



# South Sound Fly Fishers



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## Garden Hackle

November 2007

### Leader's Line by Randy Allen

My friend, Dennis McTeer, calls it "Fishtified." Maybe I've been fishtified once or twice in my life. Certainly once. How about you?

It goes like this. I was fishing with my friend, Jeff Sadler, on the often very-productive San Gabriel East Fork. The day had been satisfying. We were working with the casters in the middle of their basic casting class, and true to our custom, we held a beginners' day on the East Fork. They'd been tying flies all winter, (maybe even built their rod last fall); they'd been roll casting, false casting, and finally saw things coming together. My line had hardly been wet working with these folks. Toward the end of the morning folks needed time to themselves to practice. We'd be back... I had caught about ten, maybe a dozen little native rainbows. Not huge, but neat little fish. I call them "honest fish" – wild little scrappers full of fight and vigor for their size.

But I was missing fish I didn't think I should have. I was emotionally satisfied seeing the results the class was producing, but personally frustrated at my missed strikes. About early afternoon folks were breaking off, drifting toward home their brains full of their excitement. Jeff and I stayed on because the East Fork could be wonderfully productive. I knew it held more for me. Something in my mechanics was missing.

Jeff and I played in a little runout below a small riffle. The dries had been very productive so I tied on a size 14-ish mosquito. The fly landed gently on the water and was immediately attacked. Lift, miss, dang! Another cast to the seam. Strike woo-hoo! Lift, miss, dang! Jeff allowed this to go on a while before he stopped me. Setting his mosquito in the same place as I'd fished, he hooked one just that fast. "Nope - nothing wrong with those trout. And you know, I just love catching another man's fish!" he offered cheerfully. He went back to his rock, catching one after another. He must really have considered me a friend because he could have left it at that. He chimed in again. "What are you doing with all that slack out there? Tighten it up or I'll come back and catch your fish again! And get that rod tip down and keep it there, will you?" Well, that did it! In a very good way. I did have an extra squiggle of line on the water. These small fish were fast; they would not allow any extra time for setting the hook. Never mind saying "God save the Queen" before you set the hook. We had to set the hook instantly on those fish.

**The Next Meeting is**  
**Wednesday November 7, 2007**  
**6:15 PM – 9:00 PM**  
**Location**  
**American Legion Hall (Salmon Club)**  
**3201 Boston Harbor Road NE**  
A pot lock dinner is scheduled, no details available at this time. ■

As if by magic, strike-lift-miss transformed into strike-lift-catch. Again and again. I particularly needed this kind of day. Meaningful, successful repetition teaches me a lot. My mechanical improvements were much greater catching many fish that day. Much more so than catching one "Guinness Book" by happenstance or pure luck. Jeff referred to good days with "a-fish-a-cast." And that's what it became. We enjoyed each and every fish that afternoon.

I was sorry and thankful both to see daylight diminish until I could no longer tie a fly on, or see to carefully release the fish. From all the rock hopping that afternoon I paid the price in the middle of the night. Maybe I "enjoyed the price" as my inner thighs awoke me with painful spasms until I walked them off, to relive in my mind each cast and catch that day. My meticulous count blurred around fish 45; most fish were caught after about three o'clock.

Back to Dennis –he was on the Big Horn discussing with a guide-friend what to call it when you are satisfied or content to the point that you just don't need or want to catch any more fish. His friends coined the word "fishtified." Jeff thanks for your help that day. I guess I was "fishtified" that East Fork day.

Until next month – narrow loops, tight lines, and happy feasting at the November Pot Luck. See you there. ■

### BOOK

### REVIEWS

**Fly-Fishing Pioneers & Legends of the Northwest** by Jack W. Berryman  
Northwest Fly Fishing - Seattle, WA, 2006  
206 pages, softbound, illustrated, Color and B&W, suggested price \$29.95

One of the real pleasures of fly fishing is the vast amount of written history about the sport. This book is definitely an addition of major importance to his wonderful written history. The author has provided all of us with well written biographies of twenty-

three of the men of the 20th century who have made major contributions to the sport. These contributions were not only to fly fishing in their Pacific Northwest home, but to the sport worldwide. For the first time you will be able to glimpse the men and the times they lived in during a period of tremendous innovation in both tackle and technique. While the impetus for all of these men was to more successfully fish for the trout, steelhead, and salmon of their home waters, what they did has echoed throughout the world. The double haul, one of the great innovations for single hand rod caster all over the world for saltwater and large river fishing was invented, developed, and presented to the world by a pair of these men, for example. And there were the men who entertained a worldwide audience by writing about these developments and their use in fishing for large, strong fish in the Pacific Northwest, men such as Zane Grey and Ted Trueblood.

