



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

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July 2018

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The Leader's Line

By President Wayne Dixon Sr.



Greetings,

Yearly Pilgrimage

Every year I make the trek to some of the most scenic and productive rivers for trout and dry fly fishing. Yes, I am talking about Montana, and to be specific the Yellowstone country. My wife was blessed to be born in this area and becomes my fishing guide on our summer family vacations. The Yellowstone area is a fly fishing paradise with many lakes, rivers, and streams to pick from.

There are a variety of game fish that live in the park such as grayling, browns, cutthroat, and whitefish. One of the most outstanding things about fishing in Montana is the access to water. The fishing areas are clearly marked, clean and accessible by car or truck. Rivers like the Gardner, small streams like the Indian-Panther, and Grebe Lake are all great for the beginner Fly Fisher. For the more serious Angler the Madison, Lewis, and Lamar Rivers offer a great challenge and hold some amazing fish.

As always if you make the journey do not forget to stop by your closest fly shop and get the skinny on what flies to use and what times to use them. This is one of the most valuable resources people often overlook and I have never been disappointed when seeking information, those guys and gals love to talk.

This is the prime time to take a trip out to Montana and enjoy this great state's hospitality, and fisheries. Get out in the back country, find a stream, and take in the beauty while enjoying our wonderful sport. Have an Awesome July!!!

Peace,

Wayne



Photo by Howard Nanto



Casting Instruction and Fly Tying Help

Our July Program will have two features. One will be casting instruction and help with any casting problems members or guests may have. Randy Allen will give a brief 10 minute introduction about the proper mechanics of casting. We will then go outside for casting practice. The casting instructors will be SSFF Past President Mel Hurd, a longtime friend of SSFF. Assisting Mel will be Randy Allen, also an SSFF Past President and former member of the Long Beach Casting Club, Ben Dennis former owner of Fly Rod Ranch Casting and Fishing school and SSFF Past President Don Freeman a local fishing legend and expert on casting. All of these instructors have a wealth of experience on proper casting mechanics and how to do every type of cast possible. Need help learning or improving your double haul or getting a tighter loop or doing a roll cast properly. Now is your chance to discuss this with experts for free personalized help. Don't miss this chance to work with these experts.

In addition to the casting instruction we will have members Walt Dohring, Mark Brownell and Jim McAllister tying flies and available to help anyone who is interested in learning to tie flies. These gentlemen will be there to answer questions for anyone who is interested in learning to tie flies or in taking a beginning fly tying class. Our club will offer a beginning fly tying class this Fall and Walt, Mark and Jim will be able at our July meeting to discuss equipment and supplies needed to get started in fly tying. If you need help using a whip finisher, working with deer hair, tying small neat heads on dry flies or any other fly tying question these expert tiers can help.

We look forward to seeing you at our July meeting.

Gene Rivers



Greetings Moderns:

I'm venturing into technology for this message, but don't expect much expertise as that's not my strong point. Nonetheless, grab your mobile devices.

I received one of those unsolicited messages earlier in the week regarding an update to the WDFW Fish Washington mobile app. So I downloaded it and gave it a tour. Aside from the maps, GPS and flashlight functions, the real time regulation updates are of great value for finding changes to seasons and harvest data.

This summer, salmon returns are dangerously low for the most part, but as always, are unpredictable. Seasons and bag limits may change overnight as escapement goals are met or found unattainable. This data may cause early closures, or in some cases some areas may open briefly with surprise return numbers. Checking the app for changes can save you a wasted trip to Westport, or further and could provide opportunities in the case of bonus openings.

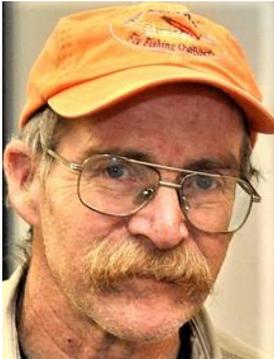
Just look in your Google Play Store or Apple App site and download "Fish Washington" free app. I'm leaving for Eastern WA this morning and look forward to using the GPS function and checking regulations for the remote lakes we're going to explore.

