

Alpine Fly Fishers

Our Next AFF Meeting
Will Be Tuesday

March 22

We will be meeting at the
Puerto Vallarta
215 15th St. SE
Puyallup at 6 PM



The Dead Drift - March 2016

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By Larry Gibbs

I worked the WSCIFFF booth at the Puyallup O'Loughlin show at the end of January. This show was mostly for hunters and gear fishers. They do not have a large presence of fly fishers in attendance, but there are some. I talked to a some people who were interested in either getting back into fly fishing or they want to take up the sport. The WSC has a booth there just for that purpose, with the hope that we can interest some people to take up the rod again and cast forth upon the waters.

Unlike the Puyallup show, our very own WA Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg is 100% fly fishing related. The Ellensburg show has lots of seminars you can attend. Some examples: Michael Bennett 'Swinging Flies for Steelhead'; Johnny Boitano 'Yakima River Trout'; Bruce Bolding 'Warmwater Game Fish'; Heather Hodson 'A Women's Perspective on Fly Fishing'; Dave McCoy 'Western Washington Fly Fishing Opportunities'; Duane Redford 'Mastering Technical Waters'; Duane Redford 'The Systematic Approach to Fly Fishing'; Dick Sagara '\$\$\$\$ Won't Buy You or Your Fly rod LOVE'; Preston Singletary 'Demystifying Sea-run Cutthroat'; Steve Temple 'Secrets of Montana's Clark Fork'; David Paul Williams 'Sagebrush Smallmouth Washington's Yakima River'; Marc Williamson 'The Art and Science of Stillwater'; & Jim Teeny will be talking about salmon. This is a great line up of seminars.

Then there are some workshops including renowned fly tyer and published author Dave Hughes who will be there doing a workshop on tying.

We have many certified casters who will be giving private lessons, and doing casting demonstrations. You really should not miss our show in Ellensburg. It is great!

The Oregon Council's Fly Tyer Expo in Albany this March 11th & 12th is also a show geared totally to fly fishers.

Then in May on the 13th and 14th, the Western Rocky Mountain Council IFFF presents the 2016 Coeur d'Alene Fly Fishing Expo.

There is also the 2016 Atlantic Salmon Fly International Expo June 3,4 & 5 at the Pavilion Event Center in Renton.

Are you kind of getting the idea that we are surrounded by some really great fly fishing events? Make good use of them and attend some of these shows.

Good fishing.

Larry



International Federation of Fly Fishers

Fly of the Month

~ FLY FISHER'S WORM ~

March 2012

By

Bob Bates



Some anglers catch a lot of fish with plastic worms. The fish are mostly bass which grow big in the warmer parts of the world. Harley Reno asked: "Why should they have all the fun?" Then he set about designing a worm that fly fishers could tolerate. He was demonstrating the design at the 2011 FFF International Fly Fishing Fair in West Yellowstone, Montana. This one was 8 inches long, and he has caught bass and brown trout with it. Harley's design can be tied 12 inches in length. However, when I showed the flies to a reformed metal and plastic tosser he said: "Too long! It is better if it is only 4 inches long." That small to me sounds like a leech. So use your own judgment and build something you like and then test it. Even in the northern part of the U.S. there are some good bass lakes. You might get some hints on fishing it from the spin anglers.

Materials list:

Hook: 3366a size 1 or 2

Thread: Monochord 3/0 Danville

Body: Ultra chenille any color you like.

Bead: glass 4/0 and 6/0

Tying steps:

1. Start thread at bend and wind forward to eye.

2. Put beads on bobbin threader, and slide them up the thin wire to get them out of the way. Slide the ultra chenille on bobbin threader to hold it in place. Then slide the beads down the bobbin threader to start them on the ultra chenille.

3. Slip beads about 1/4 of the way down the ultra chenille. Then slide hook through beads without hooking the ultra chenille.



