



**Puget Sound Fly Fishers**

**July 2016**



***Celebrate your Independence!  
GO FISHING!!!***



**July Program** - Jason Borger - Approach and Presentation Strategies for Trout

### **The Leader Line By Paul Fournier**

Hidden Valley

There is a place imprinted on the soul.  
An image so clear it can be recalled in dreams.  
The path to this place faded with time while memories linger.  
Only desire and hope can bring back familiar waters.

In time eyes rest on that secret valley and meadow.  
There is no longer an image to recall.  
Memories once again renewed by fresh cold water.  
Only desire and hope can bring back familiar waters.

It is time again to step out the door.  
Exploration awaits!



*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

Summer is finally here and this is literally the sweetest time of the year for fishing. Most alpine trails are free of snow, the meadows are blushing with color and the streams are beginning to warm up. Now is the time to plan your next adventure. Pick up a topographic atlas of Washington, look for roads and tiny blue lines, beaver ponds, urban lakes, Carp Flats and local beaches. Chase those spots down and be prepared for anything. The Pacific Northwest has so many hidden treasures just waiting to be explored.

Our annual meeting is coming up in September. Mark your calendars, as we will be voting in next year's board members. These people help direct and lead the club. Your input and attendance is very important so please plan to join us.

Have you been thinking about getting more involved in the club? We are seeking volunteers who bring new perspective and a dynamic approach. Currently, we have the following positions available for the coming year:

- 1st year Director
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Education Chair

If you are interested in volunteering for one of these positions or would like to learn more let me Paul Fournier (pfournier@gmail.com) or Mike Koslosky (mikek1801@gmail.com).

We also have some awesome club picnic and summer outings coming up. Keep a close eye out for these things on our website: psff.org and the Facebook members only group:  
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/pugetsoundflyfishersgroup/>.

Just a reminder there is NO meeting in August. I look forward to seeing each of you soon!



## PSFF NEWS

***Our Next Meeting***  
**Thursday, July 14th**  
**6:00 PM - 9:00 PM**  
**Tower Lanes Entertainment Center**  
**6323 6th Ave.**  
**Tacoma WA 98406**

### July 2016 Program

#### Approach and Presentation Strategies for Trout

Jason Borger grew up in the world of fly fishing, and has been involved in fly-fishing education and the industry in general for much of his life. His work in the study and teaching of fly casting has lead to his involvement as a fly-fishing consultant and double for commercials and films, including *A River Runs Through It* and *The River Why*. Jason has contributed articles to magazines such as "Fly Fish America," "Fly Fisherman" and "Fly Rod & Reel," as well as numerous international publications. Jason also co-founded the Fly Casting Institute, which is dedicated to advancing the science, medicine and art of fly casting. His J.Borger Fly Fishing brand produces gear and media focused on education and lifestyle. In addition to his angling background, Jason has a professional history in illustration and production graphic design, as well as a degree in film and television production and theory.

Mr. Borger will speak on Thursday, conduct fee based classes on Friday and members only classes on Saturday.

#### AUGUST - NO MEETING.

For September's program we will be entertained by Bob Triggs, member and owner of Little Stone Flyfisher Guide Service in Port Townsend. He last presented "Playing and Landing Big Fish" in December of 2014. His topic is fly fishing for sea-run Coastal Cutthroat trout.

## FFF EVENTS

### ***Regional FFF Events in 2016***

August 2-6th - Livingston, MT / International Fly Fishing Fair  
[www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org)



## **PSFF 2016 OFFICERS AND TRUSTED SERVANTS**

**President:**

Paul Fournier  
206-972-2513  
[pfournier@gmail.com](mailto:pfournier@gmail.com)

**President-Elect:**

Bob Jimerson  
253-682-7768  
[bobjimerson@gmail.com](mailto:bobjimerson@gmail.com)

**Vice President:**

Greg Shimek  
253-588-7606  
[gregs47@icloud.com](mailto:gregs47@icloud.com)

