



South Sound Fly Fishers

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 25 Issue 7

July 2025

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Leader's Line

Jared Wood, Club President



Let me begin this month's column with a great big 'Thank You' to everyone who helped support our 2025 SSFF Auction. It was a wonderful success with fantastic deals, delicious food, fun conservations, and a few visitors who are not yet members of the club. The local Tumwater Civil Air Patrol was also meeting in the building, so we invited them down for lunch and exposed over 20 youth to the sport of fly fishing. Once all our receipts have been logged, we should be well over \$3,000 raised! We are on track to have donated over \$14,000 in the last 2 ½ years to all the groups we support. Again, thank you to all who helped set up, organize, manage the food, and donated or bought items. This was a great event for our club.



Lee & Brenda tracking auction sales

Your Board of Directors discussed and approved a few items this month. Dave Field is a long-time member and will be awarded the Dale Sweeney 'Lifetime Achievement' award for his significant contributions to our club. He was continuously on the BOD from 2011 - 2020 performing multiple roles concurrently including Treasurer, Garden Hackle editor, and Secretary. Dave also performed the investigation to reinstate the IRS filings with WA Secretary of State in 2014, and rewrote the SSFF By-Laws. He is largely responsible for the SSFF existing today, and how our club operates. We will hopefully be recognizing him and his service at our next meeting. The Board also approved to bestow an honorary lifetime membership to Dave Field, Joe Jacquet, Mel Hurd, and Joe Uhlman. All are long-time members who cannot make it out to our monthly club meeting as often as they like. Creating this honorary status will keep their names on our membership roster so they can continue to receive our newsletter and receive the updates on our club which they spent so many years contributing to.

Like last month, we will be setting up our casting lanes and having practice (or friendly competition) for anyone wanting to work on their casting skills. **The casting lanes will be set up by 5:30**, and we will have food provided by the club with our normal club business still starting at 7PM, followed by more casting skills. This month we hope to have a few vertical target hoops there to use for practicing your loop control. We are also looking to hold a club casting fair this fall for our members to get certified through Bronze, Silver, or Gold level in the FFI Casting Skills development program. More information will follow once we have the date and instructors identified.

Lastly, we want to recognize and thank all the volunteers who helped at the Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy. This is a program we donate to every year and many of our members spent multiple days working with over 18 youth on fly fishing knowledge and skills. These kids were very appreciative, polite, and it was reported that they had lots of energy!

-Tight Lines, and enjoy this nice weather,

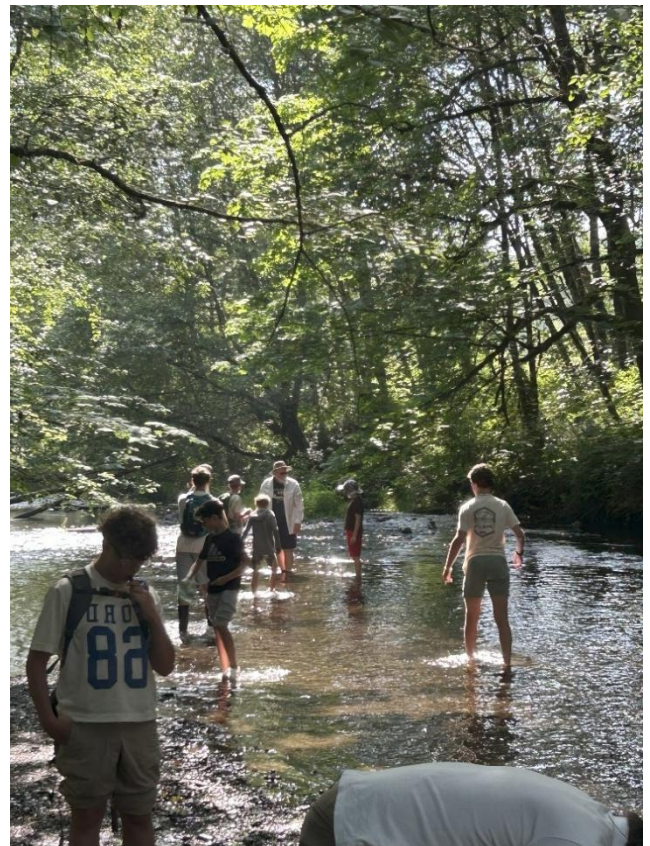
Jared Wood

SSFF President

president@southsoundflyfishers.org



2025 NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy Students



2025 NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy Students in the river



We have completed our seven-week casting lessons for our newest enthusiastic fly-fishers.

