



South Sound Fly Fishers



Volume 07, Issue 10

Garden Hackle

October 2007

Leader's Line by Randy Allen

Mel Hurd, Dave Millard, John Woods, Jim Voss all led a fine casting class this summer which concluded with an evening on the Deschutes River to practice the casting skills taught. Mel also wanted to impart some new line management and mending techniques that can be learned only on moving water.

I was reflecting on that evening, and on the Super Bowl, and Tiger Woods. I'll help connect my abstract dots. (How did those ancients see all those figures in the nighttime sky? I still wonder.) Tiger Woods is still on the driving range practicing his drives. The Indianapolis Colts, after winning the 2007 granddaddy of footballs games, I suspect they will return to basic blocking and tackling exercises this fall.

See where this is going? Maybe we should practice the skills of our sport also. Here's the problem: show a fisher some moving water, and immediately we want to tie on a fly, check that hook, and start to fish. When do we practice? On the long-awaited destination trip after we get there? When there are fish rising right and left? I'd much rather sharpen my skills before going on a trip than to try and learn them there. That's a pretty expensive way to learn.

On the Deschutes that night Mel donated big foam flies as an instructional aid. Some folks found it difficult to remain focused on the instructional intent considering the possibility that that big old fly might generate some interest from a fish. Heck, I would have. As a contrast, I took a few folks into a city stream guaranteed to have no fish, the sole intent being to practice mending skills. No adrenaline from a nearly missed rising strike, no fish to distract us. All we had was moving water to practice drag-free drifts and reach mends. (And I realize I'm saying all this with all the productivity of fall fishing out there.) If Tiger still practices his drives, some yarn-fly practice to improve our skills is bound to be productive for us. Newcomers especially will gain a lot from streamside practice drills. Learn to control the cast and lines today with yarn, catch a fish tomorrow with a fly.

If increased casting accuracy is something you'd like, casting drills would be good to pursue and practice. Dedicate some time to practicing casts. Fifteen minutes, a half-hour a couple of times a week. Mel was quick to remind our students – don't practice too long and wear yourself out. Also, if the cast isn't working, do not

**The Next Meeting is
Tuesday October 16, 2007
6:15 PM – 9:00 PM**

**Location
American Legion Hall (Salmon Club)
3201 Boston Harbor Road NE**

This month we will have Chester Allen back to give us a program on fishing Yellowstone Park. This is another favorite fishing area that Chester keeps telling us about in his Friday Daily Olympia articles. ■

continue to reinforce a bad technique. Cast to several targets such as trash can lids or paper plates. Space the targets at varying distances from you, some left, some right. By alternating targets you will practice many skills necessary to fly-casting: accuracy, wind management, stripping in, and shooting line. The goal is to self-diagnose any trouble you may be having. If you cannot self-correct, we have help. If you cannot self-diagnose, we have help there too.

Tim Rajeff described to me his desire is to see every kid playing casting games on his front lawn. As young as he and Steve started, he focuses on youth to develop fine casting habits. He recommends games that would be fun, create a feeling of accomplishment, and reward the kids (or anyone) with increased skills over time. If I knew my skills and likelihood of improving my catch were to benefit, I'd do some drills before taking that dream trip. And if you do it, let us know how it works and where it doesn't work so we can help you. That's what your club is for – we're here to help.

Until next month – narrow loops, tight lines, and get those paper plates out on those lawns! ■

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 ■

FFF Membership Incentive Programs – By Carl Johnson, President, WSCFFF

Starting July of this year the FFF started two membership incentive programs. The first program is for FFF affiliated clubs. This program is to increase our members to support the Federation's growing Conservation and Educational programs. One group that represents real potential is the members of our affiliate clubs who are not FFF members.

From July 1, 2007 to December 31, 2007 affiliate members may join the Federation at the special discounted price of \$15.00 for a regular one year individual membership.

- These memberships will count toward the Rod Incentive program.
- **Membership form must be signed by the club president to certify that the applicant is a member of an affiliated club**

Life Member Promotion

Beginning July 1, 2007 until December 31, 2007 we will also have a life membership promotion. At a price of \$750 it will include for a new member, choice of a Sage 590-4 Z-AXIS Series Rod in 5 wt OR a Sage 890-4 Xi2 8 wt.

Thus the new life member gets a package valued at approximately \$1150.00 for his \$750.00 investment..

Rod incentive Program

For every 12 new members of a club who join the FFF, the club will receive their choice of a Temple Fork Outfitters Lefty Kreh Professional Series rod: TFO 5864P (8'6" 4 pc 5 wt) or TFO 0894P (9' 4pc 8 wt) .

If the club enrolls 18 new members, they can choose between a TFO Lefty Kreh TiCR X series rods: TFO 5904TX (9' 4 pc 5 wt) or TFO 08904TX (9' 4 pc 8 wt)

All membership categories for new members count toward the rod with the following exceptions.

- Two youth memberships count as one membership for this program
- Disabled Veteran memberships do not qualify
- Reinstatement of membership (former members less than 3 years) ■

Press Release

THE FIFTH ANNUAL OLYMPIC PENINSULA FLY-FISHING EXPO

Saturday, March 22, 2008, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Jefferson County Fairgrounds, Port Townsend, WA.

Celebrities Phil Rowley, Doug Rose and Skip Morris will perform slide shows and fly-tying presentations. Other skilled fly fishers will demonstrate casting, fly-tying and more. Vendors will also offer tackle, boats and artwork.

Main emphasis: fishing Peninsula rivers, lakes and saltwater, including instructions for beginners. Other topics will range widely.

