



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

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The Leaders Line

By President Gene Rivers



Greetings to All SSFF Members

Daylight savings time is here. The days are slowly getting warmer. Things have been wet, but fish are being caught by those that have been fishing despite the weather. The promise of better weather and better fishing is exciting.

Our March Program is David Dietrich of Adventure Angling. He will speak on Saltwater Tactics for Searun Cutthroat. I frequently hear members ask how they can learn to catch our Coastal Cutthroat. Our March Program is an opportunity to learn from an expert. Thank you to Don Freeman for arranging another great program. I hope you are as excited as I am about this March presentation.

On Saturday March 25th SSFF has another fun and practical activity scheduled at the North Olympia (Boston Harbor) Fire Station where we hold our monthly meetings. There will be a presentation about bugs for the fly fisherman. This will be practical entomology as it applies to your actual fishing experience. Our club Secretary, Wayne Dixon will have two sessions, each about an hour or so. Board members Randy Allen and Ben Dennis will lead a section on casting instruction and some casting games. Who wouldn't like to learn how to improve their casting? This is your opportunity. Jim McAllister will be heading up a Fly Swap and Fly Tying Instruction portion of the session. More details at our club meeting and elsewhere in this newsletter. The event will run from 9am to 2pm. Keep in mind that you can come for an hour or stay for the entire day. Food will be pot luck, bring your own eating utensils. There will be more details at the March meeting and elsewhere in this edition of the Garden Hackle. It should be fun. Plan to attend.

Dues are due. If you haven't renewed for 2017 be sure to do so at the March meeting. I hope to see you there and also hope you can attend the March 25th club activity at the Fire Station.

Tight lines,

Gene



Gene Rivers with a Big One

David Dietrich Of Adventure Angling

Our program for March is Saltwater Tactics for Sea Run Coastal Cutthroat. Captain David Dietrich of Adventure Angling in Tacoma will share his knowledge of where, when and how to improve your success fishing for our local native trout. Dave has been a fishing professional for many years and guides for SRC including in our own locality, Marine Area 13, so his advice is especially valid for us here in the South Sound around Olympia. This fishery is dear to our hearts due to its unique aspects as an anadromous trout that exists in a highly populous area, the fact it's a wild population in our backyard, and has been a key focus of our club for decades, both as a target species for recreation and from our commitment to its protection.

Don



Outings Report

Upcoming events

By Jim McAllister, Outings Chair



The wet, cold winter continues. Hey! You wanna go fishing? Lemme know how it was!

Our *alternative outing* Saturday March 25th is from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. It will be a pot-luck, fly tie/swap, entomology, and casting session. This is our “mini-Ellensburg” to get folks together, swap tips with one another, and socialize. I am working with three enthusiastic fly fishers -- Randy Allen, Wayne Dixon, and Ben Dennis for the activities. Here are the details:

SSFF Potluck, Fly Tying/Swap, Entomology and Casting Session

We'll meet at the Fire Station in our regular meeting room. Fly tying will be inside, casting will be on the lawn behind the building. There will be stations around the room for Fly Tying and Entomology sessions.

Entomology session times: 9:00 - 10:30 & 11:00 - 12:30

Please sign up for either entomology session today by sending an email to Wayne Dixon at wkdixon@gmail.com. Wayne is a well-qualified instructor, and he needs to know his audience size. So please, register in advance!

Know Your Bugs - 101 A lesson in entomology designed for the Fly Fisher; not the Biologist!

After this lesson you will be able to:

- Properly collect bugs in the water that trout are likely eating
- Identify any insect on the river based on its order and stage
- Select a similar fly in your box that's suited for the presentation you wish to make



You've never tied a fly? Try it out! We'll help give you that first-hand experience with no commitment to purchase gear. We will have some extra gear to help you try simple tying techniques, and maybe leave with your first tied fly! You don't need to buy any equipment until later, after you've decided to start this aspect of the sport. (Discuss supplies and purchases with us first!)

This event does not replace a formal structured tying class, which the Club is hoping to have later in the year.

Casting sessions will be on the back lawn - the time is flexible, no need to sign up for these sessions.

The pot-luck will start about 12:30pm. Bring a hot dish, salad, or dessert to share plus a soft drink and your own table service.

We'll have more for you on this event at the regular club March meeting.