I don't think it's too much to remind you again who has done the work to teach these students. So, when you see them, please thank: **Tobey Anderson, Tim Barkley, Murray and Ann Boulware, Mike Clancy, Max Doerge, Don Freeman, Bert French, Jim McAllister, Tim Mettier, Todd Parker, Jared Wood, and Lee Yeager.** THANKS for all you do to support these students!

And this month's meeting program will be casting. Murray Boulware and Tim Bartley will set out their FFI casting skill level testing lanes to give you the experience of target and distance accuracy.

What good is distance if you can't place your fly where that fish is? Accuracy any day. Test yourself against those casting target lanes. Then watch your fishing success improve! I'm looking forward to this month's meeting!

If you cannot attend this month, in August at our picnic we plan to have some fun casting events. And September should still provide enough daylight before the meeting for casting. Join our monthly meetings! We're here to keep helping you.

FLY TYING NEWS:

We have set our fall dates for the Introduction to Fly Tying. We are avoiding holidays, so you'll see a couple of gaps. Classes will be Monday nights from 6:00 - 8:30 PM: Sept 29, Oct 6, (not 13), 20, 27, Nov 3, 10, 17, (not 24), Dec 1, and 8.

We also plan "Lab nights" after every second class: Thursdays from 6:00 - 8:30 PM Oct 9, 30, Nov 13, and Dec 4. Labs are to provide you more individualized attention from the instructors. We'll also share some additional tips that will help your tying experience. There are many ways to tie the fly, and you'll learn slightly different methods.

Classes include the fly pattern instructional handouts and enough materials to tie about 10 of that week's pattern. . . which you'll do as homework between the classes.

Do NOT buy any materials or tying equipment/tools. See us first for suggestions. And use our new rotary vises and tools for the class thanks to our Phil Jaramillo and the Kingfisher Fly Shop in Missoula, MT, who donated the new vises. It's a pleasure to offer them this year!

You'll complete the class with 80 flies in your box that you tied. Flies that will catch fish about anywhere. These are proven, recognized patterns. When our team decided on these flies, they knew what they were doing from personal experience.

Fly Tying - Come see if it's for you. Enrollment will be through the city of Olympia Parks department. The class fee will be determined based on material costs when we order everything for the students. The City isn't yet set up to register, and I'll provide you those particulars as we get closer to the start date. We can take 15 students. Talk to us at the meetings for more info.

Here is our annual education program:

Introduction to Fly Fishing - Taught during February - March.

What is fly fishing all about? Is this something I want to try?

Students learn fly fishing gear: rods, reels, lines and leaders, waders, boots, and floatation devices (boats). We discuss locating fish in rivers, lakes, and the salt water, as well as local fish species you'll encounter. Our evening on entomology teaches about the life cycles of various insects, and which artificial flies imitate them.

Students also learn three useful fly-fishing knots.

We include two Saturday mornings to introduce you to the basics of casting a fly rod.

Enrollment is through the City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation.

Fly Casting - Taught spring-early summer, seven weeks, once per week. This class is for single-handed rod casting (not two-handed spey rods). You will cast a fly line for different situations including the wind. You'll also learn to "mend" your line to overcome the effect of moving river water on your line.

Introduction to Fly Tying - Taught weekly in the fall. Students receive plenty of individual attention as they learn to tie eight flies. After completing their homework, students will have tied 80 flies for their fly-boxes.

We teach a variety of flies useful anywhere including nymphs, streamers, and dry flies. After completion students can apply their skills to numerous other, similar flies.

Please contact Randy with questions. <https://southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/>



2025 NW Youth Conservation & Fly
Fishing Academy Classroom



Each month, the Conservation Team looks for opportunities for Club members to volunteer to perform field conservation work, particularly in support of State or local agencies' conservation actions.

