

Puget Sound Fly Fishers

December
2014



Renew Your Membership By Mail!

December Program - Bob Triggs - "Fish On!"

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The Leader Line

By
Chuck Tye

I don't know about you, but for me, this has been a banner year for our club.

For starters we saw increased numbers at all our meetings. We had an increase in new members, young members, and the return of old members. We had a very active outings schedule coupled with a whole bunch of fly tying sessions. We had a very interesting and informative group of speakers at all our club meetings and all the speakers commented on how active and fun the club is. We cleaned up all our club policies, by-laws, and membership rules. All in all a great year and I know I have only touched the surface of what we as a club achieved.

I will leave you with one last note as I close out my last Leader's Line. This all happened because of the members and board members active participation.

With everything we have done and put in place I think we will have another banner year in 2015. Thanks everyone and have a safe and happy holiday season.

PSFF NEWS

Our Next Meeting
Thursday, December 11th
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Tower Lanes Entertainment Center
6323 6th Ave.

December 2014 Program

"Fish On! Playing and landing big fish on the flyrod"

Puget Sound Fly Fishers welcomes guide, conservationist, and wild fish enthusiast Bob Triggs who will share his techniques for playing and landing big fish on the flyrod. Based on the book "*Fish On!*" by Dr Floyd Franke, this presentation is a discussion of how fly rods work when playing and landing big fish, and how we can improve our chances of landing the fish of a lifetime. Practical demonstrations of technique, mistakes, and how to optimize rod design during the fight will be presented.

Bob moved to the Olympic Peninsula from New England in the fall of 2000, after several previous seasons of Alaska guiding. He had lived in New York and New England for most of his life, where he was a lifetime outdoorsman, fly fisherman, boatman and, in later years became a fly fishing Guide. But As Yukon poet Robert Service once said: "The North has got him". And so it is with Bob and Alaska, and the Pacific Northwest. After moving to Port Townsend and the Olympic Peninsula, Bob still guided in Alaska, and then on Kamchatka, Russia. He has been exploring; fly fishing for wild sea-run coastal cutthroat trout, wild rainforest winter and summer steelhead, Pacific salmon, river and lake trout and char, and teaching flycasting and guiding fly fishers on the Washington Olympic Peninsula waters ever since. Bob is active in many conservation efforts and regional fisheries enhancement projects, and donates time to the organizations who are working to restore, conserve and protect our wild fisheries and aquatic and marine habitats.

FFF EVENTS

FFF Events in 2014

None scheduled



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Outings News and Updates

By Larry Vaughn

We have 4 days to go before the 2015 Outings Survey closes. Less than 50% have responded so far and I had hoped for a higher response rate. Your input is important. If you have not yet filled in your survey on-line please do so. If you haven't received a survey link through email (double check your junk mail folder) please email larrytvaughn@live.com and he will return the link back to the email address you used.

With 50 of 119 completed we have some very preliminary results.

Destinations Ranked: (Computed rating)

Rating	Destination
100	Coffee Pot Lake
100	Park Lake
93	Cowlitz River
88	SRC at Allyn
88	Lake Saint Claire
85	Chum at Allyn
75	Potholes Reservoir
75	Deschutes River Salmon (June)
75	Shad/Steelhead On Columbia/Clackamas
75	Coldwater Lake
75	Mayfield Lake
75	Naches River
75	Yakima River
70	Rattlesnake Lake
67	Spencer Lake
50	Munn Lake
50	Beaver Lake
50	Wilderness Lake
50	Lake Alice
50	Evergreen Reservoir
50	Deveraux Lake
50	Lake Kapowsin
50	Deschutes River Steelhead (August)
50	American Lake
33	Tacoma Narrows Park
25	Deep Lake (Nolte Park)
25	Lost Lake
20	Silver Lake
0	Bass Lake
0	Benson Lake
0	Phantom Lake

3 most common reasons to not attend an outing:
 Conflict with work
 Conflict with family
 Not interested in destination

Top 3 Species:
 Trout
 Salmon
 Sea Run Cutthroat

Top 3 Water:
 Stream
 Lake
 River

3 Most Common Watercraft:
 Float Tube
 Pontoon
 V-Hull

3 Most Likely To Attend Outing Days:
 Tue
 Wed
 Thu

Day outing distance tolerance:
 2 hours or less

Multi Day outing distance tolerance:
 4 Hours or more

Day Outing Frequency: (Top 2 answers)
 Every Other Week
 Once A Week

Multi-Day Outing Frequency: (Top 2 answers)
 Every Other Month
 Once a month

Lake St. Claire Outing

Date: November 28 Friday

Time: 0900 - Whenever

Contact Name: Larry Vaughn

Contact information: larrytvaughn@live.com 253-219-9005

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Outing Description: Come on out and for a fun outing on Lake St. Claire, a 230 acre lake located 10 miles east of DuPont. Watercraft with gas and electric motors are allowed although most of the lake has a 5 mph speed limit.

