



# SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 18 Issue 1

January 2018

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President Wayne welcomes SSFF members and families sets the plan for 2018.

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Read about Jim McAllister 's January club outing.

## The Leader's Line

By President Wayne Dixon Sr.



### Greetings,

I first want to say Happy New Year to all our SSFF Members and their families. We have had a very successful year in 2017 with some great programs and activities that I hope you enjoyed and had a chance to participate in. Our board works hard to ensure that each member has a positive and rewarding experience. Special thanks to Past President Gene Rivers for the outstanding leadership and hard work he provided our club. I also want to thank you all for electing me as President for 2018 and assure you I accept the responsibility to serve all our members.

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We are a small club but growing in our membership thanks to the hard work of Randy Allen, Randy is looking for individuals to help at the meetings with membership and there are other positions available on the board as well. If you want to volunteer a little time each month to ensure the continued success and growth of our club please talk with someone on the board at the general meetings and we will ensure you have a place to help. We have a lot planned for 2018, educational classes, the auction, club presentations, fly swap and Potlucks, conservation projects, outings, and more. These events need volunteers to be successful. Please help us this year by inviting your friends to attend, enjoy and participate in our club events.

I want you to understand that I want to represent you and your ideas on how to make our club more successful so please feel free to call, email or talk to me anytime about your suggestions for improvement or things you wish to continue to see happening with our club. I am honored to be the President this year and look forward to meeting new friends who have pride in being a member of SSFF and want to participate in its continued success. I wish you all the best in 2018 and great year of fishing, fun, and friendships.

Peace,

Wayne

360 701-7423

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Photo by Howard Nanto

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## The January Club Program

### WDFW Enforcement Division



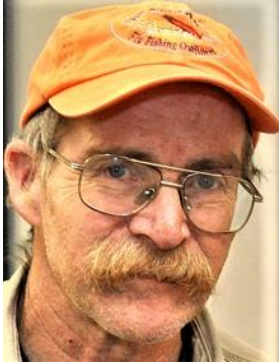
This Month's Featured speaker is:

**Becky McRoberts - WDFW Enforcement HQ**

The club program focuses on the Enforcement Division of the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Enforcement Program is charged with multi-faceted law enforcement duties across the State.

We all know that Washington State is relatively large, has a very diverse geography and provides habitat to thousands of species fish and wildlife. WDFW Police by state law and agreements with Federal, local and Tribal entities carries out its complex duties.

Come and learn how SSFF and similar organizations can work jointly with WDFW enforcement officers to protect and enhance our state's rich fish and wildlife heritage.



### Greetings and Happy New Year Fellow Fly fishers

Hope you all had a great holiday and that Santa stuffed your stockings with all the fly-fishing goodies you were hoping for. Now what you've dreamed of is a chance to use it all and I'm planning January's outing for **Munn Lake**, our own backyard *jewel* of a fishery.

Those new to the SSFF may not realize how long and how extensively the restoration team worked to re-establish Munn Lake. They transformed it from from Pautzke's lids and Power Bait jars strewn about, to a pristine, clean, and very *productive* fishery. Local residents praise this team, mostly SSFF members, who fought hard for enforcement of Catch and Release rules. Munn is quiet, beautiful, and very fishable. And, *it's in our backyard*, so to speak!

It's pretty, but, is it productive? In December Munn was stocked with about 200 18-inch cutthroat trout. Plans included replanting some big rainbows in January-February, whenever the weather appears most favorable. 20-inch fish are not uncommon. Look at some of our past outing pictures. These fish *are* in the lake, just waiting for *your* fly! Come to the January meeting, and talk with some of our Munn fishers who know the lake well.

#### **Munn Lake Gear:**

Rods - folks fish a variety of weights. 5-6 wt. should be good. (Bring whatever you have.) My recommendation is for a full sinking line, or intermediate sink-tip line. Fishers do better using sinking lines than floating lines.

Floatation - the surrounding private property makes it really tough to shore-fish Munn. Wading isn't practical. You'll need a pontoon boat, float-tube, inflatable kayak, or other floatation. Electric motors are permitted, but an internal combustion motor may not be attached to your fishing boat, even if it's not used. If floatation is a problem, *contact me* - I may have some options for you to fish Munn!

