



South Sound Fly Fishers

The Garden Hackle

Volume 26 Issue 1

January 2025

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Leader's Line

Bruce Lincoln, Club President



“I am haunted by waters.”

Sometimes a line in a book just reaches into the truth of your being. If you didn't recognize it, that is the last line in *A River Runs Through It*. I guess that is the reason why I fly fish. I suspect that on reflection, many of you would echo that feeling. I have been blessed with a lifetime of feeling the waters' gifts.

I have sat silently coasting in a canoe in a morning fog, loons speaking to me about life, sitting and marveling at the mirrored surface so smooth that it seemed a sin to slice into it with a paddle blade.

I have felt the live currents of rivers both with a tiny fly on the end of my line and the blade of a paddle.

I have gazed at eddy lines trying to feel the mystery of the current, framing the lie of my line and wondering if a lively flash of silver dwells there.

I welcome all of you to the new year and I hope all of you experience a year of being haunted.

So, I am the new guy as president. Jared is a hard act to follow but with the amazing path that Jared, the previous presidents and the membership has set forward, my role, as I see it, is to steer our boat forward and get out of the way out of the way of the energetic talent of our board and club.

My main goal will be to try to mix our activities with an increased social engagement. Our club seems to be most dynamic and interested when we mix public service when spreading the skills and knowledge of fly fishing. We really seem to turn out when we have the opportunity to try to help others such as with our courses and coordination with Healing Waters. Thanks again to Randy Allen, Jared Wood and many others for their efforts on this.

I am also excited about a project that Chris Tilton is working on, a monthly fly tying (and brew) social. It is difficult for us to engage socially at the monthly meeting because of time constraints. What I hear from other groups is that the fly tying social is very well attended, even by those who don't tie, just to have some time to sit down together and shoot the breeze and learn something new.

On a similar note, thanks to Murray Boulware and Tim Bartley for not only creating an FFI casting course but also actively coordinating with other clubs to provide more opportunity to work on their casting skills.

As for outings this year Jesse Bakke and I will be trying to make them more social. I think many of the club members are like me and like to go fishing to revel in the solitude of the waters, but our outings are best attended when we have an excuse to serve others or sit around to shoot the breeze. On that note we will be looking for help soon for an outing with Project Healing Waters.

Finally, the Mentoring Program is getting off the runway. Let's get behind Tim Bartley and get it flying.



Bruce Lincoln
SSFF President

president@southsoundflyfishers.org



2026 Dues are now payable!

Thank you for continuing to support SSFF. It is that time of year again! 2026 dues are payable starting on January 1, 2026. Annual membership runs from January 1 to December 31.

Memberships Types:

- Individual membership - for an individual
- Family membership - includes a spouse or significant other

Annual Membership Dues Amounts:

- Renewing Individual or Family membership - \$40 (no badge or club patch)
- New Individual membership - \$45 (includes a name badge and a club patch)
- New Family membership - \$50 (includes 2 name badges and 2 club patches)

Returning members:

- Make your payment with [PayPal or credit card](#) (payment methods are PayPal or credit card)
- Come to the next club meeting and pay your 2026 dues with cash, check, or credit card.





New members:

- Complete the membership application
 - Use the on-line form [On-line Membership Application](#) and make an electronic payment with [PayPal or credit card](#)
 - Download and complete the [US Mail Membership Application](#). Return it with a check (\$45 for individual membership / \$50 for family membership):

Sound Fly Fishers
PO Box 2792
Olympia, WA 98507

If you prefer, you can attend the next club meeting, Jan 20, 2026. Register, and pay your 2026 dues with cash, check, or credit card.

Your name badge(s) and club patch(es) will be available at a club meeting in the near future after joining.



I wish you all a most joyous and prosperous new year!

Hard to believe, but we're going to kick off another of our popular classes, *Introduction to Fly Fishing*, now our seventh year. Our training team must do something right because each class in the past has reached capacity with a wait-list. Consider the experience level of our instructors. Total years of fly-fishing experience for eight primary instructors exceeds 230 years. Students learn from our wide-ranging experiences, and we are very proud of it! Instructors will share their

perspectives of fishing local lakes, streams, the Puget Sound, exotic South Pacific islands, Mongolia. . . . They've been around! And they share it all.

