



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 23 Issue 1

January 2023

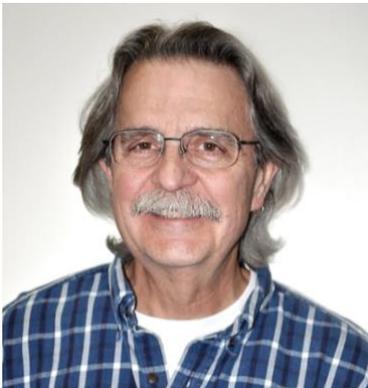
Page 1. A message from our president.

Page 8. NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is now accepting registrations.

Page 11. Upcoming Introduction to Fly Fishing class coming this February.

LEADER S LINE

President Lee Yeager



Welcome to 2023! I hope everyone had a great holiday season, got some rest, visited with family and friends, maybe gained a few pounds and even caught a few fish. I am excited about 2023 for the South Sound Fly Fishers. We have several new members on the Board of Directors who will bring new ideas and perspectives to club activities and operations. These members are:

- Rachel Dagovitz- Secretary
- Jared Wood - At-Large Director -2 yr
- Harry Griffith - Conservation Chair
- Phil Jaramillo - Membership Chair
- Doug Dunster - Outings Chair

If you do not know these folks personally be sure to find them at the January meeting and introduce yourself. I am excited and grateful to have them serve as BOD members this year.

2023 brings a change in meeting locations for the SSFF. We are returning to the North Olympia Fire Department Fire Station. The station is at 5046 Boston Harbor Rd NE, Olympia 98506. If you have never been to this location it is on the east side of Boston Harbor Road. There are a few parking slots in the front of the station on the right hand side. There is no parking allowed on the left side, it blocks emergency vehicles. There is ample parking in the rear of the station. Look for a white SSFF sign that will be placed at the driveway to the back parking lot. I hope to see everyone there this month.

In addition to a new meeting place, 2023 will see the return of our bi-annual club auction and pot-luck dinner in May. Next month we will post the exact date and location for this event. We have some exciting speakers lined up for this year; Joe Rotter from Red's Fly Shop in Yakima will be speaking this month. We will also have casting sessions and fly tying sessions this year. As the days get longer, members often gather for casting practice and tips at the rear of the Boston Harbor fire station before the club meeting; bring a fly rod and join in.

There are no Covid restrictions on gatherings at the new meeting location, but please take whatever precautions you feel are necessary. I look forward to seeing everyone at the fire station on January 17th. Just remember, fly fishing is about the most fun you can have when you are not catching fish.

Lee Yeager



January 17, 2023
Dream, Plan, Fish with Joe Rotter
of Red's Fly Shop

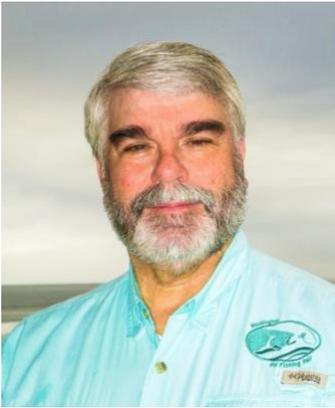
You won't know where to cast if you don't know where to stand. Planning a successful fly fishing trip in the 21st century is different than when you may have first picked up a fly rod. Not everyone has a grandparent, mentor, or a guide to show them the way. Joe Rotter from Red's Fly Shop will demonstrate how he uses modern online resources to successfully research, scout, and visit new destinations.

Joe will also share his thoughts on tackle, strategy, and real-time practical decisions that need to be made while on the water. Selecting between dry flies, nymphs, or streamers can often be a significant hiccup costing anglers precious time. Joe will sort out how to focus your time. He'll finish with a discussion on more technical angling strategies like Euro Nymph fishing, Trout Spey, and New Zealand style indicator systems to help give advanced anglers the edge.

Fly fishing guide, outfitter, and instructor Joe Rotter invites you to join him on January 17th via Zoom for a look into how he successfully plans and executes DIY fishing trips in his home range of eastern Washington. He is best known as a partner at Red's Fly Shop and their successful YouTube channel that through its millions of views has helped anglers worldwide gain success and understanding of technical fly fishing.

