



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 17 Issue 6

June 2017

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## The Leader's Line

By President Gene Rivers



### Greetings South Sound Fly Fishers

Streams are now open. Lakes have been open for a while. Summer is here. Reports from fishing the Eastern side of the State have been very good. The West side of the State is also producing lots of fish. Even fairweather fishers have no excuse not to go fishing.

Jim McAllister led a very successful club outing at Lake Nahwatzel in May. We had nine members turn out, so this was our best turn out this year! Look for more information about Jim's plan for outings in the newsletter and at our meetings.

Plans are in the works for a Fall Fly Tying class. Details will be announced in the Garden Hackle.

After much discussion the Board has also decided to go ahead with an Introduction to Fly Fishing Class this Fall. It will be a one night class for beginners and those new to the sport of fly fishing. It will be open to the public and will be taught at the Olympia Community Center in downtown Olympia. it will be team taught by several of our club members including Randy Allen, Ben Dennis, Wayne Dixon. Dave Field will be heading the class but Look for further details from Dave in the next edition of the Hackle. Details will also be announced at the monthly General meetings.

Walt Dohring, one of our serious and talented fly tiers, has offered to tie his version of the **BETTER BUGGER** prior to the June meeting. There are over 400 Wooley Bugger patterns and the list is growing because it is such an effective pattern. In addition to Walt demonstrating how to tie this fly, board member Max Doerge will set up video of Walt tying and it will be projected on the screen at the front of the room so everyone will have a clear view of the process. Also Walt says to feel free to ask him if you have any questions about how to tie this fly, or any other flies.

John Sabo has been providing some great prizes for our raffle. Be sure to stop at John's table at the meeting. Walt's flies will be added to the raffle items for the evening, so if you purchase raffle tickets from John Sabo you may go home with one of Walt's creations.

See you on June 20th at the club meeting.

*Gene*



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# The June Program

By Don Freeman



The June program will feature staff from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife discussing several initiatives WDFW has undertaken as part of their long range strategic plan.

Fishing and outdoor opportunities abound in the state and it is WDFW's mission to preserve, protect and perpetuate fish, wildlife and ecosystems while providing sustainable fish and wildlife recreational and commercial opportunities.

Working throughout the state, WDFW's employees --field biologists, enforcement officers, land stewards, lab technicians and customer service representatives--manage hundreds of fish and wildlife species, maintain nearly a million acres of public wildlife lands. The staff provide opportunities for recreational and commercial fishing, wildlife viewing and hunting, protect and restore habitat and enforce laws that protect fish and wildlife resources.

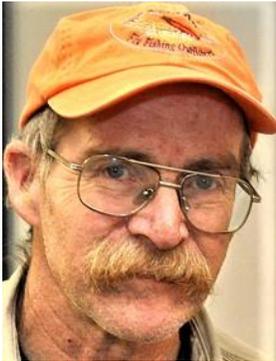
Our much-treasured quality of life in the Pacific Northwest depends on healthy and thriving fish and wildlife populations. As the principal steward of these resources, WDFW is committed to continue building a solid organizational foundation and cooperative relationships with partners and stakeholders that support both resource and human needs, now and in the future.

Strengthening and modernizing communications is one of WDFW's goals. The Department is developing a cell phone application that allows us to connect with the department 24/7 for conducting business including real time salmon and steelhead catch reporting that can reduce the annual mail-in paper based system currently used.

Today the WDFW is charged with the responsibility of managing the fish and wildlife inhabiting the state. Come hear about some the successes and challenges the Department faces while carrying out their mission.

# Outing Reports

By Jim McAllister-Outings Chair



## Forward Cast - June

So where to go in June? Somewhere close...somewhere productive...Scott Lake! It was planted early June, just in time for the Kids Fishing Derby and that plant produced good catch results. Kids had their hooks straightened by some nice fish and that's no fishing story.

You haven't tried lake fishing? *You need to!* No boat, no floatation? *No problem!* I have a spare boat which I will bring. There's nothing I like better than seeing my fellow club members fishing from the spare boat, learning lake tactics, catching fish and having a great time. All I ask is that you *use* the boat.

[Saturday June 24<sup>th</sup> meet at the Scott Lake boat ramp. At 9:00am](#) It's close enough that I don't think we need to arrange car pools; we can talk about that at the June club meeting.

