



# Garden Hackle



Volume 07, Issue 2

February 2007

## Leader's Line - Randy Allen February 2007

In recognition of a truly great story line, I'm going to defer my keystrokes this month to a very talented author. Carole Katz, President of the Long Beach Casting Club (LBCC) web: [www.longbeachcastingclub.org](http://www.longbeachcastingclub.org) in Southern California provided this incredible story in her January 2007 club newsletter. She gives us permission to reprint her story. I am very moved by her dose of reality.

Baghdad, by Carole Katz, Long Beach Casting Club

"We dream about fly fishing in many places – lush, green, forested, peaceful spots. Baghdad doesn't seem to come to mind when thinking of fishing. A friend of m son's was a Ranger there and he introduced us to – are you ready for this? – The Baghdad School of Fly Fishing.

When Navy Lieutenant Joel Stewart was deployed to Iraq, he took his fly rod, being a Montana guy. He was stationed at Camp Victory, Saddam Hussein's palace to commemorate Iraq's "victory" over Iran in the 1980s and is surrounded by man-made lakes and Roman-style villas. Saddam brought guests to this palace to go hunting, fishing, and wildlife watching.

When Joel had free time, he fished in these lakes. Others were fascinated to see him catching fish after fish, and eventually he was asked to teach them. Joel posted a note on an online fly fishing bulletin-board asking for information on catching carp and possible donations of equipment. The response was overwhelming and the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing was born in February 2005.

The school started with three classes, one day a week for an hour. Two were at mid-day for those who could sneak out at lunch, and one was early morning for those getting off the night shift. Sometimes 12 students were able to attend, and sometimes only five. Emergencies come up and classes get canceled – war can intrude on fly fishing time. Students are taught the basics required to cast a fish: casting, knots, fly tying, reading the water, etc. The curriculum is eight weeks long, culminating in a graduation ceremony that includes a box of flies. The objective is to have them leave with the confidence to strike out on their own. If you go to the website of the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing, you will see dozens of photographs of the students, the palace, the fish – and a lot of smiles. You will also see the odd juxtaposition of fly fishermen and women with AR-16s on their shoulders or at

The Next Meeting is ...

Tuesday, February, 20, 2007

6:15 PM – 9:00 PM

The Program will be by

**Joe Williams and Myron Saikewicz**

They will give us a program of Steelhead fishing on the Olympic Peninsula. Their program will give you where to fish and where to stay in addition to techniques on catching the "fish of a thousand casts" The power point presentation material has been posted on the website. ■

## Dues are due!

2007 Calendar year dues \$30.00 are due effective the first of the year. Our Treasurer (Jim Bush) 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.**

their feet.

Temperatures start heating up in April, when it's about 100, and get into the mid-120s by July and August. Classes are moved *indoors* during the worst heat – yes, there is room in the foyer of the palace for two dozen students to practice casting. Alternative sites for casting practice are huge and shady palace balconies.

Fish in the pond and lake include the common carp, grass carp, barbell, asp, shaboot and mangar (just like the Lower Owens, eh?). The heat brings the smaller fish up to nibble at the edges of the pond. "Smaller" is relative and refers to fish in the 2 – 3 pound range. There are six 20-pound fish that regularly cruise in front of the palace. In two successive casts, one sergeant caught a six-pounder and then a 13-pounder. There is a mangar called Moby that lives in the lake adjacent the main palace. Moby weighs 40 pounds! He shares his territory with steelhead-size shaboot in the 10 – 15 pound class.

The most active attackers are the asp, which can grow to 30 or more pounds and will jump out of the water for a fly. Carp aren't built for that, but they will work the surface edge among the weeds, making the water boil. Despite how different these fish

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## 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.

March, I invited the premier fly tier **Janet Schrimpf**. Janet has been tying professionally for over 25 years. While I was taking one of her classes a year back, she estimated 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.

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 own 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. ■

### **Worley Bugger's Yakima River Clean Up Day** *By The Worley Bugger Fly Co.*

On March 3rd (Saturday), Worley-Bugger Fly Co. will be leading its annual spring "River Clean up Day". This event is organized once a year with the intention of keeping the Yakima River and its surrounding area a cleaner place for everyone to enjoy.

