



South Sound Fly Fishers

# The Garden Hackle

Volume 26 Issue 2

February 2026

[Temporary change to Membership meeting location](#)

[Member dues are payable](#)

[SSFF & FFI Awards](#)

## Leader's Line

Bruce Lincoln, Club President



“Don't let perfect be the enemy of good.” Voltaire

I have always loved this quote by Voltaire. It is very similar to something my father said to me in the midst of trying to finish baling hay before the rains came when I was a farm kid. I told my father that I heard a strange sound in the baler. That sound was worrying me. He looked at me, then he looked at the sky, heard some distant thunder and said “worry when the sound stops.”

Although I have spent most of my life trying to put order into some sort of disorder, I have usually been able to understand when to stop and accept “good enough.”

Dang it, that is not always the truth with fly fishing. Sometimes I fuss around trying to get all the right equipment and fly boxes. Then it becomes a chore to get to the water. I really romanticize the days of my youth when all I had was one box of wet flies, one fiberglass rod, and a pair of beat-up tennis shoes.

There are times when perfection seemed important. Like the time I sat for a couple hours to wait for the midge hatch to start so that I could toss a size 20 midge dry to a fussy brown in that eddy line. I even practiced casting the 10-foot tippet and small fly a couple hours before just to get the drift right. It worked. The guy who told me this trick was probably a NASA engineer who had a habit of making everything perfect. Sort of the guy you love to hate except when you are strapped to a rocket.

Here are some things that are happening that are good. Many of them are further detailed later in the Garden Hackle.

Randy Allen is getting the Introduction to Fly Fishing class organized.

Christian Jordan is filling our basket full of useful conservation information.

Lee Yeager is producing a budget. This will be brought to the club to approve soon.

Chris Tilton got the Brew Tie going. We may later change day, time, or location, but it is off the ground. Additionally, he is working on connecting with Trout Unlimited to see if there can be some shared interests and support.

Finally, the outing planned for this month is Steelhead Fishing on the South Fork of the Toutle with either a group morning breakfast or a group afternoon lunch. Given that river conditions may fail that, a fallback outing and get together is planned for Squaxin Park in Olympia or Burfoot Park to fish for Searun Cutthroat.

Bruce Lincoln  
SSFF President

[president@southsoundflyfishers.org](mailto:president@southsoundflyfishers.org)



*SSFF General Membership Meeting Jan 2026*

<b>South Sound Fly Fishers - 2026 Meeting Dates</b>	
<b>Board Of Directors Meetings</b>	<b>Club Membership Meetings</b>
<del>Jan 7 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>	<del>Jan 21 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>
<del>Feb 4 - North Olympia Fire Station</del>	Feb 18 - North Olympia Fire Station
Mar 4 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	Mar 18 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
Apr 8 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	Apr 15 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
May 6 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	May 20 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
June - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	June 17 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
July 1 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	July 15 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
Aug 5 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>	Aug 19 - <b>SouthBay Fire Station 81</b>
Sept 2 - North Olympia Fire Station	Sep 16 - North Olympia Fire Station
Oct 7 - North Olympia Fire Station	Oct 21 - North Olympia Fire Station
Nov 4 - North Olympia Fire Station	Nov 18 - North Olympia Fire Station
Dec 2 - North Olympia Fire Station	No meeting this month

Board of Directors meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month starting at 6:30 PM.

Club Meetings are conducted in-person, and on certain months, via Zoom. Meetings begin at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of every month, except December. There will not be a general membership meeting in December. When the meeting will also be on Zoom, the code will be sent via email a few days prior to the meeting. The physical meeting location will open at 6:30 PM if you want to visit and talk fly fishing.

Our in-person meetings are generally held at the [North Olympia Fire Station](#) located at 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia, WA. 98506.

However, for the months of March 2026 - August 2026 (inclusive), the location will be moved to the [South Bay Fire Station 81](#) located at 3506 Shincke Rd NE, Olympia WA. 98506.



This Month we have a great presentation for our meeting.

**Dr. Jane Atha** will be speaking on the Habitat of our local Salmon and Steelhead. She will also address the current science-based projects affecting our area.

