



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 19 Issue 5

May 2019

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The Leader's Line

President Wayne Dixon Sr.



Heidi Myler Photo

Hello Fly Fishers,

Today I met with one of our members and we started talking about a 4 day rafting/ fly fishing trip coming up this June. As we spoke I noticed that most of our conversations turned toward the safety gear we were both going to bring. It made me think that I was going with someone who was safety conscious and that brought comfort to me personally. As the weather gets better and we venture out more it's important to think about safety in the same breath as what you're bringing for lunch. There is one thing that we should always do first to ensure our safety and that is to plan.

Create an itinerary for yourself and your family to know where you are and how to find you. I have also included some gear and safety tips from an article I read in Northwest Fly Fisher Magazine below.

The following safety tips were taken from an article in Northwest Fly Fisherman's online publication:

As with most outdoor sports, it is imperative to dress appropriately prior to heading out for a day of fishing so that you're as comfortable as possible. Being properly outfitted for the elements can make or break your trip. A GoreTex rain coat, a polar fleece jacket, GoreTex or neoprene waders and sturdy boots are a must. You may want to bring a pair of gloves for those early mornings and/or wet conditions. Plan on having some rain during your outing, sometimes you should just plan on it raining during your entire trip. Rain and/or overcast skies often improves the fishing dramatically so most Northwest Fly fishermen actually look forward to inclement weather.

Most of the fishing for Pacific Salmonids in the Northwest is done using 4 to 8 weight rods, depending upon the targeted species. A good reel, a good line, and plenty of backing are a must. Fly lines that incorporate multiple heads from floating to various sink tips often give the fly angler the edge needed to be successful. As for leaders, a standard salmon/steelhead leader of 9 1/2 feet will work for floating line presentations. If sink tips are used, a simple 4-5 foot length of strong leader is all that is required. Tippetts may vary between 5-15 lbs. depending upon which species is being targeted.

In addition to the above mentioned gear, one cannot under estimate the value of having a good pair of polarized glasses. Polarized lenses allow the angler to peer into water that would otherwise prevent the naked eye from distinguishing fish. Knowing where the fish are located and being able to observe your fly and how the fish react with it can make or break your day.

Because of the amount of rain we receive, especially in the winter/spring months, rivers that were safe one day can literally change overnight to become raging torrents that take fishers lives. Regardless of when you're here, pay careful attention to the weather and precipitation forecasts so that you're safe. When you're out fishing, it's wise to have a backup set of clothing handy should you get wet, hypothermia can set in quickly.

The Bottom line is to thoroughly plan for every possible challenge you may face when getting out and exploring the beautiful country we live and play in. Our member's safety is important to us and we want you to enjoy every minute of your adventure. Have a great spring and summer.

Peace,

Wayne



Coastal Cutthroat Trout Feeding Ecology Study

Anderson De Ruiter is a Senior Student at Evergreen State College. His Senior thesis is his research paper on Coastal Cutthroat done with the help of James Lossee of WDFW.

This study explores the diet of Coastal Cutthroat Trout in South Puget Sound. The objective of this project is to identify prey organisms and determine caloric intake of each type. Cutthroat stomach samples were collected non-lethally in local inlets, identified and organized by family. These prey organism families are then processed through a bomb calorimeter to determine the caloric value.

Anderson will be available to meet members, discuss his project and answers questions.

See you on May 21st for a fascinating program on our beloved Sea Runs.

Gene Rivers

Outings

Jim McAllister Outings chair



Greetings Fellow Fly Fishers,

Here is the outing lineup for the next month or so. Max Droege is scheduling the mid-week group to fish McIntosh lake. The Saturday outing will be my guests at Scott Lake.

What: Midweek Fly Fishing at Lake McIntosh

When: Wednesday May 22nd 8:00am—to whenever the bite is off

Where: McIntosh Lake boat ramp

Ghillie: Max is traveling-just meet at lake

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 device 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.