Golfers, bring your clubs too. After fishing the lake you may want to take advantage of the 9 hole Scott Lake Golf Course. It's a nice course that just treats you right.

Future Outings - At the May meeting I surveyed member's preferences as to fishing streams or lakes. Folks were divided pretty evenly. Many local streams have been closed 'til this month. Look for a stream trip in July. I'll be investigating streams where everyone will enjoy a productive catch. Do you have a favorite stream? Tell me and we'll see if we can't set up an outing there!

[See you at the meeting June 20 and the outing to Scott Lake June 24.](#)

## Back cast - May Outing Fishing Report

Dateline: Lake Nahwatzel, May 20. The “iffy” weather showed signs of cooperating. Nine Club participants fished the lake without getting drenched. If I have the reports correct every boat caught fish. Wayne Dixon benefitted from his 7:30am early bird arrival. He caught five in the first hour, hour and a half? The bites slow a little when the rest of us arrived at 9:30 but success was had by all fishers!

*Jim*

Wayne Dixon and Mark Brownell



Gene Rivers and Jim McAllister



Some of SSFF Gang at Lake Nahwatzel

Outing photos by Randy Allen

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## THE SOAPBOX



Don Freeman

Conservation and Political chair

### Greetings

The legislature remains deadlocked on several issues, so much that there is still no decision on the proposed fee increases that WDFW states as necessary to continue current programs per status quo. Hopefully this will be decided during the extended session. In the meanwhile, the regulation pamphlet is now finalized and is available online at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/>.

Speaking of online services, the department is in the process of introducing a cell phone application to provide most of the services offered. This app has been beta testing for most of the year, and should be available soon. The service will enable users to purchase licenses and tags, check current and emergency regulations and closures plus offer the ability to fill out catch cards on real time. The value of that feature alone was made most obvious last Thursday on the Sol Duc during efforts to fill out my catch report for spring Chinook in a down pour. The result is barely legible, only showing that I made an effort. When fully functional, this will enable real time accurate counts of harvest during salmon seasons which are limited to set harvest limits, plus will be much more accurate than estimates made by extrapolating dockside creel counts. This will also remove the requirement to mail the physical catch record into the WDFW office each season. When the app is launched, we will provide an orientation session at a general meeting.

**Here are some highlights of activities to choose from for June in Washington:**

### **Trout, salmon fishing opportunities abound in June**

Some of Washington's most popular fishing opportunities are open to anglers this month, including Chinook salmon in the Columbia River and trout in rivers throughout the state.

Great opportunities over the next several weeks include:

- **Trout:** Many rivers across the state open for trout fishing June 3. Meanwhile, the lowland lakes fishing season is underway and anglers have plenty of opportunities to reel in some nice-size fish over the next several months.

- **Columbia River salmon:** The summer salmon season begins June 16 as hefty upriver summer Chinook salmon and sockeye salmon begin moving in increasing numbers into the Columbia River.
- **Lake Roosevelt sturgeon:** For the first time in about 30 years, Lake Roosevelt is open for white sturgeon fishing. Check the Eastern Washington (Region 1) report for details.
- **Puget Sound salmon:** Salmon fishing seasons are open in southern Puget Sound (marine areas 11 and 13).
- **Bird watching:** June is a great month to view birds in Washington, particularly at WDFW wildlife areas east of the Cascades.
- **Puget Sound crab:** State shellfish managers are working to finalize this year's Puget Sound crab fisheries and hope to announce season information soon. Check the department's recreational crab fishing webpage (<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/shellfish/crab/>) for updates.

For more information about fishing and wildlife viewing opportunities available this month, see the **Weekender Regional Reports** posted on WDFW's website at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/weekender/>. These reports are updated throughout the month to provide up-to-date information about recreational opportunities around the state.

For those of us who enjoy fishing for rockfish that have experienced the guilt of seeing a fish we aren't going to harvest inflated like a party balloon from being brought from depth, there is a solution - one that will require compliance by law. The Bottomfish regulation for all Marine Area reads, in part, "DESCENDING DEVICE - A device used for the rapid descent or recompression of fish. A descending device must be onboard vessels and rigged for immediate use when fishing for or possessing HALIBUT or BOTTOMFISH." See [wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/bottomfish/rockfish/mortality.html](http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/bottomfish/rockfish/mortality.html) for more information.

