



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 19 Issue 3 March 2019

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The Leader's Line

President Wayne Dixon Sr.



Hello Fly Fishers,

In like a lion and out like a lamb, is how the proverb goes when speaking about the month of March. It is holding true this year as well. We have a lot of pots in the fire and things are coming along nicely at the club.

This month we have an introductory class we are teaching at the Olympia Parks and Rec Center. Randy Allen, Ben Dennis, Jim Maus, and I are all giving the instruction. This includes casting classes on Saturdays as well. We have a class of 23 people who are all eager to learn about fly fishing and hopefully we will be welcoming them as future members.

Along with our class we are also hosting the 3rd annual indoor outing. This will be held on the 23rd from 10-2pm. Gather the family, bring a dish to pass and join in the social events our club is hosting.

I want to also acknowledge the awesome job that our official photographer has done at both of our outings and classes. When you see Heidi Myler, please tell her thanks and visit her website www.magicalmomentsphotographypnw.com.

Kody has been revamping our website with a whole new platform which will make it more informative and interactive for members. Of course, like any new programs there will be some glitches, but we shall overcome. In the future you will be able to communicate directly with members and get real time results from questions about Fly Fishing and South Sound Fly Fishers. Our goal is to provide our members with all the important information at their fingertips. No worries if you're not computer savvy, we will still provide mailers for everyone.

As you can see we have been working hard to make some updated and needed improvements to our club, we are still in need of a conservation chair on our board as well as a program chair for the rest of the year and next year. If you have any desire to be part of the board of directors (super awesome folks) then let someone know at the meetings. I hope you get to enjoy some of the great events we have planned for the year as well as some great fishing, and I look forward to seeing you on the water!

Wayne

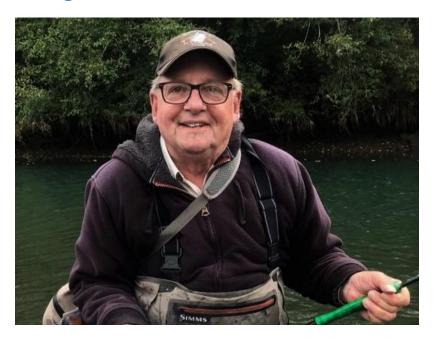




Heidi Myler Photo

The March Program

By Gene Rivers, Program Chair



Jeffrey Delia

Fly Tying and Fishing for Coastal Cutthroat in Puget Sound

Our March speaker is Jeffrey Delia a well-known and avid Sea Run cutthroat fly developer, fly tying instructor and master fly tier. Jeff lives in Quilcene, WA on Northern Hood Canal. One of his published articles, "In a Winter Wonderland" is featured in the 2018 winter issue of Fly Fishing and Tying journal.

Jeff's program will focus on Sea Run Cutthroat and Salmon fishing in Puget Sound and Hood Canal. He has spent three decades developing techniques and an extensive line of flies for Coastal Cutthroat such as Jeff's Cone Head Squid, the Delia's Orange, Christmas Candy, Big Fish Fly and the White Ghost.

Jeff will have flies for sale at the meeting. This is your opportunity to purchase some proven winners tied by an expert. Jeff will be tying flies before our meeting and will also be available to answer questions.

I have seen Jeff's presentation and recommend it highly.

Gene Rivers



Greetings Fellow Fly Fishers,

The "SSFF Indoor Outing" is scheduled for Saturday March 23rd The event takes place at our regular meeting space at the North Olympia Fire Station. This is a club fly tying and fly swap, entomology session, casting clinic, potluck and a social gathering all rolled into one.

Fly tying and casting clinics run throughout the day. The entomology session is at 10:30AM with repeat at about 1:00PM. The potluck is during noon hour with snacks and social time all day.

Club members helping out with set up should be there at 9:00AM. Doors will open for the public at 10:00AM with the event wrapping up about 2:00 in the afternoon.

This is a community event geared for any fly fisher. We plan on visits by experienced fly fishers and writers. We will talk about fly fishing, Puget Sound, rivers, streams, lakes, the coast and outdoor life in the Northwest.

This has proved to be a fun event no matter what the weather is outside.

