



Garden Hackle



Volume 07, Issue 1

January 2007

Leader's Line - Randy Allen

Happy New Year to all – I hope you all survived the December-to-remember and that you and yours made it through the windstorms and power outages safe and sound. May your favored teams have won in their bowl games! Welcome to double-o-seven ! (I've been waiting to say that !!)

What a great start for 2007 with membership up and increasing steadily. Kudos go to our membership chairman, Chuck Pfeil, for leading a comprehensive survey of our members. By "press time" 100 percent of us should have either completed a survey at a club function, or else, been contacted by a board member to answer the survey. For me personally, this was a rewarding experience, getting to know folks better and learning their expectations and desires for the club. Folks were positive about the club and their experiences while providing valuable suggestions and feedback. This is, after all, *your* club. Make your club experience what *you* want.

I will be anxious to learn Chuck's survey findings. Without putting words into his mouth prematurely, I heard a theme I'll refer to as "involvement." Members join the club for the camaraderie and varied experiences one can only find through club membership. Experiences like outings, education, monthly programs to name but a few. It's said that one year of membership in a fly-fishing club can equal ten years of trying to learn the sport on one's own. The best articles, books, magazines, the latest hot tips, the newest equipment, and the greatest video instruction are all fabulous tools....but they still pale in comparison to person-to-person contact.

Last year we lost one of our greats – John McKenzie will always be remembered as a mentor who took his friends, our members, under his wing to share his knowledge and to help them increase their fly-fishing enjoyment. No video will replace John's expert guidance working one-on-one with those he connected with.

The New Year is a time of reflection of the past and a time of resolutions for the future. I'm thinking of Carl Rischer, a great friend and member of another great fly-fishing club I am fortunate to be associated with. I clearly recall meeting Carl at his first club visit. Carl had fished before, but not fly-fished. We immediately introduced him to experienced members who would help him learn to cast a fly rod, to tie flies, and to use those new skills on the water to become an accomplished fly fisher. Carl took it to the next level, assembling a methodical plan for His personal development. He got to know those club members who were experts in the particular skills he wanted to develop: nymphing in small streams, streamer-fishing, salt-water surf fly-fishing, bay fishing, casting dry-flies, managing

his line on the water. He planned time with these experts and hooked up with them at group outings and in between to gain their expertise. He worked diligently with each of his mentors one aspect at a time. Carl approached fly-fishing with a wonderful, deliberate style of involvement. And the results were dramatic. If I were to call Carl to gain his thoughts - he will either know the answer, or he will know who to point me toward to gain the answer.

That's an example of the results that can be gained through involvement in a fly-fishing club. We enjoy a fishing variety here that many other clubs only dream about. The Northwest is, after all, a fishing "destination trip" for many non-Puget Sounders. And we have members who specialize in fishing the variety of local waters and species that are home to us.

Let's return to the New Year's resolution theme. As you consider your fishing options for 2007, as you consider your present skill level, please consider these thoughts. Each of us was once a guest, then a brand new member of SSFF. Our red-colored name badges clearly identify the guests at our monthly meetings. Please go out of your way to meet and welcome our guests. Ask them about their fishing hot-button, and introduce them to others who, perhaps like you, share their particular passion.

Also, you have at your disposal a fabulous group of folks with skills beyond your imagination, all waiting to help you out. All waiting to work with you. All waiting to get out on the water for another fun day, a day helping you increase your skills and enjoyment. Don't *you* wait any longer to ask for help. Resolve to get involved!

Narrow loops and tight lines! ■

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 ■



Conservation Report

By Myron Saikewicz

At the direction of the Board, I recently represented our Club at two conservation-related events. The first was a December 7th Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Stakeholders Meeting for the development of the Resource Management Plan for Wild Puget Sound Steelhead. The second event was a regional Steelhead Summit Alliance meeting in Portland, OR, on December 9.

Puget Sound Wild Steelhead Management Plan Development Issues

WDFW, in an effort to avoid anticipated Endangered Species Act (ESA) listings of wild Puget Sound steelhead stocks by the federal government this spring, pulled together a stakeholders group of 25-30 individuals to develop a state plan to protect these stocks.

Much frustration was directed during the meeting at WDFW for the slow pace of the process (WDFW didn't have a draft plan for review at the meeting by the stakeholders as promised). Many stakeholders felt that a federal ESA listing for wild Puget Sound steelhead would be a good thing and were frustrated at how disjointed the WDFW process was. For example, WDFW is developing a statewide Wild Steelhead Management Plan, a Puget Sound Plan and negotiating a Stillaguamish-Snohomish Watershed Management Plan with the Tullalip Tribe all concurrently.