While Joe's riverside fly shop in the Yakima River Canyon keeps him locally engaged, he has been fortunate to travel the world to Russia, Chile, British Columbia, Belize, Christmas Island, Mexico, Costa Rica, and the Everglades. His knowledge of worldwide angling keeps things interesting, and during the Q and A session he's happy to chat about many different fisheries.

More about Joe can be found the Red's website at www.redsflyfishing.com,
<https://www.instagram.com/redsflyshop/>, or
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCYCS7rft1xY6wvONbllpYdA>



Hi everyone. Happy New Year and thank you for continuing to support SSFF. I hope you and your families are safe and well.

It's that time of year again. Time to pay your 2023 dues as membership runs from January 1 to December 31. Dues for 2023 are \$45.00 for new memberships (includes \$5.00 for name badge), \$40.00 for existing members (renewing) and families. First time family memberships are \$40.00 plus \$5.00 for each person's name badge. 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

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.



Beach No. 4 Olympic National Park © Howard Nanto

Membership

Randy Allen, Chair



Our photo crew caught up with our new members.



Tim Bartley has fished since he was a kid. Then as an adult while working in Eugene, Oregon, he visited a local fly shop. He knew nothing about the equipment he might need. The owner, being an honest sort, took Tim under his wing and gave him good recommendations for rods, reels, lines, flies. . . the kinds of gear a new fisher needs.

And he remembers how nice it was to fish in a river that ran through a park in downtown Eugene. It was close to his working home, not a long drive - all the right stuff. He learned mostly on his own, with no club to guide him.

Returning to Olympia Tim has concentrated mostly on fishing our local lakes primarily targeting trout. He took the sport seriously; he started tying flies about a year after he started fly fishing. And, he learned tying mostly on his own, which says a lot about his perseverance and desire to learn this sport.

He has fabricated and constructed a couple of cataraft boats of his own design. He does enjoy river fishing, don't let his lake fishing fool you. He's interested in learning about our local rivers - where good spots are to put-in and take-out a boat.

Tim - it's good to have you with us. I know you'll be a good mentor for Chuck Hegsted and Kathy Daigneault now that they have started fishing and tying flies!



Jim Tuggle joins us. “Tug” to his friends - has fished all his life, and he made fishing his work as well as his recreation. He spent 28 years in Fisheries Enforcement specializing in commercial fishing. In 1987 he was instrumental in investigating and successfully prosecuting the state’s very first RICO organized crime case (Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act). Surprisingly the case did not involve drugs, but the illegal taking and sale of geoducks! He recently wrote a book titled “FISHCOP” about the stormy first ten years of his career, including the Boldt Decision era of the 1970’s.

After his retirement the second Bush Administration selected him to represent the U.S as an advisor for fisheries enforcement for the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Commission (high seas drift net commission) in cooperation with Korea, Russia, Japan, and Canada. He spent three years as state president of Puget Sound Anglers. He has also served as the salmon conservation representative for the Pacific Fisheries Management Commission for the states of Washington, Oregon, and northern California.

Closer to home he is currently president of Friends of the Deschutes and would like to see salmon allowed upstream. Many stakeholders, much legislation, many opinions, but still no salmon. He is thrilled to have caught more than a thousand steelhead although, admittedly, “only a few on a fly.” Apologies, apologies. And, he loves trout fishing, too.

Tug was responsible for establishing the first fly-fishing-only river segments on the Toutle and Kalama rivers. He caught numerous king salmon there before Mt. St. Helens changed all of that.

After retirement Tug became a wilderness fishing guide in Southeast Alaska for nine summers.

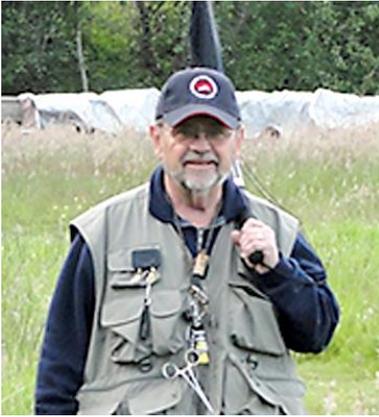
Years ago, attracted by the history and allure of fly fishing, Tug and his wife, Susan, took a fly-tying course from George Beech (Bjorn’s dad). They took their flies into British Columbia, Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and Eastern Washington waters and had great success. And so began his fly-tying career.

