



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

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May 2021

Page 15 Anchor Management -  
A Better Method to Tether and  
Free an Anchor

Page 4 The May 18th meeting  
will feature a program "What Do  
Trout Eat" presented by Ernie  
Gulley

## LEADER'S LINE      By President Randy Allen



Personally, given a choice of stream or lake, I prefer stream fishing. Where I started fly fishing the folks I learned from were river fishers, and these were the folks I worked with.

I love moving water. Find the riffles, the pocket water, the rocks, and seams, and see the features that tell us the likely holding lies for fish. I love our Skookumchuck River. My experiences on the Skook have been textbook cases in locating the fish. They are where I expect to find them.

Except that for now the DFW has an emergency closure of the Skook. But fishing isn't over. There are a *lot* of lakes nearby Olympia. And, our club has a lot of *very good* lake fishers. They understand still waters and how to fish them successfully. I do not. Yet.

So here I am a newbie again with lake fishing. You'll see our outings include mostly lakes this season because they're open to fishing, they're not far away, they're stocked, and we can have a great time. So I start up the learning curve again. Fortunately the knots I need are in my skills. If someone suggests "hare's ear nymph" I know what that is and how to tie it on. Then, what??

We've had a couple of nice outings already to Spencer Lake and Black Lake. Spencer was fun. It was the day *after* opening day, which also was the fishing derby day. ! The day of our outing a young dad described the derby the day before. He told me the parking area was completely full out to the road. The day we fished I counted six cars. The lake was wide open. Doug Dunster and Vic Andrade made it. Doug found the formula - the right slot in the lake, the right fly...he did very well. Vic did better than I with his blue-gill. I never got the formula that day. But I had fun. Remember, I'm in school. I'm learning.

I also attended our Black Lake outing on a quiet Friday. We've planned some weekday outings so you may avail yourself of a quiet, placid fishing experience. No wake-boarders, no jet skis, none of that. Just quiet, peaceful fishing. Kevin Angevine joined Gene Rivers and myself. This is where the club comes into play. Gene is one of our good lake fishers; he does well. Kevin, like me, is a stream fisher. And like me, he also figures if he's going to fish locally he needs to learn about lakes.

Gene arrived early for some scouting. He rowed to shore to brief us. This is what *club* means. He shared his success with different flies that worked for him, where he caught them, how he drifted them, what he did to be successful.

Kevin and I headed straight for the landmarks Gene provided us, used the setup he recommended, and you know what? These two stream fishers started catching fish in Black Lake.

Our outings are the best plans we have at this time. We want to be out fishing as much as you do, and we also want you to be out there with us. If this is new to you just remember that you're in good company. It's new to a lot of us. And we have folks well qualified to help! Keep an eye on the web-site and read the Outings section in each newsletter for any changes that we might have to make. We have members ready to help you. Our contact info is on the last page of each newsletter.

See you at our next outing! Stay well !

## Randy Allen

## Photos from the recent club outing at Spencer Lake



Left to right - Randy Allen, Vic Andrade, Doug Dunster

Photo © Doug Dunster



Last one of the day 20+ inch trout.

Photo © Doug Dunster



## May 18, 2021 SSFF Program

### “What Do Trout Eat?”

Presented by Ernie Gulley

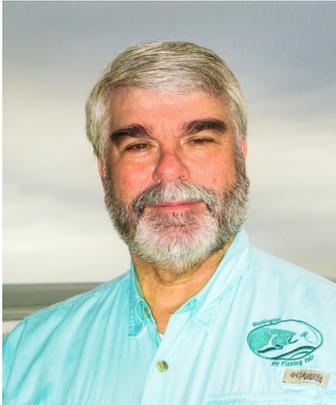
One of the most important questions that anglers ask themselves *and* try to answer every time he or she ventures onto the water is, “What are the trout eating this very minute?”

