

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our next meeting will be on

April 26, 2011

Tuesday at 6:00 PM

We will be meeting at the

Puerto Vallarta

215 15th St. SE, Puyallup



**Charter
Club**



The Dead Drift – April 2011

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By Larry Gibbs

We won't schedule any more speakers from eastern WA during the winter months. That is twice Joe had to cancel coming over here because of severe weather in Snoqualmie Pass. The pass was closed for hours and he never would have been able to get to our meeting. From now on, eastern WA speakers will be in the early fall or middle spring time frame. Live and learn.

I was also sorry to see the Lone Lake outing having to be cancelled but I totally agree that it was necessary. Who knew we would get such a snow storm so late into winter, it is almost spring. Steve told me he wants to reschedule that outing, good to see because Lone Lake can be fun to fish. Stay tuned for additional info.

All of you should be very aware that at the end of this month, we have the Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg. There are a few articles about the event in this newsletter, read them then make plans to attend. You know how much some of us talk about the Clark Fork River in St. Regis, Mt. and our guide, Brooks Sanford. Well, he has a booth at the fair plus he is giving a seminar about fishing the Clark Fork. Make sure you attend that presentation. I do love the Clarks Fork.

We have another great presentation lined up for the club in May. Then in June we will have a BBQ/Picnic. Stay tuned to find out when and where that will be. As usual we will have no meetings in July nor August, but we will again meet in September. Bill Aubrey is working on a great lineup of guest speakers for our fall and winter meetings.

After our March meeting we have sold 14 of the 36 squares on the TFO Rod Board. I would really like to sell off all the squares before our summer break, that way someone will have a chance to try out that TFO fly rod.

We have two new members who joined at the March meeting, I would like to welcome Cliff & Shane Molz. They came to our meeting to check us out and I guess they liked what they saw. They joined the FFF and are now members of our club.

I want to thank Joe Uhlman for his presentation on fishing for Coho and Pinks in the Dundas Island area. That sure reminded me of when PJ & I used to go to Tofino on Vancouver Island. What a rush when a salmon slams your fly. Nice memories.

Good fishing.

Larry

FFF Fly of the Month

CHICKABOU SOFT HACKLE

By Bob Bates

April 2002 FFF Fly Of The Month



Several months ago the Oregon Council, Federation of Fly Fishers received a generous contribution of Hoffman Chickabou patches from a party on the East coast. They in turn sent boxes of patches to every council in the United States. There were no restrictions on how the patches were to be used. The Washington State Council, FFF gave four patches to each FFF fly club in the state. They can be used for fund raising, fly tying classes, etc.. Since some people haven't watched Henry Hoffman tie flies at the annual shows, I decided to dig two of his flies out of storage and write about them.

These flies were tied by Henry Hoffman at the 31st FFF Conclave and Show (1996). The one tied with all fluffy Chickabou is best for lake use. The other one tied with some fluffy Chickabou and the less fluffy fibers near the feather's tip works best in gentle streams. Henry tied the fluffy one, saved the feather tip and used it for the second fly.

Henry had a fish tank to let people see how Chickabou moves in water. "Rods" (wooden dowels) with monofilament and flies attach let us move the flies through the water in various ways. When a Chickabou Soft Hackle was pulled straight through the water there was a little fluttering movement of the fibers. However, when a strip/pause retrieve was simulated there was a tremendous movement of the barbs and barbules. On the "strip" barbs would lay close to the body with a little fluttering and on the "pause" the fly would sink and the fibers would stand out from the body. Action like this attracts any curious fish.

Depending on the situation (and your inclinations) Chickabou Soft Hackles can be fished in lakes or streams with floating, sink-tip or full sinking lines. As always try different retrieves until you find what fish like.

Materials:

Hook: Mustad 3906B, 10-16

Weight: Small gold bead

Thread: Brown 6/0

Tail: Chickabou

Rib: Gold wire, fine

Body: Chickabou

Hackle: Chickabou

Continued on Page 3 →

Tying Steps:

1. Smash down the barb if you wish.
2. Slip on a gold bead. If you have beads with a small hole on one side and a large one on the other thread it onto the hook so the small hole is next to the eye. If, on the other hand, you have the misfortune to own beads with a big hole all the way through, then a little pre-work is needed. Thread the bead onto the hook, place a generous drop of thick head cement on the shank behind the eye and slide bead over it. Lay hook on a metal or glass surface so the edge of the hole in the bead touches the eye and let glue dry.
3. Put hook in vise, put thread on hook and wind it back to bend of hook.
4. You can break off the tip of a Chickabou feather for the tail. Squeeze the tip and tie it on so there will be gap-width long tail. Save the butt section and use it for hackle on this or another fly.
5. Secure fine gold wire at hook's bend.
6. Pick a longer feather, squeeze all the fibers together and secure it at bend with tip forward. Wind thread forward to a point about one-third shank-length back from the eye. Wrap a soft fuzzy body forward, secure and trim excess. As you wrap the body, lay one wrap next to the other without overlapping so the body doesn't get too thick.
7. Counter wrap wire rib over body to protect the delicate fibers.
8. Pick a feather with quite a bit of Chickabou (fluff) on it and trim off a little at the base. Tie the feather in by the butt and start to wrap it. The base of most feathers is thick and tends to twist. Place nail of the forefinger against the backside and hold it straight as you wrap. (This is a trick that Henry learned 40 plus years ago when tying dry flies with import hackles.) Keep wraps open so fibers will be able to move. Secure behind bead, trim (keep the tip) and whip finish behind the bead.
9. The tip of the feather, with little or no fluff, can be used to make the "standard" soft hackle version of the fly. You can see the difference in the pictures above.



Chickabou Soft Hackle flies really have the movement to drive fish wild. So when you start using them in some of our quality lakes be ready to be towed around in your float tube or do serious battle from you boat.

Henry suggests: Use only tail, body and rib on a size 16 fly. Don't put on hackle.

Henry took his time going back to Oregon from the Conclave. He fished 17 days using Chickabou Soft Hackle flies. On the Snake River he went after smallmouth bass with size 6 and 8 hooks. Caught 30 1st day, eight the 2nd and on a side water caught 14 fish 10- to 15-inches long. He is one guy who has his priorities straight.

April Guest Speaker

Charles Gehr

Charles is the newest member of the Fly Water Travel sales team and specializes in the trout and steelhead fisheries of the Pacific Northwest, the Rockies, and British Columbia. A passionate and experienced angler, he has spent the past five years as a full-time trout and steelhead guide on Oregon's Deschutes River. Prior to his tenure on the Deschutes, Charles lived in Ashland, Oregon and fished the waters of Southern Oregon and Northern California extensively. Charles is an excellent fly tier, an extremely gifted spey caster and the best informed member of our staff on spey tackle and techniques. A University of Wyoming alumni, Charles also has a deep affection for and knowledge of the vast and varied trout fisheries of the Rockies and the American West. His overriding passion for the outdoors and wild places has lead him to guide white water, rock climbing, and fly fishing, row the Grand Canyon, backpack long sections of the Appalachian Trail, and kayak countless rivers from coast to coast.

Washington Fly Fishing Fair and Expo

When: April 29th and 30th

Where: Ellensburg WA. Kittitas County Fair grounds

The Washington State Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will be holding its annual Fly Fishing fair this 29th and 30th of April in Ellensburg, Washington.

If you have ever wondered what fly-fishing is all about then you don't want to miss this upcoming event. There will be something for everyone. Some of what will be available will be one hour free seminars, tying demonstrations, casting games and casting classes. A number of vendors will be on site to show you what is new in the world of fly fishing and the gear that will help you become a better angler.

If you have not been to an event such as this you are missing out on something special. You will see some of the best from the Pacific Northwest show you their skills and help you through the games and classes.

You can learn more if you access the web site listed below:

<http://www.washingtoncouncilfff.org/wfff.htm>

The Washington State Council is a 501 C 3 organization and profits from the fair help with their ongoing conservation and education efforts for the fisheries of Washington State.

NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING ACADEMY

2011 Academy Dates: Sun., June 19 - Sat., June 25.

We are now accepting applications for this year's Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy. Having had the opportunity to volunteer last year I can say this is truly a worthwhile and memorable event. I would highly recommend any member with a child between 12 and 16 look into it. Application deadline is April 15, 2011. As in past years we are able to once again maintain our low tuition cost though the generous support of chapters and individual donations.

