



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 22 Issue 6

June 2022

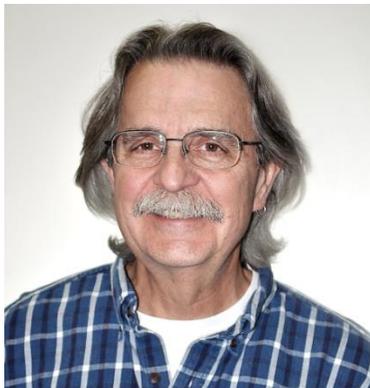
Page 3. This month's program is Mending The Line by Heather Hodson Neufeld.

Page 10. Griffin Middle School fly fishing class was a big success.

Page 16. Jeff Miller receives Fly Fisher of the Year award.

## LEADER S LINE

## President Lee Yeager



When I open a newspaper or website these days, I see more and more articles related to or targeting climate change and conservation. I have always agreed with the sentiment that fly fishers are dedicated conservationists. One of the best ways to protect our environment and resources is to introduce the sport of fly fishing to more people; the future belongs to our children. With that thought in mind several members of the South Sound Fly Fishers spent six weeks in April and May teaching a fly fishing curriculum to middle school students at Griffin Middle School. Randy Allen and Kevin Angevine spear headed the group that was asked if we could help with a fly fishing class. They had figured things out on the fly so to speak. The classes were successful and culminated with the students making a trip to Long's Pond in Lacey to fish with flies they had tied. Several students did catch fish from the bank of the pond in spite of a persistent rain. The smiles on students' faces at their success were worth all of the efforts to make this class into a reality. We all need to be planting the seeds for the future growth of our fishing conservationists.

As a boy and before my retirement years, I always eagerly anticipated the summer months. They brought the chance for travel to fishing locations to places I would not routinely fish. This summer I find myself looking for closer opportunities. Luckily here in the South Sound region we have an abundance of fishing resources that are a relatively short travel distance for most everyone. This month our club outing will be a trip up to Staircase Campground in the Olympic National Park to fish the North Fork Skokomish River. See our outings page for more information about this trip and be sure to catch this month's program on line mending by Heather Hodson Neufeld. It just might improve your fishing on the Skokomish.

Be well and fish on.

**Lee Yeager**



Storm clouds © Howard Nanto



**June 21, 2022**  
**Mending The Line**

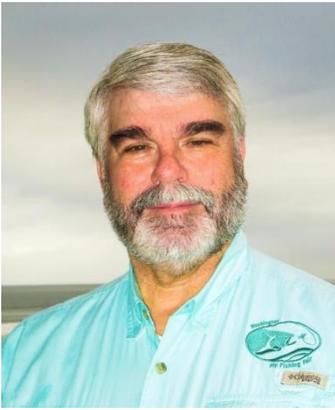
Our program for June is a presentation by Heather Hodson Neufeld. Heather is the founder of United Women on the Fly and is committed to building an inclusive community that educates, provides resources, encourages, and connects anglers from around the world. Her passion for getting anyone involved in fly fishing and enthusiasm to think outside the box is infectious.

**Presentation Description -**

Mending the line is an essential skill to be a successful angler. Learn the steps to execute an aerial or on-water mend. Presentation is mostly video examples and geared towards the advanced beginner or intermediate angler. Heather, founder of United Women on the Fly and Fly Fish Instruct, will start with the basics of mending and end with how to target feeding.

Heather's programs are always informative and entertaining. Her presentation will be via Zoom as she will be conducting this presentation from her home in Spokane. Come join us at the fire station or online, Heather's passions for fly fishing and teaching are obvious; you will like what she has to say.





## 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. 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. Get your second booster!

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

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## Membership

Randy Allen, Chair



SSFF Welcomes new members-



Bob Weinberger joins us. He visited a meeting years ago while he lived in Tacoma. Guess he saw something he liked - now living in Lacey, he's our newest member.

He's been into fly fishing for only about the last sixty-or-so years give or take a little. He's enjoyed a variety of rivers: Oregon's Grand Ronde, Snake River, Deschutes, and also Montana rivers. Twice he's been to Patagonia. Bob is also into tying flies and has tied a wide range of patterns. Lately, he's studying chironomids. He used the services of a guide at Omak Lake who put him onto chironomid flies. The result was 26 nice trout. Now he believes in the possibilities of lakes.

Bob has a pontoon boat that he's made little use of, and he now wants to get it out and become more familiar with our local lake fishing and also go for sea-run cutthroats.