Admission is \$9.00 adults, \$2.00 children age 12 and under. Free parking!

More details at www.cataraft.com/FFExpo08 or mail jchesnutt@speakeasy.net. ■

NW FLY FISHING EVENTS FOR 2007 – 2008 by Mike Clancy, Secretary, WSCFFF

October 27–28, 2007 – Spey Fair, Tolt-McDonald Park, Carnation, WA. www.speyshop.com

November 3, 2007 – NW Fly Tiers Rendezvous, Mt. Hood Community College, Gresham, Oregon www.flyfishusa.com

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)

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)

July ???, 2008 – 7th Annual Metolius River Fly Fishing & Bamboo Rod Fair @ Black Butte School, Camp Sherman, Ore. www.campshermanstore.com

July 22-26, 2008 – FFF 43rd Int'l Show and Conclave 2008, Whitefish, Mt. (www.fedflyfishers.org)

Reel Recovery Be Well! Fish On! by Mike Clancy,
Secretary WSCFFF

“Reel Recovery is a national non-profit organization that conducts fly-fishing retreats for men recovering from life-threatening cancer. Their mission is to help men in the cancer recovery process by introducing them to the healing powers of the sport of fly-fishing, while providing a safe, supportive environment to explore their personal experience with cancer, with others who share their stories.” The program was established in May 2003 by Stewart Brown (1955-2003), a dedicated fly-fisher, in Loveland, CO. Stewart was able to attend the first retreat, but passed on shortly after the event from brain cancer. Lance Armstrong, a cancer survivor, was an important startup organization through the Lance Armstrong Foundation. The retreats are offered at no cost to the participants. The FFF is listed as a support organization along with a long list of various other organizations. During 2007, the organization conducted 15 events in the USA with an event in Roslyn, Wa. this Oct. 16-18, 2007. The Washington Fly Fishing Club is the main support organization for the event at The Inn at Suncadia. To learn more about Reel Recovery, go to their website www.reelrecovery.org. I can not state how important these organizations are to cancer victims in the recovery process. I am one of the lucky ones, I'm a cancer survivor. “Be Well! Fish On” ■

Anonymous

Jolly October is here to today and the Steelhead are running upstream. This magnificent specimen is really a wonder to pursue. They are far and few between these days because of our own neglect of their habitat. The few that are left need to be respected for their tenacity and power to survive. What a great fish to try to get to take your offering whether the fly was constructed by you or purchased at your local venue. This fish is known as “the fish of a thousand casts” so kudos to the diligent fly caster who will endure the hours required to get a Steelhead to take that offering. Now that his majesty has decided to honor your humble offering it's time to play and land him quickly but gently. Be sure to revive that great fish before sending it on its way. Give it the respect that it deserves whether it was native or hatchery born as it could be the parent of the one that you will pursue in the coming years. ■

The Ten Faces of a Sneak

By Benjamin Dover - Taken from the McKenzie Flyfishers Club newsletter

Stop - It is difficult to see fish while walking or wading. At every likely spot, take a moment to search for trout, not "sweeping" with the eyes, but staring at

each block of the bottom. [Polarized sunglasses and small binoculars are invaluable aids.]

Do not wade (unless necessary) - Any commotion in the water is more threatening to the trout than a disturbance on the land. Hide behind bushes, boulders, or trees if possible.

Step lightly - Heavy footsteps, either on the bank or the stream bottom, send vibrations through the water. Trout can feel these through the lateral line. [Trout do not have to see the angler to know he is there.]

Do not "push" the water - Wade like a heron, lifting the foot and putting it back down slowly with a pointed toe. Swinging the leg forward [a Fifth Avenue stride] pushes a bow wave ahead of you that can spook an entire pool of trout. Remove every bit of reflective material [especially metal] - Nothing is more unnatural on a trout stream than flashing reflections. Remove personal items, such as rings, watches, and metallic eyeglass rims, that reflect; keep those doodads, such as forceps, pin clips, and fly boxes, inside the vest; and don't use reflective tackle, such as shiny reels and bright rods.

Lower the profile - Stoop, kneel, or even lay flat to keep below the trout's line of sight. Often, it is impossible to stay completely hidden, but still get as low as possible - by doing so you put some moving parts of the body out of the trout's view.

Do not "rip" the line - The pattern floats over fish, but nothing rises to it. What then? Let the fly drift beyond the fish and then execute a roll cast pickup. This puts the line in the air without ripping the surface. The wrong choice, lifting the line directly into a back cast, is one of the most common flaws in presentation. A sudden rain of droplets across the surface can put down everything under the shower.

Control drag - A dragging fly, even one deviating only slightly from the current direction and speed, makes a trout nervous and indecisive. Three and four bad drifts often make the fish stop rising even during a hatch. Float the fly drag-free repeatedly when covering a particular fish. Anything less than perfection makes it impossible to "create a hatch" [the George LaBranche ploy for allaying suspicion and stimulating voraciousness].

Move slowly - Every movement, from walking in or along the stream to casting, should be slow and rhythmical [relaxed and patient?]. Save the quicker movements or distance casting to more appropriate fly fishing situations.

Relax the trout - Continue being as unobtrusive as possible, but keep fishing in a steady, easy manner for at least seven minutes [the minimum time it took a trout to forget the presence of the angler in our underwater observations]. By staying in the area, but never posing a direct threat, disappear into the natural rhythms of the stream. How is it possible to lull a trout into overlooking a fisherman? A trout doesn't ponder, he reacts - and if something isn't worth reacting to, he doesn't think about it for long. ■