with intermediate slow sink line and 7-9ft leader and 2-3ft tippet. Bring an assortment of aquatic patterns on 8 to 16 size hooks. A floating devise is best to fish this lake effectively. Bring appropriate clothing and safety gear. Parking pass and fishing license required Remember to bring water and a snack or lunch if you wish.

What: Fly Fishing for Rainbow trout at Lake Nahwatzel

When: Saturday April 27th

Where: Meetup at Haggen's parking lot at 8:00am or Nahwatzel ramp 9:00am

Ghillie: Jim McAllister 360-970-2953

Gear: 4 to 6 wt. rods with intermediate slow sink line and full sink lines. 7 to 9ft leaders and 2-3ft tippet. Bring an assortment of aquatic patterns on 8 to 16 size hooks. A floating devise is needed to fish this lake effectively. Bring appropriate clothing and safety gear. Parking pass and fishing license required. Remember to bring water and a snack or lunch if you wish.

The calendar on this website contains information on these outings.

See you on the water!

Jim



Heidi Myler Photo

Membership

By Randy Allen Vice President



Please welcome a new member that recently joined the club!



Denise Pritzl

Welcome Denise Pritzl! Denise was introduced to the Club by member Ginger Sarver. Denise started fly fishing as a result of her back-packing trips. She used to pack books to read by the campfire after the day's activities. But, plain and simple, books weigh...a lot. Considering alternatives Denise discovered how light weight fly rods are, and that was all she wrote for packing books.

Living in Seattle she associated herself with the Swallows Nest Fly Fishing organization who taught her casting and fly-tying. She also discovered a women's fly fishing group. Denise, we will introduce you to some SSFF women who also belong to Oly Women on the Fly and have great things to say about it!

Looking to better fish on her own Denise sought out guides who taught her techniques and skills, and who didn't merely focus only on the numbers of catches for their clients. Clever, very clever!

Denise spent about 10 years on her own fishing the Yakima River, British Columbia, Idaho, Montana, Eastern WA. . .she's fished them. Moving to Olympia about two years ago opened the door to better access to salt-water fishing for sea-run cutthroat trout. She was delighted to attend Jeffrey Delia's presentation on those fish!

Denise regards winter as sea-run season, spring for lakes, and summer for rivers. She also mentioned that she was camped recently next to a 15 year-old. The youngster went on and on about the fun of catching bass. That was all it took. Look for her on a lake near you fishing for bass soon!

Denise - welcome to SSFF. Your enthusiasm for the sport is great - we're glad to have you with us!

Randy





Greetings Anglers,

South Sound Fly Fishers and the City of Olympia provided “Introduction to Fly Fishing” on consecutive Monday nights during the month of March. We had 23 folks enrolled in the class. We included two hands on Saturday fly casting sessions at Capital Lake. Randy Allen was lead instructor on the class and his article on the backstory of the class is below.

The club and the City of Olympia are planning a beginning fly tying class this coming Fall at the Community Center. This would be an introductory class for the many new folks that would like to learn basic fly tying taught by some of the experienced tiers in the club. Registration for the class would be through the City of Olympia Department of Parks, Arts and Recreation. information on the class will be published by the city in “Experience It.”

Tight lines,

Max



Heidi Myler Photo

City of Olympia Introduction to Fly Fishing

by Randy Allen



Heidi Myler Photo

Left to right: Wayne Dixon, Randy Allen, Matt Rese, Dave Smith, Casey Quinn, Adrian Nelson-Wheatley, Michael Aherne, Kyle Noble, Tobey Anderson, Aaron Sams, Dennis Davies, Ray Peter, Susan Piper, Corbin Piper, Jamie Williams, Deb Williams, Stuart Meadows, Vic Andrade, Jim Maus, Ben Dennis.

It was a dark and stormy night. Then Club President Gene Rivers responded to the ringing of his phone. A voice crackled over a spotty connection. “So, let me make sure I’m hearing this right. You want SSFF to teach a one-night class in fly-tying??!!?” inquired Gene of the voice on the other end. “Yes” replied the man, “we thought you ...”

“Well,” continued Gene, “I tie flies myself, and it’s impossible to teach fly-tying in one evening. It’s a lifetime of learning! But, maybe we could provide an overview of fly fishing?” Such were the humble beginnings of SSFF’s 2018 Introduction to Fly Fishing developed and presented at the request of the Olympia Parks, Arts and Recreation with classes held at the Olympia Center. In March SSFF presented the class a second time for the City.

