



Garden Hackle

Volume 16 Number 1

January 2016

Our Leader's Line

SSFF President Don Freeman shares fishing prospects for this winter.

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Skip Morris

Skip is our January speaker.

Skip has published 18 books.

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This will be a good year for programs and events for SSFF.

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Our Leader's Line

By Don Freeman

Greetings in 2016,

First off, I won't be at the next club meeting January 19, I'm off on my annual trip to Christmas Island so will miss Skip Morris again. Vice President Randy Allen will run the meeting for you, a task he has lots of experience with. You'll have a great time. My advice is to arrive early, and bring a friend. There is usually a big crowd for Skip, and Gene Rivers has posted the event in the paper so we may be busier than ever.

While I'm giving advice, let me encourage everyone to get out and fish if you can, even for a short trip. It's cold but the sun is out here in Tumwater, Munn Lake has thawed. Our local DFW bios let me know they were seeing both big cutthroat and resident silvers right down here in the south Sound and there are also a good number of Coho up around the Narrows. You'll need long leaders, long casts and euphasids for the salmon, but the SRC might be less picky! The biggest steelhead of the year show up this month, so I'm making time to get one day in at Forks next week before I leave for sissy tropical climes.

Our first board meeting of the year was very rewarding; we are looking forward to some great programs, and are planning more outings and social activities combined with opportunities to learn to tie, cast and fish more effectively. There will likely be increased opportunities for volunteering in conservation projects as well. I am honestly quite enthused at our prospects.

So until February, keep making time to get out in the brighter longer days ahead.

Don

SKIP MORRIS

January 19th

Skip Morris is a name fly fishers know well--after all, he's published 17 books on fly fishing and fly tying over the past 25 years (including *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*, *Western River Hatches*, *Trout Flies for Rivers*, and *Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes*) along with over 200 magazine articles on these topics. He's also played host on a national fly-fishing television show and several DVDs. As a speaker, Skip's performed in states from California and Arizona to Michigan, Iowa and Alabama, to name only a few, plus three Canadian provinces, and overseas.



Skip's wife, Carol, provides much of the photography in Skip's work and all the illustrations. They live, currently, with two battling cats, on Washington's lush Olympic Peninsula with its myriad opportunities for both fresh and saltwater fly fishing.

Skip Morris Books:

1. *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple*
2. *The Art of Tying the Nymph*
3. *The Art of Tying the Dry Fly*
4. *The Art of Tying the Bass Fly*
5. *Tying Foam Flies*
6. *Concise Handbook of Fly Tying*
7. *The Custom Graphite Fly Rod*
8. *Morris & Chan on Fly Fishing Trout Lakes* (with Brian Chan)
9. *Waterproof Fly Fisher's Guide: Western River Hatches*
10. *Morris on Tying Flies*
11. *Trout Flies for Rivers*
12. *Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple II, Advanced Techniques*
13. *The Art of Tying the Bass Fly, Second Edition*
14. *Learn to Tie Flies*
15. *Seasons for Trout* (with Hafele and Hughes)
16. *Tactics for Trout* (with Hafele and Hughes)
17. *Survival Guide for Beginning Fly Anglers*
18. *The Salmonfly, Dream Hatch of the West*

Skip and Carol Morris on Television:

Skip and his wife, Carol, were for three years among the regular hosts of the "Fly-Fish Television Magazine" show, which was broadcast throughout the US and overseas. In the US, it was on the Outdoor Life Network.

Skip Hosts the following instructional DVDs/videos:

1. "Fly Tying Made Clear and Simple"
2. "The Art of Tying the Nymph"
3. "Tying Foam Flies"
4. "The Art of Tying the Bass Fly"
5. "Fly-Fishing for Bass"
6. "Flies for Sea-Run Cutthroat Trout"

Magazine articles:

Skip has written and published over 200 articles in the following magazines:

Fly Rod & Reel, Fly Tyer, Fly Fishing and Tying Journal, Warmwater Fly Fishing, Midwest Fly Fishing, Fly Tying, American Angler, Salmon Trout Steelheader, Western Outdoors, Fly Fisherman, Fly Fusion, Cowboys & Indians.

