



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 18 Issue 5

May 2018

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President Wayne discusses the health benefits of fly fishing.

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Gene Rivers' May program is Glenn Wilson tying world class salmon flies.

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Details of SSFF May 19th outing at Lake St. Clair.

## The Leader's Line

By President Wayne Dixon Sr.



### Greetings,

Fishing for better Health, Mind and Soul (According to Science)

When you think of fisherman most of the time you don't visualize someone who has the physique of a Greek God, but after reading this article you will realize fishing can have a direct impact on a healthier happier life.

While the act of fishing is not necessarily an aerobic heart rate increasing activity, all the ways in which you get to your favorite spot can have cardiovascular benefits. Whether you walk, hike, bike or paddle to your favorite honey hole, you can increase the amount of activity as much as you want. The next time you must walk to your spot, increase your pace and take the long way there. Just getting out doors and in nature has many benefits and can lead to a healthier lifestyle.

Although some in the fly fishing community see this as taboo, eating fish has many health benefits according to the Mayo Clinic. Fish is an excellent source of omega-3 fatty acids which decrease blood pressure and lower the risk of stroke, heart failure, and irregular heartbeats. In addition, fish can improve brain function and eyesight.

In a 2009 study, fly fishing was shown to lower PTSD symptoms and increase mood in those who suffer from the disorder. After 3 days of fly fishing there was a 43 % decrease in feelings of hostility, fear and sadness also decreased 30-36%. Some of those positive effects remained a full month after the retreat.

Most importantly it gives us a chance to unplug from technology and spend some quality time with family, friends and potential new friends to the sport. Some of my most treasured times fly fishing are those in which I met new people, experienced a long walk to a great scenic fishing spot, or paddled alongside family to enjoy the beautiful world created for us. Always take time to just enjoy the moment your experiencing, don't worry so much about what you're going to catch, instead focus on the stress you're going to leave behind.

Happy May Everyone.

Peace,

*Wayne*



Howard Nanto Photo

Atlantic Salmon Fly Tying Demo

By Glenn Wilson



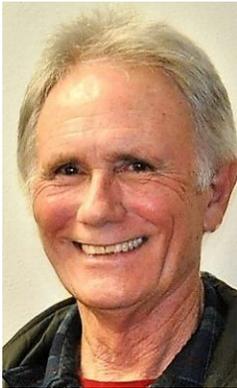
Our May 2018 Program will be Glenn Wilson demonstrating Atlantic Salmon fly tying. Glenn has been an active member of the Northwest Atlantic Fly Tying Guild for many years. He is a master fly tyer and produces flies that are essentially a piece of art. This is a chance to watch Glenn up close as he demonstrates introductory techniques for tying these works of art. Bring your camera and your questions.

*Gene Rivers*

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## THE SOAPBOX

BY Don Freeman Conservation and Political chair



Greetings Fellow Fly Fishers,

Past President Gene Rivers and I have been in contact with an organization of local and regional entities promoting the health of Puget Sound and the streams that feed it. We don't know a lot about the program yet, so will attend a seminar that they are holding at the capitol. The Symposium requested a brief introduction to our club and its mission, which we have posted here in the Hackle. If the program turns out to have goals consistent with our club, we will forward all news we find relevant as well as any volunteer opportunities for our members. We are approaching this option carefully as the limited resources of our small club are already committed to several worthy programs.

*Don F*

### SOUND WATERS SYMPOSIUM

Hello, representing South Sound Fly Fishers, I'm Don Freeman, Conservation Chair. We are a recreational social club with an environmental conscience. Established in 1960's to create a social group with which to share interests, the founders realized that by banding together they could also protect the resources they valued most.

Because of proximity to Puget Sound much of the club's efforts has focused on anadromous populations, especially the Sea Run Cutthroat Trout. These are a native species that somehow has managed to survive independently throughout the Salish Sea despite most of the same environmental insults that have decimated their larger and commercially desirable cousins.