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## **Munn Lake Outing**

**Date:** Saturday, January 20th

**Meet-Up:** 9:00 am Munn Lake at the boat launch

**Bring your Discover Pass** to park in the lot!

**Directions:**

From the north starting from Yelm Hwy take Henderson Blvd south about 1.0 mile to 65<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. Turn left on 65<sup>th</sup> and go about 0.3 mile to the boat launch road.

From the south use Old Hwy 99 and turn right (north) on Henderson Blvd. Go about 1.2 miles to 65<sup>th</sup> Ave SE. Turn right on 65<sup>th</sup> and go about 0.3 mile to the boat launch road.

We'll discuss more about this great outing at the Club meeting Tuesday, January 16th. See you at the meeting, or at Munn Lake!

Tight lines,

*Jim*

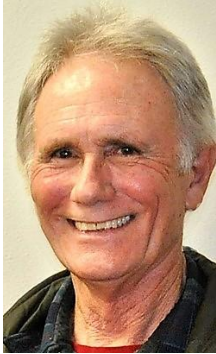


Munn Lake

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## THE SOAPBOX

BY Don Freeman Conservation and Political chair



Greetings South Sound Fly Fishers,

For my first edition of the New Year, I want to review the history of the club's conservation efforts, current emphasis and potential for future involvement. I'm hoping to hear from members regarding issues that interest or concern us and will show what our capabilities are as far as the scope of our budget and limited membership for future projects.

Several of our current members have years and even decades more experience in the club than I do, and may remember and bring up other accomplishments of the past that I'm unaware of, but here are some highlights, please forgive any omissions:

SSFF members were instrumental in halting the harvest of sea run cutthroat trout in Puget Sound. By the 1990's, due to ridiculously high daily harvest limits of these wild, anadromous trout in the salt water, populations appeared to be crashing. Though the Fish and Game Department had never tried to estimate the size of the population itself, their only response to diminishing harvest was to slowly reduce the daily limit. Nonetheless the population continued to plummet. In a watershed change, sports fishers pressured for a moratorium on harvest of sea runs, the over-consumption of which was a northwest tradition. The Fish and Game Commission and the agency followed popular demand and changed the regulation to catch and release with barbless hooks for *clarki clarki*. The result was a rebound of the population. Over the years since, SSFF members have provided signage for enforcing these protections, volunteered in surveying spawning success and contributed funds to allow the first DNA sampling of local cutthroat to begin the process of tracking and evaluating these under studied salmonids.

The club has also adopted Munn Lake in Tumwater. Around ten years ago, members worked with WDFW to convert this small, seasonal “put and take lake” into a true quality fishery located about two miles from I-5. Through cash donations, volunteer oversight and good example, the project has become famous among lake fishers and a fine example of public/government cooperation. From a conservation standpoint, anglers can enjoy a quality experience at this conveniently located suburban niche. I estimate that I can drive to Munn and launch all summer for the same amount of fuel spent to arrive once at similar quality waters like Leech or Cady Lakes.

Other efforts have included clean ups of local access points plus identifying worthy conservation and recreational angling organizations that deserve our financial support. These funds are raised by club activities including raffles, auctions and direct donations by our members. The reality of SSFF is that we are small recreational group in a region of modest incomes. Since we lack the numbers and monetary clout to undertake large enterprises ourselves, we work best in aligning ourselves with local efforts and contributing to our best limits. Review the organizations and agencies which the club supports currently (listed below) and see if the selections match your own choices. Let your board know your priorities, and whether we address them. I will continue to report what I’m working on but please let me know if there is an issue you want the club to explore.

Best regards,

*Don*

[donfreeman74@gmail.com](mailto:donfreeman74@gmail.com)

**SSFF in 2017 made donations to the following organizations::**

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy	\$1000
Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing	\$200
Casting for Recovery	\$200
Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (SEG)	\$300
South Sound SEG - Kennedy Creek Salmon Trail	\$100
McLane Creek TU Project	\$200
Coastal Cutthroat Fund	\$200
Munn Lake Stewardship Fund	\$725

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# Fundraising

By John Sabo Fundraising Chair



## Greetings,

### Save the date -SSFF Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction

Once every two years the club hosts The South Sound Fly Fishers' Family Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction in order to raise the funds needed for the club's conservation and service projects for the next two years.

