



Garden Hackle



Volume 07, Issue 3

South Sound Fly Fishers

March 2007

Leader's Line - Randy Allen

In February Myron Saikewicz and Joe Williams gave us one of our finest programs. These two put great thought into organizing and conveying a ton of information on steelhead fishing on the Olympic peninsula. It was not just another program with a bunch of huge fish. They provided a well organized presentation complete with many fine notes embedded into their slides.

Listening to Myron recount his tale of going hypothermic was a sobering reminder of the cold facts of the environment in which we often immerse ourselves. The Northwest is an outdoors-person's Disneyland. An outdoors that can overcome us before we realize it.

I recall a clear, chilly day at 7,000 feet fishing with my friend who introduced me to fly fishing, Pat Nohalty. It was in the high 30's when we reached the stream. The sun had broken over the peaks surrounding out mountain stream, the air was calm and the sky clear punctuated by only an occasional puffy, bright cloud. The group sized up our dream-spots. Pat, who loved the still water fishing of lakes and smooth run-outs, opted to go down-stream to the tail of a long pool, within my eyesight at the riffle feeding it.

He needed to cross before proceeding downstream and that is precisely where things went downhill. Midway across the stream Pat's ankle acted up. In slow-motion Pat went down in the knee-deep, and not-too-quick water – as he sat momentarily he took some water down his chest-high neoprene waders. He remained in good spirits. Wearing neoprene, with a warming day and bright sun, down to the sunny tail of the pool he went. He worked the pool from various spots, with various tactics from about waist-high in the water.

We worked the area for the better part of a couple hours. I kept watch, as any fishing buddy would do, checking on Pat, hoping to see his rod bend with each cast.

My thermometer peaked out about 40 degrees F that day. But I was not quite ready for Pat when he returned. We're in neoprenes, in the sun, with fleece and other layers. Pat's pool had been painfully slow; he received almost as much enjoyment from the camaraderie and activity as the catching. But he had been standing in cold water, with water-soaked clothing inside his waders. He persevered but when he walked back and just stood behind me, I knew he wasn't the same Pat I drove up the mountain with. A

The Next Meeting is ...

Tuesday, March, 20, 2007

6:15 PM – 9:00 PM

Location

American Legion Hall (Salmon Club)

3201 Boston Harbor Road NE

The Program will be by

Fly tier **Janet Schrimpf**. Janet has been tying professionally for over 25 years. She estimated that she had tied her one millionth fly that season. This will be a great program to kick our own fly tying into high gear for the upcoming fishing season. ■

Dues are due!

2007 Calendar year dues \$30.00 are due effective the first of the year. Our Treasurer will be collecting them at the monthly meeting. Or, if wish, you may send your dues payment to South Sound Fly Fishers at P.O. box 2792 Olympia, 98507-2792 Attn: Membership. Thank you for staying current with you dues. ■

IMPORTANT NOTICE

SSFF dues must be paid by April 1 in order to continue to receive a hardcopy of the newsletter.

sort of vacant, disoriented stare greeted me. I knew I was looking at hypothermic onset. The deer in the headlights. Slowed processing of information. Inability to tie fine flies on. He no longer cared to fish, admitting he felt cold.

Immediately we walked him to the warmest spot we had – a dark green Jeep Cherokee that was sitting in the sunlight all morning, with windows rolled up. The group assembled spare dry clothing - long johns, socks, sweatshirts and pants. We got him a thermos of non-alcoholic hot beverage to warm him from his core, inside-out. The warming sensation alcohol provides is actually the sensation of increased blood flow at the skin – where it cools, rather than maintains warmth. Alcohol may make you feel warm while the opposite occurs..

And we monitored him as he warmed in that Jeep until he felt recovered.

Myron described another level, one of succumbing to unstoppable shivering, our natural defense mechanism by which our bodies create warmth in defense of the cold.

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Leader's line cont

Hypothermia can overcome us before we know it. Remember, staying warm is much easier than getting warm.

My old ski-patrol buddy and fellow fly-fisher Jeff Gross offers some tips to help stay ahead of hypothermia and out of trouble. Each tip provides another ounce of prevention.

