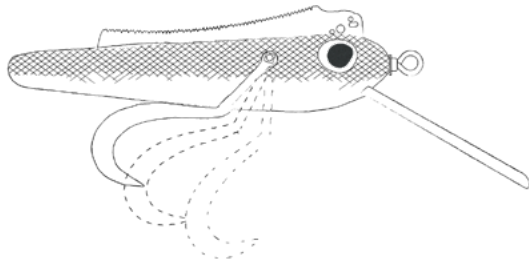




# ARBOREAL ANGLER COLLECTION

TYING HISTORIC LOGGING TO RIVER ECOLOGY  
IAN ESCHER VIERCK ET AL.





Arboreal Angler Collection:  
Tying Historic Logging to River Ecology

Unfinished Book Bureau



The *Arboreal Angler Collection* is a collaborative project led by Ian Escher Vierck. This project was proposed as part of Ian's Masters of Landscape Architecture project at the University of Oregon. It was developed and fabricated throughout the Summer of 2023 with the generous support of the Fuller Design Fellowship team at the Fuller Initiative for Productive Landscapes.

Photography by Adam DeSorbo.

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# T

he Arboreal Angler Collection is a creative combination of angling traditions, vernacular timber construction, and vintage logging camp equipment, aimed to capture the critical relationship between Oregon's river ecosystem and the region's wood. The collection contains a diverse assemblage of oversized lures ranging from 12 to 32 inches. Each lure consists of three primary elements: the wood body, the hardware, and the dressing. When these elements are combined, they tell a rich story about the ecological role of large wood in aquatic ecosystems and their intertwined history with the timber industry. Each piece within the collection represents local organisms that rely on large wood for food, habitat, or the geomorphological processes it facilitates.

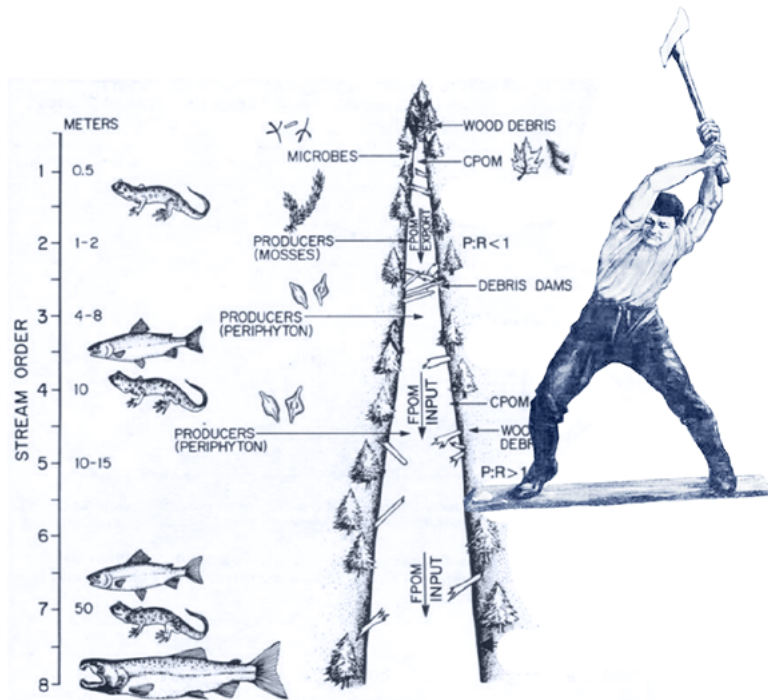
The Pacific Northwest appears and functions nothing like it ever has before. Early descriptions depict log jams three quarters of a mile wide and one quarter of a mile long, valleys so wet that travelers were confined to the hills, and a Willamette River that split into 5 separate channels. This historic Pacific Northwest was bountiful with large wood, and when removed from the Willamette River, some reports described the wood as large as 9ft in diameter and 120 ft long.

In the absence of this large wood, we have forgotten the importance and profound impacts it has on the landscape. We are only now beginning to explore and consider how we can reintroduce wood back into the Pacific Northwest. Yet most folks would rather not see the wood because of aesthetics and perceived dangers.