See you there!

Jim



Please welcome two new members that recently joined the club!



Paul Liebertz

- As a kid Paul spent summers near the Catskills, upstate New York. Looking back he wished he started fly fishing there. In 1982 Paul started fly fishing, learning the streams of New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Virginia.

His fished dry-flies on the Eastern streams. Wet-fly skills came from fishing California's Eastern Sierra Lower Owens River. The Owens winds through pasture land filled with dry grasses. Pasture land, with grasses and cattle. Paul's concern was for encountering rattlesnakes there. If rattlesnakes were a concern, you also might glance occasionally to ensure the cattle are still peacefully grazing. (A friend's son once thought it was a hoot to start a small stampede right through the river and around my astonished fisher friends. Talk about putting the fish down...) With no snakes and no stampedes Paul's wet fly techniques resulted in some beautiful Owens River brown trout.

His last move to Tumwater ended his twenty-year fishing hiatus. With lakes and streams just minutes from his home he is back into the game. Last year his wife bought him a beautiful boat that he's anxious to use and learn about fishing our local lakes. He even joined us at the recent Skookumchuck outing just to scope it out. His new waders hadn't arrived yet, but he wanted to come with the club to learn about the Skookumchuck and return to it in the future.

Paul's fishing interests include trout, steelhead, cutthroat, and bass. His professional background includes much consulting and training. That fits with the Club's education activities which we anticipate to increase. Welcome, Paul!



Lee Yeager,

Welcome to our newest member. Lee lived many years along the Texas coast and fished extensively there. Moving to north Texas he connected with the Red River Fly Fishing Club where he learned to fly fish and to tie flies. He spent a lot of time with the Red River club fly fishing for bass in numerous warm water lakes nearby. He described fishing for striped bass on Lake Texoma, one of few lakes where stripers will breed. What a thrill to hook into those fish!

A few hours away he fished cold-water trout streams in Oklahoma, and a little farther away in Arkansas. Lee and his wife got to know western Washington vacationing here with her relatives in Auburn. After retiring they knew the Northwest was where they wanted to live. Last July 4th they moved to Olympia from Texas. We're glad you're here and you found us. And, bass fishing on the fly is growing in popularity here; we're looking forward to what you can share with our members about this exciting fishing opportunity!

In Olympia Lee is really excited to fish for the species our area has to offer. He says hooking into a steelhead or salmon would really light him up. Lee, you need to attend the Hoodsport chum salmon outing next fall! We'll make sure you tap into our Outings Chair, Jim McAllister; he will share some great information on the chum salmon. Welcome, Lee!

Randy



Greetings Anglers,

South Sound Fly Fishers and the City of Olympia have again teamied up to provide a class "Introduction to Fly Fishing" on consecutive Monday nights during the month of March. We have 23 folks enrolled in this class. The class sessions are from 6:30pm to 8:30pm at the Olympia Community Center. In addition the class includes two hands on Saturday fly casting sessions starting at 10:00AM on March 9th and 16th at Capital Lake.

The SSFF Board of Directors and the City of Olympia are discussing a beginning fly tying class this coming Fall at the Community Center. This would be an introductory class for the many new folks that would like to learn basic fly tying taught by experienced fly tiers in the club. Registration for the class would be through the City of Olympia Department of Parks, Arts and Recreation. More information will be provided after the planning process is completed.

Tight lines,

Max



Heidi Myler Photo

Fundraising

John Sabo Fundraising Chair



SSFF Raffle News

We are doing well with the Club's Raffle and we thank all the club members who participate in the club's monthly raffle and to all of you who donate raffle items or fill fly boxes. We are looking for items for raffle prizes. It is spring cleaning time and a good time to donate <u>new</u> or <u>unused</u> fly-fishing items to the club raffle. We are looking for items with an individual value of \$20 or more, not size or gender specific, and small enough to fit on the raffle table.

We have some empty fly boxes to be filled...fly tiers; please see me at the back of the room at our next meeting.

We are uncertain about space at the March meeting, so we will not have items available for the Al Harger Fund.

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.