Continued on Page 3 →

4. Slide the beads along hook so they are together in front of bend.



5. Anchor beads. Put some thread wraps between each bead. You are simulating the Clitella or sex gland of the worm.



6. Put a Snell on the hook with a Palomer knot which is the strongest knot to attach leader to hook.



7. Put a weed guard on. Use natural shape of monofilament. Pinch over hook. Select the nylon strength to the fishing conditions. A lake in Florida with lots of brush use 50 pound. Just some weeds 30 lb; gravel bottom 20 lb. With San Juan worm no weed guard. Use a figure eight knot that pulls equally in both directions.



8. At some point need to taper the ends of the ultra chenille. The best way to do it is to quickly put the end into the center of a flame and pull it out. If you bring the chenille close to the side of the flame a lopsided end will result.



9. Slip a smaller bead onto a bobbin threader, slip the snell through the bead, hook the ultra chenille onto the threader and slip the bead on to the ultra chenille. To keep bead in place use a little superglue. Then tie a loop in the snell nylon. Go fishing.



Since Harley is a retired biology professor he talked about worms and fish and how fish can paralyze the worm with three taps to damage the Clitella. You don't need to be shy about discussing worms with other fly anglers. Just make sure they know it is tied with ultra chenille.

Back of Beyond

By Stephen Neal

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

February Moments

It's February and my 66th birthday is in the rearview mirror. Winter is my favorite time of the year, I'm sure that it was imprinted on me at birth; so while some bemoan the cold and wet I feel fully alive. Like all cycles of life, a time of rest is an integral puzzle piece in life. During the season of short daylight hours and cold temperatures', deciduous trees lose their foliage and the flow of life slows, it is a time of contemplation and renewal. Winter is a time to rest and store up energy, so that we are ready for the burst of new life in our spring renewal. On Nevada Ranches on cold blustery days when no work could be done we were told to willow up for the day.



While I have not been fishing since the end of October I have been exploring future fishing venues. Al Strup, from work has been telling me about fishing for Sea-Run Cut-throat trout in the Nisqually Reach and McAllister Creek from his earlier days in Olympia, I have been listening; I've had my eye on this area from my many visits to the Nisqually Wild Life Refuge. I was unsure of how to get to the launch point. Last week the boys had Friday off for Presidents day, and since they had been hinting more and more frequently that we needed to go on an adventure, the opportunity to explore presented itself and we went for it.

Now getting four boys out the door and into the truck is like herding puppies; they all have different objectives when exiting the house, and for some reason none of their objectives have anything to do with actually getting in the truck. One was on the bumper, one was in the truck bed, one was wondering up and down the sidewalk and the remaining boy was stuck between the grass and the bark border. Who knows? After much coaching and cajoling, we got loaded up. The first objective of the day had been met and we were on our way. Father Sky then decided it was time to open up heavens head-gate and make a water delivery. It was not just a water delivery, the head-gate must have gotten stuck in the open position and while heaven's workmen cursed and mashed fingers, bumped elbows and smacked funny bones to get the gate closed again. The rain fell harder and faster than the windshield wipers could work on this earthly plane. It was one wet and blurry trip to our destination.

I then made a fatal mistake, to reassure my boys that if our exploration got washed out, I stilled planned to take them to see Star Wars. Their minds immediately switched from exploring to how to get the trip of discovery over as soon as possible, so that we could get to the show. My only savings was that I controlled the keys and the transportation. They were with me for the duration. Unfortunately for me and the boys the research center did not open until noon, so we wondered up and down the beach shingle slowly being exposed by the falling tide. Now all boys love to throw rock and we were all soon skipping stones across the estuary's watery surface. There is something elemental about a well thrown rock disk, skipping over a fluid surface, which brings joy to one's heart. This was a beach made for little boys' dreams; one did not have to search far or wide for appropriate water skipping gems. Those disks of magic were soon skipping across the tidal flats of the Nisqually Reach in prodigious numbers.