Tight lines & thread, *Jim, Randy, Wayne and Ben*

2017 ALAN HARGER AWARD



Don Freeman

The Board of Directors of the South Sound Fly Fishers recognized Don Freeman for his sustained, superior service to the SSFF and its Board for the period 1997 to 2014. Don has been a board member, an energetic supporter and an example of service and dedication to us all. In addition to his service as club President, and even doubling his duties at times by holding more than one Board position at a time, Don has been counselor, advocate, champion, and a voice of reason and experience on countless issues before the Board. His steadfast and valued guidance has been and continues to be essential to the success of the Club. He represents the finest traditions of service to his fellows and is an example to be emulated by our general members and by Board members who succeed him.

In recognition and acknowledgement of the standards of devotion and service exemplified by the late Al Harger, this award for service was presented to Don Freeman by the SSFF Board of Directors on February 21, 2017.

Another Opportunity to Support the SSFF Alan Harger Fund



By John Sabo

Fundraising Chair

The club has received some generous donations of fly fishing gear and equipment, with the stipulation that the items only be used to generate monetary donations to the club's Alan Harger Fund. Alan was a long-time supporter of the club and fly fishing in the South Sound. Al's will established the Alan Harger Fund, to support the NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. Since that time, the Club has maintained the Fund, which makes annual donations to the Academy.



The donated fly fishing gear will be on a table at the rear of the room at the next meeting, March 21st. All funds raised will be deposited in the Al Harger Fund, for the benefit of the Academy. Stop by the table before the meeting or at the break (items will not be available after the meeting), and find just the things you need for the next fly fishing season.

Club Raffle News

The monthly meeting raffle had a \$100 "profit" for the first two months of the year, which was placed in the club's operating account. Thank you, to all the club members who participate in the raffle at each meeting, and all the members who donate raffle items. All the club's "student" fly rod sets have been exchanged for cash donations to the club, and the board is going to put the proceeds toward a projector of our own, for the use of our program presenters, at our meetings, because we can't depend on the Fire Station's projector to work all the time. Remember, we will continue to have interesting and useful raffle items at every meeting, so stop by before the meeting and get your tickets.

John

THE SOAPBOX



March Report

Conservation and Political chair Don Freeman

Greetings fellow South Sound Fly Fishers,

This is to remind everyone that your current fishing and hunting licenses expire the end of this month. You can renew by going on line to: wdfw.wa.gov and clicking Licenses and Permits in the blue task bar. Online Sales is the first choice. It's helpful to have your old license in front of you for the process. You can also renew at many commercial outlets. If you have a steelhead, salmon, halibut or sturgeon catch card, you mail those to WDFW, 600 Capitol Way, Olympia WA 98501-1091. These are due by April 30th.

Salmon seasons have not yet been scheduled, the co-managers are discussing the run forecasts and we can hope for better agreements than we saw last year. (Please see the article below on this topic). What we do know is that prospects are not especially rosy. Coho, Chinook, Chum and Pink returns are all projected to be low. Poor ocean conditions and November floods in 2015 impacted Pink survival especially in the Puyallup and Nisqually, the forecast in Hood Canal is a little more promising.

This doesn't mean all opportunities are dismal for the spring, trout fishing remains a good prospect for next year, and favorable numbers of resident Coho are available in Area 13, which remains open years round. Coupled with reliable Sea Run Coastal Cutthroat, plenty of great fishing is available locally, so just use a lighter rod.

F.

Public can provide comments on salmon fisheries at a dozen meetings and online

State fishery managers have scheduled more than a dozen public meetings through mid-April including three in eastern Washington -as they continue to develop this year's salmon fishing seasons.

The public meetings are opportunities for anglers, commercial fishers and others interested in salmon to discuss regional and statewide fisheries issues with representatives from the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW).

A schedule of meetings is available on at this website:

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/northfalcon/>. This site also includes an online commenting tool, salmon forecasts and more information about the annual salmon season-setting process, known as North of Falcon.

In Washington, salmon are co-managed by the state and treaty tribes. Management activities include restoring fish habitat, working cooperatively on salmon production at hatcheries and setting salmon fishing seasons. As fisheries managers develop this year's salmon seasons, public participation is vital. Fisheries managers will continue to keep people informed throughout the negotiations. The overall goal is to ensure fishing resources are sustainable for future generations.

The annual process of setting salmon fishing seasons is held in conjunction with public meetings conducted by the Pacific Fishery Management Council (PFMC). The council is responsible for establishing fishing seasons in ocean water three to 200 miles off the Pacific coast. North of Falcon typically takes place in March and April.

