



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 21 Issue 7

July 2021

Page 10 Get your South Sound Fly Fishers Growler. Make sure to place your order before supplies run out.

Page 3 The July 20th meeting will feature the program "Reading Trout Waters" presented by Heather Hodson Neufeld

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



It all started like this. Vic Andrade was minding his business managing the web-site. He received an inquiry about teaching fly casting to a group of Boy Scouts wanting to achieve their Fly Fishing Merit Badge. "Life happened" to the fellow who originally scheduled to teach the casting session; he developed a last minute schedule conflict and had to cancel the scouts.

I caught up with the leader on Tuesday or Wednesday to discuss the predicament. Could SSFF help them teach ten scouts to fly cast on the following Saturday, 4 days later?

With the South Sound Fly Fishers only the impossible is....maybe challenging, but possible. Ten phone calls later, we assembled a team to help the scouts. Three days later.

The job scope was clearly defined by the scouting merit badge requirements. If you would read the requirements I think you'd be as impressed as I am with how thoroughly they cover the sport of fly fishing. The scouts must demonstrate understanding of the hazards of the sport, discuss how to remove a hook from an arm, assemble a fly rod, reel, and line setup using appropriate knots, tie two flies and know the wherefore and when to use them, cast a fly 30 feet consistently and accurately with both overhead and roll-cast, observe insects on or beneath the water and discuss matching the hatch, and catch and release at least one fish...(they think they're going to stop at one fish?). So they needed help teaching fly casting.

My sincere thanks go to new member David Brenna, who volunteered to lead the training team. He's a devout dry-fly fisher who actually does as he recommends. A week will not pass that doesn't see David practicing his target casting. He has a lengthy background teaching others to cast, and he *enthusiastically* said he would help!

These club members joined in to help: Lee Yeager, Mike Clancy, Kevin Angevine, Max Doerge, and Tobey Anderson. And joining our team was Bruce Tyson from Project Healing Waters. Justin Fordice made that connection happen; thank you Justin for reaching out on our behalf!

The common ideal running through all these team members was a sincere desire to help the younger generation to gain a solid foundation in fly fishing. Remember your first time with a fly rod and how helpful it would have been to have someone there watching your every move. We produced a team of seven experienced fishers to help this group of ten students. Each of these scouts had individual coaching.

You all traded your Saturday afternoons to help these youngsters. SSFF came through on very short notice in a big way. Thanks to you all for helping our community with your excellent instruction.

Stay well - fish well !

Columbia River

Photo © Howard Nanto





July SSFF Program

“Reading Trout Waters”

Presented by Heather Hodson Neufeld

Come join us on Tuesday, July 20 at 7:00pm for a Zoom presentation by Heather Hodson Neufeld.

Understand where trout live and you'll catch more fish. Heather will take you on a river journey to learn about the different water currents, elements and features to become a better trout angler.



State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



This is going to be a very brief report. This week, Jim Maus and I are enjoying a float on the Missouri River in Craig, MT. We are lucky to float the river with Arnie Gidlow, the owner of Missouri Riverside Outfitters and Lodge, since this is his last year of guiding. Arnie is going to finally retire.

I learned today that Arnie has been guiding for over 44 years in Montana and all over the world, the events originating at The Lodge in Craig, MT. PSFF and SSFF members have enjoyed Arnie's lodge for many years. In 2002, a dozen members from PSFF attended an outing at his lodge. Arnie told me that many members from SSFF, including Burt and Ginger Sarver and others have enjoyed his company.

This is my 4th year to enjoy Arnie's hospitality and guidance on the river. Actually, this morning, my first cast brought me a 21 incher, and Jim experienced the same joy later. After visiting with Arnie, yes he's going to retire, but he has plans to travel in the USA and Canada with his photography which is going to be his next adventure. And he's going fishing in the high country by himself. We will miss you, Arnie Gidlow, and we all wish you well for your future. Thank you for providing us with incredible experiences at your lodge and wonderful fly fishing on the Missouri River. God speed, our friend, with good health and joy.

NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy - Jim and I have scheduled the Academy for 2022. It will be June 19 -25, 2022 the last FULL week of June. Registration will be open January, 2022 so make your plans for your young folks that want to learn to fly fish to attend.

That's all folks. Jim, Arnie and I are going to sit out on Arnie's deck, overlooking the Missouri River and enjoy some beverages. It's only 96 here right now.

Dugout Sound Flyfishers 2002!
Thanks Annie Hedlow



2002 SSFF in Craig, MT at the Missouri Riverside Outfitters and Lodge





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

Outings

SSFF 2021 OUTINGS

For 2021 President Randy Allen has appointed the Board of Directors as the Outings committee. Suggest any outings to Randy or any board members. Emails are on the last page of the newsletter.

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 ghillies email contact info is on the last page of the newsletter if you have questions about a specific outing.

July

7/24 [Saturday](#) Skookumchuck River. 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 but has limited shore access at the boat launch.

Second trip TBD.

November

Date TBD. Hoodspout Hatchery. 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
WDFW Big Fjord Project. 10 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

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.

South Sound Fly Fishers Growler Sales

Are you thirsty? The SSFF would like to help you. For a \$10 donation, you can become the proud owner of a South Sound Fly Fishers beverage growler. The brown glass container is ideally suited for beer and ale. Several local breweries are happy to fill the growler with your choice of their products.



Once payment is received, the growler can be picked up from club members Randy Allen (in West Olympia) or Vic Andrade (in Lacey). These fine containers are available to anyone, member or not. Hurry while supplies last! Click on the link [here](https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=FD6FPL3SKN2D2) [https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=FD6FPL3SKN2D2] or send a check to South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792, Olympia WA 98507.

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.

Rigging

When I get to the destination and am assembling the rod and lining up the guides I stand the rod against a rock or tree. I never lay it on the ground or against the car to be stepped on by an errant foot or eaten by an auto door. After I have run the line through the guides I do not coil any line on the ground where I can step on it and cut it against a stone or gravel. I make sure the ferrules are seated.

The Rod and Handling

The taper transmits force to the various parts of the rod depending on the amount of force applied. So a little force bends the tip and more force transmits to heavier parts of the rod right down to the grip. This applies whether casting or retrieving the line. Much has been written about casting and I want to address retrieving, where the action is!

In retrieving mode the rod tip should be held close to the water and pointing in the direction the line lies. Holding the rod tip up makes a belly from the tip down to the water. When a fish strikes, the slack in the belly must be taken up before the hook can be set. This split second can allow the fish to spit out the hook. Holding the rod down makes the line straight to the hook, causing immediate hooking. Also, holding the rod down and pointing down the line gives you a telegraph from the hook to your hand. After some experience you will be able to tell if a line hesitation is a fish or a snag and you won't have to wait for the snag to start moving to know it's a fish! Never set a reel drag up tight! That eliminates the drag and makes a direct connect of reel to line thus eliminating the clutch action that the drag was designed for.

Simultaneously with hooking, the rod tip should be raised so that the grip is pointing up at forty-five degrees. This puts a bend in the rod which is a shock absorber and it prevents the fish from making direct stress on the leader tippet reducing the chance for break off. If the fish is large enough that you can't get the grip up at forty-five degrees - let out some line until you get the grip into position.

Stripping the Line In

Assuming you're right handed and retrieving the line with your left hand - the line should come back from the stripper guide to the middle finger of your right hand. When your left arm is fully extended and you want to pull in another arm length of line, you come back to the middle finger of the right hand, which the line slides through all of the time you are retrieving. You close that middle finger to keep the line from sliding back out after you have retrieved it or a fish is pulling it. The middle finger keeps the line where you know it is at all times. You never reach up to the stripper guide to pick up the line unless it has dropped from the middle finger and you are replacing it. The middle finger is also a sensor that feels every foot of line that passes through it for knots, nicks or debris that may cause problems casting or retrieving.



Gwill Ging fishing the Columbia River

Photo © Howard Nanto



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS – 2021 Officers, Directors, Chairs

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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 6:45 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

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter
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