**Secretary:**

Steve Saville  
253-927-4401  
[stevesaville@comcast.net](mailto:stevesaville@comcast.net)

**Treasurer:**

Mike Saville  
253-426-1029  
[msaville2011@hotmail.com](mailto:msaville2011@hotmail.com)

**Director, 1st year:**

Kristin Macy  
253-222-0715  
[KHMacy@live.com](mailto:KHMacy@live.com)

**Director, 2nd year:**

Thomas Lamphere  
253-298-6419  
[lamphereflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:lamphereflyfishing@gmail.com)

**Director, 3rd year:**

Mike Clancy  
360-753-1259  
[mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net)

**Past President:**

Mike Koslosky  
253-514-8754  
[mikek1801@gmail.com](mailto:mikek1801@gmail.com)

**Librarian:**

Rueben Lamphere  
[lamphereflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:lamphereflyfishing@gmail.com)

**Raffle:**

Thomas Lamphere  
253-298-6419  
[lamphereflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:lamphereflyfishing@gmail.com)

**Programs:**

Chic Sundahl  
253-381-5082  
[chicster21@gmail.com](mailto:chicster21@gmail.com)

**Outdoor Activities:**

Larry Vaughn  
(253)219-9005  
[larrytvaughn@live.com](mailto:larrytvaughn@live.com)

- and -

Joe Johnston  
253-857-9122  
[steelheadak@gmail.com](mailto:steelheadak@gmail.com)

**Education:**

John Brett  
253-265-3870  
[Jmbrett99@yahoo.com](mailto:Jmbrett99@yahoo.com)

**Membership Chair:**

Bob Jimerson  
253-682-7768  
[bobjimerson@gmail.com](mailto:bobjimerson@gmail.com)

**Conservation:**

Ben Dennis

**Legislation:**

Mike Clancy  
360-753-1259  
[Mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:Mtclancy39@comcast.net)

**Web Site Editor:**

Bob Jimerson  
253-682-7768  
[bobjimerson@gmail.com](mailto:bobjimerson@gmail.com)

**Newsletter Editor:**

Dennis Ehlers  
[dehlers408@gmail.com](mailto:dehlers408@gmail.com)

**Puget Sound Flyfishers News**

Published monthly by:  
Puget Sound Flyfishers  
11502 51st Ave Ct E,  
Tacoma, WA 98446

Dennis Ehlers, Editor  
[dehlers408@gmail.com](mailto:dehlers408@gmail.com)  
[dehlers408@yahoo.com](mailto:dehlers408@yahoo.com)  
206-229-7808

# HOT SCOOP



## PJ's TIPS

Tying Tip -

Twist and Shout...yahoo!

Yearning to try a furler leader but unwilling to pay \$15.00 for one? As are most of us. The reason these things are so expensive is that it takes a lot of leader material to make one; approximately 100 feet for a 9 foot leader. There is a ton of information on the internet on furling methods and formulas so I won't go into that here.

BUT as a source of great material to tie your own try 100% polyester sewing thread. I use Sulky brand, Fine, 0.004, Soft. You get 2200 yards on a spool and it's equal to 7X leader material in size. A better material is clear mono material but it is much more difficult to find. Even better yet is the bulk fluorocarbon leader material such as found at Sportco; a bit pricey but worth it. In addition the leaders can be tied with tying thread and/or Kevlar tying thread. Try one you'll like it.

## EDUCATION CORNER

By John Brett

The calendar is close to full for the summer months so we are not having a Saturday education class until September when we will be tying salmon and winter steelhead flies. The lack of a class doesn't relieve you of thinking about fishing and refining your plan to "catch the big one" or even "catch some small ones".

I like fishing but I spend more time tying flies and reading about fishing and tying in general. Here are some thoughts about fly fishing that may help you plan your summer fishing excursions.

First: Most current tiers and writers about tying will admit there are well over 10,000 different flies to buy and patterns you can use in your tying endeavors. All fish have their own eating agendas. Sometimes these might include things similar to what you are casting at them, but not necessarily all of the flies available.