This can be a tough question because trout often have many different food items from which to choose. In fertile waters, the choices are almost limitless. Chironomids, scuds, fry, leeches, damsels, snails, and mayflies are just a few of the tasty morsels trout love to eat. And each food item has different stages in its life cycle that it can be going through, e.g., egg, larva, pupa, adult, or fry.

How and when do we first observe and then conduct quick and reliable research in order to choose the correct fly or flies that imitate what the trout are eating at that moment? We will become familiar with many of these life cycles, the time of year they are most prominent, and which food items trout in our waters love to key on most of the time.

And we’ll learn the importance of understanding how these food items actually move in the water. Most individual food items move in different ways through the water column and this is often a key when trying to mimic how to fish your fly and make it look just like the real food the trout are seeking. We will even see short videos of many of the food items that will show how they move.

Ernie Gulley is a well known professional Fly Fishing guide and knowledgeable speaker to fly fishing clubs.



## **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 Dues 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)

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## Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



SNAKE RIVER was declared “Americas most endangered river” for 2021. Congressman Earl Blumenauer from Oregon has joined Representative Mike Simpson of Idaho in the recovery of salmon and steelhead in the removal of the four lower dams in the Snake River. The FFI has endorsed Representative Mike Simpson's proposal to remove the four lower Snake River dams.

The Chehalis River flood control report to the governor has been postponed until June. The proposed dam is a “run of the river” dam. The dam will not affect the flow of the river until there is a need to control flooding in the valleys.

Pebble Mine is quiet now waiting for the results of the appeal to the Army Corp of Engineers, made by The Pebble people after denial for the permit for the mine. The Alaskan governor wants to appoint a Pebble official to the Fish Commission, and the locals are very unhappy if he gets the assignment. This is a wrong mine in a wrong place. For more info, please go to [www.savebristolbay.org](http://www.savebristolbay.org)

### CLIPPING FOR SALMON AND STEELHEAD

This message is a follow up on my previous email in regards to “fin clipping” at WDFW hatcheries. I visited the George Adams hatchery north of Shelton to learn more about the program. There is always room for volunteers, however they are hiring temporary workers because they have to be guaranteed that the job gets done. If you would like to volunteer please call the number of the hatchery you would like to volunteer at. They will welcome your help.

The fin clipping event is very simple: they give the fingerlings a nap while their tiny fins are clipped. The fingerlings are about the size of a Lucky Strike cigarette and the fin is about the size of the tip of a little finger nail. The fins are clipped with scissors. Clark-Skamania Fly Fishers has organized 8 volunteers for a clipping event at a hatchery in their area. They will be conducting two groups of four volunteers, and they volunteer for four hours. Only your hands will get wet, no need for waders.

Here are the hatcheries' contact info

- Priest Rapids Hatchery - Mattawa - 509-754-5075
- Coulter Creek Hatchery - Belfair - 253-857-5077
- Minter Creek Hatchery - Gig Harbor - 253-857-5077
- Nemah Hatchery - South Bend - 360-875-6147
- Naselle Hatchery - South Bend - 360-484-7716
- Bringham Hatchery - Elma - 360-426-2369
- Fallert Creek Hatchery - Kalama - 360-673-4400
- Kalama Falls Hatchery - Kalama - 360-673-4825
- George Adams Hatchery - Shelton - 360-427-2161 Contact - Kevin
- Samish Hatchery - Burlington - 360-724-3131

