



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 23 Issue 4

April 2023

Page 3. This month's program is a talk about kayak fishing in Puget Sound by Blake Merwin of the Gig Harbor Fly Shop.

Page 7. Washington Council FFI will be holding a fly casting clinic at Ballinger Park in Mountlake Terrace.

Page 13. This month's outing is to Lost Lake in Mason County. Note - two dates to participate.

LEADER S LINE

President Lee Yeager



Greetings fellow South Sound Fly Fishers. I hope this month's newsletter finds you well, rested, and ready for spring fishing. Talking about the weather never seems to help, but I find myself doing it often. By now the tulips should be blooming, but the persistence of winter morning temperatures is impacting their progress. It is also impacting my eagerness to get on the water early in the mornings. By nature I am not a big fan of daylight savings time, but it does afford more opportunities for afternoon and evening fishing. Many years ago I read that God does not count against our lives the time we spend fishing. Whether that is true or not I don't know, but I do know that the memories we make with friends and family while fishing are timeless. So I resolve to get up and get out to the places I enjoy fishing. I encourage you to do the same.

This month our club outing will be at Lost Lake in Mason County. See the Outings page for more details. Go fish with your friends!

April 29 is the date for the Washington Council of FFI casting clinic at Ballinger Park. Be sure to read the notice of the event in this newsletter. The SSFF will have a table set up to introduce ourselves to people who come to the event. We recently completed our first class of the year with the City of Olympia; the Intro to Fly Fishing. The SSFF teaches three classes in conjunction with the City of Olympia; Intro to Fly Fishing, Fly Casting, and a Fly Tying class. Randy Allen is our education Chair and he does an outstanding job in organizing and coordinating all that goes into each class. Dates for the casting class and fly tying class will be posted later in the spring.

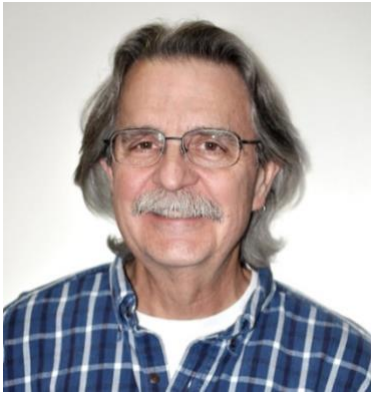
In more mundane news, the Board of Directors of the club are in the process of compiling and organizing the minutes from the monthly BOD meetings. We are searching for the records of as many years past as we can find. The goal is to create a historical record of club proceedings and events. This information and other club records will be posted on a members portal page of the club website. We will also include a club member directory and yearly financial reports. I am hopeful that we can complete this before the end of the year.

April marks the beginning of the second quarter of the year. It is still not too late to pay your club dues for 2023 if you have not done so. And remember, fly fishing is the most fun you can have when you are not catching fish.

Lee Yeager



Hamma Hamma River © Howard Nanto



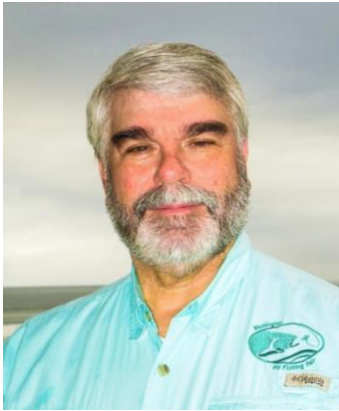
April 18, 2023
Kayak Fishing in Puget Sound

This month our speaker is Blake Merwin. In his early 20's Blake Merwin was an aspiring musician, a youth worker, and studying in grad school. With an entrepreneurial spirit, a love of fly fishing, and bills needing to be paid, he started a web-based fly fishing company selling fly fishing equipment in the dark ages of the internet. After five years of online sales Blake and his wife, Allison, launched the Gig Harbor Fly Shop retail store that has grown to include a fly fishing education program, a saltwater and freshwater guide program, a rigorous hosted travel schedule, a rental kayak and paddleboard business, an eco-tour company, and a growing YouTube Channel. With a staff team of 8-12 dedicated anglers, Blake spends most of his time on fun stuff like instruction, editing/filming videos, and hosting trips.....as well as boring stuff like paying taxes. Blake and Allison are excited about celebrating 20 years in business serving the fly fishing community.

