

Puget Sound Fly Fishers

*November
2014*



TURKEY DAY! (and Chum!)

November Program - John McMillan from Trout Unlimited

.....

The Leader Line

By
Chuck Tye

I hope everyone has had a chance to fish this month and hopefully you were putting fish in your net.

Just a reminder if you think there is nothing to do fly fishing wise during November here is something you might enjoy if you feel like heading to Portland on Saturday 8 November.

The annual Pacific Northwest Fly Tyers Rendezvous will take place Saturday, 8 November from 8-4 at the Jackson Armory on 6255 NE Cornfoot RD in Portland. It is a medium size fly tying event with many local fly tyers. They will have raffles and door prizes and who knows, you might come home with some new patterns to tie.

PSFF NEWS

Our Next Meeting
Thursday, November 13th
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM
Tower Lanes Entertainment Center
6323 6th Ave.

November 2014 Program

Fighting to Save Wild Steelhead

Trout Unlimited will soon launch the **Wild Steelhead Initiative**, an ambitious and hopeful project to protect and restore the wild steelhead and the incredible fishing opportunities they provide throughout their native range in Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington.

Hear about the initiative first hand from **John McMillan**, TU's representative in Washington at the November 13 meeting of Puget Sound Fly Fishers. John and his father Bill co-authored *May the Rivers Never Sleep*, their life-long accounts of plying Western waters exploring the biological umbilical cord tethering us to rivers and their watersheds. John and Bill were also featured prominently in Shane Anderson's recent video *Wild Reverence*, a film about wild steelhead's last stand.

The heart of the Initiative will be a new community, Wild Steelheaders United, which is being established to inform, organize and activate anglers (regardless of preferred gear type) — and anyone who cares about these incredible fish — to protect

and recover wild steelhead. In short, Wild Steelheaders United is a home to anyone who believes in the common quest to protect these fish and the incredible fishing opportunities they provide.

The Initiative will focus on river systems that have high potential to support robust, fishable wild steelhead populations, while accepting that properly managed steelhead hatcheries may be appropriate to provide fishing and harvest opportunity in rivers that no longer have the capacity to support wild steelhead.

The Initiative will address both habitat protection/restoration and steelhead policy and management so that all of the "Hs" (habitat (including hydro), hatcheries, and harvest) are aligned so that wild steelhead can thrive.

Trout Unlimited is a non-profit organization with more than 147,000 members dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds.

Follow TU on the [TU blog](#), on [Facebook](#), and on Twitter via [@TroutUnlimited](#).

FFF EVENTS



FFF Events in 2014

None listed for 2014

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Puget Sound Flyfishers News

Published monthly by:
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Outings News and Updates

Yakima River Drift and Wade Fishing Campout Recap

Date: Friday & Saturday, October 10-11, 2014

Time: All day

Contact Name: Gene Jackson

Contact email: gene33124@yahoo.com

PSFF members: Dan B., Gordy M., Phil M., Terry L., and Gene J.

PSFF Guests: None

Weather: Overcast with temperatures in the low 70's during the day both days but heavy winds late Saturday morning forced us to cancel the rest of the weekend

Water: Water level was down to 1,000 CFS!

Results: Everyone caught fish but the majority of the fish caught were small.

