



# South Sound Fly Fishers

## The Garden Hackle

Volume 26 Issue 6

June 2026

[Leech Lake - June Outing](#)

[Special Outing - Craig Montana](#)

[For Sell](#)

### Leader's Line

### Bruce Lincoln, Club President



This is the Stone Arch Bridge in Sullivan County, New York. It is the site of a "hex murder" in January 1892. It is in the Catskills. I had to look up what a hex murder was. I suggest that you read up on the history of that murder. Kinda interesting. Actually, this whole site seems hexed. This bridge was built after the wooden bridge built before it collapsed and killed the driver of a horse drawn wagon. The photo is at the end of this article.

Sometimes, I think that my travels and fishing trips get hexed. I was wandering around the Catskills and then Pennsylvania because I had joined Wayne Dixon there. The previous trip with Wayne had me marveling at the swarming hatches and fish

splashing all around including a couple feet from me. I also had enough success as a newbie to come back. This time....nothing. No hatches and no catching. Fly anglers all around not catching anything or seeing a hatch for the week that we were there. I did stir up one fish on a nymph but for the most part I might as well be casting into a desert. To top it off I lost my wallet for a day. Serves me right for washing clothes on a fishing trip.

I also had a hexed day on the Green River. There are days that that old Willie Nelson song keeps ringing in my head. The one with the hook "The last thing I needed was the first thing this morning." I had replaced my favorite rod because I had broken the tip of the rod and could not get a tip replacement. I took it out of the case for the first time and found the tip broken. The dam had increased the water discharge and the river was cloudy. I sat on a nail on a dock and tore a hole in my waders. Sounds like a good country song to me.

**So, for you all to avoid being hexed, I am going to give some reminders about our outing this month:**

It is at Leech Lake which is at the Top of White Pass. It is 2.5 hours from my house. I routinely drove there and back with kids for skiing in one day.

Many of us are going to stay overnight or longer. Most I suspect will be staying Saturday night not Friday night. The outing calendar says June 19-20 but the main event is Saturday and we will be having a gathering afterward to eat. Either we will go to an establishment in Packwood or have a picnic at La Wis Wis campground. There will be more postings about this

on the web site, more information at the meeting and I will be at the launch site to direct people.

Camping at the lake is first come first serve and tight. Don't count on it. I am going to stay down by Packwood and others are going to rent a room at a hotel in Packwood. The La Wis Wis Campground may have some first come first serve tent sites available.

This is a fly fishing only lake so no sinkers on the line. You can use sink tips or weighed flies. The lake is generally shallow so you don't need a fast sinking fly line.

There is a 10 dollar launch fee. This is managed by the ski area and not by the forest service or WDFW so those passes don't work. Bring a pen.

**No Motors of Any Kind. Including electric motors.** It is generally a small lake and can be rowed.

Be sure to bring some insect repellent, the mosquito hatch is unpredictable but remarkable. We will be working on ride sharing and boat space sharing at the monthly meeting.

I plan to go up a few days early and learn what is working. Or rather I hope I learn what is working. I will be at the boat launch on Saturday to dispense what dubious knowledge I have.

You can also fish Dog Lake which is nearby but I would not fish Dog lake first. It has milfoil in it and I doubt that your boat will dry out enough to be safe to put into Leech Lake.

On the subject of breaking hexes, I hope that I don't have to murder anyone. I discovered that putting another eyelet on the tip of my broken rod actually made it cast better than before. I also did a few chants as I patched my waders.



Bruce Lincoln  
SSFF President

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

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## Programs

## Wayne Dixon, Chair



Blake Merwin is the owner and founder of the Gig Harbor Fly Shop and has been a leading voice in Puget Sound fly fishing for more than two decades. He started kayak fishing over a dozen years ago as a simple way to reach local saltwater beaches, but it quickly grew into a full-blown passion. Since then, Blake has spent countless hours exploring the Sound by pedal and paddle, refining techniques, testing gear, and helping anglers discover how effective – and fun – kayak fly fishing can be in our local waters.

Wayne Dixon  
Program Coordinator  
South Sound Fly Fishers  
email [Dixonflys@gmail.com](mailto:Dixonflys@gmail.com)  
ph: 360-701-7423

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## Director at Large

## Bruce Baker, Chair



For our club members that like to fish or hike around Coldwater Lake, the [Mount St. Helens Institute](#) has recently set up a live stream (Volcano Cam) showing the current weather conditions and view from the Sciences and Learning Center at the former Coldwater Ridge Visitors Center. The webcam overlooks Coldwater Lake and gives a view of Mt. St. Helens, South Coldwater Ridge, Johnston Ridge, and the Toutle River. The link to the live stream can be accessed from the Mt. St. Helens institute home page or directly with the following link [Volcano-cam](#). A third option is to watch it directly on [YouTube](#)

