



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

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All club activities and programs are cancelled until further notice. Club officers will notify you by email when club activities resume.

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## THE LEADER'S LINE

By President Gene Rivers

I hope all of you are safe and doing well during these unusual times. I've washed my hands more in the last month than I did during all of 2019. Fishing is part of our lives but not all of our lives. We will eventually be able to enjoy fishing again and when we can it will seem even more precious than it was just a short time ago. The club will return to a new normal however nobody knows when. In the meantime stay safe, follow the advice of medical professionals and public health officials and do everything you can to be well.

I want to share with you an essay that was published recently by my favorite fly shop in West Yellowstone—**Blue Ribbon Flies**. The article was actually written by George Carlin, whom most of us knew as a comedian. George and his wife both passed away in 2008. It is ironic that at a time like this that George's words are food for thought at times like these.

## *Something To Ponder*

The paradox of our time in history is that we have taller buildings but shorter tempers, wider freeways but narrower viewpoints. We spend more but have less, we buy more but enjoy less. We have bigger houses and smaller families, more conveniences but less time. We have more degrees but less sense, more knowledge, but less judgement, more experts, yet more problems, more medicine but less wellness.

We drink too much, smoke too much, spend too recklessly, laugh too little, drive too fast, get too angry, stay up too late, get too tired, read too little, watch TV too much, and pray too seldom.

We have multiplied our possessions, but reduced our values. We talk too much, love too seldom, and hate too often.

We've learned to make a living, but not a life. We've added years to life not life to our years. We've been all the way to the moon and back, but have trouble crossing the street to meet a new neighbor. We conquered outer space but not inner space. We've done larger things but not better things.

We've cleaned up the air, but polluted the soul. We've conquered the atom, but not our prejudice. We write more, but learn less. We plan more but accomplish less. We've learned to rush but not to wait. We build more computers to hold more information, to produce more copies than ever, but we communicate less and less.

These are the times of fast food and slow digestion, big men and small character, steep profits and shallow relationships. These are the days of two incomes but more divorce, fancier houses but broken homes. These are days of quick trips disposable diapers, throwaway morality, one night stands, overweight bodies, and pills that do everything from cheer, to quiet, to kill. It is a time when there is much in the showroom window and nothing in the stockroom. A time when technology can bring this letter to you, and a time when you can choose either to share this insight or to just hit delete.

Remember to spend some time with your loved ones, because they are not going to be around forever.

Remember, say a kind word to someone who looks up to you in awe, because that little person soon will grow up and leave your side.

Remember to give a warm hug to the one next to you, because that is the only treasure you can give with your heart and it doesn't cost a cent.

Remember to say, 'I love you' to your partner and loved ones, but most of all mean it. A kiss and an embrace will mend hurt when it comes from deep inside you.

Remember to hold hands and cherish the moment for someday that person will not be there again.

Give time to love, give time to speak! And give time to share the precious thoughts in your mind.

And always remember, life is not measured by the number of breaths that we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

**George Carlin**

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All recreational fishing remains closed across Washington as part of the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" proclamation. All official updates pertaining to fishing and hunting are posted on the WDFW website. Please check this website before planning to fish on public waters in the State of Washington.

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**The Garden Hackle newsletter will publish on schedule and contain articles by SSFF officers and members after the Governor's proclamation is lifted and club activities resume.**

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