



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 19 Issue 1

January 2019

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The Leader's Line

President Wayne Dixon Sr.



Hello Fly Fishers,

“This year I’m going to cut down on Sweets! ““This year I’m going to decrease my spending”. “This year I’m going to stop watching TV”. Sound familiar? Each year we end our month of Christmas celebrations with the ritual of punishing ourselves by excluding that thing we love to eat or do in hopes of increasing our self-esteem or perception of self. Year after year we fail, why? Because that mindset is designed to fail. We fall off the wagon, and self-esteem drops, now we are failures that like chocolate cake! Fear not, I have the solution. Instead of taking away a habit, lets improve on one. Let 2019 be the year where you *INCREASE* your Fly Fishing IQ.

As Fly Fishers we know that we can always learn something new about our great sport. In this article I will suggest 10 ways to increase your Fly Fishing IQ.

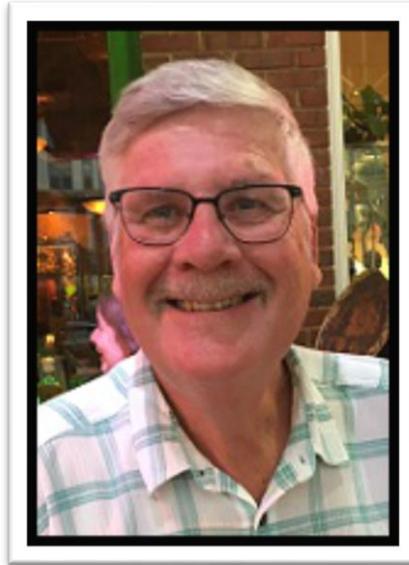
1. **Start out shallow-** there seems to be a misconception that you need to test out every seam in your new set of waders you got for Christmas. Many times, we storm the river and overlook a lot of feeding fish in the shallows. Take your time and fish the entire river or lake. Pay close attention to the shallow areas first, you may be pleasantly surprised.
2. **Add accuracy to your short casts-** Now that you found a new appreciation for the shallows, you probably realize your short cast game needs some improvement. A simple solution to this is to increase your line weight by 1. So if your using a 5 wt your line should be 6 wt. But be careful not to increase by more than 1. This will improve accuracy on those short casts.
3. **Stay on the move-** Don't spend all your time in the shallows, spend enough time where you're giving a well-presented fly. Most Trout make up for their short feeding season with a frenzy and Salmon are very aggressive. So, give your best presentation in the shallow waters and move on. They aren't the only fish in the river
4. **Learn to read the water-** develop a talent for knowing how the fish lay in the riffles and foam of the water. This is where the fish lie in wait for a treat. Your presentation should follow the flow of the line in the river, if not; you need to make adjustments.
5. **Don't limit your box to a particular species-** you are an adventurer; your fly box should be equipped with a variety of flys for different species of fish. Don't deny yourself the opportunity to catch other species of fish than what you intended to catch when you headed out. Variety is the spice of life.
6. **Let Go of Perfection-** If you can nail every cast there is no need to continue reading this article, but if you're like the other 99.9999% of Fly fishers, you probably need to remember to relax when you're out there. If you're running into problems with your casting start off slow and shallow, follow the flow, breath deep and figure out what went wrong, fly fishing is as much mental as it is physical. Don't beat yourself up over it!

7. **Short Drifts for better line management**-In order to give the best presentation or when you fish heavy weeded or wooded areas short drifts are better for line management. You can cover a lot of ground even with short drifts. Remember to stay on the move.
8. **Check your fly**- This is just kind of common sense but it is easy to forget when hitting heavy action.
9. **Release gently**-Remember when trying to release fish that they are fighting for their lives. If you're having a hard time releasing that monster Salmon, try to flip him upside down. This will disorientate the fish and stop the flopping.
10. **Practice, learn, engage, and practice some more**- Take every opportunity through the club, and those you meet to engage, ask questions, attend outings and practice, practice, practice!

Now you can look back on 2019 as the year you took charge and added something to your bag of tricks and also took you out of your self-defeating typical New Year's resolutions. You improved your mental health as well as your physical health with exercise and outdoor activity. By taking that step to better health you don't have to feel guilty about eating those delectable pleasures and you have increased your chances of catching some amazing fish.

Peace & Happy New Years from the Dixon's!

