



Has spring sprung? Already???

March Program - Walter Hodges: Wildlife Photography with a “Fishy” Twist

The Leader Line By Mike Koslosky



Fishing is really fun!

Lucky us fishermen. We spend time outdoors in beautiful locations, see all manner of wildlife, watch the seasons unfold, experience cyclical changes in nature, and leave all our worries and anxiety at home.

A well planned fishing trip that goes off without a hitch is always our goal but I've come to realize these flawless events soon fade into the past because nothing in particular has stood out.

Trips that stay with us forever are ones where something unusual has happened, some dramatic unplanned event took place, something we could not have expected injected itself into our trip.

A case in point was our recent outing to the Olympic Peninsula. The drifts on the river went well, the food and drink was typical, the weather was better than usual, but the fishing was so- so. With steelhead numbers declining every year no one is foolish enough to expect red hot fishing and most realize that few, if any of us, would land a fish. Nevertheless, we give it our best and take what comes.

(Continued on page 2)

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Our trip would have been just another OP exercise, a fun get together that would slowly fade from our memory over the next couple months. But, something happened to make this trip one of those memorable events that would stay fresh for years - I hooked myself in the face.

Now fly fishermen have been known to catch themselves on occasion. It's considered one of the hazards of the sport. Some can be serious, others a mild annoyance. But this experience turned out to be an incredible learning opportunity for the five of us at the scene.

As luck would have it, Terry Sanchez invited some of her co-workers to the trip; an orthopedic surgeon, a physician's assistant, and Terry herself is an orthopedic nurse. I couldn't have asked for better fishing partners. Dr. Will took charge and began the evaluation of how to manage the situation. Since I hadn't mashed the barb on my egg sucking leech the decision was to force it through my nose, cut the shank, and roll it out the far side. Our first problem was realizing the fishing pliers we carry are fine for cutting leader and line but not adequate for the hardened steel shanks of the hook. Plus, the cutting edge is at the back of the throat on the pliers making the reach a complicated matter when the hook is firmly attached to one's face with little wiggle room if you know what I mean.

Larry Vaughn expertly removed the dressing on the fly and his pliers had just enough heft to cut the hook shank leaving a bare enough shank - minus the glue scraps, fish slime, and tinge of rust - to be forced out the far side of my nose where Larry deftly rolled it out and away.

This streamside drama, our own M.A.S.H. field surgery procedure, qualifies this trip as one that will go down in the record books as unforgettable. Although I don't advocate you try this yourself!

The take away? First, be sure to crimp your barbs. Second, carry a small pliers that has the ability to cut hardened steel hook shanks (the Xuron 2193 cuts piano wire, spring steel, and stainless steel). Third, carry a small first aid kit with disinfectant wipes, bandages and antibiotic cream. Fourth, and most important, wear eye protection always!

Accidents happen and we do things to put ourselves in harms way whenever we go out into the wilderness. So go prepared for the unexpected and hope some other dufus gets hooked and not you.

PSFF NEWS

Our Next Meeting
Thursday, March 12th
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Tower Lanes Entertainment Center
6323 6th Ave.
Tacoma WA 98406

March 2015 Program

Wildlife Photography with a “Fishy” Twist

These days, to one degree or another, we're all photographers. Regardless of whether we're serious about photography and use a complex camera, or if we're just having fun using a cellphone to take a photo of our grand kids fishing, it's basically all the same. We're all trying to communicate using images. For our March program, Walter Hodges, a Puget Sound Fly-fishers member and Gig Harbor based commercial photographer and writer, will show and tell us about what we can do to get that next terrific image.

Walter is a lifelong fly fisherman and has been in business since 1970. In 2010, along with a partner, Walter started an online magazine that was the first of its kind. It presented fly fishing as a foundation of the much wider experience of travel, culture, art, history, food and drink. Walter served as the Creative Director of *Ten & Two*, *The Angler's Journey* and did a majority of the writing and photography for the first six issues. Having gone online to look at the magazine I can tell

you that it feels spacious, clean and comfortable. I encourage you to take a look.

Sharing techniques, hints, aids and tips is much easier when you have something to which the audience can relate. To that end Walter has suggested that members who have images they want to discuss send them to walter@jettaproductions.com and he will sneak them into the presentation.

