



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 22 Issue 7

July 2022

Page 3. There is no program this month. However, there will be a fly casting clinic.

Page 12. A letter of thanks from Stacey Nelson, who teaches the fly fishing class at Griffin School.

Page 13. This month's fly fishing outing is to Coldwater Lake in the Mt. St. Helens Volcanic National Monument.

LEADER S LINE

President Lee Yeager



Do you remember when you caught your first fish on a fly rod? Mine was on the Blue River in Oklahoma, a 14 inch rainbow trout. I nearly killed that fish by squeezing it so hard due to my excitement during a photo. That excitement led me to want to tie my own flies and catch fish with my own creations. Such enthusiasm is what I hope to share with newcomers to the sport of fly fishing. I want the South Sound Fly Fishers to continue to be a force in teaching and promoting conservation through fly fishing. How are we to do this? One step is to host monthly outings on lakes and rivers to fish with each other. This is important for those new to fly fishing. Catching fish is what keeps people interested and wanting to learn more. We also do this with our intro to fly fishing and fly tying classes. The City of Olympia has resumed their community class programs, and we hope to partner with them to conduct the fly tying class in the fall. Another way is through our guest speakers and presentations. We are always seeking

new presenters who can provide relevant programs for new and experienced fly fishers. These programs are targeted for a variety of interests: rivers and streams, lakes, and salt water. The art and science of casting is another area where we target to help everyone. This month our program is a casting clinic at the Griffin Fire Station. We will gather outside in the area behind the station to work on different casting techniques tailored to each individual's interest. So, bring a fly rod and come join us.

The Board Of Directors is in the initial planning stage for a club auction in 2023. If you would like to help and be a part of the organizing and planning for this event, please contact me or any of the club officers.

Be sure to check out the Outings page of this month's edition. The outing has changed from Merrill Lake to Coldwater Lake. Coldwater Lake usually fishes better this time of year, and it's a shorter drive. We will post the new outing for October soon.

Remember that the days you spend fishing do not count against your life span.

Lee Yeager



Munn Lake Rainbow Trout © Justin Fordice

Programs

Lee Yeager, Chair

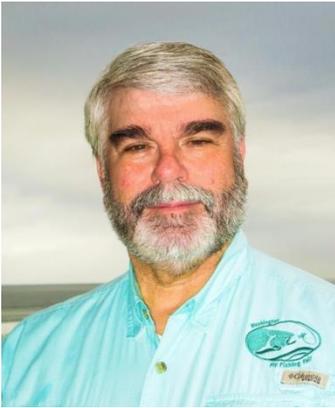


June 19, 2022
Casting Clinic

This month our program is an in-house casting clinic. The best golfers in the world continuously work on their swings. Casting a fly rod is very similar in that we all get better with practice and feedback. So this month we will gather in the area behind the Griffin Fire Station for some casting practice. Bring a favorite rod; we will have some yarn pieces to tie on the end of your line for you.

There will be no Zoom program this month. I hope to see you at the Griffin Fire Station at 7:00 PM on July 19.





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:

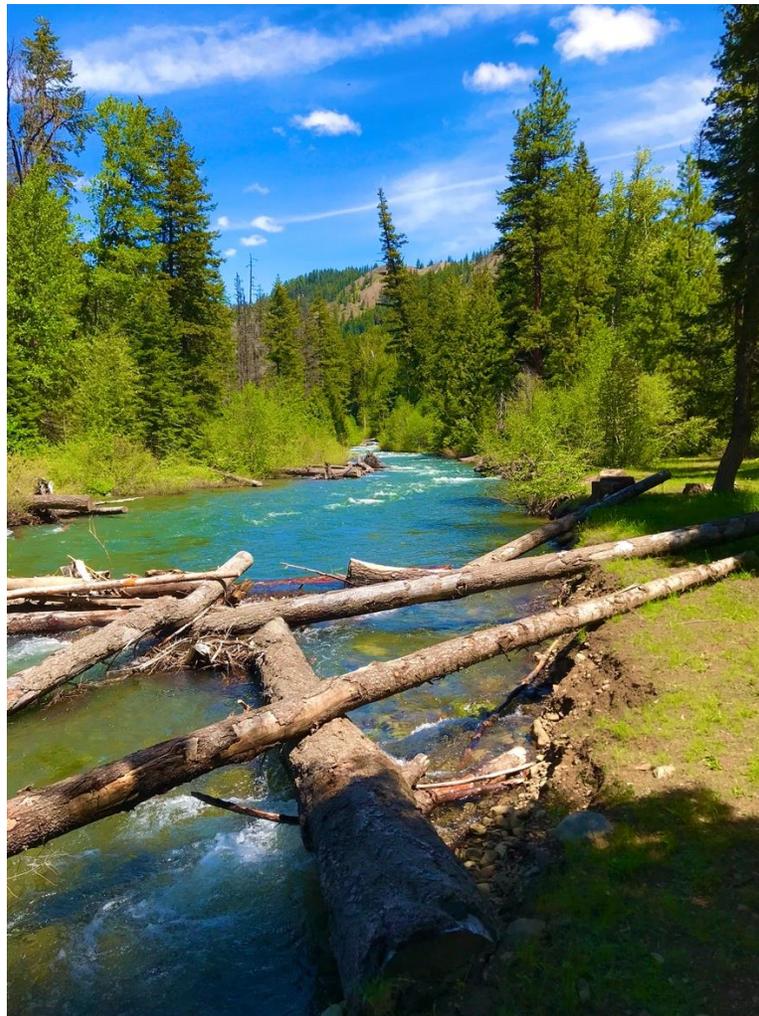
https://www.paypal.com/donate?hosted_button_id=NRE77ZFCKLF32

Membership

Randy Allen, Chair



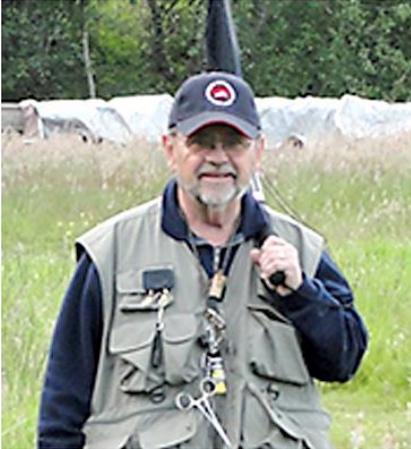
No new members this month. You know, for a club emerging from two years of COVID-19, having a roster of 75 members is a gratifying reflection that we must be doing something right. I hope you newer members will join us for the casting clinic this month, and for the Outings we plan each month. Our members make SSFF the great club it is. We especially want to get to know you new folks!



Teaway River © Don Alexander

Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



WSCFFI and The Academy

The Academy - The Academy for 2022 is over. We originally had applications for 12 students. After some folks read the requirement that all the students and staff had to be vaccinated, we lost three students. Then we needed another ghillie, and we chose one of the enrolled students to be a ghillie. So now we're down to eight students. And the staff was very pleased that there were only eight. Days into the event, one staff member tested positive for Covid and went home. That started a totally new concern for the staff. We called all the parents for the students to learn if they wanted their kids to come home. They all said no, they wanted them to stay; they live with this every day in school. Then the cook quit and a new cook was hired, but she wouldn't use the chinaware and silverware, so we went and purchased paper plates and plastic utensils.

We had some wonderful instructors, casting, fly tying etc. The kids actually caught fish on the flies they tied. They fished at Long's Pond in Lacey and on the little Deschutes River. We all survived the challenges, the kids had fun, and they are ready to fly fish with all the equipment they got to take home. The kids were well behaved and a delight to be around.

This is Jim's and my last year with The Academy. Jim started in 2004 with Dick Nye, the founder, and I came along in 2006. It's been a wonderful experience for me, and I know Jim feels the same way. We have three incredible co-directors taking over; Jim and I will continue to help John Gravendyk (WFFC), Bruce Merighi (WVFF), and Carol Anderson (WSCFFI). The 2023 Academy will be the last full week of June in 2023.

Washington State Council FFI (WSCFFI) - The Council is holding a casting and fly tying event at Lake Ballinger north of Seattle, on August 13th. Come and get casting instruction and watch fly tying. There will be some vendors. There is a charge for the casting instruction, but admission is free. There will be a food truck (maybe).