Bob - On our recent trip to Summit Lake our river fishers caught a lot of fish. We have some really good lake fishers in the club who can help shorten your learning curve on flat waters. When you come to our next meeting we'll be sure to introduce you. Welcome!

Other new members this month include Ken Adney, Russ Cunningham, Joe Harrison, and Jared Wood. We need to catch up with you members, get your photos, and also introduce you to the club.

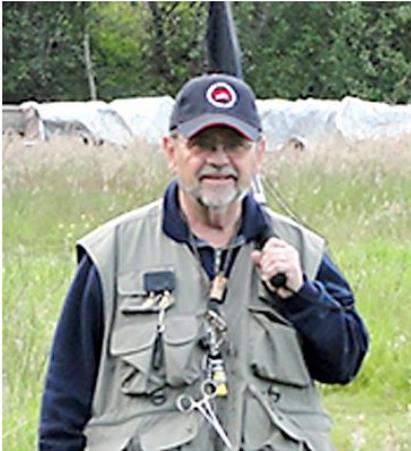
**Tight lines!**

*Randy Allen*

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## Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



### ***WSCFFI and The Academy***

FFI - The FFI is planning another International Virtual Expo November 4-6, 2022. Last year's event was a very successful international event.

Washington State Council FFI (WSCFFI) - The council is planning a casting and fly tying event at Lake Ballinger, north of Seattle on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Come and get casting instruction and watch the fly tyers. There will be some vendors with food trucks. Project Healing Waters and other organizations will have booths for their presentations. There's plenty of good parking. The event is free, however there will be a charge for casting instruction with certified instructors. Hope to see you there.

WSCFFI Conservation - Global warming is here to stay if we don't do something about it. During the Seattle World's Fair I drove a tourist bus around Mt. Rainier. When I drove over the Nisqually Glacier Bridge the glacier was under the bridge to the right about 100 yards; now it has receded so far up the mountain you can't see it anymore. There was an article in this week's USA Today, "Climate change altering fly-fishing to alarm of once-skeptical anglers." Our fishing grounds nationally are not what they use to be, lakes and rivers are getting hotter during our summer months with decreasing river flow, and lake levels are suffering.

Western Rivers Conservancy has done some amazing things for conservation. Specifically regarding the Yakima Canyon Ranch they are in the process of buying 812 acres on the Yakima River. On the Washington Okanogan River WRC is on the cusp of buying and conserving the 727-acre McLoughlin Falls Ranch. They are doing the same projects in Idaho.

We have a historic opportunity to save Salmon from extinction on the Snake and Columbia Rivers. Senator Murry and Governor Inslee released a draft proposal to breach the four Lower Snake River dams. Removing the dams offers the best chance to recover salmon runs in the Columbia and lower Snake Rivers. Sen. Murry and Gov. Inslee's draft report is clear that the services the four lower Snake River dams provide can be replaced, and, with urgent action we can prevent salmon extinction. As a part of their process Sen. Murry and Gov. Inslee are running a month-long comment period to solicit input from stakeholders before releasing a final report later this summer.

The FFI Online - "Weekly Workshops" FFI continues to present Live weekly online classes from fly fishing experts are now being conducted and can be viewed on the FFI website - [www.flyfisherinternational.org](http://www.flyfisherinternational.org). Please check out the "Learning Center" and see incredible presentations. WSCFFI is planning a Casting Fair August 13th at Lake Ballinger Park in the Mount Lake Terrace area north of Seattle.

Alaska - We hope the prevention of the Pebble mine is nearing in July. There is a "study" for another mine, Groundhog mine, NE of the Pebble. It's important to save Bristol Bay and the salmon population. They predicted there would be 66 million salmon this year.

The Academy - We are going to hold an Academy this year, June 19-25 at Gwinwood Community Center on Hicks Lake in Lacey. Registration will be conducted at 1 pm on Sunday the 19<sup>th</sup>. It's been quite a trip getting to this year.

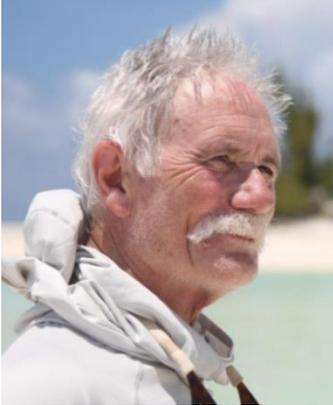
2020 was going to be the last year for Jim and myself. We wanted to retire after 14 plus years, a couple more than that for Jim. We made our announcement in February, normally it's in January. But, we hesitated because of COVID.