What: Fly Fishing for Rainbow trout at Scott Lake

When: Saturday June 1st (Meet-up at Scott Lake boat ramp at 11:00am)

Where: Scott Lake

Ghillie: Jim McAllister 360-970-2953

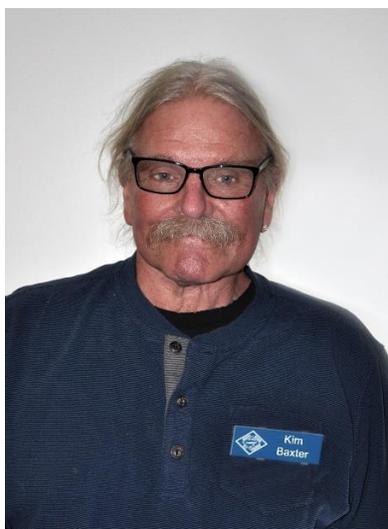
Gear: 3 to 5 wt. rods with intermediate slow sink line and 7-9ft leader and 2-3ft tippet. Bring an assortment of aquatic patterns on 8 to 16 size hooks. Bring appropriate clothing and safety gear. A boat or other floating device is preferred to effectively fish this lake. Bring water and a snack or lunch if you wish. Special Note: Scott Lake is a private lake and SSFF fishes this lake as guests of the McAllisters. SSFF fishes following the kids derby that morning so note the special start time for the outing.

Membership

By Randy Allen Vice President



Please welcome a new members that recently joined the club!



Kim Baxter

Welcome, **Kim Baxter!** In the early 70's our new member roomed with his buddy, Gary, who was just starting his guide service in Tillamook, Oregon. Kim had used level-wind reels for years, but had not yet fly fished. Fast-forward to the 80's when Kim's phone rings It's Gary - he will have a boat in Calgary, Canada and vacancies in the client list allowed time for Kim.

It didn't take much convincing to lure Kim to a river with 2,500 trout per mile. Fly rod setups were new to Kim, so he took Gary's tutorial on the banks of the Bow River. A few more minutes and Kim was fishing from the boat. There was a learning curve, and Kim landed 40 trout on his last day. Nice going, Kim!

Locally Kim lived on the Hood Canal, worked oyster farms, and fished the salt near the Hamma Hamma River outlet. Moving to Olympia continued his access to salt water.

A long-time friend of Jeffrey Delia's, Kim was delighted to hear Jeffrey's program in March. Kim is also a devotee of sea-run cutthroat trout fishing. During winters Kim fishes about three weeks on the Belize saltwater flats.

Kim - we're glad to have you with us!

Welcome **Bruce Lincoln!**

Bruce's schedule has kept him away from the club, but that's no excuse not to introduce him. We'll run his intro with a photo when we catch up with him.

Bruce was raised in southern Idaho. As a kid he loved rivers and streams and fly fishing...oh my! Along the way he realized moving waters - rivers and streams - are his spiritual center. You might say a river runs through him.

He's spent many years on rivers from southern California to the Arctic Ocean on a variety of craft. Sometimes it was for white-water, sometimes it was just to see what was there.

About 15 years ago he began gear-fishing for salmon and steelhead. Bruce's rationale was that this was a good excuse to see more rivers. He also claims he was a poor fisherman, but recently he remembered that feeling of being *really* connected to the water - that same feeling he had when he was a kid fly fishing.

Bruce has come around full circle, and he's gone back to his roots. And flies. And *fly rods*. He says he doesn't mind fly fishing on saltwater or lakes, but a *river*....the rivers are runnin' through him again.

Welcome back Bruce! And welcome to the South Sound *FLY* Fishers!

Randy





Greetings Anglers,

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





Dues and Donations

For those members that haven't taken care of it 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 me at one of our meetings. 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: SSFF PO Box 2792 Olympia WA 98507.

If you would like to donate to one of the Club's special funds, just indicate how the money is to be deposited in the notation portion of your check. The club has several dedicated funds and they are all part of carrying out the club's mission.

The Alan Harger fund sends club checks to the NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy to help fund this educational program designed for young people.

Then there is the Sea Run Cutthroat Fund dedicated to supporting this iconic fishery in the South Sound and in Hood Canal areas. This fund began when the Women's Fly Fisher Club made a major donation in support of SSFF's efforts to perpetuate Sea Run populations in Puget Sound and Hood Canal. Much of this work is performed now by WDFW as part of the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition efforts to support these fish.

