



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 22 Issue 2

February 2022

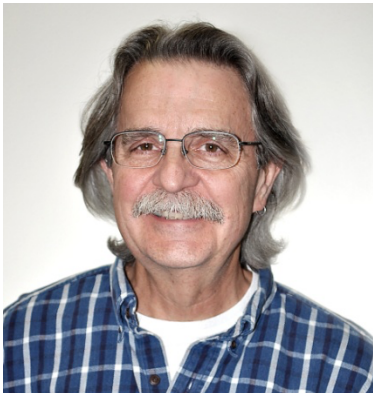
Page 3. Our own Ginger Sarver will talk about three fishing trips taken in Washington and New Zealand.

Page 5. We welcome two new members to SSFF.

Page 12. The Club's COVID-19 Guidance Policy.

LEADER'S LINE

President Lee Yeager



Greetings everyone and thanks for reading this month's *Garden Hackle*. I hope this edition finds everyone well and in good spirits. You will find an official Covid-19 policy regarding SSFF events in this edition. This policy was developed and approved by the SSFF Board of Directors as our guidance as we prepare the transition to in-person meetings. Please take the time to read this policy and let me know if you have any questions. I want to assure everyone that the health and safety of all members and guests at future club events is paramount in our decisions.

In the next few weeks, I will send out a short questionnaire to all club members to gauge their interest in returning to in-person meetings. When we do so, we will also provide the option of viewing the meeting in real time via Zoom. This will allow people the option of

coming to the meeting if able, or joining from home if preferable. Most of the area fly fishing clubs in the state are resuming in-person meetings with guidelines similar to the ones we have developed.

The past 2 years have been exhausting for most and tragic for too many. We have developed our transition goals to enable us to get back to something we once took for granted. At the same time, we want to respect the limitations and concerns of others. I personally have missed the opportunity to join in fellowship to share our passion for fly fishing, conservation, and the joy of the outdoors. If you have questions or concerns about this transition, please feel free to call or email me.

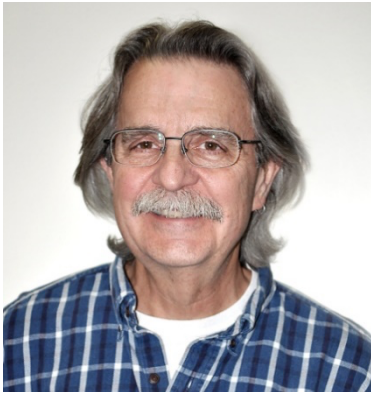
The club does not have any outings scheduled for this month. We do hope to resume club outings soon. In the meantime, I hope you are able to get out and do some fishing. Remember, fly fishing is about the most fun you can have when you are not catching fish.

Be well,

Lee Yeager



Big bow-photo courtesy of Howard Nanto

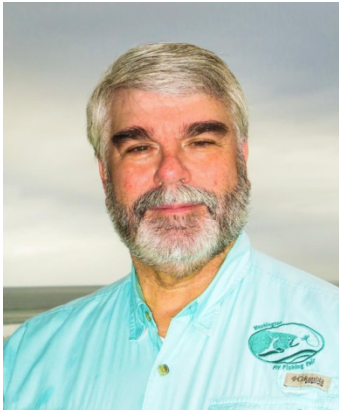


**February 15, 2022
Member Presentation**

Our February program will be a presentation by fellow club member Ginger Sarver. Ginger and her husband, Burt, have been members of the South Sound Fly Fisher for many years. They are avid fly fishers and hikers and have made fishing trips to unique locations all over the world. Ginger will present videos from three of their previous trips. Two will feature trips from Washington- the Humptulips River and the Methow River. The third video is from a trip Ginger and Burt took to New Zealand's South Island (aka Te Waipounamu). I am certain you will enjoy these videos as well as the opportunity to ask questions. Ginger really enjoys sharing her trips.



South Island (New Zealand) -photo courtesy of outsideonline.com



Treasurer's Report – 2022 Dues are Due!

Hi everyone. Thank you for continuing to support SSFF. I hope you and your families are safe and well.