Brief Recap: After setting up camp at the Big Pines BLM Campground on Friday morning, Terry, Phil, Gordy, and I decided to drift a section of the river. We planned to launch at Red's Fly Shop and drift back to camp. However upon reaching Red's we found out that Red's had raised their launch fee to \$25! We headed up river and launched up river of Red's at the free BLM site. Phil, Terry, and I were in Terry's classic wooden drift boat and Gordy was in his one man pontoon. Within the first few minutes I hooked, fought, and lost what turned out to be my largest fish of the weekend! We all eventually landed a number of fish. However the majority of the fish were 6 inches or smaller. Phil did land a nice fish just before we got back to our campground (see photo below). Friday evening Phil cooked up a great pasta dish that everyone enjoyed as we put a plan together for Saturday mornings fishing. Saturday morning started with me cooking up an egg, ham, mushroom, onion, and cheese scramble. Dan arrived as we were wrapping up breakfast (he only planned to fish one day). After breakfast, Gordy and Dan launched their pontoons from our campground and started drifting down toward the Rosa Dam. Terry, Phil, and I planned to fish the section from the Rosa Dam ramp down to the dam itself. Phil and Terry would be in the drift boat with an electric motor and I took my pontoon with an electric motor. We drove down to the Rosa Dam takeout and left our vehicle and Gordy's vehicle at the ramp. Numerous fish were caught by all five fishermen that morning but none of any real size. By 11 AM we were all back at camp and the wind was picking up. By the time we made and ate lunch the wind was howling. In fact a large Cottonwood tree snapped right near our RV and fell into the river! That coupled with a forecast of wind for the next few days made all of us ready to pack it in and head home. As always the trip was outstanding due to the fellowship of the PSFF members!



Phil was the top fisherman for the weekend due to this beauty (the fish not Phil)!



Dan putting the final touches on his pontoon before he and Gordy hit the water.



Photo of me heading down toward the dam to see if I could locate some bigger fish. Photo was courtesy of William Van Oostrum, CPA, a gentleman that was taking a break from his office!

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Phil and Terry heading toward the Rosa Dam. Another photo from William Van Oostrum, CPA.



If you look closely you will see me in the shadows across from Phil and Terry. We picked up quite a few fish but nothing of any real size.



Nice photo of Phil casting while Terry searches for that perfect fly!



Here is the tree that snapped and fell into the river during the high winds Saturday.



The Big Pines campground is very nice. This photo was of our campsite and we took it while standing next to the tree that had just fallen!

Raffle News By Bev Simpson

October Lucky Winners Corner

Original art work by artist Jason Bordash was won by Galen Hansen

Don Harold won the drawing for the coveted TFO Deer Creek Switch Rod, valued at \$400.00

Gene Jackson's ticket won the CascadeSport float tube donated by Stewart Schwartz

Terry Lueck won the drawing for the Greys XF2 5 wt spooled combo, valued at \$450.00

Check November raffle table for freebies.

Please help yourself. Club has peacock feathers and an assortment of new weights donated by Amy Weller

Member Contributions in October, thanks so much
John Wood, Amy Weller, Tom Case, Mike Trask, Jerry Fremont.

ON THE RAFFLE TABLE TONIGHT

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

Hot on the heels of John Brett and PJ 's recent fly tying class, comes these terrific fly tying raffle items; something for newcomers and those experienced alike, donated by John Woods.

Check PSFF calendar and don't miss the fly tying sessions at 7 Seas with Thomas and Rueben Lamphere

Getting started and need fly tying gear ? Win this vise and seven tools with wood case plus a few assorted materials to help out.



Fly material unlimited... from feathers to fur, beads, tinsel & rubber legs to John's "secret" steel-head material. Lose yourself in this bonanza 23 variety count selection, plus a full arctic fox tail.



Not ready to tie ? No worries, win this selection of **15 flies in waterproof double-sided fly box**



Pocket favorites, Winchester **multi tool with case** with a **separate knife** plus handy laminated fold out Ultimate **Knot pocket guide**



HOT SCOOP

Classifieds

Nothing new.

Membership News

Welcome back former members:

Mike Costanza
Joe Riordan

Welcome new member:

Mark Paul

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.

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

Michelle Swope
Rich Saville

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

There are currently 6 items that are overdue from the library. Please make sure that any materials you check out of the library are returned within the 2 month time period.

NOTE: When you return items, hand them to the librarian; do not just lay them with the library. The items end up back in the library without being checked in.

I will be adding a new book by Paul Elsberry "Fins" to the library this month. It is a book that has great photography and will have you heading for the water at your earliest opportunity.

Thanks to the generosity of Ed Poppleton, I will be also be adding 4 more books to the club library at the November meeting. They are...

