



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 17 Issue 9

September 2017

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President Gene covers all the different club activities this fall.

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Jay Paulson is this month's program With a demonstration on tying dry flies and dry fly fishing!

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Don Freeman writes on net pens.

The Leader's Line

By President Gene Rivers



Greetings South Sound Fly Fishers,

September is here. It doesn't seem possible. Fall brings so many fishing opportunities that it is hard to decide where to fish. Club member Jay Paulson will be speaking about dry fly fishing at our September meeting. Jay fishes dry flies exclusively and is an educational resource that I highly recommend. He is the owner of Amazingflies.com and has developed the Titanic version of dry flies. I have been amazed at the effectiveness of these flies and the application of Jay's Titanic concept to almost every conceivable dry fly you can imagine. Don't miss this Program.



Prior to the meeting club member Mark Brownell will be demonstrating fly tying on the big screen at the front of the room. There will also be casting practice outside on the lawn behind the Fire Station. Plan to visit Mark's fly tying demonstration or get some casting instruction outside. The casting will continue prior to meetings as long as daylight and good weather continue.

Our August Club Picnic was a success. Thank you to club Outings Chair Jim McAllister for allowing the club to use the Scott Lake facilities again this year. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend because I was fishing in Montana. In October, I will do a presentation on my Montana trip. A couple of other club members who fish Montana will also be providing information about their fishing experiences in Montana. Hope to also see you at the October meeting to discuss some of the fishing opportunities outside of Washington.

Have you taken time to read some of the fascinating articles in our monthly Garden Hackle submitted by Gary Oberbillig. Gary has been a member of SSFF for many years and has taken the time to provide an interesting look back at the history of SSFF and some of his fishing trips. Dave Field has worked with Gary to provide these publications to us. Thank you Gary and Dave.

One other club activity that has been in the works is an Introduction to Fly Fishing class that will be offered by the Olympia Parks and Recreation Department this winter. The class will be taught by club members Randy Allen, Wayne Dixon, Ben Dennis and Dave Field. The class is planned for January-March quarter of 2018. This class would be a great gift for anyone you know that has wanted to learn how to fly fish.

Lastly, I wanted to remind members and the general public that the SSFF is again offering a fly tying class taught by Janet Schimpf. This class begins on Monday October 2 and runs for four consecutive Mondays. Time is short to sign up as the cutoff for signups is at the club general meeting on September 19th. There is a flyer in this month's newsletter with details.

Hope to see everybody on Sept. 19. Consider bringing a guest.

Gene

The September Program By Don Freeman Program Chair



The Limelight

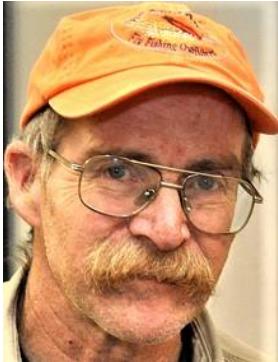
September 19th is your chance to learn why ‘It’s Better On Top’ with club member and professional tier Jay Paulson. Jay fishes topwater exclusively and will show how to tie and present his unique designs, including the Titanic which recently caught hordes of arctic char in Greenland at the hands of local anglers. You won’t want to miss this; presented on the big screen via the club’s new projector/camera technology.

Don



Outings

By Jim McAllister-Outings Chair



What a great Outing / Picnic we all enjoyed at Scott Lake last month. Thank you, everyone who participated. The food was delicious and abundant, the camaraderie and story-telling superb as usual. We even were privileged to enjoy John and Chris Sabo's 47th wedding anniversary with them! Congrats you two, and we wish you many, many more years of wedded, fly-fishing bliss!

September's outing...where to go? Despite all your best gained intel when you try to plan an outing for a few weeks out, there is always a little element of crap-shoot involved. The Satsop will have silvers, right? But wait - will the silvers be in the Satsop by our outing date?

The Nisqually has reported some fish, but will they still be there come our outing? And, how reliable was the Nisqually info? I tell you, partly it's a roll of the dice! Next month is decided; it's our annual October HoodSport trip. (I had to throw that "teaser" in.)