Large wood has been removed for a multitude of different reasons throughout history. Yet the largest contributor to the systematic removal of large wood over time was the timber industry. Logging has deep roots in Oregon's culture. Oregon has historically been the nation's major timber-producing state. Today, Oregon still leads the United States in softwood exports. The logging industry has shaped our coasts, rivers, and forests through intensive forest management, enabling policies, and stream "improvements."

All of this has been supported by a cultural aesthetic to tame, control, and clean up our landscapes. These stream improvements, which included dredging, explosives, and splash dams, were done to ease the transportation of timber through the rivers and streams. This devastated aquatic life by disrupting natural water processes, obstructing fish movement, and overloading streams with organic matter, leading to a state of long-term ecological tragedy, called ecological legacies.

Trickles lead to streams, which lead to rivers, eventually meeting the ocean at estuaries. All ecosystems are interconnected through gradients of conditions, which are illustrated in the river continuum diagram (below). This means that if at any point a disturbance or ecological legacy affects an ecosystem, then all other ecosystems will be impacted because they are all connected. These ecological legacies impact our culture, geology, and ecological process worldwide.



The river continuum diagram being chopped down by the timber industry.

MADE: 02/2023      **ARBOREAL ANGLERS**      AAC: 43-124.03  
 Anatomical Comparison

**Chironomidae Larvae**

The wood scraping larvae of a non-biting midge, also known as a lake fly.

**Chironomidae Charmer**

A wooden lure of the chironomidae larvae sure to trick the fish's eyes.

A diagram exploring the anatomical similarities between lure and organism.

### *Tails from the Tackle-Box*

Lures, much like industrial logging in America, are largely a Euro-American introduction. Fishing flies have long been tied in Europe since the mid-15th century, but plugs, spinners, and jigs are a recent modern American technology. The first wooden lure, a wooden plug, was invented by James Heddon in Dowagiac, Michigan around 1889. This wooden lure was a pine broomstick that was carved to resemble the body of a frog.



*Heddon's Frog, 1889*

As soon as the wooden lure was cast in the local Mill Pond, a bass instantly demolished it. Heddon immediately decided to capitalize on this improvement in fish bait. Prior baits were made of sheet metal, wire, and feathers and didn't have any signs of life as they moved through the water. The wooden lures wobbled and swam, entrancing the hungry bass.

Following the Heddon Frog, James developed and patented the 1902 Dowagiac Minnow and the 1907 Artistic Minnow 50. These three lures quickly established a range of forms, features, and functions that continued to entice fish.

Today, it is easy to think that lures have always been manufactured and sold, but this wasn't the case. For most of the history of lures, they were homemade and shared amongst friends. This led to an explosion of creative and unique lures of all shapes and sizes. Experiments like coating plugs in photographic negatives, adding spoons, or making lures out of stone have led to exciting and diverse collections. Although these folk lures are rich and imaginative, they may not have precise dates or locations in which they were made.

Angler collectors rely on lure patents to identify and certify vintage and antique lures. The patents were used by industrious lure manufacturers to privatize their lure design even before they knew whether or not it would work. The documentation of these lures have created a strong relationship between vintage lures and patents which can be seen in collector's books.



*Heddon's Artistic Minnow 50, 1907*



*Heddon's Dowagiac Minnow, 1902*



*Blackbird, Creator Unknown*



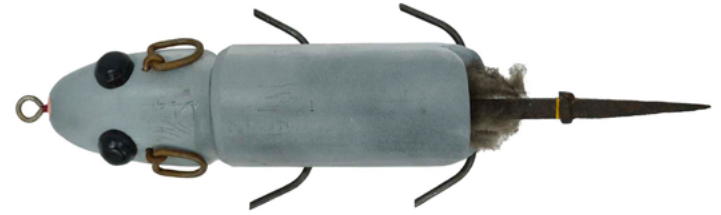
*Frog, Creator Unknown*





*Chrinomidae Charmer*

The Chrinomidae Charmer is the closest thing to a perfect representation of the unassuming non-biting midge that shreds wood and organic matter in rivers. The non-biting midge is a favorite catch for trout hiding under downed trees and submerged wood.



