



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 21 Issue 1

January 2021

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LEADER'S LINE

By President Randy Allen



Happy New Year, South Sound Fly Fishers

Welcome to 2021. I hope everyone enjoyed the best holidays you could create for yourselves and your families, and that you and yours have remained healthy and spared from COVID impacts.

Here is my thought about your membership, fly fishing camaraderie, and fun. Make this your year to be *involved* in your club, especially you new fly fishers. Whatever fly-fishing activity you want to pursue - lakes, streams, salt water, fly tying - you have a fabulous group of folks with skills beyond your imagination, all waiting to help you out. Don't wait to ask for help. Resolve to get *involved*! We're here to help you. If nothing else COVID has taught us how quickly another year goes by.

Last March COVID caused the club to abandon monthly meetings. In June Gene had us back to meetings on-line via Zoom. Today the club remains viable, vibrant, and solvent. If you

have not tried Zoom - just *do it*. You pay nothing to join a Zoom meeting. They don't even collect your email to harass you to buy anything.

To participate in the monthly Zoom meeting do just two things. 1) **Read Gene's** email about the meeting; he sends them a day or two ahead. Keep the email! 2) Tuesday about 6:45 pm **click the link in Gene's email**, and follow the prompts. You can see the other participants and join in on the conversations. (Folks have even joined in using their smart-phones.)

COVID and Club Outings - SSFF will comply with the Governor's guidelines and restrictions regarding group gatherings and activities. Until the Governor lifts the COVID-19 restrictions there are no sanctioned in-person club events: no club outings, no face-to-face meetings, no gatherings. In the meantime go fishing on your own following the recommendations of Health Officials. And, tell us about it during a Zoom meeting!

Education - As soon as we're able to figure out if/how/when/where we can conduct our training classes you'll see it published in the Hackle.

Let me talk a little about your Board of Directors for 2021. They are a *great* group.

Gene Rivers takes on Vice President and will chair Programs. A lot of thanks for our current condition go to Past President Gene for bringing us out of our dark ages to today's renaissance. Gene kept the club going, kept us connected, and provided interesting programs last year. Thank you, Gene, for all you do!

Secretary Lee Yeager returns for a second term. His detailed, accurate, and timely board meeting minutes are a delight! It's a pleasure to have you back on the Board!

Treasurer Jim Maus returns for another year. Our money is in good hands with Jim. He also serves as Treasurer on the Fly Fishers International (FFI) National Board of Directors. We're lucky he has time for us. Welcome back, Jim!

Mike Clancy returns for his second year as Director at Large. He is our Washington State Council FFI representative. Many years he led the week-long Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy in Lacey. If helping with something like that interests you, talk to Mike. Great to have you back, Mike!

Kevin Angevine begins his two-year term as Director at Large. His thousand-something hours of restoration work on Comanche Creek, New Mexico resulted in a healthier population of Rio Grande cutthroat trout. His focus is on the fishing camaraderie and fun. We're glad to have you with us, Kevin!

Leading Conservation is Don Freeman. Don is in his element as the club's advocate for our resources. He is well connected to Dep't of Fish and Wildlife management, and was a leader in the club's sponsoring of Munn Lake, the only public quality fishery lake in the south sound. Glad to have you back, Don!

Webmaster / Media Outreach is in Vic Andrade's competent hands, and he ensures our Zoom meetings run smoothly. Moreover, Vic is hard at work to improve our web-site with more

enhanced capabilities. He will show us more of that in the near term. Glad to have you back this year, Vic!

Welcome, Jeff Miller, Editor of the Garden Hackle newsletter. This is his first board assignment. He comes with a positive attitude to maintain the high standards of our newsletter. Welcome, Jeff. Thanks for taking that job!