These devices should soon be available at sporting goods outlets, and are distributed by several local organizations.



SFI-DFO Vancouver  
2017 Final.pdf

*Don*

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# Membership

by VP Randy Allen, Acting Membership Chair



## Please welcome our newest members to the Club!

- Dan Doty - Dan joined at the May meeting. Dan is attracted to our conservation activities of the sport. He wants to fish for trout, steelhead, coastal cutthroat, salmon, and bass. Dan, when Don Freeman returns from fishing far and wide on the Olympic peninsula we'll make sure you meet. Don chairs our Conservation roles, and he will appreciate your help with his responsibilities. Welcome to SSFF!
- Steve Brown - Steve also joined at the May meeting. An avid fly caster, maybe we should say Steve really joined us in April for the indoor Cabela's casting tournament. He showed us what a talented caster can do with a fly line. Other casters were content to place a yarn-fly on the floor somewhere near our two-foot hula hoops. But Steve! He nailed a two inch target spot on! (The overhead fire sprinkler.) That is a very small target to hit. Steve you're interested in fishing for trout, coastal cutthroat, and bass (they're larger targets). We want you to meet Jim McAllister (Outings Chair), Don Freeman (Program Chair), and Dave Field (Newsletter). All our activities need help, and they'll appreciate you joining in!
- Quigg Davis - Quigg first joined ten years ago in 2007. After a few years of leave Quigg rejoined at our May meeting. He came for the program on trout and crawfish strategies in the eastern Washington lakes. Quigg adds that knowledge to his desire to fish for trout, salmon, coastal cutthroat, bass, and salmon. He's also interested in the NW Youth Conservation/Fly Fishing Academy. We'll make sure you meet up with Mike Clancy and Jim Brosio to discuss how you can help with the Academy! Welcome back, Quigg!

Tight Lines,

*Randy*

# South Sound Fly Fishers Fundraising



**By John Sabo**

**Fundraising Chair**

## **Notice to Fly Tiers - An Opportunity to Support the South Sound Fly Fishers' Alan Harger Fund**

The club has received a generous donation of fly tying supplies, tools, and equipment, with the stipulation that the items only be used to generate monetary donations to the club's Alan Harger Fund. Alan was a longtime supporter of the Club and Fly Fishing in the South Sound. Al's will established the Fund, in his name, to support the NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. Since that time, the Club has maintained the Fund, which makes annual donations to the Academy.

The club continues to welcome cash donations and donations of fly fishing gear and equipment that is targeted toward sustaining the Al Harger Fund. See me at the Raffle Table before the meeting.

The donated fly tying gear will be on a table at the rear of the room at the next meeting, June 20<sup>th</sup>. All funds raised will be deposited in the Al Harger Fund, for the benefit of the Academy. Stop by the table before the meeting or at the break (items will not be available after the meeting), and find just the things you need for this fly fishing season. For example, we will have a (looks new) Fenwick FF858 8 ½ ft. 8 weight Fiberglass Rod and Medalist Reel on the table. I'm told this is a very good steelhead or bass rod.

### **Club Raffle News**

The monthly meeting raffle again had a \$100 "profit", which was placed in the club's operating account. Thank you, to all the club members who participate in the raffle at each meeting, and all the members who donate raffle items. Remember, we will continue to have interesting and useful raffle items at every meeting, so stop by before the meeting and get your tickets. We also have some empty fly boxes to fill for the raffle, please see me at the raffle table.

### **SSFF Patches**

Official SSFF Patches are available at the Raffle Table for only \$5. These can be placed on a cap, shirt, jacket, or fly fishing vest to show your membership in the club.

*John*

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# Treasurer's Creel

By Dave Field



Fellow SSFF Members,

SSFF is an affiliate club of Fly Fishers International (FFI).

Your membership in SSFF continues to provide you with the knowhow, skill building and comradery you want and expect from your own local fly fishing club.

South Sound Fly Fishers provides you information on fly fishing, has frequent outings and "The Garden Hackle." These are just a few of the many benefits of being a member of SSFF.

As a member of South Sound Fly Fishers you are also doing your part for conservation and education because SSFF invests time, energy and financial support to such organizations as Project Healing Waters, Casting for Recovery, The Coastal Cutthroat Coalition and Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy. SSFF also works in cooperation with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in maintaining Munn Lake and other projects.

