



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

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Page 3 The October 19th program "Chironomids from Top to Bottom" presented by Ernie Gulley.

Page 5 Check out the latest news regarding the FFI and the Fly Fishing Academy.

Page 6 Outings have been canceled for the rest of 2021 due to COVID.

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



Happy Halloween, everyone! It's really spooky how quickly the year has gone by. Instead of casting flies with abrupt stops I exercise my abrupt stops at the end of my leaf blower pull cord. The price we pay for living with big leaf maples.

In September my wife and I had the pleasure of spending some time with a couple of brand new boaters in the San Juans. Brad and Sara Mahood realized they need a boat at their Alaska home, so they acquired one down here. New to boating, they're getting used to navigating Puget Sound before they transport the boat to their Kenai home.

How fun that trip was. Brad and Sara have taken to boating like fish to water. Every turn, every sound, every new sight on the shoreline brought new excitement and wonder to their

helm. Photos galore. Every night when we tied to a dock the looks on their faces made the Cheshire cat look like he was frowning. They're like kids with a new toy.

I talked last month about fishing with our friends. Whoever hooks the fish is almost immaterial; *everyone* is pumped up and excited! The same thing happens with a brand new fisher, maybe even to a greater extent. I watched it with Justin Johnson and again with Vic Andrade. They were amazed and delighted that the fly and their mechanics actually came together, the planets aligned, and magically there were trout in their nets. So I'll tag onto last month's column about the mutual excitement that comes about fishing with a friend. That excitement and wonder is magnified *many* times when we help a brand new fly fisher.

Do you know someone in the club who is just getting started? Do you have a friend that would like to learn? When's the last time you asked them to join you on the water? Give them a call. Give them a fly. Help them net their first fish! You'll be their hero. My spare waders will fit Brad and Sara just fine. It's time we put their casting practice to work!

On the subject of club outings this comes from a position of social responsibility. For many months Thurston County was indistinguishable on the COVID radar screen. Vaccination progress in the populous counties up north shows favorable trending in case numbers.

Just the opposite in Thurston. When the Providence medical group announced their 24-hour double-digit deaths and the increasing case numbers, I made a tough executive decision. We have again canceled club get-togethers while the COVID case numbers soar here.

We canceled the October outing to Kokanee Lake, AKA Lower Lake Cushman. When Jim McAllister led us to Staircase in Olympic Nat'l Park a couple of years ago he stopped on the way to show us the access to Kokanee Lake. So we put it into this year's schedule. That was before we knew what COVID would do. Recently Kevin Angevine had success fishing there. He caught a good number of decent sized fish. Look up Kevin's contact info on the back page of the Hackle, and contact him for details. He'll share the info!

We encourage you to get out and go fishing. Fish with a friend or family member you know is safe. Remain distanced from anyone you do not know. But go fishing by all means. And report back to us via email, or at the monthly meetings.

Tight lines, help a buddy land a fish, and stay well!

Randy Allen



October 19, 2021

Our October Program will be "Chironomids from Top to Bottom," presented by Professional guide, Ernie Gulley.

This in-depth presentation will cover every aspect of fishing chironomids in a stillwater environment. We will cover the entire life cycle of the chironomid. When and how to fish each stage of the chironomid through its life cycle and how you can stay ahead of the curve to make sure you will always have your imitation at the proper depth of its life cycle! Many different patterns that I have had great success with in the past and present will be shown and discussed. Proper rigging of the many different leader systems, including indicators and non-indicator applications. Ernie's presentation will cover everything possible regarding chironomids.



Membership

Randy Allen, Chair



SSFF Welcomes new members-

Todd Parker joined us. He's a Shelton resident and has joined us on our club outings. When our outing to Kokanee Lake was canceled due to COVID Todd seized the opportunity to fish the lake anyway. He reported having good luck. Well done, Todd!

Casey Quinn joined after attending our Introduction to Fly Fishing and Introduction to Fly Tying classes. He has his hands full with their first child, but he did complete his tying homework by finishing his Elk Hair dry flies. Impressive, Casey! We'll get you on the water when you have the time.

Don Boyer from Lacey, and **Ted Yoder** from Olympia also joined the club. We've seen you gents on the Zoom meetings - thanks for attending! We hope you're enjoying our excellent speakers and their presentations.

Welcome to you newcomers!

Randy Allen



Photo © Howard Nanto

*State Council FFI Government
Affairs* **Mike Clancy**



WSCFFI-FFI-ACADEMY UPDATES by Mike Clancy,
WSCFFI Rep.

