



South Sound Fly Fishers

# The Garden Hackle

Volume 26 Issue 5

May 2026

[Things as a Reminder](#)

[Monthly Fly-Tying Night](#)

[Education](#)

## Leader's Line

Bruce Lincoln, Club President



*"Many men go fishing all of their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."*

H. D. Thoreau

I am afraid that Mr. Thoreau is mistaken. At least he is mistaken about fly anglers. We are curious and inquisitive. We know that the fish is not the point. It is the process. Oh, I would admit it, sometimes it is about the fish.

One of the things that I like about fly fishing is the exploring and seeing of new things. My parents were wanderers at heart. In my very young childhood I remember them using a jack to push the back end of the station wagon over so we could further navigate the bumpy curvy Idaho mountain road to see what was at the end of it. It was more fun then. You couldn't cheat by looking at the internet. You had to go see.

I had a fire inside to explore and see new things when I was younger. I would see a place on a map and I had to find some way to get there. Back then you could even find some rivers that had not yet been described. Frankly some of that flame got quashed by time, life and responsibilities. But I have learned that there are embers still smoldering that given the right breath of air will again flame. That push comes from fly fishing.

Recently, Kevin Angevine put together a trip to the Green River in Utah. That gave me the opportunity to wander though an area of Idaho that I had never seen before. Being chased out by a windy April Wyoming snow storm, I left the upper Green River planning to travel though a corner of Idaho on the way back to my childhood home. It was supposed to be a 4.5 hour drive. Ten hours later I pulled into the barnyard.

I got distracted by a lot of things. There were old towns, rivers, lakes, mountains, and swamps. The swamps were particularly important. As I was driving through a small town I saw a sign for a particular lake. Well, it is actually a high mountain swamp that is now a National Wildlife Refuge. One hundred plus years ago my great grandfather tried settling there but found 4-5 feet of snow in the winter. To top it off it had heat and mosquitos during the summer. So, he and his family opted for a trip to the central desert of Idaho where an irrigation track was being opened. I had never been to that “lake.” So I went for a look. And I kept looking at things until I found myself in Wyoming again.

*“Rivers know this: there is no hurry. We shall get there someday.”*  
Winnie the Pooh

*“Have we thought that being lost is our destination?”*  
Craig D. Lounsborough

*“Wandering re-establishes the original harmony which once existed between man and the universe.”*  
Anatole France

Fly anglers know that we don’t have to wander far to explore. Our favorite backyard river or lake changes day to day, season to season, and year to year. What was around the corner last year may not be there this year. That log that the fish hid under last year may be gone completely this year.

*“No man ever steps in the same river twice, for it’s not the same river and he’s not the same man.”*  
Heraclitus

I found myself sitting beside a spring creek in the sagebrush desert of Idaho. The BWO hatch that was supposed to be there wasn’t happening. But the sweet songs of the Meadow Larks that I remember from my youth were there. And looky there, I don’t think that I have seen a Cinnamon Teal since High School!

I think that H. D. Thoreau would understand. I also think that Winnie the Pooh is my spirit animal.

### Things as a reminder:

- The Zoom meetings for the club will be discontinued until October. Please come to the meetings and chat with your friends.
- For those who wish to catch fish our outing this month is at Carlisle Lake which will give the opportunity to catch big fish and meet friends. Though, try to avoid breaking a rod on a big fish like I did last year.
- For those who wish to join a short adventure, our June outing is to Leech Lake up on White Pass. This is a two-hour drive with multiple lodging and camping options. Leech Lake is a fly-fishing only lake with both Brook and Rainbow trout. For a second day, if you wanted you could venture just over the pass to visit Dog Lake. There will be more about that at our monthly meeting.
- There is some movement on organizing a club road trip to Craig, Montana in August or September when crowds are lower. This would involve renting boats locally rather than pulling a trailer. Road trip!
- The spring casting class is starting up. Consider helping Randy with that.

Tight lines and quiet moments by streams listening to the birds!

And Get Lost!