In the February Garden Hackle, I highlighted two Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) conservation volunteer litter clean-up activities near Olympia. These activities, associated with the Chehalis and Satsop Rivers, are still open to volunteers. In the May Garden Hackle, I added a new conservation volunteer activity, litter clean-up at the northern part of the John's River, near Westport, WA. This action is also

still open to volunteers. **There are no new WDFW conservation activities near us.** If you are interested in volunteering for these open activities or finding out what volunteer activities may be available in areas where you fish or visit in other parts of the State, go to <https://wdfw.wa.gov/get-involved/volunteer> and hit the "See all volunteer opportunities" heading box.

In the March Garden Hackle, I highlighted the Stream Team of Thurston County. There is still conservation volunteer work locally that will be on-going through September for McLane Creek Nature Trail maintenance. In the June Garden Hackle, I highlighted Stream Team volunteer opportunities for Salmon Steward docents for the Deschutes River. Although Salmon Stewardship is still a few months away, this summer is the time to get trained (a 2-3-hour activity) to be a docent. **There are new Stream Team activities starting this month; however, you will have to act quickly.** There will be Stream Bug Monitoring on July 10 on Schneider Creek. In addition, Second Saturday Restoration at Sapp Road Park on July 12 will start to focus on weed barrier removal, soil aeration and invasive removal. I should note that many of the Stream Team opportunities fill quickly or have short lead times (not conducive to the schedule of our Club's Garden Hackle). If you have any interest in Stream Team activities, I recommend you go to <https://streamteam.info/> and register (if you are not already registered with Stream Team) as well as sign up for their newsletter at <https://streamteam.info/newsletter-sign-up/>.

In the May Garden Hackle, I provided information on the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group's (SPSSEG) volunteer docent training for the Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail this November. This opportunity remains available. More information (presently last year's) can be found at <https://spsseg.org/kennedy-creek-salmon-trail/>. If you would like to volunteer as a docent this year, please RSVP by email to kennedycreek@spsseg.org with the subject KCST Volunteer. Attendance at a training class will be required in the fall.

I have been highlighting volunteer opportunities with the fish biologist at the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG). The intent is to find more "hands-on" conservation work. There are no present opportunities. The next opportunity will likely be from mid-August to mid-October. During this time, an adult fish trap at the mouth of the Union River has been operated 24 hours per day for several years by research interns and volunteers. The activity has collected data on adult summer chum abundance and has obtained adult chum for artificial spawning and stock supplementation. My understanding is this is typically a four-hour activity, starting and ending in Belfair, WA. You will need to register as a

volunteer with HCSEG. There has been no news to date on this activity. I will call the fish biologist and provide additional information at the July 15, 2025, SSFF Club meeting.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION OPPORTUNITY

This month, the Conservation Team is also providing an opportunity for members to increase their knowledge of conservation and learn about the front-end planning for a restoration project. The restoration project is the Duckabush Estuary Restoration Project of which HCSEG is a part. This project is an effort to restore salmon habitat, reduce flood risk, and improve the ecosystem for shellfish and waterfowl, as well as to improve traffic flow and safety. This project realigns highway 101 and removes the old bridges and highway over the Duckabush River. An excellent explanation of this project can be found at

https://youtu.be/xpXXZ7cAR_k.

This summer, the HCSEG's Estuary Education Tour series has returned to the Duckabush with a lineup of guests presenting a variety of science topics. Although some of the walking tours have already occurred, three remain. The tours are on Wednesday afternoons, July 30, August 27, and September 24, 2025. Through these walking tours, you will gain a better understanding of the science involved as well as learn how the Duckabush estuary will be transformed through restoration. More information on these tours can be found at

[**Duckabush Project Tour Series - HCSEG**](#). My recommendation would be to attend, if you can, the August 27 walking tour which Clayton David, the HCSEG salmon and steelhead biologist, is scheduled to lead.

PILCHUCK RIVER RESTORATION

This month's conservation article provides information on partial completion of a larger conservation project on the Pilchuck River, the first major tributary of the Snohomish River (see map below).