Chic Sundahl

P.S. -

Our April program will feature a discussion about Spring, Summer and Fall fishing on the Yakima and Snoqualmie as well describing the efforts to establish a new Trout Unlimited chapter for the upper Yakima area.. The speaker, Derek Young with Emerging Rivers is known to some of our members and as a guide knows these rivers.

FFF EVENTS



FFF Events in 2015

March 13th & 14th / Oregon Council - Fly Tyer Expo, Albany, Oregon
<http://www.nwexpo.com>

May 1st & 2nd / Washington Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, Washington
<http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org>

August 11 - 15th / 50th Anniversary IFFF, Bend, Oregon
<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/FlyFishingFair.aspx>

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Outings News and Updates By Larry Vaughn

March Outings:

Come out and join us for our selection of beach and river outings in March. First up, on March 7 we'll be beach fishing for Sea Run at Southworth. Then it's across to the Wynoochie on Saturday 03/14 where we'll drift and bank fish for Steelhead and we'll close out the month with another try for Sea Run, this time at Ollala on Friday 03/27. We will probably also have some ad-hoc outings during the month for local lakes as conditions and member interest allow.



Forks Outing Recap

Dates: Thursday 02/19-Saturday 02-21

Time: Multiple day

PSFF members: Mike Koslosky, Larry Vaughn, Terry Sanchez, and Michelle Swope

Guests: Andy Gudwin, Matt Beuchel, and Will Bracksma.

Guide: Gary Grahn

Weather:

Thursday: Mid-40's, cloudy, misty until 1:00pm then heavy rain for about 2 ours then misty rest of afternoon with no wind.

Friday: Low 50's, overcast, dry, no wind.

Saturday: Mid 50's, sunny, beautiful, wind gusty (5-10mph).

Water:

Hoh: Clear and cold. Gage 3.2' decreasing to 2.8, Discharge 1,500 CFS decreasing to 1,000 (Hwy 101 Bridge, Forks). According to Michelle, great flow wise.

Sol Duc: Clear and cold. No data but, according to Gary, good condition and about average for river this time of year.

Bogachiel: Clear and cold. Gage 27.5' decreasing rapidly to 27 @ La Push. According to Michelle, the lower Bogachiel was much too low with folks having to drag their rafts.

Recap:

Thursday: Robert and Larry did upper Sol Duc (very technical) with guide Gary Grahn for about 10 hours. Drifted with egg patterns and beads under bobbers and stopping several times to spey and swing egg-sucking leaches. Robert had several bumps but that was pretty much all despite everything Gary could do to put us into fish but there just weren't any. Gary's a great guide (according to Robert) explaining the river as we went along and pointing out all the most likely lays and holding areas. Great teacher also, having total beginner (Larry) doing adequate double spey's within an hour.

Friday: Mike and Larry did lower Sol Duc with guide Gary Grahn for about 8 hours. Again, drifting with egg patterns and beads under bobbers and stopping several times to spey and swing egg-sucking leaches. A little better luck with Larry catching 3 Steelhead smolts (3-4"), 1 pretty Cutthroat (Gary said 16", Mike and I thought we were getting a little "Guide Love" as it looked more like 10-12" to us) and one good strike but I set hook late and lost it. Mike got 2 Steelhead smolts and 1 strike on a nice 10lb (est) Steelhead, set hook, and fish took off right under the raft below Mike in about 3' of crystal clear water where it promptly broke off the top 2' of rod and then threw the hook. Gary again took the time to work with Mike and I on our spey casting. This time he worked with me until I could do an adequate Snap-T. Given I had never touched a spey rod the results were amazing and speak well for him as a teacher.

Michelle and Robert drifted the Hoh in Michelle's one-of-a-kind J Drift boat (which is for sale for those interested) with a few smolt's caught but little other luck. Matt actually caught a Salamander which he wanted a picture of.....until Robert told him how poisonous it was.

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

Saturday: Michelle, Robert, and Matt drifted lower Bogachiel also with little luck (water way too low). Terry, Mike, Larry, Will, and Andy swung from a gravel bar on the Bogachiel just upriver from the confluence with the Sol Duc on Gary's (our Thu/Fri guide) 1,800 ft of river frontage. Terry, Mike, and I had no luck. Andy landed a Steelhead smolt. 10 minutes after wading out Will, a first time fisherman using a trout rod spinning set-up with a bobber and plug, hooked a huge fish which we believed, from its behavior, was a Chinook. It just took off, swimming down river and nothing Will could do (along with his two "advisors" standing next to him) could turn it, or even recover any line. Just kept stripping line off his reel until all the line was gone and "snap"....goodbye King. Besides the King, the other excitement of the day was a river-side surgery using field expedient instruments removing a fly from Mike's nose (see picture and, yes I have video).

