



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

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June 2016

President Don discusses Salmon seasons and fishing regulations.

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June 21 Club Program features Kris Wilson sharing his extensive experience and knowledge of Salmon and Steelhead fishing.

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Some interesting history about Price Lake shared by SSFF Past President Mel Hurd

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Leaders Line

June 12, 2016

Greetings,

June at last: rivers and high lakes openers, graduations, weddings, and it's 30 degrees cooler than it was in April this morning. Go figure. One point to keep in mind is that many fishing regulations are changed this season from what we may be used to.

Although the focus of controversy has been over salmon runs, many sport fishing opportunities have been lost in the rush to protect failing stocks. The WDFW pamphlets are still at the printers, so before you leave to fish your favorite and regular haunts, you can double check *current* regulation on line at <http://wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/regulations/> . Although the enforcement officers are more likely to issue warnings in the first days of a season, it's best to be prepared.

June also is the season for the Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. Additional help is always welcome, so if you've found time to help escort young anglers, especially for the river fishing outings, it's not too late to contact Jim Brosio and volunteer.

Best Regards,

Don Freeman

(editor note: Please see page 4 for more information on volunteering at the Academy)

SSFF June Program Features Kris Wilson



1 The "Moneymaker" tied and photographed by Gene Rivers

--from Kris Wilson

My name is Kris Wilson. I am native to Western Washington and I have been fishing for salmon and steelhead here in the Northwest for nearly twenty-five plus years.

During the last fifteen to twenty years or so fly-fishing for these fish has become my favorite method and consumes most my angling time on the water. I make no value judgments on choice of angling method so long as they are ethical, but the swung fly and its derivatives bring me the greatest personal satisfaction. I have guided in the past but it is not my calling. I am somewhat secretive about my favorite haunts and prefer to share them selectively with friends for fellowship and solitude rather than money. I am however deeply passionate and open about sharing my methods, theory, conservation, and philosophy of angling for these fish with a fly.

I derive much pleasure helping fly anglers become more successful with swung fly techniques. When not fishing I try to remain on the river as much as possible and pursue my other passion of whitewater kayaking. I guess you could say rivers run in my blood and likely always will.

My presentation will cover the following topics in a dry, dense, no BS format that has one goal in mind. That goal is to bring understanding and to increase your success in angling for salmon and steelhead with swung fly techniques. Notes and questions are encouraged. There will be no hero shots, no self promotion, no allegiance to product or brands. This will be a presentation given by an angler to fellow anglers for the soul purpose of increasing your success, enjoyment, and answering burning questions that you cannot glean from books or other sources.

Equipment

Methods for both steelhead and salmon and how they differ

Fly presentation, really fishing the fly

Reading water

Lines for salmon and steelhead both spey and single hand tactics

Fly design and build

Angling strategy in a modern fishing landscape

Keeping things simple

GENE RIVERS

Program Chair

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Fly Fishing the Olympic Peninsula



Report on the fly fishing workshop organized by

Judy Graham, SSFF Education Chair

On Saturday June 11th members of South Sound Fly Fishers attended a workshop conducted by Guide Jim Kerr owner of RainCoast Guides. This was an on-the-water outing as well as a classroom seminar on fly fishing the world class rivers of the Olympic Peninsula. The Peninsula offers a large variety of fish that will take a properly presented fly. The trick is learning where and how to catch these fish and that was what this event was all about.

Most of the morning was spent with Jim and his assistant, Ryan Bullock, discussing the fish that can be caught in each river in each month of the year. They reviewed when and where to go for a particular species of fish. Jim and Ryan know these rivers in detail and it is easy to see why they are reputed to be among the top guides of the Olympic Peninsula. Discussion included all the various types of Salmon, Steelhead, Sea Run Cutthroat and resident fish that can be fished each season. Group members were encouraged to mark up their maps and take careful notes.

From mid-morning until the late afternoon the group fished the Quillayute River by drift boat stopping at likely fish holding spots along the way. Jim and Ryan set up a variety of single and double handed fly rods so group members could tryout a variety of rods and lines to help them find a combination that worked well for them. Individual attention was given to members on casting spey rods and Jim demonstrated a number of spey casting techniques.

In the mid-afternoon the group enjoyed a tasty barbecue and then returned to the drift boats to fish the lower reaches of the Quillayute. This was an excellent time to put into practice the techniques and tips learned earlier in the day.

After the boats reached the takeout point, group members talked about wanting more of these types of workshop and outings sponsored by the club. Thank you to Judy Graham and Don Freeman for their efforts in putting this event together.

NW YOUTH CONSERVATION & FLY FISHING ACADEMY - 2016



By Mike Clancy

2016 Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is set and ready to go. We have 18 boys and 2 girls. All their essays and letters of recommendation are in and it appears we have another great group of kids. The Academy is June 19-25 on Hicks Lake at The Gwinwood Community Center in Lacey. We have a fantastic instructor lineup with IFFF, CCI casting instructors, fly tying professionals and conservation experts. Last year we had over 50 volunteers. The 2016 Academy would not take place if it was not for the generous support from the Fly Fishing Clubs, TU Chapters, corporate and private donors.

The kids will be fishing at new ponds in Graham, and the Deschutes River in Thurston County. Everyone is welcome to visit us during the week to learn what is happening (please call 1st to insure we are available), if you are available for guiding, we could use your help, especially in the evenings on the river. If you want to help - please contact Jim Brosio @ 360-481-5184. Seriously folks, we could really use your help with the guiding in the evening on the river. It's really not guiding, it's being there to make sure the kids are safe, but you could share your experience on fishing a river with them. We will provide the transportation to the sites. Mike Clancy, Co-Director, NWYCFF Academy, 253-278-0061



2 Jim Brosio fishing Omak Lk. Photos courtesy of Howard Nanto

PRICE LAKE & South Sound Fly Fishers By Mel Hurd

It was a late Sunday night in the Spring of 1969 and I was sitting in the mess decks of the USS Tatnuck moored at PSNS Bremerton. Suddenly the door to the mess swung open and through it stepped a shipmate with several very respectable brook trout dangling from a stringer. I had been watching something on TV but my attention immediately became focused on these gorgeous trout. I soon learned where these gorgeous trout came from - Price Lake in Mason County.