As background, The Tulalip Tribes, in collaboration with the City of Snohomish, removed the Pilchuck River Diversion Dam in the Summer of 2020. This action restored fish access to over 37 miles of priority habitat for the salmonid species found in the Snohomish River Basin, including Chinook, Steelhead, coho, bull trout, and others. Following the removal of the dam in 2020, Chinook, Coho, and Pink salmon have been frequently observed above the old dam site, completing their life's journey and spawning in the Pilchuck River. Since the dam was removed, efforts have focused on creating critical habitat for juvenile salmon as well as spawning grounds for returning adult salmon. In 2024, work began on the Middle Pilchuck Habitat Restoration Project near the town of Granite Falls. Log jacks (four to six logs in the shape of a triangular pyramid with a large rock in the center, all connected with wire) and rock collars (logs tied to large rocks with metal bands or collars) were strategically placed in the river near the town of Granite Falls. Significant work was completed in 2024. The last of the project restoration work in the middle section of the Pilchuck River is planned for August of 2025.

In June 2025, restoration of an 8-mile stretch of the upper section of the Pilchuck River, east of Granite Falls, was successfully concluded. The Tulalip Tribes and Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) worked together to build 30 log jams (from 320 logs). The collaborative effort aims to slow water flow and restore salmon habitat, using downed trees and storm debris.

The project is part of DNR's Large Wood Supply Initiative to source trees from DNR-managed land to support partners' salmon recovery projects. Including staff time, DNR put approximately \$275,000 into the project. The Tulalip Tribes, DNR's partner in this endeavor, supported by a \$600,000 National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant, obtained necessary permits and managed placement of the logs by contracting Chinook helicopters. The work was completely done on DNR land and has successfully enhanced the recovery of threatened (under the Endangered Species Act) salmon.

I wrote this article based on the following: 1) a Seattle television news report; 2) an April 17, 2025, letter to the public from Snohomish County Surface Water Management, regarding the upcoming Middle Pilchuck Habitat Restoration Project; 3) and a June 24, 2025, newspaper article, addressing the 2025 work on the upper section of the Pilchuck River, by Eliza Aronson of The Daily Herald (an online newspaper from Everett at <https://www.heraldnet.com/>). I will continue to follow this conservation action and certainly hope to see as much success in August in the middle section of the Pilchuck River.



South Sound Fly Fishers
Membership Report - July 2025
July, 2025

Total paid membership as of this date is 89

Please welcome our new members who have joined the South Sound Fly Fishers. Also, please reach out to them and offer any assistance or advice regarding fly fishing in our local waters.

New Members

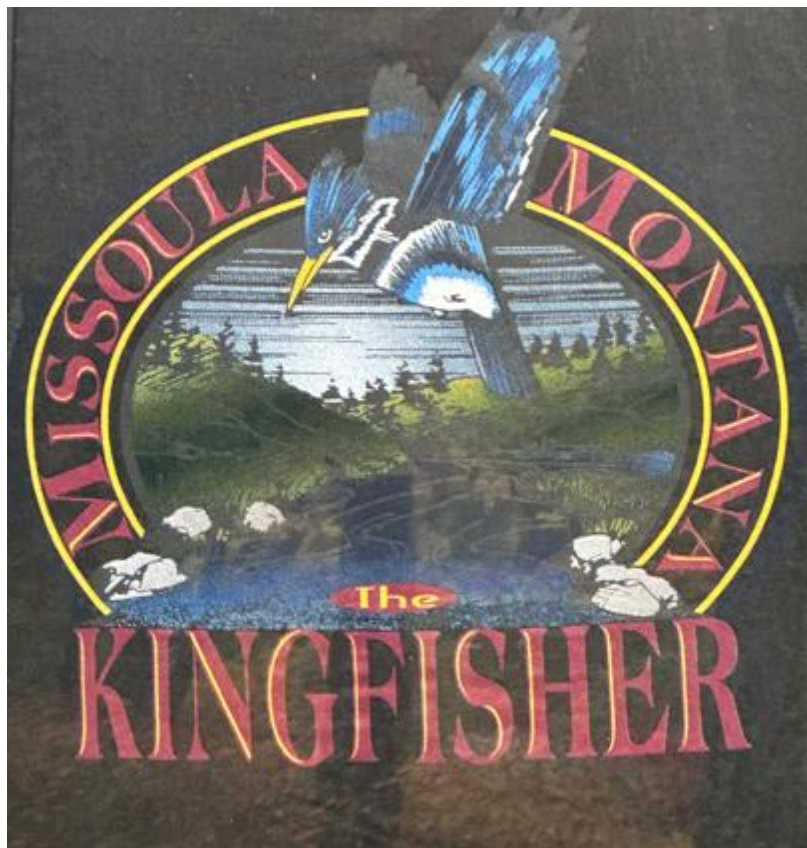
Arnie Peterson - Joined the SSFF on 5/20/25. Arnie learned of the SSFF club through a neighbor and internet investigation. He is from the Olympia area for the past two years. He is interested in pursuing trout and any other fish that bites his own hand tied flies. Arnie is interested in fishing lakes, streams and salt water. He was introduced to fly fishing when he was 19 years old resulting in many years of experience. His experience includes fishing small streams in Wisconsin and lakes in Oregon and Washington. Arnie, welcome to the SSFF Club.