Lessons learned were:

#1 - If you are going to get badly hooked it is a good idea to be fishing with a Doctor (Will) and Nurse (Terry)

#2 - Carry small wire snips with you.

All-in-all it was a fun outing in mostly gorgeous weather (for Forks). Everyone enjoyed the outing, despite the lack of fish, and are looking forward to getting back.

Following are just a few of the images captured and shared.

Many, many more available on our Yahoo Groups site under the Forks Photo Album....

<https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/PSFF/photos/albums/540398485>



Raffle News By Thomas Lamphere

Don't forget the freebies

Like always there is a box of peacock breast plumage out for everyone to take a few. to ask.

Down to the raffle business

Item number ONE is an interesting wading net. It is triangle shaped and set for a right hand fisherman. There is no belt but we all have cheap belts that will compensate just fine. This basket also folds down for easy carrying and storage.



Item number TWO is rather cool. It's a long sleeve and pants combo from Loop. These are perfect for underneath your waders in the summer time as well a thin extra layer in the winter. This set is in a size medium.



Item number THREE is something that every fisherman needs. This is a rod holder donated by Mike Trask. This guy can hold 16 rods and is the perfect storage unit for constantly used rods through the year.



Item number FOUR. For this month's Thomas tied flies it is a one dozen set of chum fry. Yes it's that time of year and everyone need these. Six size 8 and six size 6. Perfect for the duration of the season.



Membership News

By Paul Fournier

I joined the Puget Sound Fly Fishers to learn how to fly fish, meet other anglers and find a fishing buddy. I have gotten all those things and so much more from the club. The club has allowed me to give back to our community, have a hand in protecting our treasured resources, and share my love of fly fishing with others.

Are you are considering a membership? What are you waiting for; in addition to the fun and informative monthly club meetings, the club hosts a variety of fishing outings and other events throughout the year.

Are you a new member? The membership is the heart and soul of the club. Jump in and try something new, join us at our weekly fly tying sessions, want to learn how to cast or refine your skills, check our month calendar and see what activities are planned for this month. www.psff.org

Are you are an existing member? Thank you for continuing to support our club. We are 59 years strong because of members like you. The club is made up of an amazing membership who have decades of knowledge and skills they share with us all. We welcome your involvement in the club.

Are you interested in:

Hosting or conducting a class. Contact John Brett jmbrett99@yahoo.com

How about hosting and outing. Larry Vaughn larryvaughn@live.com

Presenting at Monthly meeting. Contact Chic Sundahl chicsundahl@yahoo.com

If you have not renewed your membership please do so by the March meeting on 3/12/2015.

If you wish to renew by mail please mail a check to:

Membership Renewal
c/o Gene Jackson, PSFF Treasurer
33124 170th PL SE
Auburn, WA 98092

Welcome new members:

Ken Graham
Bruce McCroy

Thanks to the following **guests** who came to our February meeting:

Bill Basil
Peter Eugh
Emerson Sample
French Nichols
David Groves

If you have any questions about membership renewals or new membership applications please contact me. Paul Fournier phone: 206-972-2513 or email: pfournier@gmail.com

HOT SCOOP

Classifieds
(none)

Education Corner **By John Brett**

Hopefully you've got some great plans for fishing this year and the PSFF would like to help you in being prepared for the fun.

March 21, 9:00, at the Narrows Lanes we have a trout small fly program scheduled for. Flies planned for this program include chironomid, larva, nymph and other favored trout dinners. The techniques for tying small flies will be discussed and practiced. If you have a box filled with your fly tying toys, bring them, and if you are a new tier or just interested in seeing this part of the hobby, we have extra tools and materials available. A great plan for the beginning of trout season, and you are invited.

For all of our education programs, remember to allow time for lunch at the café. The conversations are well worth the time and the lunch is always good.



PJ's TIPS

Tying Tip -
Bad hair day?

Elk hair Caddis, muddlers, grasshopper patterns, and many many more use deer, elk, caribou, calf, squirrel, and other hair in their creation. How many times have you thought you tied the hair down securely only to find it slips out with the slightest tug?