Extended Weather Forecast indicates we might have a mixed cloudy and sunny day dry although cloudy day with a 20% chance of rain.

The lake is catch and keep without selective fishery regulations effect. Due to the settlement of the Wild Fish Conservancy lawsuit, the lake has being stocked through October and November with the excess Steelhead hatchery fish that cannot be released in the Skykomish River as planned. As a result WDFW regulation changes allow for catch and keep with a 10 fish limit until February. Stocking reports show 50,000+ stocked thru November.

Who is invited: PSFF members and their guests with desire to avoid Black Friday crush.

Associated Special Events: None.

Access: There are two ramps each across the street from each other with the primary being a standard WDFW paved ramp and parking lot with porta-potties. The secondary ramp is unimproved gravel suitable for kayaks, pontoon, etc. and provides easier access to the north and east bays. .

The Lake: Very pretty lake which, due to its unusual shape has miles of shoreline, islands, and structure.

Target Fish: Rainbow, Small and Large Mouth Bass, and, if you get lucky, Browns have been caught recently.

Special Requirements: WA Discover Pass

Directions: I-5 Southbound

- Take Exit 116
- Turn left onto Nisqually Rd SW
- Drive **3.8 miles** and turn left onto Reservation Rd.
- Drive **2.7 miles** and take a left at the roundabout toward Yelm on Hwy 510
- Drive **0.3 miles** and take a right at the roundabout on Yelm Hwy
- Drive **2.1 miles** and take a right on Rehklau Rd.
- Drive **0.8 miles**. Main launch is on the left, secondary launch is on the right.



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Raffle News
By Bev Simpson

November Lucky Winners Corner

John Wood won a wall clock in the lucky dip for wearing his membership badge. Wear yours at next Club meeting and be in the drawing to win something a little fishy.

Check December raffle table for freebies

Help yourself to donated peacock feathers and a selection of surplus lead weights.

Member Contributions in November, thanks so much: Mike Clancy, Dennis Beardsley, Thomas Lamphere, Ron Shouse, Chic Sundahl, John Bechtholt

ON THE RAFFLE TABLE TONIGHT.... talk about some great Christmas gifts !!

\$1 per ticket or 6 for \$5 ... plus a gourmet cookie, drawn mid meeting.

Need a **mini fly box** ? This Cabelas mini comes with 25 flies, is waterproof and double-sided.



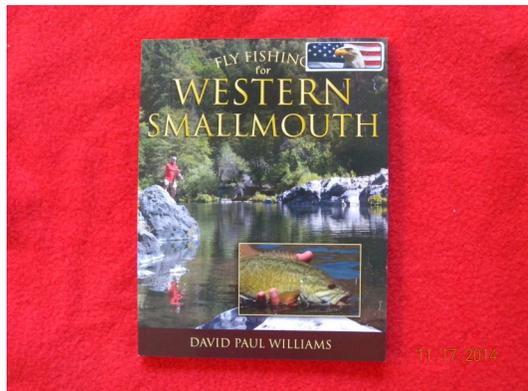
Looking for a **larger fly box** ? This Grey's triple beauty holds 400 flies, we've added a selection of 25 flies.



Rapala Clipper 6 tool combo on a lanyard PLUS a handy **Rapala Magnum cap light** so you can see if you cut yourself.



"Fly Fishing for Western Smallmouth", This informative book has terrific photographs; is a *coveted signed copy* by author David Paul Williams



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HOT SCOOP

Classifieds (none)

Membership News

For all you current members out there the Board has revised the Membership policy and procedure. Now you can add your family members all for the same yearly membership fee of \$40. And, since you can renew anytime for the 2015 year, take advantage of this great opportunity to add your significant other and/or kids. Download a membership application/renewal form from the PSFF.org website, add your family members, sign the forms and let's get fishin'!

