



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

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November 2018

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The Leader's Line

President Wayne Dixon Sr.



Greetings Everyone,

A change in seasons arrives. The fog still lies thick on the river and as you breathe you can feel the stinging of cool air in your lungs, your fingers tingle from the cold but you continue to trek forward down the cold mountain stream. Trees have fallen across the river from the early fall rains and all but a few of the orange and red leaves are still on the trees, the rest have fallen off and lay dormant on the ground. A flock of geese honking above you tell you that another summer has passed and the winter is right around the corner. It's a bitter sweet moment because you realize the freedom to wade down certain rivers without water going above your knees is gone, and now you have to use keen situational awareness to avoid the dangers of rising water and falling trees. Even though the dangers of river fishing can be a little more exhilarating in the winter, so can the Fish!

Late fall and early winter can bring out some of the most aggressive fishing you will ever experience. There are only two reasons why fish attack a fly, either they are hungry or angry...I suppose they could fall into the category of hangry, but I wouldn't throw them a Snickers candy bar fly. This is the time of the year for streamers. Although streamers work well remember it's all about presentation.

Predatory fish are often lazy opportunistic feeders so they would much rather go after a weak looking meal than a healthy fish swimming past them. When fishing streamers you want to present the fly in an erratic pattern, as if it is fleeing for its life, but wounded. Alter your stripping method to give this presentation. Bring it in fast, jerk- jerk, let it sink, altering how far you bring it in and how long you let it sink.

Because there is a lot of noise under the water this time of year with rushing currents, you may want to entice the fish with slapping the water with your fly, this is extremely effective when fish are in the fight or flight mode, and the water is muddy.

Go big or go home, when the bigger trout start get into the feeding frenzy they will stop eating 1-2-inch minnows and start to eat their dry fly eating friends. Don't be afraid to test the boundaries of your streamers and go bigger than normal with them.

We are just about into the prime Steelhead fishing in the area, I recommend you get together with someone who knows the Sol Duc, Hoh, Queets, and Quinault rivers if you want to experience a truly awesome and heart pounding moment while landing one of these big hangry fish. Dress warm, bring a change of dry clothing, let people know where you're going and stay safe. Winter is nothing to fear, when you prepare.

Peace.

Wayne



Wayne on the Chehalis

Photo by Max Doerge



Carol Ann Morris

Fly Fishing Photography: How to Capture What You See

Over the past two decades Carol Ann Morris's photographs and paintings have not only appeared in most of her husband Skip Morris's 18 fly-fishing and -tying books but on the covers and interior pages of such magazines as *Grey's Sporting Journal*, *Yale Angler's Journal*, and *Fly Fishing & Tying Journal*. Carol also speaks at fly clubs and fly-fishing shows.

Carol has performed her PowerPoint show "Fly-Fishing Photography 101: "How to Capture What You See" all over the West--in Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, California, New Mexico--and in the East--Michigan, Ohio--at fly-fishing clubs and sportsmen's shows and fly-fishing expositions. It seems fly fishers want to record their biggest and most beautiful fish, the fascinating rivers and lakes and beaches they fish and explored--the very heart of their beloved sport--with a camera. Carol teaches them how to make their photos crisp and vivid, balanced and expressive. She demonstrates and explains the Rule of Thirds, effective use of light, the Magic Hour, UFOs (Unidentified Foreign Objects), how to photograph fish, and many other straightforward concepts anyone can use to improve their photographs. Also, Carol will show various failed photos and explain what caused the problems.

Come see this wonderful program by Carol Ann Morris accompanied by Skip Morris.

Gene Rivers



Greetings Anglers,

In the closing days of the year, I want to go over a few issues that have been in the news a lot lately and how we may be affected by upcoming changes. A lot of it revolves around the southern pod of orcas that occasionally visit clear down here in area 13 of Puget Sound. Just last year I watched a half dozen swim up Hammersly Inlet heading for Shelton and the experience was breathtaking. These iconic animals are a beloved symbol of Northwest culture, and they are dying off.

There are three separate groups or tribes of Orca in the Northwest Pacific. Each has its own culture and language, and more important, distinct diets. There is the northern pod that hangs mostly in Alaskan and Canadian waters. These eat most anything that swims and thrive on the salmon from Washington and Oregon rivers. Another offshore pod of migrants cruise the continental shelf and feed mostly on marine mammals.

