



South Sound Fly Fishers

The Garden Hackle

Volume 26 Issue 8

August 2026

[Annual Picnic](#)

[Introduction to Fly Tying class](#)

[Inspiring Kids Preserve](#)

Leader's Line

Bruce Lincoln, Club President



"Two things are infinite: the universe and human stupidity; and I'm not sure about the universe."

Like a number of other quotes attributed to Albert Einstein there is no record of him saying this. This really should be attributed to Anonymous.

"Intelligence is chasing me but so far I have it beaten."

Anonymous

"That guy Anonymous is a lot smarter than me."

Bruce Lincoln

Plop Splash.

Until recently I had no idea what plop splash meant. I kept experiencing that but I never had the insight as to what was happening. I readily admit, at this stage in life, that I am not as clever as I once thought.

For instance, I had a heck of a time understanding Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity. People mistakenly thought that I was pretty bright because I could take tests well. But for me to get into my head that the speed of light was a constant and that time and distance are not and what that meant for things that move fast.....dumfounded.

Plop Splash.

I had reality staring me in the face for many years. When plop splash happened, I thought that I had finally chosen the right fly to fish. But it always seemed that I could not continue the success.

There was one experience which probably deceived me into thinking that I had the right fly. In my defense, it was a sort of modified plop splash. I was in my mid teenage years fishing at a spring fed lake in the Snake River Canyon. It was one of those crystal-clear springs at the Thousand Springs sections where the Snake River increases its flow by one third because of the springs spilling out of the canyon wall.

I was fighting a forest of cattails around the lake and I had a disadvantage to the other anglers because I was fly casting. At that time, I did not have anything resembling a roll cast so I was catching a load of cattails. I did observe that even the bait anglers were not catching anything with fins so I soldiered on.

I decided to tie on a Muddler Minnow because I decided that it was the closest thing to a grasshopper that I had. Honestly, with my skill at tying deer hair it probably more resembled a mangled grasshopper than a sculpin. With a clumsy, cattail-avoiding cast my deer hair concoction predictably plopped on the water. I was rewarded by a flash of silver in the deepest cavern of that clear lake. Then nothing. I decided to give the line a little tug, and the bundle of hair moved the water. I was excited by another flash of silver now closer. Then nothing. The final tug rewarded me with a flash, a splash, and a fish. I still caught a bundle of cattails that afternoon, but I walked out of that lake past frustrated gear anglers with a fly rod, a stringer of fish and a smug teenage smile on my face.

Now I have figured out some other things. I have been surprised by enough trout hitting my dry fly after finishing a drift and while I have been fiddling with something on my vest to learn how to occasionally skate a fly. That can be great fun under the right circumstances. Even educated big browns will chase a skated fly across a few eddy lines under the right circumstance.

Plop Splash Snap.

I still did not figure it out after I experienced a plop, splash, snap on a clear mountain lake after I dropped an ugly bumble bee imitation on the lake's surface. I lost the big one. I then sat the rest of the afternoon watching another bumble bee imitation bob on the surface. I didn't get another hit.

I didn't comprehend what was happening or not happening until I was reading an article on fishing a golden stone hatch. The fellow mentioned that these bugs were clumsy fliers so they often splat on the surface and fish can get excited by this.

Thinking about myself I could not help but internally quoting Shoresy: "So dumb." This was not being a little bit dim and being unable to comprehend Einstein, but being "So dumb."

I am now tying up ugly bumble bee patterns to go up to that lake and plop them on the clear water. Regardless, it will be a nice day. There will be no cattails.

So to feel not "so dumb" here are some smart things to do.

Our annual SSFF CLUB PICNIC is replacing the monthly meeting on Tuesday the 18th. There will be food, good company, and games. Bring your fly rod. Murray and Tim have created a fly-casting golf course. See if you can make par.

We will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, and water. We are asking club members to bring a dish as outlined below according to your last name:

A-G: Side Dish or Salad

H-O: Snacks (chips, veggie plates)

P-Z: Desserts

The address is **Scott Lake Pavilions - 2500 Scotlac Dr SW, Olympia**

There is an outing on Kokanee Lake on Saturday the 22nd. I have heard good things about both trolling flies and casting dry flies on that lake. If you don't have a boat come to the picnic and we will hook you up with one. There is a preliminary plan to visit an establishment afterwards that serves Olympic Mountain Ice Cream to indulge your taste buds and shoot the breeze.

