



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 20 Issue 1

January 2020

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Hello Fly Fishers,

Welcome to 2020! I hope everyone survived the Holidays and had a chance to spend time with family and friends. Fall fishing has been good for those who have been out. The SSFF officers and Board members have a busy fly fishing year planned with many opportunities to go on club outings and participate in our numerous activities that are planned for this year.

In addition to our Introduction to Fly Fishing and our Beginning Fly tying classes we have scheduled a 7 week Fly Casting Class. Randy Allen has been a key factor in organizing these classes and “training the trainers” for these classes. These classes are taught by many of the hard working men and women of SSFF who have a many years of experience and also are experienced in teaching fly fishing related skills. The classes are priced very reasonably and offer a great bargain for those who take the classes.

There will be more announcements about SSFF classes at the monthly meetings and also here in the Garden Hackle. I encourage members to read our Newsletter the Garden Hackle for this information and for a complete knowledge of what is going on club wise. Our Newsletter editor Dave Field publishes a very thorough and informative publication each month.

We are having our bi-annual club auction this year. There will be information elsewhere in this newsletter about the auction and how we can all support this important SSFF event. The proceeds from this event go entirely to conservation. This auction is organized by John Sabo. John also handles the monthly raffle at our meetings. Thank you John.

Several members have stepped up into new positions as SSFF Board members. Lee Yeager was elected club Secretary for 2020 at the November meeting. Vic Andrade has joined Kody Elzinga as Co-chair for our Website and Media Outreach. Don Freeman has returned as our Conservation Chair. Welcome back Don!

Mike Clancy has been our FFI Representative for several years and has also agreed to run for one of our Director at Large positions.

Beth Mason has joined the Board to help us with Women’s Education and Opportunities. Beth has some exciting plans to help and encourage women fly fishers. Beth is also running for one of the Director at Large positions. The vote for Directors will be at the January meeting.

Thank you to Mark Brownell who has served as club Secretary for two years. Mark did a great job in an important position. Ben Dennis has also completed four years as a Directors at Large and as Conservation Chair for a couple of years. Thank you Ben. Max Doerge has stepped down from helping with Education and the Fly Tying class. He plans to still be active in several areas. We love you Max!

Jim Maus is returning as our club Treasurer. This position takes a ton of time. Hats off to Jim for a fabulous job.

Last but not least thank you to Wayne Dixon who served two years a club President. Wayne will continue on the board as Immediate Past President and also becomes Co-Chair of the Outings committee with Jim McAllister. Jim has been on the Outings committee for four years. Thanks to Wayne and Jim for handling an important job.

All of the above people spend a tremendous amount of time every month helping SSFF succeed by making sure whatever area they are in charge of actually gets done every month. This time is in addition to time spent at Board meetings. So thanks again to all of you.

Hope to see everyone at the January 21 meeting.

Tight thread,

Gene



Photo by Howard Nanto

Captain Nick Clayton



We start the new year with **Captain Nick Clayton**. Nick is one of the best guides in this part of the country. Nick usually spends his time guiding fly fishers to Salmon and Sea Run Cutthroat trout in Puget Sound. Nick is one of the owners of South Sound Skiffs that focuses on fly fishing for Salmon and Coastal Cutthroat in Puget Sound.

But Nick is also known to travel a bit for exciting fishing opportunities and in this program he motors out a ways in the Pacific Ocean. Nick's January program features Tuna fishing some forty plus miles off the Pacific Coast.

Tuna fishing with a fly is very special. Jim McAllister can attest to this having been on one of Nick's Tuna outings. Nick will show us pictures of the action. He will also fill us in on the rods, reels, fly lines and flies he uses to catch these explosive fish. Nick will go over the strategies he has to find and catch Tuna. He have some examples of the flies he uses.

You will not want to miss hearing about this exciting fishery from one of the most knowledgeable guides in the northwest.



Hello Club Members,

We still need to catch up with a few new members to bring you their photos so you'll put a face to the names.

Like you, I cannot believe we're into January already. *Membership* runs the calendar year. Which means. . . it's time to pack the checkbook and renew your dues! If you're like me, somewhere during shampooing you mentally note that you need to pack the checkbook. But, it's a long way between lathering, rinsing, and repeating, and racing out the door - I forget to pack the checkbook.

Yes - we still happily accept cash and checks for your dues. Be kind to your Treasurer and renew early!

Many thanks to Wayne Dixon for his smooth-running presidency the last two years. And, it has been a pleasure to have worked with him on his Board, and to have his participation in our training classes.

Here's a short story about Wayne known only to a few members. This all ties in with Membership - you'll see in a minute. Picture if you will the general club meeting, October 2016. We've announced the Board for 2017, but we're short one name for Secretary for the coming year. So, we make the usual plea, "If you would like to talk to us about the Secretary position, please do so!"

Imagine my surprise when during the meeting a brand new guest introduces himself to me. "Hi. I'm Wayne Dixon! This is my first time at the club, and I'm really interested in fly fishing. It sounds like you really need the Secretary position filled. What does that entail? What is the job description? It sounds like you need the position filled! If you don't have anyone else in mind I'd really be interested in doing that."

In fairness to Wayne, rather than sell him "a bill of goods" (as if I could talk intelligently about Secretary, never having done it) I introduced him straightaway to our outgoing Secretary, Joe Spancic, so Joe could tell him about the job from personal experience. (Take the high road, Randy!) They talked that night at the meeting, Wayne came back to me, volunteered, and guess who was voted into the Secretary position the next month, and did a fine job of it!

So, how does this story connect with Membership? To me, membership is more than handing out name badges to the new members. It's about ensuring a vibrant, growing, enthusiastic bunch of fly fishers.

You'll observe that Wayne's outlook is that you'll get out of something in proportion to what you put *into* it. The next year he continued on the board as President for the next two years. Meanwhile the club developed and presented *Introduction to Fly Fishing* for the City of Olympia. Wayne further involved himself by developing and presenting his *Entomology 101* for this class. He also delivered *Entomology 101* at the 2018 "Indoor Outing."

And so, back to Membership. To better serve our membership we're offering more training this year than before. We want to help others learn new skills, to introduce the public to fly fishing with our training classes, and to welcome some of those new students into the club and continue their participation. Look elsewhere in this edition for an overview on education opportunities we're presenting for 2020.

It's a new year! Go on a new outing. Attend a class. Try your hand at fly tying during the Indoor Outing. Cast with us. Ask us who you should talk with about fishing for x-y-z fish. Chances are, they're right at your fingertips. We have some understated, and very knowledgeable folks. Let us help *you* have a better experience with your fly fishing!

Thanks for being a member of South Sound Fly Fishers!

Welcome to 2020!

Randy



Photo by Heidi-Magical Moments PNW

Riffles

By Beth Mason



Why women don't join fly-fishing clubs?

The answer to this question crosses the gender line of perplexity. Logically, if we find a hobby or interest we want to pursue, then, it makes sense to seek others who have similar interests. Perhaps looking into local classes, events, workshops, and clubs to connect with others, right?

Not that simple, especially for women. For example, if you are a woman who wants to learn more about fly-fishing, but your significant other doesn't share the same interest as you, what is your strategy for exploring your interest and not creating tension in your relationship?

Your husband, boyfriend or significant other, may ask about your motives. Are you truly interested in fly-fishing or are you unhappy with your relationship and seeking activities to be away? Fly-fishing traditionally is a male hobby, so your partner might suspect you are seeking a new romantic partner. Maybe it wouldn't be an issue if you were joining a women's knitting circle, book club, bowling league, or an aerobics class?

What strategies have worked in the past where you or your significant other wanted to pursue a new but separate hobby? Did you insist they take part in your hobby? Did you try to negotiate with them in a trade for time away? For example, if I go to the fly-fishing club then you can go play golf?

In next month's article we will continue to explore this topic and attempt to come up with possible solutions.

Beth



Greetings Fly fishers,

A happy New Year to all of you. I hope all you club members enjoyed the Holiday Season. Your club treasurer is now getting back to business after an all too short winter break.

It is time to start collecting annual dues again. **Please pay your 2020 club dues.** Annual dues of \$40.00 are due beginning in January for 2020. New folks just joining the club pay \$45.00. The extra \$5.00 is to help cover the cost of producing your engraved name badge.

Cash or checks may be given directly to me, Jim Maus-SSFF Treasurer at any meeting. If you pay by check, please make it out to South Sound Fly Fishers or just the letters "SSFF" works fine for the bank.

I will be at the back table of the meeting room to take cash and checks for your dues and donations. While you are at the back table paying your dues this is also an excellent opportunity to check your address and phone and email contact information on the club roster. I will have a copy of the roster at the table ready for any contact changes you need to pencil in.

If you are unable to attend, just mail your check to the club's U.S. Post Box at the Olympia main post office. The club's address is: South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA 98507.

Remember that South Sound Fly Fishers is a non-profit 501 c (3) organization. SSFF promotes conservation and education. Your dues money is used for funding club operations.

Fiscal year 2019 Closeout and Audit

The 2019 financial records are being reviewed by an Audit Committee. Thank you Audit Committee. The 2019 books are complete and ready to be approved by the Board of Directors and the club membership. All this will be done by the March club meeting as specified in the club Bylaws.

Jim



SSFF Pot-Luck Dinner and Auction

Please save the date: SSFF Potluck Dinner and Auction - Saturday, May 2, 2020

The South Sound Fly Fishers' Family Dinner and Auction is being held at the Black Lake Grange Hall on **Saturday, May 2nd 2020**.

The potluck dinner usually begins at 6:00 and the auction starts at 7:00. It will be a live-only auction and all funds raised will go to the club's conservation and service projects:

Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group

Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly-Fishing Academy

Casting for Recovery

Healing Waters Fly Fishing

South Sound Salmon Enhancement Group

We plan to auction donations of “experiences and adventures” (fishing trips, gourmet dinners, etc.), and valuable items like rods, reels, art, and fishing and other items. 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.

SSFF 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



Photo by Howard Nanto



Greetings Fly Fishers,

We now are partnered with the City of Olympia at the Olympia Center. We're developing an annual training *program* to take the complete novice from knowing nothing, to properly catching and releasing a fish.

If you have a friend of either gender that is considering testing the fly fishing waters but knows nothing yet, suggest he or she attend our first class in March which is:

Introduction to Fly Fishing

This class describes the sport of fly fishing for the complete novice. This course introduces a brief history of fly fishing; demonstrates fishing gear including rods, reels, lines and leaders, waders and boots, pontoon boats to float-tubes; entomology including nymphs, emergers, dry flies, and terrestrials; locating fish in streams, lakes, and the Sound; fly casting; basic fisher knots; water safety and outdoor savvy; stream bank erosion management; and fly fisher conservation.

Class dates will be Monday evenings March 2, 9, 16, 23, and 30 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. Classes will be held at the Olympia Center in downtown Olympia. Two Saturday morning casting lessons are included in the class.

Fly Casting will follow the *Introduction* class; again, we target the beginning he or she student. This seven week class addresses single-handed rod casting (not Spey rods).

The first night class is a classroom introduction to fly rods, reels, lines, and leaders, and some casting mechanics. Students should bring their rods to the classroom for evaluation and help setting up for the next week when hands-on casting will begin.

The next six weeks teach basic fly casting skills including pick-up and lay-down casts, false casts, aerial line mends, stripping and shooting line, off-shoulder casting in the wind, roll casts, and on-the-water line mends.

Class dates will be Mondays evenings April 6, 13, 20, 27, May 4, 11, and 18 from 6:00 - 8:00 pm. The first classroom will be held at the Olympia Center, downtown Olympia. The casting location is being finalized in the Olympia / Tumwater area.

The **On the Water Clinic** will follow the casting lessons and will be aimed at the new folks that have some gear and some skills. Here we will integrate the training concepts to help students catch and release fish.

Introduction to Fly Tying will be in the Fall. This class will be taught one night per week. This course is aimed at the complete he or she novice with no prior experience in tying flies. It covers typical fly tying equipment, hackles/feathers, hook sizes, fly proportions, and several fly patterns. Students will learn and tie a fly during each evening's class, then recreate the fly at home before the next class. We encourage students to bring their "homework" back the next week for evaluation. We will teach examples of nymph, wet fly, streamer, and dry fly patterns. In 2019 we taught six flies. More details about the 2020 class will be announced at a later date.

The most exciting feedback was when students returned to the following week's class and reported that they had caught fish using the flies they had learned and tied themselves!

Class dates have not yet been determined.

Classes are listed in the *Experience It!* catalog mailed to Olympia addresses by their Parks, Arts, and Recreation department. More details and course codes for enrollment will follow in future editions of the *Garden Hackle!* Or, for more information stop me at a meeting, or shoot me an email.

Welcome to 2020!

Randy



The Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy

By Mike Clancy Co-Director



Applications are being accepted until April 15th for the 2020 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. To qualify for The Academy, the applicant, boy or girl, 12-16 years old, must write an essay explaining why “they” want to attend the Academy and a letter of recommendation is required from their school counselor or science teacher.

The dates for the WCTU and WSCFFI supported event, are June 21-27, 2020. The last full week of June. The week long Academy will be held at The Gwinwood Conference Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA.

To learn more about “The Academy”, go to www.nwycffa.com. The application is available on the website or contact Mike Clancy @ nwycffa@comcast.net or Jim Brosio @ brosioj@q.com. This is a life rewarding experience for our youth to learn conservation and the basics of fly fishing. We are also on Facebook. No youth will be turned away because of funding.

THE YOUTH OF TODAY ARE THE GUARDIANS OF THE FUTURE FOR OUR SPORT OF FLYFISHING





Hello Fellow Anglers,

Fishing rule changes lifted on several southwest Washington rivers

Action: Returns Cedar Creek and the Cowlitz, Kalama, Lewis, and Washougal rivers to permanent rules.

Effective date: Dec. 19, 2019.

Species affected: All species.

Locations:

- **Cowlitz River**, from the mouth to the posted markers 400 feet below the Barrier Dam.
- **Kalama River**, from the mouth to 1,000 feet below the fishway at the upper salmon hatchery (i.e. Kalama Falls Hatchery).
- **Lewis River**, from the mouth to the overhead power lines below Merwin Dam.
- **Cedar Creek**, from the mouth upstream, including all tributaries.
- **Washougal River**, from the mouth to the bridge at Salmon Falls.

Reason for action: The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife modified coho salmon rules in several southwest Washington tributaries in late November due to limited returns to hatchery facilities and projected broodstock collection shortfalls. Recent rainfall events increased river flows, resulting in additional fish entering tributary hatcheries. Broodstock collection goals are expected to be met, therefore continued modification of these fisheries is no longer needed.

Additional information: Please see the 2019-2020 Sport Fishing Rules pamphlet for permanent fishing rules.

Flies We Tie

By Gary Oberbillig and Joe Uhlman



Note—These articles are by SSFF members Joe Uhlman and Gary Oberbillig. Both of these gentlemen have tied many flies for the waters they fish. Here are some of stories they have shared about these flies. We begin this series of articles with Gary Oberbillig.

My interest in fishing and fly tying can be traced back to the earliest days of my youth. As a boy growing up in Idaho I learned to hunt and fish from my members of my family. Grandfather Simpson and taught me the basics of Hunting and fly fishing when I was about eleven years old. Grandfather and Dad fished most of the creeks, rivers and lakes in Central Idaho.

Hardware stores were the main source of fly and fishing tackle in those days. No fly shops or outdoor stores even existed as we know them today. Crudely tied flies came with a short piece of leader and were available at the hardware stores in town for 25 cents a-piece. It was a wonder we caught as many fish as we did with these flies, but of course there were many more fish to be caught in those days. These store bought flies were poorly done and I knew I could learn to tie flies better than what was being offered commercially.

So, I became a pretty good fly tier at an early age. I hunted birds and game animals so feather and fur were always at hand. Many of our farm neighbors were happy to know that I could make good use of what they would otherwise have discarded. Fly tying was an activity I loved and I was blessed with artistic talent that began to show at an early age.

My Grandfather Simpson had fished for all species of fish in Idaho, but he really loved bass. He liked bass because they were predators that would strike hard and they often put on a high jumping show. I learned the rudiments of fishing for this great game fish from my Grandpa. When I was fourteen years old I started to fish for bass alone.

I have always enjoyed fishing for Small Mouth Bass. I've heard that Small Mouth Bass slowly migrated down from Canadian waters beginning in the middle of last the century. These fish seem to do well in colder water, are territorial, like cover and typically ambush their prey with explosive force. Bass have a good sense of smell, can discern colors and seem to have longer memories than trout. Small Mouth sometimes exhibit behaviors closer to a Cutthroat rather than a Bass. Catching them is often a challenge until you use the proverbial right fly at the right time.

