



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

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Page 10 Fly Fisher of the Year Award - 2020

Page 3 Gene Rivers introduces the February club program, "Zen and why we fish."
Also take Vic's guided tour of the new SSFF web-site.

Page 7 Get your copy of Mel Hurd's "Fly Fishing For Searun Cutthroat In South Puget Sound."
Mike Clancy explains how to get it.

LEADER'S LINE By President Randy Allen



Happy Valentine's Day everyone!

Let me start by complimenting Vic Andrade for all the work he has done to produce our new web-site. Don't go any farther - go straight to Gene's Program article where he discusses this. Vic will introduce the new site during our February meeting. You will want to see that!

Valentines Day. If you love to fish, take a loved one fishing. And, if you love those trout be kind to them. Mash those barbs. I was taught the very first thing before tying, mash the barb. If the hook is brittle and it breaks when you mash the barb then you haven't wasted time tying your fly on a hook that would have broken later. I was very new to fly fishing at the time of this story. And I struggled to keep my fish hooked. Then I saw it - the answer - the "mini-barb" hook; and I started tying my flies with mini-barbs.

And now I am on our family campout in Oregon, on the middle fork of the Willamette River. And my son bets me, “Who’s gonna have the first fish on?” And he goes to work upstream. I picked a fishy-looking rock and made a couple of casts to drift my nymph into the swirl behind it. Surprise - fish on! Fish on? Fish ON! He was a nice little scrapper minding his own business when my fly fooled him. I played him quickly, brought him to hand, and went for a quick release. He hadn’t gulped it down to make everything tough for the two of us; it was a clean hook-set right on the lip!

That mini-barb worked *great!* Now let’s get that hook outta his lip. That *mini-barb* hook will come out nice and easy. . . That mini-barbed hook. . . what’s the deal with this *mini-barbed* hook? C’mon, hook! Let go of the fish!!!

I’m doing my best to keep the fish in the water, and now I’m *struggling* to get that dang-blasted hook outta his lip and do no further damage. After what seemed an eternity I did get the hook out, I released my catch, and let him swim off. But, I was shook-up from all of this. This was *not* my idea of a quick, gentle release. I worked for so long to release that fish. I periodically glanced upstream to know that my son hadn’t hooked in yet. I would gladly have lost the bet if I could have avoided that unpleasant hook release.

I went straight back to camp where my son met me asking, “What were you doing for so long...did you snag someone’s old monofilament?” I shared my displeasure with the “mini barb” hook. That rainbow was my turning point. I immediately sat down and mashed *every* fly in my box. And if the fish unhooked themselves? I would cheer for them! I’d consider how I should *better* handle my gear with the next fish.

A little later and, oh-my look! Who comes now into our camp? It’s our old friend, Karma! And, she’s standing right there when I handed my rod to my wife so I could remove my jacket. I had wrapped my leader around the reel foot to keep the fly on the first stripping guide. I handed the rod to Carol, turned around, and heard, “OW! *What?!*” Karma, you’re not helping here! To her credit Carol knew not to manhandle a fly rod so she gripped it delicately... allowing the rod to slide straight down through her grip up to that guide, poking the fly into her finger. Ow. (I now set the fly on the *second* guide.) I lifted the rod and the hook instantly released from Carol’s finger, unlike that earlier rainbow trout.

There were a couple of good things in this story. First, the fly was a size 14 or 16, so not too much of a hook. And second, Carol got poked *after* I mashed down all my barbs. We washed and rinsed her finger and there were no complications. Best of all, the hook came out of her finger cleanly. And they have released like that from the fish from then on!

Stay masked, socially distance yourself, wash your hands, and stay well. And get your shot!

Randy Allen

Club President 2021

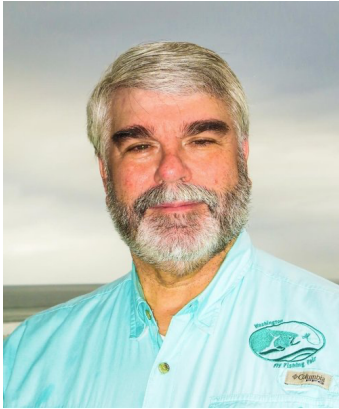


Photo © Gene Rivers

On Tuesday Feb. 16 Vic will give a 10-minute mini-tour of the new website. This will allow club members to navigate our new website with ease, and will be well worth your time. Come join us to see the magic that Vic has performed.

Parts 2 and 3 of our February Program will be a presentation that covers the Zen of why we fish. Is it just to provide a tasty meal, or for other reasons? Why is fly fishing special? Is it special for different reasons for every person? Do you fish to commune with Nature and enjoy the beauty of the outdoors? Do you enjoy the quiet time? Do you have fun whether you catch fish or not?

After Vic's Video Tour of our new Website we have also two brief presentations that may let you get in touch with your "inner fly fisher." With all the stress of today's world is fishing a way to help your physical and mental health? Join us on the 16th of February. You may enjoy your fly-fishing even more after our February Program.



Treasurer's Report – 2021 Dues are Due!