This was a beach made for little boys' dreams; one did not have to search far or wide for appropriate water skipping gems. Those disks of magic were soon skipping across the tidal flats of the Nisqually Reach in prodigious numbers. The beaches of Puget Sound are very fluid in nature, tide, wind, rain and passing ships cause change to happen constantly. Add in storm season and that change is exponential.

That which seems solid and permanent passes away and new wonders are exposed. As we wandered this strip of the Nisqually Reach shoreline we climbed over and under new fallen trees, skirted landslides, peaked into wave formed caves and tripped over halibut fish heads. In one small cave, a ribbon of twisted and braided sand was revealed, it stood out from the caves walls, the softer more porous material flushed away by the lapping of the tidal waves. Amidst this jumble of life my boys laughed, ran, jumped, climbed, peered into dark mysterious places, asked questions and wrote their names in the sand. We wondered at the purpose of man placed piling and markers all the while just enjoying this moment in time. And every few minutes Nathan would check his watch to see if it was time to leave yet. Me, I was still enjoying the wonder of small things.

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Now it is a week later and as I set writing this article in the warmth and comfortable living space of Steve Egge's Beach home on the eastern side of Whidbey Island, my eyes follow the tidal flow movement outbound towards the straights of Deception pass and the straight of Juan de Fuca and then onto the mighty Pacific. Sean and I have joined Steve for a bachelor week-end (our wives were invited but other life adventures intervened) of relaxation and island exploration. Yesterday, we watched a tug and barge sail by. Nothing remarkable in that, but on closer inspection with binoculars, what I thought was just a super structure was actually a large two story house with a porch and columns. The house set upon pilings stacked up to keep the house level. So we marveled at a house moving north. Steve looked up the ship on a phone app, and discovered that the barge and tug was registered in Canada and they were on their way back up to Canada.



Now a tug and barge on this stretch of water is not unusual, but one with a house on it, now that is noteworthy. Why would a house built in the U. S. of A. be headed to Canada on a barge? I have no idea on the cost of moving a house on a barge, that can't be cheap. Not to mention the fees to move it once you get it to its destination or a harbor where you could unloaded it. This small incident in a day led to much speculation. Steve tracked it up to deception pass but we waited too long to check on it again and lost it in the vastness of Puget Sound. It's a mystery that's solution is now lost to us. A jumble of what's and what for's, whys and how comes filled a part of our day and evening. That evening Steve and I sat on his porch just out of the reach of the falling rain; we finished a cigar and a dram of scotch contemplating the wonder of it all. Sean would have joined us but he was nursing a sore throat and a shared cigar did not fit his need to do list, so he let it pass.

After our house spotting, we spent our falling water day by exploring the island, breakfast was served beneath a giant long toothed, metal scaled fish, and we feasted upon food cooked under an outstretched dragons head at the Mukilteo Coffee Roasters. We then chased after the barged house, but it had disappeared from our sought after vantage point before we arrived. We then headed back home to throw balls for Tracy in the rain. That evening we made a quick trip to Langley for brewery beer and dinner fixings. We dined on barbequed salmon and wild rice; while Sean and Steve enjoyed freshly brewed Double Bluff Beer.

Saturday was our hiking day. We kitted up and walked the shore, Riley kept Steve entertained with her lime green tennis ball. She pretended to lose it, Steve would find it and throw it for her and Tracy carried on like it was important to her. Riley let on that she wanted to fetch, but I believe she just wanted Steve to be entertained. Keep the master occupied with a ball while she bound off to roll in some wonderful smelly substance or scarfed down smelly disgusting sea delicacies, or kitchen compost waste. She was quite good at this, Riley "No" were words that we heard often.

The Sound's beaches are wonderful exploration portals to adventure and discovery, agates, sea shells, drift wood sculptures, fallen trees, landslides, waterfalls and caves were just a few things we investigated. We also tracked the tide and passing boats and ships, searched for eagles, and noted good fishing spots for future line on the water trips. We told and listened to each other's stories while the sand crunched beneath our feet. We were in Heaven with no particular destination in mind.

