



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 23 Issue 7

July 2023

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LEADER S LINE

President Lee Yeager



Many times when I return home from a fly fishing trip to a local lake or river I wonder how much better my trip might have been had I done a better job of targeting my fly. Casting is part science and part art; the mechanics of casting a fly are well documented, and the art comes in when each individual takes that knowledge and incorporates it into a skill. With that thought, this month we are going to focus on casting at our monthly meeting. Bring a fly rod to the meeting and join us for some casting lessons, practice, and encouragement. We will use the area behind the fire station for casting. We will meet inside the fire station for a brief business meeting and then go to the casting area.

Summers are good times for picnics. In keeping with this idea and the past practices of the South Sound Fly Fishers, our regular meeting in August will be the annual club picnic. We will have more on this event in the August *Garden Hackle*, but be sure to put it on your calendar and plan to join everyone for burgers, hotdogs, games and fun.

Are you a member of the Fly Fishers International (FFI)? If so, give yourself a pat on the back, if not I encourage you to reconsider and join the FFI. Here is a link to the to the FFI website - [Fly Fishers International](#). It is wonderful resource loaded with information on casting, fly tying, conservation, speakers, and all matters related to fly fishing. People often ask, “what’s in it for me?” My response is that your membership helps the FFI provide the most comprehensive set of educational resources and conservation programs that support all regions.

If you are of a certain age you might remember old posters of an elderly Uncle Sam character with the statement, “We need you!” They were used as plugs to get more people to join the US armed forces. Just like Uncle Sam, the South Sound Fly Fishers needs you. This next year we will have several members of the club board of directors who will be retiring and or leaving. This means that we need members to replace these folks. Your willing participation is vital to ensure the continued operations of the South Sound Fly Fishers. Please carefully consider getting active in the club operations in 2024. You can ask questions about which positions will be open and what each position entails by contacting Randy Allen or myself.

Take care and remember, fly fishing is the most fun you can have when you are not catching fish.

Lee Yeager



Coldwater Lake © Howard Nanto



**July 18, 2023
Fly Casting Clinic**

We will not be hosting a designated speaker this month. Instead we are going to practice casting in the area behind the fire station. Bring a fly rod of your choice. (If you bring a spey rod, you will be the only one.) We will have several excellent casting instructors and some activities that will help everyone.



Fly Fisherman in Nova Scotia © istockphoto.com



2023 Dues

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 to contribute. 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

Membership

Phil Jaramillo, Chair



Paid memberships are up to 86 members.



Clear Lake © Howard Nanto

Washington State Council FFI / Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



WSCFFI, SSFF, and The Academy

Washington State Council Fly Fishers International (WSCFFI)

The WSCFFI concluded another Casting Fair in April at Ballinger Park and the response from attendees and observers was a solid “thumbs up.” We added several features to this year’s fair such as an expanded casting skills development field, many more classes including spey casting and fly tying, a user-friendly online registration system, and displays by rod makers. The crowd was over 300 for the day-long event, similar to the crowd for the 2022 event.

The WSCFFI want to create more smooth wins in the coming months. The Council Directors are at work on plans to expand the Casting Fair beyond Ballinger Lake. They are researching other parts of the state to conduct more events. If you have any ideas you are welcome to contact Steve Jones, President, WSCFFI. His email is president@wscffi.org. He will appreciate hearing from you.

WSCFFI AWARD

I am proud to report that the SSFF Club has been awarded the “WSCFFI State Club Education Award” for 2023. Our Club has a wonderful education program headed up by Randy Allen and his amazing three-ring binder as a guideline, and many, many Club members. Between the in-house classes at The Olympia Center and the casting instruction at various locations, this award is totally justified for the South Sound fly Fishers of Olympia.

NorthWest Youth Conservation Fly Fishing Academy (NWYCFFA)

The following is an amazing email from one of the participants at The Academy this year. Tae Anderson is a very articulate, very appreciative 14 year old fisher. Read on:

I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude for the sponsorship you provided to support my participation in the NWYC Flyfishing Camp on Lake Panhandle. I am incredibly grateful for your generous contribution, which made it possible for me to have an unforgettable experience at the camp.

First and foremost, I would like to thank the Salmon Creek Fly-Fishers and the Bob Faust Memorial Fund for recognizing the value of outdoor education and offering this sponsorship opportunity. Flyfishing has been a sport that has piqued my interest for several years, and being able to attend this camp was a dream come true. Thanks to your support, I was able to immerse myself in the beauty of Lake Panhandle and enhance my skills in the sport.

Throughout the camp, I had the privilege of learning from expert instructors and experienced fly-fishers. Their guidance and expertise helped me refine my casting technique, understand the intricacies of different flies, and gain a deeper appreciation for the delicate balance of nature. Additionally, the camp provided ample opportunities for me to bond with fellow participants who share the same love for flyfishing, creating lasting friendships and connections within the fishing community.

The sponsorship you provided completely covered the expenses associated with the camp including lodging, meals, equipment, and instructional materials. Your generosity allowed me to fully focus on learning and enjoy every moment of this remarkable experience. Your support not only impacted my personal growth but also reaffirmed my commitment to conservation and responsible angling practices.

I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who played a role in making this sponsorship possible. Your dedication to promoting outdoor education and environmental stewardship is truly commendable. I will cherish the memories and skills gained at the camp, and I am eager to share my newfound knowledge with others, thereby contributing to the preservation of our natural resources.

Once again, I cannot express my gratitude enough for your support. Please accept my sincere appreciation for making the Flyfishing Camp on Lake Panhandle a reality for me. I hope to continue being involved and contribute to its mission in any way I can. In fact, I was asked to consider being a ghillie in the future!

Since camp I have had the opportunity to hone my casting skills on both a stream and a lake. My grandpa also took me to a garage sale where I found fly tying materials and line, and a friend of his even plans to give me a salt water pole and reel.

So again, thank you for your generosity. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and the impact it will have on my lifelong pursuit of flyfishing.

Tae Anderson



Nahwatzel Lake © Howard Nanto

And this is a thank you note written by the Academy Director, John Gravandyk, Bruce Merighi, and Carol Anderson expressing their gratitude to SSFF.



To The South Sound Flyfishers – John Gravandyk, Bruce Merighi & Carol Anderson

Your generous donation went a long way towards making The 2023 Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy a great success.

Sixteen girls and boys between the ages of 12 to 16 years of age just concluded An incredible experience learning both the science and techniques of Conservation minded angling.

Every student successfully caught fish and experienced the joy associated with Learning how to cast properly with their new Academy provide (thanks to you) gear.

Your generous contribution of furred leaders to the Academy is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your wonderful generosity.

*Our youth are the guardians of the future
for the sport of fly fishing*



THE SOAPBOX

There is no article this month. Please enjoy the following article that was written by a friend of member Kevin Angevine.

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.

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 and 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 motorboat.

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.



Kokanee Lake © Howard Nanto



By now you've read Mike Clancy's article about the Washington State Council FFI Club Education Award. Although named in that blurb, I assure you it is a superb team effort. I'm really proud of the training materials and class we present!! It's a lot of work, and it's a lot of fun. Students gain much experience from this class.

Our combined appreciation is owed to these members who have contributed to the training development and who present this class: Gene Rivers (he transformed the City's request for a one-night class in fly-tying into our introductory class), Kevin Angevine, Mike Clancy, Ben Dennis, Wayne Dixon, Dave Field, Don Freeman, Harry Griffith, Jim McAllister, Jim Maus, and Lee Yeager.

Here is our annual program:

(Award Winning) **Introduction to Fly Fishing**-Taught early spring, one night weekly.

What is fly fishing all about? Is this something I want to try?

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 in The Olympia Center, October 23 through December 14. Students learn a new fly each week, tie flies at home, and bring their homework to the next class. Also included are four "lab" evenings for additional help. 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.



July 20 & 22- North Fork Skokomish River

July 20 & 22 - North Fork Skokomish River (Olympic National Park) - Rainbow Trout

You will need a National Park Pass, and the parking lot can get crowded on weekends. I suggest folks carpool and arrive at by 8:00 to reduce fees (pay by-the-car) and parking lot pressure.

Many of our members are seniors. See below about the National Parks Lifetime Senior Pass.

Meet at the bridge by the campground at the Staircase Ranger Station. I have never fished here, but according to Todd Parker, you can begin fishing at Lake Cushman and fish upstream toward the park as far as you care to hike.

Flies: Caddis and mayflies (adults and nymphs)

Lines: Floating

Directions: Highway 101 north to Hoodspport, then take a left and follow Road 119 to Lake Cushman. Continue to Staircase Recreation Area at the end of the road.

National Parks Lifetime Senior Pass

Obtained from the Gov't web-sites. For more info visit <https://store.usgs.gov/lifetime-senior-pass>

Who qualifies for the Senior Pass? U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are 62 years or older. (You must have turned 62 before you can buy the pass).

Who is admitted with a Senior Pass? The Senior Pass admits the pass owner and passengers in a non-commercial vehicle at per-vehicle fee areas, and pass owner + 3 adults, not to exceed 4 adults, where per-person fees are charged. (Children under 16 are always admitted free.)

If I have more than four people in my car, how many passes do I need? One pass covers the vehicle at sites that charge "per vehicle." At "per person" sites the applicable fee will be charged for each additional person.

Where can I get a Senior Pass? Buy the \$80 lifetime Senior Pass in person from a participating Federal recreation site or office. See [Site Locations](#) that issue the Senior Pass. Several offices in the Olympia area issue them. Call the one you're interested in for their hours of operation. You also can buy a Senior Pass using the USGS online store. Applicants must upload proof of residency and age. There is an additional \$10 fee for handling and shipping, about four weeks to delivery. (Go in person.)

SSFF 2023 OUTINGS

- 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.



Mason County Lake © 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 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.

Fund Raising

Kevin Angevine



The club is requesting donations from both club members and non-member donors for the club's fund raisers at 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.





Blue Winged Olive © Hans Stephenson (shop.flyfishsd.com)

Blue Winged Olive (BWO)

Materials List:

Hook: Daiichi 1100 or Tiemco TMC 100 size 14-18

Thread: 70 denier olive ultra thread

Wings: Dun hackle tips

Tail: Coq de Leon hackle fibers or dun hackle fibers

Body: Nature's Spirit fine natural dubbing blue winged olive

Hackle: Dun neck or saddle hackle

Tying Steps

Step 1: Wrap thread from eye down to half of the shank of hook and then back to the 2/3s point.

Step 2: Get two hen hackle tips and place them together such that the natural curve of each hackle tip opposes one another and the tips are even. The wing length is going to be equal to the length of the hook shank. Fold the fibers back until the proper length is achieved. Tie in the wings with 2-3 wraps, making sure they are on top. Wrap a little back, then forward. Pull the wings back and make another two wraps in front to stand the wings up. An option is to make a couple of wraps between the wings.

Step 3: Wrap the thread to the end of the hook shank. Tie in the tail using the Coq de Leon hackle fibers . Be sure the fibers are on top of the hook and the tail should be equal to the length of the hook shank. Wrap up to the wings and then back down to end of hook shank.

Step 4: Attach two dubbing to thread, being careful to not to use too much. Wrap forward to the wings, but going back slightly with each wrap.

Step 5: Take two dun neck hackles and strip some feathers off from the stem for tying in. The feathers need to be placed together so that the natural cup of the feather is facing forward (bottom of the feather should be facing up). Tie in the hackle behind the wings and then wrap forward to the hook eye...take a few wraps behind the wings and then fold the wings back and make at least 3 wraps in front. Tie off and make a few wraps with the thread for a head and the whip finish.

Tying Instructions

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZrabJTc3D5M&list=PLdhpurgF19v0XxosnxRxwDubblbF_9IvH&t=53s

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).



Pier at Allyn © 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.



Surf fishing at Beach #4 Olympic National Park © Howard Nanto



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS – 2023 Officers, Directors, Chairs

President: Lee Yeager

Vice President: Randy Allen

Secretary: Mike Poe (acting)

Treasurer: Jim Maus

Director at Large: Kevin Angevine

Director at Large: Jared Wood

Past President: Randy Allen

Conservation: Harry Griffith

Education: Randy Allen

Fundraising: Kevin Angevine

Membership: Phil Jaramillo

Outings: 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
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