Back to September - I considered Summit Lake a couple of months ago. There were a lot of fish planted this year, and the lake was closed a while. Several times as I've driven past Summit Lake I've stopped to check it out. Maybe with the closure earlier this year folks just forgot about Summit, because I never saw anyone fishing when I stopped to look. Go figure?

Decision! Summit Lake in September! Warm water fishers should find success with the bass. Trout fishers should score some successes also. The odds seem good in our favor! Date: Saturday, September 23, the Saturday after our meeting.

Meet-Up: 8:00 am Haggen (Top Foods) parking lot. Haggen is on the Olympia west side at the intersection of Black Lake Blvd and Cooper Point Road. It's just off the 101 at the Black Lake off ramp. Let's meet in the front parking lot facing the entrance, but away from the store. A little roadway runs along the parking lot on that side. Park near the US mail box, and we'll be out of the way of the market traffic.

If you need a morning caffeine fix there's a Starbucks next to the Haggen parking lot adjacent a new Sonic Drive-In. There's also Mickey D's if you prefer their morning blends. Or go inside Haggen's to another Starbucks. And, gobs of good food for your fish-day snacks.

Summit Lake Gear: My recommendation is for a full- or intermediate-sink line. Those fishers using sink-tips have not had the success that the sinking-line fishers have enjoyed. We'll discuss more about the Summit Lake trip at the Club meeting Tuesday, September 19. See you for Summit Lake at Haggen's parking lot on September 23.

Tight Lines,

Jim

THE SOAPBOX

BY Don Freeman Conservation and Political chair



Greetings,

With all the press regarding the recent escapement of Atlantic salmon from commercial farm pens near Cypress Island in the San Juans, we thought it appropriate to provide a little oversight on the issue for members who aren't well acquainted with intensive salmon aquaculture. This was such big news that I was even reading about the event in Greenland as it unfolded, which begs the question of how dangerous are escaped non native fish to our native and local populations. And how safe are the farms overall?

Commercial and recreational fishers flocked to the scene to capture the escaped horde in order to... what? Prevent interbreeding, undue competition, disease transfer, crowding on spawning beds? Just what is the danger associated with escaped farm salmon to our region? I'll try to address each potential problem briefly. If the members want more in depth treatment of the issue, I will attempt to book Kwasi Addae from Fish and Wildlife to speak to the club in October.

For now, to quickly address the question of the actual urgency of recapturing these "invasive, non native" species, the real answer of why it's important is simply that you can't be too careful. Prior escapements of Atlantic salmon from pens in British Columbia have been even larger in number. The resulting problems have actually been minimal. Spawning activity has been recorded in at least three streams, but returns of adult fish to these areas have been practically nil. No outbreaks of infectious virus, excessive isopod parasitism (sea lice) or inbreeding has occurred. In fact attempts to cross breed Atlantic salmon with Pacific species are seldom successful even under laboratory conditions. These fish have failed to thrive in the Pacific region at all, so what is the problem?

In short, the potential for infection and competition with native species does exist, and due to the precarious state of some endangered local runs, prevention must be taken seriously. To date, there have been no serious impacts from prior escapes so the farming industry and WDFW state that little danger exists from these events. That doesn't mean there is no potential for adverse affects. Keep in mind that the company which owns the nets, Cooke Industries, also initially announced that the failure of the nets was due to the eclipse and that as many as 4,000 to 5000 fish might have escaped. We now know that the pens failed due to extreme age and lack of maintenance, and that "between recreational, commercial, and tribal fishers and Cooke's own recovery efforts, at least 165,104 Atlantic salmon had been reported captured by September 5." *WDFW press release of Sept 5, 2017. Therefore, it's pretty clear that some of what we hear is spun to whitewash the impact of these events. Intensive net pen farming of salmon is not a benign process.

Hundreds of thousands of domesticated salmon are incubated in hatcheries, and then grown within inshore ocean waters to marketable size. The fish are fed large pellets made of fish products that are often obtained by destructive trawling of bottom fish species. Many tons of less commercially valuable species are required to produce a much smaller result in terms of more desirable salmon fillets. As a side note, the feed the salmon are provided results in a pale white flesh that is less commercially acceptable, so the fish are finished with a ration that contains a dye that give the finished product a salmon like color. In theory, the effluents from these activities is carried away from the pens by the natural ocean currents, but consider the fecal waste and uneaten food that results from the huge numbers of animals contained in a small space and the potential for environmental degradation is pretty clear.