The fall 1996 issue of Fly Tying magazine contained a feature article about Skip titled "Skip Morris, the Man in the Painting."

Fly Patterns

Skip's original fly patterns are tied and distributed by the Solitude Fly Company of Alhambra, California. Their current catalog contains over 30 of Skip's patterns, most in several sizes.

Don't miss this outstanding program at the January 19th meeting. Please park only in designated spaces at Fire Department. Vehicles may be towed if parked in fire truck driveway!

SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS DINNER AND AUCTION by John Sabo-Fundraising Chair

The club's Potluck Dinner and Auction will be on Tuesday, April 19, 2016, at the Black Lake Grange Hall, next to the fire station on Black Lack Boulevard. The Auction specifically supports the club's conservation efforts and funds our donations to the Northwest Youth Conservation Fly Fishing Academy, Project Healing Waters, South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group, and other conservation groups and activities. We are looking for donations of items of value, and "experiences and adventure" (fishing trips, vacation cabins, gourmet dinners, etc.), and for club members who would like to be on the auction committee and support the club. If you feel that the club's conservation efforts are important, and would like to participate in the auction, please see me at the raffle table at the club meetings, or e-mail me at: chrisonquince@comcast.net

JOHN

Please do not park in the Fire Department Driveway.

SSFF can lose use of the FD building if cars are parked in the fire truck driveway during SSFF meetings.

Ample parking is available behind the building if designed parking spaces are filled out front.

Thank You.



NW YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY - by Mike Clancy -Co-Chair

2015 has ended and we are now going into 2016. So is The Academy. We will be accepting new applications effective January 1, 2016 for another wonderful event for our youth 12 to 16 years old. What a great opportunity for these kids to learn about conservation and fly fishing. They will spend a week at Gwinwood Christian Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. June 19-25, 2016. We enjoy clean, warm cabins with showers and comfortable bunks. All meals are provided.

Our goal is to open the door to the future in conservation and fly fishing, regardless of financial means, for any serious minded youth willing to do the work.

The applicant must write an essay, stating why they would like to attend The Academy and they will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor or science teacher.

Questions may be directed to Mike Clancy @ mtclancy39@comcast.net, Jim Brosio @ brosioj@q.com or Tom VanGelder @ TVG@comcast.net. Applications are available on our website - www.nwycffa.com email address - nwycffa@comcast.net. And we are on Face Book.



Raffle Report

By John Sabo - Fundraising Chair

We are doing well with the Raffle; last year we had a “profit” of \$500 which was deposited into the Club’s bank account, to help continue the club’s activities. Thank you; to all the club members who participate in the club’s monthly raffle and to all of you who donate raffle items or fill fly boxes. We are looking forward to even more interesting and useful raffle prizes in the coming year. By the way, we have some empty fly boxes to be filled...fly tiers, please see me at the back of the room at our January meeting. Also, I would like to remind the club members that the “raffle” is an independent subcommittee of the club that is self-sustaining, and uses no club funds, and only exists to provide fun and entertainment for the club members while raising much needed revenue.

Judy Graham



SSFF member Judy Graham joins the club board this month as our incoming Education Chair. Judy brings considerable fly fishing knowledge to this position with her 25 years of extensive experience with the sport.

In 2006 Judy became a IFFF certified casting instructor and was working towards Master Certification when injuries and her family priorities changed. Judy is only one of about a half dozen of IFFF certified casting instructors residing in the south sound.

Judy has taught at fly fishing expos, schools, classes and given casting demonstrations at IFFF fairs in both Washington and Oregon. She has organized and taught annual three day women's fly fishing schools for both the LPGA golf professionals and as fundraisers for Washington's Casting for Recovery. Up until 2015, Judy volunteered for Casting for Recovery for ten years and was the Washington's CFR Program Coordinator for three years.

Judy is also an avid fly tier and past president of Northwest Women Fly Fishers. Prior to her family's baby boom her primary emphasis was teaching and promoting fly fishing for women.

Judy loves fishing for the wily Coastal Cutthroat trout and always enjoys fishing the beautiful Yakima River.