Almost certainly the primary explanation for this apparent success is that concerned anglers, many of them our club members, organized to end the harvest of this species in the sound.

The legal harvest of sea run cutthroat in the sound ended in 1997 when concerned anglers influenced the Department of Fish and Wildlife to eliminate the harvest.

There is really no way to quantify the result, because lacking commercial value no effort had ever been made to scientifically study the population numbers of the species. All we knew was first there were lots, then we ate most of them, then we stopped and there are still some left. Beginning with volunteer efforts by SSFF club members that void is now being filled.

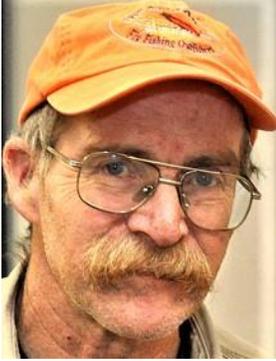
Working over several years one volunteer member line caught trout, recorded stomach contents and took fin samples until a meaningful sample size was collected. Meanwhile, another volunteer was walking local streams to study the spawning activity of cutthroat.

These data were offered to the WDFW for processing, but despite the enthusiasm of our local biologists, funding did not exist to pursue the study at state expense. SSFF contributed its cutthroat program funds to help begin DNA testing and the ball started rolling. Volunteers and biologists from WDFW have since created the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition which has grown through generous donations from individuals, local businesses and recreational industry contributors to become the foremost center of Coastal Cutthroat research. We are proud that our small efforts and example have resulted in such positive interest and energy in protecting our adopted mascot.

I hope this example serves to illustrate the mission and scope of our club. Our conservation efforts are scaled to achieve small goals locally. For larger issues our members defer to the national and regional organizations, many of which I see represented here today. We are pleased to be included and look forward to learning how we may contribute to your efforts to protect Puget Sound.



Fishing Access - Lake St. Clair



### **Hello Fellow Fly Fishers,**

On **Saturday May 19th** we will have a club outing at Lake St Clair. Lake St Clair contains a wide variety of fish. In addition to stocked Rainbows and Channel Catfish, the lake has populations of Yellow Perch, Largemouth Bass, Brown Trout, Blue Gill and Black Crappie.

If you know where the lake is located and want to drive independently, we will meet you at the St. Clair boat ramp around 9:00am. We plan to use the boat ramp on the left hand side of Rehklau Road.

Where: Lake St. Clair, Thurston County

When: Saturday May 19<sup>th</sup>

Meet-up point: 8:00am at the Safeway parking lot on the corner of Yelm Hwy and College.

Gear: St. Clair is a big lake (233 Acres) and a boat is needed to fish efficiently. 4-5 weight rod with Intermediate or slow sink line is ideal. We will discuss recommended setups and flies at the club meeting on May 15<sup>th</sup>. We may have a few flies on hand at the outing.

Note: SSFF June outing will be at Scott Lake and we will have lunch at the picnic shelter.

### **Fly Fishing Fair - Washington State Council-May 4-5<sup>th</sup> - Ellensburg**

Last weekend was the 12th annual Fly Fishing Fair. It was at the Kittitas Valley Event Center in Ellensburg. The Thursday night Volunteer Dinner was free and open to all volunteers. The Council's annual Award Banquet and Auction was held Friday night.

The Fair was well attended and they had a large number of fly tiers demonstrating their wares. SSFF was well represented by Jim Maus, Jay Paulson, my grand-daughter Reya Adams, my son Loren and my nephew Bill. Club President Wayne Dixon was also on hand.

*Jim*

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# Fundraising

John Sabo Fundraising Chair



## Greetings,

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

This year's SSFF Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction was on Saturday, April 21, 2018 at the Black Lake Grange Hall, on Black Lake Boulevard, next to the fire station.