Don Freeman



Club Outings

Jim McAllister Outings chair



Hello Fellow Fly Fishers,

The July outing will be at the Skookumchuck River in south Thurston County. This is a great stream with some good runs and nice pools. There are a number of good access points to be found. We will meet at Southgate Shopping Center parking lot on Saturday July 21st at 8:00AM to convoy from there to the river.

Unless you want to wade wet, bring waders and wading boots. A 3 to 5 weight rod with floating line is about right. Leaders are fairly short, 6 to 9 feet is all you need. Flies are size #14 to #20. Bring an assortment of Caddis, Mayfly, Damselfly and Stone Fly patterns. You may also want to bring some terrestrials and stimulators. We will discuss specific gear and flies needs at the club meeting.

June Outing After Action Report

The June 23rd outing was at Swofford Pond, just south of Riffe Lake. We had a good day with everyone catching fish. Club members were successful in hooking a variety of fish including Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Catfish, Pumpkinseed, Smallmouth and Perch.



Skookumchuck

Fundraising

John Sabo Fundraising Chair



Greetings,

There will no Raffle at the July meeting, due to the change in meeting format of this meeting. Be sure to attend the meeting in order to participate in all the planned activities.

Another Opportunity to Support the South Sound Fly Fishers' Alan Harger Fund

The club has received some generous donations of fly fishing gear 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 long- time supporter of the Club and Fly Fishing in the South Sound. Al's will establish 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 donated fly fishing gear will be on a table at the July meeting. All funds raised will be deposited in the Al Harger Fund, for the benefit of the Academy. Stop by the table during the July meeting (items will not be available after the meeting), and find just the things you need for this fly fishing season.

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.

SSFF Stickers

Official SSFF Stickers are available at the Raffle Table for only \$10. These can be placed on your boat, truck, auto, motorcycle, skateboard, or virtually any hard smooth surface to show your membership in the club.

John Sabo



New Skills, Good Time at the FFI Fly Fishing Fair

One of the greatest fly fishing events of the year is happening right in our backyard in August at the Fly Fishers International Fly Fishing Fair and Fishfest August 7-11 in Boise.

The five-day event is packed with presentations by some of the best fly fishers in the sport today and its best writers, like dry fly expert Nate Brumley, stream and alpine lake specialist Jeff Morgan and inshore salmon fly fishing master Richard Stoll.

There will be daily casting demonstrations Thursday, Friday and Saturday featuring renowned casters such as Molly Semenik, Gary Borger, Mary Ann Dozer and Brian O'Keefe. Friday and Saturday there will be a walk-up clinic on two-handed casting on the Boise River. And for single-handed casters there will be clinics Friday and Saturday offering help solving casting problems and developing new skills. All the classes will be led by FFI Certified Casting Instructors and include new tools such as video casting analysis to give you an opportunity to see your cast unfolding in precise detail and understanding how to make that cast better.

There will be dozens of fly tiers at work demonstrating their skills every day of the event and this year FFI invites everyone to attend The Iron Fly tying contest where tiers draw materials from sealed envelopes and tie a pattern drawn at random. The clock will be ticking as they tie and judges will pick the best at the challenge. Preliminary rounds Thursday and Friday will lead to semi-finals Saturday and then a tie-off between the two top tiers for the title of Grand Champion. The sweepstakes will test both fly design and tying skills, which will be a challenge for skilled tiers and a blast for everyone else to watch. There is also a team event, limited to six teams.

More than 400 exhibitors will be spread throughout the football-field size display area featuring the latest innovations from manufacturers across the country and around the world and an 80-foot casting pond where fishers can watch the newest rods and lines in action.

Go to <https://flyfishersinternational.org/> for a detailed 16-page schedule for the five-day event at Boise Center. You can also register online from the same Web site, or one day passes are available at the door for \$10. Either way, don't miss this opportunity to meet some of the masters of the craft and pick up new skills to help you master your home water as well. See you at the Fair!

Tight Lines,

Mike

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy 2018

Greetings,

We are currently into our third day at The Academy this year. So far so good. We have 21 young boys and girls this year. The average age is 13-14, and they are very well behaved, energetic and full of life.