As SSFF Education Chair, Judy will share her fly fishing knowledge with club members through writing articles in the Garden Hackle and organizing educational events and clinics for SSFF members. Judy is a wonderful addition to your club's board and brings a wealth of experience to the position of Education Chair.



Happy New Year everyone!

South Sound Fly Fishers ended 2015 with all the bills paid and looking forward to a busy year for the club in 2016. Last year the club provided financial support to a number of conservation and educational projects here in the south sound. As SSFF members we can all be proud that we continue the long tradition of supporting conservation and fly fishing educational organizations here in the south sound.

Club Dues for 2016 are now due. Dues are \$40.00 for 2016 for current members. Dues for new members joining the club are \$45.00. The additional \$5.00 is to cover the cost of your name tag and club logo patch.

Dues can be paid in cash or check at the club meeting on January 19. There will be a table in the back of the room where you can pay your dues and update your email address and other contact information. If you pay by cash you will receive a receipt before leaving the table. If you are paying by check, your cancelled check is your receipt.

If you happened to miss the January club meeting, dues can be paid by mail. Please mail your \$40.00 check to SSFF at PO Box 2792, Olympia WA 98507.

Wishing you all great fishing in 2016!

**Washington State Council
International Federation Fly Fishers**

www.wsciff.org

2016 WA FLY FISHING FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

Ellensburg, WA April 29 & 30



2016 PROMISES TO BE A GREAT YEAR FOR FAMILY AND YOUTH PROGRAMS FOR EDUCATION IN OUR SPORT OF FLY FISHING By Mike Clancy

There are a number of events coming up in 2016 for families and youth to learn or improve their skills for fly fishing.

- January 27-31, 2016 - **Washington Sportsman Show** at the WA. State Fairgrounds in Puyallup, WA. Washington state chapter of the International Federation of Fly Fishers (WSCIFFF) will have a booth at this event.
- April 29-30, 2016 - The WSCIFFF will conduct the annual **Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg**. The program will have a youth program on April 30th for boys and girls 12-16 years old. The youth program will begin with classes 9-12am, after lunch a more hands on time either for casting or fly tying. The cost is \$40 which includes lunch and a new fly rod outfit. This event is still in the planning stage, but it will happen. Sign up is via the WSCIFFF website. www.washingtoncounciliff.org.
- May 13-14-15, 2016 - **The Sandy River Spey Clave** at The Oxbow Regional Park on The Sandy River just outside Gresham, OR. Website: www.flyfishUSA.com/spey-clave This is quite an event.
- June 19-25, 2016 - The **NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy** will be held again on Hicks Lake at The Gwinwood Conference Center in Lacey, WA. The week long event will cost \$300, but financial support is available. This year the limit will be 22 boys and girls, 12-16 years old. Enrollment starts January 1, 2016. Applications may be downloaded from our website - www.nwycffa.com. or contact Mike Clancy @ nwycffa@comcast.net, Tom VanGelder @ tv@comcast.net or Jim Brosio @ brosioj@q.com.
- August 2-6, 2016 - The **International Fly Fishing Fair** will be held in Livingston, MT. Fly tyers from all over the World attend this event along with casting instructors and classroom instruction. There will be a 2 day Youth activity during the event, it is still in the planning stages. Information may be obtained by going to www.fedflyfishers.org

2016 promises to be a good year for our families and especially our youth. The future of our sport is in the future of our youth. So let's get them out doors, in or on the water, away from their electronics and have some fun.



Mel Hurd fly fishing Rock Creek

Remembering Early Times in the Club

By Kevin Ryan

Although I'm sure you couldn't guess it by my boyish appearance (ahem), but I have been a member of the South Sound Fly Fishers for more than 40 years. A couple of years ago, Joe Uhlman suggested to me that I compose an informal history of the Club before I forgot everything I knew about it. I'm afraid it is too late for that, but, recently, Gene Rivers then suggested the same to Mel Hurd and myself. This complicates everything, because now I won't be able to invent stories to fill in the missing gaps in my memory unless I get Mel to go along with the fable. I have known Mel for about as long as I have been in the Club and, happily for me, he has never been one, as the saying goes, to let pesky facts interfere with a good story.