Tom Van Gelder, WCTU Chair

ACADEMY FEATURES

- Co-educational, ages 12-16
- Curriculum focuses on conservation, natural resource stewardship, and fly fishing essentials.
- Fly fishing classes include fly casting, fly tying, knot tying, reading water, and water safety.
- Morning and evening fly fishing activities on local ponds and streams.
- On-the-water aquatic macro invertebrate sampling activity.
- All volunteer faculty and staff include wildlife resource professionals, northwest fly fishing and fly tying professionals and enthusiasts, as well as local volunteers from both TU and FFF chapters.
- Cost, including food and lodging: \$275 (some grants are available)

For additional information: Please visit website: www.nwycffa.org E-mail: nwycffa@earthlink.net

The Academy is a joint venture between Trout Unlimited (TU) and The Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), hosted by the South Sound Fly Fishers and the Olympia TU Chapter.

Renew your FFF membership and receive a very nice aluminum fly box

By Larry Gibbs

I want to reward the faithful, so as you renew your FFF membership, and attend our meetings, I will order a personalized fly box for you. Just my way of saying thanks for attending our meetings and for helping to make the club a great organization.



About Our WSCFFF

Washington State Council Federation of Fly Fishers

www.washingtoncouncilfff.org

By Larry Gibbs



At many of the events that the Washington State Council FFF attends and has a booth, one of the key things we do is support and promote fly casting. Some of your very own Alpine Fly Fishers & Puget Sound Flyfishers FFF Certified Casting Instructors and Certified Master Instructors attend these events and are there to give casting demonstrations and often will give one-on-one casting tips. Look for them at the below shows.

Please plan on attending our Fly Fishing Fair this April in Ellensburg. The dates are April 29 & 30, 2011. There will be casting, fly tying, seminars, workshops as well as raffles and silent and live auctions.

WSCFFF Booth Show Schedule

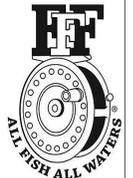
- o Olympic Peninsula Fly Fishing Show— Sequim, April 10
- o **WSCFFF Fly Fishing Fair-Ellensburg, April 29 - 30**
- o Jimmy Green Memorial Fly Fishing Fair- Monroe—June ?
- o Leavenworth Salmon Fest—September ??



In The FFF Corner

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org>

Upcoming FFF Council Events



- **FFF Washington State Council—Fly Fishing Fair, April 29 –30, 2011**
- **FFF Fly Fishing Fair / Conclave — West Yellowstone, MT, September 1-3, 2011**

Conquering Northwest Lakes — A One-Day Workshop by Phil Rowley

Saturday – April 9, 2011

Offered by Puget Sound Fly Fishers. WORKSHOP LOCATION: Royal A. Gove Masonic Lodge 230 -- 3736 So. Sheridan Ave. Tacoma, WA 98408 (Across from Safeway at 38th & Sheridan Ave.)
\$40.00 PSFF Members / \$55.00 Non-members / Add \$10.00 after March 20, 2011

TFO Rod Board

\$5

There are 36 chances to win a very nice rod.

TFO Lefty Kreh Professional Series, 5 wt, 4 piece 8'6" graphite rod

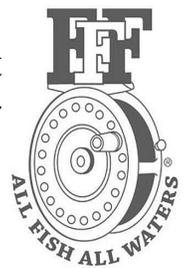
\$5

If you win it you can always sell it for a very nice profit!!!! Buy some squares!!

Renew Your FFF Membership

We have been a FFF Charter Club for about one year. That means that those of you who joined at the end of 2009 or start of 2010 are at or near your expiration date. Please make sure you renew your FFF membership.

Thanks, Larry



FFF Book Review

From the FFF ClubWire

St. Anthony's Creek by Mike Rahtz

Frank Amato Publications, Inc., Portland, OR, 2010

99 pages, softbound, illustrated, B&W with some Color, suggested price \$16.95

This is a small cartoon style volume for those interested in learning to fly fish reminiscent of Curtis Creek Manifesto (1978). The book contains eight chapters which provide a concise introductory course to small stream trout fly fishing. These eight chapters cover gearing up, rigging the gear, casting, fly selection, basic fly tying, and stalking fish, angling techniques, and preparing trout you decide to keep. The prose is easy to read.

The cartoon style is light hearted and helps a beginner through what can be a daunting learning curve. The light humor combined with a number of funny cartoon panels makes this a good way to get anyone of any age interested in fly fishing. At fewer than one hundred pages it is not too long to become tedious and not too short to provide a sound set of building blocks. This looks like a great teaching aid for children and spouses as it will even make an over critical fly fishing spouse or parent bearable.