Wayne



Len Zickler

The January club program will be Len Zickler, President and CEO of Fly Fishers International. Len lives in Spokane but he is traveling to Olympia to talk with us about several important initiatives that FFI is undertaking. Len is interested in what FFI does and planning to do in conservation. FFI is an educational organization and Len wants to expand FFI's commitment educational activities.

Len has been involved with fly fishing for many years and has a wealth of experience which he is always happy to share with fellow fly fishers.

This is your chance to ask questions and get answers from the President of FFI. This will be any interesting and informative program an excellent start to the new year. Len's visit provides you an opportunity to personally meet the FFI President. You will not want to miss this chance discuss the future of our great sport at the meeting on January 15th.

See you then.

Gene Rivers

Club Outings

Jim McAllister Outings chair



Hello Fellow Fly Fishers,

We are putting together the outings plan for 2019. We are planning to have a wide array of weekend outings that will feature a nice mix of stream, lake and saltwater fishing. We also plan to restart our mid-week outings. Max Doerge has agreed to help on mid-week outings.

One of the reasons we have outings is to give SSFF members a chance to experience a variety of fishing opportunities that can take advantage of the wide variety of water and species found in Thurston and nearby counties. We are blessed with these rich and varied fishing opportunities and we want SSFF members to have a chance to try them all.

To help make the 2019 outing plan to work we will be looking for SSFF members to volunteer to serve as outing ghillies. Serving as a ghillie is fun and rewarding as you basically become the coordinator for that day. See me at the January meeting about helping out as a ghillie.

January is a Steelhead outing on the Skookumchuck. See Below for details.

What: Steelhead outing

When: January 26, 2019

Where: Skookumchuck River

How: We rendezvous at Tumwater's Southgate shopping Center parking lot at 8:00am and caravan to the river from there. More details at the club meeting on January 15th.

Preparation: These can be strong fish requiring at least a 7 weight setup. We will be wading in cold water in the winter so please dress warmly and wear inflatable safety gear. We will provide you more details and can answer questions at the club meeting on January 15th. Bjorn at the Fly Fisher can help you with flies that work on the Skook.

Jim McAllister

Membership

Randy Allen Vice President



Hello Fly Fishers,

Welcome to 2019 which promises to be another great year of fellowship, fly-fishing, and fun!

And welcome Bruce Lincoln! Bruce joined us on-line after finding our web-site. Hopefully Bruce will join us in person at January's meeting to begin to better understand the club. I will get his photo and a little bio about him in an upcoming issue.

The same for November's new members, Denise Pritzl and Jeff Miller – I still owe you their photos.

January is traditionally our "Recognize our Treasurer" month. The SSFF has maintained its dues at \$40 for a long time. Since I've mentioned dues, be kind to our Treasurer, Jim Maus. When you come to the January meeting bring your cash or check to renew your membership. Don't worry, we'll continue to bug you if you forget.

Where do your membership dues go? For some of you unfamiliar with our affiliations SSFF supports Project Healing Waters, Casting for Recovery, The Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, and the Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy. Locally SSFF works in cooperation with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to maintain and stock Munn Lake with fish worthy of your catch.

SSFF is an affiliate club with the Fly Fishers International (FFI). Our January meeting features guest speaker Len Zickler, President of FFI. Read Gene's program article earlier in this issue of the Hackle.

Welcome new members, and welcome returning members – and please remember to renew and be good to our Treasurer this month!

Tight lines everyone!

Randy Allen

Education

Max Doerge Education Chair



Greetings Anglers,

In 2019 SSFF and the City of Olympia are offering another Introduction to Fly Fishing class on consecutive Monday nights beginning March 4th and running through March 25th at the Olympia Center. The classes will be from 6:30pm to 8:30pm on March 4, 11, 18 and 25th, 2019. In addition the class includes two hands on fly casting sessions on Saturdays starting at 10:00AM on March 16th and 23rd at Capital Lake park.

Registration is now open with the City of Olympia Department of Parks, Arts and Recreation. Register on line or 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 the two casting sessions.

Tight lines,

Max Doerge



Photo by Howard Nanto

Fundraising

John Sabo Fundraising Chair



SSFF Raffle News

We did well with the Club's Raffle last year and we thank all the club members who participated in the club's monthly raffle and to all of you who donated raffle items or filled fly boxes. We are looking forward to even more interesting and useful raffle prizes this year.

We have some empty fly boxes to be filled...fly tiers; please see me at the back of the room at our next meeting.

We are anticipating a special program for the January meeting, so there will not be any items for sale for the Al Harger Fund; however we expect to have items available at the February meeting.