While so far, the farms in the US and Canada have been relatively clean, over intensive farming in Chile resulted in horrific outbreaks of viral, fungal and bacteriological epidemics. Local stocks of wild Pacific salmon were decimated by infestations of sea lice. Due to the crowded conditions in the nets, populations of these parasites exploded, resulting in contamination of wild smolt so intense that returns of wild runs suffered dramatically from smolt mortality.

All in all, in my personal opinion, there is likely no immediate dire threat to our local species from this particular event. It is however a warning note that more intensive oversight of salmon farming is appropriate. The pens that failed in this August escapement were past their useful wear cycle, the company was aware of the situation and ignored the threat, resulting in a preventable failure. That no catastrophic impact affected our environment is no excuse to gamble with similar problems in the future. The collapses in Chile illustrate the potential for negative impacts on the ecosystem from intensive salmon farming and must not be allowed to occur here. This comparatively harmless occurrence may turn out to be beneficial in raising public awareness of the issue with the result that additional oversight will insure that protecting our native runs is prioritized over corporate exploitation of our resources.

For more in depth reading on the subject:

Relevant links

Atlantic salmon are considered an aquatic invasive species

<http://wdfw.wa.gov/publications/pub.php?id=00922>

- Atlantic salmon catch reporting page:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/atlantic_salmon_catch.php
- Where Atlantic salmon are being caught:
http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/atlantic_catch_map.php
- How to catch Atlantic salmon fishing video: <https://youtu.be/4XtR-O26dLg>
- DNR webpage on Atlantic salmon: <http://www.dnr.wa.gov/atlanticsalmon>
- WDFW webpage on Atlantic salmon: <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/salmon/atlantic.html>

CHILE'S SALMON INDUSTRY USING RECORD LEVELS OF ANTIBIOTICS TO COMBAT ...

<https://www.ecowatch.com/chiles-salmon-industry-using-record-levels-of-antibiotics-to-combat-salmon-diseases-4467003711.html>

Jun 14, 2016 - "Even the best FARMS still pollute their waters with parasiticides, chemicals and fish feces. The CHILEAN FARMED SALMON industry uses over ..."

TOXIC 'RED TIDE' IN CHILE PROMPTS INVESTIGATION OF SALMON FARMING | WORLD ...

<https://www.theguardian.com> > World > Chile

May 17, 2016 - Algal bloom 'of biblical proportions' has led to protests and health emergency as concerns raised over dumping of rotting SALMON in ocean.

Don

Cypress Island Net Pens Before and After Failure



[Seattle Times Photo](#)



Fly Tying Class *

Signups are now open for an Intermediate Level Fly tying Class taught by Janet Schimpf, professional fly tier. Janet has taught a class for our club on numerous occasions and always does an outstanding job.

Class size is limited and will be open to the public. Anyone wishing to reserve a spot should mail your check made out to SSFF to PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507.

Payment can also be made at Club meetings, cash or check only, the club does not take credit cards. The only way to reserve a spot is with a prepaid reservation.

Cost is \$90 for SSFF members and \$100 for non club members.

Dates for the class are Monday Oct. 2, 9, 16 and 23, 2017. ***There are no Monday night Seahawks games on these nights.*** The classes will run from 6:30 to 8:30pm and will be held at the Olympia Community Center Room 102. The Community Center is located at 222 Columbia St. NW, Olympia, WA 98501.

Participants will need to provide their own fly tying tools but all materials for the flies that are taught in class will be provided by the instructor. **The Instructor limits the size of the class, so to assure a spot a paid reservation is highly recommended—don't wait.**

* Titanic Bass Fly tied by Jay Paulson Photo by Gene Rivers

South Sound Fly Fishers Fundraising



By John Sabo

Fundraising Chair

SSFF Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction

The South Sound Fly Fishers Board of Directors voted to have a Family Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction next year in 2018 at the Black Lake Grange Hall if possible. At the September meeting (Tuesday, September 19th) I will ask the members present at the meeting:

Do they want the Auction in the spring or fall?

At the Black Lake Grange Hall?