<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>	<del>May 19 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>
<b>June 9 - South Bay Fire Station 81</b>	<b>June 16 - South Bay Fire Station 81</b>
<b>July 14 - South Bay Fire Station 81</b>	<b>July 21 - South Bay Fire Station 81</b>
<b>Aug 11 - South Bay Fire Station 81</b>	<b>Aug 18 - South Bay Fire Station 81</b>
<b>Sept 8 - South Bay Fire Station 81</b>	<b>Sep 15 - South Bay 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 for this and the next 3 months will be held at the [South Bay Fire Station 81](#) located at 3506 Shincke Road NE, Olympia, WA. 98506.

## 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 June 23, 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 June 23 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.



Eleven new casting students joined our seven-week casting class. Thanks go to these SSFF team members for leading the weekly instruction. **Todd Parker, Roger Snider, Jared Wood, Bruce Lincoln, Tim Mettier, Kevin Angevine, and Jim McAllister.** Please also recognize another group of coaches - when you add these folks, we achieve a one-to-one ratio of students to instructors this year - **Tim Bartley, Murray Boulware, Mike Clancy, Max Doerge, Steve Farquhar, Bert French, Tim Mettier, and Lee Yeager.**

Still to be taught are how to cast when a side wind blows the fly into your face. Roll casting on water. Aerial and water “mends” to achieve drag-free drifts.

And how to recognize and prevent those pesky “*wind knots?*” You want to start me on tailing loops? Go ahead and over-power the start of your cast - you’ll have all the “wind knots” you could want. Want to stop forming them? We can help.

We are crazy-proud of our team’s skill level. Our team includes **four FFI Gold level Casting Skills** instructors, highly competent to help teach casting. Meanwhile new members are meeting up with our experienced fishers in our **mentorship program** to take them by the hand to help improve their fishing success.

I’ve learned that this morning Mike Clancy gained his FFI Silver level of Fly Casting Skills Development. He is our latest to be awarded! Congratulations and thanks to you all!

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/>



*Piper*



Summer is upon us, and the weather is becoming perfect for volunteering! One of our senior board members recently brought to my attention the incredible work the Coast Salmon Partnership is doing—not only in the Olympics but also in the Chehalis Basin. It is an organization that truly cannot be overlooked. Many of their conservation areas are close enough for our club members to visit and see their efforts firsthand! I highly recommend visiting their website, Coast Salmon Partnership and looking for the “Be Involved” tab under

the Get to Know Us menu. Also, let's not forget their visit to our club back in January, when their Director, Jane Atha, gave us a fantastic presentation! Their motto: “Protect the Best. Restore the Rest.”

## The Coast Salmon Partnership: Strategic Habitat Recovery



The Coast Salmon Partnership (CSP) serves as the driving force behind the long-term protection and recovery of wild salmon and steelhead populations along the Washington Coast. Operating as the designated recovery organization for the Washington Coast Salmon Recovery Region, CSP implements a comprehensive “all-H” strategy—tackling issues associated with habitat, harvest, hatcheries, and hydropower—to restore historical ecological health. The organization achieves these goals by coordinating with distinct regional entities, deploying strategic watershed-scale plans, and launching targeted campaigns to remove physical barriers to fish passage.

### North Pacific Coast Lead Entity

A critical component of CSP’s regional strategy is its support of the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity (NPCLE). Encompassing Watershed Resource Inventory Area (WRIA) 20, the NPCLE manages 935,250 acres that drain directly into the Pacific Ocean, alongside more than 80 miles of rugged coastline extending from Cape Flattery south to the Hoh River basin. This temperate rainforest environment can receive over 240 inches of rainfall annually and features vital salmon habitats, including the expansive Quillayute River watershed and the Lake Ozette basin. Through the NPCLE, local stakeholders and tribal nations collaborate to identify and fund projects that protect these relatively pristine habitats and restore degraded river segments.

## **Chehalis Basin Collaborative**

Further south, The Chehalis River basin is Washington's second-largest watershed, spanning 2,600 square miles and containing over 3,300 miles of rivers and streams. Recognizing the vastness of this area, the Collaborative operates through a diverse Habitat Work Group comprised of local counties, conservation districts, tribal nations, and private landowners. This inclusive approach ensures that salmon recovery strategies balance the ecological needs of the river system with the socio-economic realities of the 140,000 residents living in the basin.

## **Prioritized Watershed Restoration**

To maximize the impact of habitat interventions across these massive regions, CSP developed the Prioritized Watershed Restoration (PWR) program. Scientific research indicates that at least 20% of a watershed must be restored to generate a measurable response in fish populations.