## Dave



Photo courtesy of Howard Nanto

## Report - Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



By Mike Clancy

Co-Director

The 2017 Academy is set and ready to go. We have amazing boys and girls registered for the event. All their essays and letters of recommendation are in and it appears we have another great group of kids. The Academy is June 18-24 on Hicks Lake at The Gwinwood Community Center in Lacey. We have a fantastic instructor lineup with FFI/CCI casting instructors, fly tying professionals and conservation experts. Last year we had over 50 volunteers. The 2017 Academy would not take place if it was not for the generous support from the Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters, corporate and private donors.

The kids will be fishing at new ponds in Graham, and the Deschutes River in Thurston County. Everyone is welcome to visit us during the week to learn what is happening (please call 1<sup>st</sup> to insure we are available), if you are available for guiding, we could use your help, especially in the evenings on the river. If you want to help - please contact Jim Brosio @ 360-941-9947 or Mike @253-278-0061. Seriously folks, we could really use your help with the guiding in the evening on the river. It's really not guiding, it's being there to make sure the kids are safe, but you could share your experience on fishing a river with them. We will provide the transportation to the sites. Mike Clancy, Co-Director, NWYCFFAcademy, 253-278-0061, [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com)



Student of the River

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# Forget Anything?

By Randy Allen

I admit it, I *am* a checklist kind of guy. On fishing trips I pack what I need and I show up with it.

So I was really surprised when my buddy, Ron Backman, and I arrived at the Deschutes the other day for the late afternoon / early evening. Making the most of dwindling daylight I headed into the stream's slippery rocks. I instantly knew I forgot my wading staff, first time ever.

How did *that* happen? I failed to use my packing *checklist* on this quick local jaunt. Everything is in my fishing grab-bag, my reels, vests, nets, waders, everything but my rod, boots, and staff. I don't have a slick, collapsible wading staff. Someone told me I could gain the same utility from an old ski pole. So most everything's in my bag, except my free, really cool ski pole combination wading-staff and mole-run locating device. (Would you use your expensive collapsible carbon staff to locate mole runs?)

Years ago a friend of mine was an avid backpacker who hiked the Eastern Sierra all her life. Pat never forgot *anything*. I was thrilled when she shared her pack-trip checklist. I adapted her list for my fishing trips and have used it religiously (until the other day).

I've broken the list into categories such as Fishing Gear, Clothing, Personal, Food, with specific checklist items below each heading, like the check line for my wading staff.

Pat further organized her checklist adding a schedule of to-do items as her packing trip date approached. Visualize columns down the paper. Headings read 1 month prior, 2 weeks prior, 7 days prior...until departure. She listed items like 1 month prior "repair sleeping bag zipper," and 2-days prior "buy trail mix," et cetera. I say "visualize" the to-do columns because I haven't created such a to-do schedule, but it is easy for you to make your list.

Had I used my checklist the other day!) my staff would have been in my car trunk. And, when I met Ron he would have seen my staff and run back into the house to grab his staff too! It would have been at my side and I would have been much more stable walking out of the stream in the dim light.

Hope this helps make your fishing trips run more smoothly!

## FISHING PACK LIST

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Destination: \_\_\_\_\_

## FISHING GEAR

### **Rod(s) / tube(s)**

- \_\_\_ Fly rod(s)
- \_\_\_ Fly reel(s)
- \_\_\_ Spare spool(s)

### **Vest**

- \_\_\_ Markers – (Brown, Green, Black)
- \_\_\_ Flies
- \_\_\_ Strike indicators
- \_\_\_ Weights
- \_\_\_ Fly floatant
- \_\_\_ Tapered leaders
- \_\_\_ Tippets
- \_\_\_ Radio Shack test lead tool (tie flies on)
- \_\_\_ Nipper / retractor
- \_\_\_ Hemostats
- \_\_\_ Hook sharpeners
- \_\_\_ Fishing license