This five-week class is each Monday evening from February 23 through March 23 from 6:00 - 8:30 PM. Location is The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St NW, Olympia. Included are two Saturday mornings of casting instruction. Because our weather is a little "iffy" this time of year we will determine the Saturday casting dates when we're a little closer.

What makes our education program successful is how our experienced members mentor the newcomers. We don't teach an Intro class and wish you good-luck-and-see-ya-later. We offer a structured mentorship program to provide the new fishers continuing personal instruction to increase their fishing success. Tell your friends who expressed interest in fly-fishing about this class. It's a great Introduction to start fly-fishing.

Here is our annual education program:

Introduction to Fly Fishing - Taught during February - March.

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 evening on entomology teaches about the life cycles of various insects, and which artificial flies imitate them.

Students also 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). You will cast a fly line for different situations including the wind. You'll also learn to "mend" your line to overcome the effect of moving river water on your line.

Introduction to Fly Tying - Taught weekly in the fall. Students receive plenty of individual attention as they learn to tie eight flies. After completing their homework, students will have tied 80 flies for their fly-boxes.

We teach a variety of flies useful anywhere including nymphs, streamers, and dry flies. After completion students can apply their skills to numerous other, similar flies.

Please contact Randy with questions. <https://southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/>

SSFF 2026 Board Members



Back row: Tim Bartley - Jared Wood - Christian Jordan - Jesse Bakke - Dave Brombach - Chris Tilton - Randy Allen - Wayne Dixon

Front row: Bruce Baker - Vic Andrade - Bruce Lincoln - Murray Boulware - Kevin Angevine - Lee Yeager - Mike Clancy

not present: Veronica Smolen - Phil Jaramillo



Happy New Year South Sound Fly Fishers. Good news for the Conservation efforts in Thurston County. A Grant has been awarded just before New Years eve to protect the Skookumchuck River. When I first moved to Washington I fished in this river very frequently. Because it was so close to my home and I could fish all day and make it back home just before dinner! I caught my first Wild and Hatchery Steelhead just below the dam. My first Wild Chinook Salmon and Coho Salmon! Even in the summer months you can net some juvenile steelhead and some sea run cutthroats on a nice 6 wt. The steelhead hatchery is just below the dam and the salmon hatchery is just below Bloody Run Creek. During the summer months the water management has killed the smolt that still reside in the tributary. The fishery has taken a big impact in the last

several years due to the water rights owned by the nearby coal plant. Running the summer flows at 50 cubic feet per second is not sufficient for fish to survive. So, in a landmark move for environmental restoration and sustainable growth, Thurston County has secured a \$2.4 million grant to purchase a significant portion of water rights on the Skookumchuck River, directly linked to the closure of Washington's last coal-fired power plant. This initiative marks a pivotal transition from a fossil-fuel-driven past toward a future focused on ecological recovery and climate resilience, promising a new chapter for the river and the communities that depend on it. For decades, the Centralia power plant, owned by TransAlta, was a major source of energy and emissions in the region. A 2011 state law mandated its closure, with the first of its two coal-fired boilers shutting down in 2020 and the final unit slated for retirement by the end of 2025.

This historic shutdown made the plant's associated water rights available, creating a unique conservation opportunity. Seizing this moment, Thurston County, with funding from the Washington State Department of Ecology, will purchase approximately 800 acre-feet of water rights from TransAlta's water bank. This water, once used to cool the coal plant's turbines, will now be permanently dedicated to the Skookumchuck and Chehalis rivers. The primary goal is to increase instream flows, a critical factor for the health of aquatic ecosystems.

At the heart of this story is the Skookumchuck Dam, a structure built in 1970 to create a reservoir for the power plant. For over fifty years, the dam has blocked fish passage, devastating salmon populations, including a run of spring Chinook now being considered for Endangered Species Act protection. The newly acquired water rights will now help mitigate some of the dam's harmful legacy by ensuring more water flows downstream, supporting cooler temperatures and improved habitat connectivity vital for fish survival.