Then there is our southern pod that inhabits the San Juan Islands region down into deep Puget Sound. Our orcas have a specialized diet that consists primarily of salmon, especially chinook, or King salmon. Which finally gets us to why I'm talking about whales in a fishing blog. Killer whales aren't the only species that eat chinook, they have to compete with seals, birds, bears and, unfortunately, humans.

Between overharvest, habitat degradation and shortsighted hatchery efforts, chinook stocks are inadequate for maintaining this orca population. The northern pod has increased in numbers over the same period as the southern pod's decline. This situation is certainly no surprise, watching our wildlife disappear has become a fact of life, and this latest media exposure of dead and dying calves is just the latest example. The disturbing and poignant images have served to galvanize international attention however, initiating a hopeful effort to stave off extinction.

The first step to relieve starving whales will be to reduce the competition for food. Alaska, Canada and native governments therein have agreed to reduce harvest of the southern origin salmon “in years of low populations” by from 7.5% to 12.5%. I can’t say what defines “low stocks” or where these reduction numbers come from. But it is a step in the right direction.

Another grave threat to the whales is the level of ship traffic and other noise pollution that interferes with their sonar so they can’t locate schools of prey. There has been discussion regarding the limiting of ship traffic and fishing activities on the west side of the San Juan Islands.

The other big obstacle to recovery in Puget Sound is the toxic pollution. There are six million more folks from Vancouver to Portland that weren’t here when the whales moved in. Industry, dissolved smog, run off from roads, yards and septic systems have changed Puget Sound from a fecund nursery for countless species to a dying waterway. And this is, or was the source for the fish stocks that fed not only the orcas, but the humans, bears and so forth that lived on the shores.

In addition to these efforts to reduce competition for existing salmon stocks, the orca recovery proposals also call for a massive increase in hatchery chinook production. There is a call to produce asap an additional ten million chinook for release into Puget Sound each year. What a simple solution! The reality is that: no consideration is given to the extensive regulatory burden associated with hatchery reform requirements; that there is currently a \$30 million deficit in the WDFW budget to fulfill current obligations; that another \$200 in capital expenditures are required to build the facilities; that there aren’t enough eggs to fertilize and that the current state of Puget Sound is too infertile to support that increase.

So, is there a message here? Just pay attention. Our salmon fishing seasons will likely become even less predictable for the near future. Catch limits will be curtailed and areas closed periodically. License fees will have to go up while opportunity goes down. We will have to double down on support for level headed conservation groups. I encourage everyone to get involved in some way within your comfort zone.

Limit your catch and vote green.

Don Freeman



Club Outings

Jim McAllister Outings chair



Hello Fellow Fly Fishers,

The November outing will be at Munn Lake where we will target some nice frisky Rainbows. The outing will be on Saturday November 24th. Put it on your calendar for some great Munn fun that day.

For those new members, Munn lake access is located on 65th SE which is just off Henderson as it heads up the hill from the Deschutes River Valley.

More details will be provided at the November 20th club meeting.

When: Saturday November 24th

Where: Munn Lake. Meet at the Munn Lake WDFW Boat launch at 9:00am

Bring: Maximum 5 wt. rods with both slow sink and floating lines with 5-8 lbs leader and tippet. Dress warmly and have rain gear handy. Bring your own water and snack or lunch. Boats or tubes are needed to adequately fish Munn Lake. As we are all about safety, be sure to wear a PFD. These are catch and release waters. Always try to keep the fish in the water during release. Remember the club helps WDFW produce these fish so we need these Rainbows to remain as healthy as possible.

Outings Backcast:

The October outing was our annual Chum Salmon Outing at Hoodsport on Hood Canal. Fishing has been good at Hoodsport this year with nice big run of Chum. Lots of fun and heart pounding action.

Tight lines,

JIM

Education

Max Doerge Education Chair



Sign up for Fly Fishing 101:

SSFF and the City of Olympia have teamed up to offer a basic fly fishing class on Monday nights running through the month of March 2019 at the Olympia Center. The classes will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on March 4, 11, 18 and 25th, 2019. The class includes two hands on fly casting sessions on Saturdays March 16th and 23rd at Capital Lake park. The classes will be taught by members of the South Sound Fly Fishers.

Registration begins soon with the City of Olympia Department of Parks, Arts and Recreation Department. Just call 360-753-8380, or register in person at The Olympia Center (222 Columbia St NW, Olympia, WA 98501) Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 am-4 p.m. The class fee is only \$49 for the entire series including casting sessions.



Photo by Howard Nanto

Fundraising

John Sabo Fundraising Chair



Greetings Fellow Fly Fishers,

SSFF Raffle News

We are doing well with the Club's Raffle this year with another "profit" of \$100 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 months.