Steve, and his son Ryan were wonderful host and their gift of welcome is very much appreciated by Sean and I. Life is not made up of big events, the fabric of our lives is defined by the small things, the everyday things, that is were true magic lives. There are no ordinary moments in life. I would also like to thank my grandsons, my adventures with them are truly wonderful.



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

This Week's View by
Deanna Lee Birkholm
Reprint from : September 1st, 1997

Born in a Barn?



The Fly Fishing Enthusiast's Online Magazine
'The Fraternity of Fly Fishers'

If Robert Fulghum was a fly fisher he might have said, "The lack of etiquette can greatly reduce the joys of fishing." Or as Grandmother used to say, "There is just no excuse for bad breeding." Unless you really were born in a barn, there is no excuse for bad manners. That applies in spades when fishing - and not just fly fishing either. If you want to have a terrific time fishing, you can insure the quality of your experience by learning a few things you should practice.

So you drive a couple of hours to your favorite stream. Park the rig, assemble your gear and wade upstream to your favorite spot.

Wrong.

Never wade for any distance in the water. The sediment stirred up can put the fish downstream off for the rest of the day. And lots of insects are scrunched in the process. Get out of the water and attempt to walk near the stream - but avoid unnecessarily trampling the banks and growth.

Do not walk from pool to pool, or riffle to riffle in the water. Avoid using the stream as a path.

Someone fishing in "your" favorite spot? Don't jump in. You might say something like, "Hi, how's it going?" If the person replies, (and conversation is optional) you might ask if anyone is fishing upstream. If there is no response, keep going. How far? As far as you could fish in half an hour. Or a minimum of 100 yards.

Really want to fish "that" spot? Find a place to sit, relax, contemplate your navel, and wait until that person moves on. You do not have exclusive right to any piece of water unless you own the deed to it. And sometimes not even then.

"Fish On!"

If you are on a body of water and someone nearby is playing a fish, reel your line in and yield way to the person with the fish on. You may encounter this situation on rivers, in estuaries, and beaches on salt water.

Never attempt to land someone's fish for them if they have not asked you to help. You do not want the responsibility of losing some guy's 'lifetime' fish.

Do not offer suggestions on what kind of fly to use unless asked. It is downright amazing what fish will hit on. If you have good luck and a fellow angler isn't, you might say, "This Chickenhole Special really seems to be working, I have an extra if you would like to try it." Mean it, or don't say it.

"Mom Told You"

Respect others property rights. That means fences and gates. Close all gates behind you. No trespassing means NO trespassing. You can find out who owns the property and ask permission. Most folks will happily say yes! However, no really means NO.

Anything packed in, whether it is food, drinks or smokes, is packed out. Aldo Leopold once said, "Take only pictures, leave only footprints." That also means butts and matches. Don't tolerate litter. Maybe you didn't leave it, pick it up anyway and pack it out.

We see many kids on the streams and beaches. Watch your manners and language. Kids learn by example too.

Unless you are the President of the United States, leave your cell-phone and beeper in the vehicle. There is no place for cell-phones, radios, boom boxes, or worse yet beepers on the river or stream. Your rights are your rights only if they do not infringe on the rights of others. Fishing ought to be an enjoyable experience for all. Don't spoil it for others.

And What if . . ."

Just in case you end up in a situation where some ignorant clod violates any of the "rules" above, explain as politely as possible their error. It sometimes works. Maybe no one ever told them about angling manners.

If the clod decides his or her fishing is more important than yours, do not stoop to their level of clodsmanship. Move on. You probably won't catch anything with the clod (or clodette) there, and the stress of having to be around such people isn't worth it.

We fish to reduce stress, not to pile on more stress. A little common sense consideration goes a long way.