Referring back to The Art of Fly Fishing developed by our respected members, John Woods and Mel Hurd, our current team developed the current four-night class. Students learned about the history of fly fishing, fly-fishing gear, entomology, reading the water in rivers and streams, lake and saltwater fishing, locating fish, basic fly casting, outdoor savvy, water safety, knot-tying, fly-tying, stream restoration, and conservation. Whew! All on an introductory level, of course.

Two Saturday casting lessons at Heritage Park were scheduled. Local foot traffic gained public exposure, and several more interested folks joined the class after observing the students casting. Their enthusiastic response to the casting lessons told us they need more. Ben Dennis responded by instructing some students on the moving water of the Deschutes on another Saturday session. Our instructors are developing plans for continuing casting lessons and an on-the-river clinic for the class.

Returning SSFF instructors for this second class were Wayne Dixon, Ben Dennis, and Randy Allen. Dave Field, who admirably assembled and managed the team last year, handed off his training topics to concentrate on the newsletter. Jim Maus with his extensive training experience skillfully picked up the training on locating fish and fishing techniques. Max Doerge gave a talk on emergency locating devices.

On Entomology night Jim McAllister, Mark Brownell, and Jim Maus supported the class by tying flies. Students really appreciated the fellows demonstrating how fur and feathers become flies right before their eyes. Max also provided refreshments nightly, much appreciated by all.

Students obviously enjoyed starting their fly fishing journeys. At this time we've taken in new members Matt Reese, Vic Andrade, and Corbin and Susan Piper. Congratulations to the graduates! And, congratulations to our Education team!





Dues are Due

Please pay your 2019 club dues. Annual dues are \$40.00. New members joining the club in their first year pay \$45.00. The extra \$5.00 is to help cover the cost of making your name badge.

Cash or checks may be given directly to the SSFF Treasurer. Checks should be made out to South Sound Fly Fishers or just the initials "SSFF." I will be at the table located in the back of the meeting room to take dues money and transact other club business. If you are at a club meeting and have no cash and did not bring your check book, no problem, just mail a check to the club's post box. The address:

South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507.

2019 Budget

This is a busy time of year for your club treasurer as we close out 2018 and setup the club budget for 2019. The 2018 records will be reviewed by an Audit Committee made up of Mark Brownell, Randy Allen and John Sabo.

The 2019 budget was approved by the board of directors and ratified by general membership. All this done in the March meetings. Thank you for helping to take care of this piece of business. Now we can get on to tying, fishing and attending all the events for fly fishers over this spring and summer.

Jim Maus

Treasurer



SSFF Raffle News

We are looking for items for raffle prizes. It is spring cleaning time, and a good time to donate new or unused fly-fishing items, outdoor items or camping items to the club raffle which helps to support the general activities of the club. We are looking for items with an individual value of \$20 or more, not size or gender specific, and small enough to fit on the raffle table. 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 have some empty fly boxes to be filled...fly tiers; please see me at the back of the room at our next meeting.

We plan to have a table of items available for the Al Harger Fund in the back of the room at the April meeting. We are accepting donated items (similar to the ones described above) for the Al Harger Fund. As many of you know, all money raised for the Al Harger Fund can only be used to support the Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly-Fishing Academy.

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

Awards and Recognition



Photo courtesy of Randy Allen

Kathy Barkus presented with Fly Fisher of the Year Award

At the March club meeting President Wayne Dixon and Jim McAllister had the pleasure of presenting Kathy Barkus with the “Fly Fisher of the Year” award. The inscription on the plaque reads, ***“In recognition of outstanding service to the Club and our fish resources, the South Sound Fly Fishers presents the Fly Fisher of the Year award***

Kathy Barkus is a dynamo in fly fishing. Kathy attended many outings and is a wonderful promoter for the sport and especially getting women involved with fly fishing. She helped to put together the picnic at Pioneer Park for all the fly fishing families in the South Sound area.

It was obvious to all that Kathy’s efforts are truly *outstanding service to the Board of Directors*. So it was with great pleasure the Club was proudly presented Kathy with the “Fly Fisher of the Year” award for 2018.

Pioneers and Legends

By Joe Uhlman

Editor's note: This is the second installment of a story by Past President Joe Uhlman. Joe knew many of these pioneers as good fishing partners and friends. Other fly fishing legends of the past, Joe met through mutual friends or through their writings. Every one of these people helped establish the Pacific Northwest as a world class destination for fly fishing.