It's that time of year again. If you haven't already done so, please pay your 2022 dues as soon as possible. Dues for 2022 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

Membership

Randy Allen, Chair



Please welcome these new members-



Vince Lester of Olympia joins us. He's a California guy whose father moved the family a couple of times. Vince attended High School in Oregon then college classes in Umpqua. His roommate was a fly fisher and gave Vince casting lessons in front of his house, right out there in the roadway. His buddy taught him a little about fly tying also. Vince was getting hooked. Next thing Vince and his buddy hiked five or seven miles to Maidu Lake, the headwater of the Umpqua River. Vince caught his first fish on a fly he tied in that lake. It was a real thrill for Vince.

With more time available now Vince wanted to get back into fly fishing. We met at the local Les Schwab where his classic '65 289 Mustang needed a tire repaired. As a previous owner of a '67 Mustang I couldn't resist opening a conversation. He's the second owner of the '65. It's a real beauty! Vince - welcome to SSFF! We're looking forward to rekindling your fly fishing bug!



Todd Parker joined last year from Shelton. As a youngster growing up in Spokane he and his dad fished the local lakes with conventional gear. But, fly fishing was always something that interested him. After several moves through California and Oregon, Todd settled back into Washington. He picked up some books about fly fishing for steelhead in our area rivers. . His life-changing fishing trip occurred when he started catching fish using a single egg pattern on a stream. Just like he'd read about other fishers. He says he had the *most* fun fishing on that trip!

He bought a Cabela's 5 weight rod to start fishing for local trout. Needing something a little heavier for bigger fish he next bought an 8 weight. Todd's work also afforded him the opportunity to travel to SE Alaska where he caught a number of pink salmon each day after meetings. Nice job perks! Looking for some casting coaching he found the SSFF club. He immediately started attending the outings. We appreciate that Todd joined the Board as one of our Directors at Large. Welcome to the club, Todd. And, thanks for your enthusiasm. We're glad to have you with us!

Randy Allen

Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



FFI - The FFI Livingston event is in the planning stages for 2022. They are planning for another International Virtual event later in the year. The 2021 was a very successful event with lots of casting, fly tying, education & conservation classes. And the event was very affordable. The FFI website has been remodeled: www.flyfishersinternational.org. Please go to the Learning Center and see an incredible presentation.

Washington State Council FFI (WSCFFI) - A decision has been made. Steve Jones, President, along with the BOD, have decided the casting and fly tying event for 2022 is going to be conducted at Lake Ballinger, north of Seattle. There are very good facilities for casting and tying, with lots of good parking. And, there will be food trucks available. The Council supports many conservation organizations, e.g. Washington Wild, located in Seattle. We support Washington Wild and congratulated them in successfully preventing a mining company, Imperial Metals, a Canadian mining company, in a proposal to pursue a mining permit at the source of the Skagit River. "The Skagit River is saved from Upstream Mining Threat."

Alaska is part of our WSC territory. There are two important events TU and native tribes are working on. 1 Pebble Mine: the EPA postponed their decision on the prevention of the mine, a serious threat to Bristol Bay. 2 Tongass National Forest: They are also working to make Tongass roadless again.

The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy - When this newsletter is published, a decision for the 2022 Academy will have been made. A zoom meeting is scheduled for Feb. 9th. Wish us well.



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. (And we're as anxious as you!)

Introduction to Fly Fishing taught in spring, five weeks, once per week. After this course you'll understand the gear you'll need like rods, reels, lines, waders and boots, floatation devices for still-water fishing, and more. We cover locating fish in rivers, lakes, and the salt water, and discuss local fish species you'll catch. 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 2022 OUTINGS

Stay tuned. The board is continuing to evaluate the COVID-19 situation. The winter months are too unpredictable, and the club does not normally schedule outings until April, though if the weather cooperates, outings have been scheduled in March. Tune in to future Garden Hackle editions to learn the developments. If you have a suggestion for an outing you would like to see the club hold, please feel free to reach out to one of your board of directors on the last page of this Hackle.



Dewatto Bay - photo courtesy of Howard Nanto

Although trout eat a variety of food organisms such as aquatic insects, terrestrial insects, fish, leeches, and worms, the food items that are most important to trout and fly fishers are those aquatic insects that spend most of their life cycle underwater in streams, rivers, and stillwaters. Therefore, it's important to be knowledgeable about the most important types of aquatic insects in the trout's diet, which are mayflies (*Ephemeroptera*), caddisflies (*Trichoptera*), midges (*Diptera*), and stoneflies (*Plecoptera*). I thought it would be a nice idea to provide our recent and newly joined members that are new to the sport of fly fishing, a generalized introduction to these four taxa. Part one of this four-part series, will discuss mayflies.