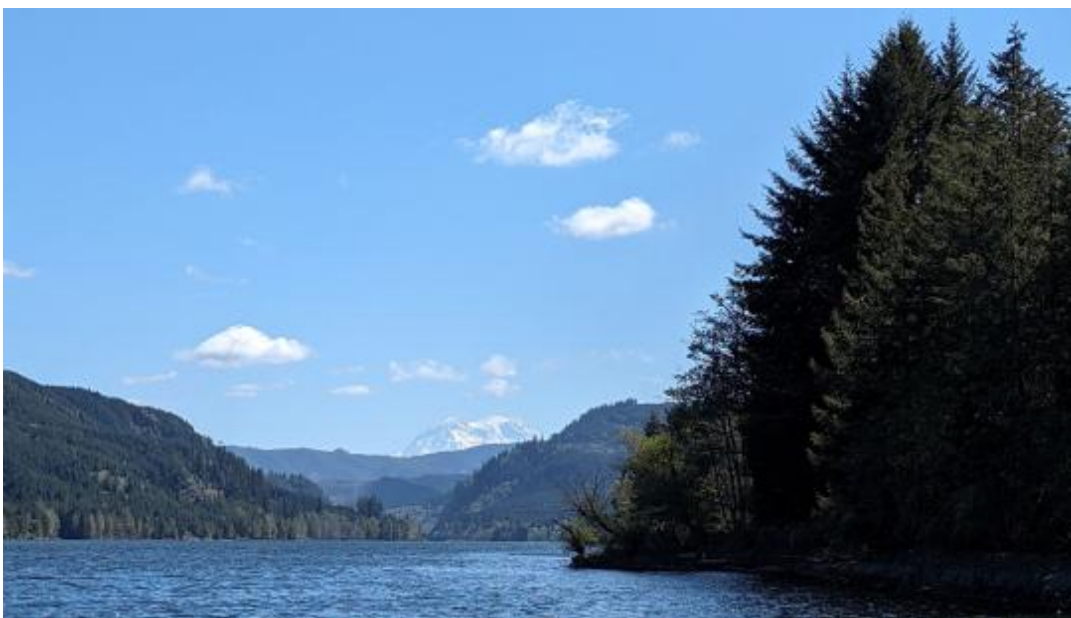
Ultimately, Thurston County's initiative is a forward-thinking model of environmental stewardship. It transforms a relic of the fossil fuel age into a tool for ecological restoration. As the TransAlta coal plant powers down, the water it once consumed will breathe new life into the Skookumchuck River, demonstrating how a community can successfully navigate the complex transition toward a cleaner, more sustainable future.

Here is [Summary Report of the Skookumchuck Dam Phase 3 Analysis](#). Published by the Office of The Chehalis Basin - Washington State Department of Ecology. This is a big win for conservation that is right in our back yard.

Opportunities for the new year while the weather is wet and cold: I recommend visiting the Thurston County [Stream Teams](#) web page and enroll in the online Salmon Stewards Training. This course will take you 2-3 hours to complete and will teach you the basics of what you need to be a trained Stream Team Salmon Steward.

Stream Team also has a workshop coming up, [Amphibians of the Pacific Northwest](#). This Northwest Life History talk will take place Saturday Jan 31; they recommend if you plan on participating in amphibian surveys, which typically take place during the months of March and April, then you might not want to miss out on this event!