Tradition is a work in progress - it is not inherited. ~ The LadyFisher



The Fly Fishing Enthusiast's Online Magazine
'The Fraternity of Fly Fishers'

There are several of us at AFF who belong to FAOL. It is a great site for fly fishers, lots of helpful information and many fly tying recipes and articles about all aspects of fly fishing and fly fishing gear. Check it out.

www.flyanglersonline.com



Alpine Fly Fishers
Next Meeting
March 22, 2016



A Fly Fishing Quote:

“There will be days when the fishing is better than one's most optimistic forecast, others when it is far worse. Either is a gain over just staying home.”

~Roderick Haig-Brown, Fisherman's Spring, 1951

Alpine Fly Fishers Meetings in 2016

March 22 — April 26 — May 24

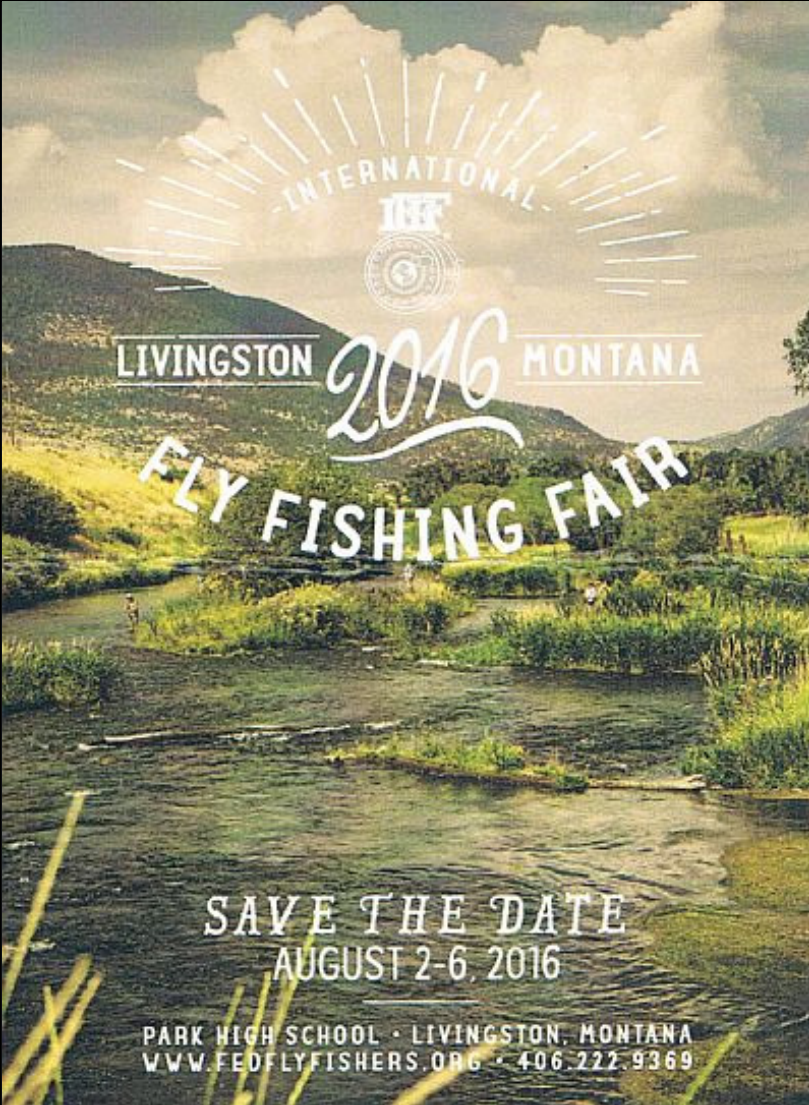
June ?? (picnic) TBD

July & August (No Meetings)

September 27 — October 25 — November 22 — December 13

Fly Rod / Reel Raffle Board

This will be an Albright's Topwater 9 foot, 4 piece, 8/9 weight fly rod with a Topwater 7/8/9 reel. The board has 30 squares selling at \$5 per square. A fund raiser for AFF.