### **Net**

- \_\_\_ Fly-line dressing
- \_\_\_ Waders, chest
- \_\_\_ Waders, lite-weight hips
- \_\_\_ Pants belt for hip waders
- \_\_\_ Gravel cuffs
- \_\_\_ Boots
- \_\_\_ Two plastic grocery bags for wet boots
- \_\_\_ Hand towel ! ! ! !
- \_\_\_ Polaroid glasses
- \_\_\_ Magnifiers
- \_\_\_ Barb-mashers / Mini pliers (cut hooks if barb hook stuck in finger / hook removal)
- \_\_\_ Wading staff / ski pole

## CLOTHING

- \_\_\_ Shorts
- \_\_\_ Long jeans
- \_\_\_ Sweat pants
- \_\_\_ Sweat shirt
- \_\_\_ Towel (if anyone dunks)
- \_\_\_ Swim trunks
- \_\_\_ Long sleeve tee shirt
- \_\_\_ Long sleeve overshirt (Fenwick)
- \_\_\_ Walking sneakers
- \_\_\_ Baseball cap / Billed cap

## SPARE CLOTHES / POST FISHING

- \_\_\_ Sweat-pants / sweat-shirt
- \_\_\_ Socks, shoes

## WEATHER CLOTHING

- \_\_\_ Rain gear – Gore-Tex jacket
- \_\_\_ Coated nylon Shirt
- \_\_\_ Rain hat

## MISCELLANEOUS

- \_\_\_ Small plastic ziplock bag for Driver License, Visa card, Auto Club Card, Cash
- \_\_\_ Maps
- \_\_\_ Compass
- \_\_\_ Swiss army knife
- \_\_\_ Camera / flash
- \_\_\_ Parking pass (WA state Discover Pass)
- \_\_\_ Fly-tying supplies / pattern notebook
- \_\_\_ Pair VHF radios (charge batteries !)
- \_\_\_ Mini GPS (charge batteries !)

## FIRST AID

- \_\_\_ Neosporin packets
- \_\_\_ Band-Aids

## PERSONAL

- \_\_\_ Roll TP / ziploc bag
- \_\_\_ Kleenex / ziploc bag
- \_\_\_ Insect repellent
- \_\_\_ Sun block
- \_\_\_ Chap stick
- \_\_\_ Hand wash
- \_\_\_ Hand lotion
- \_\_\_ Backpack

## CARRY- FOOD

- \_\_\_ Water, canteen - bottles - purifier
- \_\_\_ Juice packs
- \_\_\_ Pop tarts
- \_\_\_ English muffin / peanut butter/honey
- \_\_\_ Paper towels / napkins
- \_\_\_ Fruit: Apple / pear / banana / nectarine
- \_\_\_ Celery / carrots
- \_\_\_ Trail mix

## BICYCLES

- \_\_\_ Back-pack
- \_\_\_ Duct tape (rod tube-to-bike frame)
- \_\_\_ Chairs
- \_\_\_ Ice-chest, cooler

## By the Campfire with Gary Oberbillig



Gary Oberbillig is a respected Northwest fisher, fly tier and member of fly fishing clubs in Washington including South Sound Fly Fishers.

This fishing episode took place a few years ago in Baja California. Gary's fishing partner was fellow SSFF member, Kevin Ryan. The two had spent most of the day fishing in their fast moving panga piloted by Miguel the pangero under the hot Mexican sun on the blue waters of the Sea of Cortez. Tuna, Cabria, Pargo, Dorato, striped Marlin and Roosterfish were known to ply these waters and Gary and Kevin had caught and released their share of these fish.

During the prior winter, Gary tied a large variety of flies in preparation for his Baja adventure. This included an array of sardine imitations better known as "Sardinas" in this part of the world. Gary's Sardinas were from three to five inches in length allowing him to easily match the size of any of the Sardines he found in the Sea of Cortez. They were trolling that afternoon and Gary was using one of his favorite trolling setups. His fly rod was a 12/13 weight, 4 piece, Fisher rod. Fisher at that time produced an outstanding series of rods over the but had finally gone out of the business. These rods were built with "internal" ferrules, that is each section of the rod fit inside the lower section as the rod was assembled. Gary had loaded his Shimano wide arbor reel with several hundred yards of 30 pound test monofilament line with no backing. This was a common setup for trolling these waters.

Miguel had thrown a few handfuls of sardinas on the water to help attract larger sport fish and it was working because Gary saw a Yellowfin Tuna streak across the third stern wave of the boat to his streamer fly. The hit was explosive. Most of these fish are powerful and will thoroughly test you and your rod when hooked.