Summary Report - Skookumchuck Dam Phase 3 Analysis
by Anchor QEA Aspect, a Geosyntec Company
with data provided by The Confederated Tribes
of the Chehalis Reservation
Office of Chehalis Basin
Washington State Department of Ecology
Olympia, Washington
April 2025, Publication 25-13-007





South Sound Fly Fishers

Membership Report - January 2026

Beginning membership as of 12/31/25: 98

Lifetime members: 4

New members in 2026: 0

A friendly reminder that 2026 Membership Dues are due in January. Club Membership and Dues Membership runs from January 1 to December 31. There are two convenient ways to pay your membership dues:

1. You can make your Dues payment by Check. Please mail the check to:
South 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

[SSFF returning member dues](#)

SSFF New Member

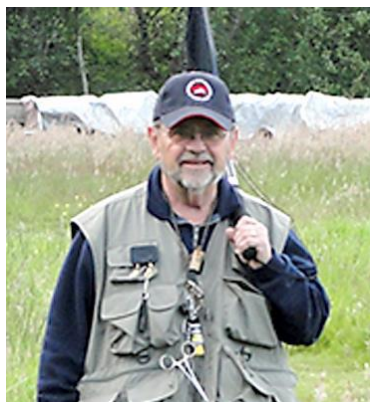
Use the on-line form [On-line Membership Application](#) and make an electronic payment with [PayPal or credit card](#)

If you prefer, you can attend the next club meeting, Jan 20, 2026. Register, and pay your 2026 dues with cash, check, or credit card

Thank you for your continued membership

Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International (WSCFFI) & Government Affairs

Mike Clancy, Chair



Fly Fishing International (FFI), WSCFFI & SSFF Events for 2026

Tri - Cities Sportsman Show
January 23-25, 2026
Pasco, WA

The Big Horn Show
March 19-22, 2026
Spokane, WA

Washington Sportsman Show
January 28-Feb. 1, 2026
Puyallup, WA

Washington FFI Fly Casting & Fly Tying Fair
April 19, 2026
Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah, WA

Pacific Northwest Sportsman Show
Feb. 11-15, 2026
Portland, OR

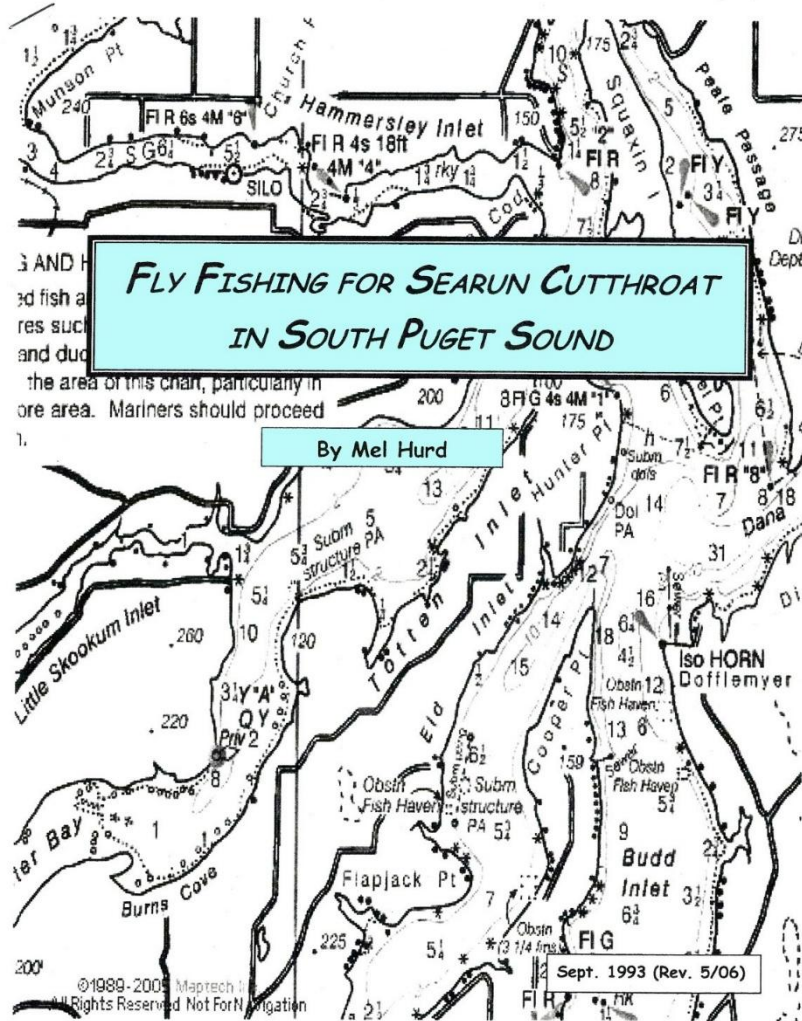
Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous
May 22-24, 2026
Craig, MT