*Remarkable Woodrat*

The Remarkable Woodrat is the hottest lure in the riparian corridors. Large hungry trout simply can not resist this delectable treat. This arboreal rodent lives in cavities of trees, snags, and fallen trees and is careful to avoid rivers at all costs!



*Powder Polywog*

From the 1850's-1930's lumber companies practiced "stream improvements" which often used dynamite to clear river obstructions such as log jams and boulders. The workers responsible for the dynamite were called "Powder Monkeys." Aquatic habitats were obliterated by these practices.



*Grib-L-Grab*

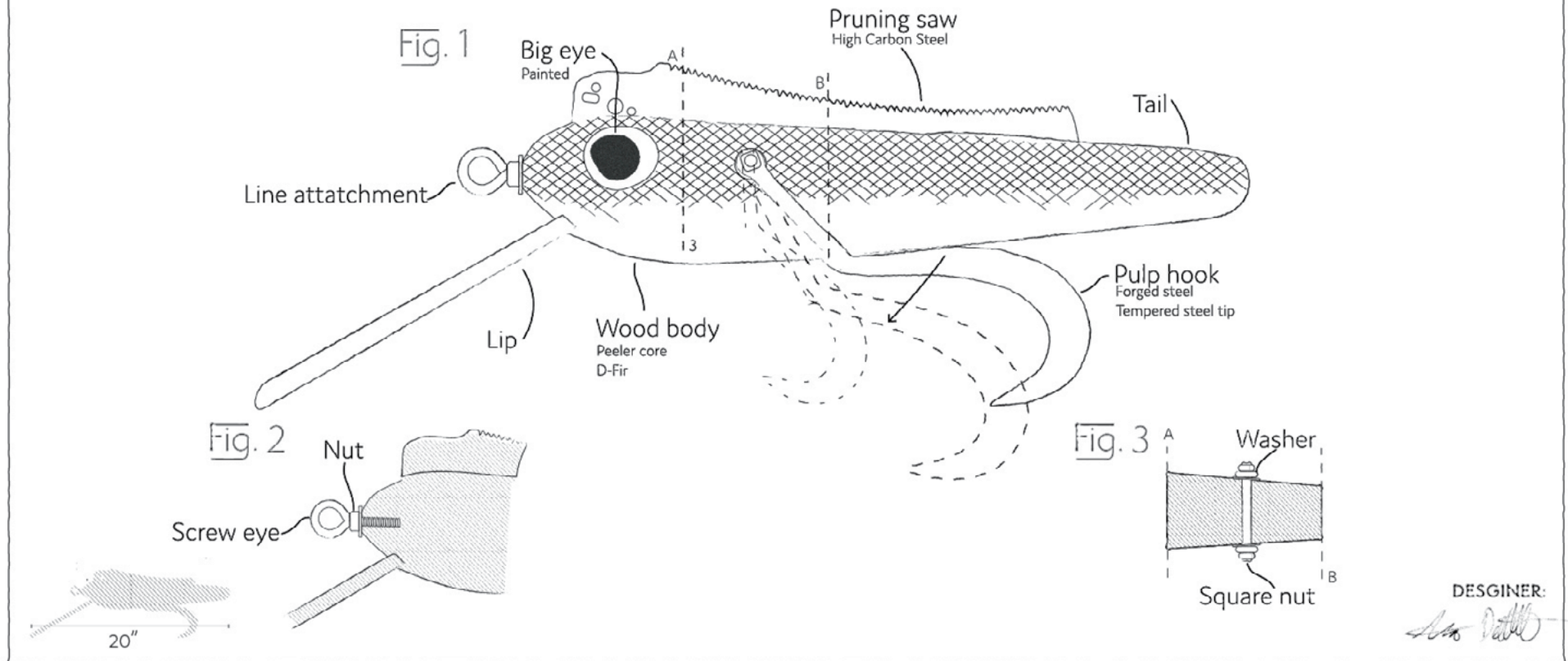
The Grib-L-Grab is sure to convince any estuary-inhabiter that a wood boring Gribble has let down its guard. The Gribble is a tasty wood boring isopod who plays a pivotal role in the mechanical decay of driftwood.