The PFMC is expected to adopt final ocean fishing seasons and harvest levels at its April 7-11 meeting in Sacramento, Calif. The 2017 salmon fisheries package for Washington's inside waters is expected to be completed by the state and tribal co-managers during the PFMC's April meeting.

Fish and the Legislature

February 24th was fiscal cutoff in both the House and Senate. The fiscal cutoff is the last day bills can be voted out of fiscal committees in their respective chamber of origin.

The WDFW recreational immunity bill ([HB1464](#) / [SB 5384](#)) is moving through both chambers and is expected to pass out of the house of origin by the cutoff on March 8. This bill ensures that landowners who enter into a public access agreement with WDFW will not be liable for unintentional injuries to any users of their land.

WDFW request bills on recreational fishing and hunting fees ([HB 1647](#)), commercial fees ([HB 1597](#)), Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) ([HB 1428](#) / [SB 5466](#)) and Aquatic Invasive Species ([HB 1429](#) / [SB 5303](#)) did not move out of committee by the fiscal cutoff. However, they are still very much alive because these bills involve new revenue/funding and are considered potentially necessary to implement the budget. They are being worked heavily by the WDFW Director, agency staff and stakeholders.

There will likely be little bill movement on revenue/fee bills until near the end of session as the legislature is focused on solving school funding issues. Obviously there will be much more to report as the legislative session comes closer to an end.

Don



2017 NORTHWEST YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY



By **Mike Clancy**, Co-Director

Applications are now being accepted for the June 18-24, 2017 Academy. Up to 20 lucky boys and girls may attend the 2017 Academy at Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. The applicant must submit an essay, explaining why “*they*” would like to attend The Academy and a letter of recommendation is to be submitted by their school counselor or science teacher. Both items may be emailed to me. Enrollment fee is \$300, however; there are sponsorships available. So no applicant will be turned away because of funding. Again we are very fortunate to receive financial support from the fly fishing clubs, the TU chapters, individuals and corporate organizations. The event is supported by WSCIFFF and WCTU and the SSFF, PSFF & Olympia TU. The applications can be obtained by contacting me or go to our website and download the forms at www.nwycffa.com. We now have a Facebook page with loads of pictures from last year’s Academy. Just put in NW Youth and it will pop right up. If you have any questions, please contact me @ nwycffa@comcast.net. Phone: 253-278-0061. Looking forward to another great year - Mike Clancy, Co-Director, Jim Brosio, Co-Director & Tom VanGelder, Co-Director

Mike



REMEMBER... THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE FOR OUR SPORT OF FLY FISHING

Treasurer's Creel

By Dave Field



The 2016 club financial report and the 2017 budget are now audited and approved for distribution. Copies are available for members at the back table at the March club meeting.

2017 membership dues of \$40.00 are now due and can be paid at the membership table at club meetings. Please make checks payable to SSFF.

SSFF WEBSITE RESOURCES

BY GENE RIVERS

The South Sound Fly Fishers website has updates that some members may not be aware of on the **RESOURCES** link of our club website southsoundflyfishers.org. There are numerous links such as Stream Flows for Washington and Oregon, Tide Tables and Charts, State Area maps, Fish Passage Charts, Fish Stocking Reports, and Oregon, Washington and Idaho Fish and Game Information including fishing regulations. Our web master has worked hard to update these resources and his efforts have produced another benefit of club membership by having all these helpful links in one area.

There are also links to the *Washington Lakes* website, *Fly Anglers Online* website (which has many fly patterns) and *Angling British Columbia's* website. Links to *IFFF*, *PSFF* and *WSCFFF* websites also contain a great deal of information and many other useful links on their sites. If you have time, check out our SSFF Resources area. There is an amazing amount of useful information there to help you make that next fishing trip a success.



Fly Fishing Stories from Gary Oberbillig

Gary Oberbillig a long time member of SSFF, is a respected fly fisher, fly designer and tier. Gary is known in the Northwest for creating unique flies that are effective in all the Northwest states and Alaska. Probably one of his most famous flies appears in the book Guide to Fishing for Sea Run Cutthroat Trout by the well known salt water fly fisher and author Les Johnson. Gary has a reputation for producing creative flies using fly tying materials in unique and totally new ways.

For many years Gary joined a large group of Northwest fly fishers traveling to the Sea of Cortez in Baja California. Trips to this part of the world involve staying at seaside resorts complete with swimming pools, pool side bars, tiki torches and happy hours that begin way early and end late. It was mid-afternoon on one lovely day that Gary and his fishing partner and fellow club member Kevin Ryan left the dock with their assigned pangero (guide) and headed out on the turquoise sea with a bright sun overhead.