Next time you tie these hair flies try a little head cement on the butt ends before you cinch down on the hair and before you trim those ends. When it dries it will make those fibers one solid mass and they won't slide out. Some of the newer synthetic fiber materials are especially prone to this slippage and will benefit from a little anchoring cement.

Library News **from Rueben Lamphere**

For those that have not heard, I am taking over the library. Things are still coming together and there's a lot of work to do going over the inventory list of items that we have. We are always welcoming new books and videos that we do not have. The amount of knowledge that we can obtain is never ending. We do have some new books that are coming into rotation at the upcoming meeting, so be sure to take a look at them.

Here are a few suggestions from the new books that might peak your interest:

1. This is actually a set of four books written by Robert L. Haig-Brown. These books are all about how to fish in the specific seasons of the year. There is a book for each season. This makes it nice for if you want to hone in on a specific season of fishing for what is the best way to track and find fish.



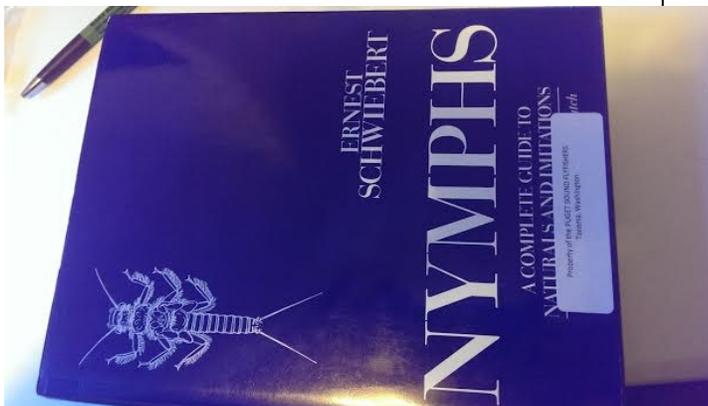
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(Continued from page 9)

2. Master Fly Tying Guide, By Art Flick. This is a fantastic book on how to tie more traditional patterns. It covers everything from dry flies to nymphs, and even some classic streamers. If you are new to tying I recommend this book as a great starting reference. Everyone should know the traditional side to tying because it is the basis from which tying has evolved to in today's time.... Note: This is an older book, so if there is a listed material that you cannot find, feel free to ask any of us for what to use as the best replacement.



3. Nymphs by Ernest Schwiebert. This book covers the life on each specific nymph. Yes it's a book about nymphs and even how to identify each species of nymph. It hold many color plates of what the nymphs look like. The color plates help in identifying the specific species of that particular nymph. Examples would be a Stone fly or a May fly. It also includes patterns to cover all your fishing needs when you're nymphing. This a great book for everyone to read.



Remember that whenever you're reading these kinds of books that having a good notebook is a great way to help retain knowledge and keep references that you may want to refer to later when getting ready to go fishing.

Fly Fishing Academy News

2015 NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy –

Once again I would like to remind folks of this incredible opportunity for our 12-16 year old boys and girls to learn about our great sport of fly fishing and conservation. Various Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters and individuals will sponsor youth, The Bruce Ferguson fund, established in 2011, will sponsor 2 youth along with the Al Harger fund which managed by SSFF. If you have a grandchild, neighbor, friend, son or daughter that would like to learn our sport, have them write an essay on why they would like to attend and they will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor or science teacher.

The Academy next year is the last week of June. June 21-27, 2015 at the Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey WA. We are on Facebook with lots of pictures and applications are on our website – www.nwycffa.com.

You may contact three PSFF members –

Co-Directors - Jim Brosio @ 360-943-9947, Tom VanGelder @ 253-261-8890, or Mike Clancy @ 253-278-0061.

Mike Clancy



Thomas' Ties and Dyes **By Thomas Lamphere**

THE POWER OF THE WEATHER

If you guys have not noticed, it's been rather warm this winter. This does a bit more than you think. Put this into perspective; as the average temperatures get higher it affects everything in the area every spring. Bugs become active in the lakes and rivers, river flows change. Some rivers even become brown run off, assuming we even have a run off this year. Finally, the chum fry start their migration. Though if you have been out on the water, no matter what water you're fishing, you have seen this. The Chum fry are out, the stones are already swimming in the Yakima, and I have been seeing a lot of big moths and bees flying around. This tells me one thing..... Spring isn't coming..... It's here.