On a regular meeting night (third Tuesday) or Weekend?

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 including support of: South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

Casting for Recovery

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

Project Healing Waters at the American Lake Veterans Hospital

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Kennedy Creek

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

We hope to auction donations of "experiences and adventures" (fishing trips, dinners, etc.), and valuable items like rods, reels and gift cards, art, and fishing supplies. We are looking forward to evening of fun, fine food, friendship, fish stories, and entertainment as we generate funds to continue our club's important conservation and education programs.

John

Membership

by VP Randy Allen, Acting Membership Chair



Hello Fellow Fly Fishers:

As they say, “Well, it’s been a quiet week in Lake Wobegon,” and a little quiet also in the Membership department. But look in the mail bag- an application!

Bill Perconti will be welcomed in at the September meeting. I’ll get to know him then and gain some info for his intro article. Look for his photo and introduction in next month’s Hackle. When you see him at the meeting make him feel welcome!

I also heard from Jay Johnson. He was with us a few years back, then his work-life trumped everything else. Now he has time to enjoy fishing again. Hopefully he’ll also join us at the September meeting..

As always, introduce yourself to a new face and get to know that new member or guest. Help welcome them to the club. “Hi! Haven’t seen you here before-” is all it takes. Our best friends were all once strangers!

I’m looking forward to seeing you all at the September meeting.

Randy

Around the Campfire with Gary Oberbillig



(This is another story from fly fisher, fly tier, mariner, longtime SSFF and former board member Gary Oberbillig)

Alaska offers much to the fly fisher. This vast state provides almost unlimited fishing opportunities for anyone able to cast a fly.

It was the result of being the winning bidder at Olympia's Lincoln Elementary School auction that brought Gary to north country. Gary and his lovely wife Molly entered a bid for a stay at a cabin on the outskirts of Ketchikan Alaska.

Gary and his family packed up their vehicle and took an Alaska State Ferry from Bellingham for the two night journey to Ketchikan. They would stay a little better than a week in the cabin and mostly fish nearby Ward Lake. It was a relatively small lake but it had an inlet and outlet creek and the creek made its way to Ward Cove on the salt water of the Tongass Narrows. Gary's visit was in the summer when Coho, Sockeye, Pink, Chum, Coastal Cutthroat and an occasional Steelhead heading up the creek to spawn.

Gary typically used a nine foot, eight weight rod with a 9 foot furled leader followed by a three feet of 12 pound tippet. A variety of flies were used but Gary had the most success with a fly of his own design. The "Guinea and Gold Sea-Run Spider" was published in the book *Fly Fishing Coastal Cutthroat Trout* a classic written by Les Johnson. This fly was tied in sizes 6-10 although circle hooks were used and circle hooks do not translate easily into standard hook sizes. Circle hooks were used by Gary because the fish were often so thick they would be foul hooked if standard fly hooks were used.

Fishing Ward Lake involved wading to anywhere between the knees and waist and casting the fly out 30 to 70 feet. The retrieves varied depending on the fly. The most productive method was to either use a slow steady retrieve or use a series of short strips. The fish would eagerly take the fly and the struggle commenced with a lot aerobatics thrown in.

Most of the fish ranged from 4 to 8 pounds although a larger fish would occasionally take the fly and thoroughly test the strength of the eight-weight system.

Family and friends caught and released countless numbers of fish each day. Part of the fun was guessing what type of salmon had grabbed the fly or perhaps it was not a salmon at all.

They usually started in the early morning and by noon they were totally worn out and hungry. The afternoons were typically spent exploring the beautiful [Revillagigedo Island](#) and Ketchikan.

The days sped by quickly and all too soon the fishing trip was over. The group needed to head to the ferry landing for the return trip to Bellingham.

Surrounded by all the natural beauty and prodigious fly fishing, it is easy to see why Gary put an annual fishing trip to Ketchikan on his fishing calendar.