And, I want to thank the outgoing newsletter editor, Dave Field. Dave published the Hackle for four years. Prior to that he was club Treasurer and held numerous board positions. Dave possesses an in-depth knowledge of the history and workings of the club. He's the guy who answers our question, "why is this the way it is?" Hopefully with more free time Dave will enjoy more activities with his grandkids and fishing. (I have your phone number programmed, Dave!) Thanks for all you've done and continue to do for the Board and the Club!

To reach any of us find our contact info on the last page of each Garden Hackle.

May we all pull out of this wiser and more appreciative of who and what we have. Welcome to 2021. Welcome to SSFF.

Now turn the page to learn what Gene has planned for your meeting.

Randy Allen

Club President 2021

January Program Gene Rivers, VP & Programs Chair



The Big Fjord Project



Photo © Gene Rivers

Our January speaker is Greg Shimek. Greg will speak to us about protecting local sea-run cutthroat habitat.

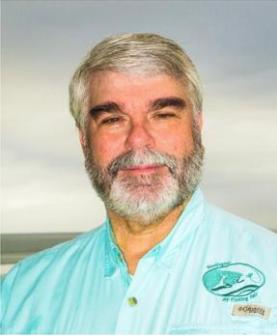
The Big Fjord Project will also determine if sea-run cutthroat populations are genetically different among the numerous watersheds in Hood Canal.

This project will also offer anglers the opportunity to assist in data gathering and stream restoration work to better understand the science of fish management.

Greg is the CEO of the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition and is considered an expert on sea-run cutthroat.



Photo © Gene Rivers



Hello Fellow Fly Fishers

2021 Dues are Due!

It's that time of year again. Please pay your 2021 dues as soon as possible. 2021 dues are \$40.00 for returning members and are payable on January 1st.

As a result of COVID=19 there are 2 ways to make your payment.

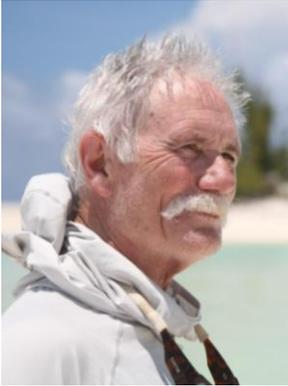
1. You can make your payment by Check. Please mail the check to

South Sound Fly Fishers
PO Box 2792
Olympia, WA 98507

2. You can also make your Dues payment using PayPal or a Debit/Credit card using the link below.

https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=NRE77ZFCKLF32

(IF this link does not work, just put this web address into you browser.)



Greetings, Anglers!

Here I am back on my soapbox. I was shocked to look at my old files and see that I've been writing this since 2009, and wonder if I've improved much.

Today I'm going to pass on some inside opinions and an article on the latest steelhead issues and controversies. I have been steelhead fishing since 1980 when I still lived in Oregon, for both summer and winter runs, plugging, bait fishing, throwing spoons and mostly fly fishing from the Elk and Sixes in Southern Oregon to the Olympic Peninsula. I have released and eaten more than my share, watching the stocks decline while the angler pressure exploded.

I have friends and family who work for WDFW making policy and tracking runs, as well as guides and outfitters who I have worked with, fished with, and broken bread with most of my adult life. The point is that I get to share the trials and triumphs of all the differing sides and interests first hand. In December the managers abruptly changed the regulations and seasons on the coast dramatically in an effort to protect the remaining wild fish populations that still exist on the peninsula.

Selective gear rules now apply everywhere, but more controversy has followed the rule that prohibits fishing from a boat. A large number of guides make their livelihood providing exactly this service and have clients who can't or won't do the wading required to fish steelhead successfully. I fished the Deschutes in Oregon under this regulation for decades, but due to health problems and age I couldn't possibly do that any longer, so I appreciate the disappointment this presents to anglers and guides. Make no mistake, the wild fish in the Quillayute and other systems are impacted heavily from this practice. Many fish are hooked and played repeatedly before reaching the spawning grounds which weakens them, reduces egg count, and results in at least 10% mortality from catch and release. For instance, the last time I fished this past spring I hooked six wild fish in one day and netted five. This was by a 70-year-old fly fisher weak from cancer, and guides would fish the same river the next day.

