



# SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 21 Issue 3

March 2021

Page 10 Meet the 2020 Renaissance Award Recipient

Page 12 There is still time to get your copy of Mel Hurd's "Fly Fishing For Searun Cutthroat In South Puget Sound."

## **LEADER'S LINE**      **By President Randy Allen**



*Erin go Bragh* - Happy St Patrick's Day everyone! May I suggest something to do with the pot of gold at the end of your rainbow? Send your SSFF renewal!

SSFF being a 501 (c) (3) entity makes your dues a charitable contribution - more gold for you! Board members have an eye opening experience when we set the annual budget. We set aside a considerable budget to donate to: Fly Fishers International, Casting for Recovery, Project Healing Waters, Hood Canal and South Sound Salmon Enhancement Groups, Munn Lake Stewardship, the Osprey salmon and steelhead advocacy, and Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy (closed 2020-21 for COVID-19). You also fund club operations like monthly programs, insurance, and the web-site.

The web-site was revised to simplify renewing on-line using PayPal or a credit card. That said, the credit card agencies collect a transaction fee from us. But, we have not increased on-line dues to account for transaction fees. So we *prefer* a check whereby all your dues will

come to us; we also realize the volume of commerce conducted on-line so we entered the new age. Renew any way you like, and help make our conservation contributions a reality.

Carol and I just received our second COVID-19 vaccinations without side effects. I hope you and yours remain healthy. With Washington at Phase 2 your Board is discussing options for Club outings while remaining compliant with government safety guidelines. We want to hear from our members - what are *your* preferences and ideas for outings? Bring them forward during our March 16 general meeting.

We've had several programs about fishing for sea-run cutthroat trout. January 2020 we had a local cutthroat outing at Burfoot Park. Our SRCT fishers swear our saltwater fishery is a year-round treasure. We are discussing some outings that will emphasize training for fishing for the sea-runs. What about your gear... your rod and reel, lines, leaders, and your flies? What features make for a good beach to fish? How do select the best tides for success? These training outings are intended for you.

Join your monthly meetings with Zoom. Just click the link we send you and follow the prompts. Contact us if you need help; see our email addresses at the end of the newsletter.

May the luck of the Irish be with you!

*May the most you hope for be the least you get.*

*May the best times you've ever had be the worst times you will ever see.*

**Randy Allen**



## **March 16, 2021 SSFF Program**

### **An Open discussion of how to Fish for Coastal Cutthroat In South Puget Sound**

**Presented by Don Freeman**

Our resident fishing expert, Past SSFF President and longtime club member, Don Freeman will lead a discussion of fishing for coastal cutthroat trout at our March 16, 2021 club meeting. Due to Covid our meeting will be held via Zoom.

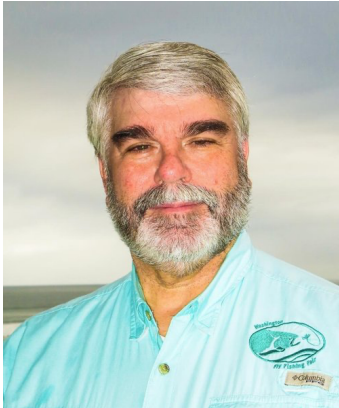
We had a lively discussion about fly fishing in general at our February club meeting. Several members asked to have us continue this educational discussion with more information about where to go, what gear to use, what flies to fish with etc. This program will not be a lecture but an open discussion. Our speaker, Don Freeman, encourages folks to ask questions. Remember, as the saying goes, “the only dumb question is the one you do not ask.”

So come to our March meeting prepared to listen to one of the true experts speak about fishing for the elusive coastal cutthroat trout. Bring your questions.

Gene Rivers



Photo © Gene Rivers



## **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](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=NRE77ZFCKLF32)



### **SSFF Welcomes new members-**

Nita Cook, Doug Dunster, Mark Eldridge, Charles Frohlich, and Dan McNamara. It's been a busy start to the new year, regardless of COVID.

Look for a phone call so we can officially meet you folks. We will arrange to get your photos so we know who's who, and we will publish an official "welcome" in a future Garden Hackle !

Welcome to you all !

## Randy Allen

---

## Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



### **March Update on Rivers and Lakes**

There were 63 dams removed in the USA in 2020.

The Wind River closes for salmon and steelhead angling starting March 16<sup>th</sup>.

Adult salmon daily limit is one fish on the Klickitat River for different locations on the river. Please check with the WDFW website for locations.

Salmon daily limit reduced in Drano Lake March 16 - May 5<sup>th</sup>. Effective May 6<sup>th</sup> - salmon and steelhead will be closed until further notice.

Effective March 5<sup>th</sup>, salmon fishing on the Cowlitz and the Cispus rivers along with Lake Scanewa are all closed until further notice.

Hatchery steelhead season is extended on Salmon Creek in Lewis county March 16 - May 26<sup>th</sup>.

Adult chinook daily limit is reduced to one fish on the Kalama River effective March 5<sup>th</sup>.

Effective March 8<sup>th</sup> - There is early closure to coastal steelhead rivers: Queets, Quinault, Humptulips, and Chehalis rivers.

Quillayute and Hoh Rivers remain open thru March 31<sup>st</sup>. Please check the WDFW website to confirm all open rivers on the Peninsula.