The next SSFF Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction will be on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Black Lake Grange Hall, on Black Lake Boulevard, next to the fire station. The dinner will be at 6:00 and the auction will start at 7:00. It will be a live-only auction and all funds raised will go to the club's conservation and service projects.

The family pot-luck is always a success, with an abundance of hot-dishes, salads and desserts.

We already have several pledges for items like guided fishing trips, gourmet dinners and fun fishing activities. We hope to auction donations of "experiences and adventures" (fishing trips, gourmet dinners, etc.), and valuable items like rods, reels and gift cards, art, and fishing supplies. Here is a copy of the donation form and I will also have donation forms beginning at the January 2018 meeting. See me at the raffle table for your donation form.



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# South Sound Fly Fishers PROCUREMENT FORM

April 21, 2018

## Auction

Thank you for procuring an item for the auction! Please complete everything above the dotted line. Remember that the quality and quantity of detail you provide on this form will directly affect its sale at auction, so be thorough in your description. *If you have questions regarding how to fill out the form or what information to include, please contact John Sabo or Dave Field.*

**When you have completed this form, please email to:**

**John Sabo**

2933 Quince St. SE

Olympia, WA 98501

360-943-6853

chrisonquince@comcast.net

**OR**

**Dave Field**

2000 42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. SE

Olympia, WA 98501

360-352-0167

d\_w\_field@hotmail.com

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Procurer (You!):

Phone:

Email:

What is the item? (ONE ITEM PER FORM PLEASE!):

Below, please describe the item **in detail**. If fishing trip, please specify a date or the available time window, what you will provide and what the bidder must bring such as a floating device, waders, rod weight, fly-line type, flies, lunch/beverages, etc. Also please indicate fly fishing skill level (beginner, intermediate, advanced) if this is important to the success of the trip. If you are donating a physical auction item, please provide a full description such as size, type, model year and indicate if it is new or gently used.

ESTIMATED VALUE:

Please give or deliver physical items or gift certificates to John or Dave no later than Friday, March 30, 2018

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**FOR PROCESSING ONLY (DO NOT COMPLETE):**

Item received/stored at (location):

Item to be delivered on (date):

CONTROL NUMBER:

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**Club Raffle News**

Thank you, to all the club members who participate in the raffle at each meeting, and all the members who donate raffle items. Remember, we will continue to have interesting and useful raffle items at every meeting, so stop by before the meeting and get your tickets. We also have some empty fly boxes to fill for the raffle, please see me at the raffle table.

**SSFF Patches**

Official SSFF Patches are available at the Raffle Table for only \$5. These can be placed on a cap, shirt, jacket, or fly fishing vest to show your membership in the club.

Tight lines,

*John*

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## Membership

By Randy Allen



Jim Maus

Welcome, Jim Maus! We're glad to have Jim back with us. Jim is actively serving the fly fishing community at numerous levels. Starting at the SSFF club level we voted Jim as SSFF Treasurer for 2018. At a state level Jim serves the Washington State Council Fly Fishers International (FFI) as VP of Communications Jim also is Treasurer for the entire FFI organization. Jim, welcome back, and thanks for all you do to support fly fishing at so many levels.

Randy

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## Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



Applications are being accepted until April 15<sup>th</sup> for the 2018 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 24-30, 2018. 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.com](http://www.nwycffa.com). The application is available on the website or contact Mike Clancy @ [nwycffa@comcast.net](mailto: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.

*We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can always build our youth for the future.*

FDR



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## Around the Camp Fire with Gary Oberbillig



This story is about some of the fishing trips with John McKenzie, another longtime member of SSFF. Unfortunately, John passed away a few years ago, he left us much too early.

John and I met at a SSFF meeting in 1995. We had a mutual interest in creative fly tying. By creative I mean we liked to literally put new twists on old patterns by incorporating some of our creativity into well known fly patterns. When you've tied flies for as many years as we collectively had, you kind of get a sense as to what works and doesn't work.