And don't forget the **September 12th Club/FFI Casting event**. Time to test your skills.

South Sound Fly Fishers - 2026 Meeting Dates	
Board Of Directors Meetings	Club Membership Meetings
Jan 13 - North Olympia Fire Station	Jan 20 - North Olympia Fire Station
Feb 10 - North Olympia Fire Station	Feb 17 - North Olympia Fire Station
Mar 10 - North Olympia Fire Station	Mar 17 - North Olympia Fire Station
Apr 14 - North Olympia Fire Station	Apr 21 - North Olympia Fire Station
May 12 - North Olympia Fire Station	May 19 - North Olympia Fire Station
June 9 - South Bay Fire Station 81	June 16 - South Bay Fire Station 81
July 14 - South Bay Fire Station 81	July 21 - South Bay Fire Station 81
Aug 11 - South Bay Fire Station 81	Aug 18 - Annual picnic at Scott Lake Pavilions - 2500 Scotlac Dr SW Olympia
Sept 8 - South Bay Fire Station 81	Sep 15 - South Bay Fire Station 81
Oct 13 - North Olympia Fire Station	Oct 20 - North Olympia Fire Station
Nov 10 - North Olympia Fire Station	Nov 17 - North Olympia Fire Station
Dec 8 - 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.

General membership meetings begin at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of every month, except December when there is no meeting. The physical meeting location will open at 6:30 pm if you want to visit and talk fly fishing.

Our in-person meeting this month will be our annual picnic. See above.

Bruce Lincoln

SSFF President

president@southsoundflyfishers.org



Time again to bug you. It's never too early to start thinking about learning to tie your own bugs. You can tie flies too, if you prefer. Yes, you can learn this. And you will catch fish using your flies!

Our **Introduction to Fly Tying** class will meet Mondays, Oct 5 through Dec 7, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM, except Columbus Day. We offer additional tips on Thursday night "lab" sessions Oct 22, Nov 5, Nov 19, and Dec 3, also 6:00 - 8:00 PM. Classes are held at the Olympia Center, 222 Columbia St NW, Olympia.

Students receive plenty of individual attention as they learn to tie eight flies. We can accommodate about 15 students, limited by the room size. We like to offer a good ratio of instructors to students because we all remember learning to tie. Our instructors are very patient. Yes, we can teach you these skills. If you ever thought. . . "?? Should I ??" Then yes, you should. Talk to us about it. We'd love to have you join us.

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 pattern

This is a very good starting course. Cost for instruction and all materials for you to tie ten each of eight different flies is only \$119. That is 80 flies for \$119. That works out to be \$1.49 per fly, that's not too bad!

Click to [Enroll - Olympia Department of Parks, Arts, and Recreation](#). Course #14905.

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 - [Please see above](#)

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



Community Comes Together to Build the 'Inspiring Kids Preserve' in Thurston County.

As summer is in full swing, hopefully, everyone is enjoying the warm weather and taking time to step outside and connect with the land. Here in Thurston County, an exciting and important project is well underway to ensure our local youth have a dedicated place to do exactly that: the Inspiring Kids Preserve.

Managed by the Capitol Land Trust, the Inspiring Kids Preserve is a 113-acre sanctuary located on the eastern shore of Henderson Inlet. Protecting a full mile of Puget Sound shoreline, the area hosts nearly every native tree species found in western Washington. This unique preserve is being designed specifically to connect children and families with nature through outdoor STEAM learning, safe nature play, and peaceful walking trails.

Making this grand vision a reality has been a true community effort. The Capitol Land Trust and several local companies have come together to volunteer their time and provide pro-bono work to get this ambitious project across the finish line. Notably, one of our very own club members, Bob Droll, and his Architect company played a key role in help designing the preserve.

Recently, Bob invited Bill Robinson (Bill served as a board member with Capitol Land Trust before his Retirement) and me to join him to get a hands-on preview of the site and assist with some construction. We built a privacy screen that will eventually enclose the bathrooms, a bike rack, and a potential map display to guide visitors once the preserve officially opens.

Getting a sneak peek of the project was an incredibly rewarding experience, and the sheer scale of the operation is impressive. Heavy equipment is actively transforming the site: American Pump and Drill is currently drilling a well over 600 feet deep to provide fresh water at no cost. A beautiful, arched beamed structure is about to get its roof installed before the rainy weather approaches.