So, with your permission, we (Mel and I) would like to tell you a bit about the early days of the South Sound Fly Fishers (Fly Fishermen, as it was known then), as we remember it. We promise that our accounts will be as accurate as memory and humility permits, unless that proves inconvenient or embarrassing.

To the best of my knowledge, the club was organized in the mid-sixties, or there about, by three residents of Olympia, Dale Sweeney, a local realtor, Stacey Bennett, an architect, and another gentleman whose name I cannot recall. As you might guess, it is Dale, a club founder and stalwart supporter, after whom the "Dale Sweeney Award" is named.

Dale was still active in the Club when Mel and I joined in 1973. He and some friends owned a cabin on Eagan Lake near 100 Mile House in British Columbia. He also had bought into the Meadow Lake Fishing Camp on the Kamloops Plateau near Little Fort, BC. In the 70's, the going rate at the camp was a princely \$25.00 a day, which included three meals boats, and all the fishing you could cram in at the 10 or 12 lakes in the vicinity of the camp. Having a generous nature, each year until his death in July 1985, Dale offered club members the chance to win a free week's stay at the camp. At the end of the year, the angler who had caught the largest trout on a fly received the prize and the recognition. Given my well-earned fly fishing reputation, it will come as no surprise, to those who know me, that I had a consistent record in these contests - I never won a free week at Meadow Lake.

One year, Dale invited a bunch of the members up to the cabin at Eagan Lake. Some cabin! It boasted a number of bedrooms, a full kitchen, and positively civilized bathroom facilities. As is often the case, it was a memorable trip, not because of the fishing, which was poor, but because of the nutty stuff that happens. For example, John Conklin, our esteemed president, thought a barbeque was in order. We had the charcoal, but had forgotten the starter fluid. He opined that outboard motor gasoline would work just as well in a pinch - Boy Scout water, he called it. Those among us still sober advised against it, but John was seldom deterred once set on a course of action. We stood back as John tossed the match. John distinguished himself in club lore that day and we extinguished him as quickly as possible. He survived, but without his eyebrows.

Then, there was the day at Eagan when Daly and I went behind a little island to fish. We ran over a rocky shoal coming out and sheared the pin in the prop. We had no spares but we pounded out the broken pin with a rock and thin piece of wood. I think, we then used the stick in place of the pin. Amazingly, it worked. It was bad enough doing that once, but we did it again the next day just to make sure the shoal was still there. It was. Yep, we were pretty smart fishermen and resourceful, too. I think that was also the day the beaver snuck up behind us and slapped his tail on the water. It sounded like a cannon shot and we nearly leapt out of the boat in surprise.

Next time, I would like to talk a bit more about John Conklin, our multi-termed president, the creation of The Garden Hackle, as a newsletter, and some other stuff.

Tight thread,
Kevin

P. S. I think we caught a fish or two that week.

As stated in the article introducing and welcoming Judy Graham to the board as education chair, Judy will be preparing articles for club members in the Garden Hackle. The articles will cover a wide range of important topics in the world of fly fishing. They are written by Judy to help members learn and improve their skills. This is the first of Judy's articles.

The Five Essentials of Fly Casting

Bill and Jay Gammel's "The Five Essentials of Fly Casting" was the first serious document on fly casting mechanics. As a caster, once these five essentials are understood and mastered a caster can deviate from them slightly to accommodate a number of casting situations.

1. There must be a pause at the end of each stroke, which varies in duration with the amount of line beyond the rod tip.

In gear fishing it is the weight of a lure or a plug that provides the weight used to bend or load a rod in order to store the energy needed for delivering a cast. In fly fishing it is the weight of the line beyond the tip of the rod that loads the rod. In a typical weight forward floating trout line this weight is distributed over the first thirty five feet of the line. To properly load the rod the line beyond the rod tip must be allowed time to straighten at the end of both the forward and back cast. A good rule of thumb is: in a short cast there should be a short pause at the end of the stroke; in a medium length cast a medium pause; a long cast should have a longer pause. This will allow the line to straighten and the rod to load properly. With experience a caster will be able to feel the line unroll and this pause will become second nature.