John and I learned a lot about fly tying from each other. In a way we were like great jazz musicians in that listened to each other and played off each other and in the process came up some interesting variations on a theme.

As a young boy I learning to fly fish from my grandfather and I came to appreciate all kinds fish including bass and other warm water species. When I joined SSFF most of the members shunned bass and other warm water fish in favor of trout, so I became a bit of an outlier in the club. All this made no difference to John because he accepted all fishers and fly tiers no matter what kind of fish they targeted.



Walupt Lake

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For many years John and I fished together whenever the chance presented itself. We fished rivers and lakes all over the Northwest. Then one winter evening I was looking at the Washington Atlas and Gazetteer and called John with the idea we should try fishing Walupt Lake tucked in the northeast corner of Lewis County. John and I fished the streams and lakes of the Mr. Adams area and had passed signs for Walupt lake many times on the forest roads but never explored the lake. All I knew was that Walupt was a large ribbon lake at about the 4000 foot level.

So early that spring we made our first trip up to Walupt. Getting there was a bit of an adventure because the final couple of miles was still choked with ice and snow. Being undaunted fly fishers we just plowed and spun our way through the snow and ice with my Volkswagen van. When we finally reached camp the first thing we noticed was the lack of ice on the lake's surface. We had read that Walupt was relatively deep and it would take an unusually long and cold winter for it to ice over. The water was gin clear and numbingly cold and gin clear as we launched our float tubes in the beach area.. About the time we put in, we were joined by another hardy fly fisher out of the Moses Lake area. We recognized him immediately as a member of the Dryside Fly Fishers. We knew a few members of this club because SSFF had had many joint outings with the Drysiders in the Sun Lakes chain each spring.

John and I made a practice of tying on different lines and flies when we fished together. John used a full sinking line with a crawdad pattern and I tied on a Parachute Adams with my floater. After entering the water we worked our way along the western shore of the lake.

Having spent some time as a commercial fisherman, John always had keen eye for fish and sure enough he spotted a few at the base of some large rocks about two hundred yards from where we put in. It wasn't long before a fish came up from the bottom to grab my Adams. It was quite exciting to see a fish race some twenty feet up to the surface to aggressively take my Adams.

After a short battle I examined this fish in the net and found it to be a sixteen inch cutthroat with a large head and slender body. Typical of high mountain lakes, these fish tend to have big heads and skinny bodies. Other than being slightly underweight the fish appeared to be in good condition and its beautiful fins indicated it was a wild fish that had never known the confines of a hatchery pond.

A minute or two later a fish picked up John's crawdad pattern and did a few summersalts in the air before coming to his net. Over the next hour the cutthroat made it quite clear through the great number of their takes that crawdads were a big part of their winter diet. This was further amplified the next morning when my crawdad trap sitting at the lake bottom next to camp, was well loaded with these tasty little crustaceans.

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On our next trip to Walupt a few weeks later, we learned that dry flies such as the Parachute Adams, Comparaduns and Grey Wolfs in the mid teen sizes were more productive than the crawdad pattern. Although the fish fooled by John's crawdad seemed a bit bigger, they all tended to have big heads and torpedo shaped bodies.

In the evenings, we sat around the campfire discussing strategies for the next day. John took note of the size and color of the crawdads in my trap and created a new crawdad pattern that could fool even the oldest and wisest fish in the lake.

John was a wonderful mentor to many new comers to SSFF. With John gone, those newly arrived members fishing lost a great teacher. There are a number experienced members in SSFF available to mentor but even we experienced ones still miss John as a friend and a wise ghilly. Fortunately for the young folks we have the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy to help perpetuate the sport.

Sometimes when I'm day dreaming about fishing in the high country, I visualize John up at Walupt casting and retrieving his latest crawdad imitation.

Here is one of John's crawdad patterns that he often gave out to SSFF members at the Walupt Lake outings:

Hook: Mustad 9672 size 6

Weight: 14 wraps of lead, same diameter as hook.