Dr. Atha joined the Coast Salmon Partnership in March of 2025, bringing 20 years of experience in environmental management as a strategist, river scientist, college instructor, water resources consultant, and watershed coordinator. She completed her Ph.D. in geography at the University of Oregon where her research centered on large wood dynamics in the Oregon Coast Range. She moved from Austin, Texas with her young family and is thrilled to bring her expertise back to the Washington Coast where she first worked when she came to the state in 2013. Her specialties include fluvial geomorphology, habitat restoration, and climate science and strategy. Her work on climate-adapted culvert designs while employed as a research scientist at the Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife has been instrumental to the restoration of fish passage in coastal tributaries. Most recently, she managed the development of a comprehensive state-wide fish passage prioritization strategy for Washington State. In this role she worked extensively with Tribes, salmon recovery organizations, and state and federal agencies. Outside of work, she enjoys riding bikes, cheering on her two teenage daughters, listening to music, and impromptu dance parties with family and friends.

## PRESENTATION:

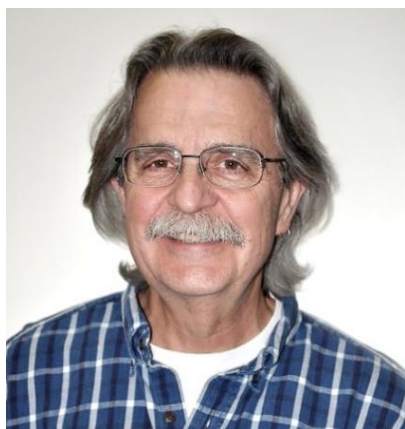
The Coast Salmon Partnership guides the long-term protection and restoration of Washington's coastal salmon and steelhead populations in some of their last best habitats in the contiguous United States. We work to restore these populations to levels closer to historic health through an "all-H" strategy that addresses habitat, harvest, hatcheries, and hydropower. By collaborating with diverse partners, we help coastal communities thrive. We are developing science-based projects that put people to work while ensuring the long-term health of the region's iconic salmon and steelhead. Come learn more about what the Coast Salmon Partnership is up to!

Please come and show your support

Thank You

Wayne Dixon

Programs Director / SSFF



## 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.



Now in our seventh year, we will host another Introduction to Fly Fishing. Our eight primary instructors exceed 230 years combined fly fishing experience. They share their perspectives of fishing exotic South Pacific islands, Mongolia... Oh yeah, they also fish local waters lakes, streams, and the Puget Sound. They've been around! And they share it all.

Class sessions are each Monday evening from February 23 through March 23 from 6:00 - 8:30 PM. We teach in The Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St NW, Olympia. Included are

two Saturday mornings of casting instruction. We'll determine the Saturday dates when we're a little closer and the forecast is a little more reliable.

Tell your friends about this class. It's a great introduction to start fly-fishing.

Click to [Enroll in course #14042 through the City of Olympia Parks, Arts, and Recreation](#).

We don't teach the class then wish students "good luck, see-ya." Follow up the Introduction class with our structured mentorship program. We provide the new fishers personal instruction to increase their fishing skills and success.

**Here is our annual education program:**

**Introduction to Fly Fishing** - Taught 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.

**Fly Casting** - Taught in the spring, seven weeks. 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 fly patterns.

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

## Fly Fisher of the Year Award 2025



*2025 SSFF Fly Fisher of the Year – Bert & Tim (Randy)*

It's exciting to receive club awards. It is just as exciting and rewarding to give the award. This year I felt honored to be asked to present the Fly Fisher of the Year for 2025. Contribution toward our education program was a great influence in selecting the member to recognize. The board of directors put a great deal of thought into this.

Let's start with the name of the award itself, Fly Fisher of the Year. It reads, "In recognition of outstanding service, time, and efforts contributed to the South Sound Fly Fishers in our mission to promote education and conservation throughout our community." Each year the board deliberates over the nominated members. Last year two names came to the top, but the board was unable to select one of these two. And, the board felt they did not want to dilute the significance of the "fisher" of the year by awarding two members; the award would have become *fishers* of the year. This year, the same two names came to the top. Each contributed greatly to our education program. That is why I was so personally touched to be asked to make this award. I was to recognize the Fly Fisher of the Year for outstanding contributions to our training classes.