Rather than scattering resources thinly across the coast, the PWR program concentrates intensive restoration efforts in specific pilot sub-basins such as the Calawah River in the NPCLE and the Newaukum River in the Chehalis Basin within a defined timeframe. This targeted, process-based approach aims to fundamentally reset the trajectory of habitat degradation, addressing complex historical issues like legacy timber extraction, impaired floodplain connectivity, and diminished summer stream flows.

## **Cold Water Connection Campaign**

Complementing the PWR program is the ambitious Cold Water Connection Campaign.

Across the Olympic Peninsula, thousands of outdated road culverts act as miniature dams, blocking migrating salmon from accessing vital cold-water refuges necessary for their survival during increasingly hot summers. Partnering with Trout Unlimited, the Wild Salmon Center, and coastal tribes (including the Hoh, Quileute, Makah, and Quinault), CSP is coordinating the removal or remediation of the highest-priority culvert barriers. Backed by substantial federal and state funding, this campaign aims to reopen 125 miles of critical spawning and rearing habitat over the next ten years.

## **Forward Thinking**

Through the coordinated efforts of the North Pacific Coast Lead Entity, the Chehalis Basin Collaborative, the PWR program, and the Cold Water Connection Campaign, the Coast Salmon Partnership is executing a highly complex, scientifically grounded recovery plan. These initiatives not only secure a resilient future for wild salmon but also inject vital investments into local coastal economies, exemplifying a comprehensive approach to environmental stewardship.

# Membership

Phil Jaramillo, Chair



## South Sound Fly Fishers

### Membership Report - May 2026

Total membership as of this date: 78

Total new members in 2026: 14



*Piper - Mettier - Mettler*



*Duval - Glass - Huys*

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

Mike Clancy, Chair



**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 enrolled this year. Max Doerge will be doing the BBQ Friday night and could use some help. SSFF is paying for the BBQ.

**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. Visit the [FFI website](#) to register for this event

***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

It's a wonderful booklet, easy reading, and describes where and when to fish for Searun Cutthroat in South Puget Sound. It also recommends what equipment to use.

I'm happy to report that I acquired my Silver Casting level with the coaching and assistance of Tim Bartley and Murray Boulware. Thank You gentlemen. Greatly appreciated.

It has been reported there are going to be a couple vacancies on the Washington Council. If you are interested, please contact Steve Jones, President, [WSCFFI@www.wscffi.org](mailto:WSCFFI@www.wscffi.org)



## Special Outing - Craig Montana

**Who:** 9 SSFF members (5 names will be selected from a random drawing at our 6/16 club meeting, with 2 alternates selected as backup).

**When:** Fri Aug 21 - Mon Aug 24th, we will plan to meet Friday morning early and return late on Monday.

**What:** Road trip to Craig, Montana. We will carpool in three vehicles and pick boats up at the river location. We'll drive the 10 1/2 hours there on Friday, fish on the Missouri River Saturday & Sunday, then drive the 10 1/2 hours back on Monday. We will be staying at the fishing cabins next to Headhunters Fly Shop in downtown Craig Montana.

**Cost:** Less than \$500 (\$300 deposit due by July 21st). This will cover lodging, boat shuttle fees, and gas. Food and **your 2 day fishing permit (\$48) is not included and must be purchased on your own.**

### Notes:

Females will have their own room; males will share two to a room.

Full kitchens, bathrooms, and Wi-Fi are included with lodging. We will be stopping at grocery stores as we get closer to Craig to purchase food.

Recommend gear - 5 or 6 weight 9 ft rods, waders are recommended, and 3x-5x tippet. Fly shops will be open to purchase flies as needed.

Please contact Jared Wood with questions or to be added to the sign up for the lottery drawing. <https://southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/>



## 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 Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo - OCFI		Albany, OR
March 21	Lake Lawrence	Trout, Bass, Perch & Bluegill	Breakfast or Lunch at Lake
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 20-21	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
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

## 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](#).

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 sale via Private Sale

2HP Honda outboard engine. Like new condition.

\$350

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

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Minn Kota 34lb thrust electric trolling motor. Excellent condition, has never been in salt water.

\$195

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

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12' Aluminum Boat and trailer, good condition, no leaks. Oars, 2 anchors, spare tire included.

\$1950

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

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Hobie mirage pro angler 14 ft, Mirage 180 pedal drive, with aluminum kayak trailer with Hobie cradles and spare tire. Accessories include electric motor, Lowrance FS7 Elite fish finder with side scan transducer, Scotty lake troller, rod holders, and several convenience attachments for the Hobie rail system. Garage stored on trailer.

