



**Puget Sound Fly Fishers**

**October 2017**



***It's FALL!***  
***Fall fishing opportunities!***



**October Program - Chambers and Clover Creek Conservation**

**The Leader Line**  
**By Bob Jimerson**



October already, really? Wow, this year (like all of them recently) has just flown by. Autumn is one of my favorite seasons with the crisp mornings and the low light. Most fish are thinking about putting on some reserves for the lean days ahead which can make for some of the best fishing of the year. Make the most of it.

We have had quite a few new members join the club in the last few years. I'd like to take a few lines here to help the new folks get the most out of their PSFF membership.

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(Continued from page 1)*

My first suggestion is to come to the meetings each month and make an effort to introduce yourself to a few new members each meeting. Many old timers are catching up with their friends and may not think to reach out to new faces. Take the initiative, take the first step and make a friend. For many of us, the friendships made within the club have really enriched our lives.

My second suggestion is to attend a few classes and outings. As we head into winter there is no better time to learn some new skills or try out a new fishery. We are fortunate to have some skilled and experienced folks that love to share their passion for fly fishing. Thanks them by attending an event.

My last suggestion for this month is to check out the library. As a member you have free access to thousands of dollars worth of videos and books. This resource should be one of your first stops each month when you come to the meeting. There are resources here for just about every aspect of the fly fishing world.

### **In Memoriam**



Long time Puget Sound Fly Fishers member Dick Mathai passed away on Friday September 22, 2017 after a long battle with cancer. Dick joined PSFF in 1978 and remained an active member for 39 years. During that time he served the club as Treasurer and President as well as a casting instructor and a mentor and inspiration to many new fly fishers. He will be missed by all that were lucky enough to know him. Our thoughts are with his family and close friends.

## **PSFF NEWS**

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

### **October 2017 Program**

#### **How Can We Help Conserve Chambers and Clover Creeks**

with Al Schmauder

Al Schmauder, VP of Chambers, Clover Creek Watershed Alliance will tell us about the current state of this watershed and the two creeks that mean so much to so many in Pierce County.

As was done by our club over 35 years ago on Clover Creek we may get an opportunity to help protect a local stream. At the very least we will be educated on the watershed's geography, problems/opportunities and the current plans for protection.

## **FFI EVENTS**

### ***Regional FFI Events in 2017***

None published.



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

**PSFF 2016 OFFICERS AND TRUSTED SERVANTS**

**President:**

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

**President-Elect:**

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

**Vice President:**

Curt Stoner  
253-203-5072  
[Curt.stoner@comcast.net](mailto:Curt.stoner@comcast.net)

**Secretary:**

Becci Curtis-Lillie  
253-355-2775  
[beccicurtis@yahoo.com](mailto:beccicurtis@yahoo.com)

**Treasurer:**

Dennis Beardsley  
530-624-0929  
[dsb615@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dsb615@sbcglobal.net)

**Director, 1st year:**

J. Michelle Swope

**Director, 2nd year:**

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

**Director, 3rd year:**

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

**Past President:**

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

**Librarian:**

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

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

- and -

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

**Education:**

Rueben Lamphere  
253-313-3062  
[lamphereflyfishing@gmail.com](mailto:lamphereflyfishing@gmail.com)

**Membership Chair:**

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

**Conservation:**

VACANT

**Legislation:**

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

**FFI Representative:**

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)

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Gig Harbor, WA 98335

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 -

Tinsel Town

This is another tip for our beginning tiers. An awful lot of patterns use tinsel for the body or for ribbing the body of the fly. Tinsel comes with the opposite sides in different colors; silver/gold and red/green are common examples. Two things about tying in your tinsel:

- a. start by cutting an angle of at least 60 degrees on the end of the tinsel to make 'grabbing' it easier
- b. always tie the side with the color you want to show down on the hook, yes down! When you pull up and bend the tinsel around to start your wraps the 'proper' color side will flip up to the top.

Which part of the angle to tie in where? I get better results when I position the cut part toward the eye; your mileage may vary.

# Looking for help?

Are you trying to learn a new technique?

Looking for a fishing partner?

Do you need help with anything having to do with Fly Fishing?

## Look no further!

The Puget Sound Fly Fishers has a group of knowledgeable folks who want to share their skills and are looking for folks who need help with everything having to do with Fly Fishing. If you are looking for someone to assist you we will make sure that a person with the specific skill you need help with gets in touch with you.

