



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 17 Issue 12

December 2017

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President Gene's last article as club president. Discusses SSFF current and future events.

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President Elect Wayne tells why volunteering is important.

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Jim McAllister gives outing wrap up for the year.

The Leader's Line

By President Gene Rivers



Greetings South Sound Fly Fishers,

It's December but it doesn't seem possible. Where did the year go? The weather isn't typical Northwest December weather. Several local lakes have been planted with some nice fish for the Fall plant that WDFW provides each year at this time. Now is the time to go out for these if your schedule permits. Coastal cutthroat fishing has been consistently good this year. The resident Coho are also around so if saltwater is your thing it's a great time to fish. The local rivers are another story and conditions and fishing success change rapidly. Because conditions change rapidly our local fly shops are the best source of information on river fishing at this time of year.

The SSFF Board of Directors meets in December even though our club does not have a General meeting in December due to the Holidays. The Board has plans for another great year for SSFF. Our new President for 2018 is Wayne Dixon. As you probably know Wayne served as club Secretary in 2017. Randy Allen is continuing for another year as our Vice President. Randy was very active with club responsibilities in 2017 and will be a great asset in 2018. Jim Maus will be taking over as club Treasurer. He is relieving Dave Field who has served our club well for several years as Treasurer. Jim is also very active in Fly Fishers International. Dave is now in charge of putting out our monthly newsletter ***The Garden Hackle***. Our new Secretary for 2018 is Mark Brownell. You have seen Mark tying flies prior to our meetings and also on many of our 2017 outings. Welcome to the Board of Directors Mark. Committee chairs will be appointed by the President per club by-laws. Those appointments will be posted in the monthly newsletter.

The club has completed a professionally produced Movie Trailer which you will probably see at club meetings and other club activities. Our webmaster will post this on our club website and it will also be posted on our Facebook page. If you are on Facebook be sure to “like” us. That way you will receive notice of all club activities. Several club members will be teaching a class called “Introduction to Fly Fishing”. This will be offered through City of Olympia Parks and Recreation at the Olympia Senior Center in downtown Olympia. The class will run from March 5 through March 26, 2018. Details will be announced on our newsletter, Facebook page and through Olympia Park and Recreation. This class would be a great Christmas present for anyone you know considering learning how to fly fish.

Thank you everyone for electing me SSFF President for 2017. It has been an honor to serve SSFF. We accomplished a lot in 2017 but there is more to be done. 2018 will be a great year!

Happy Holidays and tight lines,

Gene



Photo by Gene River

Don Freeman

Program Chair



**Please remember the club has no meeting
in December.**

Seasons Greetings!



Photos by Howard Nanto





Why should I volunteer for my club?

According to Bureau of Labor statistics there has been a dramatic decline in adults who volunteer 1 hour per month for organizations. The research states many reasons for this to include the economy, financial struggles at home, limited time...etc. However, according to Psychologists there are good reasons why you shouldn't wait until you have extra time and money. There are numerous reasons why the returns far outweigh the time you invest, especially during lean times. I will point out a few.

1. **Volunteers live longer and are Healthier**

Volunteers are happier and healthier than non-volunteers. In fact, during later life, volunteering is even more beneficial for one's health than exercising and eating well. Older people who volunteer remain physically functional longer, have more robust psychological well-being, and live longer. However, older people who volunteer are almost always people who volunteered earlier in life. Health and longevity gains from volunteering come from establishing meaningful volunteer roles before you retire and continuing to volunteer once you arrive in your post-retirement years.

2. **Volunteering establishes strong relationships**

Despite all of the online connections that are available at our fingertips, people are lonelier now than ever before. Indeed, a 2010 AARP study reported that prevalence of loneliness is at an all-time high, with about one in three adults age 45 or older categorized as lonely. Online connections, while useful for maintaining existing relationships, are not very helpful in establishing lasting, new ones. Working alongside people who feel as strongly as you do about supporting a cause creates a path to developing strong relationships with others. It isn't just beneficial for making new friendships either. Volunteering alongside other members of your family strengthens family bonds based in "doing" your values. And these benefits have a ripple effect. Children who volunteer with their parents are more likely to become adults who volunteer.