\$4500

Arnie Peterson, 509-388-1812, [arniehp@gmail.com](mailto:arniehp@gmail.com)

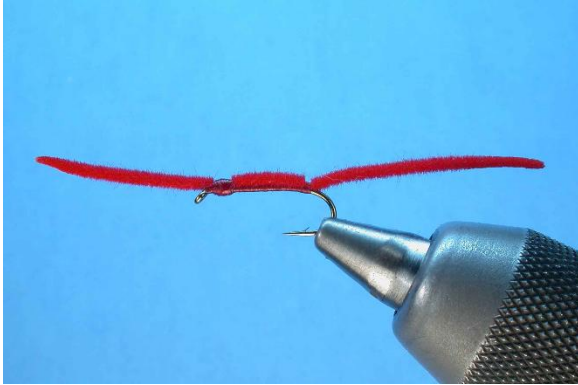
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Suspendz large, narrow wheel kayak cart for gravelly beaches.

\$75

Arnie Peterson, 509-388-1812, [arniehp@gmail.com](mailto:arniehp@gmail.com)

### San Juan Worm



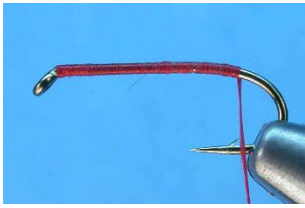
**Materials:**

Hook: TMC 3761 #12 or 14

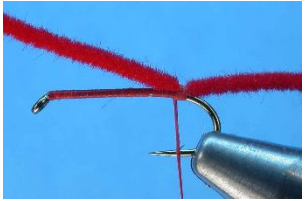
Thread: UNI 6/0 to match or contrast body

Body: Ultra-Chenille

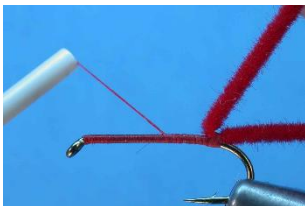
I know, I know...A WORM? Of all the cool flies on this site, the San Juan Worm is the latest update? WTF? Well, there have been a lot of folks coming in lately asking me how to tie this simple critter, as it seems it is passed over in many tying classes and books. You know it is not like me to leave something out, so here is the worm, in all it's glory! Some folks shun the worm, remembering their bait fishing days and frowning on such a lowly imitation. All I can say is, "EMBRACE THE WORM!!" Worms imitate an actual aquatic annelid that lives in the stream bottom and are every bit the natural food of the trout that a beautiful PMD is, so get off the high horse and admit it, you like the worm and you catch fish on it! Here's how to tie these little suckers. Be sure to whip some up in dark brown with rust thread, worm brown with pink thread, red with red thread and orange with orange thread and bright pink with pink thread. Brighter colors work well in off color water, so don't be afraid to fish a big, bright worm when the water is a bit dirty.



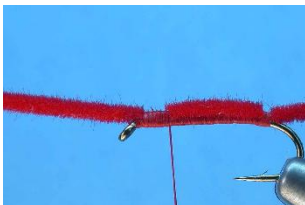
**1.** Begin by laying a thread base from the eye to the bend of the hook. Be sure to completely cover the shank with the tying thread. Leave the thread hanging at the bend.



**2.** Place a two inch length of Ultra chenille on top of the hook with the majority of it hanging beyond the bend. Bind the chenille down with four or five tight turns of thread right at the bend. Make these turns one on top of the other.



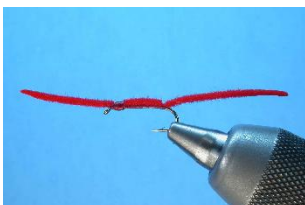
**3.** Lift the front end of the chenille up and wrap the thread forward to just behind the hook eye.



**4.** Pull the chenille back down against the shank and bind it down with another bunch of tight wraps. Make these wraps form a band from the back edge of the hook eye extending back about another two to three eye lengths. Build up a bit of thread to form an oval shaped lump.



**5.** Whip finish on top of the thread band and clip the thread.



**6.** Singe the ends of the chenille with a lighter to taper the tips. Add a coat of head cement to the thread wraps and the bottom side of the hook shank for durability. Yeah, that's it!



## 2026 SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers	President	Bruce Lincoln
	Vice President	Chris Tilton
	Secretary	Veronica Smolen
	Treasurer	Lee Yeager
Chairs	Conservation	Christian Jordan
	Director at Large	Murray Boulware
	Director at Large	Bruce Baker
	Education	Randy Allen
	FFI/Gov't	Mike Clancy
	Fundraising	Kevin Angevine
	Membership	Phil Jaramillo
	Mentorship	Tim Bartley
	Newsletter Editor	Dave Brombach
	Outings	Jesse Bakke
	Past President	Jared Wood
	Programs	Wayne Dixon
Webmaster/Facebook	Vic Andrade	

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