Hi everyone. Thank you for continuing to support SSFF. I hope you and your families are safe and well. With the number of vaccinations finally starting to ramp up I'm optimistic that we will soon begin seeing light at the end of the dark COVID-19 tunnel.

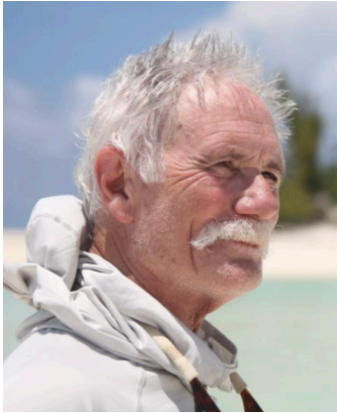
It's that time of year again. If you haven't already done so, please pay your 2021 dues as soon as possible. Dues for 2021 are \$40.00 for returning members. There are two convenient ways to pay:

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

Sound Fly Fishers
PO Box 2792
Olympia, WA 98507

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

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



There has been some recent concern regarding a bill introduced in the Washington House that would require use of “human powered vessels” - including crafts that anglers often employ such as pontoon boats, float tubes, canoes and prams - the bill would require that the user possesses a boaters education card. Any person born before 1955 was formerly exempt from this requirement. But, HB 1018 would have removed this exemption requiring seniors to pass the course and pay a \$10 fee. An online petition has had the following effect: the bill will not proceed this legislative session. See below.

Kayak License Bill Effectively on Hold



Scott Holley

Bow, WA, United States

FEB 3, 2021 —

As of Friday, 1/29/2021, HB 1018 and its companion Senate version 5176 have been pulled from executive session of both committees, which essentially means that the bills will not be proceeding this session in their current form. Thanks for making your voices heard!

Good news for now,

Don Freeman

Conservation and Political Chair

Membership

Randy Allen, Chair



Welcome the Buell Family - the camera finally caught up with the Buells. Colby took this selfie with his dad, Dave, last summer while fishing in Montana. They covered some ground much to their delight. They are definitely stream aficionados.

Colby began fly fishing four years ago, and is thoroughly enjoying it. (When his buddies don't talk him into surfing! He missed a meeting when. . .) And his enthusiasm for fly fishing rekindled his dad's interest in the sport. Colby is currently studying biology and plans to move to Montana after he graduates. Did your summer trip have anything to do with *that* decision making?

Last summer he performed an internship with Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife's Capital Asset Management Program. Getting paid to do what you love! This allowed some fishing time to collect, record, and relocate fish that would be impacted by construction projects. Great work!

His dad, Dave, was already a fly fisher, learning from his uncle near Corvallis, Oregon, and fishing numerous spots around the country. This family has lived near and for fly fishing!

Mom, Tonia, is making the transition from spinning gear into fly fishing. She fishes mostly for bass and trout. With the boys to help, she will be a quick study with the flies. It was Tonia who gifted the boys with their family membership to the SSFF. Tonia, you are a thoughtful lady. We're glad to have you all with us!



Randy Allen

Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



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 who have had success by following Mel's tips.

With Mel's permission SSFF is offering his booklet to interested members and non-members. We are asking for a minimum donation of \$10, which includes shipping via U.S. Mail (U.S. addresses only). All proceeds go into our Conservation donation fund. Some members have donated more than the minimum. 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 PayPal/credit card/debit card:

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

Fly Fishers International (FFI) - Season two has started again with online webinars.
Volume 27 - February 2021

February 8 - “From Novice to Champion” with Kesley Gallagher (This can be viewed on the website)

February 9 - “Fly Fishing Photography” including Iphone with Brian O’Keefe

February 18 - “Born to Be Free - How science can inform recovery of wild Idaho salmon and steelhead.”

The Dispatch From FFI HQ - Fly Fishers International and Trout Unlimited have entered into a formal conservation partnership, consummating the collective conservation focus of each organization to greater substantive effect. The agreement formally recognizes and acknowledges the shared conservation commitments of FFI and TU on behalf of the organizations’ members and the fly fishing community. It also established communication between the groups as they collaborate on mutual conservation goals.

The education committee has established an incredible “Learning Center.” The only way I can describe the event is to refer you to the FFI website to learn about the Learning Center.

Dams, Mines and Rivers - Things are quiet for now with the Pebble Mine. The big thing that is happening, the investors for the Northern Dynasty Minerals Co., a Canadian company, is being sued by its investors, approximately \$500,000 for fraud. February 5th, the US Department of Justice issued a grand jury subpoena to Pebble Limited Partnership and its former CEO, Tom Collier, as part of an investigation involving the damaging Pebble Tapes.

The Chehalis newspaper is writing articles in favor of the flood control dam on the Chehalis River. The articles make sense in justifying a dam. More later.

The Snake River four dams removal subject is starting to heat up. A Senator from Idaho is taking on the removal of the dams because of the lack of salmon in the State of Idaho.



Are you new to fly fishing? Many seek the SSFF to learn to fly fish or to improve their skills. New fly fishers accelerate their learning curves by joining a club and attending qualified classes.