- "Walks & Hikes on the Beaches Around Puget Sound" by Harvey and Penny Manning
- "South Puget Sound Afoot & Afloat" by Marge & Ted Mueller
- "Afoot and Afloat South Puget Sound & Hood Canal" by Marge and Ted Mueller
- "Fishing Washington's Endless Season" by Steve Probasco

Please remember to use the format of Month/Year to avoid the confusion that is caused by those that utilize month/day...or even, as I've noticed on a few, day/year. All compliance with the month and year standard is much appreciated.

The library is set up before the meeting and is available until we break before the speaker. Please stop by and check out what is available and utilize this valuable resource.

Only club members that are current on their dues are eligible to check out materials from the library. Only 3 items may be checked out at one time. Someone that is apparently not a member of the PSFF checked out 3 items awhile back and I'm in the process of attempting to contact the individual.

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PJ's TIPS

Tying Tip -
Time is money

I tie flies as much for relaxation as for fishing as do most hobby tiers. A technique that commercial and guide tiers use that will speed up your tying and let you tie more patterns more uniformly is to prepare your materials ahead of time. If you intend to tie 12 flies then select 12 hooks and debarb them all at one time, or buy barbless. Select your hackles, size and prepare them before you start tying. Get out 12 dumbbell eyes, cut 12" to 14" of chenille, pull out enough flash for all 12 flies, etc. You get the picture. Your session will flow faster and smoother. You will produce more flies that look better and more uniform and you can move on to another pattern or different size fly and have even more fun.

EDUCATION

By John Brett

Our in house education system will be attempting some new ideas and I hope they will be enjoyed by more of our members. Several proven plans are to be retained and when practical, there will be additions to the programs.

The next planned education program will be on Saturday, November 15th, beginning at 9:00 at the Tower Lanes banquet rooms. The program should conclude around noon and lunch is planned in the restaurant. The salmon and steelhead are still running hard and these are some of the best runs we have had in years. We would all like to be active participants in this wonderful fall adventure. So Our November main class will be on flies specializing in catching these hard fighting big guys.

At the same time and place; individual instruction will be provided and is intended for those interested in learning how fly tying is done. All equipment, tools and materials will be provided by the club or one of the instructors dedicated to help you produce some proven fish catchers. Some of our members have never tied flies before and this is intended to be an excellent "hands on" introduction.

We will have one convenient classroom with two different classes at the same time. Something for everybody interested in tying. Sign up at the November 13th meeting and put this on your calendar now so you don't lose the date.

Fly Fishing Academy News

NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy History

by Mike Clancy, Co-Director

It all started with idea of the founder, Dick Nye, a retired Tacoma middle school music teacher. Preparations for the Academy started in 2002 with Dick attending a youth camp, the nationally acclaimed, award winning Pennsylvania Rivers Conservation and Fly Fishing Youth Camp in Boiling Springs, PA. After 2 years of preparation, Dick conducted the first Academy on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. at the Gwinwood Christian Community Center in 2004.

The Academy is sponsored by The Washington Council of TU, The Washington State Council of the IFFF, hosted by the members of The Puget Sound Fly Fishers of Tacoma, Olympia Chapter of TU and the South Sound Fly Fishers of Olympia.

Dick Nye retired after the 2008 Academy. Jim Brosio and I took over the responsibly of The Academy with our first challenge for the 2009 Academy. With the financial support of the Washington TU Chapters, the IFFF Fly Fishing Clubs, corporate and individual sponsors, we gave it our best and it worked. In all the years that Jim and I have been co-directors, we have been assisted by at least 50 volunteers. Without the support of the groups I mentioned, this Academy would not happen. Ron Smorynski and Jim Brosio, TU/SSFF/PSFF, have been involved since the very first Academy in 2004. Tom Van Gelder, TU/PSFF and Dave Bryant, PSFF/SSFF joined the staff, Matt Tuttle is the current Camp Director for the week event. Bob Triggs has also been Camp Director in prior years.