MADE:06/2023

# ARBOREAL ANGLERS SKULLDUGGERING SKIPJACK

AAC: 43-124.16



## Arboreal Anglers: Anatomy

The Arboreal Anglers use different materials and building techniques to tie the story of river ecology and logging together.

### Body

The bodies of the anglers are made from peeler cores, a bi-product from the Moman Lumber Mill in Drain, Oregon. Each body was carefully shaped into forms derived from vernacular wooden lures.

### Hardware

Oversized lures require oversized hardware. The anglers use tools and materials from old logging camps such as pulp hooks, saws, and drag hooks.

## Hardware Continued

The hardware is painstakingly installed into each angler to create a seamless connection between body and metal.

### Dress

Not all anglers have dressing, nor should they. Dressing is often used to represent tails, cilia, or setae. The dressing uses feathers from different game species found in Oregon, such as pheasant or duck, with a few flourishments. The majority of the feathers are locally and ethically sourced from the turkey stomping grounds in local Eugene neighborhoods.



### *Dam Dillinger*

The Dam Dillinger was first produced in 1938 in commemoration of the Bonneville Dam, the first electric dam in Oregon. Dams not only obstruct water flow, but they also stop the transport of wood throughout aquatic environments.



### *Gyroscopic Grenadier*

The Gyroscopic Grenadier is a deep diving plug used to catch krakens and the like. These specimens can be found lurking around sunken wood, feasting on shrimp, crabs, and small fish.



### *Sinking Shipworm*

The Sunken Shipworm is the most feared marine organism of the wooden boat community. The aggressive shipworms eagerly bore into wood, promoting decomposition of driftwood, and sinking ships at sea.



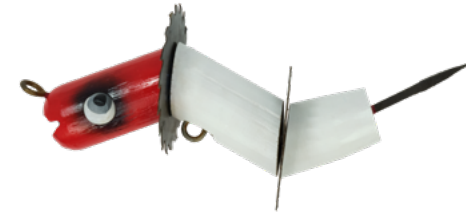
### *O'Boy Orca*

The O'Boy Orca was found on the wall of an old logging bar just north of Coos Bay. Orcas are apex predators; nothing would dare eat them. These 'wolves of the sea' primarily eat Chinook Salmon and krill, all of which follow floating driftwood for food.



### *Surfing Sally*

Surfing Sallys are reproductions of the tasty Oregon Ensatina, a predatory salamander found hunting for grub in decomposing wood. The ensatina spends most of its time under the protection of decomposing wood, only resurfacing on warm and rainy nights. It is on these nights that bass may opportunistically feed on these elusive salamanders.



### *Trusty Tricho*

The Trusty Tricho can be used to catch anything from rainbow trout fries to adult sculpin. The Trusty Tricho mirrors the tasty characteristics of the wood-scraping *trichoptera*.



### *Cascade Croaker*

The cascade frog usually hides from predators using wood, so when a fish sees the Cascade Croaker, it is unable to resist this delectable delicacy. Anglers are encouraged to use this lure as a substitute for the real cascade frog, an amphibian that is currently under review to be listed in the Endangered Species Act.



### *Dancing Gandy*

The Dancing Gandy is a one-of-a-kind lure. As the transcontinental railway finally reached Oregon in 1880, logging railroads quickly spread throughout the old-growth forests. Rail allowed entire camps of loggers to travel to previously isolated areas. Originally produced with two shiny black eyes, Dancing Gandy had a rail spike driven through it in the form of an environmental protest.



### *Alibi Day Albacore*

We have all been there, you finally got your paycheck. It is burning a hole in your pocket so you decide today is the day you will tell the hooktender that you have a toothache that needs immediate attention from the dentist in town. You go to town, straight to the bait and tackle shop to get supplies for a full day of fishing. The Alibi Day Albacore is a lure that promises to make your alibi day worthwhile.



### *Borden's Bubble Bomber*

Looking for an energizing injection of oxygen and turbulence in a stagnant, eutrophic fishing pool? Look no further than Borden's Bubble Bomber! Good for use in logged zones with no woody debris to absorb and slow the flow of topsoil and nutrients into pristine forest fishing pools.