When you are filling your fly box, or the rim of your hat, with the flies you have in your collection, consider what you are fishing for, what the water is going to be like and what the weather will be like when you are on the water.

Next: Limit the style of flies to five or six of the most opportunistic patterns you have available. Each of these should be augmented by the same pattern in different colors and even different sizes. Now you are up to 54 flies (6 patterns X 3 colors X 3 sizes) but this doesn't allow for the greatest fly you just imbedded in an inconvenient tree only a half hour after you began a great day on the water. You might plan on two or three of exactly the same fly. Now you understand why some of our most productive fishers have a full fly box when they start. What is left in the fly box and the creel at the end of the day is my last subject.

Last: Some guys and gals are better fishers than most of us. A lot of good information is available by just watching a good fisher, fish! The most common question asked of another fisher is, "What fly are you using?", but that isn't even half the information you need to become a better fisher. Try answering these questions by just watching, before asking about the fly.

- A. Where is the fly going and what cast is used to get it there?
- B. How long is the leader and why?
- C. How long before any retrieve is begun (a lot of patience is sometimes needed here) and what kind of retrieve is used?
- D. What is the fisher using to prompt trying to set the hook?

Now you may have a better plan, and to be courteous, you should ask where he is planning to move next so you can avoid claiming his next favorite spot.

The last things to consider is what kind of sandwich you make for lunch, what liquid is in your flask to wash down the sandwich and you should always include a camera and take pictures so your records can be bragged about at our next meeting.

Tight Lines

*(Continued on page 6)*

## Membership News

By Bob Jimerson

Good news continues to pile up on the membership front. You club currently has 119 paid members for 2016! Our annual budget was based on having 120 members by year-end, so we are well ahead of plan. Thanks to all that have joined and renewed this year. The quality of our membership is what makes PSFF such a treasure.

I'd like to thank the following six visitors for coming to our June meeting. We hope that you enjoyed your visit and decide to return and join the club. July's presentation by Jason Borger should bring in a large number of guests.

Visitors for June meeting:

- Roger Snider
- Bob Woolrich
- Len Singelton
- Dwayne Neal
- Dave Lunde
- Charles Bodkin

We had four new members sign up at the last meeting. Please take a moment to welcome them when you have a chance.

- Phil Oliver
- Ed and Liz Lansing
- Rick Holscher
- Bernie Sanders

There are still a few members from last year that have not renewed. If you are one of those that have not sent in your renewal, why not get it taken care of soon? Each and every member contributes to making the Club a richer and better place for all. Each and every member is important and we hope to see every-one soon on the water or at the next meeting.

## Outing News

By Larry Vaughan

July Outings:

We will be visiting Leech Lake on July 16, meeting at 0800 at the Forest Service Launch. Leech Lake is located immediately east of White Pass near the Cascade Crest Trail on the north side of Highway 12 approximately 2 ½ hours from Tacoma. This high elevation (4412 ft) lake is open to fly fishing only. It is usually accessible (ice free) by early June. The lake has excellent fishing for eight- to 12-inch brook trout and 13 to 16 inch stocked (jumbo) rainbow trout throughout the summer. Only one fish over 14 inches is allowed in the five-trout daily limit. Facilities include a U.S. Forest Service campground and boat launch, but use of boat motors is prohibited.

With the recent opening of Puget Sound rivers we may also be able to talk Thomas and Reuben into rescheduling the River Fishing 101 Skokomish River outing. Stay tuned.

August Outings:

The venue for August 13 Picnic has been changed from Trophy Lake to Nolte State Park, where Joe has reserved Site 1 for our use. Those who attended the picnic 2 years ago will remember it as a great family friendly location with a nice lake and good fishing.

Details will follow.

The second August outing is our 3 day (19-21) outing at John & Kathy Clarks place on the Cowlitz where John & Kathy allow us to camp (RV, Tent, etc.) in their field and where we drift the Cowlitz, fish Coldwater Lake, and possibly take a stab at Silver or Mayfield Lake, locations to be determined nightly after much drinking. Feature a potluck dinner on Saturday night.