Note; additional name badges (optional) are \$10 each.

Welcome new members:

Richard Stone
Chic Sundahl (returning)

Thanks to the following guests who came to our last meeting:

Rob
Steve
Alicia Porter
Bill Micklus
Mark
Paul

It's Time to Renew Your Membership

Save Time, Drink More, Visit with Friends

Want to socialize more with your friends at the next meeting? Renew your membership by mail. Send your check to;

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

Library Report By Galen Hansen (none)



PJ's TIPS

Tying Tip -

Get some tail

Those packages of tail fibers at the fly shop cost \$3 to \$5 for enough to do a dozen, maybe two dozen, flies. Home Depot or Lowes sells paint brushes for a couple bucks that have enough fibers to tie hundreds or thousands of flies for the same price. And the brush keeps them corralled and handy. You probably have an old brush or two in the garage you need to replace with a new one. Natural or synthetic in natural colors.... good deal!

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NW YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY

It's not too early to start thinking about a candidate for The Academy for 2015. Any boy or girl 12-16 is eligible to attend the Academy. They have to write an essay explaining why they would like to attend and they will need a letter of recommendation from their school science teacher or school counselor.

This experience is an invaluable life event for the youth that they will carry through their future lives. No youth will be turned away because of the lack of funding. The event is sponsored by WCTU and WSCFFF and supported by members of PSFF, SSFF and Olympia TU. So please give it some serious thought. Would your boys and girls, grandkids, friends or neighbors be a good candidate for The NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy for 2015?

The Academy will be held June 21-27, 2015.

Mike Clancy, Co-Director (We are on Face Book),
360-753-1259, www.nwycffa.com

Education Corner

By John Brett

This time of year is difficult to schedule any event and guarantee enough attendance for us to get the use of the banquet room for no cost, so I have nothing planned for December. Looking forward, the PSFF is going through some adjustments and it would be nice for us to have the most productive education classes available.

Several excellent classes are already suggested for 2015:

1. A class hosted by several tiers of the North West Atlantic Salmon Fly Tiers Guild (they tie very artistic flies).
2. A multiple day event in which participants create a new personal fly rod.
3. A session hosted by instructors from Sage discussing all kinds of fly lines including rigs for Spey rods and fishing.

At the December meeting there will be sheets requesting your input for additional education sessions. In the past we have had classes on knot tying, wading safety, fly tying, leader building, casting techniques and detailed discussions for catching specific fish. All the classes were very informative and may warrant repeating. Several individuals have suggested new concepts and ideas so please don't be shy. Please write down any suggestions or requests you may have for further discussion and review.

In the meantime; Tight Lines!

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Thomas' Ties and Dyes By Thomas Lamphere

Flies to tie for late Fall SRC

If there is anything special about late fall it's that fishing in the Sound is off the chain with a fly. You have beaches and creek mouths full of Chum salmon and the SRC fishing is getting really good. Nov-Feb is by far my favorite time for Sea-runs. This is the time when most of them kick into high gear and get ready for their spawning periods. This time period is a great time to try to go out and find that fish over 18 inches. Not that they aren't there other times of the year, but they are gathering up in the salt in numbers in order to feed before their Feb-April Spawn time. Also in this time period I see the food sources change. This is where most people don't think that by a slight alteration in their fly box, a big difference can be made.

For example, when the water gets colder the flies get smaller during the day, we begin to switch from more baitfish patterns to brightly colored clousers and plankton patterns. Though it's not a fast change, it does happen. Yet, while it's still fall, let's go over a few of the flies to use while fishing in the next few weeks.

For starters, there are still a lot of sculpins swimming around and SRC's love them. Sculpins are one of the most common baitfish patterns for shallow waters. You see these guys swimming around all summer/fall, and lots of them. They love rocky beaches and so do the cuts. These little guys are still swimming around, though as it gets colder they do head towards deeper waters. Some great imitations for these guys are about the easiest to tie. Wooly buggers with a very thickly wrapped head work very well. Also wool head sculpins and one of my favorite patterns my Frozen Sculpin. Fishing these with a sinking line is best, for these fish hang on the bottom and hide in the rocks. Also if you tie them don't be afraid to add a few wraps of lead or a conehead on these guys to help get them down.