Bruce Lincoln  
SSFF President

[president@southsoundflyfishers.org](mailto:president@southsoundflyfishers.org)

<b>South Sound Fly Fishers - 2026 Meeting Dates</b>	
<b>Board Of Directors Meetings</b>	<b>Club Membership Meetings</b>
<del>Jan 13 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>	<del>Jan 20 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>
<del>Feb 10 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>	<del>Feb 17 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>
<del>Mar 10 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>	<del>Mar 17 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>
<del>Apr 14 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>	<del>Apr 21 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>
<del>May 12 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>	<b>May 19 - North Olympia Fire Station</b>
<b>June 9 - SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	<b>June 16 - SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
<b>July 14 - SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	<b>July 21 - SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
<b>Aug 11 - SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	<b>Aug 18 - SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
<b>Sept 8 - SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	<b>Sep 15 - SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
Oct 13 - North Olympia Fire Station	Oct 20 - North Olympia Fire Station
Nov 10 - North Olympia Fire Station	Nov 17 - North Olympia Fire Station
Dec 8 - North Olympia Fire Station	No meeting this month

Board of Directors meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month starting at 6:30 PM.

General membership meetings begin at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month, except December, where there is no meeting. The physical meeting location will open at 6:30 pm if you want to visit and talk fly fishing.

Our in-person meetings are generally held at the [North Olympia Fire Station](#) located at 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia, WA. 98506. (Note the June-Sept exception above - our regular station is remodeling.)

## Monthly Fly-Tying Night

## Chris Tilton, Vice President



Hello fly fishers and fly tyers, I'm Chris Tilton, this year's club Vice President. I wanted to report on our monthly fly-tying night at River's Edge Restaurant at the Tumwater Valley golf course. It's scheduled the fourth Tuesday of the month starting at 5 p.m. This is the Tuesday following our general membership meetings. This month's date for our [Fly Tying Get Together at River's Edge](#) will be May 26, 2026.

We've had a lot of fun and laughs sharing stories, food, and tying techniques in the past few months. Members have shared new patterns, tools, and materials, helping all of us learn more about our love for tying. When anyone is struggling with a pattern or technique, one of us has an answer or instruction to help them gain ability and confidence. New fly tyers and old - come out and check us out. If you have any questions or would like help with a fly pattern or tying technique, please reach out to me or to the club and we will make sure to find the information you need or the person to help teach. Please use the Contact Us link on our web site, <https://southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/> or come and talk to me at the next meeting.

And finally, the food. They have an incredible full menu with more than enough options to please everyone and a full bar with multiple brews on tap. I've been dining there for over 15 years and their food is always amazing.

Thank you to all who have made it and to all who plan to attend.

Our next event will be Tuesday May 26<sup>th</sup> at 5 p.m. The address is 4611 Tumwater Valley Dr SE.

The restaurant has been gracious enough to provide the monthly space at no extra charge so please come prepared to purchase food and/or drinks during your visit.

We hope to see you there.



We will begin our seven week casting class on Monday evenings, 6:30 - 8:30 pm May 18 through July 6. We will not meet May 25, Memorial Day. Use the Contact link on our web page to let us know your interest in the class. [Enroll directly with the SSFF club](#), not through the City of Olympia for this class. We will contact you personally.

\$85 for seven weeks of instruction... umm \$6.07 per hour. Oops. Shouldn't have said that. "Can't be much good for *that* price!" Ok, *triple it and we'll instruct better*. Really, it's

\$85.

We cover a range of casting issues: How to cast when a side wind blows the fly into your face? Compensating easily for side wind may surprise you. How to properly roll cast? Roll casting *on water* is very different than trying to roll cast on grass. How about "mending" your line to achieve drag-free drifts? We'll teach you on moving water. We are fortunate to have locations available with both still and moving water. We use them.

Hey! How about those pesky *wind knots*? Want to stop them? We can help. Let me digress a moment. Many years ago I ski patrolled with Bob Forbes, one of life's really great friends. His enthusiasm, his can-do attitude, and his rock-solid skills were such an important part of our team. I cannot remember a conversation with Bob that he was not smiling! We just loved Bob to pieces. Springtime our southern California snow turned into something more like mashed potatoes. Skis didn't want to turn. They just sank into the potatoes and made straight tracks. Skiing required more precise exertion. On one of those delightful sunny, warm, spring days when everyone was moaning and groaning about the horrible mashed potato snow... Bob turned to me with his unforgettable smile and said, "You know Randy, *there's really no good or bad snow!* There are just skiers, and *better* skiers!" What does mashed-potato snow have to do with wind knots? We'll help you understand why that "wind knot" formed, and how to cast without forming them. ("Wind-knot" huh? Maybe your friend was *blowing hot air.*) Or maybe Bob's right. There are just casters...and *better* casters.