Blake will talk about the fly fishing in Puget Sound utilizing kayaks.



Photo courtesy of Gig Harbor Water Sports



Treasurer's Report – 2023 Dues are Due!

If you haven't already done so, please pay your 2023 dues as soon as possible. Dues for 2023 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:

SSFF Returning Member Dues

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=BXHH6MJ3T5MAU

SSFF New Member Dues

https://www.paypal.com/donate/?hosted_button_id=MZ7K35R8VKERJ

Munn Lake Fish Fund

The South Sound Fly Fishers have partnered with the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife to stock 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 Sunset © Howard Nanto



We were joined by nine new members in March.

At our last meeting we welcomed Gorham Dalton, Michael Maltby, Ben Paull, Bert French, and Nate Wilson, From the Intro to Fly Fishing class are Tim Mettier, Mike Poe, Pam Turlove, and Sheila Wiilson.

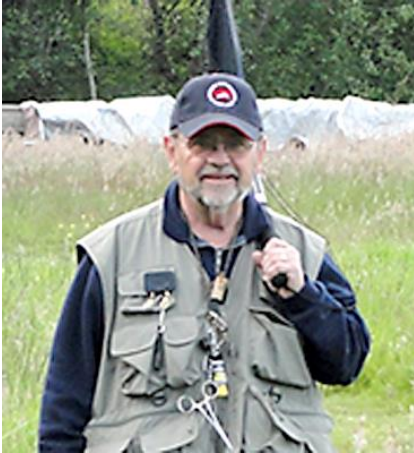
Welcome all of you. Start attending the meetings and participate in our outings as soon as you're able. Welcome articles to introduce you will follow in future Garden Hackle newsletters..



Oakland Bay © Howard Nanto

Washington State Council FFI Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



WSCFFI and The Academy

Washington State Council Fly Fishers International (WSCFFI)

The WSCFFI will hold a Fly Casting Fair Saturday April 29th from 9am to 4pm at Ballinger Park in Mountlake Terrace, Washington. The daylong event will offer beginning, intermediate, advanced, youth, and spey casting skills classes and a free walk-in casting clinic and casting skills development course led by FFI certified instructors. Families and kids are welcome. In addition, fly tying demonstrations and fly tying instruction classes will be held inside the Lakeview Room at the Mountlake Terrace Senior Center, hosted by some of the best FFI fly tyers in the Pacific Northwest. Please go to the WSCFFI website, www.wscffi.org to learn more and the cost for events. Hope to see you there. There is plenty of good parking.

NorthWest Youth Conservation Fly Fishing Academy (NWYCFFA)

The Academy will be conducted for the first time at Panhandle 4H Camp on Panhandle Lake west of Shelton from June 18-24, 2023. Registration is open with all the information on the new website, www.flyfish.academy. The website has all the necessary enrollment forms listed.

Three new Academy Directors - John Gravendyk, 425-615-0356, Bruce Merighi, 509-679-2274, Carol Anderson, 360-298-2999, and Matt Tuttle, Camp Director, will be conducting the academy this year. To learn about the Panhandle 4H Camp, go to their website www.Panhandlecamp.com. The facilities are incredible.



Please Help Support The 2023 NW Youth Conservation and Fly
 Fishing Academy at Panhandle Lake, Shelton WA
 June 18 through 25

Dear Friends of the Academy,

The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is a non-profit youth education program supported by the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited. Additional financial support is provided by Fly Fishers International, NW Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters and generous local businesses and individuals. Our mission is to inform, equip and inspire a new generation of conservation minded fly fishers. The Academy has been successful in this mission for the last 20 years. Every summer the Academy welcomes girls and boys between the ages of 12 and 16 for an exciting week long immersive learning adventure centered on conservation principles and fly fishing techniques.

Funding for the 2023 Academy will be extremely challenging to say the least. Costs to run the program have increased dramatically and we find ourselves looking at a potential \$10,000 shortfall. We have raised the per student tuition to \$500 for the all inclusive (including room and board) week long program but tuition only covers a small percentage of the \$2200 the program costs per student.