### **FFI on-Line Season Two**

Fly Fishing Lakes with Brian O'Keefe, Tuesday, March 9<sup>th</sup> @5 pm PST

Big Western Trout with Brian O'Keefe, Tuesday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> @ 5 pm PST

You may also view the past webinars on the FFI website [www.flyfishersinternational.org](http://www.flyfishersinternational.org)

# June is Women in Fly Fishing Month

FFI asked each of its 17 councils nationwide to name a representative to Women's Connect, the FFI women's group. The Washington Council is grateful that Trisha Campbell from our board has agreed to become the Council's liaison to the national group. She's not wasting any time in launching a series of events in June.

The Washington/Idaho Casting for Recovery, which covers 11 counties on the Eastern side of Washington, will hold a retreat the weekend of June 11-13. This retreat will follow COVID safety protocol. Attendance will be limited to seven participants. The retreat will be held at N-Sid-Sen Camp and Retreat Center on Lake Coeur d' Alene in Harrison, Idaho. Applications are being taken through March at [www.castingforrecovery.org](http://www.castingforrecovery.org)



Trisha Campbell

Other events in June will be on Saturday afternoons. At the events FFI will host basic casting classes for women, plus offer the bronze medal challenge course for women to test their skills. These casting events will be free of charge with a limited number of participants. Masks will be required and participants will be asked to practice social distancing. Participants will need to bring their own rod, reel, and line. Event sites will be in the Pullman, WA. / Moscow, ID. area. Exact locations will be announced later. Registration will be during May by e-mailing me at [22seaotter@cablone.net](mailto:22seaotter@cablone.net)



Hi Bristol Bay supporters,

We know it's been a while since we have checked in, but we are back with some big updates.

Last spring, you helped us tell the Trump Administration to deny the permit for the proposed Pebble mine. On November 25th, 2020, they listened to what hunters, anglers, fish-advocates and thousands of others have been saying for nearly two decades, and the Army Corps of Engineers denied the key federal permit for the mine. **Thank you, thank you, thank you** for speaking up for the people, economies, and hunting and fishing traditions of southwest Alaska.

While Pebble is stopped for now, our work isn't done yet. Pebble has already appealed the permit decision, and until there are durable, long-term protections in place for Bristol Bay, the region is still threatened by Pebble and other companies that have eyes on the copper and gold deposit.

In 2021, we are advancing permanent protections for Bristol Bay, but we are going to need your help. [Click HERE to take the next action for Bristol Bay.](#)

We have options when it comes to making sure that the people and fish of Bristol Bay have the safeguards they need and deserve. But bottom line, our elected officials need to know that people in Alaska and across the country want to see Bristol Bay permanently protected. [Please write your elected official and tell them that you support permanent protections for Bristol Bay.](#)

It took all of us coming together and speaking out loudly to stop Pebble from getting its permit last year. Now, we need your help again to make sure our Bristol Bay is permanently protected. [Write your members of Congress today.](#)

Sincerely,

Meghan and the Save Bristol Bay campaign



Meghan Barker





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

---

## *Renaissance Man 2020*

By Randy Allen

2020 began an interesting journey for SSFF to say the least. January and February 2020 started out normally with regular meetings at the Fire Department. Speakers are presenting, and members and guests are making new friends and learning more about fishing. Meanwhile COVID-19 loomed in the background, more threatening day by day.

In March the Fire Department closed to public gatherings, and SSFF stopped in-person activities. Your Board of Directors, used to monthly meetings at the Fire Dept, canceled its April meeting. Like a theater that goes “dark” with no performances, SSFF entered its “Dark Ages.”

But one member in particular stood out. Gene Rivers refused to see SSFF become another COVID shut-down casualty. Complying with all social distancing laws - the same laws that caused many other clubs to go dark and remain so - Gene found a way out of the situation. He pursued Zoom on-line meetings. Your Board held its first virtual Zoom meeting in May, missing only the month of April.

Gene resumed programs with a Zoom General Membership Meeting in June and he hasn't let up ever since. He enlisted the help of our IT specialist and recipient of Fly Fisher of the Year 2020, Vic Andrade. Together they have spent a *lot* of time learning about Zoom, exploring options other organizations are not even aware of. Gene has learned so much that other clubs seek his counsel to launch their own Zoom meetings. He is the voice of Zoom experience.

SSFF is here today and remains active and vibrant because of Gene's foresight, hard work, and belief in the club. He continues to find exciting programs that stimulate thought and discussion among members. Many other clubs are foundering as they wonder how to keep things moving, but we're actually doing very well largely thanks to Gene who fought back against the odds.

Gene, with sincere appreciation we want to recognize your efforts and friendship for bringing SSFF out of our Dark Ages with the Renaissance Award for 2020. Thanks for all you continue to do!

***The entire SSFF Membership***



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.

It is a wonderful booklet, referencing everything you can think of regarding “FLY FISHING FOR SEARUN CUTTHROAT IN SOUTH PUGET SOUND.” It’s very informative and an easy read. 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.

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 use PayPal/credit card/debit card:

[https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted\\_button\\_id=GYWE6RQWY2CF4](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=GYWE6RQWY2CF4)

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

**If you pay electronically you will receive your booklet sooner than sending your check to the PO Box.**

**Mike Clancy, SSFF, BOD**



## **SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS – 2021 Officers, Directors, Chairs**

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

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

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

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

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

Conservation: Don Freeman [donfreeman74@gmail.com](mailto:donfreeman74@gmail.com)

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

Fundraising: Vacant

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

Outings Chair: Vacant

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

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

Newsletter Editor: Jeff Miller [jmill2003@gmail.com](mailto:jmill2003@gmail.com)

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

Director at Large, Kevin Angevine [grcaulder777@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://southsoundflyfishers.com)

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter  
© March 2021