### *Coaxing Caddy*

The Coaxing Caddy is a favorite for growing salmon fry which need to be coaxed out from protective hiding places made by large wood. Use this lure in the deep pools made by jammed wood in streams.



### *Cutthroat Cutey*

The Cutthroat Cutey is a nimble lure for the swift rapids of the cold ripples of Oregon rivers and streams. The spinner blade and sawfin animate this lure in the fast-moving waters. Use this lure with a fluorocarbon line for ultimate success.



### *Lucky Lamprey*

Out of 40 different lamprey species in the world, Oregon is home to 11. One of these lampreys, the Lucky Lamprey has a heavy wedge head which is used by the expert fishers to clear the way for future casts. Lampreys rely on the geomorphological process that wood in rivers and estuaries facilitate.



### *Scary Planarian*

Yikes! A Scary Planarian, if you're a microscopic organism, you better watch out! This freshwater carnivore can be found clinging to rocks and wood. These worms are great snacks for fries in stream pools.



### *Frilly Fry*

The Frilly Fry has been carefully engineered to mimic trout fries, the juvenile form of a trout. For the best success, use the Frilly Fry in tranquil pools created by wood in streams.



### *Dreaded Dredger*

The Dreaded Dredger was found at the bottom of the Willamette River, stuck between a rock and a hard place.





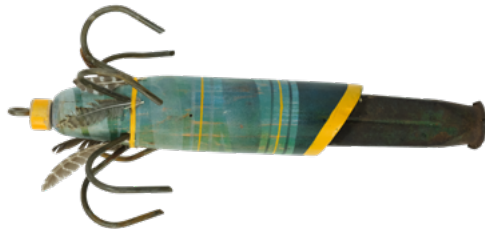
### *Whistle Punk Pete*

Everyone knows the plight of Old Whistle Punk Pete, who, despite his small stature, dreamed of being a hooktender. What is less known is that Whistle Punk Pete realized he had become a hooktender after all as he was hooking and fishing, and then gotta thinking. It was with this lure that he stated, “Holy cow-wow, if the crew could see me now, I am a hooktender after all.”



### *Haywire Herring*

The Haywire Herring will trick even the most sharp predator into thinking they have a live Pacific Herring in their sights. For best results, use the Haywire Herring in protected estuaries with hanging weights.



### *Sea Salad*

Need to catch a vegetarian sea critter? The Sea Salad’s impeccable patterns, gyroscopic weight, and frilly feathers closely resemble seaweed or algae anchored on adrift wood.



### *Bristled Baiter*

The Bristled Baiter should be used in the depths of the Pacific Ocean where Bristle Worms bore into sunken wood.



### *Mack-A-Tac*

The Mack-A-Tac is of the sea and krill variety. This irresistible lure is best used near floating driftwood where Pacific Mackerel are known for using the shadows of the wood to catch plankton. This lure is best for catching tuna, a predatory fish known to lurk around wood adrift at sea.



### *Skullduggering Skipjack*

Commercial fishers, looking for tasty skipjack tuna, know to cast their nets under adrift wood in the ocean.



### *All-In-One Amphipod*

Feathers, kinetic parts, hooks and sinkers, this Amphipod lure has it all. This heavy-weight champion needs to go deep down to the bottom of the sea where sunken wood provides food for *Hirondellea gigas*, a wood eating amphipod. These amphipods can catch a diverse range of deep sea predators.



### *Hungry Humdinger*

Small fry better watch out! Deep in the pools made by wood obstructing water flow lurks much larger and hungry fish. There is always a bigger one waiting for the next bite!



### *Sturgeon Strike*

For best luck, use the sturgeon strike in an estuarine habitat with extra sinkers to keep it the deep.



### *Dosorbo's Daily Double*

What's better than catching a fish? Catching a fish and getting paid for it! Dosorbo's Daily Double is an immaculate imitation of the Northern Pikeminnow, a fish whose populations benefit from the reservoirs and dams built throughout the West Coast. The pikeminnow's meal of choice is salmon smolts, only adding to the unfavorable conditions for the long-term success of our beloved salmon. The solution? A fish bounty funded by the Bonneville Dam of up to 10\$ per pikeminnow.