In the last 8 years we have collected over 13,000 pounds of trash from the Yakima River. That is an average of a little over 1,700 pounds of garbage per event. Each year we have 100-125 volunteers who help with our event.

Shortly following the clean up, Worley-Bugger Fly Co. will be hosting a barbecue at the Ellensburg KOA which is located on the Yakima River. Many of the Leading fly

fishing manufactures (Sage, Fishpond, Galvin Reels, Action Optics, Scott Fly Rods, S.A., Froghair, Sun Clouds, Waterworks-Lamson and Hyde Boats just to name a few) have been generous with contributions of their fine products to share with the participants. There will be a drawing for these donated items.

Worley Bugger Fly Co. would like to invite the Puget Sound Flyfishers club, and the other clubs in the Puget Sound area, to come and join the fun on March 3<sup>rd</sup> starting at 8:00am at the Ellensburg KOA. You can sign-up on line or by calling the pro-shop.

Feel Free to contact me, Danny Snider (509-962-2033) if you have any questions. Thank you and hope to see you there,

Danny Snider  
Worley Bugger Fly Co.  
306 S. Main St. Suite #3  
Ellensburg, WA 98926 ■

## 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.

February 24 Teal Lake, a fly fishing only lake.

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)

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 ■



Thanks to Dave Whitlock for the Clip Art. See the rest of his info on [www.davewhitlock.com](http://www.davewhitlock.com)

## Conservation/Legislative Report

By  
Myron Saikewicz

There have been several developments on the conservation and legislative front over the last month. These include:

- **Wild Steelhead Management Plan Development**  
I reported last month that the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) was on a fast-track schedule to develop and adopt a Puget Sound Wild Steelhead Management Plan by March 2007. Since then, the schedule has slipped primarily due to WDFW resource constraints and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) requirements. A revised schedule would push Plan development into early summer and possibly later depending on the SEPA process. The federal decision on listing the Puget Sound wild Steelhead stocks is still scheduled for the end of March 2007.

- **Steelhead/Cutthroat Policy Advisory Committee Process**

The first 2007 meeting of the WDFW Steelhead/Cutthroat Policy Advisory Committee occurred February 1 in Olympia. The Committee's purpose is to provide Dr. Koenig, WDFW Director, with advice on a wide range of policy issues affecting Washington's steelhead and cutthroat. Dr. Koenig reported on a number of issues including: Salmon Treaty negotiations with Canada, WDFW restructuring to place more focus on protection of wild vs. hatchery steelhead and the 2007 WDFW budget which \$30 contained a proposed \$30 million dollar and 35 FTE department increase.

Committee will be meeting quarterly and my appointment is for two years.

- **HB 1879**

House Bill 1879 has been introduced this legislative session. It authorizes the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to give nominally valuable materials (down woody debris, boulders, etc.) to non-profit organizations engaged in stream restoration work. This will be of great help to organizations such as SSFF and the SSFF Board will be discussing writing letters of support to appropriate legislators.

- **Mining proposal by Idaho General Mines, Inc.**

Idaho Mines is proposing to mine 3,000 acres in the headwaters of the Green River (Cowlitz Co.) for copper, molybdenum, gold and silver. The resulting mining operation will leach sulfuric acid and other by-products into the Green and the Toutle rivers potentially damaging fragile runs of steelhead and salmon. This is National Forest land and pressure needs to be put on the US Department of Agriculture through a letter-writing campaign by citizens and organizations like ours to reject the proposal.

## Summary of Membership Survey

by Chuck Pfeil

Over the last several months we have conducted a survey of our members to help guide our club activities in 2007 and 2008. Chances are you were asked to complete a survey at one of our meetings or received a phone call for your input. We had a whopping 62% response rate, receiving a total of 67 surveys from our 103 club members and 3 guests.