Although he’s fished all manner of gear, he has returned to fly fishing because of its history, traditions, and interesting people, besides the wonderful places that fishing takes you to. Jim - “Tug” - welcome to the SSFF!

Randy Allen

Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



WSCFFI and The Academy

FFI/WSCFFI

The FFI conducted another Virtual Expo November 4-6, 2022. Attendance was down a little, but they still experienced a good event. Over 100 workshops and presentations were offered ranging from featured speakers, tying, casting, general skills, photography, and more. The most popularly attended sessions were the featured speakers and casting workshops. Fly tying offerings were much higher and the attendance in those offerings was more spread out. Folks registered from 42 states and from four countries outside the USA. The top state for attendees was Washington State with 29.

Mark your calendars for April 29, 2023 for the next WSCFFI Casting Fair in Mountlake Terrace at Lake Ballenger Park and at the Senior Center on the park grounds, north of Seattle. More info is available on the Council website - www.wscffi.org

NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy

The Academy will be conducted this year the last full week of June (June 18-24, 2023) at Panhandle Lake 4H Camp on Panhandle Lake west of Shelton. The Academy will be conducted by three new incredible directors along with Matt Tuttle, Camp Director. Registration is now open, go to the new website - www.flyfish.academy

Save Bristol Bay

From the desk of Meghan Barker, TU Alaska “Save Bristol Bay.”

“Dear Bristol Bay Supporters: We just arrived at another big milestone in the effort to finalize Clean Water Act safeguards for Bristol Bay. Today (12/1) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its Recommended Determination for the Bristol Bay watershed. This is a big step forward in the effort to achieve Clean Water Act safeguards!”

Mike Clancy



Fly Fishing Camp

Panhandle Lake Shelton WA June 18 – 25, 2023

- Fly Rods & Tying Equipment Provided
- 12 - 16 Co-Ed Vax/Booster Suggested
- The Program:
 - Intro. to Fly Fishing Equipment
 - Casting Instruction, Knots & Fly Tying
 - How to Read the Rise & the Water
 - Techniques, Tactics & Water Hazards
 - Fisheries Conservation & Stewardship
 - Plenty of Lake & River Fly Fishing
 - Sample a Creek for Macro Invertebrates
 - Learn What Fly to Use & More

Dorm Lodging - Full Professional Meal Service

6 Full Days - 15 Students

Can Become More Conservation Minded and Effective Fly Fishers

\$500 Enrollment Fee

Upon Acceptance Please Remit a Deposit of \$150

Scholarships Available

The academy is a non-profit youth education program made possible by the non-profit Washington Council of Trout Unlimited plus the generous support of Fly Fishers International, NW Fly Fishing Clubs, Trout Unlimited Chapters, Generous Individuals and Great NW Businesses.

Apply Now



Flyfish.academy





THE SOAPBOX

Greetings,

This is my first letter to our members as your new conservation chair. It is hard to replace a legend like Don Freeman. I would like to rename the letter to Stewardship and Conservation with the elimination of Political. I believe "conservation" can be used by politicians for political purposes.

I would like to define conservation as the controlled use of and systematic protection of natural resources such as forests and waterways. Stewardship is the job of supervising or taking care of something such as an organization or property.

I intend to present local opportunities for conservation and stewardship. One place where we can make a local difference is with Capitol Land Trust. They have a number of local stewardship opportunities including 1/16/2023 at Bayshore preserve outside Shelton. John's creek runs through this property, and the mouth of John's Creek has been one of our fall outings during the chum run. Also, at Bayshore Reserve in the fall, there will be chum monitoring opportunities and year-round trail steward opportunities. Capitol Land Trust also has events at Darlin Creek Preserve in Olympia. Their website has all the info and you can sign up for their newsletter. Mary Birchem (360-943-3012) is the volunteer coordinator.