Mayflies begin life as an egg, and hatch into an aquatic stage known as a *nymph*. Nymphs usually live about a year but may last two years or more, or just a few months, depending on the species. Some mayfly species have two broods per year, making them important in the spring and again in the fall when the next generation matures.

Mayfly nymphs range in size from 4mm to 40mm, have 6 legs, two to three tails (normally three), gills on the lateral portion of the abdomen, and one pair of wingpads. Most are dark on top (mottled brown, tan, or dark olive) with a lighter underside. Some mayfly nymphs are burrowers, others have adapted to cling to rocks in fast water, so each nymph species has a different body shape and design.

When a mayfly nymph rises toward the surface and splits its shuck, the insect that emerges is called a *dun* (technically a subimago or pre-adult). They have six legs, two to three tails, gills are absent from the abdomen, two large, upright wings, and most have two very small hind wings. The wings are opaque and their bodies are often drab-colored.

Duns are the mayflies that ride the water's surface in an upright position while their wings dry before taking flight. It's a cliché, but fly fishers often say they look like miniature sailboats. When duns are on the water, you are in the hatch situation fly fishers live for, and it's time to fish with dry flies, which float on the surface of the water.

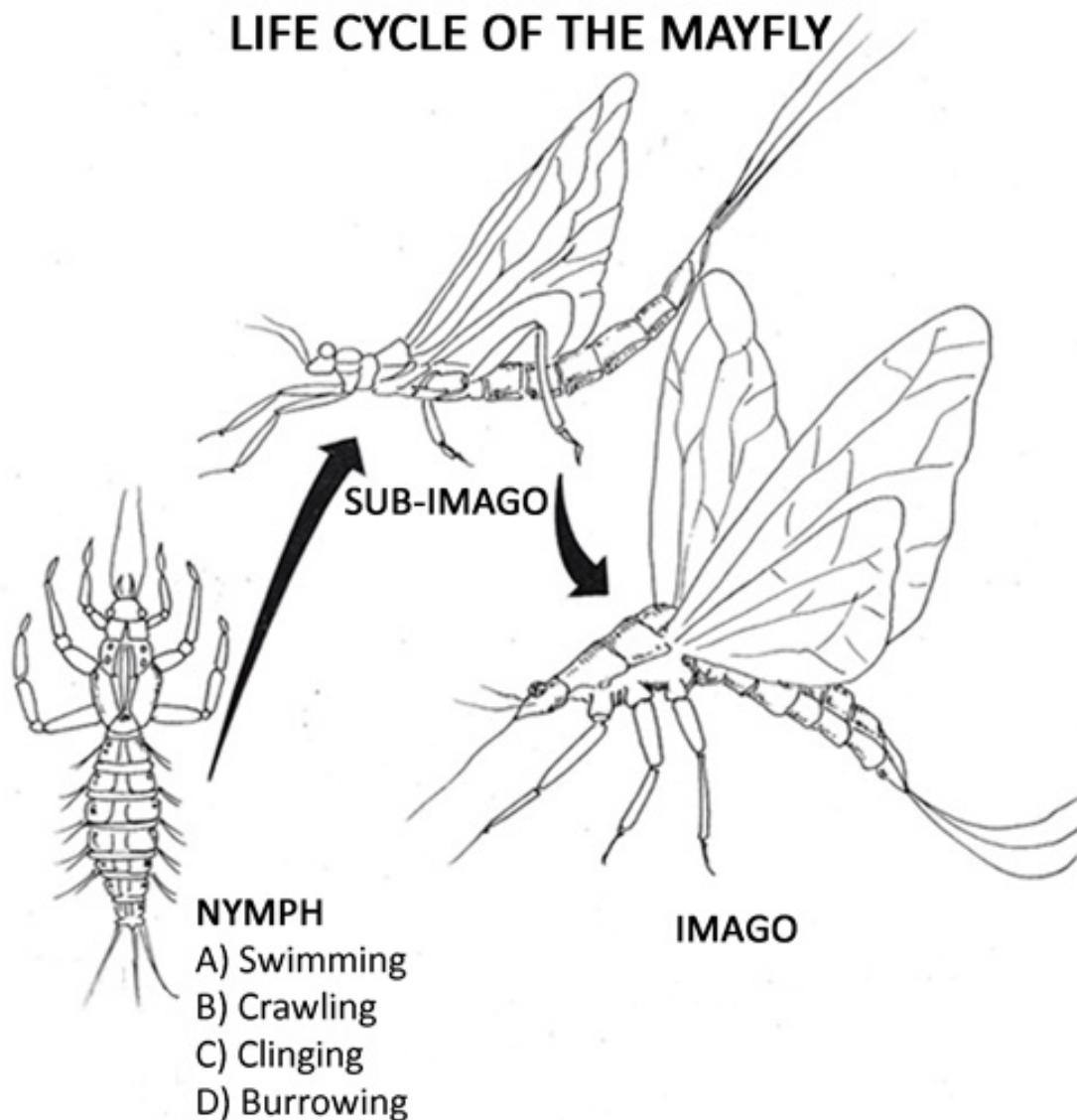
After they hatch, mayfly duns fly to streamside vegetation where they molt or shed their skins and enter the adult or imago phase fly fishers call "*spinners*." The change from dun to spinner often results in a different body color, and spinner tails are longer than dun tails. The most noticeable difference is that the wings of mayfly duns are opaque or cloudy. Spinner wings are usually clear.