By providing such an inviting space to explore, play, and disconnect from daily stress, the Inspiring Kids Preserve will soon help visitors of all ages build a lifetime of respect and stewardship for our natural world. It is a brilliant reminder of what our community can achieve when we come together for a great cause.

Future volunteer work is scheduled at the end of this month with Washington Trails Association, your chance to do some light trail work meet new people and be one of the first to walk the preserve before its open to the public

<https://www.wta.org/volunteer/schedule/workparty/a2mPB000006aT6V/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4lMghii3QP0>

<https://capitollandtrust.org/connecting/details>







South Sound Fly Fishers

Membership Report - July 2026

Total membership as of this date: 83

Total new members in 2026: 14

Please welcome the following individuals who have joined the SSFF during the month of July.

- Ronald Lleisner 7/21
- Danni Eagan 7/19
- Samuel Harris 7/20

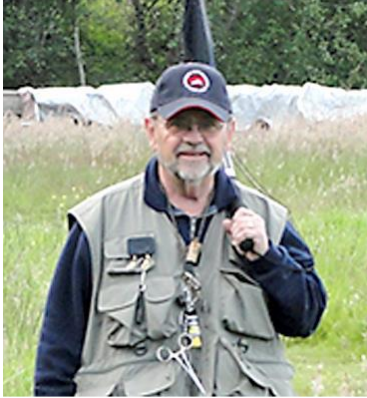
The board has authorized a grid raffle, where we will be issuing a lifetime membership to one lucky member.

This will be done via a grid raffle where you may purchase one, or multiple squares. Each square will cost \$10.00. The grid will consist of 100 squares (10 x 10). Once all squares have been purchased, one of the squares will be chosen randomly. This will take place at one of general membership meetings. The person who purchased the selected square will have a lifetime membership to the SSFF. You need not be present at the meeting to win.

More to come.

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

Mike Clancy, Chair



Fly Fishers International

The Fly Shop in Redding, CA presents FlyFest 2026, September 24-26. [Registration](#) is now open.

If fly fishing matters to you, this is a weekend worth holding onto. FlyFest offers three full days of educational presentations, fly-tying and casting demos, a trade show, and time set aside for fly fishing, food, and fellowship, all under one roof and covered by a single registration fee. The weekend closes with a community dinner and auction, celebrating the fly-fishing community, and supporting the work of Fly Fishers International.

Fly Fishing for Searun Cutthroat in South Puget Sound By Mel Hurd, longtime member of SSFF

We request a \$10 donation to cover the postage and printing; my labor to get it to you is free.

It's a wonderful booklet, easy reading, 20 pages, on where and when to fish for Searun Cutthroat in South Puget Sound. It also recommends what equipment to use.

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

Future and Past Events

I am happy to report that the NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy was another successful event. 16 wonderful boys and girls attended, 12-16 years old. They were a pleasure to be around. I was invited to attend again this year to help as needed. I was assigned to monitor the lake while they were fly fishing. There were two ghillies on the lake while they were fishing. If there was a problem they would report to me, and I would react. Nothing ever needed reporting.

Clark-Skamania Fly Fishing Club of Vancouver, WA are planning a casting fair for Fall 2027.

Women Connect had an event on the Missouri River from May 22-24. It was reported as being very successful.

On Sept. 12, 2026 from 9 am - 3pm SSFF will host our second annual fly casting skills development course at Tumwater Historical Park, 802 Deschutes Way SW, Tumwater, WA. There will be testing available for the bronze, silver, and gold casting levels.

Outings

Jesse Bakke, Chair



The following is a list of the remaining schedule events for the year.

 South Sound Fly Fishers - 2026 Outings			
July 24-26	Cowlitz Campout	Trout/Steelhead	Club dinner Fri or Sat Night
August 18	Annual Picnic		Aug 18 - Annual picnic at Scott Lake Pavilions - 2500 Scotlac Dr SW Olympia
August 22	Lake Kokanee	Trout	Thurston County
September 12	SSFF Casting Event	9:30 am - 3:00 pm	Tumwater
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

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 two 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/

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

Pflueger Summit 9' 9wt 2 piece graphite rod with sock and case
\$45



Trout net
\$15



G-Loomis GL3 9' 8 wt 4 piece rod with sock and case
plus
System2 7/8 reel with 3 extra spools all loaded with various lines, 2 spool carry cases
\$380



Temple Fork Outfitters
9' 8 wt 4 piece rod with sock
\$125



G-Loomis GL3 9' 7 wt 4 piece rod with sock and case
\$180





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

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