Another great food source to target is larger shrimp. They are something that everything eats and the Sound is full of. With larger shrimp at 2.5-4 inches it's good to have a few at different sizes. Though I only fish one pattern to imitate these larger guys there are a few good patterns out there. But to keep it simple wooly buggers with shell backs work just fine. Actually all shrimps are a bugger with a shell back if you think of it. What makes them different is just the material that we choose to put in them. And yet we still make them all their own with different names. Mine being the Mega Shrimp.



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Now for number three. The one fly that is in my box at all times of the year and makes up for a major part of the SRC's diet. Aquatic worms. There are over 400 different species of these guys, and most of my flies stay around 1-4 inches in length. But be careful with these because you can get carried away very easy with them. I have two patterns I fish to cover these. There's Gary's Polychete worm which is about 3 in long a rabbit strip with some flash. Super easy and fast. Then there's the even easier fly, a wooly bugger with no hackle. Just a marabou tail and a chenille body..... not hard to tie and many colors that you can pick from. But the best thing is to keep them to a few. Olive, pink, tan, and red are my top four colors to go with.



The main thing to remember is keep it simple and try to keep your fly selection under control this time of year. The fall and winter flies do intermix and can overwhelm your box very quickly. Also keeping the number of colors under control will help keep you from overdoing things..... But who am I kidding. We're fly fisherman. There is no such thing as too many flies!

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Winter

By Bob Triggs

It's getting cold and dark around here again, and the days are much shorter. We have had lots of rain on and off all autumn, the rivers have been up and down almost weekly..There is snow building up in the high mountains, and many mornings we have had frost. If you are like me, you are caught between the bittersweet ending of summer and fall beach fishing. and the onset of a much different season for a few months ahead. It's winter again. Many of us want to go winter steelhead fishing. With the flows we have gotten here since October, we have already had some hatchery run winter steelhead moving into the Olympic Peninsula rivers. And by Thanksgiving we usually see the solid beginning of that run, which can be good through December, and into early January. That's about as far as I will go in promoting Olympic Peninsula winter steelhead fishing. I will fish on and guide for the hatchery runs of winter steelhead here. But by January 1st I will not be targeting nor fishing over the later winter wild steelhead. I wrote about this last February, and here is the link to that essay if you want to read it: <http://olympicpeninsulaflyfishing.blogspot.com/2014/02/olympic-peninsula-wild-steelhead-why.html>

This leaves me the next month or so, depending upon flows, to get out and enjoy my spey rods, swinging flies on the bright waters of these beautiful rivers, and catching a few of these fish. I am ambivalent about hatcheries, and the hatchery fish that may be doing harm to our wild fish. and it is undeniable that they are there for the taking. But what about the rest of the winter? As one friend observed, in response to my ending my wild steelhead fishing and guiding pursuits here, "it must have been like cutting off an appendage". He didn't say which one. One fun opportunity is to get out onto the beaches here in the milder weather breaks that we get during winter. Once in a while we get a surprise.

Here's a few thoughts on winter fishing for sea-run Coastal Cutthroat trout in Puget Sound country. Originally I shared this with Trout Unlimited in a winter newsletter, and Doug Rose used it in his newsletter one winter too. I hope you like it. Happy Holidays!

Here's a nice salty Cutthroat from late September of this year.



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“The Secret Season” By Bob Triggs

The cold gray skies of November bring many Olympic Peninsula fly fishers adventures to a gloomy ending. Most of the lakes and smaller waters have closed, Salmon season on the salt-chuck has wound down, and the fickle weather keeps our coastal rivers flows unstable enough to make any long range fishing plans tentative at best. Quite a few anglers will not fish for trout again until spring and opening day on the lowland waters. Rods and reels will be closeted, tackle stored. Some will tie flies, most will begin the annual rituals of winter-idled anglers anywhere; book and magazine reading by a warming fire, sporting show attendance, fishing club gatherings, haunting the fly shops, pontificating on the Internet fishing forums, and sundry all of the many survival strategies of the seasonally displaced fisherman. There is a kind of hum-drum predictability to it all.

