



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 20 Issue 9

September 2020

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LEADER'S LINE

By President Gene Rivers



Greetings to All Fly Fishers,

September is my favorite fishing month. October is a close second. The leaves are turning. The water starts to cool. It's peaceful and the fish always seem to show up for dinner. They are bigger than they were earlier in the Spring. I love fishing in the evening until dark. In all honesty a lot of that is because I'm not a morning person. It's a great time to get out at whatever time you prefer.

SSFF will have our General Membership meeting on Tuesday September 15, at 7:00pm. The meeting will again be via Zoom. Most members I've spoken with are comfortable with using Zoom. Many folks have family meetings via Zoom. If you are not familiar with Zoom don't let that scare you away. It's incredibly easy and a lot of fun. It's the way the world is going so it might be time to dip your feet in the water if you aren't already a Zoomer.

Longtime member Don Freeman will be presenting our September Zoom Program. Don is doing a fantastic Powerpoint Program on Searun Cutthroat. This is a world class fish and a world class fishery right in our own backyard. So in plain English this is a don't miss Program. Remember September kind of snuck up on us this month and our meeting is on Tuesday September 15 at 7:00pm. Members will get an email invitation to this Zoom meeting.

Outings for SSFF have been incredibly well attended since Covid-19 hit. It's a great way to connect with SSFF friends since we can't meet at the Fire Station yet.

Nobody knows when that will occur but it doesn't mean we can't fish together. We follow all State of Washington guidelines. So bring a mask (mostly for the quick huddle before we hit the water) and stay 6 feet or more apart and enjoy the fun. Wayne is out of town in September but there will be information in this newsletter for our members to attend the September outing.

In recent months we have had great outings at Merrill Lake, Swofford Pond, the Skookumchuck River. Look for the outings information in this version of the Garden Hackle.

Gene





Howard Nanto Photo © 2020

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The September meeting will be highlighted by a program on **Sea Run Cutthroat** by Don Freeman.

Don initially prepared this PowerPoint program as part of the effort to get the fishing community to support and protect the wild populations of these fish in Puget sound. Fly club support was an integral part of the program in the early days of bringing these fish back from likely extinction.

Years of heavy fishing, habitat destruction and general neglect had put Sea Run Cutthroat populations on the ropes in many parts of the Sound. It was through the efforts of Don and other likeminded individuals that eventually ignited support necessary to save these iconic fish.

Come see the program that helped to save the fish species that you enjoy today. Attend the club Zoom meeting on September 15th for this special presentation.

Club Outings

Wayne Dixon Outings Chair

Jim McAllister - Outing Gillie



Good Day All,

What: Fly Fishing for Cutthroat

When: September 26, 2020

Where: Cowlitz River - 8:00am meetup at Southgate shopping ctr. to convoy to Blue Creek

I will be out Elk hunting much of September so Jim McAllister is serving as outing Ghillie.

Here is Jim's scouting report and article for the September outing:

Our next club outing is on September 26th on the Cowlitz River. We are targeting Sea Run Cutthroat. I was down there a few days ago and got several nice 15-17" chunky Cutthroat. These fish move around in schools so we'll start at Blue Creek and probably move up towards the barrier dam as the morning progresses.

Our rendezvous point will be at the South Gate shopping center in front of the Dollar store at 8:00AM. Bring a snack or lunch and something to drink. Bring waders and PFD. You'll want to dress in layers this time of year and bring your rain gear. Rods should be no heavier than a # 7. A 4 or 5 weight rod will work on Cutts but be aware that you may tangle with something much bigger and powerful. Rig a floating or sink tip line and bring some nymphs and dry flies with you. There may still be a few Mayfly hatches on the river.

Here are photos of last month's outing on the beautiful Skookumchuck:



Membership

Randy Allen, Vice President



Hello Club Members,

It's been another quiet month out here in Lake Olygon, on the edge of the Olympia prairie.

We're not yet meeting in person, but we remain an active club! Membership includes members getting to know each other as they socialize and participate in our activities. Right now we're in full swing of our fishing season with monthly outings.