Details will follow.



## The Digital Angler

by iFish

This time of the year may not be the best time to sit in front of a computer listening to fly fishing podcasts, casting tips, or gear maintenance. However, there are still opportunities to expand your fishing knowledge and pick up some new skills after dark, while sitting at the doctor's office, or trapped on I-5 during the commute.

Wednesdays you can tune in to [AskAboutFlyFishing.com](http://AskAboutFlyFishing.com), an online internet radio show featuring various topics related to fly fishing. Over 231 shows have been archived so you have the luxury of listening to them whenever it pleases you. Each program is a one-on-one interview with notables in the sport. You can hear from Jim Teeny, Dave Whitlock, Dave Hughes, Lefty Kreh, Rick Haefle, Dec Hogan, Brian Chan, Kirk Deeter, Chico Fernandez, Simon Gawesworth, Mikey Weir, Phil Rowley and hundreds more.

Topics include nymphing techniques, targeting bonefish on the flats, success with steelhead, browns at night, stripers in the surf, fly tying equipment essentials, stream entomology and just about anything you would ever want to learn about. A bonus of this program is you can send in a question for the guest and chances are good that you will hear your question answered on the air.

Another excellent podcast is **2 Guys and a River**. Steve and Dave started their fly fishing adventures plying the great rivers and streams of Montana for over 20 years. Based now in the midwest these fellas cover a wide range of topics from wading safety to making sense of leaders and tippet. They aren't gear heads or industry reps, or guides - just down to earth fly anglers whose love of the sport has inspired them to reach out to the rest of us with some words of wisdom and a tale or two to share.

Next up is **The Itinerant Angler** podcast. Zach Matthews is the host and offers his insights as an outdoor writer and photographer. Zach's main event is his web page and from there you can subscribe to his podcasts, view his photoblog, read gear reviews, watch videos, and chime in about your own experiences via his blog. While not based out here in the PNW, I know many of you members hail from places all across the country and some of his stories might just be chatting up your home waters in Tennessee, Georgia, Kentucky or Florida. Check it out, you will like it.

*Want more? Share your internet sites, apps, video feeds, You Tube subscriptions to the editor of this newsletter and he'll forward them to me. I must remain anonymous, shhhh!*

# A little Lower Yakima Access Info

By Dennis Ehlers

I had a lot of fun going down to the Benton City area the last day of May after the (not so) illusive Smallmouth. I was using my kayak and self-shuttling (paddling upstream/fishing downstream). This is something I don't plan on doing again. The Benton City access point had water speeds that were too fast (at 2500 cfs) to allow this to happen. I checked out the Snively access, just downstream of Horn Rapids, and this spot worked. The down side was that, between paddling and casting, my right shoulder was very sore by the end of the day!

One thing I discovered at Benton City was a reference to the Tapteal Trail. This is a land trail and take-out network that provides access along the Yakima from Benton City to the river mouth at the Columbia River. It provides a portage trail around Horn Rapids Dam (which now is called Wanawish Dam). There are also bike lock loops at some of the access points that allow a solo (or not) boater to stash a beater bicycle and use it to self-shuttle.

Here's a link to the Tapteal Greenway Organization's info about the water trail:

<https://tapteal.org/abouttaptealnatureconservation/tapteal-water-trail/>





# Dinner In The Beartooths

By Walter Hodges

I had a name for it. I called it a Doom Loop. Perhaps a different time, perhaps a different place, but you've been there. Everything you touch turns to crap. The more you try to fix it, the worse it gets, and in the end there is no end. It's just so much more crap, quagmire, muck and more mire. These emotion storms eventually blow themselves out, but not without casualties, so as a casualty with nowhere to go at the moment but further down, I just left; into the backcountry north of Cook City in Montana's Beartooth Wilderness.