I also intend to present a science tidbit with each letter as my background is in science (but not fisheries or forestry). Today's tidbit is the mutualistic relationship between the white-bark pine and the Clark's Nutcracker. Each is dependent on the other for survival as the pine provides the nutritious seeds the birds require to survive, and the birds cache some seeds, which they forget about and these subsequently germinate to new seedlings.

Harry Griffith



Upcoming class -

Introduction to Fly Fishing - February 27 - March 27, one night weekly 6:00 - 8:30 PM.

Is this something I want to try? Or should I get that new set of golf clubs...the ones guaranteed on midnight TV to make every drive straight and true? (...*would you get me a set of those?*)

After this course, you'll understand the gear fly fishers use: rods, reels, lines and leaders, waders, boots, and floatation devices (boats). We discuss locating fish in rivers, lakes, and salt water, and discuss the local fish species you'll encounter. Our section on entomology teaches about the life cycles of various insects, and which artificial flies imitate them.

We include two Saturday mornings to introduce you to the basics of casting a fly rod. And, you'll learn to tie some knots used by fly fishers.

Enrollment is through the City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation - [Experiencelt Course # 11068](#).

(If the web indicates a full class, sign into the wait list - we're opening more seats...)

Fly Casting - taught spring-early summer, seven weeks, once per week. This class is for single-handed rod casting (not two-handed 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 upon your line by moving river water. More details to come.

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 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. Students have reported delightful success stories each week using the flies they tied and fished.

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

Randy Allen



Lee Yeager twisted my arm to be chair for the SSFF Club Outings for 2023. I am still learning about areas to fly fish in the South Sound region so please bear with me. And feel free to share any other suggestions you might have for good places to fling a fly.

Fly fishing for me is often a mostly solitary past time, and most places fish best when there aren't 20 folks flogging a small patch of water. However, it is also nice to get together with others and share good times and information on techniques and flies that are doing the job. Like, "Why do I see you hooking fish after fish when I get nada?" So, I have tried to find spots where we can spread out a bit while providing room for folks. Also, I and several other club members are retired and often like to do our fishing in the middle of the week rather than fighting the crowds on weekends. So, I have included a Thursday outing for those that can make it followed by one on Saturday for the working stiffs or all who want to join in. Those that go on Thursday can share information on what worked.

I have attempted to account for the timing of what waters and type of fishing is best at locations selected. There are many factors involved including river flows, timing of hatches, spawning, and fish runs. Times will be based on tides at some spots, and some dates may be changed to optimize for the tides. I have not included any overnight outings to places further afield (Kamloops area, Eastern Washington, Oregon etc.) but would be glad to include some if enough folks are interested and have some suggestions of where and when to go. As dates approach, I will post more information on driving directions etc. I will not personally attend each outing and would like volunteers to serve as gillies. Here are my suggestions for 2023 Outings. A Thursday and Saturday are selected for each outing.

SSFF 2023 OUTINGS

February 23 & 25 - Evergreen Beach - Searun Cutthroat - Dates may change. Need to check tides for best dates and timing.

March 23 & 25 - Munn Lake (Thurston County) - rainbow and cutthroat trout, bass

April 20 & 22 - Lost Lake (Mason County) - rainbow trout

May 25 & 27 - Summit Lake (Thurston County) - rainbow trout

June 22 & 24 - Deep Lake (Thurston County) - bluegill, bass, rainbow trout

July 20 & 22 - North Fork Skokomish River (Mason County) - rainbow trout

August 24 & 26 - TBD beach for pink salmon and coho salmon - looking for suggestions for a beach where there is good access to fish and not too many folks tossing buzz bombs. Some candidates include Browns Point, Dash Point, and Point No Point.

September 21 & 23 - Little Deschutes River (Thurston County) - rainbow and cutthroat trout

October 19 & 21 - Nahwatzel Lake - (Mason County) - rainbow trout

November 16 & 18 - Twanoh State Park -(Mason County) - chum salmon



Falls at Mt. Rainier National 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.



Damsel Lite by Ben Byng ©FFI Fly Tying Video Library

California fly tier Ben Byng was looking to create a fly for Davis Lake, CA that was a less-bulky alternative to the normally bulky commercially tied flies. Hence, the name damsel *lite*.