Ward Lake and Ward Cove

Ketchikan Alaska



Fly Fishers International Youth Camp

2017 FFi Youth Camp – Aug. 3 & 4 @ Livingston, MT.

We experienced one of the best youth camps this year at the Fly Fishing Fair in Livingston, MT. We had 14 wonderful boys and girls enrolled in this event. The instructors were tremendous with their subjects. I would like to thank the following instructors - Peter Maunsell, WSCFFI, Entomology; Peggy Brenner, Fly Tying Chair, Peggy was assisted by The Magic City Fly Fishers of Billings, MT.; Robert Gerlach, WSCFFI, CCI with casting instruction; Charley Renn for his knot tying class, plus much more; and Herbe Granke with his closing remarks. It was an absolutely amazing day, it couldn't have been better. Friday we fished at The Lagoon, it was all about fishing and more casting, catching was a different story. Was it hot - oh boy was it ever. Thank you everyone.

It is all about the kids!

Mike Clancy, FFI Youth Camp



Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



Academy Grads thank SSFF for support

Last month the club received thank you cards from young fly fishers that graduated from the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. At this year's academy, SSFF Club President Gene Rivers welcomed the class to the south sound and encouraged them to learn all they could about the environment and fly fishing during the weeklong learning program. Gene also gave complementary SSFF membership to all class members for 2017.

Here is a typical note from these young Academy Graduates:

Dear Members of South Sound Fly Fishers,

Thank you very much for the sponsorship to the Academy. I learned so much. For example, I learned how to tie flies.

Also, I have gotten a lot better at casting. I caught a total of five fish. It may not be a lot but had a great time catching each one.

The best part is that I met a lot of good people my age that also enjoy fly fishing.

Thank you again members of SSFF for sponsoring me and making it possible for me to have this experience and learn so much.

Anna S.

Our Youth are the guardians of the future for the sport of fly fishing



Club Bulletin Board

Meeting Night Activities Doors are open at 5:30 and club member Mark Brownell will use the club's new camera and projector on the big screen to demonstrate how he ties some of his favorite patterns. Mark is an excellent tier and you will gain some tips by watching his demonstration before the club meeting on September 19th.

Notice--For as long as we have good weather and daylight there will be casting on the back lawn of the fire station prior to club meetings. Bring your favorite rod or try a club rod and enjoy casting with club members. If you want to increase your range and consistency or just want to improve your overall caasting skill, experienced casters will be there to gladly help you.

Please...

**Do not park in the Fire Station's main driveway during SSFF meetings.
If parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full please use the
parking areas behind the building.**

Help Coastal Cutthroat (Sea Run) Trout. Coastal Cutthroat Trout volunteers are needed by the WDFW Coastal Cutthroat Trout Initiative. Learn about these icons of our coastal waters as you support the recovery of these beautiful fish.

Call Bill Young at 360-426-8416.

FLY OF THE MONTH

(September)

“Crackle Back”

Written and Photographed By: Kit Seaton

Creator: Ed Story

Tier: Ron Fisher

This pattern introduces Ron Fisher of Billings Montana. Ron is a long time fly tying instructor and active member of the magic City Fly fishers. I have for years surrounded myself with the most talented tiers around, but Ron holds the distinction of being the artisan who first taught me to tie. I met Ron in the late eighties when he was the instructor of my first fly tying class. Here it is some 25 years later and I am still inspired by Ron's creativity. If I was going to write a Fly of the Month column it only made sense to honor the instructor that got me started.

When I first approached Ron about tying for the article, he had all sorts of elaborate flies that he wanted demonstrate. Most of which were overwhelming for my first project. We discussed several options and settled on one that has become a regular fly in Ron's fly box. Today we will be introducing you to the “Crackle Back”. The Crackle Back is a very versatile fly that is a great attractor pattern that can be fished both as a nymph and a dry fly.

We do not see this fly that often in the west, but Ron tells me that it is a popular fly back east. The fly was created by Ed Story of Feather Craft and can still be seen in their logo today.

Materials

Hook - TMC 200R size 8 to 14

Thread - 8/0 Black

Shell Back - Peacock Herl

Body - Yellow or Light Green Floss

Hackle- Brown

Tying Steps



Step 1 Make a thread base from the eye to the bend of the hook.



Step 2 Select three or four strands of peacock herl and trim the tips. Tie the peacock down the length of the hook leaving the mass of the peacock hanging from the bend of the hook returning the thread back to the eye of the hook.