We need your help and request that your organization budget a contribution to the Academy as soon as possible and help to make the 2023 Academy a success. Donations in any amount to help run the program are most appreciated. You may also earmark your contribution of \$500 toward providing tuition to a deserving young person (named or un-named) or a specific scholarship amount if less than full tuition. Please remit your contribution by check to :

NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy
 % John Gravendyk
 818 291st Ave NE
 Carnation, WA 98014

The Academy can be a life changing experience for young people as they develop an enlightened understanding of stewardship, conservation and fly fishing. Please help us preserve this program!

The new Co-Directors thank you in advance for your generous support,

Carol Anderson cja@windwalkermedia.com 360-298-2999
John Gravendyk gravendyk@hotmail.com 425-615-0356
Bruce Merighi bruce401@nwt.net 509-679-2274

Fly Fishers International and Mountlake Terrace Recreation

Fly Casting Fair



**CASTING CLASSES
FLY TYING DEMOS AND TYING CLASSES
SPEY CASTING CLASSES
WALK-IN CASTING CLINIC
CASTING SKILLS DEVELOPMENT**

**Saturday April 29, 2023 9 am to 4 pm
Ballinger Park, Mountlake Terrace WA**





THE SOAPBOX

This month's conservation action item involves the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW). On their website (wdfw.wa.gov) they have a get involved tab. Clicking on this leads to many different opportunities, including family education resources, volunteer opportunities in habitat recovery for fish and wildlife (including at the Scatter Creek Wildlife Preserve), fishing event support, and a conservation education volunteer group. I personally have volunteered with WDFW researchers counting cutthroat redds in Olympic National Park for a number of years.

As an update to our speakers at last month's meeting, the Western Rivers Conservancy (WRC) was started in 1988 by Phil Wallin as the River Network. In 2021, the WRC became a stand-alone nonprofit. Also in 2021, the WRC set out to conserve the Yakima Canyon Ranch, which spans 3.5 miles of the Yakima River. Most the Yakima River Canyon is managed by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and is protected within the BLM's Yakima Canyon Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), but the ranch is one of a handful of reaches that remain unprotected. Then in December of 2021, the WRC purchased the Yakima Canyon Ranch and plans to convey it to the Bureau of Land Management. This month, the WRC has Earth Day volunteer activities planned for the John Day River in central Oregon.

Our science tidbits this month refer back to our January newsletter and the mutualistic relationship between Clark's Nutcracker and the whitebark pine tree. The tree has now been listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

What causes coho salmon (*Onchorhynchus kisutch*) to enter the streams they will spawn in? The prevailing thought had been that it was the increase in stream discharge that triggers their migration out of the salt. Recent research by Rebecca Flitcroft with the USDA Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station shows that coho need the water temperature to be within a specific range to move efficiently upstream.

Citation: Kirkland, John; Flitcroft, Rebecca. 2022. Goldilocks and coho salmon: What conditions are "Just Right" for migration and spawning? Science Findings 254. Portland, OR: US Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Research Station. 6p.



Education / Community Outreach - by Randy Allen

Education

We concluded our *Introduction to Fly Fishing* with 23 students in conjunction with the City of Olympia. First and foremost, we all need to recognize and thank the following SSFF members for their instruction and support to the students: Lee Yeager, Kevin Angevine, Mike Clancy, Jim Maus, Harry Griffith, Wayne Dixon, Steve Farquhar, and Jim Mcallister.

These members supported not only the five-week classroom sessions, but also two very chilly Saturday morning casting lessons. They brought their casting experience to the individual students, and we saw much significant improvement in the students' skills and positive attitudes toward their casting! Several students have already joined the club because of the positive experience they enjoyed. Students have complimented us on the experience our team brought to the class each week, and for all of the knowledge we're sharing.

Now - the real fun work. Help these new fishers and members to learn our sport, especially in helping them out on the water to hook and bring fish to their hands. How could it be better!

Here is our annual course curriculum:

Introduction to Fly Fishing - Taught early spring, one night weekly.

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

Students learn fly fishing gear: rods, reels, lines and leaders, waders, boots, and floatation devices (boats). We discuss locating fish in rivers, lakes, and the salt water, as well as local fish species you'll encounter. Our section on entomology teaches about the life cycles of various insects, and which artificial flies imitate them. Students learn three useful fly-fishing knots.