Stay dry. Have an emergency change of clothes in your vehicle for you or anyone else.

Ensure you and your buddies both have access to the car – a hidden spare key, or a key in each person's pocket.

Avoid becoming sweaty – dress by the layer principle with breathable clothing. Cotton is one of the worst fibers you can wear; it traps moisture on you. Invest in proper, breathable clothing.

Keep your head warm. Use a balaclava or stocking hat. Dressed well otherwise, most of the heat you will lose is from your exposed head.

Keep your hands and feet warm. They are significant control centers for your body. Use good, warm fingerless gloves. Boots must give adequate room for good circulation. Jeff states that dusting your feet with cayenne pepper stimulates circulation. Also, after donning polypropylene socks, try covering your feet with plastic bags (like your newspaper comes in) before putting on your wading socks.

Drink fluids – force yourself to drink – your kidneys will go into “overtime” because of the cold, but the hydration helps prevent hypothermia.

And know the signs and symptoms of hypothermia: intense shivering, loss of motor coordination, impaired reasoning and judgment.

As we emerge from winter into chilly spring, stay warm, fish safely.

Narrow loops and tight lines! ■

Upcoming Programs

by Gary Kellogg

We have a good line up for programs to start the New Year off. However, I still need your help in finding a few more programs to finish the year - please give me your ideas.

April, we have a guest from the Hi-Lakes fishing club in Seattle, **Dave Weyrick**. We have unbelievable high lake fishing opportunities right in our won back yard. David will be identifying a few of these secret places in the Olympic Peninsula. David is also a veteran of "light gear" back packing and will bring us a demo of this type of packing gear - possibly a future program.

May, we have Charles St. Pierre with a presentation on Spey Casting. We have a number of spey fishermen (and a fisherwoman) in the club and there is growing interest in

this casting/rod technique. Charles will be holding a free intro-clinic for SSFF members Saturday May 19th. He will have demo gear for those who want to try spey casting out. There will be a \$20 charge for non-members wanting to participate in the intro-clinic.

June we will have Mike Croft give an entomology class. This will be a two hour program to get you better acquainted with the insects you will find in our local waters. This is a must to be a better fly tier and improve your fishing skills.

September we are having back by popular demand Doug Rose. Doug will be talking about fishing the rivers around Port Angeles area. Doug's program last year was one of the most entertaining and informational and this year will be no less. ■

Outings

by Dan O'Brian

On the Wednesday prior to the outing there will be a 6:30 PM meeting for the participants at Fishy Business.

March 24/25; Lenice (weather permitting), Alternate lakes on the west side will be Spanaway Lake or Lake Nahwatzel

April 14/15; Pass Lake (we will have the same alternate lakes as March)

April 21; 1st Annual WCFFF Fly Tying Expo at Ellensburg

May 5/6; Dry Side (Blue Lake Resort base camp), to make reservations (509)632-5364

June 2; Tilton River

June 23/24 Leach Lake

July 13-15; Walupt Lake to make reservations call (888)448-1474 (call early for spots on the lake)

August 18; Coldwater Lake.

September; Open for ideas

October 6/7; Yakima River

November; Open for ideas ■

Club needs a volunteer for

The Secretary position

The duty consists of recording the minutes of the seven board meetings during a calendar year. ■



The Birthplace of Spring

Submitted By Daryl Crowley – FFF Member / Member of West Michigan Hacklers

There is a wonderful place that we've all been to. We go there every year. Well, maybe it's not so much that we go there but that we find ourselves there, or maybe it finds us. It's never in the same place and we usually don't set out with the intention of finding it: that small grassy patch on the riverbank from which it seems that spring is being born and is now spreading to rest of the world from that very spot.

