



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 22 Issue 12

December 2022

Page 1. A message from our president.

Page 8. Don Freeman pens his last article as Conservation and Political Chair.

Page 10. The fly tying class held at the Olympia Center was a success.

LEADER S LINE

President Lee Yeager



As I look back on the activities and events that the South Sound Fly Fishers conducted in 2022, I think we had a very successful year. In April we returned to live in-person meetings. After two years of strictly Zoom presentations, this was a welcome change. We held some great outings that were successful in catching fish and building good times with each other. In October we returned to one of our community outreach programs by holding the Introduction to Fly Tying class with the City of Olympia. In addition, 2022 saw the club work with Griffin Middle School students in teaching a fly fishing class to 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students. And in spite of two years of Covid restrictions, we maintained our membership and continued to find ways to provide quality presentations and outings. Yes indeed, we had a large time.

Looking ahead to 2023, I hope more members and guests will join us for our meetings at the North Olympia Fire Station on Boston Harbor Rd. We plan to hold more fly casting teaching

and practice events this next year. Returning in May of 2023 is the South Sound Fly Fishers auction. I am excited about the lineup of speakers and programs we have scheduled for 2023 and I am sure you will find them enjoyable.

I conclude this final Leader Lines with some musings on expectations. As a child, Christmas was always about expectations and anticipation. One year, what I really wanted for Christmas was a Johnny Reb cannon. This was a toy cannon that shot plastic cannon balls. Low and behold Santa brought that toy on Christmas morning. I really do not remember how long it lasted or even really playing with it much. But it is a powerful memory because I learned later in life that my dad went to several stores on Christmas Eve day and actually found the last one somewhere. At the time my parents really did not have the money for extras. So the toy itself is not important, except it reminds me of the love of my dad. We never have enough opportunities to tell our loved ones how much they mean to us. This season make the effort to hold your family and friends close to your heart.

I hope to see you in January.