2. Slack line should be kept at an absolute minimum.

Any time there is slack in the line during the casting stroke it won't allow the rod to load properly. Slack basically causes the caster to waste part of the casting stroke removing the slack therefore the stroke will not properly loading the rod. Some of the causes of slack are: starting the casting stroke with the rod too high, an abrupt application of power during the casting stroke, slack between the reel and the first guide of your rod, a belly in the line or outside forces like wind or current in the water. Learning to control your line by stripping in the slack or starting the stroke with the rod tip closer to the water are easy ways to control slack.

3. In order to form the most efficient, least air resistant loop, and to direct the energy of a fly cast toward a specific target, the caster must move the rod tip in a straight line.

The line goes where the rod tip leads it. If the rod tip moves in a straight line path, both vertically and horizontally, a nice tight loop will be formed and the energy in that loop will allow the caster both greater distance and more accuracy. In the vertical plane there are three common paths the rod tip can take. A straight line will allow for a tight loop, a convex path, where the casting stroke looks like a wind shield wiper, will cause an open loop or a greater distance between the top leg and the bottom leg of the loop. While a concave path where the rod tip dips lower in the middle of the casting stroke will generally cause a tailing loop. This is where the top leg will fall below the bottom leg of the loop causing a "wind" knot or a tangle in the line.

The rod tip must also move in a straight line on the horizontal plane without deviation to the right or the left. Any deviation in these planes will cause a dissipation of energy in the line. To help explain the importance of a straight line path, think of shooting a bow and arrow or a rubber band. In order to deliver either of those to the target you must pull them straight back or 180 degrees from the target. As you pull the bow string back it stores energy. When you release the string it releases that energy and shoots the arrow in the opposite direction from where it was loaded. In the overhand cast, if the caster moves the rod tip anywhere but in a straight line path towards the target and then away from the target on the back cast, the energy is lost in the line outside the rod tip.

4. The size of the casting arc must vary with the length of line past the rod tip.

In the simplest terms; short cast - short stroke, long cast - long stroke. This sounds simple but several things can go wrong. Two common faults are: having too short of a stroke for the amount of line carried outside the rod tip and; “creep”. As a caster carries more line in the air outside the rod tip they will tend to creep forward on the forward cast before the line on the back cast has a chance to unroll behind them. This causes a shortened forward stroke. In a longer cast the weight of the line will cause the rod to load much deeper. If the caster creeps, the loop won’t unroll properly and there is not enough of the stroke remaining to load the rod deeply enough to accommodate the amount of line outside the rod tip.

5. Power must be applied in the proper amount at the proper place in the stroke.

In an ideal casting stroke the application of power should be an acceleration to an abrupt or crisp stop. It should be applied slowly at first, gradually increasing and then stopped abruptly. This abrupt stop forces the rod out of the bend and as the rod straightens the loop is formed. All the energy that was generated in the loaded rod is then transferred to the fly line and loop. That said, there are several factors that influence the amount of power needed in a cast. Those factors include the length of the cast, wind, the amount of line to be false cast, or the weight of the rod and what the line is on that rod.

These are the Bill and Jay Gammel “Five Essentials to Fly Casting”. They are the nuts and bolts of learning good fly presentation in any condition.

Judy

Around the Bend

Our speaker in February will be Frank Haw a name well known to anyone who has spent time fishing the salt waters of the northwest. Come and hear Frank talk about fishing and his latest book Washington’s Sport of Kings—Views of a Fisheries Insider.



SSFF 2016 OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

President: Don Freeman donfreeman74@gmail.com

Vice President: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@comcast.net

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Newsletter: Dave Field d_w_field@hotmail.com

WEB SITE www.southsoundflyfishers.org

SSFF PO BOX 2792, Olympia, WA 98507

Club Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month except December, starting at 6:30pm.

Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:00 pm.

Meeting are held at the North Olympia Fire Station (Boston Harbor Fire Station)
5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA.