



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

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August 2020

Page 1 President Gene discusses club activities as we stay safe during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Page 3 Wayne Dixon talks about our outing at Merrill Lake and our upcoming outing on the Skookumchuck.

Page 5 Randy Allen on some of our members and advantages of membership.

## LEADER'S LINE

By President Gene Rivers



### Greetings to All Fly Fishers,

It can't be the middle of August, but it is! Fall is just around the corner. That is a favorite time of year for fishing for me. I did sneak out for a trip for resident Coho the other day and they are active and always a fun fishery. Because I was walking the beach a few SRCs were also hooked even though I was after the silvers. It was so much fun.

The SSFF Board of Directors has been meeting monthly via Zoom since Covid hit. In July we also had our first General Membership meeting via Zoom. We followed that in July with a General Meeting that was open to both members and non-members. August is a month that we have not held General Meetings in the past but had had our yearly picnic instead. This year we will not have a picnic because of Covid. So there is no August meeting for the general membership as in the past.

We will resume monthly General Meetings for club members via Zoom starting in September. They will be at the same time as our physical meetings were, 7:00pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Club members will receive a Zoom invitation to the General Meetings. We do not have General Meetings in December because of the holidays.

Even though we will not have a General membership meeting or picnic in August we will have a club outing on Saturday August 22 on the Skookumchuck River. Our outings Chair Wayne Dixon has an article in this edition of the newsletter with details about this outing.

We had two great outings in the last two months. In June there was a successful outing to Swofford Pond. In July we had a great turnout for our Merrill lake outing. This outing was also very successful. Don't miss the fun. Read Wayne's article and plan on joining us for fun and good fishing at our August outing on the Skookumchuck.

Get out and go fishing,

***Gene***



Dave Field Photo © 2020



### Good Day All,

#### Outings and Observations

As I drive to my favorite fishing spot, I notice that there is something different about this trip. The primitive roads I have explored in the past are now frequented by more traffic. There seems to be an unfamiliarity about this trip. It's as though I am in a different part of the world, not my comfortable secluded fishing spot. Where am I? Why are all these people here now? What happened to my sanctuary? It is then I realize that all these folks are doing exactly what I have been recommending to all those I converse with. When you feel stressed, get out and explore nature.

2020 has been a challenging year in many regards, at the fly club it has been difficult to plan anything, or carry on with regular meetings. However, President Gene has done a great job in organizing and scheduling Zoom meetings with all the board members and the general membership to keep us engaged and current.

During these times we need to keep track of each other and make sure our fellow members are ok. One way we can do this is by attending outings and attending the meetings online. I know its somewhat cumbersome but at the moment it's all we have. Most importantly get out and take a walk, explore the outdoors and take a fly rod, but follow the recommended guidelines. If you don't know where to go how about attending one of our outings. Last month's outing was at Merrill Lake in Cowlitz county. It is a fly fishing only lake with campgrounds at the lake. There is also camping in the immediate area. It was a great night. We had an overnight that was attended by 5 groups of people. Please take advantage of these opportunities and enjoy the comradery. Now that July is in the books let's talk about August.

August 22st we will be going to the Skookumchuck River. We can meet at the river by the dam at 0900. I will provide an online Zoom meeting to discuss the types of flies and locations, hopefully some people will add their own experiences during the meeting. The Zoom meeting will be held on **August 18th at 7:00 pm**. The “Skook” is a great place to openly hike around the river without a lot of effort. There are numerous areas to social distance and it offers a lot of beautiful scenery.

Just remember to leave it cleaner than when you arrived. I have noticed with the increase in people around the rivers, lakes and hiking areas there has also been a significant increase in pollution around these places. Let us all be good stewards and take the extra effort to keep our places of recreation clean. I look forward to seeing you all down at the Skookumchuck and at the Zoom meeting.

Talk with you Soon,

*Wayne*



Heidi Wellard Photo © 2020

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## Membership

Randy Allen, Vice President



### **Hello Club Members,**

The Buell family - David, Tonia, and son Colby joined this past month. The Buells met Jim McAllister through his work. Not that Jim would ever mention fly fishing but somehow... the subject came up. (Jim, didn't you help the Buells with some casting also?)

About a year ago the Buell's then-18 year old high-school son, Colby became interested in fly fishing. But, the day of our meeting Colby's buddy talked him into surfing that afternoon, and he missed the meeting his mom and dad attended. (You thought we forgot that, huh?)

It's now 2020 and Colby is working a summer internship with Washington Dep't of Fish and Wildlife. He's crazy into fly fishing. Whatever stream he studies for work he fishes that afternoon. And, Colby has successfully rekindled his dad's interest in fly fishing. So Tonia gifts the guys with a family membership into SSFF. Nicely done, Tonia!

Tonia's also a fisher, mostly bass and trout. Colby's working on getting his mom into flies also.

Membership kudos and recognition go out to Jim McAllister, Gene Rivers, and Wayne Dixon.

And an interesting parallel story... It was Jim's son, Loren, who was hot to learn about fly fishing before he was old enough to drive. So Loren researches the SSFF and, of course, needs transportation to the meetings. Fisher-Jim becomes a fly fisher! And new-members Loren and Jim quickly became the club's Outings co-chairs!