Fly Fishing Show
Feb. 14-15, 2026
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA

NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing
Academy
June 20-27, 2026
Panhandle Lake, Shelton, WA

NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo
March 13-14, 2026
Linn County Expo Center, Albany, OR

Fly Fishing for Searun Cutthroat in South Puget Sound, by Mel Hurd



This is a 20 page booklet written by Mel Hurd, long time member of SSFF. This is an absolutely wonderful guide to fish our sea-run cutthroat in our back yard, or front yard. The booklet is a means to support our conservation program and the Academy. We recommend a \$10 donation, or more.

To order your copy go to the Donation page of our club's website, [Sea Run Cutthroat Fishing Guide](#), fill out the form and submit your payment. Payment can be made via the PayPal link below the form. If you prefer you may mail a check to our treasurer at

SSFF P.O. Box 2792
Olympia WA 98507

As soon as our Treasurer receives your donation, the booklet will be mailed to you.

Congratulations to our Council President Steve Jones for receiving the National FFI Leadership Award. Well deserved. Also, congratulations to Sherry Steele from the Oregon Council for receiving the same award. Sherry has been a good friend of our Council for many years. Al and Gretchen Beatty along with Glenn Wilson of Graham, Washington. for receiving the Dick Nelson Fly Tying Teaching Award.

2026 is going to be busy with fly fishing events throughout the year. FFI is planning a national event in Redding, California in the fall, along with the already planned events. A special performer at the event is going to be Maxine McCormick, a special young lady that has been receiving casting awards since she was 12 years old. She holds the record of 165' for one of her casts. She is absolutely amazing and will be fun to watch. She just graduated from the University of Washington.

A big change is going to take place this year at Nationals. Rhonda Sellers is going to retire after many years as the Executive Director, Operations, Conservation/Education Coordinator & Webmaster. She has been a delight to work with and we wish her well with her retirement.



Munn Lake 2024



Dear South Sound Fly Fishers, Happy New Year!!!

Our first outing of January 2026 will be in the great Pacific Northwest trophy fishery Munn Lake. The lake has been recently stocked. Stocked with some monsters. In November and December I personally witnessed several twenty-inch trout landed. Our outing this month will also be attended by our local Project healing Waters chapter. We will have shelter from the rain, breakfast burritos, and hot coffee for everyone. If you have a water craft of any non-motorized sort bring it along. Everything from inner tubes to drift boats will work just fine.

Munn has been very productive the last two months. If you're looking into getting a trophy fish I recommend a full sinking line. The heavier fish are holding deep. Intermediates will work as well in some of the shallower areas too. The lunkers I saw come in bit on black, green and brown wooly buggers. And one muddler I put on after snagging an anchor chain mid cast. The finer fly fishers among us pulled in several prizes on deeply set nymphs. If you understand this nymph voodoo let me in on the secret.

If there is more boat traffic than you want to be a part of in the deeper sections patrol the banks. My favorite thing to do on my way back to the boat ramp when I'm wrapping up is cast to all of the lily pad and weed banks. The place is lousy with bass and bluegill. In a good way. The most productive flies here are small, shiny nymphs. Good way to break a slump. But if you're feeling froggy then give some small, white, weighted streamers in there. That's what will tease the bass out.

Parking at Munn is pretty limited. If carpooling is an option I recommend it. And don't forget your Discover Pass and or DFW Pass. If you don't have one this isn't the time to risk it. Luckily Munn is heavily patrolled by fish and game. They keep the parking lot bandits at bay and the fish in the lake. So do them a favor and don't make them write any tickets on a Saturday.

Good luck everybody and I'll see you out there.