As always the family pot-luck was a success, with an abundance of hot-dishes, salads and desserts. The club's attendance was good, although there was room for more. The auction bidding was often lively, and many members came away with real treasures and fantastic experiences. At the end of the evening the club raised \$4,000 for the conservation fund. It was a night to remember and we thank all the club members and their guests who attended.

## 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.

## SSFF Stickers

Official SSFF Stickers are available at the Raffle Table for only \$10. These can be placed on your boat, truck, auto, motorcycle, skateboard, or virtually any hard smooth surface to show your membership in the club.

*John*



### SSFF 2018 Dues are Due!

If you haven't already done so, please pay your 2018 dues. Yearly dues of \$40.00 for members. Your dues may be paid by cash or check and given to the club Treasure at the monthly club meetings. For those that plan to pay by check at a club meeting please remember to bring your checkbook!

Of course, you can also mail your check to: South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507. Thank you.

*Jim*



FPI Photo

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## Membership

by Randy Allen, VP

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SSFF welcomes these new members:



**Peter Vu**

Thanks to his wife's career for moving him from So Cal to South Puget Sound. He grew up in Anaheim and fished the Eastern Sierra Mammoth Basin lakes and the local ocean waters. Peter held a keen interest in fly fishing, but he didn't know anyone to get him started. Enter the SSFF *Intro to Fly Fishing* class (a shameless plug). The class came at the right time to meet his interest and get him started. In actual fact, Peter was so "hooked" that he had to apologize for missing one class - he would be in Tuscany, Italy vacationing with his family. He convinced them that while there he should go fly fishing!

His first club outing was with John Johns on McIntosh Lake. They did well! (*Thanks John*, for hosting a new member.) Peter's fishing interests include trout, steelhead, salmon, sea-run cutthroat, and bass. And, he's interested in our conservation efforts; we will connect you with our Conservation Chair, Don Freeman, who can inform you of those activities, and Jim McAllister, our Outings chair. It's great to have another Sierra fisher among us!



**Phil Parody**

**Phil** is another So Cal guy. When he wasn't skiing Blue Ridge / Mountain High in the San Gabriels north of Los Angeles, he was fishing the Eastern Sierra lakes and rivers around Bishop and the Mammoth Basin. (His catch and release left many fish for Peter Vu to encounter years later !)

At 8 or 9 years of age he was fishing with a fly and a bubble. In his teens he got his first fly rod and really learned to fly fish. He attended college in Oregon which put him much nearer to great fishing than he was accustomed to driving hours up US 395. After his schooling he spent time around Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, again, more close access to great fishing.

Phil ties his own flies, which adds great enjoyment to his experience. His first SSFF outing was to Sunnyside Beach for the sea-run cutthroats - a great day of camaraderie for all. He followed that outing up with the recent McIntosh Lake outing, where he and Kody Elzinga did very well. Phil most enjoys small streams and has already found his favorite spots on our local Deschutes. His passions for fishing include trout, salmon, steelhead, and cutthroats. Welcome, Phil !



**Dennis Wilkerson**

- This month our new members have lived in So Cal and Oregon. Dennis also spent time in Oregon fishing the great rivers there. Time in the service afforded Dennis fishing opportunities in Alaska also. He also ties his own flies. He's gained an extensive background and experience, and he looks forward to mentoring our newer fishers. When we catch up with Dennis, we'll add to this too-brief intro. I know he will fill us in with some great stories. Good to have you with us, Dennis!



## Greetings,

Here is up-coming FFI Northwest event to put on your calendar:

**August 6-11, 2018 - 2018 FFI Annual International Fly Fishing Fair** in Boise ID, Boise Centre, Century Link Arena and The Grove Hotel. Watch for more details in the coming months. The show will feature Vendors, Gear Sales, lots of Kid Activities, Free Classes and Demonstrations, Live Music and lots of family fun. The Fair will feature: FFI Learning Center classes and workshops on Fly Tying, Fly Fishing Skills, Fly Casting, and Conservation; a Women's Extravaganza featuring Women's Outreach activities, Women's Fly Tying and Fly Fishing workshops. Conservation Keynote Address and Discussion with this year's FFI Leopold Award winner; 2-Day Youth Fly Fishing Camp, numerous Meal Events, Fly Tying Demonstrations, Auctions and Raffles, Fly Casting Demonstrations, and much more.