I won't belabor you much longer with my bloviations. I have attached a very fair and informative article that was forwarded to me from our own area biologist from the Nisqually district. He is comforted that his system has been closed to fishing for several decades, is a

gene bank, and actually has an improving population due to these protections. As my son he also grew up running rivers with me and has a perspective from a consumptive and a protective standing. The enclosed link will take you to a magazine article that is even longer than this letter, but if you can take the time, it provides an excellent perspective of the problems and solutions here in the Northwest. You may have to copy and paste the link in your browser, but it's worth your time.

<https://nwsportsmanmag.com/at-a-fork-in-the-river-the-future-of-westside-steelhead-fisheries-for-them/>

Don Freeman

donfreeman74@gmail.com

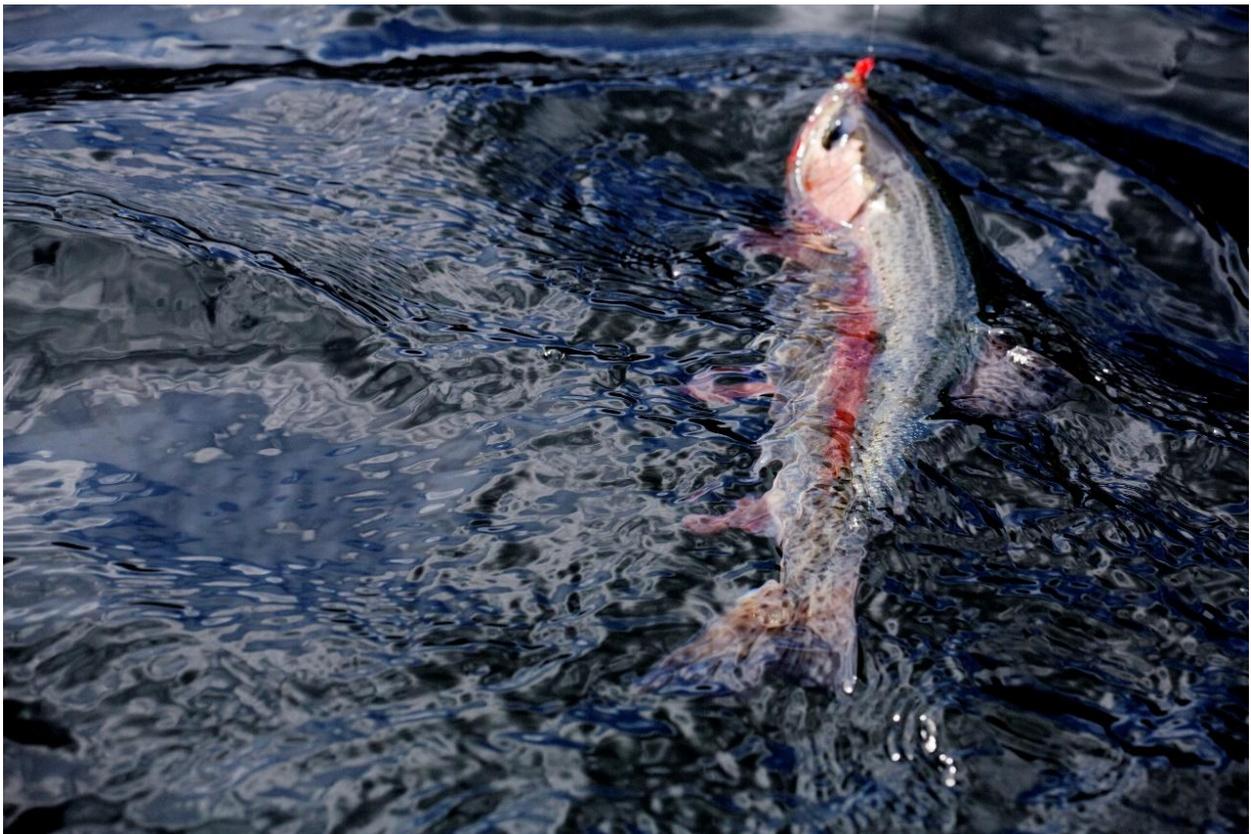


Photo © Howard Nanto

Membership

Randy Allen Membership chair



Hello Club Members,

Bruce Baker saw our notice about Mel Hurd's booklet on sea-run cutthroat trout in the Olympia area. This really got his attention. Gene Rivers and Mike Clancy helped Bruce obtain a copy of Mel's book.

Actually we are re-welcoming Bruce back into the club. He's with DFW, warm water fisheries. And, his original membership started around 1992!