WDFW released a draft Puget Sound Management Plan at the end of December for stakeholder review. Tentative Plan adoption schedule includes: stakeholders meeting on January 9th to address comments, written comments by January 12th, revised draft plan to the WDFW Commission/stakeholders on January 17th, a Commission meeting for public comment on February 2nd and a Plan adoption meeting on March 9th.

How successful this effort will be to avoid federal ESA listing for wild Puget Sound Steelhead remains to be seen.

Steelhead Summit Alliance Meeting

The Steelhead Summit Alliance (scientists, anglers, concerned citizens) met to discuss the status (not good!) of wild steelhead in the Northwest and efforts (political, scientific, monetary) being undertaken to improve that status. Much of the frustration voiced at the above December 7th WDFW meeting was also voiced at this meeting (and by many of the same people) especially about the need for better regional planning coordination among the states and the need to use "good science" as opposed to failed policies and politics to drive steelhead restoration efforts.

Conservation Project Status

The South Sound Fly Fishers recently transferred \$3,000 from the conservation account to the South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group (SPSSEG). This money represents the final installment of our financial commitment to SPSSEG for the 2004 Banquet/Auction Poster Project at Sherwood Creek. The berm at the mouth of Sherwood Creek was breached earlier this summer. A sign (see website) to be posted in the vicinity

explaining the project and acknowledging our club's contribution was recently finalized with the help of Ginger Sarver, one of our club members. ■

Community Outreach

By Joe Uhlman

Just a reminder The Washington Sportsman show starts Wednesday January 24th and runs through Sunday, January 28th at the Puyallup Fair Grounds. Below is a list of those of you who have signed up is your time and assignment. You may pick up your tickets at the main gate.

Wednesday January 24th
2:00-4:00 pm Joe Uhlman, tying

4:00-6:00 pm Kevin Ryan, tying

Thursday January 25th
4:00-6:00 pm Gary Kellogg, Tying
Ken Downing, Spokesperson

Friday January 26th
6:00 to 8:00 pm Michelle Tuengel Tying

Saturday January 27th
4:00-6:00 pm Michelle Tuengel Tying

Sunday January 28
2:00-4:00 pm Michelle Tuengel Tying

IF FOR ANY REASON YOU CANNOT MAKE YOUR ASSIGNMENT CALL JOE UHLMAN AT 360 754 6255 OR PAT BLACKWELL AT 253 770 9477.

AS OF JANUARY 1 ALL SLOTS ARE FULL, BUT SHOULD YOU WANT TO BE ON A WAITING LIST THERE WILL BE A SIGN UP SHEET AT THE JANUARY 16TH MEETING. ■

Newsletter Articles!


If you want to see more articles involving local events, outings, trips & great fishing tips involving our South Sound fisheries, then please submit your own articles for posting in the newsletter. If you have a story, share it. If you have a favorite fly, share it with the whole club. Planning a trip outside our area and want some club members to come along and share the fun? Write an article for the newsletter. Send articles to mill14322@aol.com ■



The Next Meeting is ...
Tuesday, January 16, 2007
6:15 PM – 9:00 PM

The Program will be
Small Stream Steelhead fishing

By
Steve Probasco,

Book author and Publisher, Editor in Chief of Northwest Fly Fishing magazine. Steve has been our "kick-off" presenter for many years. We've had helicopter trips up the BC Coast, bass fishing in Mexico and trout fishing some of the most famous rivers in America. This January's presentation will be on fly fishing for Steelhead in small streams. This is a must see program to get your fishing juices flowing for the New Year. 

Upcoming Programs

By Gary Kellogg

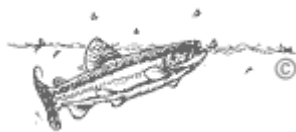
We have a good line up for programs to start the New Year off. However, I still need your help in finding a few more programs to finish the year - please give me your ideas.

February brings two of our own, Joe Williams and Myron Saikewicz, to give us a program on Steelhead fishing in the Olympic Peninsula. Their program will give you the where to fish and where to stay in addition to techniques on catching the "fish of a thousand casts".

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 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. ■



Outings

By Dan O'Brian

I am putting out a tentative outing schedule for 2007. This is like throwing mud on the wall to see what sticks. However, if I don't get better ideas, you can count on the following dates and places for our 2007 outings.

January 25-29 ; Puyallup Sportsman Show

February 9-11; Meydenbauer Center FFF Show
February 24 Tiel Lake (a fly fishing only lake on this date),

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; Cold Water Lake.