Your team includes **four FFI Gold level Casting Skills** instructors, highly competent to help you learn to cast. After this class enroll in our **mentorship program** so we can take you by the hand to help you apply the lessons to improve your fishing success.

Here is our annual education program:

**Introduction to Fly Fishing** - Taught 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.

**Fly Casting** - Taught in the spring, seven weeks. 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 fly patterns.

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



Hello South Sound Fly Fishers! This month I'm putting the Onalaska High School fish hatchery in the spotlight for their amazing education program and fostering the next generation in conservation work. This month's outing is at the "Mill Pond" as the locals call it! I have fished at this lake many times and I am very thankful for all the work the high school students do for their community. Before opening day, they groomed and weed-wacked the lake edges, added gravel to the walkways and planted enough fish for the entire town and more! Enjoy, and Happy Mother's Day to all the Fly Fisher Ladies in the club!

## The Onalaska Aquaculture Program

Nestled in rural Southwest Washington, Onalaska High School boasts a remarkable and unique educational asset, The state's only high school-operated fish hatchery. Located at the nearby Carlisle Lake, the school's aquaculture program trades traditional pens and paper for nets and water quality tests. However, the program's impact extends far beyond standard biology lessons. It serves as a vital model for the importance of teaching the next generation to be passionate about conservation and empowering them to become dedicated stewards for the large fishing community that surrounds the area.

### Hands-On Ecological Learning

Under the guidance of dedicated educators, Onalaska students take on the immense responsibility of raising rainbow trout, coho salmon, and steelhead from the egg stage. Throughout the school year, they learn the rigorous daily tasks required to maintain a healthy aquatic environment, from monitoring water temperatures to cleaning tanks, and feeding the growing fish. The culmination of their hard work occurs each spring when students physically transfer and release thousands of fish into Carlisle Lake and nearby tributaries like Gheer Creek. This hands-on curriculum transforms abstract ecological concepts into tangible realities. When students witness the fragile life cycle of a trout firsthand, they develop a profound, personal connection to their local watersheds.

## **Building a Passion for Conservation**

Teaching conservation through such immersive experiences is critical for the future of our natural resources. Today's youth are inheriting complex environmental challenges, including habitat loss and fluctuating fish populations. Programs like Onalaska's fish hatchery instill a sense of ownership and ecological literacy. By actively participating in the restoration and stocking of local waters, students learn that conservation is not just a passive ideal, but an active, ongoing commitment to the environment.

## **Cultivating Responsible Anglers**

Furthermore, this education is essential for the future of ethical trout fishing. The fish released by Onalaska students provide robust recreational fishing opportunities for the entire community. Through their involvement, students learn the intrinsic value of ethical angling. They are taught to appreciate the effort it takes to sustain a fishery, which naturally translates into a respect for catch limits, catch-and-release practices, and the preservation of natural habitats. When a young person understands the arduous journey a trout takes from a high school hatchery tank to a local lake, they are far more likely to advocate for responsible fishing practices.

## **A Legacy of Environmental Action**

Ultimately, the Onalaska High School fish hatchery is much more than an alternative science class. It is a foundational community program that bridges the gap between education and environmental action. By nurturing a passion for conservation in the next generation, we ensure that our streams remain vibrant and that the time-honored tradition of fishing endures for years to come.



## South Sound Fly Fishers

### Membership Report - April 2026

Total membership as of this date: 71

Total new members in 2026: 13

### Please welcome the following new members.

- Mike Engebritson: Mike is from the Olympia area. Mike joined our SSFF club on 4/21/26.
- Bernie Hall: Bernie is from the Olympia area. Bernie joined our SSFF club on 4/21/26.
- Thom Mettler: Thom joined our SSFF organization on 3/28/26.
- Susan Piper: Susan is from the Olympia area. She was a Class of 2026 member of our Intro to Fly Fishing. Previously, she and her husband, Corbin, attended the class in 2019. She joined the SSFF organization on 4/5/26.
- Greg Polkinghorn: He was a Class of 2026 member of our Intro to Fly Fishing. He joined the SSFF organization on 3/20/26.
- Chris Wenschhof: He and his sons, Sheldon and Levi, were Class of 2026 members of our Intro to Fly Fishing. He and his family joined the SSFF organization on 3/20/26.