Clark Reid-McKee - Joined the SSFF on 5/20/25 - Clark and his wife moved to the Olympia area about one year ago. Clark's career took him to Prescott, AZ where he worked as a Physician Assistant at the Veterans Administration Hospital which he retired from. He heard about the SSFF through the Olympia Parks and Recreation. Since then, he has taken our Flyfishing 101 and Casting Class. Clark was introduced to Flyfishing about 50 years ago and is now getting a chance to pursue it further. He would like to pursue fishing lakes, salt water and rivers. Clark, welcome to the SSFF Club.

Molly Weirauch - Joined the SSFF on 6/17/25. Profile not available as of this date.

Thank You - Kingfisher Fly Shop

While returning from snowbirding in Mesquite NV, Phil and Barb Jaramillo took the opportunity to detour into Montana not only to enjoy the beautiful drive but mainly to present a beautiful gift to the owners of Kingfisher Fly Shop. The gift, a lovely brass statue of a fisherman releasing a fish, was presented to John Potter, the owner's son and Roland Tomsic, Manager. The statue was presented as a symbol of our gratitude for the generous donation of fifteen vises, tools and cases made to South Sound Fly Fishers. Be assured, the gift was received with surprise and delight. See photos below.



kingfisherflyshop.com



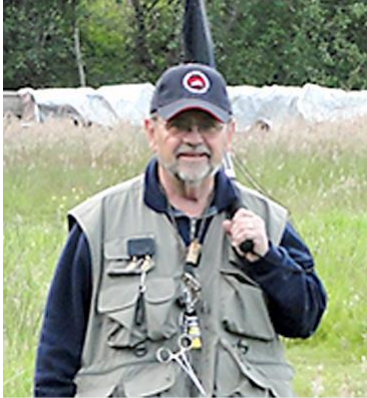
John Potter & Roland Tomsic (Kingfisher) -
Phil Jaramillo (SSFF) award presentation



John Potter & Roland Tomsic (Kingfisher)

Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International (WSCFFI) & Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



The Academy

The Academy is now over and it was another successful event. Wonderful presentations by so many talented instructors. The staff again did an incredible job in organizing the event. They started with 18 boys and girls, but for various reasons, four went home either sick or just didn't want to be there for the week. But, the students that completed the event were wonderful and conducted themselves appropriately. Looking forward to next year again at Panhandle Lake 4H Camp, West of Shelton, what a perfect facility for the Academy.

Fly Fishing for Searun Cutthroat in South Puget Sound by Mel Hurd

Again, we're offering Mel Hurd's 20 page booklet for a donation, recommend \$10 minimum.

You may purchase the booklet at our next membership meeting on July 15th. You may also purchase the booklet by going to southsoundflyfishers.org, click on the Sea Run Cutthroat Fishing Guide under the Donations and Support tab, complete the form and click "Request Booklet" next "Donate - Pay Pal. Or use this link to go directly to the form southsoundflyfishers.org

I'll guarantee that you'll enjoy this booklet. It tells you everything you need to know about fishing for searun cutthroat in salt water in the Olympia area.

I highly recommend that you go to www.flyfishersinternational.org to learn what's going on nationally. The website has improved about 100%. I'm not sure who manages the website, but whoever is managing it, is doing a wonderful job. Lots of new items to read. The FFI is conducting the annual "FlyFest" national event in Grand Rapids, Michigan, September 26-27.