FFI - Virtual Expo 2021 - FFI has transformed its annual International Fly Fishing Expo into a virtual event for 2021, completely reimagining how fishing enthusiasts from around the world can enjoy the Expo from the comfort of their own homes. The FFI Virtual Expo 2021 will be unlike any fly fishing show in the past. FFI is pulling out all the stops to make the Virtual Expo the premiere fly fishing event of the year. Teaming up with some of the best instructors, presenters, and fly fishing personalities in the sport, it will feature workshops and presentations on casting, fly tying, conservation, women in fly fishing, travel, and much more. The event is scheduled for Nov. 5-7, 2021. Please go to the FFI website, www.flyfishersinternational.org to learn more and register for the event.

NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy - The Directors of The Academy conducted a zoom type meeting recently. John Gravendyk, Past President of WFFC, Bruce Merighi, WVFF, Carol Anderson, WSCFFI, Jim and myself, discussed the future of The Academy. We have not been able to conduct the event for the past two years. We have high hopes that we'll able to have a 2022 event, but, we will not make a decision until November or December. Most camps being conducted now are day camps. But, our event lasts the last full week of June with the students and staff staying in cabins at Gwinwood Christian Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey, WA. So we have our fingers crossed.

Alaska - The WSCFFI's territory includes Washington and Alaska. Recently, the EPA announced that it would move to vacate its 2019 decision to withdraw proposed protections for Bristol Bay. The EPA will reinstate the 2014 Proposed Determination for Bristol Bay which, if finalized, will be a critical component of the effort to permanently safeguard Bristol Bay. This year is a record year for sockeye salmon returns in Bristol Bay; over 65 million salmon have returned this year.

The Narwhal - I learned about this Canadian conservation organization, and they have published an incredible article on Bristol Bay by Sarah Cox, "The lessons for British Columbia in Alaska's epic Bristol Bay sockeye run." If you're interested in Bristol Bay, Google "The Narwhal" and read the article.



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 the remainder of 2021 President Randy Allen has canceled group outings due to the spike in Thurston County COVID cases. We will get back together in the future. Suggest any outings to Randy or any board members. Emails are on the last page of the newsletter.

December

12/10

Big Fjord Research Project for sea-run cutthroat trout. SSFF is working with WDFW biologists and the Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group. Ten club members will fish with the biologists at Twanoh State Park on Hood Canal. All slots are currently filled but if any vacancies open up club members will be notified.

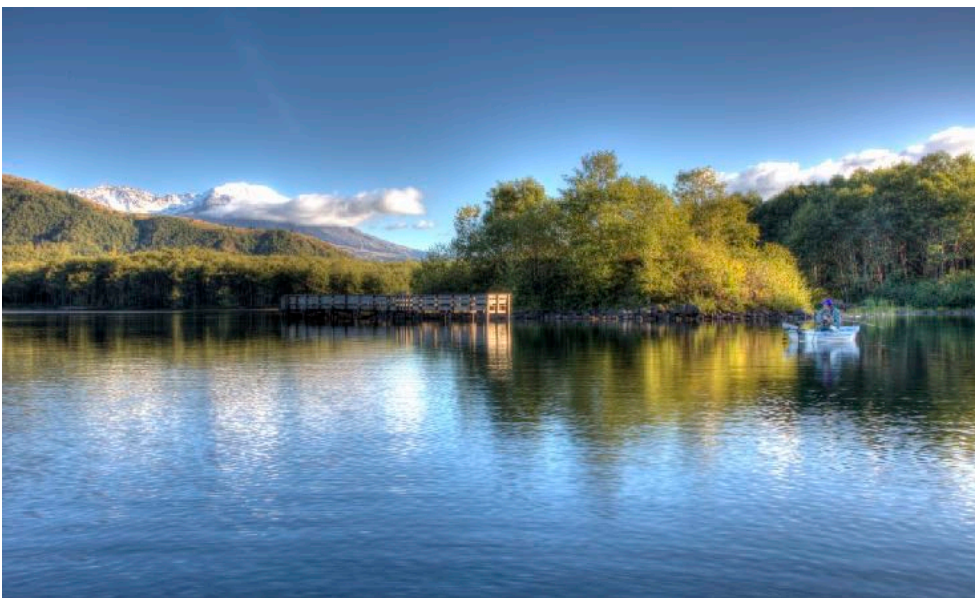


Photo © Howard Nanto

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.



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: the Board of Directors

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 6:45 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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