### *Captain Coho*

Captain Coho is an underutilized lure considering that the salmon is the most beloved fish of the PNW. Just be careful, Oregonians love to eat their salmon too! Keep this lure away from hungry onlookers.



### *Tempting Termite*

This mysterious lure was found in an old pile of sawdust in the remnants of Wendling Oregon, an old Booth-Kelly company town.



### *Daring Dofleini*

Are you looking to catch seals, sea otters, sharks? The Daring Dofleini is the lure for such a cast. This lure moves like and appears to be a Giant Pacific Octopus. Use this lure near sunken driftwood, where the Giant Pacific Octopus may be found hunting for prey.



### *Dewitts Dancing Diver*

Dewitt's Dancing Diver was made with exquisite craftsmanship. This lure has three segments to create lifelike movement. The layers of paint add beautiful patterns of scales and color. Dressed with dressing that a seasoned angler wishes they could finesse. Well done.



### *Shameless Shad*

This lure is one of the largest lures in the collection, and it's proud of it. The Shad was introduced in 1871, and it gladly took over the large rivers of the PNW in the millions.



### *Wobbly Redside*

The Redside Wobbly is named after its favorite user, the Wobblies, an endearing nickname for the timber workers in the International Workers of the World. This lure catches fish with ease, so after those hard-working days, and all that union busting, the workers knew they could rely on this lure for a consistent catch.



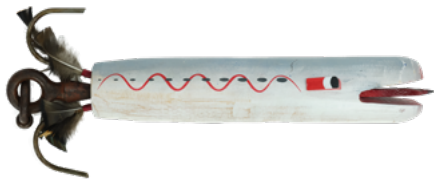
### *Channel Chatterer*

The most attractive lure ever cast, the Channel Chatterer looks like the tastiest catfish in the Pacific Northwest.



### *Notta Sucker*

Need something to blame whilst you're down on your luck? The large-scale sucker has been unfairly accused for attributing to the low trout and salmon stock by PNW anglers, creating consequences for these poor suckers!



### *Sharp-Tongue Chub*

Luckily the Sharp-Tongue Chub cannot talk, but if it could, it would surely be disappointed with the lack of natural chub habitat today. Chub prefer beaver ponds, backed up channels, and other slow moving flood waters to feed and breed. With dredging and channelization of riparian areas, the natural processes and habitat which the chub rely on are few and far between.



### *Magic Hex*

The deadliest lure ever cast. The Magic Hex is said to host an ancient curse. This imitation Mayfly has a reported a 100% success rate, however, those who use it cast their luck with the Swamp Auger, a fearsome critter that resembles a sunken log. The Swamp Auger uses its swivel proboscis to drill 3-inch holes into the bottom of fishers boats. If you use the Magic Hex, bring cayenne pepper and be ready to tickle the snout of a Swamp Auger!



MADE: 08/2023

# ARBOREAL ANGLERS

## Deep Diving Angler

AAC: 43-124.43

Fig. 1



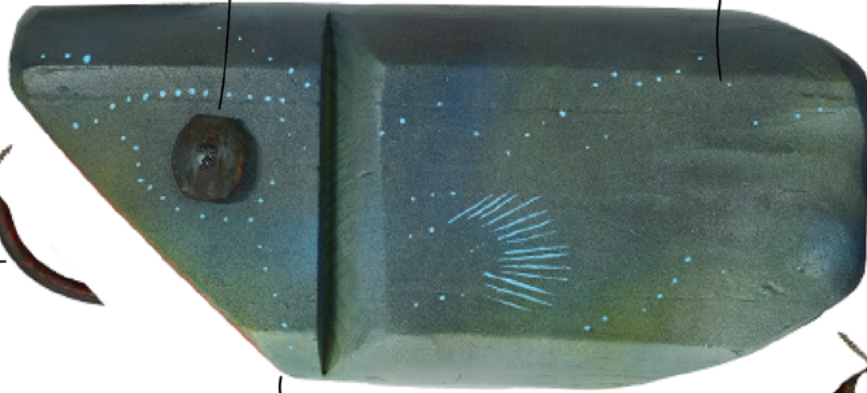
Lip  
Axe handle  
American Hickory



American hickory axe handle with a scroll end curved haft.