We have some empty fly boxes to be filled...fly tiers; please see me at the back of the room at our next meeting. Also, in answer to a question made to me by a club member, 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.

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

Membership

by Randy Allen, Vice President



Hello Fly Fishers,

Well, it's been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon, Minnesota, Garrison Keillor's home town, out there on the edge of the prairie. If your travels take you there pack your gear; you will surely consider Wobegon the Munn Lake of Minnesota. I am not making that stuff up!

And it's been a quiet month in the new-member corner. We didn't have any new folks joining the club during October. But that said, thanks go to everyone for bringing your friends to meetings and outings, and for introducing them to our terrific members. Truly, we are a great group to join as the past months have shown.

Our meetings are more than just fish photos - we have a human-interest side to our personality. Be sure to invite your friends to our November 20 meeting featuring Skip and Carol Ann Morris.- Carol Ann will speak about the artwork of the great Morris team. See Gene River's article for more.

And outings - Jim McAllister's article about November's outing to Munn Lake is a must-read. If you cannot attend the outing, talk to Jim, Don Freeman, Howard Nanto, Kevin Ryan, or other members to learn more. Lots of folks know nothing about Munn. You will be glad you found out about our back-yard jewel.

Yeh - we offer a lot, to a lot of great folks. Thanks for all your enthusiastic membership and continuing contributions!

Randy



Greetings Fellow Anglers,

Here are parts of news releases from WDFW sent to WA State Council of FFI:

WDFW invites the public to a 'digital open house' with the Director

OLYMPIA – The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) has scheduled a webinar for Nov. 28 to give its new director an opportunity to discuss the agency's long-term plans to conserve fish and wildlife and promote outdoor recreation throughout the state.

To take part in the online event, the public should visit wdfw.wa.gov starting at 6:15 p.m. on Nov. 28. The webinar will begin at 6:30 p.m.

"The department's work is fundamental to people's quality of life and livelihoods in Washington," said Kelly Susewind, who assumed the position of WDFW director Aug. 1. "The webinar will allow me to introduce you to my values and approach and also hear what's important to you."

Susewind, who grew up in Aberdeen, describes himself as a lifelong fishing, hunting and outdoors enthusiast. The Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission, a nine-member panel appointed by the governor to set policy for WDFW, voted unanimously to select him as WDFW's director in June.

Fish Black Friday Nov. 23rd for big rainbow trout

OLYMPIA – The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is offering anglers opportunities for tight lines rather than long lines on the day after Thanksgiving. The "holiday specials" include thousands of large trout averaging 15 to 16 inches in length and weighing up to three pounds. The department is currently preparing to stock lakes in time for Black Friday, Nov. 23" This is a great reason to avoid holiday shopping a little longer and enjoy a fun day on the water with family and friends," said Steve Caromile, WDFW warmwater fish program manager. Some of the lakes scheduled to receive fish before Black Friday include:

- Black, Long, and Offut lakes in Thurston County

Fish on,

Mike

Around the Campfire

With Gary Oberbillig and Dave Field



This is another story from fly fisher, fly tier, mariner, college teacher and longtime club member Gary Oberbillig

Greetings Fly Fishers,

This story takes us to Billy Clapp Lake near the Sun Lakes in central Washington. Some assume that Billy Clapp Lake was named for a Native American or European settler. But, it was named to honor one of the early supporters of the Grand Coulee Dam construction project, attorney William Clapp. William Clapp was an icon to the town folk of Ephrata. He was not known as William but called “Billy” Clapp.

At first glance the lake looks like just another ribbon lake in Eastern Washington but it is really a large reservoir constructed by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation as part of the Grand Coulee Dam Project. The water reclamation part of the Coulee Dam project was delayed by WWII. After the war, construction on dams that would enlarge the bodies of water known today as Banks and Billy Clapp lakes. A big part of this project was the building of O’Sullivan Dam which created the Seep lakes. The project raised the water table so many other lakes were formed or enlarged in central Washington. The state Game Department as it was then named, planted fish in many of these new lakes. The fish thrived on the abundance of aquatic insects that lived off the rich vegetation the lakes produced. It wasn’t long before Eastern Washington became a mecca for fly fishers.