When I first joined SSFF bass fishing was hardly known in the club. Members focused on Salmon, Steelhead, Sea run Cutthroat and freshwater trout. Bass were the butt of many fishing jokes and my interest in Bass was not shared except by a couple of members. Over the years this situation changed as more and more members came to pursue this wonderful game fish. Large Mouth and Small Mouth populations are available locally here in Thurston county. WDFW now lists Large and Small Mouth Bass populations in at least eleven of the 16 major lakes in Thurston County.

Over the years I came to find several flies to be more productive than others. So, we will end this article talking about popper flies. These are the most numerous Bass flies in my surface fly box.

What I typically did if I needed to tie up some Bass poppers is head over to Bjorn's Beech's shop, The Fly Fisher, in Lacey. Bjorn has popper bodies and everything else needed for tying poppers. If Bjorn has time, he'll show you some of the poppers he has in the shop and give you a few tying tips.

I had good luck fishing locally for Small Mouth Bass in Black, Long and Summit Lakes. But, even on days when I didn't hook many fish, it was always a pleasure for me to be out on the water here in the Pacific Northwest.





Club Bulletin Board

Please see "Events" at the new club website. The new Web address: southsoundflyfishers.com
Club meetings, outings and classes are posted on the events page of the website.

Please help our First Responders! Please keep the Fire Station's emergency vehicle driveways clear of parked vehicles during all SSFF meetings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please park in the lot behind the Station. The driveway to rear lot is 50 yards north of the station.

Willy Worm says thanks for your cooperation.

Club Dues for 2020-- Dues can be given to the Treasurer by cash or check at meetings or by mailing a check to: SSFF at PO Box 7456 Olympia WA 98507. Thank you for supporting the SSFF mission of conservation and education.

- **Call** 911 to report poaching in progress, a dangerous wildlife complaint, or an emergency.
- **Call** 877-933-9847 for non-emergency poaching/violation reports.
- Send an **email** to reportpoaching@dfw.wa.gov.

Send a **text tip** to 847411 (TIP411) by entering WDFWTIP, followed by a space, and then entering your report

Annual Discover Pass

If you need to use your annual Pass on the day of purchase your email receipt will be valid for 10 days, please display on your cars dashboard or if unable to print you can write down the transaction number and the date from your email receipt on a piece of paper to display on your cars dashboard until you receive the pass in the mail. - Annual Discover Pass is valid through month of purchase of next year.

Fly of the Month

FFI has a large fly tying resource available on their website. Just copy and paste the following internet address into your browser and see how to tie the Fly of the Month or view their entire video library.

https://flyfishersinternational.org/Tying/Educational-Resources/Fly-of-the-Month?utm_source=FFI+Member+MASTER+List+as+of+10-24-19&utm_campaign=d8e98bebe5-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2019_10_08_06_25_COPY_01&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_7368171aff-d8e98bebe5-239061441

(Copy and paste the link above into your browser and go to the FOTM or tying video of your choice)

Thank you FFI for sharing the FOTM and video library!



Students at NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS -2020 Officers, Directors and contact Information

President: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Vice President: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Secretary: Lee Yeager yeagerflyfish@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jim Maus jimmaus@comcast.net

Past President: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com

Conservation: Don Freeman freeman5@comcast.net

Education: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Fundraising: John Sabo chrisonquince@comcast.net

Membership: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

The Garden Hackle: Dave Field d_w_field@hotmail.com

Outings: Wayne Dixon and Jim McAllister wkdixon@gmail.com

Programs: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Webmaster/Social Media: Kody Elzinga & Vic Andrade kelzingart@gmail.com Vic_Andrade@att.nrt

Director at Large and WSCFFI Representative: Mike Clancy mtclancy39@comcast.net

Director at Large: Beth Mason aerobar2@hotmail.com

Club Meetings are at 7:00pm the third Tuesday of every month except August and December. Note that the Club Picnic is in August.

Board of Directors meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:00 pm.

Unless announced otherwise, all scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station, 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA.

Old Website: www.southsoundflyfishers.org

New website: southsoundflyfishers.com

USPS Mail Address: SSFF PO BOX 2792, Olympia, WA 98507

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter
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