Big eye  
Railroad Spike

Paint  
Hand and spray paint



Tail  
Axe  
High Tempered Steel

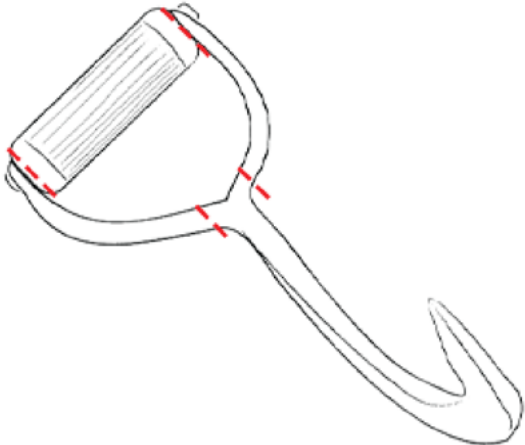
Line attachment  
Pulp hook handle



Wood body  
Peeler core  
D-Fir



Drag hook  
Forged steel  
Tempered steel tip



Pulp hook used for moving pulpwood, boltwood, and firewood.

Acrylic Paint  
Worn Wood  
Oxidized Steel



*Arboreal Angler's Installation Day*  
*October 14th, 2023*

On an overcast mid-October day, the Arboreal Angler Collection was installed at Green Island during the McKenzie River Land Trust's River Exploration Day, one of the few times a year that the conservation site is opened to the public. During this particular River Exploration Day, visitors could trek through Green Island to discover the Arboreal Angler Collection, an art-based interpretive installation on a large, timber fish rack, situated on the restored bank of the Willamette River. This installation contained 42 unique sculptures that explored different narratives relating to culture, science, policy, and ecology, all of which have played a significant role in impacting the Green Island site. Paired with this installation was a handy-dandy field guide to interpret the different sculptures and the Arboreal Angler team to answer any questions as well as engage with the visitors.

This installation site was a place for conversation and social cohesion that used Oregon's rich history of logging and fishing as a cultural bridge to reflect on land use and management as well as to consider how they impact the entirety of Oregon's river continuum. Sitting on the restored bank of the Willamette River, visitors could play an active role in imagining what these ecosystems could look like when we change the way we see large wood in the aquatic environment.

This project shows how artists and designers play a pivotal role in communicating science. This immersive installation interpreted research and shared it in a way to promote cultural cohesion around this environmental issue and to explore alternative techniques to engage with the public.