So the battle was on between Gary and the Yellowfin Tuna. Gary would work the fish up to the boat only to have it sprint away and grudgingly giving it some precious line. Every time Gary thought the fish was tiring it would suddenly streak away from the boat as if it had just chugged an energy drink.

Following standard protocol, Kevin reeled in his line and somewhat patiently stood by until Gary either landed or released the fish. Typically, Yellowfin are in schools and catching one usually means many others are nearby. Kevin hoped to get back into the action while Tuna were still in the area.

After about 20 minutes Gary decided it was time to end the battle one way or the other. He knew he was a strong man using stout gear in a huge fight with a well hooked Tuna. Gary was confident he could win this battle if he really reefed on the fish.

Suddenly there was a loud pop as if a rifle had been fired, but no, it was Gary's fly rod. It had burst apart at the second ferrule! Kevin leaped into action and grabbed the top half of the broken rod, maintaining pressure on the fish while Gary continued playing the fish off the reel. Much yelling ensued between Gary, Kevin and Miguel as all three focused on landing that fish using a broken rod. Within a few more minutes the three men were finally able to boat this fish.

The end of the story came a minute later when they measured the Tuna only to find it was a mere thirty inches in length. Typical of the strong fish in the tropics, even the relatively small fish would put up a tremendous battle. This is just one of the many attractions of fly fishing the Sea of Cortez.

## *Gary*





## Club Bulletin Board

### Meeting Night Activities

With the return of daylight time and warmer weather the club will offer casting practice on the back lawn of the fire station before club meetings.



Beautiful embroidered club logo patches can be purchased at the back raffle table. Get them for hats, vests and jackets.

### **Important Notice:** Coastal Cutthroat Trout Volunteers Needed

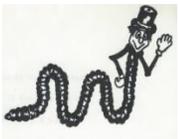
The WDFW Coastal Cutthroat trout initiative is looking for stream volunteers to count redds in local streams. Call Bill Young 360-426-8416, if you are interested in volunteering to help further the scientific study of these fish in the South Sound.

### Steelhead license plate available for purchase

Steelhead specialty plates are available for sale and revenue generated from plate sales will be used by the Washington Department Fish and Wildlife to help support activities critical to conserving populations of native steelhead.

The initial price of special wildlife-themed background plates ranges from \$54 to \$72 depending on the vehicle, in addition to the regular license fees. For more information on how to purchase a steelhead license plate, please visit the Washington Department of Licensing website at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/specialdesign.html>

**Please do not park in the Fire Station driveway during SSFF meetings. If the parking spaces are full in front of the fire Station please use the parking area behind the building.**



**The Garden Hackle Willy Worm says thank you for keeping the emergency vehicle driveway clear for our First Responders!**



## [Puget Sound Fly Fishers Fair is Coming July 29<sup>th</sup> 2017](#)

It is less than two months to go to the 60th Anniversary of PSFF. The PSFF Fly Fishing Fair is shaping up to be a great event. They have 13 presentations scheduled including techniques for catching tiger muskie presented by Mike Sturza, topwater tactics with Leland Miyawaki, open water cutthroat skills by Bob Triggs, introduction to fly fishing with Rueben Lamphere, fly fishing photography brought to you by Carol Ann Morris, BC steelhead with April Vokey, panfishing for everyone with WDFW's Bruce Bolding, tuna on the fly with Anil Srivistava, stillwater tactics with Skip Morris, smallmouth fly fishing featuring David Paul Wiliams, new and exciting information about Coastal Cutthroat Trout thanks to WDFW's James Losee, and kayak fishing in Puget Sound with Justin Waters.

Topics are designed to cover all interest and skill levels from fresh brand-new beginner to the seasoned angler. One of the most rewarding elements of fly fishing is that you can always add to your skill set and you reset your game. Ask yourself if there is a species you haven't chased, a technique you need help with, a style of fly fishing you haven't tried yet.

The PSFF Silent Auction will have fly fishing related items and some items of general interest since not all attendees will be fly fishers. Items could be spa services, Bed & Breakfast stays, group meals at a nice restaurant, one day trips, hosted boat rides for a small party, unique products and services. See you there Saturday July 29<sup>th</sup>.