Fish on,

John Sabo

Awards and Recognition



Photo by Heidi Myler

Don Freeman Receives Sweeney Award

At the February club meeting President Wayne Dixon and SSFF Board of Directors had the pleasure of presenting Don Freeman with the Dale Sweeney Award.

In presenting the award President Wayne Dixon made the following comments:

"The Dale Sweeney Award is the most prestigious award presented by South Sound Fly Fishers. It is not given every year as it is only awarded to recognize an individual that has made a notable contribution to the mission and ideals of South Sound Fly Fishers.

Dale Sweeney was one of the club founders and he was a tireless leader in fly fishing the South Sound area. His contributions to the club and sport were notable and it is fitting that the club's highest award bears his name.

Don Freeman has served the club in many capacities including club President and as Director of Conservation. Don serves on the WDFW Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Fund Oversight Committee. Don also was instrumental in the establishment of Munn Lake as a Select Rules lake with this designation the only one of its kind in Thurston County. Don was also a founding member of the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition.

It is my pleasure to present Don Freeman with the Sweeney Award in recognition of the major contributions Don has made to the fly fishing community in the South Sound."



South Sound Fly Fishers Dues are now Due

Please pay your 2019 club dues. Annual dues of \$40.00 are due by the end of March. New members joining the club in their first year pay \$45.00. The extra \$5.00 is to help cover the cost of producing your name badge.

Cash or checks may be given directly to the SSFF Treasurer. Checks should be made out to South Sound Fly Fishers or just the initials "SSFF." I will be at the table located in the back of the meeting room to take dues money and transact other club business. If you are at a club meeting and have no cash and did not bring your check book, no problem, just mail a check to the club's post box. The address:

South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507.

Fiscal year 2018 Wrap-up and 2019 Budget

This is a busy time of year for your club treasurer as we close out 2018 and set the club budget for 2019. The 2018 records will be reviewed by an Audit Committee made up of Mark Brownell, Randy Allen and John Sabo.

The 2019 budget needs to be approved by the board of directors and ratified by general membership. All this needs to be done by the March club meeting. It is hard work but it ensures that your dollars are well spent in fulfilling the SSFF mission.

Jim Maus

Treasurer

Pioneers and Legends

By Joe Uhlman

(This is the beginning of series of stories by SSFF Past President Joe Uhlman about the pioneers and legends of fly fishing in the Northwest. Joe knew many of people as good friends or fishing partners. Many others Joe met through mutual friends or from their contributions to fly fishing through their writings. All helped to establish the Pacific Northwest as a world class destination for fly fishers.

The series begins with our own Bruce Ferguson who was a long time member of SSFF and PSFF who went on to become a giant in salt water fly fishing of the Northwest.



Bruce Ferguson

Bruce Ferguson bought a home in Wollochet in the early 1960's and so he lived only a short distance from my family home in Wollochet Bay. As mentioned in my article the January Garden Hackle, my family were among the early settlers in the Gig Harbor area in the late 1800's. My grandfather, father and I fished the waters of Wollochet Bay and Fox island and Tacoma when I was a boy. So I was long familiar with the waters around Fox Island, Gig Harbor and Tacoma.

Bruce loved fishing in the South Sound and over years of experimentation he designed flies that would readily be taken by feeding Coho Salmon and Sea Run Cutthroat. Initially people would say that Salmon wouldn't take a casted fly. They thought Bruce was just pulling a stunt. But, gradually he was able to perfect the flies and techniques to catch feeding Salmon and Cutthroat in the salt waters of the South Sound.

Bruce and I spent many hours tying flies in Bruce's basement fly tying room and then when the tide was just right the two of us would walk down a few yards to the beach and head out in one of our boats. The game at that point was to see if we could entice a Salmon or Cutthroat to take one of these recently tied flies.

Bruce usually would take detailed notes on what flies and techniques worked and did not work. His notes would eventually lead to slight changes in the fly patterns and techniques for his the next trip to the salt. Bruce kept fishing logs like this for years. These logs helped Bruce understand the habits of Salmon and Cutthroat became the foundation of much of his knowledge about these fish.