Joe's recollections continue with Bruce Ferguson. Bruce was a long time member of SSFF and PSFF who became a giant in salt water fly fishing of the Northwest.



Bruce Ferguson

Bruce Ferguson

By Joe Uhlman

By the mid 1970's, Bruce and I and many others saw the numbers and size of Coastal Cutthroat (Sea Run) trout were quickly dwindling. This fishery was nothing compared to what I remembered as a youngster. When I was a boy fishing with my dad and grandfather, the Sea Runs were typically 15" to 18" long. By 1975 Bruce and I would be lucky to pick up a twelve incher when fishing in the South Sound.

These fish did not have the commercial value of Salmon and Steelhead. In the 1800's they represented the most numerous anadromous fish in Puget Sound. Over fishing, the loss of habitat and pollution reduced them to just a shadow of what their numbers had been. It was clear that something had to be done or their populations would mostly disappear.

After Bruce retired from Weyerhaeuser and started his own consulting business, he began to have more time for studying Coastal Cutthroat. Bruce, as a representative of the fly clubs and their state and national fishing organizations Bruce began pushing on the State of Washington to change the regulations applying to these fish.

Bruce became one of the founders of the Sea Run Coalition. This organization was the forerunner of today's Coastal Cutthroat Coalition. The Sea Run Coalition was primarily made up of the fly clubs, the Trout Unlimited chapters and their respective state and national organizations. But, the real backbone of the push was the fly clubs namely South Sound Fly of Olympia and the Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma. These clubs joined their sister organizations to save the Coastal Cutthroat.

Bruce became a fixture before the legislative committees and the State fish and wildlife Commission. Bruce was appointed to the Saltwater Committee of FFF (now FFI) which added more weight to his testimony. Bruce became the spokesperson for national fly fishing organization on this issue.

Eventually the state began to change the regulations. The first phase was to increase size of legally caught trout in the saltwater. Keepers increased from eight to fourteen inches. This was an important step because it meant that most Cutthroat would likely spawn at least once before it could legally be killed. Another step was to decrease the bag limit from eight to two fish. Finally, the state changed regulations so that no Cutthroat trout could be legally kept if caught in saltwater.

Since "catch and release" was implemented, these fish have made a remarkable comeback. The fly clubs and TU chapters can be proud of the turnaround. All of it was the result of pressure applied at the right time and at the right place with Bruce leading the way.

Although the research on these fish is relatively scant compared to Salmon and Steelhead, we know a lot more today. We know that these fish continue to need protection by state regulation. Most of the work on behalf of Coastal Cutthroat is being done by the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition. This organization needs continued encouragement and financial support.

In 1985 after twenty plus years of study and notetaking, Bruce along with Les Johnson and Pat Trotter published their landmark book "Fly Fishing for Pacific Salmon." Bruce was willing to share his knowledge of fly fishing for Pacific Salmon. He always felt the best way to pass along the information was to write a book. The only problem was that Bruce never considered himself much of a writer, so he looked to others to help on this front and Les Johnson and Dr. Pat Trotter certainly filled the bill.

Bruce had the knowledge and experience of catching salmon in the salt water so he wrote those parts of the book that dealt with Salmon fishing in the saltwater. Les Johnson was a respected fresh water fly fisher and writer, so he focused on fishing for salmon once they entered the streams and rivers. Dr. Pat Trotter wrote about all the different flies used to catch Pacific Salmon and he researched and wrote about some of the history of fly fishing for Salmon in the Northwest.

Bruce was surprised at the popularity of the book. Book sales greatly exceeded his expectations. Not only did the book catch on in the Pacific Northwest, but the East Coast fly fishers also took an interest because many of the techniques that Bruce described worked well on striped Bass along the Atlantic Coast. Then the book was discovered by European fly fishers and book sales took off in the British Isles and on the European Continent.

After a few years the ever expanding number of salt water fly fishers began clambering for an updated version of the book. So, with about twenty years of note taking by Bruce a second edition was produced by the same publisher, Frank Amato of Portland. Les Johnson took the lead on this this edition. Bruce again shared his extensive research and on the water experience of catching Salmon and Steelhead in the saltwater.

In the third installment of our series about Bruce Ferguson I'll talk a little about the flies he tied for salmon. I'll also tell a story that exemplifies Bruce's fishing ethic.