September; Open for ideas

October 6/7; Yakima River

November; Open for ideas

I will be the ghillie for the first two fishing outings and I am looking for ghillies for the other outings - please step forward. Mark your calendars with the above dates and enjoy your fellow members on some great fishing outings ■

Mark Your Calendar

WA Sportsman's Show-Puyallup.....1-24/28-07
The Fly Fishing Show-Bellevue.....2-9/11-07
The Fly Fishing Show-Portland (new).....2-17/18-07
OCFFF Fly Tier & Fly Fishing Expo.....3-9/10-07
WSCFFF Fly Tying Expo4-21/22-07?
FFF Conclave-Livingston, MT.....7-31 thru 8-4-07
NW Youth Conservancy &
Fly Fishing Academy.....6-24/30-07 ■

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

Why do I belong to the FFF and where is my money going?

By Mike Clancy, Secretary, WSCFFF

A couple of weeks ago, I was attending a club meeting and over heard some members making remarks about the FFF. Why am I paying these dues, what am I getting for them? What is the FFF doing for me anyway? These are very legitimate questions and I sometimes have the same questions. I was disappointed with myself for not being prepared to respond to these types of questions, since I'm on the Board of the Washington State Council and should know what to say. I have really given this matter some serious thought. I came up with the conclusion - it's really our responsibility as members to **"READ"** and **"LEARN"** from the publications that are available to every member in the FFF. It doesn't make any difference what organization we belong to - Elks, Eagles, American Legion, church - we have to read the information that they publish for their members to learn what's going on in their organization. There are a number of sources to learn what's going on with our Federation of Fly Fishers. They are as follows:

1. Our local club's newsletters. The editors have access to numerous articles edited from "Clubwire" a source for articles related to fly fishing from editors sharing articles from newsletters of the FFF.
2. Some clubs have "web sites" with information about the activities of their clubs and the FFF.
3. The Washington State Council's web site, www.washingtoncouncilfff.org, provides information about the FFF on the state level. It is updated on a regular basis.
4. The Federation of Fly Fisher's web site - www.fedflyfishers.org supplies information on a national level. You could spend hours on this web site reading all the information.
5. The Washington State Council publishes a newsletter - "Covering the Drift" every quarter reporting FFF activities in Washington State.
6. The Federation of Fly Fishers publishes a quality magazine - "Flyfisher" - four times a year with information about the Federation in regards to education, conservation, membership and fly fishing. This is a great magazine, edited by Bill Toone.

I have realized that no one is going to call me on the phone from Livingston, Mt. to tell me what's going on with the FFF and what they are doing for me. It is my responsibility as a member of this organization to **"READ"** the information that is published by the Federation's organizations and learn what is going on. The Federation is going through some positive changes; they have to keep up with times by introducing new programs and updating the old ones. I will continue to support the FFF and I hope you will too. The FFF is the only fly fishing organization that supports our sport, 100% of the time. Hopefully, everyone will read the publications made available to us and learn - "What the FFF is doing for me." ■

Some Laws to Remember

FRESHWATER: It is illegal to possess any fish hooked anywhere other than inside the mouth or on the head.

FRESHWATER: "It is unlawful to totally remove salmon, steelhead or Dolly Varden/Bull trout from the water if it is unlawful to retain those fish or if the angler subsequently releases the salmon, steelhead, Dolly Varden, or bull Trout."

WARNING -General Seasons Only. Before going fishing always consult the 2006-2007 Fishing in Washington Sport fishing Regulation Pamphlet for specific seasons, gear rules, and limits; and check the sport fishing hotline at (360) 902-2500, and the shell fishing hotline at 1-866-880-5431 for emergency changes to these general rules.

Note: The State makes weekly changes to the various laws covering fishing and hunting. I strongly suggest you always check their web site for any updates or modifications that may concern where you are going.

You can find them on line at: <http://wdfw.wa.gov> ■

Steelhead Fly Fishing Nez Perce Country by Dan Landeen

Frank Amato Publications, Inc. - Portland, OR, 2006
111 pages, softbound, illustrated, Color, suggested price \$25.00

If you are a steelhead fly fisherman you have dreamed of taking a steelhead on a dry or waking fly. And you have heard of the Snake River Tributaries such as the Clearwater and Grande Rhonde. This small volume presents a history of this legendary Nez Perce country, its rivers, its steelhead, and its characters. The book is a beautifully written and illustrated oral history by those fly fishermen that lived and live it. A documenting of the oral history of twenty eight Nez Perce country steelheaders spanning the beginning of fly fishing in the area in 1938 to the present day. Also, included is a short informative fun read of the geological formation of the region and its now famous dry fly steelhead rivers. If you cast a fly for steelhead you will want to have this book in your library.