Tight Lines,

*Mike*



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## Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



**2018 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy** is set and ready to go. We have 22 amazing boys registered for the event. 2 from N.Y., 2 from AK, 1 from OR, the rest from WA. Unfortunately, no girls this year. All their essays and letters of recommendation are in and it appears we have another great group of kids. The Academy is June 24-30 on Hicks Lake at The Gwinwood Community Center in Lacey. We have a fantastic instructor lineup with FFI/CCI casting instructors, fly tying professionals and conservation experts. Last year we had over 50 volunteers. The 2018 Academy would not take place if it was not for the generous support from the Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters, corporate and private donors.

The kids will be fishing at new ponds in Graham, and the Deschutes River in Thurston County. Everyone is welcome to visit us during the week to learn what is happening (please call 1<sup>st</sup> to insure we are available. If you are available for guiding, we could use your help, especially in the evenings on the river. If you want to help - please contact Jim Brosio @ 360-941-9947, Tom VanGelder @253-261-8890 and Mike @253-278-0061. Seriously folks, we could really use your help with the guiding in the evening on the river. It's really not guiding, it's being there to make sure the kids are safe, but you could share your experience on fishing a river with them. Mike Clancy, Co-Director, NWYCFFAcademy, 253-278-0061, [www.nwycffa.com](http://www.nwycffa.com)

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



NWYC&FFA Photo

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## Around the Campfire

with Gary Oberbillig and Dave Field



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

Greetings fellow fly fishers,

One of my favorite nearby lakes is Lake Nahwatzel located a few miles from the town of Matlock in Mason County. Probably the reason I like this lake is that it is home to two of my favorite species of fish, Rainbow Trout and Large Mouth Bass.

Nahwatzel is a spring fed lake with an outfall in the west that dumps into the East Fork of the Satsop River. This a nice lake to fish as it has several relatively shallow areas, one near the boat launch and one along the east side of the lake. The lake also has remnants of a log staging area with a row of pilings across the northeast corner of the lake. I spent many day during the summer catching Bass by these pilings.

The Department of Fish and Wildlife manages Nahwatzel as a multi-species lake and the trout plants are from the Satsop Springs Rearing Facility. This hatchery is no longer run by the state but is managed under a cooperative agreement between WDFW and a consortium of non-profit groups, the Chehalis tribe and local governments. About 7,000 rainbow trout are raised and distributed to various lakes in Grays Harbor and Mason Counties.

My favorite boat for fishing Nahwatzel is one that I designed and constructed several years ago specifically for fly fishing. It has an inflatable rubber hull with a center console and powered with a 25 HP outboard. I named it “Wasser Wurst” because of its round rubber sides. I used Wasser Wurst in the salt and at Nahwatzel because it was able to handle choppy water and wind. You see Nahwatzel at times is visited by heavy Southwest winds from the Pacific. Over the years, development to the west end of the lake eliminated the forests that offered some protection from the wind. The result was the lake became what I call the “Nahwatzel Wind Tunnel.” It can really kick up a fuss when storms blow in from the Pacific.

Another downside is that during warm weather the lake becomes a water and jet ski mecca. Fortunately, Wasser Wurst stood high enough in the water to be easily seen by these speed merchants.

Although there is no reported stocking of Bass by the state, there were plenty of bass to hook over the years. One fish I remember seeing must have been at least seven pounds. Seeing is my choice of words here because he got up to the boat a couple of times but then broke off. I got him on a “popper” by the pilings.

