

# Alpine Fly Fishers

*Our Next AFF Meeting*

*Will Be Tuesday*

**March 24**

*We will be meeting at the*

*Puerto Vallarta*

*215 15th St. SE*

*Puyallup at 6 PM*



## The Dead Drift - March 2015

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### **President's Line**

*By Larry Gibbs*

As you read the newsletters I send out, you may have noticed that I advertise the various fly fishing events that are occurring in the greater northwest and elsewhere. The majority of them are IFFF events either put on by the various IFFF councils that are within the USA or by the IFFF national office. The main reason I stress these so much is because of how valuable they can be to you, the IFFF members, and to the fly fishers within our area.

For instance, in just a couple of weeks the Oregon Council IFFF is having their annual event down in Albany. This Fly Tyers Expo is a fantastic source of information for all of you. Plus, it is at a time of year when not much else is going on in the world of fly fishing. This is on the second Friday and Saturday of March, the 13th and 14th.

Then we have our very own event up here, the WA Fly Fishing Fair over in Ellensburg. Peter Maunsell and I are both on the Board of Directors for the WA State Council and are heavily involved with this event. The first Friday and Saturday of May, this year on May 1st and 2nd.

Then we have the national event, this year being held in Bend, Oregon. Talk about close to home and August is a great time of year to be down in east central Oregon for some good fishing. August 11th thru the 15th.

There is a common theme with all these events, a fantastic chance to learn more about fly fishing. Interested in tying? They have classes on tying, plus a hundred or so fly tyers will be at these events. You can sit right across the table from them and ask all kinds of questions about how they do their tying. They love it. If casting is your main concern, then all of these events have casting classes and demonstrations where you can pick up all kinds of very helpful tips to improve your casting, accuracy and distance. Wonder where to go fishing and how to fish when you get there? They have destination classes where you can learn from the experts about certain pieces of water.

Then there is the camaraderie of being with fly fishers from all over North America and the world. People love to talk and meet other people, to learn from them and to tell stories about the fishing in their home area.

You really do owe it to yourself to attend at least one of these great events. Please try to attend one of them or two or all three this year.

**[DID YOU REMEMBER TO BUY YOUR 2015 WA FISHING LICENSE?????](#)**

Good fishing.

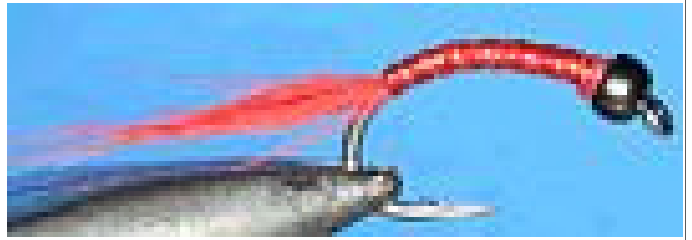
Larry

**International Federation of Fly Fishers  
Fly of the Month**

**~ STEPHEN'S BIONIC WORM ~**

**March 2008**

By  
Bob Bates



Stephen Jackson tied some of his favorite flies at the 2008 Northwest Fly Tiers Expo in Albany, Oregon. One was this Bionic Worm which is a modification of a Bionic Worm he saw in *Flies of the Northwest* by the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club, published by Frank Amato Publications, Inc. He added things he wanted and changed things he didn't want. It might be called a marriage of the Bionic Worm and bloodworm patterns. The result is a fly that catches fish better in his waters. Fly patterns are not set in concrete; if you have an idea for improving a pattern tie it and test it on the waters you fish. If you want to see another version of the Bionic Worm it is in the FFF Fly of the Month for September, 2005.

Usually the Bionic Worm is fished using a floating line and a strike indicator. In talking about another fly he said that he starts with the fly 6 inches above the bottom, and if nothing happens he raises the fly another 6 inches. Eventually he finds the fish. Fish are not always on the bottom. I have found fish 2 feet under the surface in 5 feet of water or 4 feet under the surface in 10 feet of water. Stephen fishes it early in the year.