Be well,

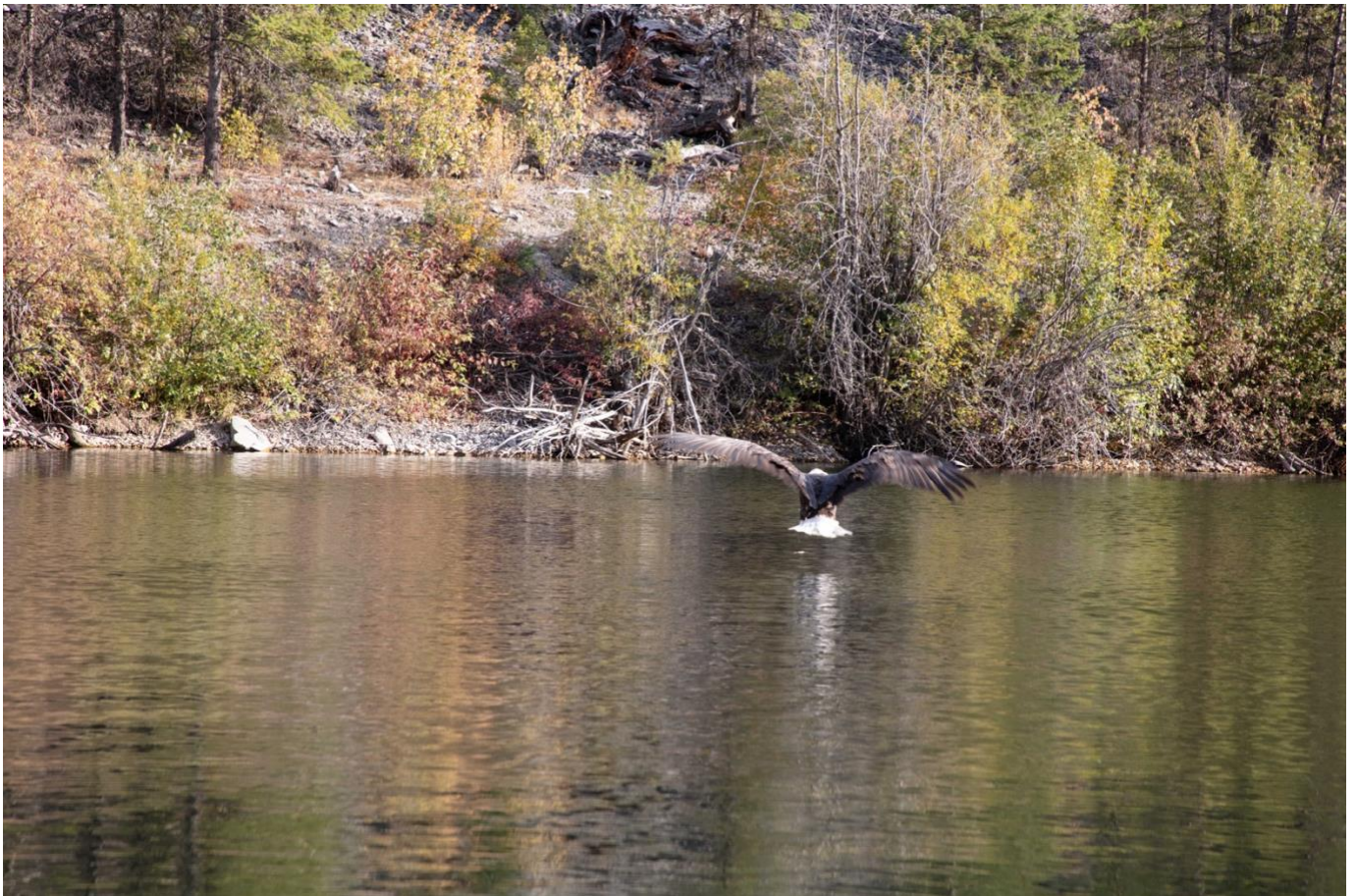
Lee Yeager



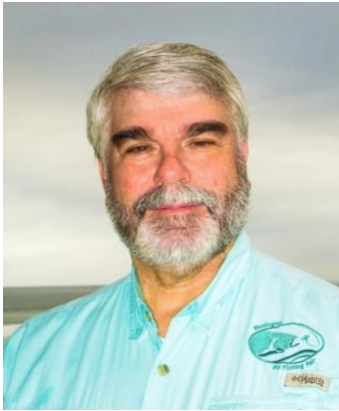
Brother Harve © Howard Nanto



There Is No Program in December and No Meeting



Best fly fisher on the lake © Howard Nanto



Munn Lake Fish Fund

The South Sound Fly Fishers have partnered with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to stock the Munn Lake with quality sized fish (about 2.5 pounds to the fish) in the spring and in the fall. The fish are raised at the Lakewood Hatchery, and the club provides the funds for purchasing food for these fish.

If you would like to make a donation to help continue the Munn Lake project, please mail your check to: SSFF-Munn Lake Fund, PO Box 2792 Olympia, WA 98507.

A check will avoid credit card and PayPal Fees, but you are certainly welcome to use those methods. Regarding PayPal, there is a button on the top left of the Munn Lake web-page to make a donation via PayPal.

Thank you for supporting this project.



Munn Lake Rainbow © Bruce Baker



SSFF welcomes new members - Our photo crew will have to catch up with you to provide a better welcome.

Tim Bartley ties his flies, and he's interested in pretty much anything that swims. He indicated that he fishes for trout, salmon, steelhead, sea-runs, and bass to name a few species.

Jim Tuggle joined after attending Chester Allen's presentation. Not surprising. He also ties flies and adds that he is interested in fishing Mexico's saltwater. Not sure if this is upcoming or something you've done, so we'll have to talk and get to know you better, Jim.

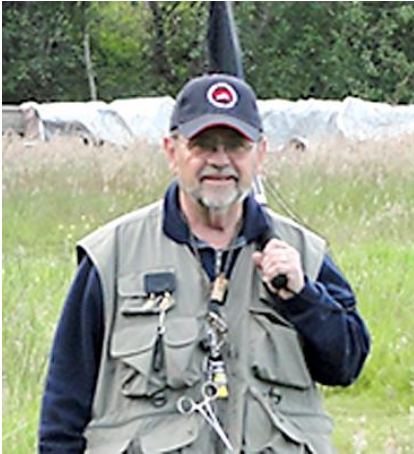
Expect a call from our Membership folks to get your photos and intro articles for a near-future newsletter.