Yet perhaps there is more. No, I do not mean the mystical and obsessional Olympic Peninsula Rainforest winter Steelhead season; for which there is no cure or treatment except to stand hips deep in the numbingly icy waters, in howling wind and rain, swinging a wet fly in the turbid jade green flows with zombie-like expectancy. No; I am reminding you trout fishers that the fine art of Sea Run Coastal Cutthroat Trout fly fishing can be pursued on our area beaches, using floating lines and dry flies if you like, all winter long. Yes; November through March- all good fishing months when most anglers wouldn't be caught dead out on an exposed Puget Sound salt-chuck beach with fly rod in hand. And you will have those beaches mostly to your self. There are enough mild, not too windy nor wet, winter days here to make beach fishing a delightfully frequent possibility. And this creates a welcome diversion from the gloominess of grey skies, short days and the waiting for river flows to return to fishable flows between storms. You might even forget that it is winter. Especially when we get a few warmer and sunnier days in February, and the termites start hatching out of the rotting logs on the beach- and a nice fluffy, ruddy brown colored Stimulator fly will fool a cruising trout in shallow water.

Many sea-run Coastal Cutthroat Trout spend a good deal of time in the winter months feeding adjacent to their natal streams and beyond. These fish tend to be a little heftier than the average summer fish from October onward. I have caught them on just about every kind of trout fly that you can think of. My biggest winter Cutthroat have come on big dark flies- Streamers, Matukas, Woolly Boogers, Leeches, Bunnies, Skunkaboos etc- swung deep and slow, using an intermediate sink or dry line and a longer leader of over nine feet in length. However you approach it the point is a deep slow presentation. I never use strike indicators or floats or jigs in this fishing. These big fish hit hard and will give your five weight and wrists a good workout. I like the simple meditation of walking along a beach in wintertime, watching the subtle shifts of light and water, the changing moods of the day, the migrating birds and waterfowl, the Seals and Porpoises and Otters. Wading a tide pool can yield lessons in discovering the winter forage for your trout, and new ideas for your fly box. Puget Sound winter beaches are surprisingly alive with wildlife activity, even on the colder days. It is not uncommon to catch a few resident Coho on some days in winter, and these scrappy fish will test your tackle too. How about this: winter Steelhead migrate along most of our beaches all winter long and you could hook the fish of a lifetime if one of them grabs your skating Muddler off of the surface. Good luck landing it on your five weight...

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For romance and serendipity there may not be much more fun in sea-run Cutthroat Trout fly fishing than skating a big bushy dry fly or popper on the surface of a strong tidal flow. Fellow fly angler Leland Miyawaki says of fishing with his own design Beach Poppers: "It's the most fun you can have on a beach with your clothes on". Skating, wading, stripping and shaking his fly can be addictive and mesmerizing; and then the water begins to bulge, as a wake forms behind and you realize that a big fish is chasing down your skittering popper; Slam!, and the game is on!. Poppers have been around in various forms and styles all over the world for many years. But Leland has reinvented the art and joy of tying and fishing these flies with his own Miyawaki's Beach Popper. Try them and you may just might never want to fish beneath the surface again.

For several years I have made a foray to the beaches around Christmas day, weather permitting, armed with a few flies, and on most trips I catch one or two trout in as many hours of pleasant fishing. If you bring along a rucksack, a newspaper or book, a lunch and a thermos, you can make a day of it. I like that kind of pace. With so many good beaches and local access, its hard to ignore. There are more miles of beach to explore here, to wade or not to wade, casting for sea-run Coastal Cutthroat Trout, than you could ever cover in a lifetime, much less an active winter of adventure. It is too easy to get stuck in a rut of fishing in the same old places in the same old ways. Get out and take a walk someplace new, explore and experiment. You might surprise yourself with another productive fishing spot or a new way of doing things. And you might beat the winter doldrums and flab too. Sea-runs move often, they rarely stay in one spot for more than one tide cycle, neither should you. So keep moving.

Don't get caught in the "high tide" mentality. We have enough structure and current here on Admiralty Inlet and around the Olympic Peninsula region beaches that you can catch sea-run Cutthroat at any time of tide on most days, if you just work at it. It won't hurt you to learn the structures of a beach by visiting it on a minus tide day and watching the flows as a tide comes in. One good thing is to find current flowing along a beach, on any tide, from there your fishing is just like freshwater river fishing anywhere. Having bait around helps, so be on the lookout for birds feeding, especially sea ducks and Cormorants and especially Osprey. Taking a little time to study forage fish habitats and behavior will pay off too. Look for gravel and cobblestone bottom beaches with moving water at some *time of tide*. Spurs of land, points and bars, ledges and humps, all indicate some current at some point of tide. Sea-run Cutthroat like an active fly so don't be afraid to keep that fly moving and alive! Strip-Shake-Rattle-N-Roll! Mix it up and make it look real. No bait fish with a set of trout teeth chasing it slows down or stops. Its not paranoia if they are really after you! Once you find a good spot and catch a few fish, don't get "stuck"- keep moving. Even a few steps at a time once in a while can make a big difference. Make an adventure of it. But remember where you caught the last one!