Let's start with the main one that all of us are fishing. In the South end of Puget Sound everyone has been seeing chum fry, and not normal chum fry. They are much smaller than normal, still hiding in what bed rock there is on the beaches. This is happening with the warm weather and lack of rain pushing them out. These fry are only about 1/2 inch long. Only visible by the mass of them screaming through the water as you wade your way through looking for cuts. The Sea-run are eating them but not in full force yet. I have been out hooking more fish on other flies than chum fry, but I know they will start to key in on them any day now. Especially with the numbers that are on the beaches already. For those that don't know, this normally doesn't happen this heavy till the end of March.

Now we go to the #2 fishery that we are hitting this time of year. Lakes. This year has been exceptional with the state planting a massive excess of miniature steelhead in the lakes. Now that they have been in the lakes for a few months they should be eating bugs by now. Chironomids mostly with a few large moths now and then. In fact I got my first mosquito bite in the middle of February this year. How on earth does that happen? Well look at your thermometer and it will tell you why. Also as a secondary fly I would be throwing large caddis patterns as a result of all the moths flying around. Some of them are the size of Octobers with a tan or brown body.

Finally the last fishery we all hit..... The rivers on the east side that are open for trout. Can someone scream SKWALA! Yep the Skwala stones are swimming, and even though now is about normal even they showed up to the party kind of early.. What's that telling you..... it tells me that my boxes are empty and need filling. Fast!

So let's get into some fast patterns that we all need to put in our box if we have not already. I will list them below with what water they are for.

SALT= chum baby... everyone knows it and every shop has it

LAKES= any type of Chironomid. Easy pattern = Snow Cone for the moths= a bushy Elk hair Caddis

EASTERN RIVERS= any type of big brown or black stone fly pattern. Many like the Pat's Stone.

Those are easy and fast patterns for tiers and if you don't tie, every shop that I know of has those patterns or some type of the same thing. But it will get you started in the right direction.

Next tying session theme= Chironomids

When your stars align

By Bob Triggs



When your stars align

photo by Summer Martell

We have been scouting the local beaches here at the east end of the Olympic Peninsula since early this month. The weather has been so mild that it is hard to believe that we are in the middle of winter. A few days ago we got pink cheeks from the warm sun all day. It was no surprise that there was nothing doing as far as our seeing any sea-run Cutthroat feeding on chum fry yet. Even with the warm weather it is still a bit too early for that, especially when we are fishing any distance from the streams. We are hearing reliable reports of chum fry in the estuaries in the south Puget Sound region, and of course there are cutthroat chasing them already there too. I am guessing we have a few more weeks to wait up here. With everything blooming so soon, and people mowing their lawns already, we are seeing many natural cycles somewhat accelerated. Water temperature plays a significant role in the development of juvenile fish before they emerge from the gravel, and afterwards as well. No doubt the warmer winter here will help our local chum salmon fry to emerge from the gravel a bit earlier as well. And of course we know that as the waters warm up the trout become stimulated and more active feeders. I am guessing that our local Cutthroat trout are spawning now, a bit earlier than usual perhaps. It's just a hunch. But I am following up with some field trips on this soon. And I will share the results with you here. If they are spawning right now it would explain their absence in many of their usual saltwater haunts.



Mid winter sea-run Cutthroat fly fishing

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12)

*Most worthwhile things in life are a matter of timing. We know that this is especially true of fishing. We need to pay attention to weather, tides, winds, natural life cycles of the fish we pursue, we need to understand their habits and prey as well. I find this life deeply enriching and rewarding. When we were fishing at the beginning of the month it was warm and sunny many days, and we fished in shirtsleeves. The shallow places were uncommonly warm, and there were insects in the air. We had trout feeding right in front of us on those days. What a difference a few weeks has made. But we only have a matter of days ahead of us to get ready for the spring fishing to begin to happen in a big way here in the north sound waters. It's time to get ready. Tie your flies, prepare your tackle, get some practice in on that fly casting. *As soon as it gets going up here, and the sea-run Cutthroat are recovered from their spawning, and fully robust and feeding on the beaches again, I will be letting you know here in this blog. When it lights up here, it does so virtually overnight, so stay tuned!**

Happy Birthday Lefty Kreh!!