We usually find this little Shangri-La on a late winter outing. One of those days when we say we're going out for one last shot at late running steelhead, but are secretly hoping that the trout are keyed up and we can pretend that winter is over and that spring trout fishing has returned. You know the routine: once you're out there, it's colder than you thought it would be; there is just a bit of a breeze that's got a sharp nip to it; there is still way too much snow on the ground to pretend that spring has sprung; and the sun is threatening to break through the clouds but for most of the morning it's a hollow threat. But as morning turns to afternoon the sun does appear and the cool breeze subsides as though seeking to hide from the warm sunshine. And then suddenly; there it is. You have found it once again, as you have for many years; that warm, uncannily dry patch of ground where spring has found a toehold and is struggling relentlessly against the surrounding snow. It's not in the same place and maybe not even on the same river as other years, but it's a place at once familiar; it's the birthplace of spring.

It's always a proper nest, lined with last season's dead grasses and maybe some new bright green moss. And even more remarkable, it's dry, or at least relatively dry. It's certainly dry enough for a person clad in Gortex or neoprene and so you give into the temptation to just lie down right there. And that's when you notice that sun is quite warm here, and the breeze has completely ceased its biting attack. You can smell the Earth, the warm moist soil and fragrant traces of vegetation; the smell of a newborn spring. The sun feels so incredibly good on your face. You always forget how good such a simple pleasure can be. Like spring, you feel reborn as well; like a kid again. You make the requisite mental note that; yes you could definitely take a nap here. But you don't: you never do. The moment is always too great to waste on sleep. Instead you instinctively break off a grass shoot and chew on it and it seems to complete the moment. And what a moment it is. Right now, here in this small oasis it is indeed spring. The life force of spring is emanating from the ground and joining the warm rays of the sun at the very core of your being; and it's always so good. Even the riffing and splashing of the river sounds warmer and you can actually believe that it is spring everywhere, and here in this one special spot, spring has located winter's weak link and has burst forth to the surface, and once again you

have been chosen above all others to midwife the birth of spring.

But it doesn't lasts long enough, it never does, and at some point we need to move on, or an errant cloud intercepts the warm stream of photons from the sun, or the wind manages to intrude just enough to rouse us from our fantasy and so we get back on our feet. Like stepping through a warp in space and time and we find we are transported instantly back to the land of late winter. But it doesn't matter now; we have witnessed the birth of spring. Winter's fate is cast, and the air is not as cold and the day is not as foreboding as it was. We are not so easily discouraged now. The mayflies will be hatching soon. We know this now because we were there - at the birthplace of spring. ■



The Fly Fishing Academy Needs You.....

The Fly Fishing Academy is looking for folks to coach and mentor budding young fly anglers on the water. Each evening, from June 25th to June 29th, academy students will be fishing our local waters, putting into practice those things they've learned during the day. This is where we need your help by partnering up with a student to teach the finer points of casting, line control, fly selection and presentation. This is a great opportunity to pass on your skills to others.

Go to:

<http://www.troutunlimitedwashington.org/Academy/default.asp>
to learn more about the academy

If you can help or have questions, please call Mel Hurd at:
(360) 709-0395 ■



Thanks to Dave Whitlock for the Clip Art. See the rest of his info on www.davewhitlock.com

TYING CORNER

Karl's Lemhi Orange

Article by Eric Schubert - North Idaho Fly Casters Club
Illustrations by Rann Haight - North Idaho Fly Casters Club

If you are a fly-tying addict as I am, there are numerous local, state and national expositions which highlight the tying-techniques of both professional and local fly tiers. During my travels

this year, I had the opportunity to attend the 2nd Annual Bozeman Fly Tying Exposition in Bozeman, Montana along with a few fly tying addicts from the North Idaho Fly Casters Club. I was delighted to visit with old friends and some of the nation's best fly tiers, including Darwin Atkins, Bob Jacklin, Bob Lay, Bruce Staples and others. Although I am always intrigued by the tying talents of these nationally renowned tiers, I am always on the lookout for folks who exhibit great skills, but are not yet recognized for their outstanding tying talents.

At the Bozeman Show I had the unique opportunity to view the tying talents of Gary Barnes from Rigby, Idaho. Gary was raised on the banks of the South Fork of the Snake River and has been an avid fly fisher since the age of six. He began tying his own flies during his teenage years, and has been an active member of the Snake River Cutthroat Club in southern Idaho for many years. After watching Gary's tying talents, I was impressed by his creative style as well as the ease with which to tie patterns of his own design.