The curriculum is structured to provide students with a background in environmental science and includes lessons in ecology, hydrology, aquatic entomology, invasive species, watersheds, fish biology and behavior. Students also learn the skill of fly fishing, including fly tying, casting instruction provided by IFFF-CCI's, knot tying, stream side ethics and water safety. The Academy is for boys and girls, 12-16 years old. All equipment is supplied, enrollment fee is still \$275, however; no one will be turned away because of money. Each applicant needs to write an essay, explaining why **they** would like to attend and a letter of recommendation from their science teacher or counselor. The Academy for 2015 will be June 21-27 at The Gwinwood Center, on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. Applications will be accepted starting January 1, 2015. You may download the application at our website – www.nwycffa.com or view information on our Facebook page, our email:

nwycffa@comcast.net.

Mike Clancy, Jim Brosio, & Tom VanGelder – Co-Directors

Thanksgiving



*"The Brown Heron"
by Syd Glasso
Art Lingren photo.*

Though I write this nearing the end of one of the wettest Octobers I have ever seen out here on the Olympic Peninsula, and nowhere near the annual holiday, I am reminded of this word now- "Thanksgiving." It has been raining out here, and across most of western Washington, on and off for the past few weeks. The soil is saturating with water, and the rivers are running bank-full and dirty in most places. And though this stormy weather has brought so much wind to the region that even a day of half way decent beach fishing has been hard to come by of late, I cannot help but feel some sincere gratitude for the way it is all going as this autumn season progresses. I know it has been hard on those of us who rely on the rivers to be flowing in an approachable way for our fishing, much less for our guiding, but it is good to see that the salmon and steelhead and trout finally have the water that they so desperately needed, simply to live and spawn. Before this autumn rain cycle returned this year the rivers were in dire shape. Right now, If I were a coho or steelhead, or even a cutthroat trout, I would be riding high on this surge of water, running home as fast as I could. And I would be grateful too.

What are we to do with our time, as the storms roll in and the rivers run high and dirty, and the beaches are being torn up with heavy wind waves and weed strewn tides? I for one will be tying flies, getting ready for the early winter (hatchery) run of steelhead, replenishing my sea-run cutthroat trout flies for winter fishing, (Oh yes, we do fly fish for sea-run cutthroat in the winter around here!). And there is still a very high probability that our weather will moderate, and we can get some fine autumn days, with good river flows for fishing yet. So I will be watching the river conditions, and the tides, and the weather forecasts and reports, several times a day, every day, as I work at tying my flies.

Every winter I try to focus on learning some aspect of fly tying that I have not previously tried. So far I have not been able to bring myself to tie classic Catskill dry flies all winter, and believe me I have tried. Usually I get a few dozen flies

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tied and get bored with it. Then I start experimenting. And the next thing you know I have a strange looking pile of weird looking things on hooks that may or may not work. So this winter I am trying to get serious about improving my steelhead spey flies. At best I tie a passable spey fly. But there is plenty of room here for improvement. I was looking at my fly tying books, trying to come up with some good examples of spey flies that I like to tie and use. And here's where some more gratitude comes into this- Recently the well known, artful, British Columbia author, fly tier and fly angler [Art Lingren](#) shared some of his own photos of the classic pacific northwest steelhead spey flies, designed and tied by the legendary angler and fly innovator [Syd Glasso](#) himself in the 1980's. Art also gave me permission to share those photos on my [almost weekly blog page](#). These flies represent a life committed to the art and refinement of this classic pacific northwest form over decades. Personally, I prefer these old fashioned flies, with roots that go back centuries, to the United Kingdom and the [traditional feather wing salmon flies](#). We have much to be thankful for.

Bob Triggs

Little Stone Flyfisher

<http://olympicpeninsulaflyfishing.blogspot.com>

Fly of The Month (flashback)

Credit to FFF Website

Federation of Fly Fishers Fly of the Month
Al Troth's Elk Hair Caddis
November 1998



Comments by Jim Abbs

Winter is almost here and unless you are fly fishing for steelhead or heading to tropical waters, your flyfishing is probably at low ebb for the year. How can you struggle along for five months until April? How many fly fishing videos can you watch before your eyes get bloodshot and the family kicks you off the VCR?