So Jim talks up the SSFF with the Buells, and finds their son, Colby, wants to learn to fly fish. And now Colby has rekindled his dad's interest in fly-fishing. Before Colby starts college this Fall he wants to fly-fish Montana. Dave inquires who in the club knows Montana streams?

Gene Rivers knows who's who in the zoo. He recommends we connect the Buells to Wayne Dixon. Wayne knows a lot about the Montana areas the Buells plan to fish this month. Streams, flies, fish, gear, fishing spots... Wayne provided a lot of info to our new members to ensure they'll have a great fishing trip.

Jim, Gene, and Wayne - Thanks so much for sharing your knowledge. This is what membership is about!

Dave, Tonia, and Colby - welcome to the SSFF! And send me your photos so we can follow-up this article!

Tight lines!

*Randy*



Randy Allen Photo © 2020



### Greetings Fly Fishers

Education – by Randy Allen

The City of Olympia is not yet ready to resume indoor activities due to social distancing requirements.

SSFF instructors will start talks about the feasibility of resuming our Introduction to Fly Fishing class using Zoom teleconferencing. More to come. . .

Again, Olympia is not currently producing and distributing the Experience It! catalog of classes and activities. Here is the City's web-site so you can periodically check in:  
<https://apm.activecommunities.com/olyparksartsrec/Home>

Fly Casting for single-handed rod casting (not spey rods).

It appears that we are allowed to teach fly casting with two instructors plus eight students to comply with the Governor's current maximum group size of 10. Our casting instructors will discuss how to accomplish our training objectives while maintaining required social distance for the virus.

Again, here's the course outline for first-time readers.

1. Rod-reel-line-leader-tippet orientation - Teach via Zoom?
2. Hands-on casting starts: Pick up and lay down cast
3. False casts
4. Off-side cast
5. Reach-mend and S-Cast

6. Stripping and shooting line

7. Roll cast, mends and line management - Streamside session on the Deschutes River

· On the water clinic (see below)

An On the Water Clinic follows the casting lessons, aimed at the new folks. Here we will integrate the training concepts to help students catch and bring fish to their hands.

Help Still Needed - After the casting lessons we want to help the new students catch and release their fish. This is what the students will have practiced for with their yarn: actual fishing with flies. We could break our class into several small groups of two or three with one instructor per one or two students. Groups of two or three would be scattered about the fishery. We would comply with the maximum safe-start group size. We will have taught mends and line management on moving water; I'd like to see this activity on the Skookumchuck River if possible. Please contact me – we'll need your help with our new students on the water. Find my email on the last page of the newsletter, or call me at 360 701-9662.

Introduction to Fly Tying will be in the Fall / Winter. We hope. Last year's class was great, and we want to continue that success. It's still too early to schedule definite dates. This is a very hands-on class in close proximity to the students. Stay tuned as we navigate the uncertainties!

Thanks, everyone!

*Randy*



Fishing in 1890s

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## Washington State Council FFI Representative and Conservation chair WSCFFI

By Mike Clancy



### Hello Fellow Fly Anglers

#### INFORMATION ON ENVIROMENTAL ISSUES IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD

**The Pebble Mine** – There is a lot of events going on in regards to folks that oppose the Pebble mine. Thousands of citizens of Alaska, TU Alaska, FFI, WSCFFI, Senator Murray and Senator Maria Cantwell, Donald Trump, Jr. are against the mine. It is just unconceivable to me that this 23-25 year event could take place with not only the damage to the environment with the construction of 100+ miles of roads, 188 miles of gas pipelines, and the potential damage to the world’s largest salmon runs. Each year 40-60 million salmon, a population inclusive of all five Pacific salmon species, return to Bristol Bay to spawn in the bay’s adjacent rivers. To learn more about this issue, please go to [www.savebristolbay.org](http://www.savebristolbay.org).

**The Chehalis River Dam** – We finally have some good news. Governor Inslee directed state agencies to cease planning efforts for the proposed Chehalis River dam and instead develop a basin-wide, non-dam alternative to flood reduction. This announcement is a major victory for wild steelhead and a substantial step in the longstanding effort to effectively mitigate flood damage and recover struggling wild fish populations in the Chehalis Basin.

**The Columbia and Snake River Dams** – There is an editorial in the Seattle Times about “Snake River dams in hot water”. If we are ever going to get the salmon recovery, they have to learn how to get the temperature of the lower Snake River to livable temps for the salmon to survive. The four lower Snake River dams are causing some serious deaths of the salmon. In 2015, hot water killed 250,000 adult sockeye salmon in the Columbia and Snake rivers. Another reason to eliminate the dams.



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS -2020 Officers, Directors, contacts

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Club Meetings are conducted by Zoom at 7:00pm the third Tuesday of every month except August and December. Zoom is open at 6:30 if you want to visit and talk fishing.

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

During the COVID-19 pandemic and until announced otherwise, all scheduled meetings are conducted on-line using Zoom. The meeting announcement and meeting code will be sent to members and friends ahead of the meeting by email. The firehouse is closed to meetings until further notice.

New website: [southsoundflyfishers.com](http://southsoundflyfishers.com)

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter

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