Bruce began fly fishing in his home New Jersey. While attending grad school at Humboldt State University he took advantage of some casting classes to improve his techniques. This led to some great Sierra trout streams and all over the Olympic Peninsula.. He mostly enjoys Alpine lake fishing. But don't let that fool you - his family in Florida will attest to Bruce fishing their southern salt water.



Photo © Bruce Baker

Welcome back, Bruce - Looks like the book is working for you already!

Membership renewals or joining for the first time

I was asked if members can join / renew on-line. The answer is **YES**.
Also see Treasurer Jim's article on page 5 for a link to pay.

If you are surfing our web-site...

- On the Web Site home page click "Club Membership"
- You will see a page . . . Blah blah blah . . . "INTERESTED IN JOINING SSFF OR RENEWING?"
- Scroll to the bottom of that page. Beneath the photos is a black box

PAY SSFF MEMBERSHIP ONLINE

- This is a link - click it and you'll be able to join or renew.

Randy

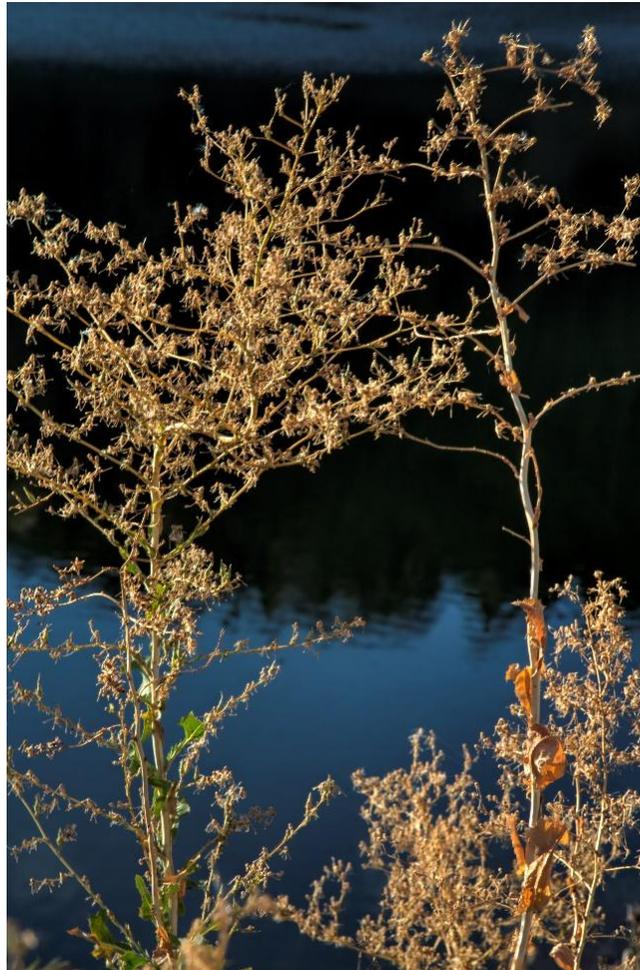


Photo © Howard Nanto

Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy



Greetings Fly Fishers:

Here is a book on fishing for one of the most iconic fish in Puget Sound:

“FLY FISHING FOR SEARUN CUTTHROAT IN SOUTH PUGET SOUND”

Mel Hurd, past President and a longtime member of SSFF, is the author of this incredible booklet. Mel originally wrote 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, who has had success by following Mel’s tips.