Jesse



South Sound Fly Fishers - 2026 Outings

January 24	Munn Lake	Trout / Crappie	PHW Breakfast
February 14-15	Fly Fishing Show - WSCFFI		Bellevue, WA
February 21	South Fork Toutle	Steelhead	
March 13-14	NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo - OCFFI		Albany, OR
March 21	Lake Lawrence	Trout, Bass, Perch & Bluegill	Breakfast or Lunch at Lake Diner
April 19	Washington FFI Fly Casting & Tying Fair		Issaquah, WA
April 25	Deep Lake / Millersylvania	Trout	Picnic lunch for Students
May 23	Carlise Lake (Onalaska)	Jumbo Trout	Breakfast at The Carlise
June 19-20	Leech Lake Campout	Trout	Camping/Hotels White Pass
July 24-26	Cowlitz Campout	Trout/Steelhead	Club dinner Fri or Sat Night
August 18	Annual Picnic		Scott Lake
August 22	Lake Kokanee	Trout	Thurston County
September TBD	SSFF Casting Event		Tumwater Historical Park
September 26	Potlatch State Park	Sea Run Cutthroat	
October 24	Wynoochee River	Coho/Chum	Twin Bridges County Park
November 11	Veterans Day Event		Location TBD
November 24	Fly Tying, 2027 Event Planning		Rivers Edge Tumwater Golf Course

Fundraising

Kevin Angevine, Chair



Do you have item(s) that you don't use?

Have you considered donating it/ them to the club?

SSFF is registered as a not-for-profit corporation with the State of Washington and is an exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Donations to SSFF may be tax deductible.

While SSFF operates in 'Good Faith,' all sales are considered "As-Is" condition. SSFF assumes no liability and the buyer purchases items at their own risk.

There are 2 ways that you as a **PAID member** may utilized this section of the newsletter.

- Donate an item(s) to the club, we will list it in our classifieds. All money from the sale of the item(s) will be added to the club's general fund. Contact our Fundraising Chair, Kevin Angevine via southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/

Thank you in advance for your donations.

- Private Sale - **available ONLY to current paid members**. List your item(s) in our classified as a private sale. No retail, business or commercial sales are permitted. This will be a transaction between the seller and purchaser. The club will not act as an arbitrator nor as an agent for either party. The SSFF club will accept **no liability** in this transaction. Submit the info for this sale to southsoundflyfishers.org/contact/

Once the transaction is complete, a donation to the SSFF club in the amount of 20% of the sale price is suggested. This donation can be completed via the SSFF website [Donations and Support](https://southsoundflyfishers.org/donations-and-support/).

The SSFF will list the item(s) in both our monthly newsletter and our website southsoundflyfishers.org

The format will include:

- a short description (20 words maximum)
- price
- contact information (**list only the contact info that you are comfortable listing**).
- no photos will be accepted for a private sale.

Example:

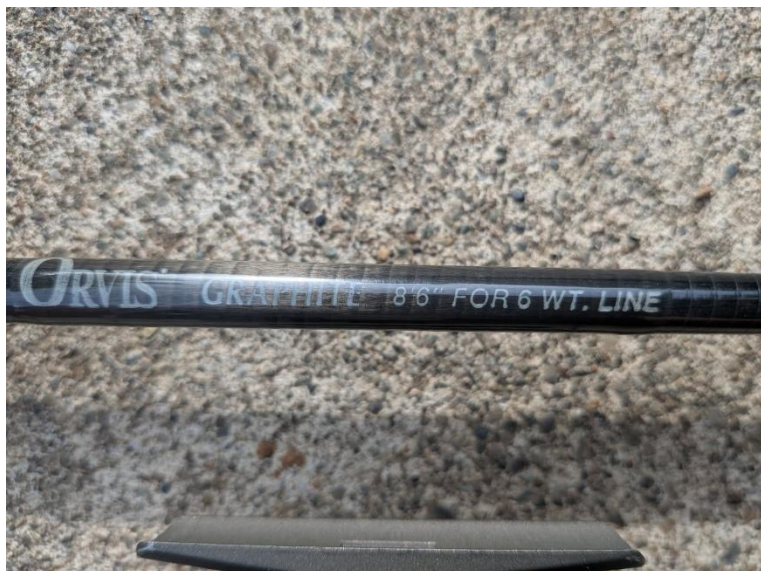
XYZ fly rod & reel (5 wt) - \$100 - Contact John Doe (johndoe@xmail.com) 555-333-4444

