



Garden Hackle

Leader's Line From the Club President

Before a casting class at another club I'm affiliated with I answered the club phone. The fellow on the other end asked what kind of equipment he should bring? What kind do you have now I asked. None; he had no fly rod but was certain he was going to love it, already being an accomplished fisher. No doubt, I assured him. Then I answered his question. I assured him if he showed up at class with any new store-bought rod, I'd really ask him, "why?"

He didn't know what fly casting should feel like, and he didn't have a feel for fly rod materials, rod lengths, rod weights. How would he select the proper rod? Because someone told him it would feel great?

Here's something for you to think about while trial casting new rods this year in search of that perfect rod. It has to do with the way we transition from testing one rod then another. The technique I'll describe helped me select my last rod.

When I was selecting my last rod, the salesman asked what I thought I wanted. The stream I intended to fish suggested a length and weight. About a dozen rods on the rack matched my length/weight. The problem...he had only one reel spooled up with my line weight. How would I test through all these rods? If (and only if) I could tell the difference between the \$400 rod and the \$100 rod (this was a while ago) I'd let the budget influence the final selection. Money was a consideration, but I needed to see if I could tell the difference. My request to take all 12 rods outside was answered with something about not usually doing that, usually taking only three rods at a time. I understood perfectly, but how could I eliminate the field? He saw my logic.

The first thing I asked was that he didn't mention price. Nor did I care how the rod was constructed,

of what, or by whom. I wanted to approximate as close to a "blind test" as possible.

Consider this. After testing a rod we usually have stripped line in, shot line out, and line is piled on the ground. And we proceed to spool it all in, remove the reel from rod "a" and fasten it to rod "b." With all line on the reel, we strip out a little line until we have just enough line to work with. And that is not where we left our casting muscle memory. And that is exactly the problem. Chances are we pushed our ability and achieved some nice long casts. Now let me ask: How can you compare a 50-foot cast on rod "a" to a 9-foot, leader-only cast on rod "b?" I don't think you can. You should expect confusion at best.



What made all the difference in my rod selection, I believe, was how we swapped the reel and line from rod to rod. After I pushed my limit on rod "a" consistently, I stopped the salesman from spooling in any line. I stripped in all the line, right down the line guides. We lined the new rod and installed the spool on rod "b."

Next, I walked the line out nice and straight and laid it right where I left off with rod "a." When I picked the line up with rod "b" it was exactly where I left off with rod "a." It was as "seamless" a swap as I could make.

How did my technique work? Like magic. Did I eliminate rods? Immediately. Did I have to return to the shop to narrow the selections? Several times. Could I distinguish between the final two or three? Absolutely. And somewhere in there I finally let finances play a role.

The difference between my going-in perception and final choice was like night and day. And after all that, am I happy with my final selection? My rod casts exactly as I want. It matches my style like it was made for me. But I

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Programs

<p>Where: Salmon Club</p> <p>When: Tuesday Feb 21st, 2006</p> <p>Time: 6:15 Doors Open 6:30 Fly Tying 7:00 Brief Business 7:20 Program</p> <p>February Program</p> <p>Member Dave Millard will give a slide presentation on Lenice Lake. This is especially timely as Lenice Lake, Nunnally Lake and Merry Lake open March 1. All three lakes are located next to each other in</p>	<p>the Crab Creek Wildlife Area. Dave will give us the where it's at, access, how to fish, what flies and his success stories on Lenice Lake.</p> <p><u>Other programs lined up so far:</u></p> <p>March - Guest author Doug Rose, fly fishing the Olympic Peninsula</p> <p>April - Guest guide Derek Sater, fishing Alaska</p> <p>May - Member Tom Bolander, fishing our local Deschutes River</p> <p>June - Member Burt Saver, Coho on a dry fly (Dondas Island, BC)</p> <p>July - Members Joe Uhlman and</p>
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Gene Sterbis, fishing Montana rivers

August – Members Myron Saikewicz and Joe Uhlman, fly fishing the Olympic Peninsula for Steelhead.

September – Member Jim Voss, fishing the Yakima River

October – Member Denny Lewis, this summers fishing trip. (some cool places to go)

November – Member Joe Uhlman, totally Yakitak, Alaska.

Conservation Committee

Myron Saikewicz

2006 Banquet/Auction

With the selection of May 13th as the South Sound Fly Fishers' 2006 Banquet and Auction date, the "easy" portion of the planning work is finished and the labor-intensive portion of our effort begins. This includes soliciting donations over the next three months from both businesses and individuals for the auction. The Banquet/Auction Committee is finalizing donation lists including past and potentially new business donors. The approach will be to send letters and/or to actually visit donors where possible requesting contributions.

Historically we have also relied heavily on our membership for auction contributions. The generosity of our members has been a major factor in our banquet/auction success over the years and this year will be no exception. Banquet/Auction Committee members will be approaching club members with contribution requests between now and May. Please be generous with your response. Remember, we are soliciting for not just fly fishing "stuff" but for any donation that might be of interest to a broad segment of our membership including their families and guests.