Meanwhile, welcome to the SSFF - we look forward to a great association and seeing you at our outings.

Randy Allen

Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



WSCFFI and The Academy

WSCFFI

Due to the success of the event held at Lake Ballinger Park in Mount Lake Terrace (north of Seattle), the Washington Council FFI is planning to hold another event next year at the same location.

FFI

Boise Valley Fly Fishers is conducting their 18th live annual Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo on January 6-7, 2023.

The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

The 2023 Academy - The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is alive and well. Jim Brosio and I tried to retire in 2020, but because of Covid we couldn't do it. We are SO fortunate to be able to turn The Academy over to three incredible new co-directors. John Gravendyk, Bruce Merighi, and Carol Anderson have assumed the responsibility of the Academy along with camp director, Matt Tuttle. The event is going to be conducted at The Panhandle 4-H Camp on Panhandle Lake west of Shelton. Unfortunately, they had to move the event to the new location since the Gwinwood facility was not fulfilling their needs any longer. Please go to the Panhandle 4-H Camp website and you'll totally understand what a wonderful facility the new location is all about.

The Academy next year is June 18-24, 2023, the last full week of June. New information and registration for the 2023 event is on the new Academy website at www.NWYCFFA.COM. Did I say registration is open? It sure is! I'm going to repeat myself - the new facility is west of Shelton, a little further next year, but it's well worth it.

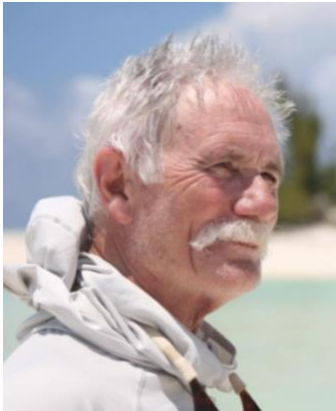
Jim and I would like to thank all the folks that participated in the success of the Academy during the past 18 years. And what a blessing it's been to still be friends with past Ghillies and Students on Facebook. All the boys and girls are quality folks, many are now married with families, and many are very successful with their education.

Thank you everyone. Thank you.

Mike Clancy



Keechelus Lake © Howard Nanto



THE SOAPBOX

Greetings,

I have mixed feelings writing this, which will be my last letter to our members as Conservation and Political Chair. Looking back, I see that I have served on the SSFF board for over 13 years, so it's time for someone with a fresh perspective to take over. It has been a pleasure and an honor to represent the organization on conservation issues. In addition to providing opportunities for members to contribute their views and preferences on petitions and movements to protect anadromous fish and control mining, I have represented our views to various committees and movements over the years as your spokesman.

I intend to provide my successor with examples of our work over the years so he has a good concept of our historical positions and the methods we have used to participate. In addition to input on national level issues like opposing the Pebble Mine, SSFF has contributed significantly to protecting our local treasure, sea run cutthroat trout, as founding contributors to the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition through financial support and volunteer sampling studies.

Although I won't be serving on the board and voting on club matters, I remain a member in the area. I trust the board will allow me to contribute the occasional report or opinion to the newsletter on matters that I believe will inform members of activities that affect us. You will certainly remain well informed by Harry Griffith, your new Conservation Chair, and by the insights that Mike Clancy channels through his connections at Trout Unlimited and Fly Fishers International.

In closing, I encourage you to check the recently released coastal rivers regulations for winter steelheading. Good opportunities are established for both bank fishing, and some areas are open to fishing from boats. I know that there is a good return of hatchery fish in the Bogachiel drainage right now.

And now for a little self-indulgence. While checking my records for just how long I've been writing this column, I found this Garden Hackle message from 2009. It was one of my first contributions to local resources and likely the most lasting. I encourage you to get over to the lake the first nice day and experience the exceptional stock of rainbows currently available.