Recipe

- Hook: Daiichi1270 (Tiemco 200 or similar type hook) size 8
- Thread: 8/0 olive
- Eyes: Monofilament (30 lb test)
- Rib: Chartreuse flashaboo
- Body: Jay Fair brown/olive marabou
- Tail: Jay Fair brown/olive marabou
- Wingcase: Magic Shrimp foil green/olive
- Thorax: Jay Fair Long Shuck brown/olive
- Legs: Jay Fair Long Shuck brown/olive - trimmed

1. The same piece of marabou is used to make the body and tail.
2. The same piece of long shuck is used to make the thorax and legs.
3. A black sharpie can be used to darken the eyes

Tying instructions:

<https://youtu.be/rPftR5H99g4>

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

Imparting Life

Fish generally bite living food, and living food usually is moving. Therefore, when retrieving a line it is to your advantage to make it act alive. Stopping and starting a lure erratically makes it look desirable to a fish. If you have been retrieving in the same style for several minutes and not elicited a take – ALTER YOUR RETRIEVE and/or change flies.

Don't get in a rut. Change position or cast to a different spot. I have seen people fish the same spot for hours without success. Keep moving, keep exploring, and keep changing lures. A successful fly in one spot may not be successful in another spot. Just because the water is moving, it doesn't exempt you from also moving the lure. If your lure is drifting with the current it looks dead. You must give the lure some life by either twitching the rod tip or retrieving the line in short jerks.

You can cover different depths by letting the fly sink longer or shorter before retrieving. Try counting to return to the depth you have just fished. If you were retrieving from the count of ten and had a take, you can get pretty close to that depth by counting to ten again. Fish often hang in a comfortable thermocline. Still water settles into temperature levels (the deeper the cooler it is).

There are a couple of situations I would like to mention. When you come to a chute between two rocks or other objects, a good way to fish it without walking around and ignoring it is to stand a short distance below the outflow and cast right up the middle of the chute with a weighted fly. Then strip fast so that the fly is moving through the chute FASTER than the current. This usually elicits a hard strike by a fish that most fishermen bypass.