Washington Fly Fishing Fair

April 29— 30

Ellensburg

FLY TYING CLASSES

Tying the American House Spider with Karen Royer — Class on Saturday 8:00 am to 11:00 am

How to Tie the Erv Emerger with John M. Newbury — Class on Saturday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

"Humpy Heaven"---Get in the Zone with Michael T. Williams — Class on Friday 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm

FLY CASTING CLASS SCHEDULE

• FRIDAY PM

1:00 – 3:00 WOMENS BEGINNING CASTING CLASS by Judy Graham

2:00 – 4:00 CASTING IN WIND CONDITIONS by Don Simonson

1:00 – 3:00 BETTER CASTING BY IMPROVING THE BACK CAST by Pat Peterman

• SATURDAY AM

9:00 – 12:00 CI PREPERATION CLASS by Carl Zarelli, Don Simonson

9:00 – 11:00 CASTS FOR CLOSE QUARTERS by Chase Jablonski

9:00 – 11:00 WOMENS INTERMEDIATE CASTING CLASS by Judy Graham

10:00 – 12:00 CASTS THAT CATCH FISH by Jim Higgins

10 am to 1 pm SWITCH ROD FISHING FOR STEELHEAD NEW by Steve Worley——On the water class

• SATURDAY PM

1:00 – 3:00 DOUBLE HAUL FOR DUMMIES by Les Rosenthal

1:00 – 3:00 SINGLE HANDED SPEY by Carl Zarelli

Washington Fly Fishing Fair Seminars

By David Williams

Fly Fishing Fair, Ellensburg, April 29 & 30

Back by popular demand, your Council is again offering free (yes, free) seminars. The cool thing about this year's lineup is you get much more than you pay for.

The Yakima River Seminars: We've got the local water nailed with **Tim Irish from the Worley Bugger**, the man who started the whole Yakima River guiding scene. **Red's Fly Shop** covering the Yakima in detail. If the Yak is your river or if it has you stumped, catch these presentations. Rounding out the Yakima waters is the presentation by **Gabriel Temple of WDFW**.

Cuba & Far Away Places: Let's get exotic with **Brian O'Keefe** covering the seductive rhythms of Cuba Grand Slam Fly Fishing and the easy-on-pocketbook Economy Busters—Well-Priced Fishing Trips to places like Bahamas, Baja, Patagonia and more. My gills are turning envious-green over wanting to go all those places. More exotica can be yours (can you handle it?) by catching **Jim Gallagher** taking you on a trip to the Mangrove Flats of the Yucatan. The experience is so real, you'll want to slather on the sunscreen before attending.

Steelheads: If steelhead are your game, we've got it covered. To learn more about the spectacular Methow River steelhead and resident trout, come hear guide **Rod Griffin**. **Red's Fly Shop** will cover the steelhead fishery of the remote and beautiful Klickitat River, and knowledgeable **Mike Benbow** teaches how to deal with those feisty Grande Ronde fish.

Entomology: The seminars are not just about going places, we've also got some instruction on important skills. **Preston Singletary**, the thinking-person's presenter (and one of the most fun people in the world to fish with), brings his Entomology—'What's Bugging You' presentation to town.

Fly Lines and Rods: **Dick Sagara**, brings his prodigious wit and knowledge of all things fly fishing to instruct on Fishing Sinking Lines. **Lee Davison** covers too hot topics—Modern Switch and Spey Rods, then follows with Matching Lines and Rods. (Memo to self: attend this one-might cure that mess laughingly called a casting stroke).

Photography: **Brian O'Keefe** returns with his Fly Fishing Photography show that always brings raves. But as they say on that infomercial, there's more.

Montana: We go back on the road with **Brooks Sanford** telling us about one of Montana's great rivers, the Clark Fork River. Also **Brian O'Keefe** will be talking about a Montana Road trip.

Alaska: Then head north to Alaska's Alagnak River with **Joe Kristof**.

Puget Sound: We circle back to Washington where **Roger Stephens** reveals his Topwater and Subsurface Strategies for Puget Sound SRC's and Coho.

Oregon's Crooked River: Then drift south to join **Marc Williamson** on Oregon's Crooked River. All this without a single cerise-dyed sand shrimp, glob of garlic PowerBait or twirling nightcrawler in any seminar.

If only the other half knew how we live.

April / May

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					April 1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9 Phil Rowley Workshop (Also Sequim)
10 Sequim Fly Fishing Show	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Club Meeting	27	28	29 Ellensburg Fly Fishing Fair	30 Ellensburg Fly Fishing Fair
May 1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Club Meeting	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

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Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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