Lots of folks tell us they would like to fly fish, but they don't know anything about it. Some of you, our newest members, have told us that. I believe the future of any fly fishing club will reflect how well it can show newcomers the ropes. Our outings are a great way to meet fellow members and receive coaching real-time. A club is far more efficient than reading, watching videos, and stumbling and bumbling on your own. Not sure how to set up your lines? We can help. Unsure which fly to use on this water? Yeh, we've been there too - let's see your fly box...nope. Here, have this one of mine.

I have to believe you joined the South Sound Fly Fishers to go fishing. Stay with this - My dad had Frank working for him, a highly skilled, very demanding, and very colorful Hungarian machinist from the old country. I got to spend summers at Frank's side. Frank was never at a loss for colorful sayings often punctuated with language unsuitable for print. He got your attention. And fortunately he didn't see me as the boss's son. I was just another guy in the shop to Frank.

One of Frank's originals was when he was very irritated and excited, "Whatchoo wan' me to do, man!?!? Grease your butt weeth butter and pooosh you on the floor????!!!" (I left out a couple words.) His glare went right through you. I always knew when I messed up or was about to.

What has Frank, butter, and the floor got to do with fly fishing? Easy. Because of social distancing right now rest easy that we won't be at your door with a box of Darigold or Land O' Lakes butter to poosh you to the outing. So this is a reminder that you should come out with us. Look for the September outing article elsewhere in this newsletter. There will be a pre-outing Zoom meeting. (Phone us if you can't use Zoom.) And come out and go fishing with us!

See you at the outing.

Tight lines!

Randy



Howard Nanto Photo © 2020

Conservation

By Don Freeman, Chair



Greetings Fly Anglers,

I have two items to discuss this month, perhaps making up for no news last month. The first is a call for action as salmon conservation voters. The WDFW commission will meet next Friday, Sept 11 to discuss and vote on a proposal affecting salmon harvest on the Columbia River. These actions are always complicated, since Washington, Oregon, Idaho, several indigenous tribes and the federal government all share overlapping jurisdiction and regulations affecting harvest of salmon and steelhead.

Tribal harvest will not be impacted by this proposal, except that more fish may be available once recreational angling is reduced. Currently, anadromous runs are harvested recreationally by Washington, Oregon and Idaho citizens, by tribal gill netters and also non tribal commercial fishers. Non tribal harvesters must purchase licenses to participate. Both the number of recreational anglers participating and the license fees they pay greatly exceed the contribution of these commercial harvesters. Wild fish are fish technically excluded from harvest, but many wild salmon and steelhead are killed and retained as “incidental catch”. The result is that recreational license purchases pays the lion’s share of hatchery production to the financial benefit of the commercial interests. This discrepancy has existed for many years despite efforts by recreational interests to demand equity in catch allocation to match their greater contribution.

Now, rather than moving to prioritize the recreational industry with its higher license fee contribution, greater participation and massive economic multiplier throughout the region for boats, gear, motels, restaurants, fuel etc., the commission will vote to allocate even more of the recreational share of the resource to non-tribal gill netters. The following is a notice from CCA, the Coastal Conservation Association about the issue. The links here in the newsletter are not live, but if you go to the CCA website, you should be able to use their resources to write to your representative as described in their alert.

There is a personal note that I want to share. Most long-time club members are aware of the club's efforts to contribute to the scientific study of our local sea run cutthroat trout. One of the pioneers of this study, without whom the movement would be years behind if active at all, was the local fishery biologist Bill Young. A resident of Shelton, Bill spent a decade or more of his retirement studying the spawning habits of this anadromous trout in Skookum Creek. Bill refined the science and art of finding and counting redds (nests) and even more important trained others so that study results could be trusted to be accurate and consistent regardless of the stream studied or the surveyor doing the work.

His legacy has grown into what is now an international study, publicly funded beginning with contributions by South Sound Fly Fishers. Bill conducted these studies for years on a volunteer basis, physically walking miles of stream bed year-round in all kinds of weather. Bill was well into his 80s the one time I went with him, and he left my arthritic twenty-year younger butt stuck in the brush. A few years ago, he was honored as WDFW Volunteer of the Year.