Why was this so tough to decide who would receive the award? The two nominees were following the same path. Shortly after joining both candidates attended the Introduction to Fly Fishing, then Casting, then Fly Tying classes. They returned to all the following classes to help the new students. I cannot think of a training session they have missed to participate in since then. Many students name both these members as especially helpful to them.

Here we go again - two names. How does the board select the one to receive the award? The choice between these two members was not a choice. I'm proud of our Board for breaking with tradition for this unique situation. Both members are so highly deserving. They're neighbors and good friends. They carpool to classes and jump right in for whatever needs to be done. There's nothing they won't do to help. They are really great guys, with really great values. Anyone who's worked with them echoes the same feeling. Try to select one? It could not be done.

For 2025 SSFF awarded Fly Fisher of the Year to two members: Bert French and Tim Mettier. Congratulations Bert and Tim, and THANK YOU for all the time and effort you put into helping others - helping to present the classes, and helping the students with individualized coaching. We're very proud of you two, we're very proud to recognize your contributions!

#### Washington Council Fly Fishers International - 2025 Pat Herdt Education Award



*2025 Pat Herdt Education Award – Kevin (for FFI Jim Maus and Mike Clancy)*

The mission of the Washington Council of Fly Fishers International is to support, enhance, and preserve fly fishing opportunities. Fundamental to achieving this mission is environmental stewardship and education.

Since 1965, FFI members and clubs in the Washington State Council have been passionately engaged in education, conservation, and environmental stewardship statewide. Each year, the Washington Council gives out Awards of Excellence in education, conservation, and leadership to deserving members and clubs within the state.

It's our honor to present the 2025 Pat Herdt Education Award to one of our fellow South Sound Fly Fishers members. The Pat Herdt Award recognizes individuals who have demonstrated exceptional dedication to the education of fly fishers, particularly focusing on youth education and the spread of knowledge about fisheries resources and conservation. This award celebrates both singular contributions and sustained efforts that have significantly advanced the educational mission of Fly Fishers International.

FFI WSC is proud to recognize Kevin Angevine for his dedication to helping new students in the classroom and on the water. He has taught fly-tying and fly casting in a local middle school; in one year he taught over 90 students. He is always present at SSFF classes and contributes greatly to the Introduction to Fly Fishing, Casting, and Fly Tying classes. When he's not teaching in the classroom you'll likely find him on our nearby lakes and streams teaching members new to the sport, teaching them equipment set-up, casting, and hooking into, landing and safely releasing fish. He makes time for our new students and members. We're extremely proud of Kevin's contributions. Thank you, FFI Washington Council, for recognizing Kevin for all his contributions to education! He is most deserving of this award.



*June 2025 -Dry Fall- by Howard Nanto*



Hello South Sound Fly Fishers! This month I will be focusing on the history of the Toutle River. Our club outing is templated to be in this incredible valley that has a lot of conservation history. I want to highlight the amazing work the Lower Columbia Fish Enhancement Group (LCFEG) has done in the Toutle Region with some of their current and completed work. Their economic impact and boots-on-the-ground restoration practitioner's mentality is impressive. I recommend checking out this nonprofit online. There are [volunteer opportunities](#) and education outreach programs. Visit their website [lcfeg.org](http://lcfeg.org) for more information. Also check out their [2025 Annual Report](#). That is a great storyboard of how much work they have done this year.

The Mount St. Helens eruption was a cataclysmic event that reshaped the landscape of southwestern Washington. The Toutle River, in particular, bore the brunt of the volcano's fury, its valley buried under a monumental debris avalanche and its waters choked with sediment. In the decades since, the river has become a focal point for extensive and complex conservation efforts, a testament to the enduring power of nature and the persistent challenges of conservation intervention. The story of the Toutle is one of managing catastrophic flood risk, restoring fragile ecosystems, and navigating the difficult compromises between ecological health and community interests, all under the long shadow of the volcano.