October 12, 2009

Greetings

I urge everyone who reads this to come to our next meeting for some good news. Larry Philips of WDFW is going to fill us in on the exciting new Quality Fishing designation of our own local Munn Lake. In a nutshell Munn, and the inter-connected Lake Susan, will become year-round catch and release fisheries. I won't steal Larry's thunder on stocking levels, species, gear requirements and so forth, but I do want us all to be aware that like all good things, this one comes with a little responsibility.

The board has agreed that we take a stewardship role in assuring that this program is a success. Be advised that this change will not be universally popular. There is a fairly large population that for years has enjoyed emptying Munn of stocked fish nearly as fast as DFW can put them in, and the lake is listed as a retention opportunity in the current regulations. Plainly put, some folks are going to be "miffed off."

WDFW enforcement officers will have a significant presence early in the opener, so we are NOT there to enforce the law. It's our challenge to make sure that regulations are made easy to understand, and to attempt that if other fishers go away, they don't go away any madder than they have to. I have a number of suggestions to make at the meeting. We also have taken steps to invite members of our neighboring fly clubs to attend, as they will not only enjoy the benefits of this new fishery, but also shoulder some of the burden in keeping the lake clean, full of fish, and minimizing conflicts.

I will make sure that there is a detailed report of the opportunities surrounding both the fishing and stewardship details in the next Garden Hackle for those who can't make the meeting, or don't wish to take notes.

Adios, but I'll be seeing you!

Don Freeman



A successful conclusion to our Fly Tying class.

Ten students completed our eight-week class. Most had some experience with fly fishing and wanted to expand their experience level by attending the class. Matt Chemers was in our 2020 “Introduction to fly Fishing” class; it was canceled mid-way through due to the state’s COVID shut down. He decided to jump into fly tying as a place to start.

Students returned each week with success stories using the flies they tied. Two students particularly come to mind. Rich Williams fished his Brassies early in the class on the Deschutes River. He caught some nice 8 - 11” trout! Purely by chance last summer we met Alex Courpas during our Deschutes River outing. He had considerable experience fishing East Coast streams, but had never tied. On the river that day we got to talking about our upcoming tying class. Alex has spent time on the Evergreen College beaches fishing for sea-run cutthroats. The Woolly Buggers and Clouser Minnows he tied are proving irresistible to the sea-runs. He's fishing there a lot and he's having a lot of success with the flies he tied.

As instructors, it just doesn't get any better than seeing the high-quality flies the students tie, and then hearing their success stories and seeing their photos.

We need to thank the instructors who came out to teach this class. Students often had individual coaching because of our turn-out. Special thanks go to Kevin Angevine who kitted up the students’ materials to hand out each week for each fly. He followed through with personal coaching. Thanks also go to Phil Jaramillo, Steve Farquhar, Lee Yeager, Bruce Lincoln, David Brenna, Jim Maus, Justin Johnson, and Jim McAllister. Thanks to all of you for helping our students tie really great flies!



Here's our class and instructors. Clockwise from left: Phil Jaramillo, Matt Chemers, Rich Williams, Alex Courpas (hidden), Steve Farquhar, Dennis Olson, Lee Yeager, Chuck Hegsted, Kathie Daigneault, Dave Turner, Jared Wood, Randy Allen, and Jim McAllister. Absent from photo were Tobey Anderson and Jacie Wood © Kevin Angevine



Jacie (Jay-cee) Wood applies hackles around her Parachute Adams wing post © Randy Allen

The SSFF training program includes these three formal classes:

Introduction to Fly Fishing - taught in spring, five weeks, once per week. Is this something I want to try? After this course you'll understand the gear you'll need like rods, reels, lines, flies, waders, boots, and floatation devices (boats). We discuss locating fish in rivers, lakes, and the salt water, and cover 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 learn to overcome the effect of moving river water upon your line.

Introduction to Fly Tying - taught in the fall, nine weeks. Students learn a new fly each week. Students also tie flies at home and bring their homework 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 similar flies.

Please contact me with questions; my email is on the last page of the newsletter.

Randy Allen



Fishing a small lake in Mason County © Howard Nanto

SSFF 2023 OUTINGS

Stay tuned as our 2023 club outings will be posted in the January 2023 newsletter.