3. **Volunteering is good for society.**

Many businesses, and almost all mission-driven organizations, are successful only if they maintain a strong volunteer workforce. In fact, places like museums, social service organizations, and faith-based organizations often rely on more volunteers than paid workers to meet their goals and fulfill their mission. These businesses are committed to doing good things for society. They pick up the pieces where government programs leave off, and by volunteering for these organizations, you participate in helping our society meet the needs of people from all walks of life, further more by influencing legislation to actively make positive changes that directly affect the natural resources we value and enjoy, we can protect them for our future generations.

4. **Volunteering gives you a sense of purpose.**

Although it is not well-understood why volunteering provides such a profound health benefit, a key factor is assumed to be that volunteering serves to express and facilitate opportunities to carry out one's sense of purpose. The very nature of volunteering means choosing to work without being paid for it. As a result, people choose to spend their time on issues they feel strongly about. There are many opportunities with regards to Fly Fishing and Conservation that need our attention.

South Sound Fly Fishers **needs volunteers** to move us forward, and help become a dynamic voice in our community. In the coming year, we have needs for certain positions on the board, and also lead members for the different organizations we are associated with. Here is a list of those positions we would like to fill by the 1st of the year, 2018.

Programs Director- will schedule programs based on club interest monthly and be present at board meetings-1 per month.

Membership Representative- will maintain comprehensive roster of all members and aid in welcoming new members at general meetings.

Healing Waters/ Casting for a Cure / Youth Conservation - Board Representative- will maintain contact with regional chapter representatives and keep the board informed of volunteer opportunities and needs as they arise.

As I step into the role of President of our club, I want to assure you all that my heart is to serve this club to the best of my ability, to help facilitate growth, and to represent our club as a dynamic club that is there to serve, enjoy our activities and to offer the community an opportunity to partake in the sport we all dearly love with educational programs. Fly Fishing has brought so much joy to my life as well as volunteering for organizations like ours. Please join us if you have an interest in being an active member in change. Also, I am open to all suggestions you have as the body. Please feel free to contact me either by phone or email.

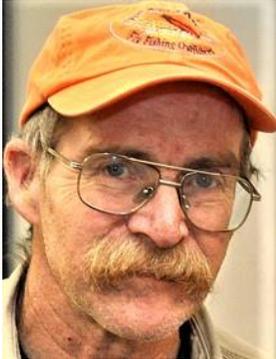
Thanks for letting me serve and keep mending those lines!

Wayne

wkdixon@gmail.com 360-701-7423

Outings

By Jim McAllister-Outings Chair



Greetings Fellow Fly fishers

With the holidays upon us and the “iffy-at-best” weather I’m not planning an outing for December. But, what a great year we had!

We started in March at the Fire Station with our first indoor “outing.” We tied and swapped flies, Wayne Dixon taught Entomology 101, and Ben Dennis led our casting workshop. Don’t forget the great pot-luck and all the great food and stories we shared.

[Our season fishing opener at McIntosh Lake was very productive.](#) The fish were biting at an all time best! Other lake outings included Scott, Long, and Nahwatzel.

We also hit the Satsop River this summer.

We closed our trips with a *banner* outing at Hoodsport for chum salmon. [Few folks have seen the chum jumping all over like we did! Congratulations to all of you who joined us and participated this year!](#)

Thanks to everyone for your great attendance and support. I really appreciate it; it makes me feel great about the activity level in our club! I’m looking forward to more of the same in 2018. Those of you who didn’t participate - I look forward to having you with us next season!

Until then, tight lines, everyone!