It was 1965 when Erwin Bauer wrote a photo story for an outdoor magazine titled Back Country Brook Trout. He talked about the brook trout of the Beartooth, and as a college kid from the Midwest, I never forgot the story. Four years later, on the topo map, the hike appeared to be something like ten miles. Most of it above timberline, and all of it uphill. A local forest ranger was about to hike into the same area, so he agreed to take me with him to the lake, and then the ranger would continue on with his rounds. With Doom Loop frothing and snapping at my heels, I scrambled along behind; backpack, tent, sleeping bag and fiberglass fly rod in hand. Ten miles walking near to and above the Montana timberline for a Michigan kid weaned on college fraternity vodka parties and auto plant exhaust might as well have been twenty thousand miles to hell and gone. The ranger left what was left of me by the side of Spirit Lake; an emerald droplet nestled in a rock strewn cirque on the edge of a view that looked ½ mile east to temple mounts of rock and west down a valley and over the horizon line, all the way to the Great Wall of China. In the right light, if I squinted hard into the sun, perhaps I could see further still.

As the sun dropped lower on the horizon, I climbed onto a rock ledge next to the lake. The water was clear enough I had to look twice to be sure it was liquid and not air. My fly box held a few Royal Wulffs, a few Adams, a few Ants, a few streamers. I chose the Wulff, because that's what my father told me to pick the day he taught me to fly fish. Still depleted from the day's forced march, I managed a 30-foot cast onto the mirrored surface of the lake, sat down on the rock and did not move from the sheer weight of being tired. Now void of thought, I stared at the Wulff and drifted free from myself and everything else that came before the Wulff hit the water. A mindless free drift. Ten minutes later I had not moved much, but then there was the slightest flash down in the shadows. The fish moved slowly at first – a massive brook trout – more like structure than like fish. This was bigger than the ones in Erwin Bauer's photos. This was bigger than I could think. I watched, but didn't and couldn't move. Deep in the shadows it sulked and paced in its process of evaluating the small silhouette form above it on the surface, and then suddenly it turned upward and picked up speed as it headed to the surface. I watched, but didn't and couldn't move. From fifteen feet down it raced to the Wulff and exploded on the surface with a force that carried it out of the water and high enough I thought I could actually see all the way to The Great Wall of China in the space between the lake surface and the tail of the fish. My hand held tight to the rod and in that micro moment of inexperience, out of shock more than anything, my fingers actually held tight to the line as well. In the same instant, the line snapped and the rock walls echoed the sound of the fish hitting the water and going home. I watched, but didn't and couldn't move. Some things appear to be better off simply observed. I watched every second of it, and then a split second later, I stood straight up, cheered at the top of my lungs...and clapped my hands in response to the virtuoso performance of a Beartooth brook trout in orbit around the sun.

Back at the small tent site, the sun sent shafts of gold onto the rock walls across the lake and reflected the mountains off the mirrored surface. It was a mirror of the walls as well as the general mood in camp. I had little room in my pack for a lot of food, so I pulled out a can of pork and beans along with a small pot. I filled my water cup directly from the nearby stream. I built a fire and sat the pot onto a flat rock close to the coals. The fire turned the whole pot black as night, but it heated the beans and franks. The smell of the warming beans reminded me of my childhood and my mom making baked beans in the kitchen back in Michigan. I ate the whole can of beans, and drank three huge cups of water. When the last of the sun drifted off the top of the mountains, the temperature began to drop as a brook trout

*(Continued on page 10)*

*(Continued from page 9)*

rose nearby. Three S'mores made for desert. I didn't need a thing. There have been different meals, bigger meals, more exotic meals, but no meal better than this one had while listening to trout rise, sitting near the fire on the bank of Spirit Lake, a short distance from the Great Wall Of China in Montana's Beartooth Wilderness.