Lefty Kreh at 90

Happy Birthday to you Lefty! Master angler, fly tier, inventor, mentor, teacher, writer, WWII veteran of distinction, and so much more. I count myself as fortunate that I was able to get fly casting lessons with Lefty at many of the winter shows when I lived on the east coast. If you are a fly fisherman- you owe many of the innovations, skills and crafts, equipment etc., to this amazing man and his creative and adventurous life.

Here is a recent radio interview with Lefty, and it is an eye opener. Enjoy! <http://wypr.org/post/gone-fishin-wit-wisdom-lefty-kreh>

Happy Fishing!
Bob Triggs <http://olympicpeninsulaflyfishing.blogspot.com>

Gig Harbor Fly Shop – Fishing Report

Yakima River Report: Our closest "Blue Ribbon" trout fishery is fishing super well with the weather we are having. Now that it is back in shape and with some warmer water temps you can expect to see plenty of action on Skwala Nymphs, with some midge and Sculpin streamers fishing well too.

Local Lakes have been fishing super well too. With the Puget Sound Steelhead not going into the rivers some local lakes have been stocked with those smolts. Check the WDFW site to see which lakes and go have a ball. The Chironomid game has been strong and slow stripped bugger has seen some good responses too.

Steelhead fishing has been amazing all winter long. This past week we have seen so little rain that the rivers have been super low and clear. Being first on the water and being very selective of what water you spend time on and you could be rewarded with some slob wild winter steelhead in this low water. If we can get some winter weather pushing in you could treat yourself to an epic few days following this next drop!

Cutthroat fishing has been downright fantastic all winter. We are already seeing a lot of early chum fry in the local area, and have been rewarded by some very nice fish and a lot of them. Smaller baitfish flies and being mobile have been our biggest keys to success. Cover water until you find them and then sit on that water. We have found fish are hanging on beaches close to good productive estuaries (Beaches in close proximity to good chum runs).

Cheers

Justin Waters
Gig Harbor Fly Shop

Wader Woes

by Mike Koslosky

It happens to all of us. The waders that promised to be waterproof when we bought them eventually send a telltale trickle of cold water where it's not supposed to be. Not a good feeling at all. But before you chuck 'em into a heap on the garage floor, try a rescue.

Waders listed as breathable are made of specialty fabrics (like Gore-Tex) that have microscopic pores which allow your body vapor to migrate out keeping you dry, while preventing water molecules from entering to get you wet and chill you. But this stuff isn't fail safe. Certain areas like knees, thighs, butt that come in contact with mossy logs, muddy stream bottoms, algae blooms in stillwater will clog the pores of breathable fabric over time and create leaks. If you've ever fished the Sound in summer the algae blooms are as thick as green snow in the water - and that's the stuff you can see. Imagine how much is too small for us to see.

Nikwax® is a product that cleans the wader fabric restoring its breathability. It is available at most outdoor equipment stores.

Some waders may have a topical waterproofing applied by the manufacturer which can wear away over time. Check your brand to see if they have a recommended spray-on product to restore your waders. Nikwax® does have a spray-on product but you should check to see if it is compatible with your brand of equipment.

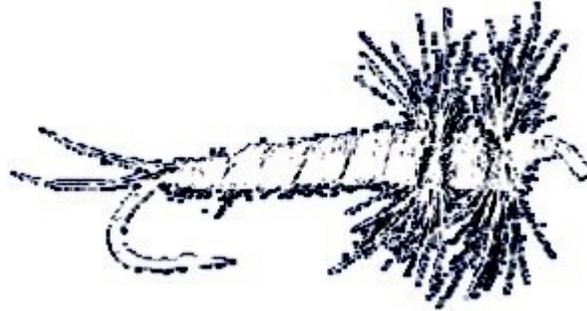
If you realize that you've snagged your waders on blackberry vines, barbed wire, or lousy casts with weighted streamers there are different products on the market to repair small holes. Sometimes the leak appears in a seam and that can be a bit more tricky to repair but it is not impossible. Patagonia® sells a wader repair kit that handles both holes and seams.

As a bonus, these products also work on our waterproof hats and jackets so there's no reason to be miserable out there on the water - unless of course you can't catch a fish to save your life. But that's a different problem.

Fly of The Month (flashback)

Credit to FFF Website

Charlie Brooks' Montana Stonefly March 1999



Comments by Jim Abbs

Retired U.S. Air Force Major Charles E. Brooks spent over 25 years just a short distance from what some consider the best trout fishing in America, Montana's Yellowstone River. Over that time he fished, developed new fly patterns, fished, improved some old fly patterns, fished, wrote a few fly fishing books and fished some more. The Brooks Montana Stonefly Nymph is one of his many contributions.