Of course COVID-19 benched your skilled instructors. We'll post more details as we open up following guidance from the Department of Health.

SSFF offers three formal classes.

Introduction to Fly Fishing taught in spring, five weeks, once per week. After this course you'll understand what you gear you'll need like rods, reels, lines, waders and boots, floatation devices for still-water fishing. We cover locating fish in rivers, lakes, and the salt water, and discuss local fish species you'll encounter. We also study the flies you'll use in our section on entomology.

Fly Casting taught spring-early summer, seven weeks, once per week. This class is for single-handed rod casting, not spey rods. Through this course you will cast a fly line for different situations including the wind. You'll also experience how to overcome the effects of moving river water upon your line.

Introduction to Fly Tying taught in the fall - winter, six weeks, once per week. Students tie a new fly each week. As homework students tie that fly at home and bring their work 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 including nymphs, streamers, and dry flies. After completing the course students' skills can be applied to other flies similar to those taught.

Please contact me with questions; my email is on the last page of the newsletter.

Thanks for your patience as we all navigate COVID-19.

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

Randy Allen

Fly Fisher of the Year Award - 2020

Congratulations and our most sincere thanks go to the 2020 Fly Fisher of the Year, Vic Andrade.

The plaque reads, “In recognition of outstanding service to the Club and our fish resources...” The award recognizes the member who has worked hard to benefit the club. Vic has an extensive background in computers, information technology, networks, and system management from his years of service with Hewlett Packard. And that was exactly the skillset we needed early in 2020 when Vic agreed to step into the Board of Directors to chair Social Media and become our Webmaster.

As often occurs, the job description grew. After reviewing and maintaining our existing website Vic quickly determined that a different hosting site would provide easier maintenance, more flexibility, and lower operating costs if we redesigned our web for the new host.

Vic put his unique talents to work. He redesigned our web-site and produced a beautiful new result. Anyone who has ever worked around computers knows that computer stuff is never ever finally “final.” We will ask Vic for something new, or we will need to incorporate a new piece of software, or security is enhanced, or routine maintenance. . . the list is endless. Bottom line, it’s real job security. On the other hand, we need to make sure Vic has time to go out fishing with us, or playing tennis. And bike riding. Ask him about some of his interesting bicycle rides. (If he pedaled farther East he’d have needed a wet-suit for the Atlantic Ocean.)

Vic always maintains a positive, can-do outlook, he always has a funny line or story to make you laugh, and he does beautiful work. He’s just a delight to have on your team. We proudly say he calls us his friends. Guys like Vic don’t come around very often. We’re glad he did. With sincere appreciation, Vic, thanks for everything, and thanks for being our 2020 Fly Fisher of the Year.



Chum Baby

Bob Triggs



Materials:

Hook:	Daiichi 2546 Size 4 to 8 Saltwater Hook
Thread:	6/0 black or brown thread
Head:	Gold cone head X-small (5/32") for size 8 or small (3/16") for sizes 4 and 6
Body:	Silver tinsel or body braid
Wing:	Four strands of pearl crystal flash topped with grey squirrel tail
Thorax:	A ball of Spirit River Peacock Herl Lite Brite dubbed behind the cone head.

Tying Directions:

1. Put on a gold cone head sized to match the hook and the shank.
2. Start the thread just behind the cone head. Tie in the silver tinsel or body braid, starting just behind the cone and wrapping back to the shank. This will provide the body with an even taper.
3. Wrap the thread back up to just behind the cone and add a small amount of Zap-A-Gap to the shank. This will provide extra durability for the body, and ensure that the fly is able to stand up to the sharp teeth of Coho and cutthroat.
4. Next wrap the tinsel or body braid up the shank to just behind the cone head and tie it off.
5. Now tie in four strands of pearl crystal flash so that they extend 1/2 to 3/4 of a shank length beyond the bend of the hook.
6. Tie in a very sparse clump of squirrel tail hair so that the tips of the hair extend just past the crystal flash.
7. Form a ball of Peacock Herl Lite Brite dubbing just behind the cone, then whip finish and head cement.

Notes:

This Chum Baby was originated by Bob Triggs, a renowned guide on the Puget Sound, and has proved to be a very simple yet effective chum fry imitation. When Coho and coastal cutthroat are feeding out-migrating chum salmon fry during March - May this pattern can be extremely effective fished with short erratic strips. This fly also works well in lakes and streams where small baitfish are present, and it was responsible for fooling my largest rainbow trout to date on the Yakima River of central Washington. The chum baby can also be tied in other color combinations and one of my favorites is a blue version which uses pearl blue body braid, Spirit River smolt blue Krystal Splash, and dyed blue squirrel tail. This version also does a great job of imitating juvenile pink salmon.

If you have problems with the squirrel tail fouling, you can add a loop of mono under the wing to prevent it from happening. You also might try a Gamakatsu SL45 Bonefish hook. It's a short shank alternative that doesn't seem to foul as much.



Photo © Howard Nanto



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS – 2021 Officers, Directors, Chairs

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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

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SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter
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