Outings

Jesse Bakke, Chair



Hello Everyone!

My name is Jesse and I am South Sound Fly Fishers new Outings Chair. Thank you for welcoming me to the family. I am new to Olympia and really looking forward to all of our future events together.

For the month of July our outing will be the annual **Cowlitz River Campout!** Some of our members will be camping at **Blue Creek Boat Launch on Friday July 18th to Sunday July 20th.**

There are several campsites and RV spaces available that are first come first served. Depending on club interest I can be available to go on Thursday and try to save some spots. We will have sign ups at our club meeting if you are interested in fishing on Friday, Saturday, or Sunday. You do not have to camp to come fish with us!

We will most likely float the 7.5 miles on the Cowlitz from Barrier to Blue Creek on Friday to avoid the crowds. Once we know who can go on what days, will decide where to go between **Swafford Pond, Carlise Lake, or Mayfield Lake** on Saturday and Sunday. We will be posting all the plans in our **Google Outings Group**, so be on the lookout! We also have a few seats open in boats if you want to ride along. All your normal trout flies will work at all of these locations. To see the best steelhead flies for the Cowlitz, visit Lost Creek Fly Shop - Steelhead Flies page or stop in to chat with Mike on your way to the river:

<https://www.lostcreekflies.com/category/Steelhead-Flies-65>

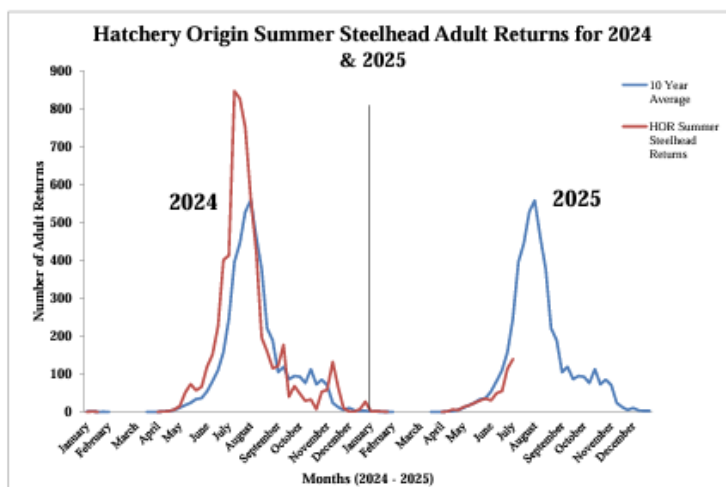
Last week's river report showed 5,120 CFPS, visibility was around nine feet, and the water temp average was 50.7. The Summer Steelhead return is on the raise. Last week Barrier Dam counted 266 spring chinook, 132 chinook Jacks, and 139 summer run steelhead. To see the below 10 year average, and to plan your next trip you can go to the Cowlitz Fish report:

<https://www.mytpu.org/community-environment/fish-wildlife-environment/cowlitz-fish-report/>

Blue Creek Boat Launch
165 Osprey Ln
Toledo, WA 98591

Barrier Dam Boat Launch
2162 Spencer Rd #2240
Salkum, WA 98582
(Launch is past the salmon hatchery)

Carlisle Lake Address
426 Alexander Road,
Onalaska, WA 98570



All members who plan to attend please sign up or let Max or Myself know during this month's meeting so we can get a head count.

JC's Electric Caddis Larva

John Collins a fly fishing guide and fly tier in New Jersey created this fly for early season trout fishing but can be tied in various colors and sizes to match the caddis larva that is in the stream. The hardest part is threading the copper wire into the micro tubing.

This fly can be tied in any color and size. The original pattern was tied in Chartreuse tubing and Chartreuse Antron yarn.



Written by:	Jerry Coviello
Photographed By:	Jerry Coviello
Creator:	John Collins
Hook:	Daiichi 1120 Heavy Wide Scud Hook
Thread:	Olive 6/0
Tail/Under Body:	Olive Antron Yarn
Body:	Micro Tube with small copper wire
Legs/Thorax:	Brown Ostrich Herl
Wingcase:	Thin UV Resin

Before inserting the hook in the vise, take 10 inches of micro tubing and insert the copper wire into the middle of the tube.