We include two Saturday mornings to introduce you to the basics of casting a fly rod.

Enrollment is through the City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation -

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.

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.

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

Tight lines!

Randy



Keechelus Lake © Howard Nanto



April 20 & 22 - Lost Lake

Hopefully the weather warms up a bit for our outing to Lost Lake. We had some pretty good fishing there last year. WDFW has put some nice size fish in the lake, and there are likely to be more plants this month. There is a limited amount of shore access at the launch, so it is definitely better if you have a float tube or boat (gas motors *are* allowed on this lake).

Members with boats, please let folks know if you have space for another fisher. If you see some other club members catching fish and you ain't having much success, don't be shy, ask them what they are doing. They will most likely share some tips and probably a fly too!

Flies: chironomids, woolly buggers, leeches, and damsel flies

Lines: floating, intermediate, or full sink depending on style of fishing. Full sink might work best if trolling fairly fast in deeper water.

Recent Plants:

March 31, 2023 - Rainbow - 330 (0.33 fpp)

March 27, 2023 - Rainbow 4,912 (2.45 fpp)

Jan. 12, 2023 - Rainbow 75 (0.2 fpp)

Dec. 16, 2022 - Cutthroat 100 (0.75 fpp)

Sept. 26, 2022 - Rainbow 200 (1 ffp) and 2,100 (0.98 fpp)

For those members planning to attend this outing, there is going to be a meet-up at 9:00am at the McDonalds in Shelton.

Directions: Use Google Maps and get directions to Lost Lake.

From Shelton take the W. Cloquallum road 10.9 miles. Turn Right on the W. Lost Lake Road. Follow signs to the boat launch.

Directions: Use Google Maps and get Directions to Lost Lake.



About to Release © Howard Nanto

SSFF 2023 OUTINGS

Apr 20 & 22	Lost Lake - Mason Co. Rainbow trout.
May 25 & 27	Summit Lake - Thurston Co. Rainbow trout.
Jun 22 & 24	Deep Lake - Thurston Co. Bluegill, bass, rainbow trout.
Jul 20 & 22	North Fork Skokomish River - Mason Co. Rainbow trout.
Aug 24 & 26	TBD beach for pink 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.
Sep 21 & 23	Deschutes River - Thurston Co. Rainbow and cutthroat trout.
Oct 19 & 21	Nahwatzel Lake - Mason Co. Rainbow trout.
Nov 16 & 18	Twanoh State Park - Mason Co. Chum salmon.

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.



The club is requesting donations from both club members and non-member donors for the club's fund raiser/auction to be held this May 20 and for our monthly meeting raffles. Donations can be new or used.

In addition, the donation of equipment is also welcome to be used in the club's outreach activities related to fly tying and fly casting.

If you have an item to donate please contact me using the *Contact* link on the club's web-site.





Mayer's Mini Leech © Tim Cammisa (FFI Fly Tying Video Library)

Mayer's Mini Leech

Materials List:

Hook: Allen Fly Fishing MP003BL sizes 8-12

Thread: 8/0 UNI (black)

Wing: Micro Pine Squirrel Zonker Strip (black)

Body: Krystal Flash (olive)

Collar: Ostrich herl (black)

Tying Steps

Step 1: Build a base layer of thread from the hook eye to about the middle of the hook shank.

Step 2: Tie in 3-4 fibers of the krystal flash. Helpful hint - instead of trimming off the butt ends of the krystal flash, when first securing it, use one wrap, loosen tension and then pull the krystal flash towards the tail of the hook until the butt ends are a little past the hook eye. Then continue wrapping to just a little down the bend of the hook. Then wrap back to hook eye to cover butt ends and then back to about the middle of the shank.

Step 3: Wrap the krystal flash back to about the middle of the shank and tie off.

Step 4: Cut about a 1" long micro pine squirrel zonker strip. Tie this in where the krystal flash was tied off.