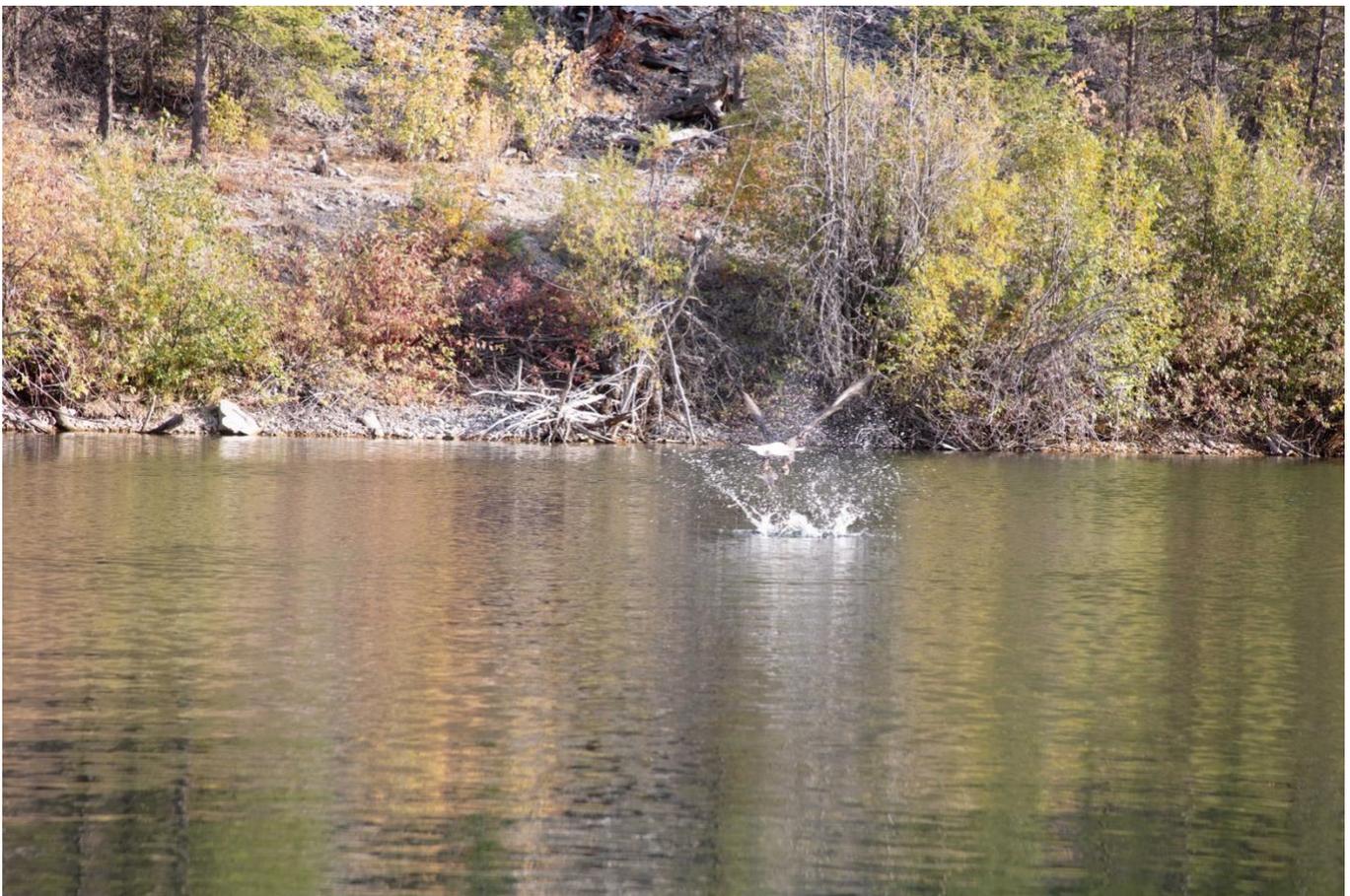
One day I was out to my belt on the San Juan at the bottom of a run channel. I casted up the channel and hooked a fish. He shot straight down the channel and went between my legs. I was out too deep to keep my balance and lift a leg to free the line. I finally sidled into shallow water and freed the line and landed the fish.

Moral: don't stand in the middle of a run, stand on the edge and cast to the middle. Another situation that merits mention is when a fish flashes and appears to have missed your fly. Make ONE more cast with the same fly to see if the fish wants a second chance. If there is no take remove the fly and replace it with a different pattern about the same size. Present this as quickly as possible and generally the fish will take it. Don't keep flailing the water with a rejected fly!

When you are casting a wet fly or nymph across the stream to the far side, the current will take your fly downstream. Move your rod in an arc so it will always be pointing at your fly and your line will be straight toward the fly for better hooking a strike.

A dry fly used in this situation must be handled differently. When you put a dry fly on the far side your floating line will lay on two or three different currents, each moving at a different speed. You will have to make extra slack in the line because each current will pull the line so there will be some long "s" curves in the line. This acts as a corrective action keeping the fly from dragging across the current like a motor boat.

The big difference is you have to watch the fly to see a take, and lift the rod to straighten the line to set the hook. You generally can't impart any action to the fly without sinking it. This is opposite to a wet fly where you want to give it life and movement. A good technique is to put a dry fly on the nearest current and fish it, and then work further currents where it will be harder to control the fly and keep it floating.



Best Fly Fisher on the Lake © Howard Nanto

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 – 2023 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Lee Yeager, yeagerflyfish@gmail.com
Vice President: Randy Allen, randyandcarol2@gmail.com
Secretary: Rachel Dagovitz, racheldagovitz@hotmail.com
Treasurer: Jim Maus, jimmaus@comcast.net
Director at Large: Todd Parker, tparker2356@gmail.com
Director at Large: Jared Wood, jaredbwood@gmail.com
Past President: Randy Allen, randyandcarol2@gmail.com
Conservation: Harry Griffith, skionco@aol.com
Education: Randy Allen, randyandcarol2@gmail.com
Fundraising: Kevin Angevine, grcaulder777@gmail.com
Membership: Phil Jaramillo, prjaramillo@comcast.net
Outings Chair: Doug Dunster, ddunster153@gmail.com
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