Lastly the club has a Munn Lake Fund used to make donations to ensure that Munn Lake remains a quality fishery in Thurston County. The money is used for the extra food required to feed the trout raised for Munn Lake.

Please mail your checks to: South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507.

South Sound Fly Fishers is a Non-profit corporation registered with the State of Washington. South Sound Fly Fishers is a tax exempt organization under Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (3). Donations to SSFF are tax deductible to the full extent of IRS guidelines. Thank you for your donations.

Pioneers and Legends

By Joe Uhlman

Note: This is the third installment of a story by Past President Joe Uhlman. Joe knew many of these pioneers and legends as good friends and fishing partners. Every one of these people helped establish the Pacific Northwest as a world class fly fishing destination.

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



Bruce Ferguson

By Joe Uhlman (Part3)

What was so wonderful about Bruce was his willingness to share information with like minded fly fishers. Bruce was always quick to acknowledge the benefits of the information passed along by other fishers. He relished seeing others catching Salmon using the information and tips he passed along to them. It was the mutual sharing of ideas the Bruce liked. It was always pure joy for him to swap flies with a fellow angler.

Often Bruce would give a variety of flies to a fly fisher who was packing up for a special fishing trip. For example, when Bruce learned I was making a weeklong fishing trip to the west coast of Vancouver Island, he provided me with one of the herring pattern flies he had designed.

I tied it on my tippet sometime on the first day of the trip and found the fish readily took the fly. It was obvious that the size, colors and movement in the water were just right for the fish. The fly proved so successful that I just kept fishing with it the rest of the trip. Finally by the afternoon of the last day, it had been pretty well chewed up so I cut it off for fear I would lose it.

On returning to Olympia, Bruce asked me if the Herring pattern fly had been productive. I told him that thanks to his herring fly, it had been one of my most successful fishing trips up in Canada. Bruce was thrilled and he wanted to know everything about how we used the fly. His questions were rapid fire. He wanted to know exactly where we fished. What kind of weather we had. What the air and water temperature was when the salmon took the fly. What were the depths and tidal currents in the fish holding areas. It was pure Bruce; he was always curious about such details.

Bruce was happy to help fellow anglers in the salt water no matter where they fished or what part of the world they came from. I still have that fly in my special fly box. This box is holding all the “retired” flies that I now consider well used mementoes of some memorable fishing trips.

Another thing I can say about Bruce was his adherence to the fishing rules and regulations. I remember that once I caught a large Salmon that was hooked deep and was pretty well gone by the time I could release it back to the saltwater. It was a hatchery fish and I decided that it was best to just keep it rather than try and revive and release it. Bruce said “very well, but if you keep the fish you have your limit and you are done for the day.” Bruce was right and there no point in arguing. I clipped off my flies and put my rods away for the rest of the day. As I look back on this episode it was obvious that Bruce had fought hard for years to establish many of the rules and regulations that constituted the bed rock of sound fisheries management. It was to be expected he followed these fishing rules and regulations to the letter. Bruce was just that kind of guy.

Before I end this segment, there is one thought I want to share with you. Sometimes I’ve heard people talk about the abundance of Coastal Cutthroat in the waters of Western Washington and that ending catch and release as a regulatory policy wouldn’t make much difference.

Bruce said many times that Coastal Cutthroat had to always be protected by regulation. He along with other experienced old hands knew that returning to the days of unrestricted killing of these wild fish, would soon doom them to extinction. Bruce said that entire populations of these fish could be ended within the matter of a few spawning cycles if people were free to catch and kill these fish. This is a scary thought and one of the reasons why SSFF and PSFF and all the other clubs that cherish fishing for Sea Runs, must be ever vigilant to maintain “catch and release” in the State Regulations. It might even be a good idea to establish catch and release when these trout when caught in fresh water.

So, with that thought I leave you until the next and final part of my story of Bruce Ferguson.