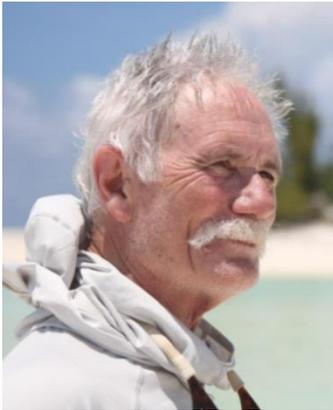
Snake River Dams - There are a lot of articles in favor of removing the four Snake River dams. Governor Inslee and Senator Murray will be publishing their report on July 31st.

FFI - The FFI is planning another International Virtual Expo on November 4-6, 2022. The 2021 international event was very successful. Check out the FFI web site at www.flyfisherinternational.org

Alaska - Things are still progressing to prevent open pit mines that could do serious damage to Bristol Bay, one of the largest fisheries in the world. Trout Unlimited announced recently a revised Proposed Determination that, if finalized, would prohibit mine waste from being released into streams, rivers, and wetlands in Bristol Bay. The EPA has decided again to postpone their decision on putting the final nail in the box till Sept 6th. No one can explain why they keep delaying their decision.



Don Freeman casting to fish at Coldwater Lake © Howard Nanto



THE SOAPBOX

I will start off by apologizing for not submitting any conservation blog for the last couple of months. I've been traveling, including out of the country, and I've been away from any communication access which cut me off from the following meaningful events to report on. Cuba was swell by the way, except for the weather. Still I've never seen bonefish so big or so plentiful.

My delay has also closed the window for easy comment on the issue I'm writing about this month. The one click comment access to express approval for pursuing plans to replace dams on the Snake River closed July 11. Senator Murray and Governor Inslee are soliciting input on approval for replacing the lower four Snake River Dams and the infrastructure and economies they affect. My apologies again.

Anyone watching network television in the last months has likely seen a series of commercials produced by the power companies that extoll the irreplaceable virtues of hydro power and predict the dire consequences that would result from dam removal. These include the relief we enjoyed during the recent heat wave, low-cost power, and cheap transportation of goods on the river system (which is down 70% from former levels). There is no meaningful mention of the reasons why dam removal is being considered.

To wit: the lower four Snake River dams, Ice Harbor, Lower Monumental, Little Goose, and Lower Granite Dams are aging constructions with mounting maintenance issues costing hundreds of millions of dollars. The California markets for their excess power are drying up, and renewable energy sources are rapidly creating competition for their product. Nonetheless, these companies have been profitable for a long time and want, above all else, to stay in business. Therefore, they are willing to pay big bucks for an advertising onslaught telling us that the only replacement for their product is renewing our dependence on fossil fuel generation with increased expense, pollution, and global warming.

The Northwest Power and Conservation Council published a report that the current surplus of reserves will carry us into 2030 using current and expanding renewable energy. The dam replacement plan invests heavily in the permanent generation of renewable power. Rather than the reported 25% increase in cost, utilities could increase \$1.25 per month.

But why do wacky environmentalists want to tear down the dams? These structures block salmon and steelhead from 1,500 miles of premium spawning grounds. Futile efforts to prevent the certain extinction of these species has cost \$15 billion to date. That's fifteen BILLION dollars with no positive result! Here's an alert: aside from the environmental and social aspects of strong runs of anadromous fish and the industries that they support, salmon are food. Food for people and wildlife, including killer whales. Roughly half of the food supply for Pacific Orcas was formerly from Snake River and Columbia River stocks. We have found alternative ways to produce electricity, but not to produce any free source of millions of pounds of protein. In recent years dam removals have resulted in unexpectedly quick rebounding of anadromous stocks around the country, most notably our own Elwha River. Dam removal does not destroy economic activity, rather it diversifies and modernizes resources. It supports local economies, honors treaties with indigenous nations, and nourishes riparian zones the entire length of the drainages.

As you can tell, I have personally chosen the removal and replacement option for these four dams. If you agree with this position, you can get more in-depth information from and lend support to various organizations. One I support is the Save Our Wild Salmon Coalition (811 First Ave, #305, Seattle, Washington 98104; 206-300-1003, joseph@wildsalmon.org)

If you are more comfortable with the status quo which we all grew up enjoying, I suggest watching the power company commercials on TV to see what opportunities they offer to support their program.



Education / Community Outreach - by Randy Allen

Education

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 clubs and attending classes.

We're emerging from the COVID-19 shutdowns with monthly outings and meetings. Looking back, we were just starting a fly tying class when the state halted all group meetings. We are now discussing restarting our classes with the City of Olympia. We're planning our Intro to Fly Tying this fall at the Olympia Center.