**Please contact anyone in the list below:**

<b>Kristin Macy</b>	<a href="tel:253-222-0715"><u>253-222-0715</u></a>
<b>Mike Koslosky</b>	<a href="tel:831-247-8655"><u>831-247-8655</u></a>
<b>Thomas Lamphere</b>	<a href="tel:253-298-6419"><u>253-298-6419</u></a>
<b>Ruben Lamphere</b>	<a href="tel:253-313-3062"><u>253-313-3062</u></a>

<a href="mailto:KHMacy@Live.Com"><u>KHMacy@Live.Com</u></a>
<a href="mailto:MikeK1801@Gmail.Com"><u>MikeK1801@Gmail.Com</u></a>
<a href="mailto:LamphereFlyFishing@Gmail.Com"><u>LamphereFlyFishing@Gmail.Com</u></a>
<a href="mailto:LamphereFlyFishing@Gmail.Com"><u>LamphereFlyFishing@Gmail.Com</u></a>

## Fly Fishing Academy News

### **2018 NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY**

Once again we are preparing for another Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy to be held June 24-30, 2018 at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The Staff will be contacting over 50 dedicated volunteers to contribute their time for the success of the Academy and **for** the kids. This Academy is all about the girls and boys, 12-16 years old, to teach them the basics of fly fishing and conservation. The event is one full week with the staff and youth living at the Gwinwood Center and boarding in cabins. All meals are provided. Students need to bring their personal belongings, i.e., sleeping bags, pillows, rubber boots, etc. All fishing gear and fly tying equipment is provided, however, students may bring their own fishing gear.

The event is supported by WCTU and WSCFFi and members of South Sound FF, Olympia Chapter TU, and Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma.

The enrollment fee to each student is only \$300, sponsorships are available through TU Chapters, WSCFFi fly clubs and private donations. No applicant will be turned away because of lack of funds.

Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2018 until April 15, 2018. Applications may be downloaded from our website – [www.nwycffa.org](http://www.nwycffa.org), via email to [mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net) or call 360-753-1259. Each applicant must submit an essay explaining why THEY want to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is required from a school teacher or counselor.

We are very proud of The Academy, this has been a life changing experience for many of our youth.

**THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE FOR OUR SPORT OF FLYFISHING**



**FLY FISHERS**  
INTERNATIONAL

## **FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL (FFi)**

Mike Clancy, FFi Representative

The WSCFFi is making an effort to have better communications with the FFi Clubs. The Board members belong to all but 3 Clubs and we will be asking the Club's to assign a rep for those Clubs. We have 25 Charter and Affiliated Clubs in Washington.

The organization was founded in 1964 under the title of Federation of Fly Fishers, later changed to International Federation of Fly Fishers, recently changed to Fly Fishers International. Members of the McKenzie Fly Fishers of Eugene, Oregon were the founders of the organization along with many other clubs in Oregon and Washington, eventually spreading to clubs nationally. Our website is – [www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org). Membership information is available on the website.

The FFi has been an organized voice for fly fishing around the world. We represent all aspects of fly fishing – from the art of fly tying and casting, to protection of natural systems that support healthy fisheries and their habitats so essential to our sport.

We are a 501c3 non-profit organization with headquarters in Livingston, MT. We enjoyed the Fly Fishing Fair, August 4-5, 2017 in Livingston, folks from all over the world attended this fun event. Our very own Jim Maus received the National "The Federator of the Year" award for 2017 and Robert Gerlach received the State "The Federator of the Year" award for 2017. Both were well deserved. Jim is now the National Treasurer. Len Zickler, President/CEO of FFi is a past member of PSFF. They moved to Spokane a number of years ago.



## Ahhh . . . October

By Bob Triggs  
www.searuns.com



"Heading South."

When I was a boy, growing up in upstate New York, I had made up my mind that October was my favorite month of all. I imagined that in my own perfect world, it would be October every month of the year. October has everything, it seems; Warm sunny mild days, blustery grey rainy days, frosty nights, blowing winds, the first pumpkin pie of the season, and some of the best fishing of the year. It would be many years later that I discovered that this October preference for good fishing would hold true, coast-to-coast across North America, at least in the lower 48 states. During several road trips, driving cross country in October and November, I found good fishing everywhere- over 3000 miles of some of the best fishing I had ever experienced before. The hardest part was just to keep moving. From the Pacific coast of Washington, to New York, to New England, I was catching fish everywhere. And I stopped to camp and fish in every state. This kind of road trip can be done in a few weeks, if you really hustle. But a slow trip, taking the whole month, might be more fun.