Coldwater Lake

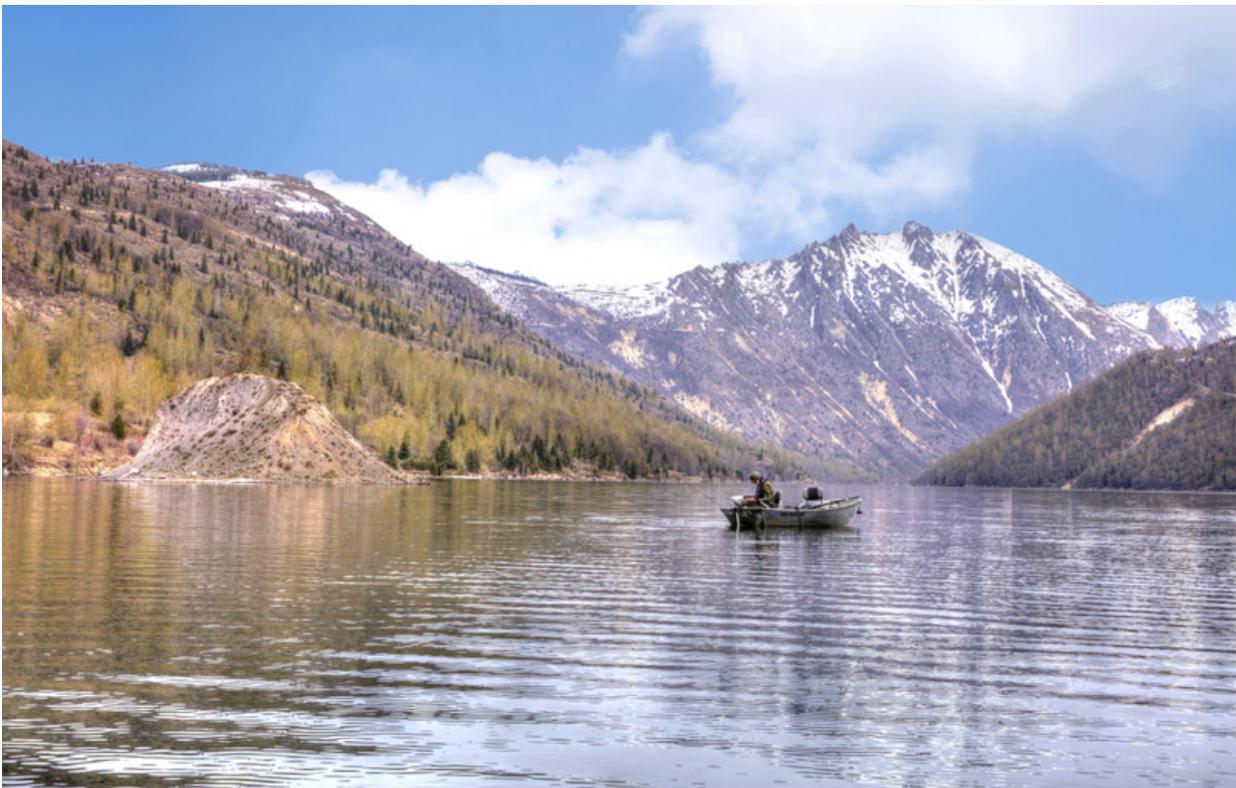


Photo © Howard Nanto



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

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# Outings

## SSFF 2021 OUTINGS

We are planning two outings a month from April through October. For 2021 the Board of Directors is the Outings Committee. Feel free to suggest any outings you would like to be considered to any of your Board members. Ensure your Discover Pass is current and displayed in your car.

Directions to all fishing outings can be found on the WDFW website if you are not familiar with a particular lake, stream, saltwater park, or other outing location. The Ghillie's email contact info is on the last page of the newsletter if you have questions about a specific outing.

**Due to weather, conditions beyond our control such as WDFW regulations and emergency closures, changes in the Ghillies' personal schedules and availability, changes in outings may occur after the newsletter is published. We will do our best to send a blast email update when changes occur to [current paid SSFF members](#). [Watch your email for any possible changes](#).**

### May

5/18 Tuesday 10:00am

Munn Lake. Ghillie is Vic Andrade. Meet at launch ramp at 9:30am. Parking is limited. No fishing from shore. Boat or any type of watercraft recommended. Excellent fishing for crappie, bass and bluegill in the Spring. Trout fishing is good. Indicator fishing with Chironomid patterns can be good also.