Past students said they would have liked to continue beyond the six sessions (described below) to learn more techniques and materials. This may be the year...!

This class is a great way to begin if you ever thought you might want to try tying your own flies. All the great internet YouTube videos are helpful. But clubs that teach tying find their beginners learn more, faster, with mentors sitting at their sides. We start at the beginning with simple fly patterns for those who have zero experience.

We are really proud of the success of our brand-new beginners who returned to the next class describing the fish they caught on the flies they learned in the class. I could go on and on. I'll leave you with this - This spring we taught these flies to 6th, 7th, and 8th graders for a school PE class, all brand new to tying. And they enjoyed a field trip where they fished those flies they tied, and many of the kids caught fish that day. It doesn't get any better than that!

Stay tuned for the developments as we go forward. Back to our normal programming. . .

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 (see above), 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 can apply their skills 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 re-start our training.

Stay healthy!

Randy Allen



Don Freeman fighting a fish at Coldwater Lake © Howard Nanto

A note of thanks from Stacey Nelson of Griffin School to our club for those members that helped out with the fly fishing class. Last month we described her fly fishing class. Stacey wrote us a gracious thank you that just missed our publication cut-off. We're printing it here. She is a great inspiration for these kids. It was a pleasure and a privilege to work with her.

At the end of school we chatted in the hallway. She related to me that each kid selects a teacher to write about how they impacted them. She received a very heartwarming note from one of our fly fishing students. He appreciated her pushing the kids in new directions, and he described the positive impacts her fly-fishing class made on him. He never would have imagined stretching his abilities through fly fishing, and it really meant a lot to him. He also appreciated that she had obtained SSFF's help to provide a variety of instructors. Sometimes you just never know how you'll make a difference.

Stacey's note really is thanking our folks for devoting their time to her students. She's thanking **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.**

Thanks for all your time and effort.

June 12, 2022

Dear South Sound Fly Fishers,

I want to thank this group for the many people who volunteered at Griffin School and helped with my Fly Fishing Elective classes. I truly could not have pulled off this unit without the help and countless volunteer hours that were put in to help teach these Middle School students the basics of fly fishing. Students were able to learn both casting and fly tying. I especially want to give a shout out to Randy Allen and Keven Angevine, both who arrived early in the mornings and left late in the afternoons. They were able to set up packets, with help from a couple of students, for all of the flies for each student (around 100 different students from 3rd and 4th quarters); brassie, soft hackle, wooly bugger, gold ribbed hare's ear nymph, elk hair caddis, "garbage" fly, and even a salmon zonker.

Many of you came out and volunteered your time to help these students gain a love of fishing and the outdoors. They will be our future stewards of outdoor conservation and we are planting seeds for the future. I appreciate those who came out one day or multiple times, for casting, tying and our fishing field trip (fun, even though we had a bit of rain!)

I look forward to teaching students again next spring and hope to see many of you again.

Thank you,

Stacey Nelson

Stacey Nelson
Griffin School PE and Enrichment Teacher

Outings

SSFF 2022 OUTINGS

- July 23 Cold Water Lake - Skamania Co.
Fishing for wild rainbows and cutthroat trout. Limited shoreline fishing, floatation devices are preferred. Selective gear rules in effect.
See more info below.
- 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 TBD
- 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.

July Outing - Coldwater Lake

Our July outing will be at Coldwater Lake within the Mt. St. Helens National Volcanic Monument. Coldwater Lake is managed as a quality trout fishery. Wild rainbow and cutthroat trout are in the lake. There is some shoreline fishing available at the lake. A sink tip is likely to be more effective than floating lines. Dry flies, midges, nymphs, and streamers should all be effective.

Internal combustion motors are prohibited, but electric motors are allowed.

If you have not been to Coldwater Lake, it is south of Olympia in Skamania Co. Take I-5 south to SR 504, Spirit Lake Highway. This will take you to the lake with signs to the boat launch, dock and pier location.

If you wish to carpool or follow someone, meet at Haggen at Cooper Point Rd. and Black Lake Blvd in Olympia at 7:30 am. We will leave no later than 7:45 am.

Fishing Coldwater Lake



The slide area-
Fish both sides of the slide.

Cove before the narrows-
Fish within 10' of the shore, for the entire cove area.

The Waterfall- Cast into the water flowing in from the waterfall.