Another big connection that Bruce and I shared was that we both worked for the Weyerhaeuser Company. Bruce was well up in the corporate ladder and they moved him to the state of Mississippi to help manage their pulp and paper operations in that region. It was while vacationing in the Gulf of Mexico that Bruce initially acquired his love of fishing in the salt water with fly gear.

Bruce knew that fly fishing in most of the world was primarily a fresh water sport and that the use of flies in salt water was relatively rare except in the tropics. When Bruce moved to Wollochet Bay he was eager to see if the fish swimming off his front yard would take a fly.

At the time Bruce returned to the Northwest, much of the salt water fly fishing history had been forgotten. In the 1930's, Roderick Haig-Brown and his Canadian contemporaries had proved that catching salmon in the salt water could be done, but that was now gone.

Back in the 1840's the catching of salmon using fly gear had been delayed by reports of Captain Theodore Gordon that Pacific Salmon would not take a fly. Little did Gordon know that Pacific Salmon do not eat after entering the rivers he was fly fishing.

In 1873 the captain of a U.S. Coast and Geodetic Survey ship anchored at the mouth of the Columbia caught a twenty-five pound Salmon on a fly. But fly fishing gear was now seldom used in the salt water.

Fishing nets and trolling with bait or plugs was the most economical method of catching Pacific Salmon. Hydro dams, urban development, water pollution and over fishing all contributed to the demise of fishing. By the 1960's the Salmon and Coastal Cutthroat (Sea Run) fisheries were in very rough shape in Puget Sound. The fish runs and resident fish were at a low.

In the early 1970's under the leadership of Frank Haw in the Washington State Department of Fisheries (Now WDFW) implemented a program of delaying the release of hatchery Coho for several months. These fish became residents in Puget Sound instead of heading for Canada and Alaska. This program re-established the Coho fishery in Puget Sound.

With more salmon, Bruce was able to take his fly fishing experiments to a new level. Having read the books of Roderick Haig-Brown and others, Bruce was aware of the fly fishing potential of Pacific Salmon. Bruce became friends with Bill Nelson, owner of the Alice Point Lodge near Campbell River BC. Bill was a big fan of fishing for Coho with fly gear. Bruce and Bill began to share information and this spurred Bruce to keep experimenting with his flies and techniques in the South Sound. Each time we fished together, Bruce would happily show me some new fishing technique or fly he was experimenting with.

Well, my career with Weyerhaeuser brought me to Olympia but Bruce and I always kept in touch and we would fish together in the Gig Harbor - Tacoma area whenever the situation presented itself.

Bruce and I and whole lot of other people saw the number and size of Sea Run Cutthroat trout was dwindling. This fishery was nothing compared to what I remembered as a youngster. These fish were the forgotten little cousins of bigger Salmon and Steelhead. At one time Sea Runs represented the most numerous Anadromous fish on the West Coast. Unfortunately, over fishing, loss of habitat and pollution had reduced them to just a shadow of what they had been. It was clear that something had to be done or almost their population would join the many other salmon and steelhead runs that were non-existent.

(In the next story we will learn how Bruce with the help of his many friends in the fly clubs and other organizations worked to re-build the "Sea Runs" or Coastal Cutthroat in Puget Sound and Hood Canal.

Until next time, let me leave you with some thoughts penned by John Shewey in his tribute to Doug Rose and Tim Irish, two legends that have left us.

"They were the kind of anglers any of us would enjoy accompanying on the water, and I am reminded that life is simply too short, too unpredictable, to put off those whimsical plans we make to spend a day fishing with friends who share our passion.

So pick up the phone and call that old fishing friend you haven't seen for a while, or reach out to a newfound angling acquittance. Make a date with a river; put it on the calendar; embrace the adventure. I think Doug and Tim would appreciate that."

2019 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



NW YOUTH CONSERVATION AND FLY FISHING ACADEMY - 2019

The deadline for the 2019 Academy is closing in - April 15, 2019 is the deadline for the Academy. Those that apply and are accepted, will be notified by the middle of May. The Academy this year is again the last full week of June 23-29, 2019. The Academy is held on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. Applicants need to write an essay explaining why "they" would like to attend. They also will need a letter of recommendation from their school counselor, science teacher or responsible person. The applicant, boy or girl, 12-16, should not be 17 at the start of the Academy. Cost is \$300 and there are sponsorships available. No one will be turned away because of lack of money.