### The Eruption's Enduring Impact

The immediate aftermath of the eruption was devastating. A massive debris avalanche, one of the largest in recorded history, surged into the North Fork Toutle River valley, burying it under up to 600 feet of volcanic debris. Millions of salmon and steelhead perished, and their habitat was completely destroyed. The long-term consequences have been defined by sediment. The eruption deposited billions of cubic yards of material into the watershed, which continues to erode and travel downstream. This constant flow of sand and gravel raises the riverbed, dramatically increasing flood risk for downstream communities such as Castle Rock, Kelso, and Longview and threatening to clog vital shipping channels on the Columbia River.

## **The Silt Dam: is it just a Bandage?**

To mitigate the immediate threat of catastrophic flooding, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers constructed the Toutle River Sediment Retention Structure, an earthen dam on the North Fork, completed in 1989. The 184' high structure was designed to trap sediment before it could wash out into the lower river systems. However, the dam filled with sediment far more rapidly than the initial projections, which anticipated it would reach capacity by 2035; by 2012, it was already nearly full.

This has necessitated ongoing, costly interventions. In January 2026, the USACE awarded a \$35.9 million contract to raise the dam's crest once again, with work scheduled for completion by October 2027. These periodic raises have led to a critical debate: is the dam a permanent solution, or merely a bandage on a problem that will persist for centuries? Continually raising the Toutle River Sediment Retention Structure, creates a cascade of significant long-term environmental impacts by fundamentally altering the natural processes of the river system. While intended to protect downstream communities from catastrophic sediment flows, this ongoing intervention perpetuates an engineered cycle that affects the river's form, habitat, and ecological health.

## **Restoring a Lifeline for Fish**

Extensive work has been undertaken to heal the river's ecosystem. Restoration efforts have been particularly focused on restoring spawning grounds and ensuring fish can access them.

On the South Fork Toutle, which was less severely impacted by the eruption, the LCFEG is leading multi-million-dollar projects, and they are not playing around. A special project, the Little Cow Creek project, is a conservation effort that is much needed for Fall Chinook, Coho, and Winter Steelhead. This off-channel tributary of the upper South Fork Toutle River is a gem of a water shed. The project aims to extend the range of usable habitat for Chinook as well as to diversify existing steelhead and coho habitat. The LCFEG will enhance the habitat and ensure it is available for fish at critical life stages. By placing large logs in the river the project aims to slow the water, reduce erosion, and create deep, stable pools that salmon and steelhead need to spawn and rear their young. The overall Project covered 1,976' of in-stream and 2,040' of off-channel with 62 structures, 37.7 acres of riparian habitat with late successional and beaver-friendly species, and 895' of floodplain forest with roughness floodplain.

The North Fork presents a greater challenge because the Sediment Retention Dam is an impassable barrier for migrating fish. In a broader regional effort, inadequate culverts are being removed like the Pullen Creek culvert. In the summer of 2024 the culvert was replaced with a fish passage structure. It's a 54' concrete bridge and is significantly improving fish passage restoring access to 2.6 miles of habitat for coho, steelhead, and sea-run cutthroat trout. The project successfully addressed a significant fish passage barrier, directly benefiting local salmonid populations and providing additional wildlife management.



## The Contentious Intersection of Hatcheries and Wild Fish

The effort to support fish populations is fraught with its own set of challenges, most notably the tension between hatchery production and wild fish conservation. Recent state budget cuts have forced the closure of the Skamania Fish Hatchery, a key facility supporting the region. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) requested \$1.9 million to operate the Skamania and North Toutle hatcheries but received only \$750,000, leading to the Skamania closure and a projected loss of 1.5 million salmon and steelhead. This closure also halted a promising new program designed to create an integrated hatchery stock using wild Washougal River winter steelhead, a significant blow to modern recovery efforts. A program that guides and recreational fisherman have been asking the state to do for years.

Compounding the issue is the use of weirs to manage fish genetics. A new weir on the South Fork Toutle is used to sort returning fish, allowing wild steelhead and salmon, part of a designated "Wild Stock Gene Bank," to pass upstream while blocking and collecting hatchery-bred fish. While this is a critical tool for protecting the genetic integrity of native, resilient fish stocks, it has a direct, negative impact on the local community by removing a large number of fish that recreational anglers would otherwise pursue. WDFW acknowledges this reduces fishing opportunities but maintains it is a necessary conservation action required under law, highlighting the difficult trade-offs inherent in the river's management.