Brook's innovations came largely from prolonged periods of observation, research and collection. He was one of the first fly anglers to put on a diving mask and enter the world of the feeding trout. One of his discoveries came from watching drifting stonefly nymphs and how trout responded to them underwater. The common way to present a nymph, whether mayfly, stonefly or caddis fly, is dead drift. This technique is aimed at simulating a nymph that is drifting naturally in the current of the stream---and most importantly drifting at the speed of that current.

Brooks made two critical discoveries in these early observations. First he observed that as nymph drifts into the trout's field of view, the trout is usually interested and will approach it at once--- unless the nymph "behaves" in a decidedly unnatural manner or appears to deviate from the actions of normal insects. Obviously if the insect moves slower or faster than the current, or moves erratically, it is ignored or rejected. This first observation confirms the ideas of many other fly fishing authors. However, the second thing Brooks observed was that natural insects drifted near the bottom and while the current was the moving force, they stayed upright---with their backs up and their bellies toward the bottom. Their bellies were never seen by the trout.

Apparently, naturally drifting nymphs maintain some control over their drifting position. By contrast, he observed that artificial nymphs rolled over and over, revealing a whirl of rotating back and belly, usually with different colors or shapes. When this happened, Brooks noted that the trout would "flare wildly away, and usually stayed away". Importantly, most nymph artificials are tied with a distinct top and bottom. In fact the original Montana Stonefly pattern has a black body and top of the thorax, but the bottom of the thorax is yellow.

In interpreting his observations, Brooks noted that he commonly got more strikes on a woolly worm, which does not have a two-toned body, than he did on more exact imitations of a stone fly with a different-colored belly and back. He reasoned that a two-toned body turning over unnaturally caused flies to be rejected by trout. For Brooks, designing a better stonefly nymph thus involved tying a pattern that would look the same no matter how it turned and twisted. The Brooks Montana Stonefly, to use his term, "is tied in the round". Specifically, as described in the tying instructions for this pattern, the legs are found on both the top and bottom of the fly and there is no distinction in color or material between the bottom and the top of the fly. While Brooks offered this innovation for stonefly patterns on western rivers, there is no reason to expect trout (or insect) behavior to be different in other places. Indeed, there now are a number of fly patterns tied this way, with Charlie Brooks as their inspiration. Interestingly, this improved pattern is easier to tie than one with a distinct back and belly. Try this modification with your favorite nymph pattern.

MATERIALS:

- Hook: Mustad 9672 or equivalent 3X long, in sizes 4-8, depending on stonefly
- Tail: Six fibers of a raven or crow primary, tied in forked manner
- Rib: Brown flat nylon monofilament
- Body: Black fuzzy yarn, four strand
- Hackle: One brown dyed grizzly and one regular grizzly, with hackle fibers stripped off one side of each.
- Gills: Gray or white ostrich herl wound at the base of the hackles
- Thread: 3/0 black monochord

TYING STEPS

1. Tie in thread behind the hook eye and wind to the hook bend. Lacquer thread on hook shank.
2. Tie in tail fibers and split to form a forked tail, three fibers on each side.
3. Tie in monofilament ribbing and body yarn
4. Wind thread forward to eye break off. Lacquer shank again (Note: for larger flies such as this, Brooks felt that the best way to build a durable fly was to lacquer and lay the dubbing or yarn down on the lacquered surface; he used the same technique-without dubbing wax-for fur).
5. Wind yarn to eye, back to bend, forward to the eye and back to the base of the thorax (about 2/3 distance from bend to hook eye). Tie off yarn, tying in thread at the same time.
6. Wind rib forward and tie off.
7. Tie in one strand of ostrich herl and both hackles by the butts. Strip fibers off lower side of both hackles.
8. Wind two separate turns of hackle (as shown), one at the base of the thorax and one half way between the base of the thorax and the eye. The two hackles should lie against one another. Tie off the hackle.
9. Wind ostrich herl at the base of the hackles and tie off.
10. Spiral thread forward and finish head large and lacquer well.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.
You can direct any questions or comments to FOM at flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org