5/25 Tuesday 9:30am

Long Lake near Lacey. Gene Rivers is Ghillie. Meet at launch ramp. Watercraft needed. Trout and spiny ray fishing. Floating and intermediate sinking lines recommended. Casting and trolling can both be productive. Recommended fly patterns will be discussed at our club meeting on May 18.

## **June**

6/12 Saturday Lake Nahwatzel

9:00 am. The lake is about 11 miles west of Hwy 101 on Shelton-Matlock road. The lake is open year-round for fishing, and is stocked each spring and fall with larger rainbow trout. Boat / floatation recommended. Shore fishing is limited to area around boat launch. June is a good month for rainbow trout and resident cutthroat.

6/21-22 Monday & Tuesday. Leech Lake, located at top of White Pass. Gene Rivers is Ghillie. Come for one day or camp out and stay for both days. Fabulous fishing for brook trout and large rainbows. Some shore fishing but watercraft needed to really fish this lake. Some good dry fly fishing when a hatch is on but nymphing is also very effective.

## **July**

7/10 Saturday. Burfoot Park, 11:30 am in parking area. Low tide -2.2 ft at 12:50 pm. High tide 14.9 ft at 8:30 pm. This is a good local destination for Searun Cutthroat Trout.

7/24 Saturday. Skookumchuck River, 9:00 at parking area before Hatchery. Fine fishing for rainbow trout, some cutthroats. No floatation, this is a small stream fished from streamside and wading. You'll want waders and appropriate boots to cross the river to fish the opposite banks.

## **August**

8/7 Saturday. Evergreen State College Beach

10:30 am. Low tide -1.6 ft at 11:50 am. High tide 14.5 ft at 7:20 pm. This is a good local destination for Searun Cutthroat Trout.

8/28 Saturday. North Fork Skokomish River, Olympic National Park – Meet at Staircase Campground parking area. Good fishing for trout. This stream is fishable from shore or wading. No floatation. The park's fishing season is June 1 – September 15 when fishing closes in the river water above Lake Cushman.

## **September**

9/9 Thursday. Blue Creek / Cowlitz River More details to follow. Date subject to change depending upon return of searun cutthroat trout.

Second trip TBD.

## **October**

10/9 Saturday. Lake Kokanee, also known as Lower Lake Cushman. A 150-acre reservoir on the North Fork of the Skokomish River in Mason County, Washington. The lake is stocked to coincide with summer holidays with larger catchable-size (11"-13") rainbow trout and again in the fall with good numbers of larger rainbow trout to provide a fishery through the winter. Its deepest is 480 feet. The lake is fishable by boat with shore access limited to the boat launch area.

## **November**

Date TBD Hoodsport Hatchery. Date depends upon timing of the fish and regulations in effect. This is combat fishing for chum salmon. WDFW is reporting low predicted chum return in 2021. Details to follow. This is if you don't know better places to fish for chum when the Fall run comes in but there are better and easier to reach locations.

## **December**

12/10 Friday. Twanoh State Park on Hood Canal "Big Fjord Project"  
Ten club members will fish with WDFW biologists and Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. All slots are currently filled but if any vacancies open up club members will be notified.

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.**

A good friend, Wes Bigney, wrote these reminiscences. I became good friends with Wes while teaching fly tying at New Mexico Trout. In his youth Wes fished the Cape Cod area of Massachusetts while his dad owned an Orvis fly fishing shop. Working careers took him around the country until he settled in New Mexico. He's now at the point that he cannot fish any longer, so he is sharing his knowledge.

### **Preparation for and Handling of Large Trout by Wes Bigney**

"It is an ill wind that blows no one good."

Consider the stay home curfew we are all living by. Every month that we have to stay home the fish grow another inch. By fall the fish stocked in March will be "braggin' sized."

#### **Line Management – handling the line when retrieving the fly.**

My dad taught me this method some eighty years ago when I was fourteen, and I have used it ever since.