This month's Fly-of-the-Month comes from Gary's vise and is known in the southern part of Idaho as Karl's Lemhi Orange. The fly pattern was developed by Karl Amanson, the owner and operator of Lemhi Expeditions in place of soft hackle patterns that did not stand up to the rigors of Lemhi trout. Karl's lodge is located on the banks of the Lemhi River in Idaho; the river being small in stature, but one that hold lots of eager rainbows from eight inches to over more than twenty inches in length. The development of the Lemhi Orange also solved the problem of quickly getting large soft hackled flies to the bottom of the river where fish usually tend to congregate.

The Lemhi Orange is tied on a TMC hook style 2312 or equivalent in sizes 4-10. This is a beefy fly; not to be confused with the very small and delicate flies for catching trout. The body is constructed with orange floss, but if you can find orange colored Pearsall Silk, it makes for a much better body. The segmentation for the fly is provided by a small gold or amber colored wire that is reverse wrapped. For the thorax, add a small amount of brown dubbing. Use bead-chain eyes that are silver in color and match the appropriate hook size that you are using. For the soft - hackled effect, you can use hen saddle, Hungarian partridge, speckled hen saddle or pheasant rump. All of

these hackles work well as long as you make sure that you are using very long and soft hackle barbules.

Fish this fly downstream with an across cast; plunge your rod tip under the water and move it back and forth with a slow retrieve. If you don't get a strike just move a few feet and repeat the presentation. Just remember to fish the Lemhi Orange slowly and deliberately. Karl's Lemhi Orange pattern is not limited to catching trout on the Lemhi River, but should be well suited for all trout streams where large soft hackled flies are of interest to local trout. ■

Winter Black Stonefly

Article by Eric Schubert - North Idaho Fly Casters Club
Illustrations by Rann Haight - North Idaho Fly Casters Club

Stoneflies are prolific insects which are generally available to trout during most seasons of the year. When most other types of flies are dormant and not available, stoneflies can be found in fairly abundant numbers; even during the winter months. If you are very observant, you will see stonefly nymphs clinging to the tops of submerged rocks, waiting to migrate towards the shore, when weather conditions are right for their emergence.

Stoneflies emerge from the water during different times of the year depending on their individual species. They are a very significant food source for trout, as they are generally much larger than caddisflies, mayflies, and other prevalent insect species.

Our Fly of the Month for February 2006, is the Winter Black Stonefly. This pattern is one of my favorite stonefly patterns and comes from the pages of 1000 Flies, one of my favorite fly pattern resource books. The Winter Black Stonefly is very effective during the winter and early spring months and requires only a minimal amount of fly tying materials as well as fly tying skill.

For the body of this fly use a Tiemco 200R style hook. Although this hook style is primarily used for Stimulator type flies, its long hook shank and curvature makes it an ideal hook for tying any successful stonefly pattern.

Use black Sparkle Dubbing to create the body, then a wing cleaned and stacked orange deer hair. Make sure that your deer-hair wing extends just beyond the bend of the hook. Also control the flare of the deer hair by using gentler wraps of thread. Complete the fly by wrapping three to four turns of black hackle (dry style) in the area where the wing has been tied down.

Fish this pattern anywhere you have swift water currents. Stoneflies love highly oxygenated water; and successful fly fishers actively look for these areas in which to present their stonefly patterns. **Continued on page 5**



When fishing stonefly patterns, resist the urge to use flawless dry-fly presentation. Remember that stoneflies wiggle and struggle as they make their way from the river to the bank areas. Present your fly with lots of motion. You can do this by wiggling your rod tip as the fly makes its way downstream. Expert fly fisher Scott Sanchez, describes this practice best by stating that: "Dead-drifting an adult stonefly works, but using a more active presentation should be an important part of your repertoire. An active presentation imitates both the flight-impaired male running on the surface as well as the fluttering female". Forget about drag-free presentations when using the Winter Black Stonefly. ■

When Is A Fly No Longer A Fly?

