

Garden Hackle

Leader's Line

From the Club President

Would teaching a youngster to cast float your boat? I'm talking two different subjects, but realities, nevertheless. Starting with floating your boat, I hope to see you at Gary Kellogg's August program next Tuesday, August 15th. He's assembling a variety of watercraft for our perusal and astonishment. We have some real talent in folks who have modified, customized, and otherwise personalized their watercraft. Gary expects an assortment of float tubes, U-boats, pontoon boats, and even a jet boat if things go as hoped. Our members will proudly discuss their tips and tricks for making their craft something unique. I'm really looking forward to the program.

And remember – bring your appetites because that's also our annual picnic / bar-b-que at the American Legion Hall. While I'm typing, no doubt your phones are ringing from the calls made by the volunteers to gain the attendance nose-count. Bring all of you - and I mean you *all* – spouses, significant others, kids, parents friends... This is a time to catch up with your fishing friends, socialize, swap stories (that's the right word, isn't it?) Oh go ahead and swap lies if you must, but remember: "first liar doesn't stand a chance" rules apply. Our regular general monthly meetings are so jam-packed with the schedule that we don't always get the time to chat in depth like we can at the picnic. So come one, come all, relax and do what we're all really good at – socializing and eating.

Hopefully I started off arousing your interest in teaching youngsters to cast. Keith Underwood, Angler Education Coordinator for WA

Dep't of Fish and Wildlife, approached Joe Uhlman for some help. The Boy Scout troop Keith's son is involved with wants to have a fly fishing workshop the evening of August 29th in Olympia from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. Keith has rods and reels for the boys who will probably number about 15. Admittedly, an hour-and-a-half is hardly time to do a lot, but we can demonstrate and – most importantly – get the rods into their hands and provide some instruction to these youngsters. Keith expects one other Scout dad to help. My guess is that if SSFF can contribute about 4 or 5 folks to Keith's 2, we stand a good chance of making an impression on the Scouts. The fewer number of Scouts each of us works with, the better the chances for success. Seven instructors would give us a high instructor-to-student ratio.

You aren't required to have written the latest treatise on casting techniques. You only have to be "a few pages ahead" of the youngsters, and be willing to help them with some basics. It's only an hour and a half on a nice summer's evening. I know you're out there, and I know you have the talent. No double-hauls, and no speeches required, so no stage fright. Just a few nice folks from SSFF who are talking to two or three youngsters to help them learn about casting. It's sounding more and more like a fun time now, isn't it? Give Joe or myself a call to volunteer! Our numbers are printed on the outside of the newsletter.

Until next month – narrow loops and tight lines !



Programs

Where: Salmon Club

When: Tuesday August 15th, 2006

Time: 6:15 Doors Open
6:30 Fly Tying
7:00 Brief Business
7:20 Program

August 15 will be our annual picnic and “what floats”. Instead of a formal program, the August 15th meeting will be a picnic with “show and tell” on what members use to float the rivers and lakes. This is an opportunity to see the variety of options out there and some “tricked-out” float crafts. Joe Williams and Myron Saikewicz have gracefully delayed their program so we can do our picnic thing.

September 19 will be “Fishing the Yakima”. Jim Voss, club member, who has fished the Yakima River for over 25 years will share some of his secrets about the challenging and wily Yakima. This presentation is especially timely as our annual Yakima outing is scheduled for later in the month.

October 17 will be “Fly fishing for Salmon in BC”. Martin Paish, professional guide and resort owner, will be presenting a program on fly fishing opportunities in British Columbia targeting the salmon fishery. Denny Lewis will do his “Fishing my way South” program in 2006.

November 21 will be “Life saving skills night”. Eric Olson, paramedic and licensed CPR instructor, and Jay Johnson will be giving us “hands on” CPR training and some basic first aid skills to take with us when we

are in the “out-back”. This is a great opportunity to refresh those skills we learned way back when – methods have changed guys! Feel good about having the skills we hope we never have to use but can when called upon

December – no meeting.

More on the August meeting

The August 15th meeting will be our annual picnic. We encourage you to bring your family members and the picnic starts at 6:30. Hamburgers, hot dogs and soda beverages will be provided.

Board members are making a call down through our membership list to see who is coming and what they can bring to the picnic. If for some reason you do not get called please call Gary Kellogg at 754-4429.

Our theme for the picnic is “Float and Tell”. We are asking all members to bring what they use to float the lakes or rivers. This should be a great time to see the variety of float tubs, pontoon boats, rafts and boats your fellow members use - even some unique modifications some members have made to their crafts.

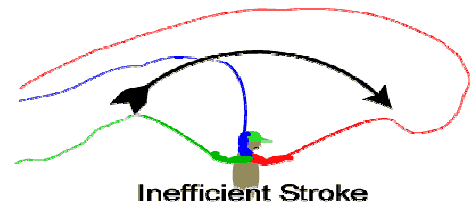


Casting Tips

Fly-fishing is a very tactile sport. Don't become so involved with the mechanics of casting that you miss the whole objective of practicing. The idea behind the practice is to enable you to cast in many different situations, with many different lengths of line out, without having to think about the mechanics all the time. The object is to feel what's happening and “automagically” compensate for it. So, you need to pay attention to what you are feeling in your hand when you are making a cast.