The hook he uses makes hooking a little easier. Its patented point shape is so "sticky" that frequently the fish hook themselves. (Laboratory tests show it penetrates 7 times easier than other hooks.) Even if he is not paying attention when the strike indicator moves, the fish might be hooked anyway.

This pattern imitates the Chironomid larvae that are found in most still waters and some slow moving streams. The larvae live in the bottom mud or silt. They compensate for the oxygen deficient environment by having extra hemoglobin, which gives them their red color. Sizes of the natural might be from about 1-1/2 inches to about 1/4-inch.

**Materials List:**

**Hook:** Daiichi Xpoint 120, sizes 10, 12 and 14

**Bead:** Tungsten 7/64- to 1/8-inch, black or silver

**Thread:** Uni, red 8/0

**Tail:** Marabou, red

**Rib:** Silver wire, fine or small.

**Overbody:** Scud Back, Red

**Tying Steps:**

1. Put on bead. Smash the barb before tying the fly if you want to go barbless.

2. Start thread behind bead, and tie on marabou. Moisten fingers a little and rub marabou to control it and get a better idea of length desired.



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3. Wind thread over marabou toward rear of hook. Hold the marabou on top of the hook as you wind. Cut Scud Back on a sharp angle and tie it in at back of hook. Barely trap the point of the scud back so there is no bump.



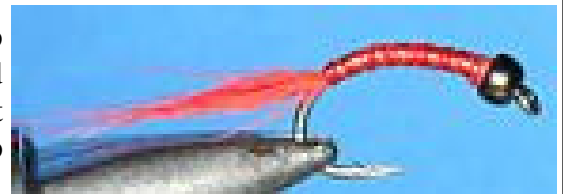
4. Tie on silver wire rib at back of body and wind thread forward.



5. Spiral wire forward and build up a little at the bead.



6. Wind Scud Back forward, overlap it just a little. This overwrap increases the fly's durability. Pull on the Scud Back as it is wrapped so the wire shows through. Be sure to pull on thread before you cut the excess Scud Back. If you don't it might unwrap on you. Whip finish and put on a little head cement on the thread.



**Closing comments:** This is a simple pattern that has fooled a lot of fish. Sometimes the simplest patterns are the best. I am going to tie some of these Bionic Worms as soon as I get the hooks. Your fly shop might have to order the hooks for you.

## March Guest Speaker Thomas Lampher Tiger Musky fishing



### Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2015

**February 24** — March 24 — April 28 — May 26 — June 23 (picnic)

July & August (No Meetings)

September 22 — October 27 — November 24 — December 15 (fund raiser)

# Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

*In Wildness is the  
Preservation of the World  
"Henry David Thoreau"*

## Rain Forest



My days off changed and as providence would have it, my Grandsons had the same day off from school. Since they started kindergarten we have had fewer days together to investigate and discover our environs. I was excited and looking forward to an adventure

day in the great outdoors. My daughter called on Thursday afternoon and we made a family trip to the chiropractor to get all straightened out; on the return trip home she left the boys with me for a sleep over and adventure day.

That evening our house rang with laughter and good cheer as they wrestled around the house in youthful exuberance. Picture two puppies from the same litter playing chase your own tale and jump on each other with delight and sharp little barks and you get the idea. Terry and I smiled and laughed a lot as we caught their effervescence spirit.

The next morning after baths and water splashing, Terry, Darren, Colin and I, piled into the jeep for a quick ride up to the Carbon Glacier entrance to Mount Rainer National Park. Outside temperatures were in the mid 50's with abundant sunshine. We went for a walk in a Northwest Rain Forest. While Terry and I strolled along the trail, the boys scampered ahead talking excitedly about new discoveries and delights. They kept us informed of all the delightful visual findings, encouraging us to come and see; velvety moss, small ferns, dark hidey holes, fungus, toad stools and running water. We were surrounded by wonder, from the tree canopy, to the moss under our shoes, from falling water to growing plants breaking free of the cold grip of winter.