We decided that we would be happy with 8 participants. Well, we wound up with 12 kids. After sending a confirmation letter of acceptance, stating again that everyone attending the Academy had to be vaccinated, including staff, we lost 2 applicants since they weren't vaccinated. So now we have 10 kids.

Then we discovered that we needed another ghillie. We reviewed the enrollees and discovered one of the kids had attended the Academy twice prior to 2020. He is now a ghillie and his sister is a staff member. Our final roll count is 9 kids, and we're ready to go.

We have lost a number of staff for health reasons, but we're in good shape since we have 3 new Co-Directors. John Gravendyk, past president of WFF, Bruce Merighi, member of WFFF, and Carol Anderson, WSCFFI, FFI Youth Director, will be taking over next year with Jim and my support.

Jim and I would like to thank the members of SSFF for the support over the years. The Alan Harger fund along with financial support from the Club have been much appreciated toward making our Academies come true for all those kids..



## THE SOAPBOX

Greetings,

There is no conservation article from Don this month as he is having a grand time pursuing fishes inhabiting the marine waters of Cuba.

Please enjoy a few photos from our very own, Howard Nanto.



Jameson Lake



Harve



On the road to Molson



### Education / Community Outreach - by Randy Allen

It started out innocently. Vic Andrade received a call from his friend who teaches PE at a local middle school. Stacey Nelson inherited a for-credit PE class in fly fishing from a soon-to-retire teacher. He started the class a few years ago and it was well received. Stacey was going to teach fly fishing to 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. Stacey herself is new to fly fishing and had not yet tied her first fly. She also had no syllabus, and no courseware. But, the show had to go on, and Vic answered his phone. As Education chair, my phone rang next. . .

The more the merrier. Soon afterward I talked with Kevin Angevine. It's now thirty hours before the first tying class; he let me talk him into accompanying me to meet Stacey and the retiring teacher. Fortunately SSFF had beginner fly casting and fly tying courses. Kevin and I tailored a course plan for the school. Kevin was a constant dose of adrenaline, energy, and logic from my first phone call and on to manage all the tying materials, keep us organized, and to train the kids. He deserves a lot of credit for what you read here.

The class included fly casting and fly tying. SSFF started in April with three grades totaling 61 youngsters eager to tie. A short break and the April class was followed by another round in May. The 6<sup>th</sup> graders from April continued the course in May now joined by 34 new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. If you've been counting we're now at 95 students.

In May SSFF taught casting followed by tying. For May fly tying we would teach the flies we taught in April to the new 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders. But, having tied in April, the continuing 6<sup>th</sup> graders would expect to learn *new* skills and *new* flies.

We exhausted our SSFF intro course flies. Kevin Angevine contributed his Foam Hopper pattern, and Travis Warren, the school's maintenance manager, brought his own Salmon Zonker. We photographed the tying steps and created new course handouts. The real surprise? The attentive 6<sup>th</sup> graders surpassed many upper class students.

Stacey also wanted the students to apply their new casting and tying skills in the real world. Her field trip plan was approved. A busload of students tested their skills on Long's Pond in Lacey, freshly stocked thanks to James Losee and DFW. The trip was "rain or shine." Nine SSFF members and some parents helped many students catch fish that rainy day. The kids' soaking wet smiles were huge, and not just for being out of the classroom. This was exciting! That stuff those old guys taught us *does* work! *I TIED THAT FLY! I CAUGHT FISH!* Cool, huh?

This was a highly rewarding experience for all involved. Remembering our own beginnings in fly fishing we maintained these goals - keep it fun, give positive reinforcement, teach them good skills, *keep it fun*, don't let the kids get frustrated, and *keep it fun!* In return he kids were appreciative, polite, and enthusiastic as they learned.

Stacey is a real quick study with unbelievable enthusiasm for fly fishing and for teaching. She learned basic casting. She tied each fly so she could teach from experience. She has 18 rods, another dozen indoor yarn teaching rods, and 24 fly tying tool kits. She inherited a cabinet of tying materials resembling a small fly shop. To help pack the tying materials each morning we were given two very upbeat 7<sup>th</sup> grade girls. Kevin and Phil Jaramillo taught them lots about flies and materials. It wouldn't surprise us if they take next year's class.