Don't wade too deep; knee deep to shin deep is fine. Once you begin wading deep you can push fish away, and you will be losing your body core temperature the whole time you are fishing no matter how well you layer your clothing. Frequent breaks to warm up are a good strategy. Better yet; don't allow yourself to get cold to begin with. Simply walking out of the water for a few minutes occasionally is usually enough to warm you, along with snacks and sipping hot thermos drinks or soup during the day. It's supposed to be fun. Try to work your fly in the shallows before you ever actually do any wading. Standing on the dry beach at waters edge I once caught a 12 pound ocean returning Coho salmon in two feet of water right in front of me this way. Trout feed in ridiculously shallow water sometimes. Any time of year you could have a good day of catching Cutthroat right at the edges all day, and never once step in the water to

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do it. But only if you try.

A nine foot five or six weight fly rod is fine. I like the medium to fast action rods, especially on a windy day or when I'm pushing big Poppers or fluffy flies. The Switch and Spey rods are gaining in popularity on the beaches these days too. A 12 foot six weight seems fine. I prefer a floating fly line all year round. But many people swear by the newer intermediate sink clear lines and sink tip lines. Using a dry line I can adjust my leader length according to the fly I am using and depth that I want to fish. In the broader, slower flows of most shallow water beach fishing situations here this is a refreshingly simple affair. A nine foot factory tapered, knotless 4X or 3X monofilament leader should cover most of it. Have extra spools of tippet and your leaders will last much longer. I use all kinds of trout and steelhead flies for this fishing but I especially like Leland's Beach Popper and big brushy Steelhead muddlers like Bill McMillan's Steelhead Caddis. Generally I try to avoid long shank hooks and limit my hooks to size # 4 and # 6. I also use bait fish flies like the Clouser Minnow. I opt for more natural or imitative colors and patterns overall. Larger and longer shank hooks can easily kill a Cutthroat Trout. Remember that by law we are to "release all fish without avoidable injury", as these fish are protected from harvest on Washington's marine waters.

If you dress properly for winter weather, though often it is quite mild here, being aware of the colder water temperatures on Puget Sound waters, and if you come with an open mind and a positive attitude, you won't ever be disappointed. Winter sea-run Cutthroat fly fishing on our beaches can become a new addition to your outdoors and angling life. Thankfully our regional beaches have easy access and ample parking, and much of the best fishing is right at our doorstep on the Olympic Peninsula. So what are you waiting for? Don't let the brown muddy rivers stop you- get out and fish!

Bob Triggs

Little Stone Flyfisher

<http://olympicpeninsulaflyfishing.blogspot.com>

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Gig Harbor Fly Shop – Fishing Report

By Erik Halom

Chum fishing is slowing, but still some South Sound opportunities exist. The Minter Creek run will be in full swing shortly and can provide great action in the salt, down and away from the combat zone. There are a number of other small creeks and estuaries in the South Sound that take numbers of fish, so get out there and see what you might find. Small, sparse flies in colors of chartreuse, fuschia, or blue will get the job done and don't be afraid to change patterns until you find the one that works. Cutthroat fishing has slowed down, but there are still many great fish being caught locally. Sculpin patterns continue to be a solid producer.

Winter steelhead fishing in westside rivers is just starting to kick off, with a few fish already making an appearance before Thanksgiving. The weather can be a little wet through the end of the year, so watch for rain events and hit the rivers on the drop. For those still looking for coho, you're not out of luck yet. SW Washington rivers are still seeing bright B run coho, with some of these fish hitting the high teens. Big, flashy, heavy flies stripped in slow water will entice those holding fish. And remember the best time to go fishing is when you can, so get out there!

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Fly of The Month (flashback)

Credit to FFF Website

Federation of Fly Fishers Fly of the Month

Hendrickson

December 1998



Comments by Jim Abbs

Last month, I promised that Flies of the Month for the winter season would be those 20-80 flies. These are the flies that make up only 20% of your fly box, but catch 80% of the fish.