One way to deal with these sleepless nights and fishless days is to start filling your fly box for next summer's fishing. For every fly you tie, you can dream of the fish it will attract and catch. For every variation in color and style, you can imagine the exhilaration of fooling those particularly challenging hold over fish in your special honey hole.

To help you with this winter fantasy, for November-February, the FFF Fly of the Month will focus on flies that are certain to be used, almost as soon as your favorite waters open. Someone, somewhere has asserted that 20% of the anglers catch over 80% of the fish. Whether that is true or not, it certainly seems that 80% of the fish are caught on 20% of the fly patterns. So, to make you mid-winter tying especially worthwhile, I will be featuring bread and butter flies---those flies that catch the most fish, every year. Let's call them 20-80 flies.

One of these 20-80 flies is the Elk Hair Caddis. While this caddis imitation originates in the mountain west---based on its inventor's residence and the materials used---it has become a standard for fly anglers the world over. Al Troth, a school teacher from New York, transplanted to Dillon, Montana is the guy who is given credit for this pattern. While it was not new at the time, he first described it in a 1978 issue of *The FlyTyer Quarterly*. Western fly fishers, like Craig Matthews of West Yellowstone describes the Elk Hair Caddis as one of the most important patterns for fishing the Yellowstone, particularly on the Yellowstone and Madison Rivers. Jack Dennis of Jackson Hole says the same thing about his waters, which include the South Fork of the Snake. Likewise, Eric Leiser of New York, Terry Hellekson of Utah and Taff Price of the U.K. sing the praises of the Elk Hair Caddis as well.

Basically, this is called a hair-wing fly, since elk body hair is used to imitate the down wing or tent wing of the caddis. The popularity of this pattern is enhanced due to the toughness of the elk hair and its buoyancy, as well as the way the palmered hackle body makes it ride high on the water like a real fluttering caddis.

Tie these flies in a bunch of colors, with variations in both the dubbing for the body and the color of the elk hair. The most useful sizes are 12-16, but a 10 on a June midwestern evening or a 18 in Western Montana in July will also be deadly. Finally, tie up at least 6 for each color and size, when the fish start taking these flies, you will need more than a couple.

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MATERIALS:

Hook: Dry fly hook, Mustad 94840 or equivalent, sizes 6-20

Thread: Tan or to match colors of body dubbing

Body: Dubbed hare's ear fur (synthetics also work well)

Rib: .005 inch gold wire

Hackle: Furnace or brown hackle, tied palmer style

Wing: Tan colored elk hair fibers

Head: Trimmed butts of elk hair wing

TYING STEPS:

1. Tie in gold wire ribbing at rear of the hook. Dub body forward and tie off.
2. Tie in hackle behind eye of the hook and wrap over the dubbed body, palmered style, toward back of hook, using 4-5 spiral turns. Tie off hackle with 4-5 turns of the gold ribbing wire.
3. Wrap wire forward through the hackle and tie off at the head.
4. Tie in elk hair wing, sloping toward the hook eye, tilting slightly upward.
5. Clip butts of elk hair to form a squared off head. Cement base of wing.

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

PSFF Calendar

SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
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						November 1 Outing - SRC/Chum
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 7 Seas fly tying 6:30	13 PSFF Meeting Tower Lanes 6 PM	14	15 Outing - Rattle- snake Lake / Fly Tying class - Tower Lanes
16	17	18	19	20 PSFF Board Meeting 6 PM	21	22
23/30	24 Newsletter Deadline 5 PM	25	26	27 THANKSGIVING	28	29

	December 1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 7 Seas fly tying 6:30	11 PSFF Meeting Tower Lanes 6 PM	12	13
14	15	16	17	18 PSFF Board Meeting 6 PM	19	20
21	22	23	24	25 CHRISTMAS	26 Newsletter Deadline 5 PM	27
28	29	30	31 NEW YEARS EVE			

**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.