Thirty years later, having weathered multiples of life altering Doom Loops, I found myself car camping and fly fishing for steelhead in February on Washington's Hoh River with Gary Mark, Jim and Al. Later that night, after the five course meal, the cigar, the scotch and whatever, while sitting half awake around the fire, Mark offered up a Tom Waits tune on the boom box. The lyrics brought back the spirit of that meal in the Beartooths. A coarse gravel voiced man speaks to his young son. "Son there's a lot of things in this world that you're gonna have absolutely no use for. And when you get blue and you've lost all your dreams, there's nothing like a campfire and a can of beans."

### Pork and Beans:

Go to every grocery store you can find and sample every single can of Pork and Beans you can find. My personal favorite is Van De Kamp, but who am I to tell you what can of beans will taste best heated next to a fire? This may be one of God's most perfect foods, so I'm gonna let you define perfection for yourself. Only a fool would suggest more than that.

Get the can of Pork and Beans

Get a fire

Heat can next to fire

Serve with S'mores made from graham crackers and marshmallows. If you don't know how to make these, you have larger issues to deal with.

Just try and find something better on the face of this earth.

## 2016 NWYCFF Academy

Twenty enthusiastic boys and girls graduated from the 2016 NW Youth Conservation and Fly-fishing Academy this year. After a long week of classroom study, classes in fly tying, knot tying, conservation, stream side ethics and etiquette, water safety, stillwater fly fishing techniques, matching the hatch, exploring a stream to learn about “Living Waters”, principals of ecology, dissecting a fish, they were tired. A couple days we started at 5am to go to the ponds or river to learn how to fly fish. It’s not about catching, it’s about learning how to catch and how to read the waters, how to walk in a river, learn to mend, etc. They fished both morning and evening. This event is not for the faint of heart. The Academy was held at The Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. on June 19-25, 2016.

Each applicant is required to write an essay, explaining why he or she wanted to attend The Academy and they also needed a letter of recommendation from their school counselor or a responsible person. The essays were incredible and their letters of recommendations were even more incredible. We were privileged to have over 40 volunteers again this year. If it wasn’t for the volunteers and the financial support from TU, IFFF, WSCIFFF Fly Fishing Clubs, WCTU and Chapters, business organizations, private individuals and folks like you – this event would never happen. So on behalf of the Youth, the Staff, and the community – thank you!

Jim Brosio, Tom VanGelder & Mike Clancy - Co-Directors, NWYCFF Academy



# Summer Solstice

By Bob Triggs  
www.searuns.com



*Summer! Well, almost . . .*

The summer solstice came in with a bang last night. We had thunder storms for a few hours here late last night. And we had a full "strawberry moon" too. There's a little rain in the forecast here midweek, but it shouldn't stop our fishing plans. We still have a few weeks of "Sprummer" to get through here in Western Washington. The garden is growing like crazy and I am mowing and weeding as fast as I can.

I got out on the beach with a few friends last week, for some sea-run cutthroat trout fishing. We did a benefit trip for Chad Brown and his Soul River Runs Deep programs. Brian Lencho made the donation, and he brought along Leland Miyawaki and Craig Lannigan for the day. It was a beautiful morning to fish. We had a magical Japanese "Bento" lunch, provided by Leland. And we got to fish a little in the afternoon, before the thunder got too close for my comfort. Once you have been hit by lightning, you never take it for granted again. (I will tell that story here someday.)



*The Three Amigos.*

*(Continued on page 13)*



*(Continued from page 12)*



*Leland created this beautiful Bento.*



*Wonderfully careful . . .*



*Carefully wonderful.*



*Sake Salute!*

*(Continued on page 14)*



*(Continued from page 13)*



*Fishing with Leland.*



*Afternoon session with Leland . . . And thunder.*



*Waiting out the storm. The rain got cold!*

*(Continued on page 15)*

*(Continued from page 14)*



*We ended up at the Spruce Goose Cafe.*



*Hot home-made pie and coffee!*

It's always good to spend a day with friends on the water. But doubly so when it means that there are some deserving kids or veterans, who are going to be doing a little better because of these donations. Please support *Soul River Runs Deep*.