PSFF Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
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March 1	2	3	4 Tying @ 7 Seas 6:30	5	6	7 <u>Outing SRC/ Southworth</u>
8	9	10	11 Tying @ PS Fly Co. 6:00	12 General Meet- ing 6:00	13	14 <u>Outing Steel- head/ Wynoochee</u>
15	16	17	18 Tying @ 7 Seas 6:30	19 Board Meeting 6:00	20	21
22	23	24	25 Tying @ PS Fly Co. 6:00 / Newsletter Deadline	26	27 <u>Outing SRC/ Ollala</u>	28
29	30	31				

			April 1 Tying @ 7 Seas 6:30	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 Tying @ PS Fly Co. 6:00	9 General Meet- ing 6:00	10	11 <u>Outing SRC/ Allyn</u>
12	13	14	15 Tying @ 7 Seas 6:30	16 Board Meeting 6:00	17	18
19	20 <u>Outing Day 1/ Coffee Pot Lake</u>	21 <u>Outing Day 2/ Coffee Pot Lake</u>	22 Tying @ PS Fly Co. 6:00 <u>Outing Day 3/ Coffee Pot Lake</u>	23	24	25
26 Newsletter Deadline	27	28	29 Tying @ 7 Seas 6:30	30 <u>Outing Day 1/ Ellensburg</u>	May 1 <u>Outing Day 2/ Ellensburg</u>	2 <u>Outing Day 3/ Ellensburg</u>

Check for Newsletter Article Deadline Date.
Remember articles can always be submitted early.

Puget Sound Flyfishers

Club was founded in 1956 and has a long and proud history of involvement, action, camaraderie, and fun. The club's website is located at www.psff.org

Aims and Purposes of the Club are:

1. To improve and encourage the sport of flyfishing by social, educational and political means.
2. To encourage flyfishing as a means of conservation and increasing fishing opportunity.
3. To encourage the conservation, enhancement and quality of sport fishing.
4. To promote both "Fellowship" and "Sportsmanship" in all aspects of club and individual activity.
5. To actively assist and encourage the public to become flyfishers, and to adopt the club's mission and philosophies.

General Membership Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month (except August). These meetings are for social, entertainment and educational purposes.

Educational Activities: The club offers classes and instruction in fly fishing, fly-tying, fly-casting and rod building. The club has an extensive library of books and videos. The club sponsors an annual Spring Clinic to promote flyfishing.

Outings: The club organizes monthly outings to various lakes, rivers, and estuaries. Experienced gillies provide expert information and instruction on how, when and where to fish.

Conservation Activities: The club has a long and proud history of encouraging flyfishing (and other selective fishing techniques) as a means of conserving and increasing fishing opportunities. The club is active in many of the important conservation issues of the day and in helping to fund local conservation projects.

Membership / Dues: Membership is open to anyone 18 or over. Dues are \$40 per household per year plus a one time (\$10 Initiation Fee) per member nametag.

Affiliations: The club is an active member of the Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers

HOW TO JOIN THE PSFF YAHOO GROUP.

To receive and post to the PSFF Yahoo group you must first sign up as a member of Yahoo if you're not already signed up.

In your browser search for or go to Yahoo.com and look for the button asking if you want to join Yahoo. Click on the button and follow the instructions to join Yahoo. You will need an email address, a user name and a password. Remember these as periodically Yahoo will ask you to use them to resign in.

Once you are a member of Yahoo look at the top of the Yahoo page and find the search box. Enter PSFF in the box and press the 'Search' button. There will be a number of results as PSFF is used by several entities.

Scroll down though the list until you find Puget Sound Fly Fishers. Select the Puget Sound Fly Fishers and Yahoo will take you to the group site. You will notice a small box that asks you if you want to join the PSFF group. Select (yes.)

Another page will open up seeking your sign in information for the PSFF group. This information is separate from the information you entered for Yahoo itself. There will be a box for you to enter a short message telling the moderators why you want to join and basically who you are. Again you will be asked to select an email address where the PSFF group messages are sent.

You will need to select whether you receive individual messages or a Daily Digest. I suggest a daily digest but you can change this selection at any time later. At the bottom of the page you will have to enter, repeat, a displayed code of mixed letters and numbers. When you have done this go down to the bottom right and select 'Join'. You are done.

All new members are on a moderated basis and unable to post until approved by a moderator to help prevent SPAM and malicious posting. One of the moderators will handle your status usually within 24 hours.