The casting is being conducted by Robert Gerlach and Carroll Hall with assistance from the ghillies. Mike Koslosky presented his “match the Hatch” program today, an amazing program. P.J. Hicks did his fly tying tool presentation again this year. Tom and Jim conducted the knot tying and Bob Young conducted the streamside ethics class, along with the “Give Me Five” program. Ron Holtcamp, Olympia TU did his “Water Safety” class. Janet Shimpf did her incredible fly tying class. Bob Triggs from Port Townsend conducted his “Searun Cutthroat” class.

The staff presented “Stillwater Fishing Techniques” on the shores of Hicks Lake. It takes a lot of work in preparation for these classes, and it is greatly appreciated for what the instructors do for the kids. The 2018 Academy will probably be over by the time this is published, we are very fortunate to have so much talent in our Clubs. Thank you everyone for your help.



NWYC&FFA Photo



(This is another story from fly fisher, fly tier, mariner and longtime SSFF board member Gary Oberbillig)

Greetings Fly Fishers,

This story is about bicycling in England. I toted my mountain bike to England as it was to be my primary mode of transportation. My two traveling companions who were pure bicyclists wanting a bicycle vacation but my objective was to see the English countryside and meet as many people as possible.

We flew from Sea-Tac to the Gatwick airport near London and took the train to Canterbury. Before starting off, we spent a couple of days exploring County Kent and the historical town of Canterbury.

The River Stour flows through the county Kent. Productive fishing is mostly confined to property managed by the Canterbury District Angling Association. This includes most area lakes and parts of the Stout River downstream from Fordwich Bridge to Plucks Gutter. These waters were referenced by Izaak Walton in his Compleat Angler. Of course the fishing is much diminished from what it was in Walton's day,

Given the many changes to this area over the years the Canterbury Angler Association still does it best to protect the river and lakes. I'm always impressed at how much it costs the Association members to fish. They pay about 100 Pounds annual dues just to put a line in the water. The dues do not include parking and other fees that usually runs their total to about 125 Pounds a year for fishing waters that pale in comparison to the variety and quality of fishing we have in the Northwest states.

We started the bicycle trip heading South but later in the morning some sort of bee stung my hand. In a few hours the hand was the size of a catcher's mitt. We decided to stop at a surgeons (doctors) office to have it checked out. The doctor sent to a chemist (pharmacist) for some Benadryl. The hand was still swollen and painful the next morning so rather than continuing to hold up my traveling companions, we bade farewell and I stayed put for a couple of days until the swelling had gone down.

In a few days I felt well enough to continue the bike trip but it was impossible to catch up with my companions so I bought a train ticket for the city of Penzance in Cornwall. Cornwall had always interested me because it historically was known for fly fishing and hard rock mining much the same as in Idaho where I had grown up. Many of the miners in the western states came from Cornwall. They were known as “Cousin Jacks.” The reason was that whenever a mining company needed to hire, invariably one of the miners would tell the boss they had a “Cousin Jack” willing to leave the mines of Cornwall to work in the states.

Another reason for me to go to Cornwall was to spend time in the town of St. Ives to see the world renowned ceramics studios and museums. At the time I was teaching ceramics at the university level back in the states.

The rocky terrain of Cornwall has about a dozen river valleys drained by about two dozen rivers. Some of these rivers have important runs of Salmon and Sea Trout. Sea Trout you may recall are just a seagoing version of a Brown Trout. For decades after the tin and copper mines gave out, many of the river systems just sat polluted and useless. The lack of good farming practices by many Cornish farmers further destroyed river habitat.

Finally enough public pressure resulted in stream cleanup and an adoption of fish friendly farming. It didn't take long before fishing rebounded. In a couple of years all the costs associated with the cleanup were recouped by robust economic growth and resulting tax revenues. Much more could still be done, but the habitat is certainly far better than it was. Fly fishing, birding, hiking and other outdoor activities now support a strong and sustainable Cornish economy. Strange how we need to keep learning the same things over and over about the connection between habitat and fish and wildlife.

Much of my time in Cornwall was spent biking between the towns of Penzance and St. Ives. It was in St. Ives that Bernard Leach and Shoji Hamada established their ceramics studio back in 1920. Leach and Hamada may not be well known in the Pacific Northwest but in the world of pottery they are giants. They designed pottery based on the Western and Eastern arts and philosophies. The Leach Pottery studio still operates in St Ives almost a century later.