The conservation of the Toutle River is a dynamic and ongoing conservation saga. Forty-five years after Mount St. Helens irrevocably altered its course, the river remains a landscape of active intervention. From raising a massive dam to painstakingly rebuilding habitat log by log, the efforts reflect a struggle to impose stability on a system defined by powerful, natural change. The difficult decisions surrounding the silt dam, fish passage, and the conflicting needs of wild and hatchery fish reveal that there are no simple solutions. The recovery of the Toutle River is a complex balancing act, demanding continuous investment, scientific adaptation, and societal compromise to manage the volcano's enduring legacy.



photo from [US Army Corps of Engineers Portland District Website](http://www.usace.army.mil/portland/)



## South Sound Fly Fishers

### Membership Report - February 2026

Total membership as of this date: 45

Total new members in 2026: 2

Please welcome the following new members.

- David Malley: David is from the Olympia area and joined on 1/20/26.
- Carl Rotter: Carl is from the Lacey area and he also joined on 1/20/26.

David and Carl - Welcome to our South Sound Fly Fishers organization. We look forward to your membership and participation in our club events.

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 Renewing Member

[SSFF renewing 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 on Feb 17, 2026. Register and pay your 2026 dues with cash, check, or credit card

Thank you for your continued membership and support.

---

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

Mike Clancy, Chair



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

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

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

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

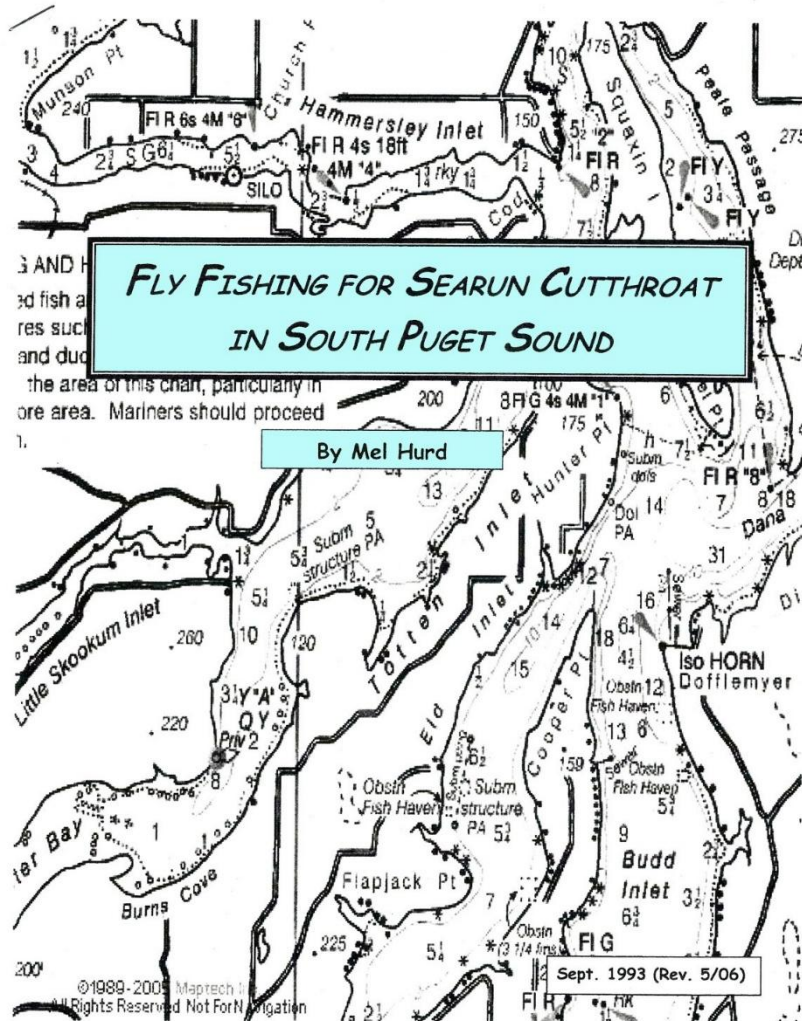
Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous  
May 22-24, 2026  
Craig, MT

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

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

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

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



This is a 20 page booklet written by Mel Hurd, a 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 donation of \$10 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.