Secure the hook in the vise and tie the thread to the hook point



Cut a one inch strand of Antron Attach the yarn above the hook point. Leave a length of yarn sticking over the hook eye, this will be used to help make a taper body



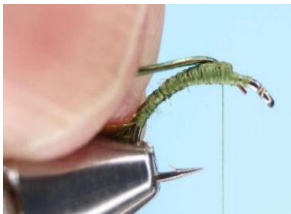
Wind the thread down the hook shank, securing the Antron yarn on top of the hook shank, until you reach where the tail will be



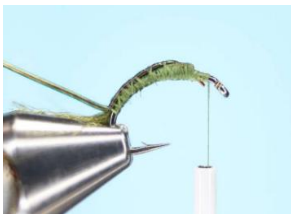
Fold the Antron yarn back over the top of the hook shank towards the bend of the hook to help make a tapered body



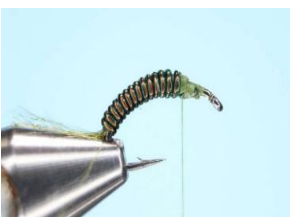
With your thread wrap around the body to help make a tapered body foundation



Tie on top the tubing and wire material



Secure the tubing and wire on top of the hook shank to the tail bring the thread to behind the eye



Using the tube and wire material use touching wraps to wrap the body to just past the hook point



Tie in the ostrich herl for the legs and thorax



Wrap the ostrich herl so the barbs stand out. Wrap it just like a dry fly hackle and use touching wraps. Whip finish and trim the tail.



With a lighter burn the herl on the top



Apply a Thin UV Resin to the top for a Wingcase and use the UV lamp to cure it



Finished JC Electric Caddis Larva



2025 SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS Officers, Chairs	
President (Officer)	Jared Wood
Vice President (Officer)	Max Doerge
Secretary (Officer)	Veronica Smolen
Treasurer (Officer)	Lee Yeager
Conservation (Chair)	Tim Veneziano
Director at Large (Chair)	Murray Boulware
Director at Large (Chair)	Bruce Lincoln
Education (Chair)	Randy Allen
FFI/Gov't (Chair)	Mike Clancy
Fundraising (Chair)	Kevin Angevine
Membership (Chair)	Phil Jaramillo
Mentorship (Chair)	Tim Bartley
Newsletter Editor (Chair)	Dave Brombach
Outings (Chair)	Jesse Bakke
Past President (Chair)	Lee Yeager
Programs (Chair)	Open
Webmaster/Facebook (Chair)	Vic Andrade

If you are interested in filling an open seat, please contact the President or Vice President at southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/

South Sound Fly Fishers - 2025 Meeting Dates	
Board Of Directors Meetings	Club Membership Meetings
Jan 7	Jan 21
Feb 4	Feb 18
Mar 4	Mar 18
Apr 8	Apr 15
May 6	May 20
June 3	June 17
July 1	July 15
Aug 5	Aug 19
Sept 2	Sep 16
Oct 7	Oct 21
Nov 4	Nov 18
Dec 2	No meeting this month

Board of Directors meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:30 PM with the noted exceptions as indicated above.

Club Meetings are conducted in-person at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of every month, except December. The meeting will open at 6:30 PM if you want to visit and talk fly fishing.

In-person meetings are held at the [North Olympia Fire Department located at 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia, WA. 98506.](#)

From the north - Use I-5 south exit 105B and stay right toward the port of Olympia. Follow the main road as it changes its name to East Bay Drive and then to Boston Harbor Road. About 4 miles north of the State Ave. signal is a Shell gas station; you'll find the Fire Department just past the Shell on the right side.

From the south - Use I-5 north exit 105 and stay right toward the port of Olympia. Go right (north) at the round-a-bout, then left at the Plum Street signal. Continue up Plum St. as it changes its name to East Bay Drive and then to Boston Harbor Road. About 4 miles north of the State Ave. signal is a Shell gas station; you'll find the Fire Department just past the Shell on the right side.

SSFF Club Website: southsoundflyfishers.org

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter
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