## Gig Harbor Fly Shop – Fishing Report

### Saltwater:

With the water starting to warm up we are finding the larger fish hanging off the steeper drop offs. Fishing beaches that quickly drop down to 10-20' depth are going to find you larger fish (back side of Olalla is a good example of this). The fish are pretty much turned off chum fry at this point, we have been having good success on polychaete worms and larger baitfish as well as some exciting top water action on gurgler and shrimp flies. There are some big ones out there this year, and they have been eating like crazy!

### Freshwater:

Some of the shop guys and a bunch of our customers have been getting after the crappie and bass on some of the local lakes. With great popper fishing and a good ol' crappie fry afterwards, it has been a ton of fun! The trout fishing has been good as well, with a lot of our lakes starting to warm up look for the deeper lakes to have the best fishing!

### Yakima:

Our friends at Worely Bugger tell us that the key now is Caddis and Golden Stones. Throwing rubber legs at the edges should result in lots of hook ups when the fish are not "looking up." Stop in to Worely's for some updated info!

### Steelhead:

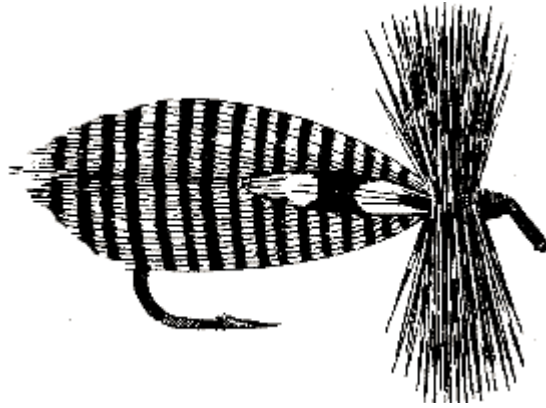
The Cowlitz is putting up a lot of fish right now and should continue to do so for the next few months. Most of the fish can be taken on small, summer, swinging flies with a floating or an intermediate tip on them. We have seen some good success skating flies on the surface this time of year and with all the fish around we suspect the same success to come this year as well! Outside of the Cowlitz there are a lot of options to play with in the coming months, the Columbia tributaries are holding a lot of fish right now as well as the coastal rivers.

Justin

# *Fly of The Month (flashback)*

Credit to FFF Website

## **July, 2000- Hornberg Special Streamer**



The Hornberg Special Streamer: Another great fly that is not a fly  
By Jim Abbs

Colonel Joseph Bates appears to have approached fly fishing using skills developed as part of his successful military career--he sought the most effective weapon. In his now classic book on streamers Bates noted that if you want to catch big trout (or bass), use streamers and bucktails. It is just a matter of energy. That is, streamers generally represent small fish and it stands to reason that even a fish as little as 2 inches has more calories (energy) than a really big insect. Bill Willers, author of Trout Biology, supports Bates' observations and notes that as trout grow beyond six inches, non-insect prey items like crayfish and bait fish make up an even larger proportion of their diet. For example, data from New York streams show that while bait fish make up only 4% of a 6-inch trout's diet, a 10-inch trout eats bait fish a whopping 43% of the time. While the availability of bait fish in any given lake or river will influence these numbers, if you are looking for lunker trout, streamers should be in your fly box.

Because bait fish are not insects or "flies", it is amazing how long fly fishers have been using these non-fly patterns. Apparently as early as 1800 the British were using feathered imitations that looked like little fish to catch sea trout, pike and saltwater species. The first "streamers" in the U.S. were apparently designed to catch smallmouth bass. Our modern streamers, with their elongated shape appear to have been first developed in the northeastern U.S., probably Maine. Carrie Steven's in the 1920's developed the Gray Ghost Streamer, which on its first use yielded a 6 pound, 13 ounce brook trout. The Gray Ghost had several unique features, the most striking of which are its multi-layered feather wings and throat.