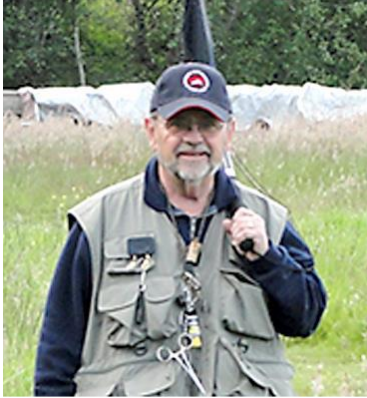
Welcome to our South Sound Fly Fishers organization. We look forward to your membership and participation in our club events.

A friendly reminder that 2026 Membership Dues were due in January. Club Membership and Dues runs from January 1 to December 31. Please see detailed [Membership information in the Treasurer's](#) section of this newsletter.

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

Mike Clancy, Chair



## Washington FFI Casting & Tying Fair - April 19<sup>th</sup> - Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah, WA.

I've already reported that our event in Issaquah was a very successful event. Mainly in casting, with many folks completing the bronze - silver - gold casting levels. One of the special events was watching a young lady, Maxine McCormick. She participated in the 2022 World Championships in Norway. Maxine won four gold medals in single handed events. Maxine is a recent graduate from the UW. I had the opportunity to meet and visit with

Maxine. She was a delight to watch and meet. She is a wonderful young lady.



Maxine McCormick & Mike Clancy

**Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous, May 22-24, 2026, Craig, MT.**

Join FFI Women Connect for a weekend of fly fishing and special events on the Missouri River. This 2-day event will be hosted by guide Trisha Campbell and WSCFFI Director Marion Hiller. Both are FFI Casting Instructors. For detail, go to [Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous](#). This is a free event. You do need to reserve a spot if you wish to attend.

**NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy - June 20-27, 2026, Panhandle Lake 4H Camp, Shelton, WA.**

The [Academy](#) is a week of fly casting, fly tying, fishing in Panhandle Lake, and casting for Cutthroats in local streams and rivers. The Academy is full with 3 young ladies this year.

**The Fly Shop - Presents "FFI" FLYFEST 2026 - Sept. 24-26, 2026, Redding, CA.**

Registration is now open. [FlyFest](#) offers three full days of educational presentations, fly-tying and casting demos, a trade show, and time set aside for fly fishing, food and fellowship, all under one roof and covered by a single registration fee.

**Fly Fishing for Searun Cutthroat in South Puget Sound. By Mel Hurd, longtime member of SSFF.**

We request a \$10 donation to cover the postage and printing. My labor is free. To order your copy go to the Donation page of our club's website, [Sea Run Cutthroat Fishing Guide](#), fill out the form, and submit your payment. Payment can be made via the PayPal link below the form. If you prefer you may mail a check to our treasurer at:

SSFF P.O. Box 2792  
Olympia WA 98507



## Outing Details

- Location: Carlise Lake
- Meeting Date: Saturday, May 23
- Meeting Time: 8:00 am
- Group lunch at a local restaurant if interested

An open letter to the trout fly fishers of SSFF, Stop it. Is there any less interesting fish to catch? While nice to look at and very available, trout are a pretentious and lazy creature. Anyone who's worked a river through all four seasons realizes quickly the true nature of the species. A trout finds a soft piece of water with dead and dying insects swirling into it and flops down. Here it can exert as little energy as necessary for as long as possible. Where it can stick its lounge nose into the failing edge of current to eat. Gorging on the detritus of a once productive and thriving natural eco system it is now proudly destroying.