The students appreciated our training visual aid: flies are tied in each step of the tying instructions to show students how *their* flies should look as they tie them. Stacey also got us the help of a couple of neat boys, experienced tyers. They are replicating our fly models for each of the class flies. The school will use these for future classes. What neat kids these two girls and boys are, each with a good sense of humor! Or they're good at laughing politely...

This year we taught in the gym (it's a PE course...) and classrooms when available. We became well known to the staff and school principal who is also a fly fisher. I'm told next year Stacey will have a real classroom for fly fishing! I hope that the way SSFF helped conduct the training contributed to that.

All Stacey needed was some help when she called Vic. Despite our list of volunteers we remained badly understaffed. No one could attend every class session. Some classes had four students per instructor. Other times it was 11 or more students per instructor. Or one student needed your time, and the other instructor had all the rest of the students...

And you know what? All of our folks felt the same after a frenetic class session: it was *FUN* working with the kids! And the kids had a good time with us! What more could we want?

This article really is about thanking our folks for devoting their time to the kids.

Griffin School and SSFF thank **Don Alexander, Tobey Anderson, Kevin Angevine, Jim Brosio, Mike Clancy, Max Doerge, Doug Dunster, Steve Farquhar, Phil Jaramillo, John Johns, Justin Johnson, Bruce Lincoln, Jeff Miller, Chuck Pfeil, Ginger Sarver, Jared Wood, and Lee Yeager**. I triple-checked the list of our participants. If I missed anyone let me know; your name should be in print too! All your contributions were appreciated more than you imagine.

***Thanks for all your time and effort.*** This would *not* have happened without your time, knowledge, skills, and desire to share with the younger generation.

Randy





## Learning Opportunities for Club Members

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 team with the City of Olympia facilities to re-open our classes.

SSFF offers three formal classes.

Introduction to Fly Fishing normally 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 normally 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.

Tight lines!

*Randy Allen*

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## Outings

### SSFF 2022 OUTINGS

- June 25 North Fork Skokomish River - Staircase Campground  
Olympic National Park  
See more below.
- July 23 Merrill Lake -Cowlitz Co.  
This is a fly fishing catch and release only lake.
- Aug 20 Oakland Bay - Mason Co.  
Saltwater fishing for cutthroat trout. Shoreline access if you do not have a floatation device.
- Sept 24 Deschutes River - Thurston Co.  
A wild river that has rainbow and cutthroat, the fish are not stocked. We will determine which section of the river we will fish in September.
- Oct 22 Cold Water Lake - Skamania Co.  
Fishing for wild rainbows and cutthroat trout. Limited shoreline fishing, floatation devices are preferred. Selective gear rules in effect.
- Nov 19 Lake St. Clair - Lacey  
An urban lake located in Lacey off Yelm Highway. The boat ramp is on Rehklau Rd SE. The lake has good shoreline access.

### June Outing - N. Fork Skokomish River

Our June outing will be at the Staircase Campground in the Olympic National Park.

Anyone wishing to carpool to the campground can meet at the Little Creek Casino at US 101 and WA Hwy 108, Shelton. Exit US 101 and turn left to the casino. Park in the lot by the hotel, but park closest to 108. Carpoolers may leave cars there for the day.

Point of Contact: Kevin Angevine ph. (505) 259-6761 [GRCaulder777@gmail.com](mailto:GRCaulder777@gmail.com)

Meet-up: Look for Kevin's white Toyota Tundra pickup.

Departure: Plan to meet in time to leave the casino by 7:30 Saturday morning. It's about 45 minutes to an hour drive from the casino to Staircase campground.

If you have a national park pass, be sure to bring it for entry to the park or pay daily fee at the entrance shack.

Dry flies should be effective along with midges and nymphs.



# May's Outing at Summit Lake



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.**

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## *Fly Fisher of the Year*

Each year the SSFF club presents their Fly Fisher of the Year Award. The award is normally presented to the recipient in January. This award is given to a member in recognition of, “their outstanding service to the Club and our fish resources...” as it reads on the plaque. The Board of Directors voted to select Jeff Miller as the 2021 Fly Fisher of the Year. Last year Jeff served as our newsletter editor. He rose to the occasion of filling the shoes of the previous long-time editor, Dave Field. Jeff managed get the submitted articles assembled and ready for publication each month in spite of having to travel out of state on several occasions. Our newsletter is a vital link for our members and non-members for accessing club updates and activities. Jeff’s service to the club is not limited to his work with the BOD, he is also a great fishing resource. You can almost always find him at our club outings and he is more than willing to share fly patterns and strategies for success. Thank you, Jeff, for your tireless efforts in service to the South Sound Fly Fishers.