Belfair State Park © 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 sea-runs, 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.



Original Woolly Buggler Bead Head © Gene Trump

I am a member of an online fly fishing forum called Pacific Northwest Fly Fishing (pnwflyfishing.com) and there is thread started by one member asking anglers from Idaho and Montana what their favorite woolly bugger was. Another member from Oregon posted that he was using a woolly bugger that he called Old Chestnut that has worked for him in both rivers and still-waters. Turns out Old Chestnut is actually the Original Woolly Buggler, though I do not think the original had a bead head.

Recipe

Hook: 2x or 4x long streamer hook with a gold bead head

Thread: Brown olive or black Danville 6/0 or 140 denier

Rib: gold wire

Tail: black marabou

Body: variegated olive and black chenille

Hackle: black rooster saddle (a variation that also works is tied with a grizzly hackle)

Tying Steps

Step 1. Place the bead onto the hook with the small hole first.

Step 2. Attach the thread and lay a thread base from the bend of the hook to the eye of the hook.

Step 3. Tie one marabou feather right before the bend of the hook starts. The tail is 1 to 1 ½ times the shank length.

Step 4. Tie in the chenille as close to the marabou as possible.

Step 5. Tie on the saddle hackle quill on top of the chenille thread core.

Step 6. Wrap the chenille down the shank of the hook toward the hook eye with no gaps between the wraps. Leave a gap before the eye of the hook for the head, and secure the chenille.

Step 7. Ensuring the hackle quills lay in the grooves between each wrap of chenille, wrap the saddle hackle down the shank of the hook to where the chenille ends, and tie off. Reverse wind the ribbing forward with evenly spaced spiral wraps. This will prevent the herl from breaking.

Step 8. Create a head and then whip finish.



Long Lake © Howard Nanto

The following is one of many articles that had been written by a long-time friend of mine, Wes Bigney, and I would like to share it with the club.

San Juan Rattlers

Many years ago the San Juan River was a slow-moving stream. It was prime water for snails. Then the government decided to put in Navajo Dam. This changed the water to cold and fast running, prime water for trout.

The shore birds would scoop up a snail and fly up about 100 feet and drop the snail, follow it down to the ground, and start eating the resident of the cracked shell. The trout, unable to make the 100-foot ascent would merely pick up a snail and swallow it, letting the stomach juice attack and clean out the shell inhabitant. When this was finished the empty shell was pushed to the back of the trout and lined up at the rear exit. But, many times, the shell was too large to be expelled. This caused a problem because the other shells couldn't exit. But the fish kept swallowing snails.

As time went on the trout's cavity filled tighter and the trout looked like it had swallowed a football. Now when one of these took an angler's lure and wound-up squirming on the bank or in a net, the rubbing of the shells made quite a rattling sound. This led the fishermen to dub the fish "rattlers." The fishermen usually relieved the shell pressure with their knife blade and the shells spilled out into a neat pile on the shore of the river.

However, the cold water was apparently not conducive to snail reproduction, and in about three years the fish had wiped out the snail population and the San Juan Rattlers disappeared. The fish had to change their diet to insects.