Ever have the sinking feeling you're pretty sure you caught that fish last time you were here? You did. Every minute, untold scores of molting pupae are crushed and ground between the jaws of these wholly indifferent salmonids. Pupae who risked it all. Pupae who crawled, crept..... hoped their way through strata of predation, sea states and weather. Refusing each day the shadow of the lumbering menace, mouth open, tailing above them. A tiny bug each, driven by a relentless Icarussian desire to momentarily feel the warmth of a sun known only in glimpses. A pinprick constellation seen with compound eye through the moss canopy of a microscopic jungle. And this the trout cannot abide. A trout will even bully and attack other trout. Any it observes as able to do what it's doing anywhere near its cushy spot. Once it has decimated the local mayfly population it will disturb a brood crevice into the soft river bottom (where the infant pupae live). And release a fertilized clutch willy nilly into ocean bound current. A current where other trout, if not they themselves, will probably devour the hatch before it even gets to hatch. Having done so without the slightest thought for their fledgling future compatriot barnacles with fins. Oops, I meant trout. Opportunistic is the best compliment a fly fisher can truly extend to them.

So that's why this week's outing is going to be at the local fishery formerly known as Mill Pond. Now calling itself Carlisle Lake. Carlisle Lake is home to the two great North American game fish. The noble and hard working Black Crappie. And the aquatic megafauna that is the Large Mouth Bass. Now your run of the mill P\*\*\*\*gucci fly angler has overlooked these species. Bass have been written off to bass fisherman. And Crappie off to kids. This is a cavalcade of failure on the part of said fly caster. The first fish the emerging fly fisher should be focused on is the unloved Crappie. Latin name, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus*. Or as I prefer them, the lesser North American Piranha. Crappy hit anything and everything. Been fishing the first few times and got skunked? Maybe it's not so fun after all. Find a dock and

find a school of Crappie. They travel in packs like bad dogs. Only have two fly's and they're sorta the same. Crappie wanna eat em. Trying to get a kid onto the fly? The first fish they catch should be a Crappie. Hell, the first hundred should be. Once you've caught so many Crappie you got bored and started shoving your friends off the dock but now that's boring too. One is to climb the next rung up the evolutionary ladder and step into the food chain. An old fishing buddy's dad joked that if large mouth's got up to eighty pounds kids wouldn't get to swim. He was right. Where the Crappie blindly attacks with reckless abandon and no concern for its personal well being. The Largies are more calculating, methodical ambush predators. You have to get in their heads a little more.

Some people are going to say that Bass aren't traditionally fished for on fly rods. Those people don't have any good stories and they are wrong. They just can't tempt an apex predator out of a weed bed. I have one Bass trick and it doesn't work that well. You should try it though. When I tie on a tippet ring I leave an on or about eight inch tag end on the knot. Then rig a tippet as usual. At the end of that tippet I put a nice balanced leech with a bead. To weigh things perpendicular in the weed growth. On my previously mentioned leftover tag end an unweighted wooly bugger. The balanced leech has no choice but remain with the hook facing topside. So minimum hang ups. The unweighted Wooly will flutter and dance a bit above and bit in front of the leech. Mix and match colors and sizes accordingly. This combination creates the appearance of a bait fish or leech or what have you. Rushing to keep up with or chase some other bait. You can't really trick a Bass. Especially an old one. But you can tease 'em a little. Now if on your great Odyssey to turn Carlisle into the new Castaic you should look out and see me sitting still on my pontoon boat in deep water. Lazily hanging twenty plus feet of line under an indicator. I assure you that I had no intention of sending the SSFF after Crappie and Bass while I rip the absolute hog trout stocked in Carlisle by the local high school. I was just hanging back giving everybody else a shot. I hear they all got caught last year anyway. Carlise lake has a boat ramp so there's gonna be boats. Make sure you get on the sign up sheet at the monthly meeting so you don't have to watch from shore. Unless you're into that sort of thing. Same goes for if you have a boat and are gonna bring it. Easy parking and access is available. Breakfast and coffee will be available. Also I will be available if anyone wants to pressure test their Zoloft and try to teach me how to run a popper on my fly rod.