One concern about the lake is the proposed development of a large track of land on the Northwest shore. The Green Diamond Resource Company planned to develop this heavily timbered area. Needless to say this wooded shoreline gives Lake Nahwatzel much of its beauty and uniqueness. The local residences tried to buy the property from Green Mountain but were unable to raise the necessary funds. So the future of the large plot of land on the north side of the lake is unknown at this time.

Sometimes I wish I had a couple of million dollars so I could save Nahwatzel from further development. With all the people moving to the northwest and only so much waterfront available, it is only a matter of time until this forest is replaced by new homes.

In the mean time I still wonder what the big bass is doing with my popper.





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## Club Bulletin Board

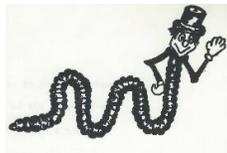
**Meeting Night Activities** With the warmer weather and longer days the doors will be open at 5:30pm for casting and fly tying. The May program features a demonstration by Glenn Wilson on how he ties his Salmon flies.

**Warning:** Summit Lake has been closed to fishing because of the Blue-Green Algae toxins found in the lake. Lake water should not be used for drinking, cooking, bathing or washing because of the high levels of neurotoxins in the lake. These toxins can cause serious illness and even death according to Thurston County Public Health Officials.

**Help Coastal Cutthroat Trout.** Volunteers are needed by the WDFW Coastal Cutthroat Trout Program. Learn about these iconic fish as you work to help further their recovery. If you would like to help--Call Bill Young at 360-426-8416. Bill has been a volunteer studying these fish and their habitat for over ten years. Leave a message if Bill is out doing a redd count on a local stream. To learn more about these native fish, click on Coastal Cutthroat Coalition on the club website.

**Please...keep the Fire Station's fire and medic truck driveway clear of vehicles during all SSFF meetings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please use the parking areas behind the building.**

**Remember to support our First Responders!**



**Willy Worm says thank you for parking in designated areas around the fire station!**

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## Fly of the Month

### **SPARKLE DUN**

(AKA Comparadun)



#### **Comments:**

Ellen Clark, Ft. Washakie, WY, said she was tying a Comparadun at the 2011 FFF Fly Fishing Fair in West Yellowstone, MT. At first I thought we already have one in Jim Abbs' article, FFF Fly of the Month June 1998. However, it is such a good pattern that maybe we should have a second article with the steps. I was relieved to see that she was not tying a Comparadun but a Sparkle Dun.

Like many great patterns this one has a history. In *Hatches*, 1975 Al Caucci and Bob Nastasi described how the Compara-dun started in the 1960's as a refinement of the "Haystack" an old Adirondacks pattern. The Haystack was a huge pile of deer hair and fur. With years of refinement and field testing it became a more delicate pattern that sat on the water like most newly hatched mayflies. It was also more durable than many of the no hackle patterns introduced in 30's through the early 70's. Many many years ago while walking to dinner in Hardin, MT I overheard a lady exclaiming about the Comparadun and all the fish she caught that day in the Bighorn River. I vowed to learn about that pattern. (A note: About half of my reference books by respected authors have the dash in the name and the others do not, so I will stick with the way I learned it -- no dash.)

In the 80's Craig Mathews and John Juracek of West Yellowstone, MT improved the Comparadun by replacing the forked tails with Z-lon, a sparkly Antron material. Many tiers have a problem with forked tails so this "new" pattern was hailed as wonderful improvement. Sometimes I think that we fly tiers/fishers are a bit silly. However, in defense of the improvement, Z-lon does simulate the shuck of a newly hatched mayfly that is trapped in the surface film. Also, it caught **a lot of fish**. Its fame began spreading first in Montana and Idaho, and then quickly to the rest of the world.

Since it doesn't have a lot of flotation, it is best used in quieter stretches of the river. A drag free float is important. I asked Ellen: "Where do you fish it?" The answer: "Where ever you want to catch trout." She usually fishes the medium water, and it works fine.