[Barbara Hepworth](#) a world class sculptor also settled in St. Ives. The Barbara Hepworth Museum and her sculpture garden are now run by the Tate Museum. It was Barbara's wish to leave her work on public display in perpetuity so future generations could enjoy her work.

So now you know of my great love for the ceramic arts fits right along with fly fishing and tying. I love both fly tying and pottery making. They are a magical blend of art and science that have truly provided me a lifetime of challenge and perpetual enjoyment.



Club Bulletin Board

Warning: Some lakes we fish may have major algae blooms. Thurston County Public Health recommends that affected lake waters should not be used for drinking, cooking, swimming or washing. If an algae bloom becomes toxic, it can cause serious illness and even death according to the Thurston County Public Health Department.

Beginning Fly Tying Class

SSFF and the City of Olympia is working on holding a beginners fly tying class on Monday Nights this coming October at the Olympia Center. The class will be taught by Janet Schimpf assisted by Jim Maus. More details are coming. Watch for the signup information in the city's publication "Experience It" and signup on-line....

Help Coastal Cutthroat Trout. Volunteers are needed by the WDFW Coastal Cutthroat Trout Program. Learn about these iconic fish as you work to help further their recovery. If you would like to help--Call Bill Young at 360-426-8416. Bill has been a volunteer studying these fish and their habitat for many years. Please leave a message if Bill is out doing a redd count on a local stream. To learn more about these native fish, click on Coastal Cutthroat Coalition on the club website.

Please...keep the Fire Station's fire and medic truck driveway clear of vehicles during all SSFF meetings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please use the parking areas behind the building.

Remember to support our First Responders!



Willy Worm says thank you for parking in designated areas around the fire station!

Fly of the Month

WING BURNER



By Bob Bates

Fly tiers use a few tools in plying their craft: scissors, bodkins, hackle pliers and a vise to name a few. This month the emphasis is not on a pattern but on a tool: **The wing burner**. Carl Ronk demonstrated it at the 2011 East Idaho Fly Tying Exposition in Idaho Falls, ID.

Many tiers feel they need to provide a good silhouette so the fish will hit their fly with abandon. Some use wood duck flank feathers others go for hackle tip wings. All the effort is to make the fly look like a living mayfly. When a mayfly nymph breaks through the surface film it must rest and dry its wings. If it is a drizzly day the dun will sit on the surface a long time before it takes off to nearby vegetation. This gives the fish a good opportunity to look it over carefully before taking it. On very dry days the fish has to make up its mind quickly. Either way you want something that looks real and doesn't move on the surface. Fifty years ago I believed that "drag free float" was something Outdoor Writers thought up to sell more articles. However, the Madison River rainbows and browns at Madison Junction in Yellowstone National Park taught me otherwise.

There is a bewildering collection of wing burners available. Some are made of stainless steel and others are brass. They look like tweezers, forceps and alligator clips. Almost any wing shape you can imagine is available: mayfly, caddis fly, stone fly, grasshopper and more. They come in sizes from 10 down to 22. Many fly shops carry the larger ones, ask around. Carl's collection is for mayflies, made of brass and look like alligator clips: See below.



Wing burners in sizes from 22 to 10



Wing burner with jaws open.

Use feathers from the head of the grouse or other bird for the smallest patterns. Feather or synthetic wings can be sandwiched to make a more attractive pattern. That makes them more attractive to the fish as well as the tier. Carl talked about a pattern that, with the sun behind him, looked like spotlight on the water until a fish hit it. If you want wings with veins on them, they are available also. Check the internet.

Materials list:

Hook: Any dry fly hook

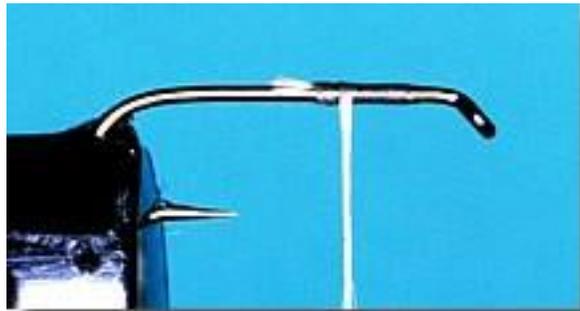
Thread: 6/0 or finer recommended, color your choice

Wings: Grouse, etc. Tea bags, some synthetics.