Until next edition of the Garden Hackle, let me leave you with this thought:

We who live in the South Sound are very fortunate. We are close to the famous rivers of the Olympic Peninsula. We live by many fish producing streams, we have Puget Sound and Hood Canal saltwater fishing, lowland lakes, mountain lakes and then the Pacific Coast. This is not to mention the beaver ponds and creeks and other secret and small places that hold fish.

When you drift down a Washington river you hear all sorts of different languages being spoken. If you happen to hear English, it is often spoken with accent from a distant land. This confirms that Washington State is a world class fishing destination. We try and protect what we have and in the process the world beats a path to our door.

How blessed we are to reside here in the South Sound and have these fishing destinations available within just an hour or two.



Howard Nanto photo

2019 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



The deadline for the 2019 Academy is closing in - April 15, 2019 is the deadline for the Academy. Those that apply and are accepted, will be notified by the middle of May. The Academy this year is again the last full week of June 23-29, 2019. The Academy is held on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. Applicants need to write an essay explaining why “they” would like to attend. They also will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor, science teacher or responsible person. The applicant, boy or girl, 12-16, should not be 17 at the start of the Academy. Cost is \$300 and there are sponsorships available. No one will be turned away because of lack of money.

The support from the fly fishing community again this year is nothing short of spectacular. Applications are coming from all over the State. In the past years, we have been supported by over 50 volunteers each year. We will need volunteers again this year. Volunteers are guides to take the kids fishing in the morning and evenings. We will be fishing a local pond and the Deschutes Rivers in Thurston County. The Academy has a Facebook page loaded with pictures from past years and at our website www.nwycffa.com You may download the application off the website or contact Mike Clancy @253-278-0061, mtclancy39@comcast.net or Jim Brosio @ 360-943-9947, brosioj@q.com

The Academy will be a life experience for these youth, they are the future of our sport of fly fishing.

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



Hello Fellow Anglers,

Here is Press Release information from the State Council of FFI

WDFW NEWS RELEASE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091
<http://wdfw.wa.gov/>

March 25, 2019

Contact: Kelly Cunningham, 360-902-2325

WDFW seeks input on proposed rules for fishing guide industry

OLYMPIA – The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking public comments on proposed rules that would require that fishing guides regularly report their fishing activities.

Under the proposed rules, fishing guides would provide WDFW with information such as the date and location of each guided fishing trip, the number of anglers onboard, and the number and type of fish species caught per trip.

Currently, WDFW relies on individual anglers to report their catch information but does not have a means of tracking whether the activity was part of a guided fishing trip, said Kelly Cunningham, deputy assistant director.

"This information will help us understand the role the guide industry plays not only in terms of helping recreational anglers to access fisheries, but also in providing economic benefits to local and state economies," Cunningham said. "We also have heard concerns about issues such as over-crowding and will use the information to understand if and where this is happening."

Draft rules are posted for public review on the department's website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/commercial/guide-logbook>. WDFW will accept public comments submitted through 5 p.m., June 7, on that website, by email to Rules.Coordinator@dfw.wa.gov, or by postal mail to Scott Bird, WDFW Rules Coordinator, 600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091.

Cunningham noted the agency held more than a dozen meetings with fishing guides around the state to discuss guiding activities and requiring guides to record essential information about each trip.

The department initiated a review of the guiding industry following a directive from the state Legislature in 2017. The stated objectives were to:

- Improve the fishing experience and ensure equitable opportunity for both guided and non-guided river anglers,
- Manage fishing pressure to protect wild steelhead and other species; and
- Ensure that recreational fish guiding remains a sustainable economic contributor to rural economies.

In 2018, the Legislature gave the department the OK to require fishing guides to report trip information.

WDFW staff will present their proposal to the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission at its April 5-6 meeting in Olympia. The commission is scheduled to take public comment on the proposal at its June 14-15 meeting in Port Angeles before making a decision during the Aug. 2-3 meeting.

WDFW FISHING RULE CHANGE

March 29, 2019

Steelhead retention fishery to close on the lower Kalama River, barbless hooks to be voluntary

Action: Closes steelhead retention on the lower Kalama River. This rule also makes the use of barbless hooks voluntary, including when fishing under selective gear rules and in fly-fishing-only waters. All other stipulations of selective gear rules and fly fishing only rules remain in effect.

Effective date: April 1, 2019 until further notice.

Species affected: Steelhead, all species.

Location:

- From the mouth to 1,000 feet below the fishway at the upper salmon hatchery (i.e. Kalama Falls Hatchery): Release all steelhead.
- From the mouth upstream to the 6600 Road Bridge immediately downstream of Jacks Creek: Use of barbless hooks is voluntary.