The support from the fly fishing community again this year is nothing short of spectacular. Applications are coming from all over the State. In the past years, we have been supported by over 50 volunteers each year. We will need volunteers again this year as guides to take the kids fishing in the morning and evenings. We will be fishing a local pond and the Deschutes River in Thurston County. The Academy has a Facebook page loaded with pictures from past years and on our website www.nwycffa.com. You may download the application off the website or call Mike Clancy @253-278-0061 or Jim Brosio @ 360-943-9947.

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



Hello Fellow Anglers,

Here is important information from the State Council of FFI requesting action from all anglers to protect the world class fish runs of Bristol Bay:

Dear Bristol Bay supporters,

Last week the Pebble mine got one step closer to reality. Today, we have the chance to do something about it.

Submit your comments to the Army Corps of Engineers about the Pebble Mine by putting this address to your web browser:

https://action.savebristolbay.org/page/s/pebble-mine-draft-environmentalimpact-statement-comment-submission-form

Our scientists and legal team dove into reviewing the 1,600+ page document that is critical to Pebble's permit review process. Called the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS), the document is supposed to outline all of the potential risks that Pebble could bring to Bristol Bay. Instead, what we found is an incomplete, biased, and short-sighted attempt to minimize risks posed by Pebble that leaves the fisheries, economy and cultures of the region in immediate jeopardy. This is where you come in.

The Army Corps of Engineers, the lead agency reviewing Pebble's permit, opened a comment period that will last 90 days. This means that we have until May 31st to rally as many of our fellow anglers nationwide (and anyone else who cares about Bristol Bay) as possible. Our goal is to get over 1 million comments that say - AGAIN - that Pebble is the wrong mine in the wrong place. Today, we are asking you to submit a formal comment to the Army Corps of Engineers stating your opposition to the mine.

Based on our initial analysis of the DEIS, we have a few key concerns that you can add to your comments to the Army Corp. However, if you want to just state your opposition without adding detail, that is OK too. Just make sure to urge the Corps to select the "No action alternative" in your comment.

Only a fraction of the full project has been reviewed. Pebble has submitted a proposal to mine 1.4 billion tons of an 11-billion ton deposit and has stated repeatedly they plan to expand the mine to the full deposit. That expansion is not accounted for in this DEIS. There is no way to evaluate the full risk of Pebble if they are not evaluating the complete project, thus making this document incomplete.

Water treatment has never been done at this scale before. Pebble estimates that its water treatment plants, just in phase one alone, will need to treat up to 10.6 billion gallons of wastewater per year, containing metals and other pollutants harmful to fish and public health. This is an unprecedented volume of wastewater to treat, and we know of no other operating U.S. mines that treat such a large volume. There are many technical shortcomings of their water management plan that leave experts skeptical that this project is possible without accident and Bristol Bay is the worst place to test that assumption.

Tailings dam failures are not considered. The DEIS does not consider the possibility of a catastrophic tailings dam failure (such as what just happened in Brazil or British Columbia, and there are dozens more examples). This is a massive oversight demonstrating pro-Pebble bias, despite that Pebble has used the same contractor who engineered a failed dam at the Mount Polley mine to work on their project.

This comment period is incredibly important in the fight against Pebble. The next 90 days are our opportunity to tell the Army Corps that we are unequivocally opposed to this mine before they make a decision on the issuance of Pebble's key federal permit. With this permit in hand, Pebble could be digging in Bristol Bay in the next five years.

We appreciate your support in holding the line and standing with us once again as we fight this disastrous mine proposal. Stay tuned for further ways to get involved during this comment period. We really need your help in the days ahead. Please comment and then spread the word.



Registration is now open at:

https://www.regonline.com/2019washingtonflyfishingfair

"They say you forget your troubles on a trout stream. But that's not quite it. What happens is that you begin to see where your troubles fit into the scheme of things, and suddenly they're just not such a big deal anymore." - John Gierach



Photo by Howard Nanto



Club Bulletin Board:

<u>Help Coastal Cutthroat</u> Volunteers are needed by the 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 is an experienced volunteer researcher of these fish and their habitat. Please leave a message on his line if Bill is busy doing a redd count on a local stream.