Jim



Greetings South Sound Fly Fishers,

I was intrigued by a message received today from the Coastal Conservation Association which encourages members to sign a petition favoring passage of a Federal bill in House and Senate named “The Modern Fish Act”. This act would change the current regulations that govern fishing practices in saltwater, effectively removing most catch limits on saltwater species. This bill would amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). This law aimed to rebuild fish stocks by extending U.S. jurisdiction to 200 nautical miles and by establishing national fisheries management standards.

The new bill, the Modern Fish Act (MFA), now moving through the House of Representatives could challenge current laws governing federal saltwater fisheries. Officially known as the [Modernizing Recreational Fisheries Management Act of 2017 \(HR 2023\)](#), the bill was introduced in April, and would deregulate recreational saltwater fishing to a large degree. While praised by some [sportsmen](#), [boating](#) and [outdoor organizations](#), it has also drawn strong opposition by conservationists and some commercial and charter fishing operators.

“The Modern Fish Act inserts too much uncertainty into the fisheries management process by adversely changing catch limits and how they are applied, muddies the waters between state and federal management, and allows political and economic considerations to override science in management decisions,” says the [Marine Fisheries Conservation Network](#), a non-governmental organization.

To date, no one knows how the MFA, if implemented, would impact U.S. fish stocks, or how it might affect the fisheries of neighbors Mexico and Canada.

Typically, the promotional messages promise that the bill will do away with onerous federal regulations that restrict the rights of anglers and businesses. The bill’s backers maintain that the original legislation was written solely to benefit commercial interests, but this is not true.

The relaxation of limits

Today, [annual catch limits](#) (ACLs) are the main tool used to prevent overfishing in both commercial and recreational U.S. fisheries, and those limits ensure long-term biological and economic sustainability. An ACL is the amount of fish that can be caught by a particular fisherman over one year. These limits are determined by fishery scientists together with federal managers who, using current research, fix the maximum amount of fish that can be caught without harming stock.

However, under the proposed Modern Fish Act, a loophole would be introduced: annual recreational catch limits would no longer be required for stocks whose fishing rates were being maintained below their federal target, and ACLs would be removed for fisheries in which overfishing is not occurring.

“We’re in a chicken-and-egg problem here,” says Meredith Moore, director of the conservation program at Ocean Conservancy. Fisheries management, she explains, is essentially like weight loss. If you’re obese, you need to change your diet and exercise. But if after your weight comes down, you simply go back to old habits, the weight comes back. Same goes for fish: if a population is at an unhealthy low level, authorities must set limits on how many fish can be caught until populations recover. Then ongoing sustainable catch levels need to be set so the fish population stays healthy.

“If you stop setting those levels just because the fish are doing better, you’re going to end up back where you were [with a depleted fishery]. The Modern Fish Act is basically saying ‘hey, the diet worked, problem solved, let’s go back to eating pizza every day’.”

But American Sports Fishing Association’s Mike Leonard contends that Congress should allow managers the flexibility to employ other recreational fisheries management approaches when no signs exist that a fishery is in trouble, rather than forcing recreational fishing into the fisheries management ACLs approach.

The status of U.S. fisheries is annually assessed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), which tracks 474 stocks and stock complexes (fish species grouped for management). [NOAA’s latest report](#) to Congress at the end of 2016 states that the overfishing list included 30 stocks, but that 444 stocks or complexes are not presently being overfished.

Under the Modern Fish Act, those 444 stocks or complexes would lose their current requirement for science-based, sustainable annual limits on catch for recreational fishing.

While I personally favor recreational interests when allocating limits and setting regulations for both economic and conservation benefits, I cannot support this bill due to the lack of emphasis on protecting the resource rather than prioritizing management decisions based on selling more boats, tackle and licenses. We have seen the results of removing catch limits from fisheries and it isn’t pretty. While many sports anglers are commendably responsible in their stewardship of the resources, there are many more that would gladly catch the last fish and post it on Facebook. Expecting all anglers to be responsible when limiting their catch is like asking Colonel Sanders to watch your chickens.