Assuming you are right-handed and are holding the rod in your right hand, use your left hand to pick up the line at the stripper guide and pull it down to the middle finger of your right hand (RMF). The stripper guide is the largest of all the guides with a ring in the center for the line to pass through on the way to threading the rod toward the tip. Open that finger and hook the line in it. The thumb and the other fingers keep gripping the rod. Keep the line running through that finger. When your left hand has swung as far back as you can reach – close the RMF to stop the line from sliding back out of the rod. Now you bring the left hand up to the RMF and pick up the line. Be sure to leave the line hooked in the crook of the RMF while you strip in another reach of your left arm. The line gained with each left arm reach can be coiled in your left hand or dropped at your feet. Coiling avoids a loop being pulled down stream while wading, or a loop being dragged in the dirt and weeds when changing position on shore. Also, this is a good technique to use landing a fish. Once the fish is in the net or on the bank – reel up the loose line so it won't be stepped on and damaged.

Finally, when reeling in you put the line into the crook of your little finger of your rod hand. As you are reeling, move the little finger to the left and right. That will put the line on the spool in a level wind pattern, and will avoid mounds of line on the spool.

Whenever the fly is anchored and cannot be retrieved a straight pull usually leads to a break off to get your line back. Point the rod straight at the fly wherever it is anchored (never bend or lift the rod). Grab the line tightly in the left hand and pull. Some part of the line will break, usually where the leader ties to the fly. If you try to break the fly free by lifting the rod you can break the rod.

Munn Lake



Photo © Howard Nanto

# Anchor Management

Submitted by Vic Andrade

## A Better Method To Tether And Free An Anchor

Besides the trusty waders, many anglers have some type of watercraft so that they can get to more places on the lakes. Whether it is a one person pontoon, kayak, or small boat, these devices let us get to places and cover more of the water so we can have a better fishing experience.

When my wife and I first moved out here from Indiana we soon purchased some basic Costco Kayaks so we could enjoy exploring the shores of the Sound and the many lakes that are in the area.



Photo © Vic Andrade

My first fishing outing in the kayak was at Munn Lake on a calm day. I was excited to catch my first "real" trout. Even on calm waters, there was still some current. As soon as I got myself to a good place and got off a few casts, I was soon drifting away and constantly re-manuevering the kayak. The solution was of course very simple. Get an anchor!



Unfortunately, there might be times when your anchor does too good a job and won't "un-anchor" because it is caught up in the weeds, lily pads, rocks, or a subsurface tree-fish. The hooks on my anchor (shown above) can retract. However, if your line is tied to your anchor as you would expect (also see the above picture), then you will stay permanently anchored. Worse yet, you might tip your kayak trying to untangle the anchor!

I wish I could say that I came up with a solution. Instead, I found a YouTube video. Actually, I found lots of YouTube videos. Here are two that do a good job of showing the same solution:

How to Properly Tie a Kayak Anchor Using an Anchor Knot and Zip Tie -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7\\_7C1aj92U](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z7_7C1aj92U)

Even Better method to tether and tie anchor w Zip tie -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaOc3Re8tis>

The key to the solution is to simply tie the main retrieval line to the bottom of the anchor, and use a zip tie to route and attach the line to the top of the anchor. Watch the YouTube videos to see how it works.



As demonstrated in the second video, an even better way is to use a swivel and optional chain.



The second video also talks about techniques to maneuver the kayak so you don't tip while trying to snap the anchor free. The second video also has information on the anchor and zip ties. He suggests 30 lb. zip ties, but I've found that a 4", 18 lb zip tie has worked and is easier to find.

Good luck and I hope it leads to better fishing!

Vic



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

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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 North Olympia Fire Department is closed to meetings until further notice.

The meeting announcement and meeting Zoom code are sent to members and friends about a day ahead of the meeting by email. Website: [southsoundflyfishers.org](http://southsoundflyfishers.org)

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter  
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