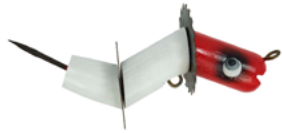
## Rivers and Lakes



*DeWitt's Dancing Diver*  
Minnow



*Coaxing Caddy*  
Caddisfly



*Trusty Tricho*  
Caddisfly



*Magic Hex*  
Mayfly



*Scary Planaria*  
Flatworm



*Chrinomidae Charmer*  
Non-biting Midge



*Desoto's Daily Double*  
Pikeminnow



*Channel Chatterer*  
Channel Catfish



*Filly Fry*  
Salmon Fry



*Sturgeon Strike*  
White Sturgeon

## Andromonous



*Captain Coho*  
Coho Salmon



*Haywire Herring*  
Pacific Herring



*Whistle Punk Pete*  
Three-spine Fish



*Wobbly Redside*  
Redside Shiner



*Shameless Shad*  
American Shad



*Sharp-Tounged Chub*  
Oregon Chub



*Lucky Lamprey*  
Pacific Lamprey



*Notta Sucker*  
Coastal Sucker



*Cutthroat Cutey*  
Cutthroat Trout



*Sea Salad*  
Sea Lettuce

**Marine**



*Skulduggering Skipjack*  
Skipjack Tuna



*Alibi Day Albacore*  
Albacore Tuna



*Deep-Diving Angler*  
Angler Fish



*Sinking Shipworm*  
Shipworm



*All-In-One Amphipod*  
Mariana Amphipod



*Mack-A-Tack*  
Pacific Mackerel



*Bristle Baiter*  
Bristle Worm



*Daring Dofleini*  
Giant Pacific Octopus



*O'Boy Orca*  
Orca



*Gyroscopic Grenadier*  
Pacific Grenadier

**Terrestrial**



*Tempting Termite*  
Dampwood Termite



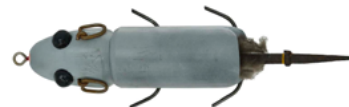
*Cascade Croaker*  
Cascade Frog



*Pecker Wrecker*  
Pileated Woodpecker



*Surfing Sally*  
Oregon Ensatina



*Remarkable Woodrat*  
Bushy-tailed Wood Rat

**Commemorative**



*Powder Polywog*  
TNT Log Jams



*Dreaded Dredger*  
Dredging Riverbeds



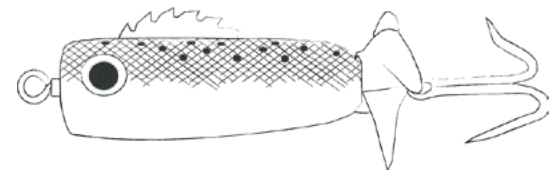
*Dam Dillinger*  
Bonneville Dam



*Borden's Bubble Bomber*  
USAF



*Dancing Gandy*  
Transcontinental RR 1880





## **HJ Andrews Experimental Forest**

The HJ Andrews Experimental Forest is a world renowned center for research and education about the ecology and management of forests and streams. Located about 50 miles (80 km) east of Eugene, Oregon, the Andrews Experimental Forest lies in the Blue River Ranger District of the Willamette National Forest. Established in 1948, the Experimental Forest is administered cooperatively by the USDA Forest Service's Pacific Northwest Research Station, Oregon State University, and the Willamette National Forest. Funding for the research and education programs comes from the National Science Foundation (NSF), USDA Forest Service, NASA, Oregon State University, U.S. Geological Survey, and other sources. In 1976, the Experimental Forest was designated a Biosphere Reserve as part of the United Nations' Man and the Biosphere Program, and in 1980, the Experimental Forest became a charter member of the NSF's Long-Term Ecological Research (LTER) Program, which by 2003 had grown to 22 sites around the nation and 2 in Antarctica.



<https://andrewsforest.oregonstate.edu/>

## **The Fuller Initiative for Productive Landscapes**

The Fuller Initiative for Productive Landscapes (FIPL) at the University of Oregon is an internationally recognized center for research-based design and design as research, focused on the role of place in cultural sustainability, and grounded in the arts and humanities. Guided by a team of scholars, students use fieldwork and art methods to investigate the ongoing stewardship of landscapes and culture in Oregon and beyond.



<https://fuller.uoregon.edu/>

## **The McKenzie River Trust**

The McKenzie River Trust is a nonprofit land trust based in Eugene, Oregon. Our mission is to help people protect and care for the lands and rivers they cherish in western Oregon. Since 1989, we've acquired property and voluntary conservation easements to protect over 8,000 acres of clean, free-flowing rivers, plentiful salmon runs, and vibrant farms and forests that provide livelihoods and habitat. We envision a future in which conservation lands are at the core of community efforts to sustain clean water, abundant fish and wildlife, and diverse natural resource economies in western Oregon. Working with willing private landowners in eight different watersheds from the Cascade Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.



<https://mckenzieriver.org/>

## **Ian Escher Vierck**

Ian is a forestry student turned interdisciplinary creative thinker and maker. He received a Bachelors' of Community and Urban Forestry through the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point and a Masters' of Landscape Architecture at the University of Oregon. Ian utilizes a wide variety of mediums and materials to explore ways to use his creativity to foster environmental education and landscape stewardship within the community. When Ian is not in class or the studio, he can be found practicing his horticultural skills on trees or further refining his digital and physical medium skills for creative professional practice. Ian is currently a Studio Fellow at the Fuller Initiative for Productive Landscapes where he collaborates with other creatives and scientists on various projects.



<https://ianeschervierck.com/>