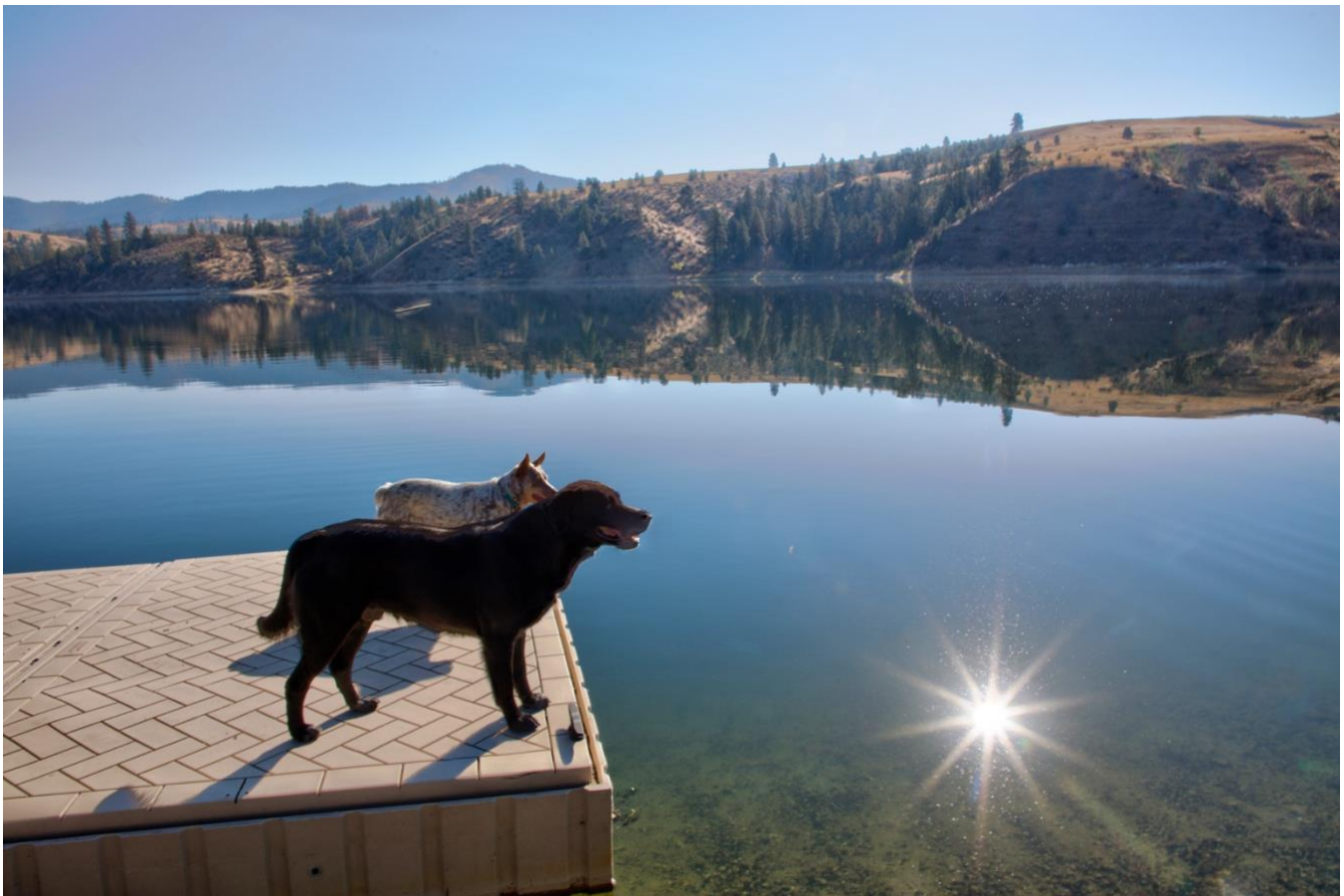
Step 5: Get two bushy pieces of ostrich herl and tie them in at the butt end in front of the zonker strip. Grab both tips so the pieces are together and make 4-5 wraps forward and tie off.

Step 6: Make one whip finish, then put a little head cement on thread and make a second whip finish.

Tying Instructions:

<https://youtu.be/4oH5wJDmwkg>

Club members are welcome to submit suggestions for a fly of the month. Please include a picture of the finished fly and tying instructions. Please send them to Bruce Baker (newsletter editor).