Below is a brief summary of the survey results:

- 39% of those responding attended at least one club outing in 2006
- The favorite outings were Yakima River, Walupt Lake and the Deschutes River
- Most requested future outings included saltwater fishing, steelhead fishing, Yakima River, cutthroat fishing, trips close to Olympia, outings pairing experts and beginners, Leach Lake and Cady Lake
- The favorite 2006 program was Steve Probasco (Salmon River) followed by Doug Rose (Olympia Peninsula), Tom Bolender (Deschutes River), Jim Voss (Yakima River), 12 Essential Flies, SSFF Auction and Joe Uhlman (Yakitat)
- Fly tying was by far the most requested class followed by fly-casting. Other requested classes included How To programs, entomology, beginning fly fishing, cutthroat & coho fishing and reading water
- We received a variety of suggestions for improving the club. Most prominent were (1) more information prior to outings; (2) looking for ways to involve more youth; (3) more classes; (4) more mentoring; (5) more use of e-mail and the web site.

In addition we had 20 members volunteer to help out with club roles or activities. Thanks to each of you who responded to the survey. Your feedback helps us to provide programs and activities you most want.

### 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 ■



## Either Hand Fly Casting

By Dan Lagace – taken from the Mangrove Coast Fly Fishers newsletter

Either-Hand fly casting offers numerous advantages, and not the least of them is a dramatic improvement in your strong-hand casting. It also doubles the range of fishing and presentation angles in open, windy conditions, and when you are casting into cover. In addition, Either-Hand fly casting lets you avoid most back cast obstacles, allowing you to fish with equal ease from "either side of the river." Further, it's an excellent way to teach yourself how to teach fly casting to others.

Try the following eight-step process to teach yourself how to cast with either hand. Be sure to wear eye protection and use a bare leader when you try this. It will take about 30 minutes.

1. **Start** with 45 feet of line. Grasp the rod with your left hand and pinch the line between the first finger of your left hand and the grip.
2. Envelope the outside of your left hand with your right hand: thumb-over-thumb, fingers-over-fingers.
3. Begin false casting with the rod on the right side; left arm comes across the chest. Let your right hand control the rod, your left hand becomes part of the grip; goes along for the ride. Most pressure is with the right hand.
4. **Increase grip pressure of left hand** so right and left hand pressure are equal. Both hands in equal control to assimilate good left-handed casting from right hand experience.
5. While false casting, **move your hands close to right side of your face**, sensing equal control with both hands.
6. Lay the line down with a forward cast. Lift the line, still casting from the right side, make 6 false casts, lay the line down. Repeat until pickup back cast is as good as regular false casts.
7. **Transfer control to the left hand.** Lift the line to cast, but now to the left side of your face. Continue false casting while moving your hands incrementally between casts to the left hand casting position, with hands outside of your left shoulder, right arm comes across your chest. Transfer control to your left hand by gradually increasing the pressure of the left hand on the grip while diminishing pressure with the right hand with each false cast.
8. Separate your hands and manage the running line with your right hand. **Cast left-handed!** ■



## What Is Angling Etiquette?

By Rosemary Weise

One of the missions of NWF is: To promote and encourage stream etiquette and to educate our members. In our excitement to be fishing we sometimes forget our manners around the water, and exhibit less than exemplary behavior.

### **THE LAW:**

Buy and carry a fishing license.  
Know your local and state regulations.  
Do not trespass.

### **THE ENVIRONMENT:**

If you brought it in, take it out. Every scrap of it.  
Don't make new tracks. Use visible roads and paths when possible.  
Get the lead out. Use a substitute.

### **WHO HAS THE RIGHT A WAY ON A STREAM?**

All of the following:  
The angler casting upstream.  
Any angler with a fish on.  
Any stationary angler.  
The floating angler yields to the walking/wading angler.  
The first angler to arrive has a right to that pool ■

## Trout Fishing

By Eunice B Lamberton

Give me a rod of the split bamboo, a rainy day and a fly or two,  
a mountain stream where the eddies play, and mists hang low  
o'er the winding way,

Give me a haunt by the furling brook, A hidden spot in a mossy  
nook, No sound save hum of the drowsy bee, or lone bird's tap  
on the hollow tree.

The world may roll with its busy throng, And phantom scenes  
on it's way along, its stocks may rise, or its stocks may fall, Ah!  
What care I for it's baubles all?

I cast my fly o'er the troubled rill, Luring the beauties by magic  
skill, With mind at rest and a heart at ease, And drink delight at  
the balmy breeze.

A lusty trout to my glad surprise, Speckled and bright on the  
crest arise, Then splash and plunge in a dazzling whirl, Hope  
springs anew as the wavelets curl.