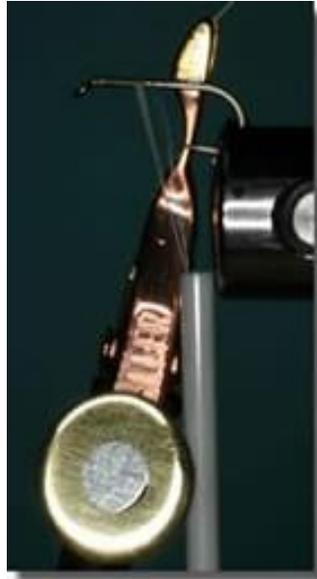
Tail: Your choice; hackle barbs, moose, Microfibites or paint brush fibers. **Body:** Your choice; biot, goose primary, dubbed, thread, etc.

Hackle: Your choice

Tying steps:



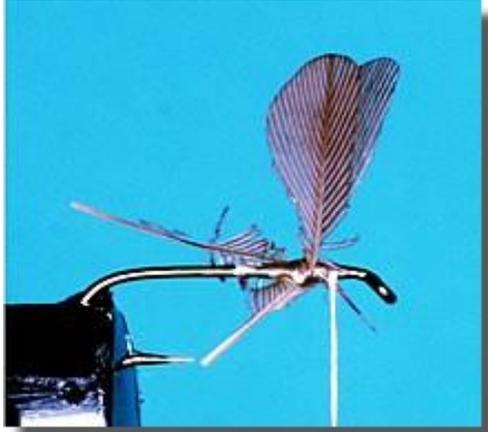
1. Start in the usual way by attaching the tying thread on hook about mid shank, and winding it forward to a point 1/3rd shank length back from the eye.



2. Next get out your wing burners, and select the size for the size of fly you are planning to tie.



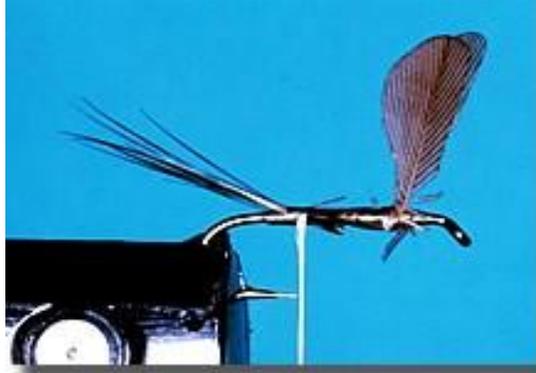
3. Put grouse breast feather into wing burner. (Use feathers from the back of head for small flies, and from breast or back for large flies.) Be sure to put stem in center of burner so it is protected. Orient the first feather so that either the shiny side or the dull side is up. Then when you burn the second feather reverse it in the burner. Then you have right and left wings. The Bic burning tool is available at Rite Aid, Rosaur's or similar shops.



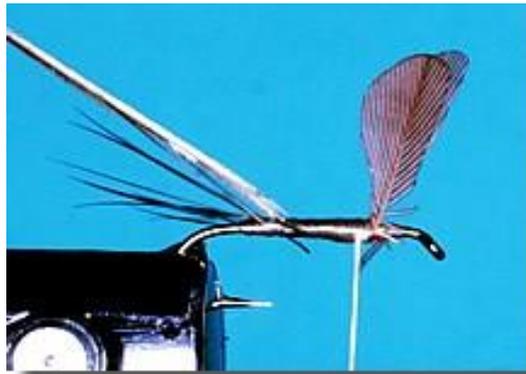
4. Put the two wings on top of the hook with the tips forward and the larger side up. Tie it in like you would a regular quill wing. Bring thread up between thumb and hook. Move thread down between first finger and hook. Pull thread straight down so wings do not roll around hook. Put a couple of thread winds rearward. Then pull up the wings and put a few thread winds in front to prop them up.