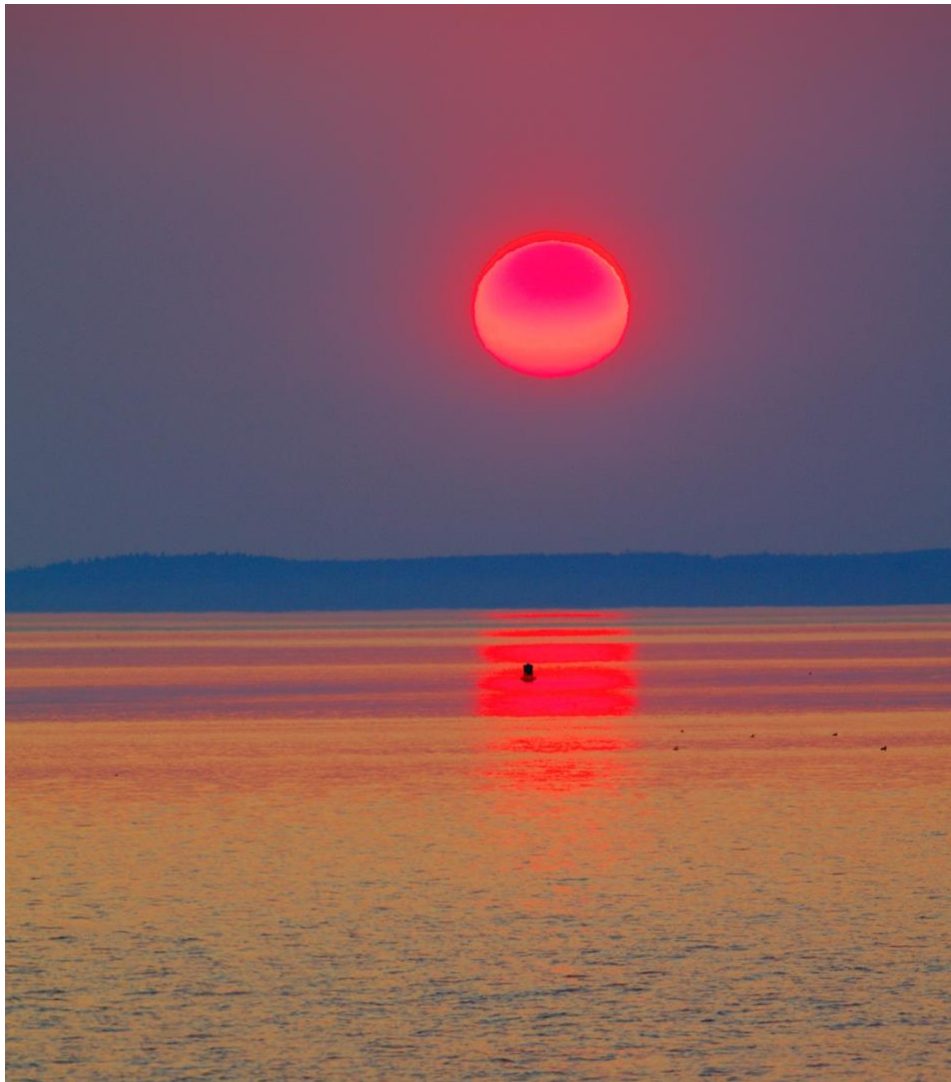


Take me too © Howard Nanto

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).

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.



Port Angeles Sunrise © Howard Nanto



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS – 2023 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Lee Yeager

Vice President: Randy Allen

Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Jim Maus

Director at Large: Todd Parker

Director at Large: Jared Wood,

Past President: Randy Allen

Conservation: Harry Griffith

Education: Randy Allen

Fundraising: Kevin Angevine

Membership: Phil Jaramillo

Outings Chair: Doug Dunster

Programs: Lee Yeager

Webmaster/Facebook: Vic Andrade

Newsletter Editor: Bruce Baker

FFI/Gov't: Mike Clancy

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 North Olympia Fire Department located at 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia, WA. 98506. Doors will open at 6:30pm and the evening's program will start promptly at 7:15pm.

Directions:

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

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

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

© April 2023