Make your own decisions on whether to support his legislation, but please consider long term results as well as immediate short term benefits.

Best regards,

Don Freeman

donfreeman74@gmail.com

Portions of this article were copied from Modern Fish Act: boon to recreational fishing or risk to U.S. fishery? by Giovanni Ortolani on 21 August 2017, Mongabay

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 6:00PM 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 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. I will have donation forms at the January 2018 meeting. See me at the raffle table for your donation form.

We are looking forward to evening of fun, fine food, friendship, fish stories, and entertainment as we generate funds to continue our club's conservation and education programs.

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.

John



Cool Day in Mason County



Mel Hurd Covering the Water



FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL/Washington State Chapter FFI

The FFI/WSCFFI has asked each member Club to assign a member to represent the National and State Boards, to report information about our FFI organization. SSFF is the FFI affiliate Club in the South sound and South Hood Canal area. I am serving as your representative.

Since 1964, Fly Fishers International (FFI) has been an organized voice for fly fishers around the world. We represent all aspects of fly fishing - from the art of fly tying and casting, to protection of the natural systems that support healthy fisheries and habitats so essential to our sport. Today, our mission is to ensure the legacy of fly fishing for all fish in all waters. FFI continues this effort by focusing on conservation, education and a sense of community.

2017 IN REVIEW - We had another good year in 2017. The FFI is growing everyday with new clubs and members. To highlight some of the events, the Fly Fishing Fair in Livingston, MT. was very successful with good attendance from all over the world. The Youth Program during the Fair was a huge success with 15 boys and girls attending. The instructors were absolutely awesome. Another highlight of the Fair, awards were presented to our very own Jim Maus as The Federator of The Year for 2017. Jim is also National Treasurer for the FFI. Also, Robert Gerlach of the PSFF was awarded The Federator of the Year for the WSCFFI. Both awards are well deserved.

A new “Learning Center” is being established with a new Board Member, Dutch Baughman, the new Chair. This program is in the early stages and I’m sure it will be a wonderful program to benefit our Clubs.

The FFI President, Len Zickler realized the FFI should establish an insurance program for the Affiliated Clubs similar to the Charter Clubs. This insurance program is tailored for our Clubs, protecting the Board and Club members, at a very affordable cost. There is a lot of good information on the FFI website - www.flyfishersinternational.org

Please consider joining FFI. Click the membership tab on FFI’s website.

Congratulations to Jim Maus - Federator of the year 2017



Here are some upcoming dates of Fly Fishing events in 2018:

January 12-13, 2018 – Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo - Boise, Idaho

January 24-28, 2018 – Washington Sportsman Show - Puyallup, WA.

WSCFFI will have a booth at this event.

February 17-18, 2018 – The Fly Fishing Show - Lynnwood, WA.

WSCFFI will have a booth at this event.

March 9-10, 2018 – NW Fly Tye Expo - Albany, Oregon

May 4-5, 2018 – Washington Council Expo - Ellensburg, WA.

August 6-11, 2018 – FFI Annual Fly Fishing Fair - Boise, Idaho

Letter to FFI and Councils From Lefty Kreh—Well known fly fishing Instructor and outdoor writer

To my friends,

I was 92 in January and had a carotid artery operation. During testing the hospital determined my heart was only pumping 35% and must limit my physical activities followed by a rest. The industry was extremely helpful and last season was able to attend the shows, clinics, etc.

Several weeks ago, I realized I was developing another problem, which is normal for someone nearly 93. It turns out I have congested heart failure. My pacemaker revealed there was a series of very rapid hear beats, which could cause a stroke. Fortunately a lot of doctor/friends are fly-fisherman and worked with me. In summary I have to give up travel and presentations as in the past.