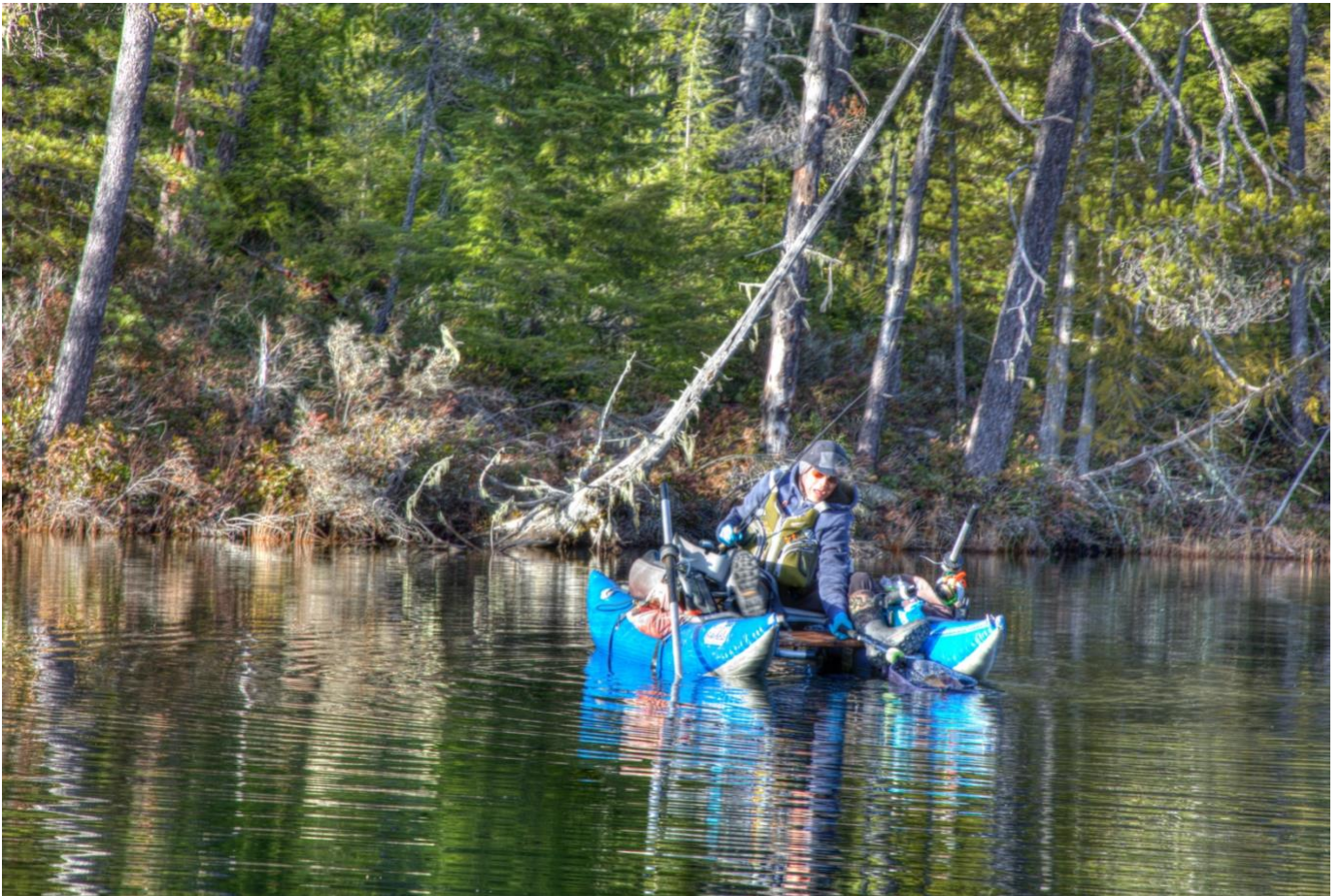
Occasionally an ancient angler likes to tell the story. I wasn't lucky enough to catch one of these noisy trout, but I did catch a large number of large fish (up to 20"). But, the crowds of fishermen have increased. The fishermen who dislike crowds have moved to other less-busy waters.

Classifieds

There are no items for sale this month.

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.



Gwill landing a rainbow © Howard Nanto



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 7:00 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.

Starting January 2023 in-person meetings will be held at the North Olympia Fire Department located at 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia, WA 98506.

From the north – Use I-5 south exit 105 and stay right toward the Port of Olympia. Follow the main road as it changes its name to East Bay Drive and then Boston Harbor Road. About 4 miles north of the State Ave signal is the Shell gas station; you'll find the Fire Department just past Shell on the right side.

From the south – Use I-5 north exit 105 and follow the signs to the Port of Olympia. Go right (north) at the round-a-bout, then left at the Plum Street signal. Continue up Plum as it changes its name to East Bay Drive and then Boston Harbor Road. About 4 miles north of the State Ave signal is the Shell gas station; you'll find the Fire Department just past Shell on the right side.

If you get lost or can't find the station, call Lee at 360-229-4252 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