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

2019 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



NW YOUTH CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING ACADEMY 2019

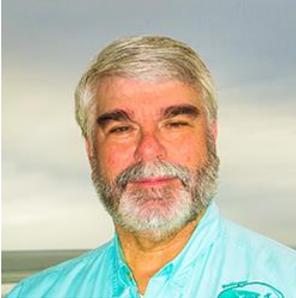
Applications are now being accepted for the June 23-29, 2019 Academy. Up to 20 lucky boys and girls may attend the 2019 Academy at Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The applicant must submit an essay, explaining why “they” would like to attend The Academy and a letter of recommendation is to be submitted by their school counselor or science teacher. Both items may be emailed to me. Enrollment fee is \$300, however; there are sponsorships available. So no applicant will be turned away because of funding. Again we are very fortunate to receive financial support from the fly fishing clubs, the TU chapters, individuals and corporate organizations. The event is sponsored by WCTU and supported by WSCIFFI, SSFF, PSFF & Olympia TU Chapter.

The applications can be obtained by contacting me or go to our website and download the forms at www.nwycffa.com. We have a Facebook page with loads of pictures from past year’s Academy’s. Just put in NW Youth and it will pop right up. If you have any questions, please contact me @ nwycffa@comcast.net. Phone: 253-278-0061.

Looking forward to another great year - Mike Clancy, Co-Director & Jim Brosio, Co-Director

Mike Clancy

We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for their future -FDR



SSFF 2019 Dues Due

It's that time of year again. Please pay your 2019 club dues. Annual dues of \$40.00 are due beginning January 1st for 2019. New members joining the club in their first year pay \$45.00. The extra \$5.00 is to help cover the cost of producing a name badge for you.

Cash or checks may be given directly to the SSFF Treasurer. Checks should be made out to South Sound Fly Fishers or just the initials "SSFF." The Treasurer will be at the table located in the back of the meeting room at the fire station to transact all club business. No cash and didn't bring a check book with you? No problem, just mail a check to the club's post box. The address:

South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507.

Fiscal year 2018 Wrap-up and 2019 Budget

This is a busy time of year for your club treasurer as we close out 2018 and set the budget for 2019. The 2018 records will be reviewed by an Audit Committee made up of Mark Brownell, Randy Allen and John Sabo. The 2018 books and the 2019 budget need to be approved by the board of directors and general membership. All this needs to be done by the March club meeting. It is hard work but it ensures that your dollars are well spent in fulfilling the SSFF mission of "Conservation and Education through Fly Fishing."

Jim Maus

Club Treasurer



Hello Fellow Anglers,

Here is some of the press releases from WDFW via the State Council of FFI:

Columbia River salmon and steelhead fisheries reopen Jan. 1

Effective date: Jan. 1, 2019.

Species affected: Salmon and steelhead.

Location: Columbia River from Buoy 10 upstream to Hwy. 395 at Pasco.

Reason for action: Fall fisheries in 2018 were closed in the Columbia River after the fall chinook fishery exceeded its allowable impacts under the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This occurred as fall chinook counts at Bonneville Dam fell far short (31 percent) of the number anticipated pre-season.

Staff has reviewed the potential for reopen coho and steelhead fisheries in the Columbia River mainstem. However, these fisheries would continue to accrue fall chinook ESA impacts at a time when the non-treaty fisheries do not have additional fall chinook ESA impacts remaining.

Beginning Jan. 1 winter steelhead and spring chinook seasons begin, when fall chinook are no longer present.

Additional information: Salmon and steelhead angling will remain closed from Buoy 10 to Hwy. 395 at Pasco through Dec. 31. Most tributaries remain open for salmon and steelhead fishing, but anglers are reminded to check for emergency fishing rule changes before heading out.

Information contact: Region 3: (509) 575-2740; Region 5: (360) 696-6211.

Fish on!

Mike

Greetings Fellow Fly Fishers,

This is Joe Uhlman, a long time fly fisher in the south sound. I have served in many capacities in SSFF and in fact I served as club president for a few years in the early 2000's. I plan to write some stories in the club's newsletter about a few of the important fly anglers that contributed to the sport fishing here in the northwest.

But first, I have some concerns about the conservation of our Salmon and Steelhead fisheries that I would like to share with the club. Let me begin by telling you a little bit about my upbringing here in Puget Sound country.