Everyone produces a certain amount of fluid in the body and excretes the excess. Because of the low heartbeat my body is not getting rid of all the fluids and I gained weight. My best friend Dr. Mark Lamos put me in the hospital and with back procedure they twice removed a liter and a half of fluid from my chest. After five days in the hospital. I lost weight.

A week or so later I starting gaining weight again so it was back in the hospital for the same treatment. They reduced most of the fluid and returned home. I determined I was not going to continue back to the hospital. Mark decided to use medicine to control the excess fluid. It's been a fine-tuning situation but looks like it's starting work.

This means the schedule I lived for decades is no longer valid and will spend most my time at home. As we get older we learn to adjust to what we can and cannot do. I have a number of interesting computer home projects on the computer and busier than a Syrian bricklayer. I'm not frustrated and I'm content My problem is I don't have a lot of stamina and have to work around that. If Marks medical system works I should be busy and around for a year or two..

I would like to be able to send this email to my friends but I don't really know how to do this. So I'm asking others to help me spread the word through email. Because my lack of energy and stamina I having trouble answering emails (there are more than 400 on the computer) and not talking much on the phone. This is not meant to be unfriendly is learning to adjuster my situation.

In summary I'm busy and content but I want you to know I am so appreciative you've have shared your lives with me.

All The Best Friends,

Lefty Kreh

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



As we approach the holiday season, now would be the time to be thinking of gifts for your children, grandchildren, neighbor and any other youth you think might like to learn about fly fishing and conservation. We are looking for mature and serious minded youth willing to learn the sport of fly fishing and conservation.

To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must write an essay explaining why they would like to attend The Academy. A letter of recommendation is also required, written by their science teacher, school counselor, scout leader, etc. The dates for the WSCFFI supported, and the WCTU sponsored event is June 24-30, 2018. The Academy will be held again at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey. The youth reside in cabins with Ghillies (counselors), fly fishing gear is provided along with fly tying materials, all meals are included. Cost for the whole week is \$300, there are sponsorships available. No one will be turned away because of funds. To learn more about the Academy, go to www.nwycffa.com or our Facebook page. The application is available on our website or contact Mike Clancy @ nwycffa@comcast.net

This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and fly fishing.



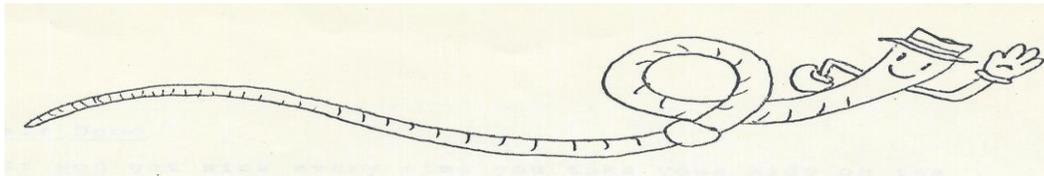
YOUTH OF TODAY ARE GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE OF FLY FISHING



Club Bulletin Board

Meeting Night Activities The club's first meeting of the new year is January 16th 2018. Doors will be open at 5:30 and one of our fly tiers will use the club's camera and projector on the big screen to demonstrate how they tie some of their favorite patterns. Members gain by watching a demonstration by an experienced tier before the start of the club meeting.

Please...Do not park in the Fire Station's main driveways during SSFF meetings. If parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full please use the parking areas behind the building. Willy says Thanks!



Help Coastal Cutthroat Trout. Volunteers are needed by the 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

SSFF thanks FFI for sharing the pattern

RAGHEAD SCULPIN



Published by Bob Bates

Federation of Fly Fishers - Washington Council

OPENING COMMENTS

Stories about the Raghead Sculpin and fish would fill a book if they were all brought together. Since I live in the Northwest most of them are about the north Idaho cutthroat streams, but there are many others. If you search the internet you will find it used by Ozark anglers, also.