Frank Hornberg, a game warden from central Wisconsin created a fly that was different from then traditional streamers in a number of respects - including a full hackle collar and feathered wings with a pointed tip. The Hornberg Special Streamer is not only for imitating fish, but also is used as a dry fly imitation of caddis and stonefly. Some experts suggest fishing the Hornberg dry until it sinks and only then fish it as a streamer. Hornberg was aided by the Weber Company of Steven's Point, Wisconsin to develop this multi-purpose fly.

At that time(in the 40's) , Weber Company was the biggest commercial fly tying company in the world. Although the Hornberg Special Streamer originated in the midwest, its biggest fans are in the northeast where Hornbergs are fished both wet and dry in a variety of colors. Tied in small sizes it's very appealing to most panfish, and in large sizes it is deadly on bass.

*(Continued on page 18)*

*(Continued from page 17)*

Today, in Northern New England, where Hornbergs are among the best-selling dry flies, they are tied in many colors including brown, yellow and green, sometimes with a dubbed fur body. Interestingly, Jimmy Nix, who designed the Shineabou Shad for saltwater use indicates that he was inspired by the Hornberg Special as well. This is obviously a bait fish imitation worth considering for many kinds of predator fish.

## MATERIALS

Hook: Mustad 9672 or equivalent 2X or 3X long hook (sizes 4-10)

Thread: Black 6/0

Tail: None

Body: Silver tinsel (flat)

Wing (inner): Yellow saddle hackle (original), or yellow bucktail or yellow calf tail,

Wing (outer): Barred gray mallard flank feathers

Cheeks: Jungle cock or equivalent

Hackle: Grizzly (original), or grizzly and brown

Head: Black

## TYING STEPS:

1. Tie in flat silver tinsel, wrap thread back to 80% the length of the hook shank,
2. Wrap the flat tinsel to the end of the thread and tie off.
3. Select two relatively narrow yellow saddle hackles (or yellow bucktail .. or yellow calf tail) that are 1.5 times the length of the hook shank
4. Tie in the yellow saddle hackles on both sides of the hook shank, with a length extending beyond the bend of the hook by about 1/3 the hook shank length.
5. Select two well matched barred mallard flank feathers and tie these in on the sides of the yellow saddle hackles.
6. Take a little lacquer or head cement between the thumb and forefinger and stroke the yellow saddle hackles and mallard flank feathers to a point at the rear of the fly.
7. Tie in the jungle cock substitute on the sides of the mallard flank feathers with two spots showing. A recommended substitute for jungle cock (endangered and illegal to import) are the barred yellow flank feathers of the wood duck. To get the waxy finish of the jungle cock eye, it is suggested that the yellow wood duck feathers be lacquered before use.
8. Select 2-3 grizzly hackles with appropriate barbule length for the hook size (1.5 times hook gap) and tie them in front of the wing. Wrap these hackles front toward the eye of the hook, creating a fairly wide and heavy collar. Tie off, whip finish and go catch a big northeastern brook trout (or smallmouth bass).

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](mailto:flyofthemoth@fedflyfishers.org)



# PSFF Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
-----	-----	------	------	-------	-----	-----

					July 1	2
3	4 4th of July	5	6 PSFC Fly Ty- ing 6:00	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	14 PSFF General Meeting 6:00	15	16 Outing - Leech Lake
17	18	19	20 PSFC Fly Ty- ing 6:00	21 PSFF Board Mtg 6:00	22	23
24 / 31 Newsletter Deadline 5 PM 7/24	25	26	27 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	28	29	30

	August 1	2	3 PSFC Fly Ty- ing 6:00	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	11 NO GENERAL MEETING!	12	13 Outing - Annual Picnic Nolte St. Park
14	15	16	17 PSFC Fly Ty- ing 6:00	18 PSFF Board Mtg 6:00	19 Outing - The Clark's on the Cowlitz	20 Outing - The Clark's on the Cowlitz
21 Outing - The Clark's on the Cowlitz	22	23	24 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	25 Newsletter Deadline 5 PM	26	27
28	29	30	31 PSFC Fly Ty- ing 6:00			

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](http://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.