#### **Materials list:**

**Hook:** Dry fly hook, DaiRiki 300, Mustad 94840, Tiemco TMC 100 or equivalent #12-18

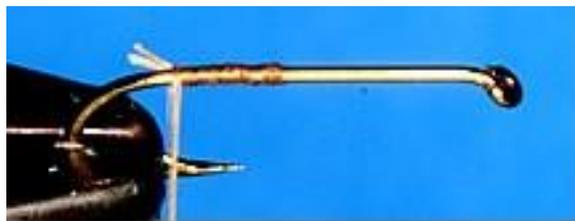
**Thread:** 6/0 color to match the body

**Tail:** Antron yarn or Z-lon, Ellen, doesn't use white, and prefers some light color.

**Wing:** Elk hock

**Body:** Fine X-Dub, color to match the natural

#### **Tying steps:**



1. Smash barb and wind a short thread base at the rear of the hook.



2. Tie in tail of Antron or Z-lon yarn. Don't use much. Usually you will have to take 1/2, 1/3rd or less of the yarn fibers to make the tail thin enough to simulate a shuck. Tie down any excess tail material, and return the thread to the bend of the hook.



3. Cut the shuck to about a shank length long.



4. Cut a small clump of elk hock fibers, clean out under fur and stack. (Ellen said it takes two or three flies to get the size of the bundle right.) Elk hock is straight so it stacks nicely. Remember to take the hair out of the stacker with the tips pointing the way you want to tie them in (forward). Wind the thread forward to the 1/3rd point, and make a thread base there. Elk hock is not as hollow as deer hair so it will not flair as much. The downside is that it might not float as well. Lay the clump of fibers on top of the hook with a shank length or a little more beyond the 1/3rd point of the tips pointing forward. Tie in the elk hock with tight thread winds. The thread base helps keep the hair from spinning. Keep hair on top of the hook. Clip butts and wind thread over the butts. (On smaller flies I use a more hollow hair like Coast Deer.)



5. Lift about 1/3rd of the fibers to a vertical position and put one turn of thread in front of them. Do this again with another third of the fibers. Finally lift the rest of the fibers, pull them toward the rear and put a bunch of thread winds tightly in front of them.



6. Wind the thread behind the wings and down the tapered butts to the bend of the hook. Put dubbing on the thread and wrap the body toward the wing, but do not push against the wing. Wrapping tightly against the wing will force it forward. Figure eight under the wing to cover the thread.



7. Change the dubbing color in front of the wings if you want. Starting with a big bunch of dubbing, catch a few fibers with thread then pull the bundle away to thin out the dubbing as you form the noodle. Wrapping the dubbed thread against front of the wing helps keep it upright. Taper the front body to the eye. Whip finish at the eye. Turn the fly toward you so you can see to adjust the elk hair.



8. The Elk fibers should be fanned out forming a 180-degree arc. You might have to adjust the fibers a bit as you go. Head cement is not recommended for this fly because it will wick back into the dubbing and reduce the fly's buoyancy.

**Closing comments:** While Ellen tied this pattern a lady watching commented that she has a lot of trouble making the wings stand up. As Ellen did the 1/3rd, 1/3rd, 1/3rd bit on the elk hock, (Step 5), she exclaimed wow!!! so that's how you do it. That response makes the day for a demo tier. This pattern is adaptable to almost any hatch. So check your bugs and tie the few Sparkle Duns or Comparaduns to match. Ellen also ties a few regular Comparaduns with the forked tails. After the demo there was a discussion among several tiers about using Rain-X on the fly and fly lines. Ellen uses it on fly lines, and it seems to be a good cleaner/floater. Another fellow uses it on flies. It makes them easier to clean and dry. I'll have to try both.

**Thank you FFI for sharing this pattern!**



Howard Nanto Photo



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS - 2018

Officers, Directors, Chairs and Club Information

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

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

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

**USPS 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.

**June 10, 2018 will be the deadline for the next edition of the Garden Hackle.**