Bill finally had to retire from his avocation due to his advancing age and weakening health. His wife Diane died three years ago, and Bill went to join her last week. At his passing he was accompanied and comforted by his family. We miss him already. I'll include one personal anecdote to illustrate what a quality person Bill Young was. Five years or so ago, Bill was hosting a training and information clinic hoping to develop a volunteer pool. My son and daughter attended to help Bill with the project, as both are biologists who do field work. That evening the phone rang and it was Bill. He had called simply to compliment me on what wonderful children Jane and I had raised and thanked me for sharing them. We were thrilled of course, such a compliment coming from Bill meant a great deal to us, but it's the extra step he took to reach out that will stay with me forever.

Bill Young was a quiet and self-deprecating guy, who asked for no memorial or even an obituary, but for those of you who knew him, I just wanted to pass on the sad news.

Don Freeman

Education

By Randy Allen Vice President



Greetings Fly Fishers,

Most of our training is up-close and in-person, which is why training is on-hold by the Covid-19 virus.

Folks seek us out looking for a club to learn to fly fish. Good for you! You'll fast-track your learning by attending training from those who can help improve your skills.

We offer three primary formal classes.

Early Spring: Introduction to Fly Fishing meets for five weeks, once per week, two and a half hours per night. Includes:

- History of fly fishing
- Fly fishing gear: clothing, rods, reels, fly lines and leaders, and flies, useful knots
- Floation devices including U-tubes, pontoon boats, kayaks, etc.
- Locating fish in rivers and streams, lakes, and South Puget Sound and local fish species
- Entomology – stages of various insects' lives, and artificial flies that imitate the real ones
- An introduction to fly rod casting
- Water safety
- Conservation and stream restoration

Spring-early summer: Fly Casting for single-handed rod casting (not spey rods). Meets for seven weeks, once per week, two hours per night:

- Classroom orientation to equipment: rod, reel, line, leader, tippet, fly
- Start hands-on casting: Pick-up and lay-down cast
- False casts
- Off-side cast
- Reach-mend and S-Cast
- Stripping and shooting line
- Streamside session: Roll cast, apply Reach-mend and S-cast, line management and drifts
- On the water fishing clinic (day outing)

Fall – Winter: Introduction to Fly Tying meets for six weeks, once per week, two hours per night. Students tie a different fly each week. They also receive materials to tie the fly at home before returning to the next class. The instructor-to-student ratio ensures students receive individual help. We teach a variety of flies useful anywhere: nymphs, streamers, and dry flies.

Please contact me with questions. My email is on the last page of the newsletter, or call me at 360 701-9662.

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>

Thanks for your patience, everyone, as we stand-down during these uncertain Covid-19 times! Please wash your hands and wear your masks.

Thanks, everyone!

Randy

Washington State Council FFI Representative and Conservation Chair WSCFFI

By Mike Clancy



Hello Fellow Fly Anglers,

The Pebble Mine – There is some incredible information released the past couple days in regards to the mine. Hard to believe that maybe all the hard work to prevent this event might be paying off.

8/24/2020 – TODAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR BRISTOL BAY.

BREAKING: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sends Pebble Mine Back to the Drawing Board

8/25/2020 – Trump Administration set to halt Pebble Mine, sources say

8/29/2020 – Army Corps says Proposed Pebble Mine Project Cannot Be Permitted

8/29/2020 – Pebble Has Failed to Meet Clean Water Act Standards

The Klamath River Dams – This river is in southern Oregon and northern California.

There four dams scheduled to be removed very soon. Starting in November,

Authorities are going to release the water behind the dams for removable. To learn more about this subject, go to www.BringTheSalmonHome.org it's worth your time.

Chehalis River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Project – Our Governor has put a hold on the proposed flood control dam. He wants the commission to study flood control in the community.

WSCFFI – Bill Wheeler has stepped down as the Council President for personal reasons. Steve Jones has taken over the President’s Office after a confirmation vote conducted by the members of The Council.

FFI – The FFI is conducting ZOOM presentations on their website. Casting, fly tying, etc. Go to the FFI website – www.flyfishersinternational.org Click on the “Event” link. Since a lot of our kids are going to be on computers in the future, watching fly tying would be a good break

Mike Clancy





SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS -2020 Officers, Directors & other 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

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter

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