Materials List:

Hook: 12 2X Long Nymph

Thread: Olive or Black

Tail: Olive Marabou with two strands of Pearl Tinsel

Body: Dubbed Olive Marabou

Hackle: Olive Grizzly

Tying Steps

Step 1: Tie in clump of olive marabou at rear of hook at start of bend. After tying in pinch off ends so tail is ~1/2 length of shank.

Step 2: Tie in two strands of pearl tinsel (or tie in one strand and fold over to form two). Clip to length of marabou tail.

Step 3: Tie in hackle feather at base of tail.

Step 4: Wax thread and form a dubbing noodle with olive marabou. Wrap dubbing noodle forward to form body of fly and tie off. Wrap to ~ one eye length from eye of hook.

Step 5: Wrap hackle feather (palmer style) over dubbed body with evenly spaced wraps and tie off.

Step 6: Whip finish

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## Classifieds

Two pontoon boats for sale by Doug Dunster. Blue one is a Steelheader with 9' pontoons. Great for overnight camping trips on rivers. I used it on the Deschutes and Grand Ronde in Oregon several times. I believe they were going for \$1,800 new. Asking \$500. Red one is a Skagit. I believe I paid \$350 for it at Cabellas. Asking \$200. Will entertain offers. Contact Doug Dunster at 425-344-0826 or email [ddunster153@gmail.com](mailto:ddunster153@gmail.com).



Steelhead Pontoon



Skagit Pontoon

If you have an item or items that you would like to sell, please send a description, price, and contact information to Bruce Baker (newsletter editor) at [bmbaker09@hotmail.com](mailto:bmbaker09@hotmail.com).

The classifieds section is a courtesy to club members and all sales are the responsibility of the seller and the buyer. The South Sound Fly Fishers assumes no liability and will not settle disputes.



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS – 2022 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Lee Yeager, [yeagerflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:yeagerflyfish@gmail.com)  
Vice President: Randy Allen, [randyandcarol2@gmail.com](mailto:randyandcarol2@gmail.com)  
Secretary: Jeff Miller, [jmill2003@gmail.com](mailto:jmill2003@gmail.com)  
Treasurer: Jim Maus, [jimmaus@comcast.net](mailto:jimmaus@comcast.net)  
Director at Large: Todd Parker, [tparker2356@gmail.com](mailto:tparker2356@gmail.com)  
Director at Large: Kevin Angevine, [grcaulder777@gmail.com](mailto:grcaulder777@gmail.com)  
Past President: Randy Allen, [randyandcarol2@gmail.com](mailto:randyandcarol2@gmail.com)  
Conservation: Don Freeman, [donfreeman74@gmail.com](mailto:donfreeman74@gmail.com)  
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Fundraising: Vacant  
Membership: Randy Allen, [randyandcarol2@gmail.com](mailto:randyandcarol2@gmail.com)  
Outings Chair: the Board of Directors  
Programs: Lee Yeager, [yeagerflyfish@gmail.com](mailto:yeagerflyfish@gmail.com)  
Webmaster/Facebook: Vic Andrade, [hp8202va@gmail.com](mailto:hp8202va@gmail.com)  
Newsletter Editor: Bruce Baker, [bmbaker09@hotmail.com](mailto:bmbaker09@hotmail.com)  
FFI/Gov't: Mike Clancy, [mtclancy39@comcast.net](mailto:mtclancy39@comcast.net)

Board of Directors Zoom meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month starting at 7:00 pm.

Club Meetings are conducted by Zoom and in-person 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. In-person meetings are held at the Griffin Fire Station (3707 Steamboat Loop NW, Olympia, WA 98502).

### Directions:

From the north - Exit US 101 South to Steamboat Island Rd. Turn left over US 101 go 0.4 miles to Steamboat Island Loop - the fire station is on the left.

From the south - Take US 101 north from I-5. Follow signs for US 101 North to Shelton and Port Angeles. In the right hand lane, go 1.3 miles to the Steamboat Island Rd exit. The exit is a sharp right curve, it will T into Sexton Drive. Turn left; go past the Chevron Island Market on *your right*. You will come to a stop sign at Steamboat Island Rd. Turn right; the fire station on Steamboat Island Loop will be 0.3 of a mile on the left.

If you get lost or can't find the station call Lee at 903-421-4984 or Randy at 360-701-9662.

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](http://southsoundflyfishers.com)  
USPS Mail Address: SSFF, PO BOX 2792, Olympia WA 98507

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter  
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