



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 20 Issue 11

November 2020

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## LEADER'S LINE

By President Gene Rivers



photos Ó Gene River

November is our last meeting of the year. Our election of Officers and Directors is held each year in November, so I encourage members to attend. As you are aware our meetings are held via Zoom because of Covid-19. Most folks are familiar with using Zoom but if anyone needs help using Zoom please let us know. It is literally easier than falling off the proverbial log.

Our nominating committee has worked very hard to come up with a list of qualified members that are willing to serve our club for 2021. Nominations can also be made from the floor. If you want to nominate anyone for any position, please be sure to get their permission prior to doing so.



The November club outing was to Hoodspport to fish for Chum. The chum return this year has been very low. WDFW has closed the fishery around the Hoodspport Hatchery between November 9 to November 30, 2020 because of the low returns. The small number of returning fish make it difficult for WFDW to obtain the necessary brood stock. I sent a blast email regarding this to the membership recently which you should have received. For further information go to the WDFW website at [WDFW.gov](http://WDFW.gov).

In addition to our November elections we will have a great presentation about casting. It will cover:

1. Pick up and lay down casts.
2. False casting.
3. Common loop shapes and how to control them.
4. Roll casting.
5. Change of direction casts.
6. Distance casting.



There will be an opportunity to ask questions of the numerous experienced casters in our club, including Randy Allen, who is a Certified Casting Instructor.

Come to our November club meeting, cast your vote or run for office if you are interested and enjoy the casting instruction. Happy Thanksgiving!

*Gene*



## **SIX CASTING LESSONS**

For November's Program I have six videos from 5 to 7 minutes long that demonstrate important aspects of proper fly casting.

The entire program will run approximately 40 minutes in length and covers most elements needed to successfully enjoy fly fishing while increasing your chances of catching fish.

After watching these instructional videos you will be able to enjoy fly fishing more and eliminate common casting mistakes. You will have the opportunity to have experienced club members including Randy Allen, our VP and Certified Casting instructor answer your casting questions.

Who doesn't want to learn how to cast better?

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## Club Outings

Jim McAllister - Ghillie



### Howdy Fly Fishers

Our most recent club outing was our annual trip to Hoodspport for Chums. Similar to last year the salmon weren't in. Get Don Freeman's conservation read on the situation in his article in the "Hackle."

Randy Allen attended the outing and here are his comments:

**It was a great outing. We cannot control the fish, or their timing. Our phone line to Mother Nature was down for repairs. We got our lines wet. And, we had a great time together. Almost as good a time as if we'd hooked into some chum. I hooked into an oyster shell, does that count?**



Here are most of the participants at the Hoodspport Halloween Chum-A-Thon.

Left to right: Loren McAllister, Mark Brownell, Jim McAllister, and newest member Kevin Angevine. Behind the camera is Randy Allen.



## THE SOAPBOX

It being November and all, let's talk chum salmon. I've heard from several fishing buddies and read local reports that this year's chum returns are disappointing to anglers, hatchery managers and tribal commercial fishers. In fact, most of you are aware by now that the popular fishery in front of the Hoodsport hatchery on Hood Canal has been closed to all fishing. At this point, they do not have enough returns to provide the fertilized the eggs required to hatch the numbers needed to stock next year's run. If there is a pleasant surprise in the form of a ton of late returns, the fishery could open again once the magic number of fertilized eggs is reached, but the priority is to plan for the future, so for now that honey hole remains closed.

The returns around the sound are similarly low so far. There is hope that there will be an uptick of course. Many streams are still too low for spawning and we know that there are schools of chum biding their time in the salt water and some heavy rain is forecast for next week which could bring these stragglers in. So far the picture is not as dismal as the 2019 runs and it isn't unheard of for a given population of salmon to return late due to a number of conditions such as rainfall or harvest before the chum get to where they "belong".

Chum are remarkably predictable in their timing when they return. At Kennedy Creek for instance, the fish have shown during the same 9-day window every year since records have been kept. That's except for last year when they were 2 weeks late. No one knows why that anomaly occurred, but the situation caused a lot of angst.

For now, all we can do is tie up plenty of chartreuse flies and be ready when the rain returns next week. The serious chum fishers that I know will plan a scouting mission into each fishing trip. There are reports of better numbers in the Kitsap area, the state parks on the Canal can produce well at times and there are various streams North of the hatchery at Hoodsport where the salmon congregate. So, invest in some fossil fuel and get out there and search if you want to put a bend in your 8 weights. You may find a new favorite spot and fishing the salt in the fall is a reward in itself, chum or no chum.

Best regards **Don**

### Greetings Fly Fishers

New to fly fishing? Many seek the SSFF 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. Here's the run-down of our training, that is, when we are able to present it. The bottom line is that fishers accelerate their learning curves by joining a club and attending qualified, experienced instruction.

We (normally) offer three primary formal classes.

Spring: ***Introduction to Fly Fishing*** 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
- Floatation devices including U-tubes, pontoon boats, kayaks....
- Locating fish in rivers and streams, lakes, and the South Puget Sound
- 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). 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, dry flies, etc.