Now that I am on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington, I don't have to drive very far to find the fishing, and I don't have to wait for October. But autumn holds so many special charms for us, as the air and waters cool, the rains begin to seep into the ground, and the rivers come back to life after the long summer drought. That's really what it takes to turn on some of the best fishing of the year. The sea-run cutthroat are at their best now, full of fat and fight, after a summer of feeding in the saltchuck. They will often be found feeding in very shallow waters, close to shore. And you might want to try smaller flies now too. I always have some fairly long Clouser Minnows and other streamers in my box. But I also bring along a few one to two inch flies, on size 6 to 12 regular hooks. These are simple flies, just a little bit of wing and topping, sometimes without any flash or tinsel. Just a ghostly imitation of a small bait fish or minnow. If you can swing these in the tidal currents, off of a ledge or bar, or cast them to some submerged weed beds, or vegetation, over or alongside an eel grass bed, you will be surprised at how small a fly they will take. Even with the occasional storm battering that our beaches can be subjected to, during the occasional October storms, the beaches will be eminently fishy for months to come.

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"Clouser Baitfish flies"

With the rains, and cooler nights and days, the rivers will come alive with the October Caddis hatches. This starts around the third week of September, on the autumnal equinox, and carries on well through to the first hard frost here. The hatches begin in the lower river valleys, and gradually expand upriver a little every day. Even in the lower and more moderate river flows, you can expect to get slammed with a summer run steelhead at some point. So a good six weight rod is a blessing. Dry line fishing for sea-run cutthroat and summer steelhead in autumn is something every fly angler should experience. Especially if there's a campfire involved. During the low water of summer the steelhead will park in the deeper darker holes most of the time. But once it gets cooler, and the flows begin to go up and down with the rainfall, and it doesn't take much rain, the fish will be moving. Look for lower light conditions, long trenches and broad tail-outs, and holding fish. If you can see them, they can probably see you. Avoid wading toward the fish, go for the longer cast, and drift the fly into the swing. If you are mending unnecessarily, you are going to push the fish away from you with the distraction.



"Steelhead Caddis" They work on cutthroat too!

You will find me on the beach, all the way through Christmas!

# *Fly of The Month (flashback)*

Credit to FFF Website

October 2002

## **LLAMA POPSICLE**



**By Bob Bates and Jim Cramer**

I planned to write about the Popsicle tied with marabou this month. However, the plans changed when I saw Jim Cramer tying his Llama Popsicle at the 2002 FFF Show in Livingston. He didn't invent it, but first saw this fly tied by Jay Murakoshi. Llama hair has a nice feel to it, and many tiers claim that it has a good action to entice fish. There are not many flies where one of your tools needs to be wire cutters, but this is one.

A couple of authors credit George Cook for designing the Popsicle in the early 1980s (1985 according to one). When asked what he was going to call it, he looked at the colors and said "Popsicle." His pattern certainly is colorful with orange and red marabou and a purple schlappen hackle. Many other fly tiers like John Farrar with the Skagit Spey Series and Bob Aid were also developing successful marabou patterns for salmon and steelhead in the early 1980s. (See Steelhead Fly Fishing by Trey Combs, pp 418-425) Quite a few steelhead anglers have adopted the Popsicle with numerous variations as their standard steelhead pattern. They should try the Llama Popsicle.

In the early days of steelhead fishing "you had to be on the bottom to catch them." Therefore, we used HiD or Super HiD full sink fly lines or shooting heads. We caught fish and also lost a few lines on the rocks. Then some radical anglers began using floating lines in early fall and resorted to sinking lines only in late winter. Pretty soon everybody was using floating lines most of the time and sink tips in cold water. Now many of the good steelheaders are using sink tips most of the time. Things change, but the one thing that hasn't changed much is the presentation. It is cast across or down-and-across with a wet fly swing. Mend the line so you have a straight line to the rod and reel.

### **Materials:**

**Hook:** Steelhead or salmon hook, Daiichi, Alec Jackson, Partridge, etc. hooks, 4 - 2/0

**Thread:** A or Kevlar, Orange (Color and type of your choice)

**Wing/Hackle:** Llama hair with holographic enhancer, several colors of your choice.

**Head:** Orange thread or color of your choice

*(Continued on page 12)*

*(Continued from page 11)*

### **Equipment Needed:**

**Layout board:** 1- X 3-inch board about 18 inches long. About 5 inches from one end place two small finishing nails about a quarter of an inch apart on a line running across the board. About 10 inches down the board place another nail. Clamp the board to a table or have a friend hold it when you start spinning the dubbing loop.

**Spinning hook:** Coat hanger wire or light brass rod about 7 inches long.  
Form a hook at one end.

Wire: 0.006 Stainless steel - on a spool in a bobbin.

The key to this durable pattern is building your own dubbing brush with 0.006 stainless steel wire.

1. Attach the wire to the spinning hook with a simple twist. Lay the hook on the layout board so the hook is trapped by the two nails. Pull out enough wire so the wire can be laid around the third nail and let the bobbin hang. Pre-cut the llama hair to length - about an inch and a half or slightly longer. Cover the wire on the board with a light coating of cement and immediately spread out the patches of llama hair on the wire over the length between the nails. Lay on thin layer of Enhancer followed by another thin layer of llama hair. Use the same color pattern as on the first layer.