Gracefully swinging from left to right, Action so gentle-  
motion so slight, Tempting, enticing, on craft intent, Till  
yielding tip by the game is bent.

Drawing in slowly, then letting go, Under the ripples where  
mosses grow, Doubting my fortune, lost in a dream, Blessing  
the land of forest and stream.

December fifteenth, 1873 ■

## Leader's Line (continued)

are from our local species, the #12 elk hair caddis is the "go to" fly.

Joel says that even if the students don't continue with fly fishing after returning home, he knows that it made their time in Iraq a bit more bearable and took their minds off where they were and what they were doing. His deployment to Iraq ended in February 2006, and Lieutenant Colonel Bill Jones, another Montanan who also packed his fly rod when deploying to Iraq (go figure), is now running the school.

Corporate sponsors have included Craig Matthews of Blue Ribbon Flies, Griffin Enterprises, 3M Scientific Anglers, and many tiers. A local newspaper in Parkersburg, West Virginia, printed an article about the school, and the town has tied more than 500 flies for the students so far.

There don't seem to be any fly fishing shops in Baghdad or in Iraq so the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing relies on donations. Joel says they can always use an extra rod and reel in 6, 7, or 8 weight, and they particularly need fly boxes right now. With all the flies that are being donated, the need for boxes is even greater. If you have any fly boxes, or an extra rod or reel, or other gear that you would

like to donate, give it to me and I will pay for shipment to Joel. It would be a nice gesture for the guys and gals in uniform so far away from home."

Carole – thanks for allowing me to reprint your article. Let's also give thanks for our beautiful country, our freedoms, and the ability to go fishing when and where we please. Thank you, especially, to our own SSFF Veterans. Welcome home. Thank you for *your* service to our country.

The Baghdad School's website at <http://baghdadflyfishing.com/> brought a definite smile to my face. I think you'll enjoy a visit also.

Burt and Ginger Sarver kicked off the SSFF leg of the equipment donations to the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing, donating a tying vise and a Wheatley-style fly box Gene won at the Dry Side outing some years ago. If Carole's article has touched you like it did the Sarvers and me, and if you would like to donate some spare gear, please contact me at my phone or e-mail on the back page of this newsletter. I'll work with Carole to ensure your donation arrives at the Baghdad School of Fly Fishing.

In the meantime, narrow loops and tight lines! ■

## Do Flies Shed?

Submitted By Gary Davis –Member of McKenzie Flyfishers

The first fly I tied in 2006 was a Green-butted Skunk. The tail, abdomen and thorax were placed on a steelhead hook with perfect proportions. The tensile segmentation was beautiful. I used white calf tail hair for the wings, embossed with black hen hackle. I'm getting faster wrapping the hackle and whip finishing. I felt a silent pride growing in my chest. Upon completion, I gave the fly an evaluation while bragging to my tying buddy.

To check rigidity and structure, I blew into the fly as if cooling hot coffee. Some white hair fell out. I blew again. This time it reminded me of blowing on a Dandelion. Half of my wing shed into my lap and onto the floor. I heard chuckles from across the table.

I forgot to separate the fluff out of the guard hair. The fluff is soft and spongy in comparison to the coarser guard hair. The fluff easily dislodged which loosened my thread wraps. The whole thing went kaput! I felt like a green-butted skunk and scored it a 1 ½. Do flies shed? You bet! Stoney McFly ■



## “GIMME ME FIVE”

All it takes is **FIVE**.

As you leave the stream, as you climb out of your boat or float tube, as you break down your pontoon, as you stop for lunch, as you walk the beach, as you stow your gear in the trunk, take **FIVE**. Just **five minutes**- to pick up any litter and leave the area cleaner than you found it.

The Abels, Gina and Steve of Abel Manufacturing Company, have resolved to do it around their home waters on the Bitterroot River in Montana and anywhere else they fish.

If we each take **five minutes** and if we each enlist five of our fishing friends to take **five minutes**, it won't take long before we clean up every fishing area, beach, boat landing, parking lot and river bank.

No government, no mandate, no committees. Just us, just your five friends, and their five friends and so on, and a commitment to do some thing to make our fishing world a little better than the way we found it.

**Is it a deal?**

Just carry a trash bag with you when you go fish and “**Gimme Five**”.

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