My great-grandparents came from Europe and settled in the Gig Harbor area at about the time Washington became a state. By the 1930s Gig Harbor had one of the largest fishing fleets in the Northwest. Fishing was a big part of Gig Harbor's economy. My extended family was made up of fishing boat skippers, fishing and ferry boat builders, ferry boat captains and other business operators and leaders in the Gig Harbor area.

I can remember fishing with my father from a 14 foot flat bottomed skiff in Wollochet Bay at the tender age of five. Salmon were plentiful in those days. Huge quantities of Herring, Candlefish and other baitfish abounded. Copious amounts of kelp and eel grass grew in the shallows. Puget Sound was clear and clean. Our inland sea provided a rich diet for all sea life.

By the 1930's and 40's big changes began in the natural world around us. We started to see pollution in our rivers and streams and this flowed into the salt waters of our inland sea. Extensive real estate and shoreline development started to interfere with the natural ecology of our surroundings. Scores of rivers were dammed with the expectation that most impacts could be mitigated. The public was told that hatchery fish were almost the same as wild fish. All of these changes adversely impacted our fisheries and all the sea life living in Puget Sound and Hood Canal,.

We are now at the point where many salmon and steelhead runs are either extinct or are on the ESA listing as threatened or endangered. Our once robust Puget Sound bottom fishery is only a shadow of what it once was.

We are now in crisis mode. Turning around the steep decline of our Salmon and Steelhead runs will take a lot of money and a complex plan of action by government, business, the tribes and general public. Whether we have the willingness to spend the money and really focus on saving Puget Sound and Hood Canal is an open question.

The small towns and cities that once dotted the map of Puget sound country have expanded into a megalopolis of millions of people. Nothing is now on the horizon to slow the growth trajectory of the region. So, we have a choice to make a choice. We can continue as we are and just watch the continued destruction of our fish runs or we can take action.

As an avid fisherman I have seen firsthand the loss of our great fisheries. But there are a few things that can be done right now to help slow the rate of loss and buy us some time so we can work on solving the larger issues:

Ban the use of bait in salt water fishing

Ban treble hooks in the salt and all rivers (only permit single barbless hooks)

Ban all gill nets by commercial non-tribal fishers

Strengthen the state's ghost net program

No littering on our beaches or river banks

Fishing in streams and rivers limited to anchored boats only (no fishing from boats not at anchor)

Expand state fish and wildlife law enforcement to reduce poaching and other illegal activity in and under our waters.

On this last point let me tell you a story. We were bank fishing on one of the local rivers and one of the fisherman snagged a salmon. Another fisherman called him out and yelled that keeping a snagged fish was illegal. The perpetrator displayed a concealed handgun and proceeded to bonk the fish. One of the other nearby fisherman quietly pull out his cell phone and quietly called 911. Within minutes the State Patrol was on the scene and apprehended the guy with the snagged salmon. As it turned out this person was a parolee and should never even have a gun. The moral to this story is that law enforcement presence can make a difference. That is why I say we need more law enforcement to protect our fish and wildlife.

Some of you may think these are extreme measurers but we are dealing with a crises and strong action is needed to have any hope of changing the trajectory of the declines we see. Orca starvation is only one of many problems brought on by the shrinking fish runs in Puget Sound.

In terms of the environment, we will need to clean up the pollution that goes into the Sound Canal each day. This includes untreated storm water runoff. Eliminating pollution will take years but if this problem can be solved, we can begin restoring the saltwater habitat. Eel grass and kelp beds can be replanted. Damaged and missing elements of the food chain need to be restored and kept in balance.

Fishing clubs and other like minded organizations should be authorized to replant the salmon and steelhead in the scores of small streams that flow into Hood Canal and Puget Sound. OFishing clubs and their national organizations should be given the chance to play a role in restoring the fish runs that will return to spawn in these small creeks.

I have been fortunate enough to fish with some of great pioneers and legends of fly fishing in the Northwest. Most of these folks are anglers just like you or me but they have made a contribution to our sport that should be cherished and remembered. Please look for some of these stores in future editions of the Garden Hackle. Until then...

Keep on fish'n!

Joe Ahlman

Past President



Photo by Howard Nanto

Pocket Water

SSFF member Ron Backman presented the newsletter editor with quotes by a number of the anglers and fly fishers over the centuries. A quote will appear here along with some of the great pictures of places we fly fishers fish, all taken provided by club member Howard Nanto.