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

Randy



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## Membership

by 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. No new members this month.

**We're not meeting in person yet, but we are a very *active* club!** By the time you found this article you surely read Gene's notes about our program this month. I'm *stoked* about our club presenting training events. So many folks we meet along the way tell us, "I don't know anything about fly fishing, but I've wanted to learn." The educational opportunities we provide introduce the student to the sport and also introduce them to our established, proficient fishers. What a great partnership!

As you fish, please remember this. Those established fly fishers you meet on the water may be interested in meeting more like-minded fly fishers. And, those fishers who tell you they know nothing about the sport, and didn't know where to turn to learn it - they're looking at it. You are their introduction. No, you don't need to pull a laptop or viewgraphs out of your vest. But when they met you that person just met the SSFF, where they will meet more folks who can help with whatever they are interested.

In my experience - when we take care of the prospective members - those new folks you meet along the way - when we help those new fishers become successful - as if by magic membership takes care of itself.

Here is where you come in - as you meet fishing folks, tell them about the South Sound Fly Fishers com web-site (no spaces), and that we'd welcome them into the club to participate in meetings and outings. And we'll help them with the training to start fly fishing, or to improve their success rates.

Have fun fishing and have fun meeting new fishers!

*Randy*

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## Washington State Council FFI Representative and Conservation Chair WSCFFI

By Mike Clancy



### Greetings Fly Fishers

Mel Hurd, a past SSFF President, wrote a 20 page booklet titled:

#### FLY FISHING FOR SEARUN CUTTHROAT IN SOUTH PUGET SOUND

Mel wrote the booklet in September 1993, and revised it in July 2006. It is a wonderful booklet, referencing everything you can think of pertaining to “FLY FISHING FOR SEARUN CUTTHROAT IN SOUTH PUGET SOUND”.

It's a very informative and an easy read book. Fishing the salt is great in our area and there are references to areas for easy access for fishing for Searuns, plus recommendations on equipment and fishing techniques.

Jim Brosio and I have used Mel's booklet for many years at The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. Mel has been teaching a class on fishing the South Sound for many years at The Academy.

With Mel's permission, SSFF is offering Mel's booklet to any SSFF current (paid up) members, interested in acquiring this booklet. We are asking for donations, suggested minimum amount is \$5.00.

There are a couple ways to make the donation, one via PayPal or mail a donation to Jim Maus, Treasurer, SSFF, PO Box 2792, Olympia, WA. 98507. After you make the donation, please send me a message with your street address and I'll see that you get the booklet. My contact info: [mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net).



## **FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL**

Patrick H. Berry, President & CEO of the FFI reported, it's time to start the planning process for "Season 2" of FFI Online. Taking a break, from the Online events, they are going to start again in November. You can view the Online events, i.e. fly tying, casting, etc., via the FFI website - [www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org)

**PEBBLE MINE** - Deadline to resubmit for a new permit expires November 15<sup>th</sup>. Meghan Barker, Alaska TU Organizer, reported that there are two more damaging tapes recorded from the Executives of Northern Dynasty Mineral Company of Canada by the EIA investigators. You can go to [www.savebristolbay.org](http://www.savebristolbay.org) to view the tapes. Meghan also interviewed two Bristol Bay guides on Instagram, both stated "if this mine is allowed, you can say goodbye to Bristol Bay fishery. Trust me, that's a toned down remark.

**NY TIMES ARTICLE** - There is a NY Times article titled "Trump administration is reversing nearly 100 environmental rules". You can view the article via Google. One of the items is to open logging to all National forests which includes the Tongass NF in Alaska.



Howard Nanto 📷 Photo



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS -2020 Officers, Directors as of 11/9/2020

President: Gene Rivers [acu4pets@hotmail.com](mailto:acu4pets@hotmail.com)

Vice President: Randy Allen [randyandcarol2@gmail.com](mailto:randyandcarol2@gmail.com)

Secretary: Lee Yeager [yeagerflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:yeagerflyfish@gmail.com)

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

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

Conservation: Don Freeman [freeman5@comcast.net](mailto:freeman5@comcast.net)

Education: Randy Allen [randyandcarol2@gmail.com](mailto:randyandcarol2@gmail.com)

Fundraising: Vacant

Membership: Randy Allen [randyandcarol2@gmail.com](mailto:randyandcarol2@gmail.com)

Newsletter: Dave Field [d\\_w\\_field@hotmail.com](mailto:d_w_field@hotmail.com)

Outings: Vacant

Programs: Gene Rivers [acu4pets@hotmail.com](mailto:acu4pets@hotmail.com)

Webmaster/Social Media: Vic Andrade [hp8202va@gmail.com](mailto:hp8202va@gmail.com)

Director at Large and WSCFFI Representative: Mike Clancy [mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net)

Director at Large and Women's Fly Fishing, Beth Mason [aerobar2@hotmail.com](mailto:aerobar2@hotmail.com)

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 fly fishing.

Board of Directors Zoom 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 . The meeting announcement and meeting Zoom code are sent to members and friends ahead of the meeting by email. The North Olympia 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

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December newsletter articles due December 6th