The book is very well written presenting an easy and entertaining read. The historic photographs and well done illustrations increase the reader's pleasure and allow a wonderful snapshot of our ancestors fly fishing world. A history book that is fun! ■

**Nymph Fishing Rivers & Streams** by Rick Hafele  
Stackpole Books - Mechanicsburg, PA, 2006  
178 pages plus DVD, hardbound, illustrated, Color and B&W, suggested price \$49.95

The author has written one of the most informative and instructional volumes on modern nymph fishing for trout. The book is well written and easy to read. It is also well illustrated with excellent quality photographs as well as lovely watercolor artwork illustrations. The book includes an opening chapter on the history of nymph fishing which is a fun read. The trout, and more importantly, his habitat is described in chapter two which is followed by a chapter on tackle for nymph fishing. This tackle chapter covers not only rods, lines, and reels, but also indicators, weight, and rigging techniques. This is probably one of the best descriptions of modern nymphing tackle in print. The chapter on selecting the right fly pattern includes information on collecting "bugs" as well as how to take bug samples, and most importantly, how to interpret the resulting information. Chapter five is the real meat of the book presenting eleven nymphing methods using text, photographic sequences, and diagrams to clearly teach the reader exactly how to accomplish successful fly presentation under numerous habitat and water conditions. The final major section of the book is dedicated to the insects trout eat and the imitations that will successfully fool the trout. The insect information is very well presented with enough information to allow the angler to have enough of an understanding of the prey species he is trying to imitate without having to look to reference volumes. The pattern selection is kept short by providing a limited set of imitative patterns that cover a large number of insects without having to carry thousands of patterns to the river. Interestingly, the book also includes a DVD which presents a humorous, fun day on the stream with the

author and his sidekick showing how and where to use the various nymphing techniques. This DVD is so light hearted that you can not help but learn while chuckling. The book is a rare combination of instruction and page-turner fun read. Such a well written volume deserves a place in every trout fisherman's library. ■

### **NW FLY FISHING EVENTS FOR 2007 – 2008**

January 23-27, 2008 – Washington Sportsman Show @ Western Washington Fairgrounds, Puyallup, WA.

February 1-3, 2008 - The Fly Fishing Show @ Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA.

February 6-10, 2008 – Pacific NW Sportsmen's Show, Portland, Ore. @ Portland Expo Center

February 21-24, 2008 – Evergreen Sportsman's Show – Monroe, WA.

February 28 - March 2, 2008 – Central Oregon Sportsmen's Show, Redmond, Ore.

February 28 – March 2, 2008 – Idaho Sportsman Show – Boise, Id.

February 29 - March 2, 2008 – Great Western Sportsfishing Show – Spokane, WA.

March 7-8, 2008 – Oregon Council FFF – Northwest Fly Tyers and Fly Fishing Expo, Albany, Ore. ([www.nwflytyerexpo.com](http://www.nwflytyerexpo.com))

March 22, 2008 – Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Expo @ Port Townsend, WA.

March 29 – April 1, 2008 – Great Alaska Sportsman Show, Anchorage, Alaska

May 3, 2008 – Washington State Council FFF Event – “Washington State Fly Fishing Conclave” – Ellensburg, WA. ([www.washingtoncouncilfff.org](http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org))

July ???, 2008 – 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Metolius River Fly Fishing & Bamboo Rod Fair @ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman, Ore. [www.campshermanstore.com](http://www.campshermanstore.com)

July 22-26, 2008 – FFF 43<sup>rd</sup> Int'l Show and Conclave 2008, Whitefish, Mt. ([www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)) ■

### **Editor's Note**

It's a small newsletter this month. With new officer's due to take over next year and the holidays fast approaching there is nothing to report. The Chum salmon fishing is in full swing and they can be found in the Puget Sound, Satsop River, and Wynoochee River. Don't wait for someone to tell where they are located. Go out to some place you have never visited. You could be pleasantly surprised. ■