Step 3

Tie in the brown hackle by the butt end of the hackle at the bend of the hook leaving the mass of the feather hanging from the bend of the hook. The hackle should be dull side out. Return the tread to the eye of the hook.



Step 4 Tie the floss down the length of the hook leaving the mass of the floss hanging off the back and return the thread to the eye of the hook. Then wrap the floss forward and tie the floss down and trim.



Step 5 Pull the peacock forward over the top of the hook shank. Tie down the peacock and trim off the excess peacock.



Step 6 Palmer the hackle forward in even spaced wraps. When palmering the hackle, make the hackle fibers so they are cupped to the head of the fly. Tie off the hackle and trim off the extra. Build a head, whip finish, cut off thread, and apply head cement.

“Crackle Back” Closing Comments:

Ron says that when he fishes this as a nymph he has his best luck when he gives the fly a little action.

You can direct any questions or comments to FOTM at
flyofthemonth@fedflyfishers.org.

Please note: The demonstration you are viewing makes no claim, implied or otherwise, that the presenter or demonstrator of the fly pattern was the original creator of the fly. This is the guest tier's version of this fly and it may differ from the creator's or other versions and variations.

SSFF wishes to thank FFI for producing FOTM and sharing this pattern.

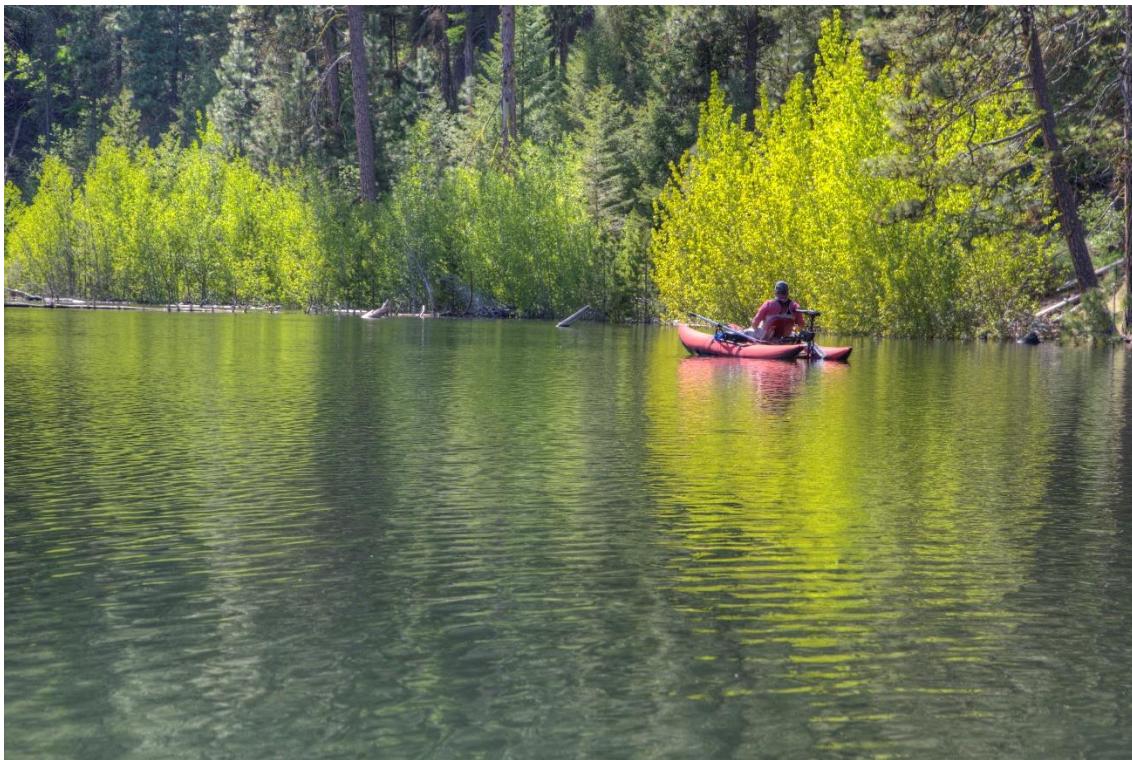


Photo by Howard Nanto



South Sound Fly Fishers

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, CHAIRS & Meeting Information

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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.