



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 20 Issue 12

December 2020

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LEADER'S LINE

By President Gene Rivers



As most members know, we don't meet in December. We will resume meetings in January. A few members have been fishing recently and have actually done well. For the most part I think fly fishers spend winter months tying flies, planning for a special trip next year or dreaming of that perfect holiday surprise gift of fly-fishing equipment you have been dreaming about.

Sunrise on the Prairie



Photo © Gene Rivers

Around Thanksgiving I found myself thinking about what I had to be thankful for. Despite 2020 being a weird and admittedly difficult year I found myself realizing there is much to be thankful for. For SSFF I am particularly thankful for the 2020 SSFF Board of Directors. These men and women have given a lot of their time to help SSFF continue to thrive, despite the challenges thrown at us by Covid-19.

So I feel compelled to say a huge thank you to the 2020 Officers and Directors of the South Sound Fly Fishers. I learned a lot by attending our meetings. Often just a brief comment about where someone was fishing or where fishing had been red hot was an unexpected benefit of working on the Board.

Mainly, however, I continuously was humbled by the unrelenting passion and dedication the Board members demonstrated by giving their time to help the club. In case anyone is wondering SSFF did not cause Covid-19. That's fake news if you were wondering! However, we have had to deal with it. The Officers and Board repeatedly came up with a fierce dedication and many creative ways to deal with the gut punch that Covid-19 delivered. I am so proud of each and every person that contributed to this effort in a very challenging year that none of us saw coming.

The names of the folks I am talking about are listed on the last page of this and every Newsletter, so I won't take up space by listing them here but I hope many of you will thank them personally with an email, phone call or an in person thank you when Covid-19 settles down, hopefully in the upcoming year.

My wish is that SSFF members can continue to show the support for fly fishing in general and for SSFF specifically by rejoining the club in 2021. Please give your complete support to our incoming President Randy Allen, and all of the SSFF Officers and Board members. We are a non-profit organization, and your support allows us to continue to support fishing related conservation projects and youth activities that are so important.

Have a safe and healthy Holiday season.

Gene

Club President 2020



In keeping with club tradition there is no meeting in December.

As club President and program chair, I wish you all a warm and safe Holiday Season and some wonderful fly fishing in the New Year.

Gene

Club Outings

Jim McAllister - Ghillie



Howdy Fly Fishers,

I heard that some of you are taking advantage of the WDFW's late season stocking of local lakes. The Lakes received a healthy plant of 'bows. Would you rather spend time out fishing or be stuck in-doors.

Munn Lake was recently stocked by WDFW so there is some great trout fishing locally.

No Club outing scheduled this month. Please stay snug and safe over the Holidays and we will see you next year.





Seasons Greetings to all Fly Fishers



Photo © Howard Nanto

Membership

by Randy Allen, Vice President



Hello Club Members,

Welcome **Bruce Baker!** Bruce is with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife - as he investigated our newsletter he discovered Mike Clancy's article about the Sea-Run Cutthroat booklet written by our own Mel Hurd. That got Bruce's attention, and he joined the club! We will better introduce Bruce in a future newsletter, but wanted to welcome Bruce at once.

You received the notification about this month's *Garden Hackle* newsletter. How many members will we close the year with? Go ahead - take a guess. Remember - we stopped in-person meetings right after our March membership meeting. Since then we've had eight months of Covid-19 disruption. So what do you guess we have for member count? 30? 50? 60?

Would you believe we remained 76 members strong! If you had asked me to bet on a number in early 2020 I honestly don't think I'd have bet on the mid-70's. Covid-19 was a reality in February. Would the State shut down activities and gatherings to arrest the spread of the virus? It all loomed ahead of us.

How would Covid impact SSFF? People were crazy-excited to do anything outdoors. Sporting good store shelves were bare like never before. The sport of fly-fishing came out on top. It can be done while preserving a social distance. So long as fishers do not gather closely to talk at the end of the day you can fish *responsibly*.

And, you can still introduce yourself as a club member at a responsible distance. We have 76 club field representatives. Tell those new folks about the SSFF web-site, and they'll remember it. There are more new fishers out there who would love to find out about a club to gain the help we can provide.

So in spite of the dire Covid talk members renewed, new members joined, we went on our outings (when permitted), and attended our monthly Zoom meetings so well planned by our President and Programs Chair, Gene Rivers.

Our computer-based Zoom meetings are a *great* work-around plan to in-person meetings. We *will* return to those good-old days of meetings, just not yet. Our outings will comply with the State's group size restrictions. And we can fish on our own. And we *will* resume club outings.

For now I wish you the happiest holidays you can create. Look for our new year to start out with another great Zoom meeting on January 19.

Thanks to all 76 of you who made 2020 a great year for the South Sound Fly Fishers.