Legislative/Regulatory Issues

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission will be meeting February 10 and 11 in room 172 of the DNR Headquarters building in Olympia to adopt, among other things, changes to the 06/07 Sports fishing Rules. The Conservation Committee commented on the proposed changes to those Rules several months ago. In general we were supportive of much of what was be-

ing proposed and were pleased by the conservation tone of the proposed revisions. Of course, one is never sure what the Commission will ultimately adopt.

I would encourage everyone to go and listen to the adoption process. Also, the Commission often deals with a multitude of issues over the two-day meeting. It's always a good idea to call ahead for an agenda so you don't end up spending the entire two days at the meeting. derail this activity. Our club, through the Conservation Committee, will be tracking this process and will help through letters and testimony to ensure that this important work continue.

Mexico Caribbean Fly Fishing Trip

November 4-10. Sign up by April 15th and pay a \$400 non-refundable deposit to reserve a spot. Cost is \$1500 to \$1650 depending on how many people sign up. Trip includes:

RT Airfare

6 nights at Xamach Dos

6 breakfasts and dinners

Rental car for 2, gas included

1 full guided day with Boca Paila Fly Fishing Lodge

4 days fishing or sight seeing with Tom Bolender (Fishy Business)

Flies, equipment, alcohol, gratuities, and any other excursions costing money are extra.

Contact Tom Bolender at (360) 352-0383



Outings

Bill Aubrey

OK. The Sportsman's Show in Puyallup and the Fly Fishing Show in Bellevue are over for another year. Thanks to all the members who helped at the Puyallup show. I hope most of you made it to at least one of the shows (and that you cast some of the fine rods). I am personally contemplating a long term relationship with a Powell Tiburon 6 wt.

The first club outing for the year will be held on Saturday, February 18, on the Queets. It's us against the steelies. We'll have a fishing report at the meeting. The group will meet at 9:30 at the Olympic National Park announcement board on the Queets River Road.

The Alpine Fly Fishers in Puyallup will kick off the season with a chironomid outing the 3rd weekend in March at lake Lenore. SSFF members are invited and encouraged to participate. We are considering a separate SSFF outing there in late March or early April. Also, in April, the Wynooche River for steelhead. I need ghillies for these and other outings.

We are finalizing plans for a joint club outing in July at Walupt Lake. John McKenzie has once again volunteered to be the ghillie for this one. Camping is available. This is a chance to fish a quality lake with members from the Alpine Club and the Puget Sound Fly Fishers from Tacoma.

Still here? We need ideas for outings. Do you want to fish the salt? Streams? Rivers? Lakes? Aquariums? Please give me a call at 253-678-3683 or see me at the meeting with your thoughts on outings.

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would no sooner *recommend* my rod to any other fisher, other than to let him or her try it.

I'm not advocating the *only* way to select a rod, and I'm not selling you the *best* way to select a rod, but it was the best way I ever selected a rod. I hope it helps you weed through the myriad rods available at the shops and shows this season.

Until next meeting – narrow loops, tight lines, and happy rod hunting!

Fishing trip

Title: Fly Fishing the Deschutes and other Western Rivers

Where: Maupin, Oregon

Dates & Time: Saturday, March 18, 2006 from 5pm to 9pm, Sunday, March 19, 2006 from 9am to 4pm

Cost: \$130/person (includes dinner Saturday and lunch Sunday)

Registration: Contact Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop (toll free: 1-866-647-4721) or john@flyfishingdeschutes.com
Class size limited. Pre-registration required by February 25th, 2006.

Upcoming Events

March 2,9,16,& 23: Flies By Design. For the intermediate and advanced fly tier. Designed to help tiers tie flies that are more effective. Consists of four 2 hour sessions. Bring your own tool. All materials will be provided. Class size limit 12 students. Fee: \$75
Hours: 6:30-8:30 PM. Location: Fishy Business.

March 4: TFO day with Dick Sagara, NW rep for Temple Fork Outfitters. Meet at Fishy Business from 10 AM to 5:30 PM. A casting pond will be set up behind the store to try out all the different rods from TFO. A drawing will be held where you could win 1 of 2 TFO rods. Complementary hot dogs will be served. (360) 352-0383

March 11: Fly fishing Expo at Jefferson Co. Fairgrounds, Port Townsend. (360) 643-3505

Fly fishers interested in providing positive guidance to troubled youth in our community are invited to spend one or two evenings a month tying flies at the Thurston County Juvenile Detention Facility in Tumwater. In a joint effort between Fishy Business and

TCJD managers, volunteers spend time with incarcerated youth showing them how to tie flies and learn about fly fishing. This is a great opportunity for fly fishers to share their sport with some young people clearly in need of positive motivation and direction.

Participants are expected to sign up for one or two sessions a month. Each session runs a little over an hour with a small group of young folks. Participants bring minimal fly tying equipment as this is strictly beginning fly tying.

A criminal background check is required of all volunteers. The necessary clearance forms may be picked up from Tom Bolender at Fishy Business, 2415 Harrison Avenue, Olympia, 360-352-0383.

What a great way to have fun with our hobby and also contribute to our local community. For more information on this program please call Dave Field at 352-0167.



**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
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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, April 4th. 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.