Photo of Charles Sadler courtesy of Howard Nanto

# Fly of the Month

## CHROMIE



By Bob Bates

Chironomid (midge) patterns are numerous, and everybody has their own phenomenal fish catcher. (An adult chironomid looks like a mosquito, but it doesn't bite.) This pattern by Philip Rowley came after his observation of pupae hatching into adult chironomids (midges) in a Canadian lake. He saw that the body had a silvery appearance with some red left over from the larval stage. Chironomid larvae frequently live in the oxygen poor environment of a muddy lake bottom, and they have extra hemoglobin to compensate. Philip says that this is his number one lake pattern. He has much more to say about chironomids in his book *Fly Patterns for Stillwaters*. It is also a go to pattern for many of the Washington state stillwater anglers.

Fishing the Chromie is usually a straightforward application of strike indicator (bobber) techniques. Use a floating line and long leader. Usually, the fly should be near the bottom or top of the weeds. If the strike indicator does anything unexpected like go underwater or move sideways you might have hooked a fish so strike. It might also be a weed. Usually the bobber will sink when you are watching a bird or pouring a cup of coffee. The Chromie may be fished with a regular leader, greased or not greased, to keep it close to the surface.

**Materials list:**

**Hook:** Tiemco 2457, Mustad C49S, # 8-14

**Bead:** Black metal, 1/8<sup>th</sup> inch for size 12 or 10 hooks

**Thread:** Black 8/0 - 14/0

**Gills:** White CDC puffs or sparkle yarn

**Rib:** Red holographic Flashabou, Dynafloss or fine red wire

**Body:** Silver Flashabou, Dynafloss or silver holographic Flashabou

**Thorax:** Peacock herl

**Tying steps:**



1. Smash barb with smooth jaw pliers. Slip bead on hook with smaller hole toward eye. Put hook in vise with middle part of bend exposed. Slide bead to bend, and attach thread at eye. Use just enough turns to hold thread.



2. Tie on a CDC puff and pull it to a length over the eye equal to the diameter of the bead. Half hitch thread and trim it. Trim excess CDC puff.



3. Put a little head cement on thread, and slide bead forward over thread and CDC puff. The head cement helps the bead slide over everything to the eye. If the bead doesn't slide over; take it off and rethread it with the larger hole forward. On the next fly reduce the amount of thread, CDC or both. I made this switch to a CDC puff for the gill after fishing a Canadian lake and found the sparkle yarn too stiff when replacing a fly lost to a big fish. Reattach thread behind bead.



4. Tie on one piece of red holographic Flashabou. Hold it on your side of hook as you wrap over it almost to back of hook. Spiral thread forward to bead.



5. Double two pieces of silver Flashabou over the thread, and slide them down thread to secure them onto hook. Put a couple of thread winds over the Flashabou to make sure they stay in place. Return thread to bead.
- 6.



7. Wrap Flashabou rearward to where rib tie down ended, and then forward to bead. A short hold, 1-inch, helps prevent splitting. Keep even tension on the Flashabou. All of the black thread should be covered. Secure Flashabou, pull it back, and wind thread over the fold back for added security. Trim excess Flashabou. Return thread to bead.



- Counter wind the rib in an open spiral forward to the bead. Pull on red Flashabou enough to make it stay in place. Excessive tension will thin the Flashabou and it will lose color. Secure as in step 6, and trim excess.



- Tie on two pieces of peacock herl, wind thread to bead, wrap peacock herl forward (no more than three turns), secure and trim excess. Put a little head cement on the thread and wind it between the peacock herl and the bead. Whip finish behind the bead; trim thread. Philip said that the main purpose of the peacock herl is to cover the thread winds. Some tiers skip this step, but I think it looks nice and finishes the fly. Three times coat the body with Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails or equivalent. Each time hang fly on a wire, paper cup, etc., until dry.
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This fly is easy to tie if you don't let the Flashabou slip. A variation called the Motherboard is tied using the antistatic plastic protecting computer boards in place of the silver Flashabou. Have fun, and release the fish carefully so you can play with them another day.



\*Fly of the Month” is produced by Fly Fishers International (FFI).



## South Sound Fly Fishers

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**Club meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month except December. Doors open at 5:30PM with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:00 pm. All regularly scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station, 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA.**