Thread: Orange Kevlar

Body: Mixed orange and dark olive dyed hares ear dubbed with a dubbing loop

Rib: Small gold braid

Hackle: Pheasant flank feather

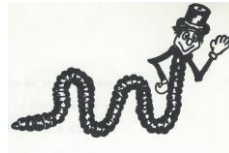
Wing: Same as hackle tied Matuka style, single feather on each side



## Club Bulletin Board

**Meeting Night Activities** The club's first meeting of the new year is January 16<sup>th</sup> 2018. Doors will be open at 6:00pm and Jim McAllister will use the club's camera and projector on the big screen to demonstrate how he ties some of his favorite patterns. Members gain by watching a demonstration by an experienced tier before club meetings.

**Please...Do not park in the Fire Station's emergency vehicle driveway during SSFF meetings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please use the parking areas behind the building. Support our first responders!**



**Willy says Thanks!**

**Help Coastal Cutthroat (Sea Run) Trout.** Volunteers are needed by WDFW Coastal Cutthroat Initiative. Learn about these iconic fish as you work to help further their recovery. Call Bill Young at 360-426-8416. Leave a message if Bill is out doing a survey on a stream.



## Fly of the Month

### **BALANCED STREAMER**



Published by Bob Bates

Federation of Fly Fishers - Washington Council

[Click Here to Download PDF version](#)

#### OPENING COMMENTS

Fly patterns that hang horizontally in the water have become a staple in my part of the world. This includes Washington to North Dakota in the United States and British Columbia to Manitoba in Canada. The Balanced Bead

Head pattern was developed before 2005 by Jerry McBride of Deer Lake, WA and published in the 2006 February Fly of the Month. Many times when successful lake anglers are asked "What-are-you-using?" The answer is "Balanced Leech", "Balanced Damsel", "Balanced etc." At the Liar's Club, a lunch gathering of fly anglers, fishing reports often contained "balanced" with some other description. They are so successful because the critters fish feed on, like damsels, leeches, etc., move in a horizontal fashion.

A new way of tying the balanced pattern was shown to us by Leon Buckles at the May 2013 meeting of the Inland Empire Fly Fishing Club. He learned about it from Bob Vanderwater in the Central Alberta Fly Tying Club, Canada. In many ways it is easier to tie than Jerry's technique so I asked Leon to get permission from the Central Alberta Fly Tying Club to put it in the Fly of the Month. Now May, June and July are bad times to get information from fishermen even with modern high speed e-mail because they are off fishing. Vanderwater's reply finally arrived in June.

The tying style came from Bob Morenski of the North Dakota (USA) gang. Morenski was not available because he spends most of the fly fishing season on Manitoba lakes. Morenski published it on the website, <http://www.flippr.ca/bob/TYGerLeader.pdf>, and Vanderwater felt that Morenski would be pleased if it was also published in Fly of the Month. So here it is.

This tying style gives you three options for fishing. It can be suspended from a strike indicator like any other balanced pattern (see 2006 February FOM for fishing details). It can be tied to a leader and retrieved like a traditional leach or nymph. If you want to have a second fly it can be attached to the bottom “eye”.

Leon Buckles tied his version of the pattern at his home in Spokane, WA.

#### MATERIALS LIST

**Hook:** Tiemco 5263or Mustad 9672 size 8 3XL

**Bead:** 5/32-inch, tungsten, different color bead depending on color of fly

**Thread:** UNI-Thread, 6/0 black

**Wire “eyes”:** Rio, Wire Bite, 30-pound

**Tail:** Marabou, usually black, but can be olive

**Rib:** Krystal flash, purple

**Body:** Any dubbing may be used, but Leon prefers Ice Dub, black, peacock, golden and olive colors.

## TYING STEPS



### STEP 1

Smash barb and thread on bead with small hole toward eye. Start thread anyplace and wind back and forth to make a corrugated underbody. Stop the thread about the width of the bead behind the bead.



### STEP 2

Cut off a piece of Wire Bite with side cutters. Attach it to shank on tier's side. Leave space at back so you can fill it in with marabou tail. Fold wire back, secure lightly about two bead widths behind the bead and pull wire back so loop just touches the bead. Tie it down and clip off at same length as other leg secure both legs. (You may need to experiment a little to get a balance. Leon has tied so many that he puts things in the right places.)