Both Terry's and my hearts were warm and full as we reveled in the joy that Darren and Colin expressed in being outdoors. Adventure days are just as important to them as they are to me. At six they know how important it is to be outside doing, and they miss it when it does not come often enough. After several climbs up fallen giants, and scrambles down slick and mossy trails and almond snacks and water breaks we answered their pleas for lunch. They kept asking Terry why she had not packed a lunch, Nana!!! We retired to Wally's (editors note: Wally's is a good drive-in fast food business in the city of Buckley, on Hwy 410) for fish and chips and more outside play. After lunch I was recruited to push them both on the swings, more laughter, giggles and teasing took place, higher Gramps was the main refrain as they soared in the afternoon sun towards a bright blue sky with Mount Rainer poised majestically over our right shoulders.

As the afternoon waned, we returned home and I broke out their Fly Rods that I gave them for Christmas and we practiced casting on the front lawn till their arms grew tired and it was time to go home. As they cast they kept telling me that they were ready to go fishing. Oh bother, as Winnie the Pooh is wont to say. Now I guess I will have to take them fishing, Grandkids are such a pain in the butt; you guys know how much I hate to fish, I just don't know if I will be able to take on that kind of a work load.

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A trip to an inland rain forest is a special occasion. It is a place where life is at its most primordial; life growing right out of life and out of decay. Where symbiosis is on full display, nothing in a rainforest is separate from anything else. It is all intertwined; it sustains itself by growing together. What touches one touches' all.

The human race can learn much from experiencing a rain forest. To grow as humans we need to let go of our egos, our true potential lies in letting go of our separateness and embracing the collective of life. We hold so tightly to what we think we know that we miss out on really living. What we hold onto is a mere shadow of living. Most people will never grow because they are afraid of discomfort and they do not want to get out of their comfort zone. Sadly for human beings we only seem to learn when we our uncomfortable.

The worst thing for a person's health is to sit in a chair, the more time you are upright and moving the healthier you will be. Yes, being outside is not always comfortable, it's hot or cold, the wind is blowing or the path is slick and



you have to watch your footing. But if your mind is open and you are not fighting yourself by wanting to be somewhere else, you will begin to learn and you will begin to see life from a different perspective. We were not born knowing how to walk, we had to learn, we had to fall down and get back up again, our legs needed to get stronger and our core muscles needed to develop so that we could maintain our balance. As fishermen we had to learn to tie knots and line rods, we had to learn to let the rod do the work. We had to learn to stand in a river and yes we had to fall down and get wet. But the process and the discomfort were worth it because we learned and we began to catch fish. As humans we need to learn and grow. We need to let go of that's the way my father did it, and if it was good enough for him its good enough for me.

Get out of your chairs and walk the road of life and give that gift of learning to your children and grand children as well, take them with you. Go for a walk in a rain forest or stand in a river waving a stick, your body and mind will thank you. Your children and grand children may not thank you right away but somewhere down the road of life they will.

*“Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after” Henry David Thoreau*



## 2015 WSCIFFF FLY FISHING FAIR

# May 1 - 2, 2015

Friday & Saturday  
Ellensburg, WA



The WSCIFFF Board and fair committee invite you to see the variety of tying, casting and learning events at the 9th Annual Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg Washington May 1st and 2nd 2015. Free seminars will be given that may include Fishing the Upper Columbia, Steelhead Fishing in Washington, or maybe Bass Fishing in your backyard. Workshops at various fees on casting, from beginning to expert some designed just for women.

An IFFF Nine Hole Casting Course will be available both for competition and your knowledge, the cost FREE. See how good you are in the areas that you have perfected and find out where your cast needs more work. Tasks of the course are “The Multiple C”, “The Obstacle”, “Reach Right & Left”, “Pile it Up”, “Fly First”, “Tighten Up”, “Get it Under”, “The Non-Stop”, “What’s Comfortable”. Fun for anyone, regardless of experience, walking from hole to hole along the nine hole casting course. Each hole presents a different real fishing situation which you get to solve by learning more about fly casting. You may pick up some valuable new ideas about how to cast for fun or fishing.