I hope you have warm socks!!!! And some of those little gloves with the fingers cut off.

For this month's outing we soggy souls of the South Sound Fly Fishers are heading to the great Toutle River. I personally love the Toutle. There is not another river this accessible that feels so scenic once you are on it. If the drive or weekend crowds get in the way of you burrowing into the Olympics then the Toutle is just right. Wanna take a few pictures that will make it look like you are in the deepest, darkest, mossiest PNW steelhead water then bring your camera. This is where to do it, and then return to civilization within the hour.

I suggest going after the resident trout in the river. It's probably going to be miserable out weather wise. And the only thing better than getting skunked is getting skunked in the rain. If you haven't met Sam, go ask Sam. The two of us shivered through the better and worst part of a day without so much as a single bite a few months ago. It was glorious. Days like those are where you make your bones get to say you fly fish. A good skunking gets you farther down the path of excellence than ten sunny days of slaying stockers ever will.

But, we're here to have fun, so suffer on your own time. Resident trout. Floating line, indicators, and rip through your nymph wallet. It's cold and the water is yucky. So the fish are gonna be scared, lazy, and hungry. My plan is to use this new sliding/adjustable knot I learned on my tippet so I can quickly shift the depth of my nymphs. Prior to that I will tie one loud and proud pattern on. Then suspend something that looks like it could occur in nature below it.

Basic nymphing procedure will be what gets you through the day. When you find the piece of water you want to fish, envision a grid over it. Start close and shallow. Drift your nymphs through each square of said envisioned grid. I like to drift each square very precisely and usually about three times. Three is my magic number. If there are fish there, I figure the first drift just wakes them up. The second they'll go for it. They're just out of a cold lazy holding pattern though and could be sluggish. By the third drift they'll fight to see who gets to it. After I've gone over my imaginary fishing hole grid, I start making adjustments on depth as I reach into the deeper parts of the grid.

Ideally you want your nymphs just off of the bottom in the slower current. If you're feeling like a pro you should get a bounce off of the periodic rock or twig. When frustration comes with nymphing it is usually due to the hang ups. These come from running too much depth and poor line mending. There should not be a belly in your submerged line.

If you are getting one, adjust your indicator closer to your nymphs and start over. "Drift" your nymphs. Don't "drag" them. The trick to mending with a nymph is not mending because you shouldn't be. The more advanced nymphers will skip an indicator altogether. And just fish a straight (relatively straight) up and down tippet while they move their rod tip and line with the current.

Just remember there are multiple currents in your water column. The closer to the bottom you get, the slower the current. If you drift your line with the surface speed you will show an unnatural presentation. To find the speed of the bottom of the column that you can't see is where some of that fly fishing Yoda is needed. Feel the different currents affecting different sections of your line. It will make sense in the water if it doesn't now just reading this.

All that being projected at you, don't let the 'technical' aspects deter you. At some point it helps to accept that you are shaking shiny things in front of a fish. It can be more complicated than that, but it doesn't have to be. We all came to this game for the learning curve and it's not going anywhere. You may as well embrace it. And if all else fails go find our Ecology Chair, Christian. I only know my way around a nymph from fishing with him. This whole column was just parroted stuff he told me while he was catching fish and I wasn't.

For the good news, it's winter and the sky is a low ceiling of grey soup that's gonna keep the Brad Pitt wannabe's where they belong - in their lazy-boys in front of the fire watching how to fly fish tutorials. This means easy parking, easy wading and easy fishing. The only newbie spastic casting and snagging your special hat as you walk by will be me. But you should have heard me fall in the water and splash around cursing at myself way before you got close enough for me to get you with a back cast. So, if it happens, that's on you.

If you've given up on yourself completely and can weather the Zen of a good skunking, I'll be drifting wet flies somewhere. Not because I think it will be productive or fun even. But in the aspect of self-flagellation that was my decision to spend this year learning them. So, if you're up for a new challenge come by and give it a shot with me. Just stopping by because you heard someone crashed through the underbrush and fell off the bank head first and you wanna see if it's true, that's fine. I understand. I would too.