TYING CORNER

Northwest Zonker

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

During the month of October I had the privilege of fishing sixty miles of the South Fork of the Snake River with Rod Bowden, one of the best guides from Hyde Outfitters located at Last Chance, Idaho. Rod has been a guide on this river for many years, and during that time has honed his fly fishing and guiding skills to perfection. We covered the sixty miles in twenty mile increments over a period of three days with spectacular fishing success on each of the three days.

During all of our daily outings, we found that the brown trout on the Snake River responded extremely well to large streamer patterns. These types of fly patterns resemble bait fish, and when properly presented and retrieved, will be attacked by brown trout with reckless abandon. In my personal experience with streamer patterns, I have most often fished them in selected parts of the year with gently presentations and retrieves. This was not the case on the Snake River. Our guide quickly taught us that extremely fast and erratic retrieves were the keys to success with these large flies. After learning this technique, we saw large brown trout eagerly following these flies in the gin clear water of the river. My fishing partner, Gary Robertson and I managed to land some very respectable fish using this technique.

Our very effective "streamer" fly for this month is the Northwest Zonker; it is my personal favorite and represents only some slight alterations to the original pattern. In an effort to replicate a bait fish, this pattern needs to be tied on a 6X long hook. The length of this hook will give the fly the necessary body length that is a physical feature of small bait fish.

When tying this fly, use red Flashabou fibers for the tail in order to give the fly a "wounded" baitfish appearance. Construct the body from mylar tubing which is secured at the front and back of the hook shank. The over-body of this fly is made from rabbit hide that has been cut into 1/8" wide strips. This material is available at most fly shops in a variety of colors and lengths. For the Northwest Zonker pattern, I prefer a natural color rabbit hair color. Finish the fly by adding a beard of red hackle, then constructing a large thread-head. Adding eyes to each side of the thread-head is optional. Cover the thread-head and eyes with several coats of glossy head cement.

I suggest that you tie up a number of Northwest Zonkers, with a variety of rabbit strip colors. White, black, olive and purple colors seem to work the best. If you see bait fish in your local waters, use a color that replicates that bait.

When armed with a box full of Northwest Zonkers, forget about using a gentle fly line retrieve. Retrieve your fly line with 4-6" strips as fast as you possibly can. When a fish is following this fly, don't stop or slow down your retrieve. In our experience on the Snake River we found that fish turned

away from the streamer, as soon as we paused or stopped the retrieve.

Now is a great time to try out this streamer pattern in the rivers of the Pacific Northwest; the fish are getting ready for winter and are looking for a big meal. A Northwest Zonker might just get you into some very large fall trout. ■

Fly of the Month

Oligochaete (ol-i-go-keet) Worms

By Fox Statler



Materials List:

- Hook:** 2170 series Daiichi Bent Shank hook, sizes #12 - #4.
- Thread:** Red or Fluorescent Red 8/0 Uni-Thread.
- Weight:** None to 8 -10 wraps of .035 lead wire depending upon the amount of lead wire needed to get the worm down.
- Body:** Ultra Chenille, small to medium, length 3 to 4 inches. In colors of Fluorescent **Shell Pink**, Fluorescent Pink, Fluorescent Red, Shrimp Pink and Wine.
- Marker:** Red Prismacolor Pen or Red Permanent Marker Pen.

Tying Steps:

Step #1: Place the hook in the vise. Wrap the amount and size of lead desired in the middle of the shank of the hook. Start the thread at the eye of the hook. Wrap toward the bend of the hook; tie down the lead (if used). End at the beginning of the hook bend. Cover the thread wrappings with a light coat of glue.

Step #2: Cut the desired length of Ultra Chenille for the body. Color the last ¼-inch of each end lightly with a red pen. Tie in the Ultra Chenille at the beginning of the hook bend leaving a ½-to ¾-inch tail. Wrap the thread forward to the middle of the lead. Loosely wrap the Ultra Chenille to this point and tie down with two wraps of thread. To help make the wraps loose and uniform, wrap Ultra Chenille over a small knitting needle or toothpick.

Step #3: Wrap the thread to the eye of the hook. Loosely wrap the remainder of the Ultra Chenille to the eye of the hook. Tie down the Ultra Chenille. Whip finish and glue the threads of the head.

This pattern came from FFF website Fly of the Month Jan 2004.

■



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General Meetings

When --- The third Tuesday of every Month except December.

Where --- American Legion Hall (Salmon Club)
3201 Boston Harbor Road NE

Time ----- 6:15 PM Doors open,
6:30 P.M. Social Time
7:00 – 9:00 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, February 6th**. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to attend.

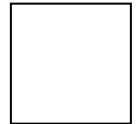
South Sound Fly Fishers Website is located at
<http://www.southsoundflyfishers.com>

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.

SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS
P.O. Box 2792
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Dedicated to Conservation through Fly Fishing



**South Sound
Fly Fishers**