By Mike Hogue – Taken from the E.C. Powell Fly Fishers Newsletter

Okay, I am just going to ask this question. I started thinking about this some time ago and I really wondered, when is a fly no longer a fly? Have we approached the point where we need to create an industry standard? I kind of think so. Consider this. If a bug is made of plastic fibers, has foil eyes, filled with epoxy and set to a hook what would you call that? Lure? Jig? Fly? Plug? Guess what ALL of those have some of the same items....

How about this? If it has lead, bucktail and flash it would be: (1) a sluggo, (2) a jig, (3) a lead eyed deep minnow, (4) all of the above, (5) 2 of the above. Answer: (4) all of the above. I find it terribly ironic that we call something in a frame that took 18 hours to construct a fly since it will never ever be fished while a micro jig tied as a nymph we wouldn't consider a fly at all. Why? I don't know. I suspect vanity might be the issue here.

I once was in a tackle super store with a friend all set to buy rubber legged squid baits. He looked at me and choked, "What on earth are those for?", "They looked like about 45 second Clouser Minnow to make. I'm thinking super glue and lead eyes and I'm fishing". He just shook his head. I ended up putting those back on the shelf.

I also find it really interesting that the holy grail of fly tying is Atlantic salmon flies. These suckers have 80 million pieces, stacked wings, loads of endangered exotic materials which is all supposed to be a fly? They are pretty but honestly are you ever going to fish a \$500 fly? If you broke it off that would be a heart breaker now wouldn't it? I don't think we can call those flies anymore since they aren't really going to be fished anyway.

Scott Sanchez about hit the nail on the head in the latest issue of American Angler. He ties all these really strange deer hair flies: Bugs Bunny, Santa, a Christmas Tree, the Bud fly zapping frog, a pike, a swordfish and one he doesn't mention: the man eating shark. Those are an absolute hoot. Makes me laugh since they are funny,

inventive and fishable all at the same time. Are those flies? Well sort of. He has fished some of them and they did actually catch something.

By far the one that has totally redefined the word bizarre is Don Ortez. Don hails from Wyoming and has tied some of the coolest of cool flies. I first meet Don a couple of years ago at a FFF Conclave. Don has tied everything from a 32 royal coachman, to a complete set of mice (like 80 of them mounted to LOGS), a spun wool rubber duck sized really big muddlers (measure like 24" long) and of course his complete set of flexo tubing fish. His bill fish is seen in the Renzetti vise ad often in Art of Angling. He ties flex Bass, swordfish, everything in between and some of those ended up on a wedding cake! Are those flies? Well sort ofit does stretch the imagination a bit. Again funny, cool, innovative and off beat. By far one of the best.

New York's own Bunkie (Harold Wilson) makes a Jack Gartside fly which is a small piece of flat craft foam cut out featuring Jack riding a giraffe float tube. He also does a tube fly which is a small man floating inside a foam tube. There is also the black bear green butt fly which is a complete spun deer hair bear made out of black deer hair with green butt cheeks.

I have seen the Nemo fly, a coral snake, the cat in the hat fly and the blue wing olive which is an olive mounted spun out of deer with blue wings. Another memorable one is the cigarette butt which is an actual filter spun out of deer hair made to look like a cigarette butt. This fly shouldn't be confused with Jack Gartside's butt fly which is actually made using a cigarette butt filter that is split, cut and then dubbed to the hook. I would imagine that would smell pretty nasty.

Maybe we need to define what a fly is. Realism, creativity, boat load of stuff on a hook or maybe artistic types looking to redefine what art is How about this? Fishing flies vs creative flies? Maybe that is the way to decide what it actually is. ■

Yakima River Fall/Winter Hatches

Midges-November thru May
Blue Wing Olives-Oct & Nov then February +
Little Brown Stone, Winter Stone-January & Feb
Spring Stone, Skwala- February thru April
March Brown- March thru May
October Caddis-October & November
Summer Fall Cahill -October & Nov
Mahogany Dun-October & November ■