Feeder creek- Cast parallel along the edge of the creek mouth.

The island- Trolling around the island is a good bet.



The inlet creek- Casting or trolling leeches can be productive in this area.

Coves- Cast into the coves.

Delta- cast towards small creek mouth and along the edge of the delta.

Fishing Tips

Areas to concentrate your fishing efforts on are creek mouths, shoals, weed beds and coves

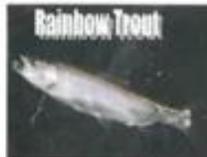
Fishing leeches and woolly buggers can provide good year round fishing (as access allows). If you don't fly-fish, small spoons and spinners work well.

Starting in late August fishing terrestrials flies, such as termites, damselflies and grasshoppers can provide fantastic dry fly action!



Good Trolling Area

Boat Ramp



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.

Al Harger Award

The South Sound Fly Fishers created the Al Harger award a number of years ago to recognize the time, efforts, and actions that benefit the club in unique ways. Unlike the Fly Fisher of the Year which is given to a member for outstanding service to the club during the given year, the Al Harger award is given when the Board of Directors recognize a special set of circumstances that are addressed in new ways to benefit club members and the South Sound Fly Fishers community. The Covid-19 pandemic years of 2020-2021 presented such a set of circumstances. Gene Rivers was the club president in 2020 when all in-person meetings were halted in March of that year. Faced with the problem of how to continue to meet as an organization and promote club activities Gene led the club through the process of creating and conducting Zoom meetings online. With the help of other members Gene led a team in setting up the online meetings and learning how best to manage each meeting. During the pandemic years of online meetings our membership remained steady; we conducted outdoor fishing events, and met in small groups as conditions permitted. Because of Gene's leadership and vision the South Sound Fly Fishers is a healthy and growing club today and for these efforts Gene was selected by the BOD as the recipient of the Al Harger award for 2021. Congratulations Gene, and thank you.



The Coldwater Lake Danny Special Jig Leech

Materials used:

Hook: Hanak 450 BL Jig Hook Size 10

Thread: Semperfli Nano Silk 50D

Tail: Black Marabou and Chartreuse Flashabou

Body: Spawn Simi Seal Black/UV Chartreuse Green

Bead: 3.5 mm Slotted Chartreuse Tungsten Bead



Tie in tail.



Form dubbing loop.



Load dubbing loop.



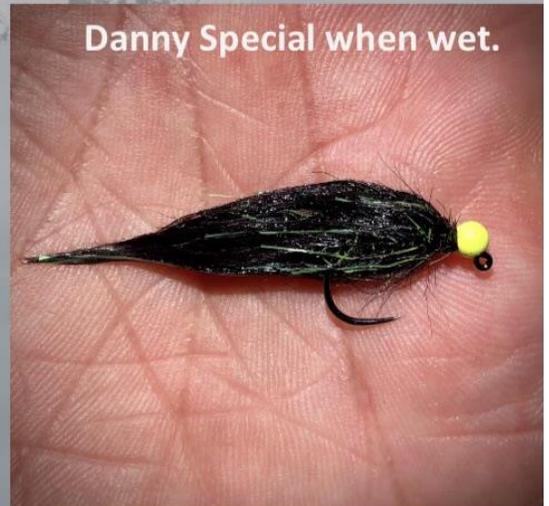
Spin dubbing loop.



Wrap dubbing loop forward.



Whip finish and brush back body.



Danny Special when wet.

Classifieds

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.

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.



Rainbow on Coldwater Lake © Bruce Baker



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS – 2022 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Lee Yeager, yeagerflyfish@gmail.com
Vice President: Randy Allen, randyandcarol2@gmail.com
Secretary: Jeff Miller, jmill2003@gmail.com
Treasurer: Jim Maus, jimmaus@comcast.net
Director at Large: Todd Parker, tparker2356@gmail.com
Director at Large: Kevin Angevine, grcaulder777@gmail.com
Past President: Randy Allen, randyandcarol2@gmail.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: Lee Yeager, yeagerflyfish@gmail.com
Webmaster/Facebook: Vic Andrade, hp8202va@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor: Bruce Baker, bmbaker09@hotmail.com
FFI/Gov't: Mike Clancy, 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
USPS Mail Address: SSFF, PO BOX 2792, Olympia WA 98507

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter
© July 2022