2019 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



2019 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is set and ready to go. We have 20 amazing boys and girls registered for the event. All their essays and letters of recommendation are in and it appears we have another great group of kids. The Academy is June 23-30 on Hicks Lake at The Gwinwood Center in Lacey. We have a fantastic instructor lineup with FFI/CCI casting instructors, fly tying professionals and conservation experts. Last year we had over 50 volunteers. The 2019 Academy would not take place if it was not for the generous support from fly fishing clubs, TU local chapters and their state Councils and Chapters as well as businesses and private donors.

The kids will be fishing at new ponds and the Deschutes River in Thurston County. Everyone is welcome to visit us during the week to learn what is happening (please call first to make sure we are available), if you are available for guiding, we could use your help, especially in the evenings on the river. If you want to help - please contact Jim Brosio 360-941-9947 or Mike Clancy 253-278-0061. Seriously folks, we could really use your help with the guiding in the evening on the river. It's really not guiding, it's being there to make sure the kids are safe, but you could share your experience on fishing a river with them. We will provide the transportation to the sites.

Mike Clancy, Co-Director, www.nwycffa.com

"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 FISHING RULE CHANGE

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
600 Capitol Way North, Olympia, WA 98501-1091

<http://wdfw.wa.gov>

Fishing closed on the Chehalis River and some tributaries

Action: Closes fishing on the Chehalis River and some tributaries beginning May 13.

Effective date: May 13, 2019 through June 30, 2019.

Species affected: All species.

Location: Chehalis River, South Fork Chehalis River, North Fork Newaukum River, South Fork Newaukum River and Skookumchuck River.

Reason for action: Low predicted spring Chinook returns make them more vulnerable to fishing pressure. Spring Chinook stage in the Chehalis River, South Fork Chehalis River, North and South forks of the Newaukum Rivers and the Skookumchuck River. Any incidental encounters of spring Chinook during game fishing could subject this fish to stress, injury, or death, which during a year of low predicted returns could harm future runs.

Additional information: WDFW previously closed the Chehalis to fishing for spring chinook:
<https://fortress.wa.gov/dfw/erules/efishrules/erule.jsp?id=2304>.

The Chehalis River was scheduled to open for fishing for gamefish on May 25 but will remain closed to all fishing through June 30.

For more information regarding fishing regulations and opportunities please visit our website at <https://wdfw.wa.gov> or download our free Fish Washington mobile application from your app store.

Pocket Water

The best fly fishers I know try not to make the same mistakes over and over again; instead they strive to make new and interesting mistakes and try and remember what they learned from them.

--John Gierach



Photo by Howard Nanto



Club Bulletin Board:

Weekday outing for club members -May 22nd at McIntosh Lake in Thurston County. See calendar at new club website. Address: southsoundflyfishers.com

Help with the Embrace A Stream project to conduct a Benthic Index of Biotic Integrity (BIBI) Survey, AKA bug sampling on McLane Creek. Meet at the McLane Grange and either walk or car pool to the collection site. Meet-up at 931 Delphi Rd SW, Olympia, WA 98512-9464, on **Saturday, May 18, 2019 at 11 AM – 2 P.**

Club Dues for 2019-- 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. Thank you for supporting the SSFF mission of conservation and education through fly fishing.

Please help our First Responders by keeping the Fire Station's emergency vehicle driveway clear of parked cars 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!





FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

FLY OF THE MONTH

PURPLE HAZE



Published by Bob Bates

Washington Council FFI

OPENING COMMENTS

Ilene Hirsh from Salem, OR called this a variation of the Parachute Adams as she tied it at the 25th Fly fishing Expo, in Albany, OR and later in an email. So out of curiosity I did an internet search. First I tried just "Purple Haze" and received 2.9 million hits for vegetation (cannabis), Jimmy Hendricks, etc. When I entered "Purple Haze fishing fly" I had only 139,000 hits, but there was a bewildering array of patterns: dry flies, wet flies, emergers, bead heads, streamers, etc. all named purple haze. Also two or three different people were given credit for designing it. When I looked at just parachutes there were many ways of tying it. The only common factor with this attractor was it caught a lot of fish. People caught fish in streams and lakes. Even my doctor used it, as does Ilene, on the Madison river.