Reason for action: To date, the number of hatchery-origin winter steelhead that have returned to Kalama River hatchery facilities is much lower than needed to meet hatchery egg collection goals. Closing steelhead retention will increase the number of hatchery fish available for broodstock and help improve hatchery returns in future years.

Additional information: Retention of 3 hatchery steelhead per day remains open in the Kalama River from 1,000 feet above the fishway at the upper salmon hatchery to the 6600 Road bridge (immediately downstream of Jacks Creek), where steelhead fisheries primarily encounter summer-run fish. Retention of hatchery spring chinook is also open in the lower river, with a daily limit of 6 fish, including no more than 1 adult.

This emergency rule also implements on the Kalama River a voluntary barbless hook policy approved by the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission in early March.

Washington Fly Fishing Fair



FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL
Washington State Council

May 3rd & 4th
Friday & Saturday 9-5
Ellensburg, WA

Free Admission

-  **Fly Casting Workshops**
-  **Fly Tying**
-  **Featured Tyers on Video**
-  **Seminars: techniques, destinations**
-  **Ongoing Gear Raffles**
-  **Auctions for art, trips and gear**
-  **Fly Fishing Film Tour (F3T)**

Sat. at 6 PM Sponsored by TU

Celebrity Fly Fisher
Gary Borger
Internationally known author,
casting instructor, and fly tyer



Photos Courtesy Molly Semenik and Gary Borger

Pocket Water

“I have never lost a little fish—yes, I’m free to say. It was always the biggest fish I caught that got away”. *Eugene Field*



Photo by Howard Nanto



Club Bulletin Board:

Club Dues for 2019 are due. Dues can be given to the Treasurer by cash or check at meetings or by mailing a check to: SSFF at PO Box 7456 Olympia WA 98507. Thanks.

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

The next weekday outing is on Wednesday April 17th at Spencer Lake in Mason County. See the calendar in the new club website for details.





FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

FLY OF THE MONTH

CREATOR: RODERICK HAIG-BROWN

"Steelhead Bee"



Written by: Kevin W. Erickson

Photographed By: Kevin W. Erickson

Guest Tier: Kevin W. Erickson

Originated by noted British Columbia fly fishing author/conservationist/angler Roderick Haig-Brown, the Steelhead Bee was well ahead of its time in many ways. The Bee's design allows it to be fished not only in the traditional upstream drag-free dead-drift dry fly approach, but also cast downstream on a tight line and fished with a "waking" or "skating" technique. Waking flies sit low in the surface and create a disturbance with either wings and/or bodies designed to resist the currents flow. Flies in this category include Harry Lemire's Greased Liner, Bill Bakke's Dragon Fly and Bill McMillan's Steelhead Caddis. Skating flies are tied with traditional stiff, bushy dry-fly hackle intended to lift the fly up so it rides mainly on the hackle and tail. Traditional dries scaled up in size for steelhead include the Royal Wulff, Humpy, and Hairwing Black Gnat among others. There is a crossover between flies designed as "wakers" being fished as a "skater" and vice-versa. The only thing that matters is if the fish likes the presentation.

MATERIALS

Steelhead Bee

- Hook: Light wire Salmon Dry Fly Hook – Sizes 4 to 10.
Thread: Red.
Tail: Fox Squirrel Tail.
Body: Equal sections of brown, yellow, and brown dubbing.
Wing: Upright divided wings of Fox Squirrel Tail slanted forward at a 45° angle.
Hackle: Brown - stiff dry fly quality or soft wet fly quality –discussed within the instruction.

Tying Steps



STEP 1

Attach your thread of the shank and wrap back to a position above the point.



STEP 2

Select a small amount (30 to 50 fibers or so) of Fox Squirrel tail and trim the clump off the tail. Holding the very tip ends of the hair **tightly** in your left hand (for right-handed tyers) and begin pulling out all underfur and short fibers with your right hand. This evens the length of fibers (I usually prefer not to stack the hair for a more natural look) and removes unwanted shorter fibers thus reducing the bulk, making it easier to secure the fibers to the hook somewhere around the middle. Transfer the clump of remaining fibers for the tail to your left hand with the tips pointing to the left over the bend of the hook. Measure so the tips extend a shank length beyond the back end of the shank and tie in tightly. Trim the butt ends at a taper to the midpoint of the shank and finish wrapping over the butt ends securely. Advance the thread to a position slightly forward of three-quarters of the way up the shank.