The following items are available for purchase from the SSFF club

Cortland Rod, 8'6", 5-6 weight rod with
Cortland Crown II Reel
\$100



Orvis Rod, 8'6", 6 weight rod with
Martin VFR reel with sinking tip line
\$135.00



CeramicFish
\$12.00



Picket Pin



Written by: Jack R. Gillis
Photographed By: Jack R. Gillis
Creator: Jack Boeme

Hook: Nymph/wet/streamer Size 8-14
Thread: Black 8/0
Tag: Fine gold tinsel
Tail: Two tips of brown hackle
Body: Peacock herl
Rib: Fine oval gold tinsel counter
Wing: Gray squirrel tail
Head: Peacock herl over black thread

The Picket Pin is one of those fly patterns that has stood the test of time. Developed as a trout fly for western waters in the early 1900's (1910-1915) by Jack Boeme, it gets its moniker from the nickname of the animal whose fur was used in the pattern. Ground squirrels or gophers were given the nickname of "picket pins" by cowboys because of their habit of standing upright in the fields. The fur from the gopher was used as the tail and wing in the original version of this hair wing fly.

As the fly gained popularity and moved eastward, grey squirrel replaced gopher and over time became part of the standard recipe.

While recognized primarily as a wet fly, the Picket Pin is also very effective when tied in larger sizes and fished as a streamer. It can also be greased and fished as a dry fly. It is buggy enough that it is a good imitation for a lot of terrestrial insects, imitating everything from hoppers and crickets to beetles, cicadas, moths, and large flies such as horse flies.



1. Place hook in your vise and start your thread. Add a tag of fine oval tinsel.



2. Take 2 tips of brown hackle feathers. Align the tips. Measure them about the hook shank length. Tie in the tail so that the tie-in is aligned with the hook point.



3. Tie in the rib of fine oval gold tinsel.



4. Take 4 strips of peacock herl and tie-in at the tail tie-in point.



5. Wrap the peacock herl forward with side-by-side wraps to a point approximately 2 eye lengths behind the eye of the hook. Trim the waste.



6. Take a brown hackle feather, size it, and strip off the waste end. With the top of the feather facing you, strip a few barbs off the bottom of the rachis and even a few more off the top. Now secure the hackle feather on the near side of the hook at the point where your body stopped.



7. Palmer the hackle rearward to the tail tie-in point and secure the rachis by counter wrapping the fine gold oval tinsel rib forward securing the hackle. By counter-wrapping the rib you are further securing the hackle.



8. Cut a clump of natural gray squirrel tail for the wing. The length of the wing should be short of the end of the tail. Secure the wing to the hook with a few thread wraps.



9. Take 1-2 strips of peacock herl and secure to the hook at the wing tie-in position. Wrap a small head of peacock herl over the black thread. Secure the peacock herl and trim the waste.





2026 SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers	President	Bruce Lincoln
	Vice President	Chris Tilton
	Secretary	Veronica Smolen
	Treasurer	Lee Yeager
Chairs	Conservation	Christian Jordan
	Director at Large	Murray Boulware
	Director at Large	Bruce Baker
	Education	Randy Allen
	FFI/Gov't	Mike Clancy
	Fundraising	Kevin Angevine
	Membership	Phil Jaramillo
	Mentorship	Tim Bartley
	Newsletter Editor	Dave Brombach
	Outings	Jesse Bakke
	Past President	Jared Wood
	Programs	Wayne Dixon
	Webmaster/Facebook	Vic Andrade

SSFF Club Website: southsoundflyfishers.org

USPS Mail Address: SSFF, PO BOX 2792, Olympia WA 98507

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter

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