Pick up the bobbin and pull out enough wire to reach the spinning hook. Coat the wire with cement. Lay the wire on top of the llama hair and next to the hook. Keep tension on the wire. Carefully lift the hook from between the two nails and attach the wire to the hook with a simple twist. Cut the wire loose from the bobbin

Keeping slight tension on the spinning hook, spin the hook in your fingers until you feel the wire loop start to shorten. Experience will be your best guide. Too much twisting will break the wire, not enough will not trap the hair securely.

Before removing the dubbed loop from the third nail, brush the llama hair in both directions with a small-animal currycomb. Don't be afraid to use a heavy hand as you want to comb out any thick clumps next to the wire core.

2. Put a hook into a strong vise and attach the tying thread near eye of hook and line with thread. Stop above point of hook where dubbing brush will be secured.
3. Secure the dubbing brush with hair sloping away from the eye, and wind thread forward to near the eye. Cut off any excess wire at the tie down point.
4. Wrap the dubbing brush tightly with very close wraps onto the hook. Brush the fibers rearward as you wind forward. Picking out tied down fibers as you wrap will make the final brush out easier. Stop about one eye length back from eye.
5. Secure wire dubbing brush to hook. Trim excess dubbing brush, and wrap the end tightly.
6. Usually some llama hair sticks out over the eye. To eliminate, pull back all of the hair with fingers just behind the eye, and quickly pass a cigarette lighter under the eye. It burns off all the wild hair.
7. Form a neat head, whip finish and coat with cement.
8. Finally pick out any tied down hair with a bodkin or dubbing needle, and brush the fly vigorously with the currycomb.

*(Continued on page 13)*

*(Continued from page 12)*

This same technique could be successfully applied to several popular steelhead patterns. For example, with the correct colors and judicious trimming of the llama hair brush after wrapping a very interesting and beautiful variation of the General Practitioner could be made. Also llama hair could replace marabou in many of the patterns mentioned in Trey Combs' book. The possibilities are almost endless.

This is a great pattern, but you will have to look around for llama hair. Jim buys his materials from: Roots Fly-Tying Products Ltd. Phone: 1-877- 779-2179 in British Columbia. I sent a couple of e-mail messages to them, without a response. So, I searched the Internet using, llama+hair+fly+tying, and received 166 items.

A few of them are given below with the caution "I don't know a thing about these websites, be careful." They will open in a new browser window, close the window to return to this page.

<http://www.justflytying.com/> (732) 792-7588 New Jersey, USA

[http://www.justflytying.com/fly\\_fibers.htm#Bahama%20Llama](http://www.justflytying.com/fly_fibers.htm#Bahama%20Llama) (9-inch fiber length)

[http://www.justflytying.com/llama\\_material.htm](http://www.justflytying.com/llama_material.htm) (4-inch fiber length)

<http://www.thebentrod.com/dubbing.htm> Mixed Llama & Angel Hair, (888) 236-8763, Idaho, USA

[http://www.dougswisher.com/brushes\\_&\\_material.htm](http://www.dougswisher.com/brushes_&_material.htm) (406) 961-4416, Montana, USA

<http://shop.store.yahoo.com/lewis-and-clark/bowmat.html> (877) 288- 7112, New York, USA

<http://www.canadianllama.com> (888) 552-6274, British Columbia, Canada

<http://www.canadianllama.com/item103.htm> (Appears to have the best selection of colors, 4- to 6-inch fiber)

**Note:** This list was prepared in September 2002. There is no promise that it will be valid forever. You can always make a search of your own.

Please Credit FFF Website or FFF Clubwire with any use of the pattern.  
You can direct any questions or comments to [flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org](mailto:flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org)

# PSFF Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
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October 1	2	3	4 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 PSFC Fly Tying 6:00	12 PSFF General Mtg 6:00	13	14
15	16	17	18 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	19 PSFF Board Mtg 6:00	20	21 Outing - Belfair SRC & Chum
22	23	24 Newsletter Deadline 5 PM	25 PSFC Fly Tying 6:00	26	27	28
29	30	31				

			November 1 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	2	3	4
5	6	7	8 PSFC Fly Tying 6:00	9 PSFF General Mtg 6:00	10	11
12	13	14	15 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	16 PSFF Board Mtg 6:00	17	18
19	20	21	22 PSFC Fly Tying 6:00 ??? Newsletter Deadline 5 PM	23	24	25
26	27	28	29 Seven Seas Fly Tying 6:00	30		

**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.