Billy Clapp Lake and Pinto Dam

SSFF's annual outings schedule included one with the Dryside Fly Fishers of Moses Lake. Our clubs would eat pizza together on Friday night at a Moses lake restaurant, renew old acquaintances, tie flies and tell some lies about our recent fishing adventure. On Saturday we'd have a BBQ and fish together at Park, Blue, Dry Falls and other local lakes. After the Dryside club disbanded we had joint outings at park Lake with the Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma. Sometimes when we were over there, a few of us would head off to fish Billy Clapp. This lake was not popular with most of the fly fishers because it was a mixed species lake with lots of warm water fish along with trout. Billy Clapp is one of the few lakes in the state with both Large and Small Mouth Bass. Billy Clapp produces Crappie, Yellow Perch, Walleye, Blue Gill, Kokanee, Whitefish and Carp along with Rainbow Trout.

Six to eight weight rods and lines are usually needed when fishing Billy Clapp because the fish tend to be a little bigger in this lake. It is also nice to use heavier rods for the strong winds that are often encountered in this part of the basin. Everything from floating to sink tip lines are used depending on what species you are targeting. If you are fishing for bass then Wooley Buggers are used. For Walleye or Kokanee you use setups specific for these species. For Rainbows you use a wide variety of flies depending on the time of year you are fishing. In the spring a mayfly imitation on slow sink/ intermediate lines are effective. The key is to match the insects that are active in the lake at the time of year you are there.

One of the unique things about fishing Billy Clapp are the natural phenomena that occur in this part of the state. The lake sits in the middle of a wildlife area. It is part of migration corridor for many birds. On one trip we witnessed thousands of water fowl flying north. They were flying in formation and just kept passing overhead for an hour. Another event we witnessed was a funnel cloud reaching down from a very black sky. The funnel skipped over us and moved southwest toward Soap Lake where it touched down at the golf course and demolished a maintenance building in addition ripping up trees and shrubs. You feel just a very small and insignificant bystander in this world when you witness these events.



Water Fowl over Billy Clapp Lake



Club Bulletin Board:

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.

2019 NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY

Once again we are preparing for another Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy to be held June 23-29, 2019 at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The Staff will be contacting over 50 dedicated volunteers to contribute their time for the success of the Academy and **for** the kids. This Academy is all about the girls and boys, 12-16 years old, to teach them the basics of fly fishing and conservation. The event is one full week with the staff and youth living at the Gwinwood Center and boarding in cabins. All meals are provided. Students need to bring their personal belongings, i.e., sleeping bags, pillows, rubber boots, etc. All fishing gear and fly tying equipment is provided, however, students may bring their own fishing gear.

The event is supported by WCTU and WSCFFi and members of South Sound FF, Olympia Chapter TU, and Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma.

The enrollment fee for each student is only \$300, sponsorships are available through TU Chapters, WSCFFi fly clubs and private donations. No applicant will be turned away because of lack of funds.

Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2019 until April 15, 2019. Applications may be downloaded from our website – www.nwycffa.org, via email to mtclancy39@comcast.net or call 360-753-1259. Each applicant must submit an essay explaining why THEY want to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is required from a school teacher or counselor.

Please help our First Responders....keep the Fire Station's driveway clear of parked vehicles during all SSFF gatherings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please park in the lot behind the Station.

Fly of the Month
Slump Buster



by Bob Bates, Washington Council FFI

Opening Comments

John Barr designed this pattern. It is very popular with many anglers because of its fantastic movement. As with any good pattern, there are many variations. Kit Seaton from Billings, MT was tying his version of it at the 2012 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo in Idaho Falls, ID.

If you are having trouble hooking into a fish try changing your fly to a Slump Buster, cast, retrieve and hang on. It can have an erratic movement through the water that drives fish crazy. In shallow water use a floating line and strip it with short jerks. When you strip this fly the head comes up and it dives down between strips. In deeper water use a full sinking line, let the line sink for a bit and again strip it erratically. This movement drives the fish crazy, and they have to hit it hard. Vary the speed of the retrieve until the fish tell you what they want. Sometimes long, slow strips are the answer while other times fast and furious produces.