### STEP 3

Pull up the wire loop with a finger nail, or as Leon does it with a bodkin. Treat it as a post and wrap thread around it.



### STEP 4

Turn the fly over. (A rotary vise is handy for this.) Put another wire loop on the bottom of the shank. Use the same technique as putting on the top loop. When Leon was demoing the pattern at our meeting he had preassembled the wire loops so he had neat U shaped wires. It looked neater, but the fish don't seem to care with lesser beauty. Everything is hidden by the body that comes next.



#### STEP 5

Make sure the wires are tied in tightly. Turn the fly up right, and wind the thread to the rear. Tie in a bunch of black marabou. He uses black most of the time but sometimes he uses olive marabou.



#### STEP 6

Tie on a piece of Purple Krystal flash. Use any dubbing you want. Leon likes Ice Dub: put a little dubbing wax on the thread, and touch the dubbing to the thread. Smash the dubbing down a little by rolling it between the thumb and first finger. Always roll dubbing in the same direction. Wrap the dubbed thread forward, crisscross around the wire loops and put plenty of dubbing between the loops and the bead to keep the bead from sliding back.



### STEP 7

Counter wind the rib and tie off behind the bead. Whip finish, trim thread and put a little head cement on the thread winds with a small tooth pick or bodkin. You can check the balance of the fly by hooking a dubbing twister or threading leader material through the top loop. Minor adjustments in balance can be made by bending the loop back or forth. If it is way out of balance, on the next fly move the Step 2 tie in point as needed.

### CLOSING COMMENTS

There has been some discussion about the hook point being up or down. Morenski's article has it up. This is an easy pattern to tie, so tie a bunch for fishing on your lakes or ponds. Use different colors of dubbing and beads. Leon tries to make the fly hang as horizontal as possible. However he has caught fish with flies that were as much as 30 degrees off horizontal. People have asked him if the wires slip out. He has not had a wire slip even with some very big fish. Keep the thread tight when you are securing the wires. Some people have experimented with monofilament loops. The jury is still out on that.

**Thank you FFI for sharing the pattern with SSFF**



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS - 2018

Officers, Directors, Chairs and General Information

President: Wayne Dixon Sr. [wkdixon@gmail.com](mailto:wkdixon@gmail.com)

Vice President: Randy Allen [randyandcarol2@gmail.com](mailto:randyandcarol2@gmail.com)

Secretary: Mark Brownell [brownellmi@outlook.com](mailto:brownellmi@outlook.com)

Treasurer: Jim Maus [jimmaus@comcast.net](mailto:jimmaus@comcast.net)

Past President: Gene Rivers [acu4pets@hotmail.com](mailto:acu4pets@hotmail.com)

Director at Large: Ben Dennis [flyrodbranch@comcast.net](mailto:flyrodbranch@comcast.net)

Conservation: Don Freeman [donfreeman74@gmail.com](mailto:donfreeman74@gmail.com)

Education: Max Doerge [mdoerge@live.com](mailto:mdoerge@live.com)

Fundraising: John Sabo [chrisonquince@comcast.net](mailto:chrisonquince@comcast.net)

Membership: Vacant (Randy Allen Acting) [randyandcarol2@gmail.com](mailto:randyandcarol2@gmail.com)

Outings: Jim McAllister [Jimspackmule@msn.com](mailto:Jimspackmule@msn.com)

Web-Master: Jordan Larsen [larsenoutdoorproductions@gmail.com](mailto:larsenoutdoorproductions@gmail.com)

WSCFFF Representative: Mike Clancy [mtclancy@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy@comcast.net)

Programs: (vacant)

The Garden Hackle Newsletter: Dave Field [d\\_w\\_field@hotmail.com](mailto:d_w_field@hotmail.com)

**WEB SITE:** [www.southsoundflyfishers.org](http://www.southsoundflyfishers.org)

**US Mail Address:** SSFF, PO BOX 2792, Olympia, WA 98507

**Club Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month except December. Doors open at 5:30PM with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:00 pm. All regularly scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station, 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA. February 11, 2018 will be the deadline for the next issue of the Garden Hackle.**