This month we will focus on a long time favorite, the Hendrickson. Basically, the Hendrickson is a hatch of several different mayflies, not a fly pattern as such. The Hendrickson is of the *Ephemereilla subvaria* subspecies (depending upon classification) and important for several reasons. First, it is found in almost all states east of the Mississippi where cold water harbors trout, including, Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota---places where fly fishing in America started. Second, for a great number of fly fishers, it is one of the earliest mayfly hatches and indeed, it takes place as early as the first week of April in southern Pennsylvania and Maryland.

The Hendrickson is described by Al Caucci and Bob Nastasi in their book *Hatches II*, as "truly the exalted king of the early season". Others have called it the most exciting early mayfly hatch. In fact, if you would have the time and inclination to travel, it should be possible to fish the peak of the Hendrickson hatch every week for two months, slowly moving from Southern Pennsylvania through New York and finally into Michigan, the Upper Peninsula of Michigan and then into Wisconsin and Minnesota.

Finally, the Hendrickson is not only a hatch or species of mayflies; it is also a distinct fly pattern (the best known and most traditional of many) to represent the Hendrickson mayflies, of course. As a fly, Eric Leiser calls the Hendrickson our most important early

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fly---a good reason to make sure your fly box is well supplied. The Hendrickson was first developed in 1916 by Roy Steenrod of Liberty, New York and named after A. E. Hendrickson.

Interestingly, this classic Catskill pattern includes one of the most unusual materials: urine-stained belly fur of a red fox. I don't know how you can tell if the fur is properly stained and I have even heard of some fly tyers trying to accomplish this critical step on their own. Who knows where they obtained the fox urine. The staining requirement was not part of the original Hendrickson, but came to be the standard based upon the colorful imagination of famed fly tyer and author Art Flick.

The materials and tying steps for the Light and Dark Hendrickson are very similar. As described, the differences are in the darkness of the blue dun used for hackle and tail, as well as the material used to dub the body (urine-stained fox fur versus muskrat). These differences are noted in the materials described below

MATERIALS

- **Hook:** Dry fly-Mustad 94840 or equivalent, sizes 10-16
- **Thread:** Gray
- **Wings:** Barred lemon wood duck tied upright and divided
- **Body:** Dubbed light red fox fur (Light Hendrickson), Dubbed Muskrat fur (Dark Hendrickson)
- **Tail:** Blue dun hackle fibers (Light Hendrickson), Dark blue dun hackle fibers (Dark Hendrickson)
- **Hackle:** Blue dun (Light Hendrickson), Dark blue dun (Dark Hendrickson)

TYING STEPS

1. Lay down a base of thread.
2. Select a bunch of barred wood duck flank fibers. For a size 14 hook, about an inch of fibers, measured at tips is about right. Choose fibers with even tips.
3. Fold the selected wood duck fibers into a neat bunch and tie them about half the way back from the hook eye, facing past the hook eye. Observe proportions in choosing the length of fibers; the height of the wing should be 2 times the hook gap.
4. Position the wing material upright and divide into two sections using a figure eight around the base of the two clumps of fibers.
5. Wrap the thread back to the bend of the hook and tie in 8-10 hackle fibers for the tail.
6. Spin the dubbing material onto the thread and wind it on the hook shank to create the body up to just behind the wing position.
7. Tie in the hackle and wind forward in front and behind the upright wings.
8. Whip finish and put a drop of tying cement on the head.

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

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PSFF Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
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	December 1	2	3 Puget Sound Fly Co fly tying 6 PM	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 7 Seas fly tying 6:30	11 PSFF Mtg 6 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17 Puget Sound Fly Co fly tying 6 PM	18 PSFF Brd Mtg 6 PM	19	20 Puyallup Show- plex Casting
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26	27
28	29	30	31 New Year's Eve			

				January 1 2015!	2	3
4	5	6	7 7 Seas fly tying 6:30	8 PSFF Mtg 6 PM	9	10
11	12	13	14 Puget Sound Fly Co fly tying 6 PM	15 PSFF Brd Mtg 6 PM	16	17
18	19	20	21 7 Seas fly tying 6:30	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Puget Sound Fly Co fly tying 6 PM	29	30	31

**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.