When the rod is loaded (bent) you will **always** feel a slight resistance in your hand as you move the rod. If you move the rod before the line straightens out, there is no tension to load the rod, and you won't feel any resistance in your hand as you start moving it. You moved too soon. You need to recognize that. You will feel in your hand the moment the line does finally straighten out behind you and loads the rod, if you are expecting to feel it. The better you get at feeling the rod, the better your timing becomes, the less effort casting takes, and the more enjoyable it becomes. Casting shouldn't be a chore. It should be a pleasure. Feel the Force!

- Dan Gracia—Orvis





Here is a series of steps that will help you to know how to put the fly on the water, what to do with the line, how to set the hook, and how to play and land a fish on a fly rod. Try it!

Here are the steps:

**F
L
Y

F
I
S
H
I
N
G

T
I
P
S**



Cast to a spot up-river of the location where you believe the fish to be.



Use the "stop-drop-drop" method of laying your fly on the water.



When the fly hits the water, loop the fly line over the second and third finger of your rod hand and hold it loosely next to the cork handle. Then take hold of the line with your line hand just in front of the reel so you can strip (pull in) line as needed.



If you're fishing on a river, make one or two up-stream "mends" (rolls) in your line to get the line and leader floating behind your fly.



Point your rod tip right at the fly and follow it down the river.



Strip in line as needed to keep a straight line between the fly and the rod tip.



When the fish hits, tighten your fingers around the line and the rod handle and raise the rod sharply to set the hook.



Keeping your rod tip high, let the fish run as the line slides out over your fingers.



Palm your reel to slow the fish down and gain control over it, but don't try to completely stop it. (Remember to keep your palm flat to avoid being hit by the wind knob).



When the fish rests, reel in quickly. When the fish runs again, palm the reel. Continue this palm/reel cycle until the fish tires and is ready to come in.



If the fish runs toward you, stand on your tip-toes, raise your rod as high over your head as possible, and put the line back over the second and third fingers of your rod hand. Then strip in line as fast as possible to take up slack. If the fish then turns and runs away from you, keep your rod tip high, let the line slowly slide through your fingers, and prepare to palm the reel when all the slack is gone.



When landing your fish, keep it in the water and practice proper catch and release techniques.

Newsletter Missing?

If you know of any members that tell you they did not get their newsletter have them check to see if they have given us their correct address. We try very hard to keep things current but sometimes we don't get changes. Please let us know if your address, email, or phone numbers change so we can keep you informed.

WEBSITE

Check out the club web site You can sign up for the yahoo group. Go to Yahoo groups and search for "southsoundflyfishers". These groups are amazing. There are limitless possibilities with the group—from get togethers to fly tying info to fishing reports to—well, you get the idea. The group is limited in membership—Dave Millard is the moderator and has to approve people. In other words, we will not be bothered by spammers or solicitors.



**SOUTH SOUND FLY
FISHERS**

P.O. Box 2792
Olympia, WA 98507

Dedicated to Conservation
Through Fly Fishing



**South Sound
Fly Fishers**

South Sound Fly Fishers 2006 Officers

President: Randy Allen 866-4862
1st VP: Chuck Pfeil 481-5005
2nd VP: Gary Kellogg 754-4429
Treasurer: Jim Bush 866-1526
Secretary: Joe Williams 866-9640
Past President: Joe Uhlman 754-6255
Conservation: Myron Saikewicz 866-1567
Education: Jim Voss 412-8176
Newsletter: Jay Johnson 736-0320
Member at Large: Denny Lewis 491-5815
Member at Large: Jay Johnson 736-0320

2006 Committee Leads

Membership: Chuck Pfeil
Programs: Gary Kellogg
Outings: Bill Aubrey
Education: Jim Voss
Newsletter: Jay Johnson
Political: Myron Saikewicz
Conservation: Myron Saikewicz
Ghillie: Joe Uhlman

General Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of every month except December. The meetings are held at the American Legion Hall (Salmon Club), 3201 Boston Harbor Road NE Olympia, WA.

When --- The third Tuesday of every Month.

Where --- American Legion Hall (Salmon Club)

3201 Boston Harbor Road NE

Time ----- 6:15 P.M. Fly Tying Demonstration

7:00 P.M. Meeting and Program

Board Meetings are held the first Tuesday of every other month at Apollo's Pizza & Pasta 2010 Harrison Avenue NW Olympia (phone 754-7444) at 6:00. Our next meeting is Tuesday, October 3rd. Everyone is welcome, and encouraged to attend.

Website: www.southsoundflyfishers.com

Content: Please contact Jay Johnson (360-736-0320 or e-mail at jjohnso2@localaccess.com) if you wish to put something in the newsletter.