Gotta think like a fish,

Jesse



## South Sound Fly Fishers - 2026 Outings

January 24	Munn Lake	Trout / Crappie	PHW Breakfast
February 14-15	Fly Fishing Show - WSCFFI		Bellevue, WA
February 21	South Fork Toutle	Trout / Steelhead	
March 13-14	NW Fly Tye & Fly Fishing Expo - OCFFI		Albany, OR
March 21	Lake Lawrence	Trout, Bass, Perch & Bluegill	Breakfast or Lunch at Lake Diner
April 19	Washington FFI Fly Casting & Tying Fair		Issaquah, WA
April 25	Deep Lake	Trout	Millersylvania State Park
May 23	Carlise Lake (Onalaska)	Jumbo Trout	Carlise Lake
June 19-20	Leech Lake Campout	Trout	Camping/Hotels White Pass
July 24-26	Cowlitz Campout	Trout/Steelhead	Club dinner Fri or Sat Night
August 18	Annual Picnic		Scott Lake
August 22	Lake Kokanee	Trout	Thurston County
September TBD	SSFF Casting Event		Tumwater Historical Park
September 26	Potlatch State Park	Sea Run Cutthroat	
October 24	Wynoochee River	Coho/Chum	Twin Bridges County Park
November 11	Veterans Day Event		Location TBD
November 24	Fly Tying, 2027 Event Planning		River's Edge Tumwater Golf Course

## Fundraising

## Kevin Angevine, Chair



Do you have item(s) that you don't use?

Have you considered donating it/them to the club?

*SSFF is registered as a not-for-profit corporation with the State of Washington and is an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to SSFF may be tax deductible.*

While SSFF operates in "Good Faith," all sales are considered "As-Is" condition. SSFF assumes no liability and the buyer purchases items at their own risk.

There are two ways that you as a **PAID member** may utilize this section of the newsletter.

- Donate an item(s) to the club, we will list it in our classifieds. All money from the sale of the item(s) will be added to the club's general fund. Contact our Fundraising Chair, Kevin Angevine via [southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/](https://southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/)

Thank you in advance for your donations.

- Private Sale - **available ONLY to current paid members**. List your item(s) in our classified as a private sale. No retail, business, or commercial sales are permitted. This will be a transaction between the seller and purchaser. The club will not act as an arbitrator nor as an agent for either party. The SSFF club will accept **no liability** in this transaction. Submit the info for this sale to [southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/](https://southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/)

**Once the transaction is complete, a donation to the SSFF club in the amount of 20% of the sale price is suggested.** This donation can be completed via the SSFF website [Donations and Support](https://southsoundflyfishers.org/donations-and-support/).

The SSFF will list the item(s) in both our monthly newsletter and our website [southsoundflyfishers.org](https://southsoundflyfishers.org)

The format will include:

- a short description (20 words maximum)
- price
- contact information (list only the contact info that you are comfortable listing.)
- no photos will be accepted for a private sale.

Example:

XYZ fly rod & reel (5 wt) - \$100 - Contact John Doe (johndoe@xmail.com) 555-333-4444

## The following items are for sell via private sell:

For sale 2HP Honda outboard engine. Like new condition. \$350.00

Gene Rivers, 360-878-2024, [acu4pets@hotmail.com](mailto:acu4pets@hotmail.com)

For sale Minn Kota 34lb thrust electric trolling motor. Excellent condition, has never been in salt water. \$195.00

Gene Rivers, 360-878-2024, [acu4pets@hotmail.com](mailto:acu4pets@hotmail.com)

For sale 12' Aluminum Boat and trailer, good condition, no leaks. Oars, 2 anchors, spare tire included. \$1950.00

Gene Rivers, 360-878-2024, [acu4pets@hotmail.com](mailto:acu4pets@hotmail.com)

## “Steelhead Bee”



Written by: Kevin W. Erickson

Photographed By: Kevin W. Erickson

Creator: Roderick Haig-Brown

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

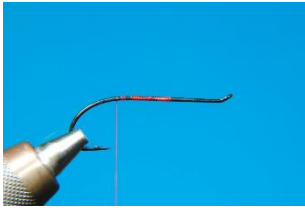
**Thread:** Red

**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



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



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.



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.



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.





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



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.



7. Next is the body. Three equal sections of dubbing consisting of brown, then yellow, then brown again. Decide on the style of the fly you’re going to create at this point. If tied to be a Skater, deduct the amount of room the hackle will occupy behind the wing and divide the remaining space back to the tail into thirds. This way you’ll not be crowding the wing or hackle space. If you’re making a Waking style, then build the body in thirds all the way up to the wing base.



8. Select another Golden Pheasant red neck feather. Flatten the feather stem before stripping off hackle fibers, helps the feather from rolling when tying it in. Strip off fibers from the stem. Tie in the feather with the convex side up. It should veil the rear body and overlap the back of the feather veiling the tail. Bind the stem waste down along the top of the shank.



Side View



Top View



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