They set a course up the coastline and stopped after a mile to checkout some rocky out cropping's in the shallows. As Gary peered down in the gin clear water he noticed a school of Pargo very close to the rocks. He was surprised at how close to the surface the fish had come, as these big fish are typically found in much deeper water.

Out of curiosity Gary tied a Popper on his tippet and cast it over the large school. After several casts a large Pargo grabbed the Popper. After an intense battle punctuated by much shouting and wild boat handling in the shallow water, Gary was able to bring the large Pargo to net. Of course, all the commotion was enough to drive the school far out into the deep and ended any further encounters with these fish.

In the late afternoon the boats returned for dinner and the pangeros gathered on the dock as they always did to describe the varying degrees of success their boats had had that day. One by one the pangeros reported on the number fish hooked and the number successfully netted fish, all by species and fly used. Being in the tropics, a wide variety of species were caught and collectively the reports took some time. Gary and Kevin's pangeros strategically placed himself at the last reporting position. Finally when it was his turn the pangeros casually reported "Solo un Pargo" ... then in a dramatic fashion "por un Popper" which brought a huge cheer from the other pangeros.

That evening Gary and Kevin were the inspiration of many toasts from the Northwest fly fishers as happy hour stretched late into the night.



Club Bulletin Board

NOTICE TO SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS FLY TIERS



You are invited to come to the fire hall as early as 5:30pm and tie flies on club meeting nights. Fly tying tables will be set-up against the south wall of the meeting room (under the windows) where electrical power is available. Fly tiers are welcome to bring their tools and equipment and are encouraged to share their skills, knowledge and talents with other club members prior to the meeting.

All tiers are happy to talk about flies and demonstrate their skills at the tying bench. Come early and watch some of these wizards in action and of course it is always fun to discuss the most effective way to fish a fly they have created.

Club Dues for 2017 are due

Annual club dues are now due. Dues are \$40.00 for members. Dues for new members joining the club for the first time are \$45.00. The additional \$5.00 is to cover the cost of your name tag. Dues can be paid in cash or check at all club meetings. Look for the membership table at the back of the meeting room. Dues can also be sent to the club PO Box. The address is: SSFF, PO Box 2792, Olympia WA 98507. Please make your checks payable to "SSFF."

While at the membership table you'll be able verify your email address and phone number. This verification will ensure the you receive emails about the Garden Hackle, information about outings and other SSFF business.



More Club Bulletin Board



The new supply of beautifully embroidered club logo patches has arrived. John Sabo has them for sale at \$5 each at the back table.

Coastal Cutthroat Trout Volunteers Needed

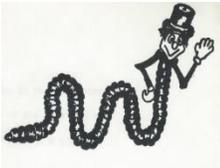
The WDFW Coastal Cutthroat trout initiative is looking for stream volunteers to count Redds in local streams. Call Bill Young 360-426-8416, if you are interested in volunteering to help further the scientific study of these fish in the South Sound.

Steelhead license plate available for purchase

Steelhead specialty plates are available for sale and revenue generated from plate sales will be used by the Washington Department Fish and Wildlife to help support activities critical to conserving populations of native steelhead.

The initial price of special wildlife-themed background plates ranges from \$54 to \$72 depending on the vehicle, in addition to the regular license fees. More information on how to purchase a steelhead license plate visit the Washington Department of Licensing website at <http://www.dol.wa.gov/vehicleregistration/specialdesign.html>

Remember--Please do not park in the Fire Station driveway during SSFF meetings. If the parking spaces are full in front of the fire Station please use the parking area behind the building. Willy worm says thank you for supporting our Medics and Firefighters!





South Sound Fly Fishers

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, CHAIRS & Meeting Information

President: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Vice President: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Past President: Don Freeman donfreeman74@gmail.com

Secretary: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com

Treasurer: David Field d_w_field@hotmail.com

Director at Large: Ben Dennis flyrodranch@comcast.net

Conservation: Don Freeman donfreeman74@gmail.com

Education: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com

Fundraising: John Sabo chrisonquince@comcast.net

Membership: [Vacant](#)

Outings: Jim McAllister jimspackmule@msn.com

Programs: Don Freeman donfreeman74@gmail.com

Webmaster Contact: d_w_field@hotmail.com

The Garden Hackle Newsletter: Dave Field d_w_field@hotmail.com

WEB SITE: 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 for fly tying, with 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.