A short time after molting into spinners—usually within 24 hours—the mayflies fly back to the water and gather in large swarms over riffle areas, where they mate. This most often happens late in the evening or early in the morning.

The females lay eggs and then die in the egg-laying process. Males continue to fertilize eggs until they also fall spent to the water, with their outstretched wings flush with the water's surface. Trout sometimes prefer spinners over duns because they have learned that spinners have no chance to escape—they are dead—and are easier meals. Also, duns hatch over a relatively long period of time, while spinners fall to the water en masse, creating an irresistible feeding opportunity.

Because spinners lie flush in the surface film, you may need a spinner pattern with outstretched wings. One of the reasons we suggest a *Parachute Adams* for the dun stage is that it also works well enough for the spinner stage. The parachute hackle leaves a footprint on the water that is similar to the outstretched wings of a mayfly spinner, and the trout often ignore the upright parachute post. Flush-floating mayfly spinner imitations are tough to see, and tough to fish, so it's probably a good idea to give the parachutes a try first, and move to more exacting patterns later if the fish refuse them.

Some popular patterns for adult mayflies are the blue winged olive, pale morning dun, and green drake.



Disclaimer: The majority of this information was taken from an online article on flyfisherman.com, January 12, 2016.

Tune in next month for part two of this four-part series.



South Sound Fly Fishers COVID Guidance Policy



In order to provide as safe an environment as possible for our club members and guests, the South Sound Fly Fishers will follow the guidelines listed below for in-person meetings and club events. These steps are implemented to make every effort to minimize health risks to all persons. These guidelines shall be in effect until modified or rescinded by the Board of Directors.

As the COVID pandemic continues to develop throughout the United States and internationally, the SSFF remains flexible to amend the policy governing our organization's operations during these difficult times. All previous versions of the policy are replaced by the policy set forth in this document.

- For casting events and SSFF education classes, proof of vaccinations for both teachers and participants will be required.
- Outdoor activities include social distancing and masking where practicable.
- Masks are required to be worn by all persons attending in-person club meetings at the fire station.
- All persons attending in-person club meetings must sign-in, (contact tracing).
- All persons attending in-person club meetings are required to show proof of vaccination.
- Food and drinks will not be served at club meetings.
- If you have any symptoms or feel sick, stay home.

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 – 2022 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Lee Yeager, yeagerflyfish@gmail.com

Vice President: Randy Allen, randyandcarol2@gmail.com

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Treasurer: Jim Maus, jimmaus@comcast.net

Past President: Gene Rivers, acu4pets@hotmail.com

Conservation: Don Freeman, donfreeman74@gmail.com

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Membership: Randy Allen, randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Outings Chair: the Board of Directors

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Director at Large: Todd Parker, tparker2356@gmail.com

Director at Large: Kevin Angevine, grcaulder777@gmail.com

FFI/Gov't: Mike Clancy, mtclancy39@comcast.net

Club Meetings are conducted by Zoom at 7:00 pm 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.com

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

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