Mel has graciously made his booklet available to the SSFF. The booklet is available to SSFF *members* for a minimum donation of \$8.00. The booklet is also available to *non-members* for a minimum donation of \$10. Your donation includes postage for mailing the booklet to you.

All proceeds go into our Conservation donation funds. Some members have donated more than the minimums, and for your extra donations *we thank you!*

Either send a check to Jim Maus Treasurer SSFF PO Box 2792, Olympia WA 98507 or pay using Pay Pal:

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

As soon as Jim receives your donation he will notify me with your street address, and I will get the booklet to you.

If you use Pay Pal you will receive your booklet sooner than sending your check to the PO Box.

Mike

Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy

The Academy - As most everyone knows, Jim Brosio and I could not conduct the NW Youth Conservation Fly Fishing Academy last year because of the virus. We were also concerned about 2021. The Academy is a Washington Council of Trout Unlimited (WCTU) event. We decided to conduct a Zoom meeting in January with the board of directors to determine what we might consider for 2021. 2020 was going to be Jim's and my last year as Directors. We are fortunate to have three solid new Directors to assume the function of The Academy. Jim and I will conduct the next event with the participation of the new Directors. One of the big concerns is that the majority of the staff are in the older age group. Some may have health issues, and I wouldn't blame them for opting out. The current Directors conducted a Zoom meeting on 1/6/21; it was decided to not conduct an Academy in 2021. There are too many possible issues still to deal with. It was a unanimous decision.

Fly Fishers International (FFI) - Last year was another busy year. We are conducting many Zoom meetings, two of which I am involved, conservation and education. The education committee has established an incredible "Learning Center." The only way I can describe the Learning Center, I suggest you go to the FFI website and download the link. Seriously, it's amazing. The conservation committee is supporting various conservation events throughout the USA. Then there are the education Zoom presentations on the FFI website. Fly tying, casting, location, etc., they are entertaining and fun to watch.

Dams and Mines - The most successful event that took place last year was the denial of the permit for the Pebble mine on November 25th. This has been a 20 year event. Because of my conservation position with WSCFFI, I have experienced a wonderful communication experience with Meghan Barker, Trout Unlimited (TU), Pebble Organizer, Alaska. She and the staff of TU Alaska have done an incredible job in promoting the denial for this event. Now the goal is to get whatever it takes to make this a permanent denial and make sure Bristol Bay fishery lives on forever without a threat from potential chemicals destroying the largest salmon run in the world and destroying 17,000 jobs in Alaska, Washington, Oregon and California. Please go to www.savebristolbay.com to learn about what's going on. It's really a fun website. If anyone is interested in fishing the Bristol Bay area this year Meghan has suggested 3 guide/lodge companies. Let's talk.

The Chehalis dam is on hold for more studies. The 4 dams on the Klamath River in Oregon and California are scheduled to come out in 2023. That's a done deal. There are many other dams that have come out in WA, and we'll have more discussions about that later.



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS – 2021 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Vice President: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Secretary: Lee Yeager yeagerflyfish@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jim Maus jimmaus@comcast.net

Past President: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Conservation: Don Freeman donfreeman74@gmail.com

Education: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Fundraising: Vacant

Membership: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Outings Chair: Vacant

Programs: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

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

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Miller jmill2003@gmail.com

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

Director at Large, Kevin Angevine grcaulder777@gmail.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 7:00 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 Fire Department is closed to meetings until further notice.

Website: southsoundflyfishers.com

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

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