Photo by Howard Nanto

“To him, all good things—trout as well as eternal salvation—come by grace and grace comes by art and art does not come easy.”

Norman MacLean



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.

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

Club Dues for 2019 are be payable starting January 1st. Dues are \$40 and can be paid by cash or check at meetings or by mailing a check to: SSFF at PO Box 7456 Olympia WA 98507.

Fly of the Month

ZUG BUG



By Bob Bates

Opening Comments:

I mentioned before that many great fly tiers at TU and FFF shows are available to photograph for the FFF Fly of the Month. I just sit down in empty chair in front of a tier. This is the second fly that Milt Jenkins of Taylorsville, Utah tied for me at the 2011 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo. He has only one hand. A prosthetic device served as the other hand. He still ties flies professionally, although he admits that he is a little slower than before when he turned out 500 dozen flies a year for Jack Dennis. Milt has been tying for 53 years.

In *Flies for Trout* by Dick Stewart and Farrow Allen say credit for this pattern goes to Cliff Zug. Then they go on to say that any fly tied with peacock herl will catch fish. Just about everyone agrees with them on that. I use it in both streams and lakes. Just use your favorite wet fly technique and go for it.

Materials List:

Hook; Daiiiche 1180 10 -14 mostly
12 Thread: 6/0 black

Tail: Peacock sward fibers

Weight: Optional 0.015 lead wire

Rib: Oval silver
tinsel **Body:**
Peacock herl

Beard: Pheasant tail fibers

Wing case: Mallard breast feather

Tying Steps:



Step 1. Put a thread base whole length of shank, and tie on a good clump of peacock sward fibers. Milt ties them long and then adjusts the length. Hold fibers and pull thread down so material doesn't move around the hook. If he wants lead, he puts it on now at mid shank and wraps it forward to within a couple of eye widths of the eye. If he had a bead on the hook he would take a few more wraps and shove them into the back of the bead.



Step 2. Tie in oval silver rib. He also uses gold tinsel, it depends on the customer wants.



Step 3: Pick a bunch of peacock herl. Milt doesn't count fibers, he just grabs enough to make a nice body, and double wraps the peacock herl. He stops the herl about two eye widths back from the eye. Milt also adjusts the amount of herl if there is lead on the hook. He secures it with a half hitch so he can use a loose loop to put on beard



Step 4: Reverse wrap rib so it isn't doesn't gets lost in the peacock herl. Also he doesn't like to use too much rib because it hides peacock.



Step 5: Tie the beard about two eye widths back from the eye.. It is easier to turn the hook over tie the fibers on loosely adjust the length, and then put on some tighter wraps. Trim excess. (He tied the beard in with the fly upside down, and I asked him to turn it over for the picture.)



Step 6: Use Mallard breast feather for the wing case. Strip off the real fuzzy stuff. Tie it on top of hook.



Step 7: Then cut it so it looks like wings are just starting to develop. Wind a small head, whip finish and put on a little head cement. (He makes his own glue with 50-50 Duco cement and acetone.)

Closing comments:

I have had Zug Bugs in my Fly box for more years than I want to admit. If you are not using them, shame on you. Get busy, and tie a few for your fly box.

There was no hackle on the flies he tied for me, but here is a little tip that he told me about. I will pass it on any way. Cut a piece of cardstock in a circle, use a leather punch to put a small hole in the center. cut a slot from the edge to the hole. Slide it on to the thread, put it over the eye of the hook to push the hackle back and whip finish.

Thank you FFI for sharing this pattern



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS - 2019 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com

Vice President: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Secretary: Mark Brownell brownellmi@outlook.com

Treasurer: Jim Maus jimmaus@comcast.net

Past President: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Conservation: (Conservation Committee)

Education: Max Doerge mdoerge@live.com

Fundraising: John Sabo chrisonquince@comcast.net

Membership: Vacant (Randy Allen Acting) randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Outings: Jim McAllister Jimspacmule@msn.com

Programs: Gene Rivers (Acting) acu4pets@hotmail.com

Garden Hackle: Dave Field d_w_field@hotmail.com

Web-Master: Kody Eltzinga kelzingart@gmail.com

WSCFFI Representative: Mike Clancy mtclancy39@comcast.net

WEB SITE: www.southsoundflyfishers.org

USPS Mail Address: SSFF PO BOX 2792, Olympia, WA 98507

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. Unless announced otherwise, all regularly scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station, 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA.

The deadline for submitting material for the next Garden Hackle is **February 10, 2019.**