Bring your own equipment...or equipment and instructors are available to guide you along the course.

Private lessons with a Certified Casting Instructor will be available for a fee. These men and women know their casting to a “T” and will work with you on your cast.

About one hundred tiers will be tying flies on Friday and Saturday for your enjoyment and learning. The techniques and tips will be available to you for the asking. Some tiers will be as young as 14, yes 14. Fly tying isn’t just for the “old guy”. These young tiers are good and will show you how to tie their patterns with many tips available. Every type and style of fly by all ages of tiers will be tied, find those that interest you and watch how the experienced do it and pick up all the tips you can.

The WSCIFFF through your support can continue our mission to conserve and restore our resource’s and educate fly fishers in their sport and grow advocacy for fish and fisheries.

There will be vendors available with tying materials, rods, reels, lines and a full spectrum of items needed for fly fishing that you can try out, buy and question for the quality and uses for your casting and fishing styles.

Times for the fair are May 1, Fri. 9 AM-5PM and May 2, Sat. 8AM-5PM, all at the Kittitas Valley Event Center, Ellensburg WA.

FFF members and youth under 16 get in for free, nonmembers cost is only \$5.

**FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS**  
*Conserve, Restore and Educate Through Fly Fishing*



## The Clark Fork River in February

Brooks Sanford took his father out for a short fishing trip on the Clark Fork River in mid-February.

In four hours they caught 22 trout, one of them being a nice 21 incher. The fish are fat and sassy, should be a great year to go fishing.

### A Fly Fishing Quote:

*“ ....The waters know their own, and draw the brook that springs in yonder height;  
So flows the good with equal law unto the soul of pure delight....”*

*~ John Burroughs 1837 - 1921~ “Waiting”*

### Yakima River - February 2015

I had a couple nice days on the Yakima River over in Ellensburg this February, fishing with Anthony, a guide for the Worley Bugger Fly Co. 14 trout for two days and a nice hookup on a wild Steelhead, around 10 pound, a good fight until it got tired of me and left me with a great memory.





Alpine Fly Fishers  
Next Meeting  
**March 24, 2015**



**2015 WSCIFFF FLY FISHING FAIR**  
**May 1 - 2, 2015**  
Friday & Saturday  
Ellensburg, WA



**2015 IFFF FLY FISHING FAIR**  
**August 11 - 15, 2015**  
Bend, Oregon




**Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo**  
www.nwffpo.com

**March 13 - 14, 2015**  
Albany, Oregon  
Linn County Expo Center




**IFFF**  
**- 2015 -**  
**INTERNATIONAL FLY FISHING FAIR**  
**FAIR**  
AUGUST 11 - 15, 2015  
BEND - OREGON  
*Save the Date*  
**50<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY**  
RIVERHOUSE CONVENTION CENTER - BEND, OR  
WWW.FEDFLYFISHERS.ORG - 503.333.8349



**BLOG**

The Federation now has a blogspot. Join the conversation and read what others have to say.

<http://fedflyfishers.blogspot.com>



# March / April 2015

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<b>1 March</b>	2	3	4	5	6	7
<b>8 Daylight Savings Time</b>	9	10	11	12	<b>13 Albany</b>	<b>14 Albany</b>
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	<b>24 Club Meeting</b>	25	26	27	28
29	30	<b>31 Buy your 2015 WA ST Fishing License</b>	<i>"The March wind roars like a lion in the sky, and makes us shiver as he passes by. When winds are soft, and the days are warm and clear, just like a gentle lamb, then spring is here." - Author Unknown</i>			

"Winter's done, and April's in the skies,  
Earth, look up with laughter in your eyes!"  
- Charles G. D. Roberts, An April Adoration, 1896

			<b>1 April</b>	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	<b>28 Club Meeting</b>	29	30	<i>"In the spring I have counted one hundred and thirty-six different kinds of weather inside of four and twenty hours." - Mark Twain</i>	

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club  
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Visit our website at [www.alpineflyfishers.org](http://www.alpineflyfishers.org)

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