2016 WA Fly Fishing Fair Main Event Sponsors

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www.wsciff.org

2016 WA FLY FISHING FAIR



SAVE THE DATE

Ellensburg, WA April 29 & 30



**The 2016 NW Fly
Tyer & Fly Fishing
Expo March 11 & 12,
2016 in Albany**

SAVE THE DATES



2016 WSCIFFF WA Fly Fishing Fair

April 29 & 30

2016 IFFF Fly Fishing Fair

August 2 - 6

The 2016 Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy

Applications are being accepted until April 15th for the 2016 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must write an essay explaining why “they” want to attend the Academy and a letter of recommendation is required from their school counselor or science teacher. The dates for the WSCIFFF and WCTU supported event are June 19-25, 2016. The Academy will be held at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. To learn more about The Academy, go to www.nwycffa.org. The application is available on the website or contact Mike Clancy @ nwycffa@comcast.net. This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and the basics of fly fishing. We are also on Facebook. No youth will be turned away because of funding.

The Fly Tying Group of the International Federation of Fly Fishers is dedicated to the preservation, enhancement and support of the art of fly tying as a historic element of the fly fishing experience. Archiving of historic documents, development of educational and instructional materials, teaching, and demonstrations are fundamental to perpetuating the art of fly tying for anglers who fish with the artificial fly. If this sounds like something you would be interested in, please join us today. Please Note: You must be a member of the International Federation Fly Fishers to join the Fly Tying Group.



Fred Dupre Announces.....Fly Tying Group Videos

The IFFF Fly Tying Group (FTG) has launched a large online searchable fly tying video library on our website, in keeping with our mission to “provide educational resources for fly tiers”. This fly tying video library is accessible by going to the IFFF main page on their website and clicking on the Tying button then clicking on the Tying Video Library button.

Check it out now at: <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Tying/FlyTyingVideoLibrary/tabid/653/Default.aspx>

The library allows you to either search by fly name; or by Category such as: Cold Water, Salt Water, Warm Water or Technique; or by Sub Category such as: Pike, Salmon/Steelhead, Trout, Bonefish/Permit, Redfish/Speckled Trout, Bass, or Bluegill/Crappie. We currently have several hundred high quality tying videos loaded and will be adding new ones each month. We view each video to make sure that it is high quality.

If you know of any high quality YouTube or Vimeo tying videos that you want loaded in our library, please contact Fred DuPre’ at flytyerfred@gmail.com.

The FTG would like to recognize Rhonda Sellars, Jessica Atherton and the FTG Video Library Team for an outstanding fly tying video library that will be a vital resource to both beginning and seasoned tiers in years to come.

SPEAKING OF FLIES

Well, I know I wasn’t actually speaking of them, but since I brought up the subject.....

I will gladly accept donations of flies for our Christmas Fly Tree anytime during the year!

Club Name Tags

Don’t have a name tag? Please tell Guy Magno and he will record it and get the info to me so I can order you a tag.

March / April 2016

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
"Each leaf, each blade of grass vies for attention. Even weeds carry tiny blossoms to astonish us." - Marianne Poloskey, Sunday in Spring		March 1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 Fly Tyers Expo - Albany	12 Fly Tyers Expo - Albany
13	14	15	16	17	18 Lone Lake Outing	19 Lone Lake Outing
20 Lone Lake Outing	21	22 Club Meeting	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31	"No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn." <i>Hal Borland</i>	

"When the April wind wakes the call for the cast, I grip the rod as my only hold upon the earth, and, as I follow through with each swing, I am planted with growing hope, for the feel of the take and the singing of the line through the water." <i>My variation on a poem by Dallas Lore Sharp, 1870-1929 - Larry</i>						April 1	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 Club Meeting	27	28	29 WA Fly Fishing Fair	30 WA Fly Fishing Fair	

Alpine Fly Fishers' 'The Dead Drift' is Published monthly by the Alpine Fly Fishers Club
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If you have an email address allow us to send this newsletter via the internet. If your email address has changed recently, please share your new address.

Visit our website at www.alpineflyfishers.org

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