It's gonna be cold. The fishing is going to be technical. This outing will require grit and determination most of us haven't accessed in decades. But with enough layers, hot breakfast and steady egos we will enjoy ourselves. The camaraderie and nature is what we're all really here for. There is plenty of that right in front of us already. Keep a smile on your face. Make sure your fishing buddy is having a good time. And maybe, just maybe, you'll catch a fish while you're at it.

If all else fails, Chubby Chernobyl and a wiggly worm

For those of you that would like the specifics on this month's outing to the Toutle River on Feb 21. Please visit the club's [Events Calendar](#).

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	Trout / 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		River's 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 utilize 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/](https://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/](https://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%20and%20Support).

The SSFF will list the item(s) in both our monthly newsletter and our website [southsoundflyfishers.org](https://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

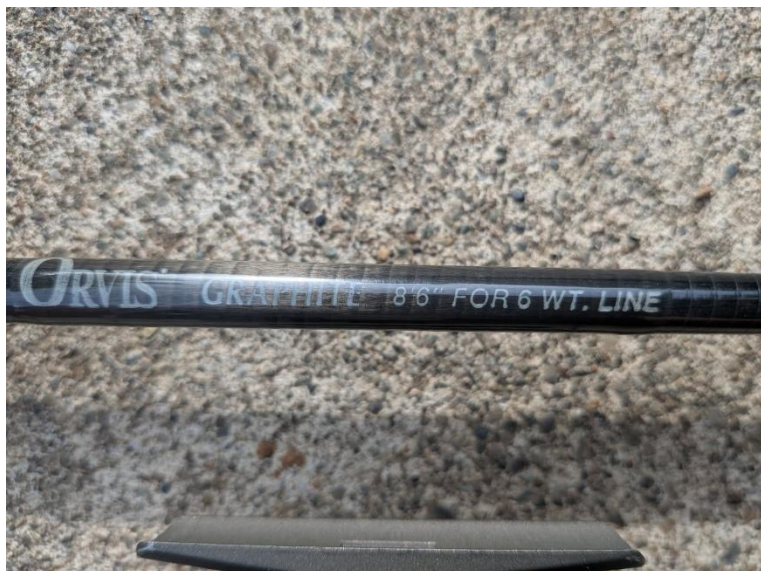
---

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



Ceramic Fish  
\$12.00



## Fowlers Magic Dragon

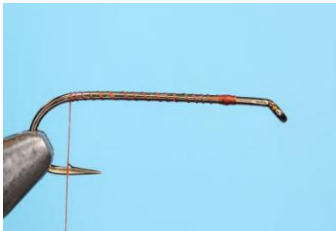
Written by: Jerry Coviello

Photographed & Tied By: Jerry Coviello

Creator: Andrew Fowler



Hook:	2XL Nymph Hook size 6 to 10
Thread:	6/0 Brown
Abdomen:	Olive/Brown marabou (Stacked around hook shank and trimmed in a triangle)
Legs:	Optional Sili Legs
Wingcase:	Brown Swiss Straw
Thorax:	Olive/Brown Dubbing
Eyes:	Medium Mono Dumbbell eyes



Secure the hook in the vise, and tie in your thread behind the eye. Wrap your thread to the bend of the hook.



Cut marabou fibers and tie them on the shank of the hook.



Wrap the marabou butt fibers back over the tips as shown.



Continue stacking the marabou fibers around the shank of the hook.



Fill up three quarters of the hook shank with the marabou fibers.



Trim the marabou body in the shape of a triangle. Cut the bottom flat. When wet the abdomen will be the shape of the dragonfly nymph abdomen.



Tie in Medium Black plastic dumbbell eyes. Glue them onto the hook shank.



Tie in the Swiss Straw wing case and wing pad. You can use turkey tail in place of the Swiss Straw.



Take the Swiss Straw and fold it over the wing pad. Tie in the first section of the rubber legs on each side of the hook shank.





Take dubbing fur and wrap the thorax. Then add the second rubber legs behind the eyes and dub over them and cross over the eyes with the dubbing fur, (I am using peacock ice dubbing for the thorax).



Pull the Swiss Straw wing case over the thorax and secure the Swiss Straw behind the eye. Whip finish and add a drop of head cement or Solarez UV Bone Dry for the head.





## 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](https://southsoundflyfishers.org)

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter

© February 2026