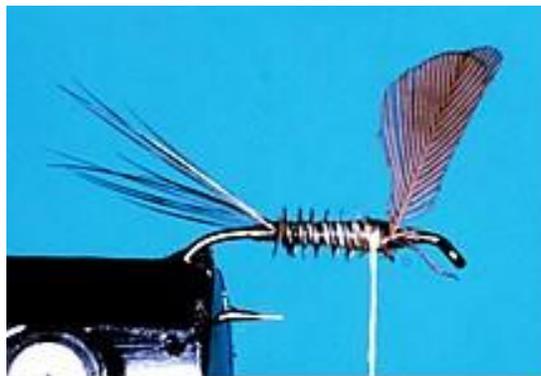
5. Trim excess feather on a slope, and while you are doing that the thread usually unwinds. This is good because the thread flattens, and you will produce a smooth taper while winding the thread rearward. Each thread wind may overlap the previous one a little.



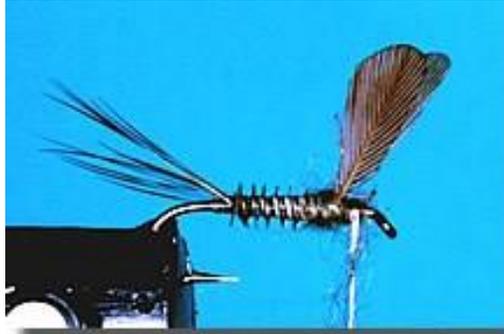
6. Put a shank length tail on using hackle fibers or a paint brush fiber.



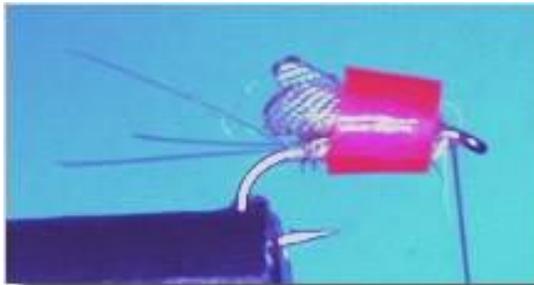
7. Body on this fly will be a goose primary fiber. Pick from side of wing quill opposite the biots. Trim the tip a little, and tie it in. Put a little thinned Sally Hansen's Hard as Nails (50/50 Sally Hansen's and lacquer thinner) on the hook to help protect the fiber. If it is tied in one way a smooth body will be produced; turn it over to produce a fuzzy body. Move thread forward to back of wings. Keep at least one thread wind away from the wings.



8. Wrap single primary fiber forward, secure and trim.



9. Put a few more thread winds in front of wings.



10. At this point a regular or parachute hackle may be installed. Carl chose to post the wings, and tie on a parachute hackle. He wrapped the hackle around the post, picked up the front hackle barbs, put two thread winds over the hackle to secure it and cut off the excess. Then he moved a special hackle guard (red thingy) from the bobbin to push back the hackle barbs and wings. Now he had plenty of room to build a small head, whip finish with the Materelle tool and add a little thinned Sally's Hard as Nails.



11. I usually worry about treating the barbs and wings so roughly, but the red thingy didn't seem to bother them. He trimmed the thread. When the head cement was dry, he remove the hackle guard and pulled the wings upright. Then put a drop of thinned cement on the parachute. It soaked in immediately and waterproofed the thread.

Closing comments: If you study this pattern you can see several different things. First, the Step 10 picture is of a different fly (Carl tied different patterns during the two sessions I photographed him. Second is the use of hackle burners to make beautiful wings. Third is the wings can be made out of different materials (See Step 10 picture). When a synthetic material is burned, like in the Step 10 picture, the charred ash will have to be brushed off with the fingers. Carl uses bags from Revolution Sweet Ginger Peach Tea (Premium Full-leaf Black Tea) from Safeway. Fourth is the tail can be of different materials (See Step 10 picture). Sixth is the body was tied using goose primary barbs rather than the biots. The “red thingy” (hackle guard) is a cylinder made from a tapered bottle cap (also straws of different diameters work, Ruth Zinch from Calgary, AB uses wide rubber bands from broccoli bunches). So many different materials and things can be used to tie a fish catching fly. That is before we start talking about color. Have fun with fly tying, and do not get locked on a particular pattern.

Thank you FFI for sharing this pattern.



Photo by Howard Nanto



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS - 2018

Officers, Directors, Chairs and Club Information

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Club Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month except December. Doors usually 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.

August 12, 2018 will be the deadline for the next edition of the Garden Hackle.