MATERIALS LIST

Hook: 4X long, size 6

Weight: Cone head brass, large and lead wire, 0.030-inch

Thread: Flat wax nylon, heavy, black

Rib: Copper wire, size BR (brassy)

Body: Sculpin wool, white camo

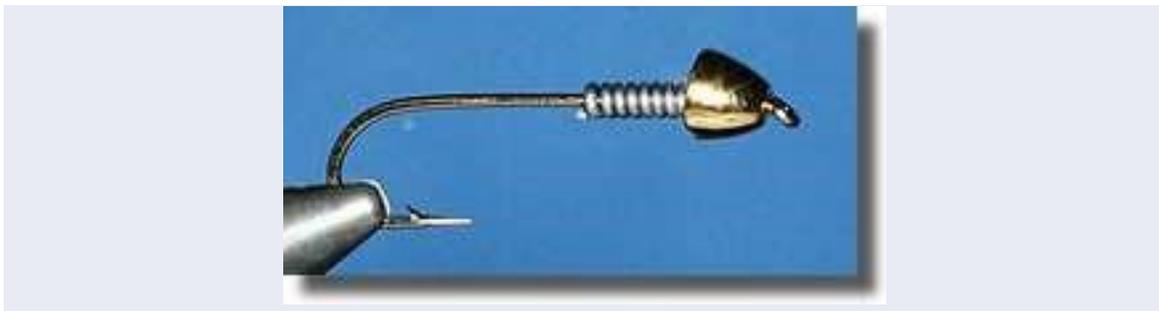
Tail, fin and collar: Pine squirrel strips; natural, olive, brown and black

TYING STEPS



STEP 1

The original pattern calls for a tungsten cone, but a brass cone is less expensive. Put cone on hook and place hook in vise.



STEP 2

Put on 10 wraps of lead wire to make up for weight lost for using a brass cone in place of tungsten. Also, can use lead-free wire. The wire also builds up the body a little. Lead wraps take up about half the hook shank. Shove as much of the coil as possible into the



Step 3

Put thread on hook behind the lead coil. Just enough to secure it.



STEP 4

Tie in the copper rib behind the lead coil, and wind over the wire to the bend. Keep the wire on top of the shank.



STEP 5

The body braid used by John Barr makes a thin body. So Kit uses sculpin wool, but not in the usual way. He pulls it off in a long piece and makes a point at one end so he can tie it on the hook behind the lead coil. It helps the transition between the lead coil and the shank. Wrap over the wool back to the bend.



STEP 6

Grab all the dubbing and the thread. Twist them together a half turn, as they are wrapped forward they make a cord. The thread is completely hidden in the dubbing. Leave a gap behind the cone just about the size of the pine squirrel strip you will be using.



STEP 7

Strip off some of the fur so you get a firm hold on the strip when you tie it behind the cone. Tie it in so the fur flows toward the back of the hook.



STEP 8

Divide the fur just above the back wire tie down point. Then make a turn of copper wire through the gap. This lets you get on top of the pine squirrel strip and body. Now, start spiraling the wire forward. Divide the fur where you want the wire pass and wrap it through. You may moisten the fur a little to make it easier to control dividing the fur. Make about five evenly spaced turns of wire to the cone. The even spacing probably doesn't catch more fish, but it looks nicer. Secure wire and trim excess with the back part of the scissors. To trim the tail, bring the strip forward, pass your scissors through the fur about at the back of the cone and cut the strip square. If you cut the leather carefully there will be no Pine squirrel guard hairs flying around. Pine squirrel gives a nice taper, even with the square cut.



STEP 9

Kit ties the collar on separately which is another variation from John Barr. At home he puts Zap-a-Gap into the cone. Trim off some fur, and tie it on top of the hook. Lay the strip on at an angle in the direction that you are going to wrap it. He doesn't count the first go around as a wrap because of the fur trim. When he gets to the bottom again he counts it as the first wrap. On the second wrap he pulls the strip tightly so it slides off the first wrap and into the cone. If it doesn't slide into the cone he will cram it in. He puts on two wraps unless he encounters poor quality hair. Then he will put on three wraps. Whip finish behind the cone. Sometimes he trims the collar on the bottom to give it a sculpin appearance.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Kit recommends buying the pine squirrel Matuka strips on the entire pelt. They are usually more uniform than packaged strips. This pattern could be tied with rabbit like a Zonker, but the pine squirrel has fantastic action. He likes to fish smaller rivers by walking the bank. The pattern could be used from a boat also. He has tied this pattern in any pine squirrel color he could find. He is thinking about bleaching the Pine squirrel so he will have lighter fur to use. In the meantime he uses the lightest he can find on the pelt.

Thank you FFI for sharing this pattern

Club member Ron Backman presented the Garden Hackle editor with a book containing quotes about angling over the centuries. Selections appear occasionally here for your enjoyment:

“O. sir doubt not that Angling is an art; is it not an art to deceive a Trout with an artificial Fly.”

Isaac Walton



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS - 2018 Officers, Directors, Chairs and Club Information

President: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com

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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.

The deadline for the next Garden Hackle is 8:00PM **December 9, 2018.**