Randy

Washington State Council FFI Representative and Conservation Chair WSCFFI

By Mike Clancy



Seasons Greetings Fly Fishers

“FLY FISHING FOR SEARUN CUTTHROAT IN SOUTH PUGET SOUND”

By Mel Herd

Mel Herd, past President and a longtime member of SSFF is the author of this incredible booklet. Mel originally authored the booklet in 1993 and revised it in 2006. The 20 page booklet is one of the most informative references for the south sound area with locations, tactics, etc. This booklet comes highly recommended by many members of our club, including Gene Rivers.

Mel has graciously made his booklet available to the members of SSFF for a “donation” to the club for future events the club supports. Either send a check to Jim Maus, 9306 DeKoven Dr SW Lakewood, WA 98499-2177 or pay via Pay Pal:

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=GYWE6RQWY2CF4

Note: If the paypal link is not working on your system, just cut and paste the above web address into your browser.

As soon as Jim receives your donation, he will notify me with your address and I will immediately mail the booklet to you. Right now, this opportunity is only available to SSFF club members

Education

by Randy Allen, Vice President



Greetings,

Where did the year go? I know some things that went - the Intro to Fly Fishing, Fly Casting, and Intro to Fly Tying classes went they went on *hold*, thanks to Covid-19. Your team of enthusiastic, skilled instructors was benched. (And they *all remain healthy* !) (Does Pete Carroll have any of these issues?)

Are you new to fly fishing? Many seek the SSFF looking for a club to learn to fly fish or to improve their skills. Many long-term fishers often quote the same statistic: a year invested in training with a club is equal to about seven years of thrashing about on your own. The bottom line is that fishers accelerate their learning curves by joining a club and attending qualified, experienced instruction.

Here's the run-down of our training, when we are able to present it.

We (normally) offer three 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-casts, 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 new fly each week. Materials are provided for students to tie the fly at home before returning to the next class. The instructor-to-student ratio ensures students receive a lot of individual attention. 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 Parks, Arts, and Recreation is not currently producing and distributing printed *Experience It!* catalogs of classes and activities. Here is the City's web-site so you can periodically check in: <https://apm.activecommunities.com/olymparksartsrec/Home>

Thanks for your patience as we navigate Covid-19.

Wash your hands, wear a mask, and maintain a distance from others in parking lots and streamside!

Randy



Photo © Howard Nanto

Washington State Council FFI Representative and Conservation Chair WSCFFI

Mike Clancy

Patrick H. Berry, President & CEO of the FFI reported, it's time to start the planning process for "Season 2" of the FFI online videos. The videos actually started on 12/7 and will continue for the next two weeks. You can view the schedule by going to www.flyfishersinternational.org

PEBBLE MINE - There was an incredible news release on 11/25/2020. The permit for the Pebble mine has been DENIED. The TU folks in Anchorage are 99% sure this event won't happen. There's always a chance of 1% that the Pebble Partnership might attempt an appeal. The US Corp of Army Engineers denied the permit followed by the Trump Administration. The event has been going on for 25 years. It has been reported that the Biden administration will definitely deny the permit. If this event was allowed, it would cause devastating damage to that part of Alaska and potentially destroy the largest salmon run in Bristol Bay in the world. Over 17,000 jobs support the fishing industry throughout Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California. Time to celebrate.

ANOTHER "DAM" REPORT – Many good events are taking place in our area with dam removal. The three dams on the Klamath River in southern Oregon and northern California are scheduled to be removed starting in 2023. There is a solid agreement between the Governors of both Oregon and California, along with other organizations, to remove the dams.

American Rivers reports, along with their partners, they have been successful in removing the Middle Fork Dam near Bellingham, WA. on the Nooksack River. It's also reported, two dams were removed on the Pilchuck River, opening 37 miles of habitat to salmon for the first time in more than a century.

The removal of the four dams on the Snake River is still in discussion. The flood control dam on the Chehalis River is on hold for more studies of flood control without the dam.

Finally, there is a dam in Central Eastern Washington up by Oroville, which was abandoned in 1958. It is on the Similkameen River. The Enloe Dam is owned by the Okanogan PUD. The PUD is willing to remove the dam, but they do not have funds to do that. It was built 100 years ago. One of the biggest concerns, the sentiment behind the dam from upriver mining over the years. When removed, it would open 340 miles of high-quality, cold-water habitat for the fishery.



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS -2020 Officers, Directors

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: Vacant

Membership: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Newsletter: Dave Field d_w_field@hotmail.com

Outings Chair: Vacant

Programs: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Webmaster/Social Media: Vic Andrade hp8202va@gmail.com

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

Director at Large and Women's Fly Fishing, Beth Mason 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 further notice, all scheduled meetings are conducted on-line . The meeting announcement and meeting Zoom code are sent to members and friends about a day ahead of the meeting by email. The North Olympia Firehouse is closed to meetings until further notice.

Website: southsoundflyfishers.com

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter
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