<u>Please help our First Responders</u> by keeping the Fire Station's Truck driveway clear of parked vehicles during all of SSFF gatherings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please park in the lot behind the Station. Thank You!

Club Dues for 2019 are be now payable. Dues can be paid by cash or check at meetings or by mailing a check to: SSFF at PO Box 7456 Olympia WA 98507. Thanks.

The <u>Indoor-Outing</u> is on for Saturday March 23rd at the North Olympia Fire Station. Anyone interested in fly fishing will want to come to this "outing." Doors are open from 10AM to 2pm. It is an interesting and informative event and the food is always outstanding.

South Sound Fly Fishers Celebrated its 50^{th} birthday in February. The club had some birthday cake at snack time at the February meeting. "Time flies when you're having a good time."

Fly of the Month



"Renegade"



Written by: Jerry Coviello

Photographed By: Jerry Coviello Tier:

Jerry Coviello

The Renegade was created in Wyoming by Taylor 'Beartracks' Williams around the late 1920's. The fly has been used in lakes and streams and known as an excellent cutthroat pattern.

Materials

Hook: Dry Fly Hook size 10 to 18

Thread: Black 6/0 - 70 Denier

Tag: Fine Flat Silver or Gold Tinsel

Rear Hackle: Brown

Body: Peacock Herl

Front Hackle: White or cream

Tying Steps:

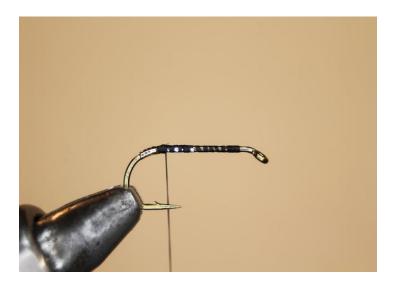


STEP 1

Please hook in the vise and attach the tying thread.



Tie in the tag tinsel at the bend of the hook, lining it with the Barb of the hook.



STEP 3

Wrap to the bend and back to form the tag.



Tie in the Rear Brown Hackle at the bend of the hook.



STEP 5

Wrap the brown hackle at the bend of the hook dry fly style.



Tie in peacock herl and wrap it towards the eye of the hook, stopping at the 2/3 spot.



STEP 7

Once you tie in the peacock herl body, tie in a white/cream hackle for the front hackle.



Wrap the white/cream hackle dry fly style.



Step 9:

Whip finsh and form a head. Put a drop of head cement on the head wraps Completed Renegade fly.

The Competed Renegade



Comments:

Fly of the Month: Do you know someone who deserves to be featured in the Fly of the Month? If you have a camera and computer, you can write a Fly of the Month article to honor your favorite tier tying their best creation. For details contact the Fly Tying Group at ftg@flyfishersinternational.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.

You can direct any questions or comments to ftg@flyfishersinternational.org.

Thank you FFI for sharing this pattern



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS -2019 Officers and Directors

President: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com

Vice President: Randy Allen_randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Secretary: Mark Brownell brownellmi@outlook.com

Treasurer: Jim Maus jimmaus@comcast.net

Past President: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Conservation: (Conservation Committee)

Education: Max Doerge mdoerge@live.com

Fundraising: John Sabo chrisonquince@comcast.net

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

Outings: Jim McAllister Jimspacmule@msn.com

Programs: Gene Rivers (Acting) <u>acu4pets@hotmail.com</u>

Garden Hackle: Dave Field <u>d_w_field@hotmail.com</u>

Web-Master: Kody Eltzinga <u>kelzingart@gmail.com</u>

Director -at-Large: Ben Dennis flyrodranch@comcast.net

WSCFFI Representative: Mike Clancy mtclancy39@comcast.net

WEB SITE: 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 6:00pm. Unless announced otherwise, all regularly scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station, 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA.

Please submit material for the next Garden Hackle by April 7, 2019.