Mike Mercer developed it a few years ago. Steve Moran a local guide, rod builder, wood inlay artist and all around good guy found out about it and started spreading the word. Now if you know anything about guides they can tell you some great stories. There is no way to verify the voracity of them. However, there has to be a lot of truth in what he says or his repeat business would drop off. Steve is also a great tier, and I have tried for years to get him to the Washington Fly Fishing Fair, in Ellensburg. However, he always has guide trips scheduled during that time.

Fortunately, **Janet Schimpf**, a professional tier, was at the 2012 Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg and she was tying the Raghead Sculpin among other patterns.

Any kind of line can be used with this pattern. It all depends on the depth of water you are fishing and how fast the water is moving. People use full sink, sink tip and floating lines. In one story I was told, the angler knew that fish sometimes stay in relative safety under overhanging branches. In this case the branches touched the water but didn't penetrate. He was using a floating line and cast nearly to the bank up stream of the branches. He knew that the fly would sink just enough to miss the branches. A nice cutthroat thought it was a meal. Sometimes to fish this pattern you will go to the bottom where the real sculpins live. Most of the time I fish on or near the bottom.

Hook: Daichi 2421 size 4

Thread: Uni thread 8/0 Camel (Brown, tan or olive)

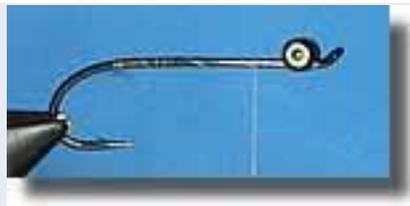
Eyes: Eye balls, brass, pre-painted

Body and tail: EZE Bug yarn, a very bulky material. Also called Raghead in yarn shops. Janet buys it in tan and marks it with yellow and brown marking pens to give it a mottled look.

Pectoral fins: Swiss straw from fly shops or craft stores, olive or olivebrown



Attach the thread near the back and spiral it to the front. Leave thread near the hook eye.



Start with the eyes parallel to the hook shank. Put a few thread winds over the eyes, twist eyes perpendicular to the shank, put a few figure eights thread winds then thread winds behind and in front of the eyes. Make sure the eyes are s



Secure yarn to shank just in front of the bend to give a shank length tail.



Wrap yarn forward in close wraps to make it buggy. Secure it under the hook leaving a little space behind eyes.



Open up a piece of Swiss Straw and tear off a ¼-inch wide strip. Hold on side of hook, bind it to shank, pass it under the shank and secure again. Have a good length of Swiss Straw for each side it will be trimmed later.



Move the thread forward to near hook eye. Wrap yarn forward to one wrap behind the eyes, one wrap in front of the eyes. Then make one wrap from front to back between the eyes, one wrap from back to front between the eyes and tie off yarn in front of the eyes of the fly and the eye of the hook.



Secure yarn trim and whip finish. Take fly out of vise to trim pectoral fins at about mid shank. (Some instructions say to trim the bottom wool at the front to make a flat head.)

CLOSING COMMENTS

OK you probably cannot see the pectoral fins in the last picture, but remember the fish can see things we can't. Some tiers use tan Rag wool for the tail and back part of the pattern which they wrap up to where the pectoral fins will be and tie it off there (Step 4). After attaching the pectoral fins they switch to olive Rag Wool for the front part of the pattern around the eyes. It is also called Mercer's Rag Sculpin and Rag Wool Sculpin .

[Thank you FFI for sharing this pattern with clubs](#)



Lake Nahwatzel



South Sound Fly Fishers - 2017

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 & Jim Maus jimmaus@comcast.net

Director at Large: Ben Dennis flyrodranch@comcast.net

Conservation: Don Freeman donfreeman74@gmail.com

Education: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com & Max Doerge mdoerge@live.com

Fundraising: John Sabo chrisonquince@comcast.net

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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. January 7th will be the deadline for the next issue of the Garden Hackle.