STEP 3

Repeat the process with slightly less than double the amount of hair used for the tail. Again, it is important to clean out as much underfur and all possible shorter fibers **thoroughly** to minimize the amount of hair to be tied in. This time, transfer the hair to the right hand with the tips pointing to the right over the eye of the hook. Measure the hair and tie in so the wings are equal to the shank in length and are extending forward on top of the hook over the eye. Trim the butt ends at a taper to the back of the shank. This should overlap the taper of the butts from the tail and provide a smooth even underbody. Tie the butts down tightly and securely.



STEP 4

Lift up the hair for the wings and wrap the thread tightly underneath the hair and against the base to start lifting the hair up from the hook. Now take the hair and divide it into two equal wings. Start “criss-cross” wrapping between the wings, by alternately taking a few wraps from **behind** the near wing to **in front** of the far wing, then switch to wrapping from **in front** of the near wing to **behind** the far wing. Help divide and define the wings with every wrap.



STEP 5

Now you want to “post” the wing bases. Take the thread and wrap tightly around **only the hair** at the very base of each wing. For either waking or skating flies, this is an important step if you have upright divided wings. You may need to support the hair between each complete wrap to keep the wing from folding over and allowing your thread wrap to slip off. Post one wing then make a few wraps around the shank and then post the other. Work the thread up the base of each wing about a sixteenth of an inch or so. Once completed, add a drop of head cement to the base of each wing to help lock the thread wraps and stiffen the wings.



STEP 6

Finally, make several wraps **tightly** behind both wings to force them forward to about a 45° angle sloping over the eye. The final position should be as shown – a 45° slant toward over the eye and each wing at about a 45° angle off the vertical (90° between the wings) when viewed from the front. Again, add a drop or two of cement to lock the thread wraps and wing bases in place and help stiffen them up for their work ahead pushing back against the currents you fish them in.



STEP 7

Next is the body. of dubbing then yellow, then on the style of the create at this point. deduct the amount will occupy behind the remaining tail into thirds. This crowding the wing you're making a build the body in to the wing base.



Three equal sections consisting of brown, brown again. Decide fly you're going to If tied to be a Skater, of room the hackle the wing and divide space back to the way you'll not be or hackle space. If Waking style, then thirds all the way up

STEP 8

Select the hackle depending on the creating. With want hackle that



you will use style of tie you are either style, you has fibers about one

and one-half the length of the hook gape. If tied as a waking fly, simply add three or four turns of a soft, wet-fly grade hackle in front of the wing, tie it off at the back of the head space, build a small head and finish. If tied as a skater, select two good dry-fly quality hackles and trim the stem at the beginning of any soft fibers at the base. Strip off a few fibers from the base and tie them in one at a time good side (shiny side) down at the front of the body pointing back toward the hook bend. Tie in one on top of the other with good tight wraps. Advance your thread to the back of the head space. Wrap three to five equally spaced wraps behind the wing and the same number in front of the wing. The goal is to leave one stem-width worth of space between every wrap for the next hackle to fill in. Don't spread the wraps too wide or crowd them too close. Tie off the first feather but don't trim it yet, in case you need to unwrap and rewind it. Now wrap the second feather in between the wraps of the first, Move the feather forward and backward as you wrap to allow the fibers of the first hackle to move out of the way as you work forward. Tie off the second hackle as well then inspect and untie, unwrap, rewrap and tie off again as needed. Once you're satisfied make a few extra wraps, trim off the excess, wrap a small head, finish and you're done.



SIDE FINISH



TOP FINISH

Author Bio:

Kevin W. Erickson is the author of the new book published by Stackpole Books titled “Feather Craft - The Amazing Birds and Feathers Used in Classic Salmon Flies” Get a preview of what it has to offer at www.FeatherCraftBook.com.

He worked in the flyfishing business for over 25 years as a full-time professional outfitting anglers, booking flyfishing trips worldwide and instructing fly fishing, fly casting, and fly tying classes at all levels. He has traveled extensively and acted as host of angling groups to both fresh and saltwater destinations around the globe. Also a published fly tyer and author, his work includes contributions in Randy Stetzer’s book “Flies: the Best 1000” and Randall Kaufmann’s epic “Bonefishing.” He currently works in the software industry in Beaverton, Oregon.

A big thank you to FFI for sharing this pattern



Howard Nanto Photo



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

Please submit material for the next Garden Hackle by **May 12, 2019.**