Ilene wrote in an e-mail "It's used to match BWO, duns, drakes, and tricos." From the internet search it works great in the spring time and in the fall to match different hatches. Just change the size to match the insect. You can also change the hackle colors to match the insects. So how do you fish it.

For streams I always think "drag free drift." You want the fly to look like a drifting insect. If there a "v" wake coming off the fly that's drag, so change your ways. Cast upstream with a slight hook in the leader so the fly is slightly off to the side of the line. Cast across stream with an upstream mend. Remember when mending a line on the water, you cause drag. Cast downstream with a wiggle cast, and hope the fish hits before the line straightens. Another way of achieving the same effect is to throw your line up a little. It will fall with a series of curves like a wiggle cast. If you cast too high the line will land at your feet.

In lakes, remember the wind. If you can cast and let the fly sit, great. However, there are times when you want the fly to look alive, so wiggle it a little. If there is wind, use the above suggestions for moving water, and have fun.

MATERIALS LIST

Hook: Tiemco 100, sizes 10 – 18 (Or other dry fly hook)

Thread: Black or color to match body

Tail: Natural brown elk

Body: Flex Floss, Purple, light green, light blue, and black seem best

Post: Calf tail or poly yarn, white

Hackle: Grizzly and brown

Thorax: Peacock herl

Tying steps



STEP 1

Start with a good thread base, and leave the thread at the point.

STEP 2

Tie on a small bunch of elk hair. Clip off excess flared elk hair.



Step 3

Tie in a piece of Flex Floss. Be sure it is secured to right in front of the tail. Wrap the thread forward to about the two thirds point and trim excess Flex Floss.



STEP 4

Attach a bundle of poly or calf tail at the one quarter point.



STEP 5

Pick up the poly or calf tail, and wind thread around it to stiffen the post, and create a base for the hackle. At first you might have to hold the poly up as you wind the thread around it. Leave the thread at the back of the post.



STEP 6

Prepare two feathers, brown and grizzly, by trimming off some of the fibers at the base. If you use Whiting 100 feathers you must trim the fibers rather than pulling them off and thinning the shaft. Secure the feathers, tips forward and dull side down, one at a time to the shank of the hook. Wind thread over the feathers to the base of the post, hold both feathers upright along the post and wind thread around feathers and up post. Return thread to the hook shank, behind the post.



STEP 7

Wrap the Flex Floss forward to the post, secure and trim. Secure one peacock herl in front of post and return thread to rear of post.



STEP 8

Wrap peacock herl rearward and secure behind post. Trim excess.



STEP 9

Wrap both hackles together down the post. Make each wrap tightly below the other. Make at least three wraps with each hackle. Anchor the feathers by passing the thread over the material there by catching the feathers and around the post. If you hold the feathers at a downward angle, just a little, it helps capture the material.



STEP 10

Keep tension on the thread and wrap around the post 3 -4 times. Apply glue to the thread after the first two wraps and continue wrapping the thread around the post. This will anchor the thread. Trim the excess feather.

STEP 11

Half hitch or whip finish around the post and under the hackle. Trim poly to give a shank length post.



CLOSING COMMENTS

As I watched Ilene tie this pattern I thought it be a pretty fly for the Fly of the Month. It wasn't until later that I found out how popular and useful it is. Tie a few and test them in your waters. Ilene, thank you for reviewing and editing the article.

Thank you FFI for sharing this pattern



Howard Nanto Photo



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS -2019 Officers and Directors

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: Ben Dennis flyrodranch@comcast.net

Education: Max Doerge mdoerge@live.com

Fundraising: John Sabo chrisonquince@comcast.net

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

Outings: Jim McAllister Jimspacmule@msn.com

Programs: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Social Media/Outreach : Kody Eltzinga kelzingart@gmail.com

WSCFFI Representative: Mike Clancy mtclancy39@comcast.net

Website (old): www.southsoundflyfishers.org

New website: southsoundflyfishers.com

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.

Please submit material for the next Garden Hackle by **June 9th, 2019.**