Within a week or so a buddy and I found ourselves on the waters of Price Lake enjoying its beauty, charm and abundance of trout. I was totally hooked. So all that year and the next we spent numerous weekends there.

Fast forward to the year 1975 when yours truly, having been discharged from Uncle Sam's Canoe Club, relocated to Olympia, and became a member of the South Sound Fly Fishers (SSFF). Wanting to share the charms of Price Lake with my fellow fly anglers, it wasn't long before other SSFF's were also enjoying the fishing at Price Lake. At that time, the only access to the lake was through a property leased from the Simpson Timber Co. The property was known as the Price Lake Resort, although to call it a resort was a bit of a stretch; more like a primitive campground with one-holers. A somewhat seasoned wooden rowboat was included with the price of admission so I suppose it could have fallen into the resort category.

In the early 1980's, the proprietor's lease on the property was terminated when his rustic residence burnt to the ground. Subsequently, the State of Washington formulated plans to punch a road into the lake, and to manage it under standard put-and-take regulations, a decision that many anglers in the region found completely unacceptable. And so the alarm went out to clubs within the Northwest Council of Federation of Fly Fisherman to oppose the adoption of the proposed regulations, with the SSFF assuming a lead role in that effort. In the end, Price Lake became the State's first lake to be managed under wild-trout management regulations. An interesting aside to this story is the fact that the only other fishing regulation issue that generated more letters to the State was the Boldt Decision. Price Lake clearly holds a very special place in the hearts of many Washington anglers.

Once under new regulations, it became apparent more work needed to be done to enable the lake to sustain wild trout. And so the SSFF and other federation clubs in the region joined forces with the State towards that end. Specifically, the clubs worked to increase the spawning productivity of the resident Eastern brook trout by, 1) cleaning the existing spawning gravel in the lake, and, 2) adding additional spawning gravel into the lake via a helicopter. How effective these efforts were, has never been determined to the best of my knowledge. However, I'd submit that these efforts neither harmed the fish nor damaged the environment.

To help determine the degree to which trout were successfully spawning in the lake and its tributaries, club members helped conduct annual creel censuses. I'm not sure which years the censuses were conducted, and what they revealed. However, I distinctively remember such Northwest fly fishing luminaries as Bruce Ferguson and Pat Trotter were involved, and it was always enjoyable and educational to talk with them.

The creel censuses mentioned above were always held on opening day of lowland lakes, and for many years was an official SSFF outing. Typically, the faithful would pitch their tents in a wide spot of the logging road near the trailhead to the lake on the night prior to the Sunday opener. And just as typical, we'd gather around someone's campfire after dinner, where we'd swap lies while enjoying our favorite beverage. The next morning we'd haul our gear down the 600-yard path to the lake and partake in a true quality angling experience; Price Lake never disappointed regardless of how many (or few) trout came to the net.

To recall all the memories generated at Price Lake outings would be impossible, but suffice it to say there are many. A few of my favorite include the night a large herd of elk crashed through the brush uncomfortably close to our tent, and had us wondering whether or not we'd be better off staying in our bags or taking our chances by exiting the tent stage right. We stayed put and lived to tell about it.

And then there was the Sunday morning when two club members showed up having spent the entire night bending elbows at a local watering hole. As one might suspect, they were both a few notches shy of sobriety, so when they climbed into their respective float tubes, stroked out into the lake and promptly drifted into unconsciousness we were not surprised. Concerned yes, but surprised no. I'd like to think we wouldn't allow such a thing to happen today.

The last story involves a couple avid anglers who, having just purchased float tubes and chest waders from a local fly shop, experienced extreme crotch-seam failure in their waders immediately upon entering the lake. When they recovered from the shock of having their sensitive parts suddenly exposed to *very* chilly water and were once again capable of speech, the disparaging remarks they uttered regarding the heritage of the gentleman from whom they purchased their chest waders were definitely not for mixed company. One can only assume the defective waders were returned to the shop with dissatisfaction properly noted.

In a state that has no shortage of lakes capable of offering a fly angler a quality angling experience, Price Lake may not be in the top five in many anglers' opinions. However, for many of us Price Lake offers something unique and in ever decreasing supply, that is, an opportunity to cast a fly in an unspoiled environment for fish that have never seen a hatchery raceway or eaten an Oregon Moist Pellet. For that reason alone, it deserves our protection, so that future generations can enjoy all that it has to offer.

Mel Hurd



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Figure 4 Gary Kellogg Photo by Howard Nanto



5 Tom Case Searun fishin'on a misty December day

The Treasurer's Creel by Dave Field, Club Treasurer

A reminder that dues are now \$40.00. If you haven't paid 2016 dues yet just bring cash or a check payable to SSFF to the next meeting. You can also mail your dues. Mail to SSFF, PO Box 2792, Olympia WA 98507. Dues for new members joining the club are \$45.00. The additional five dollars is to cover the cost of your name tag and South Sound Finn patch.

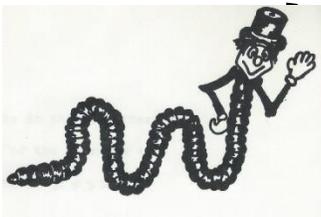


Please notify Don Harold or me know if you have a change in your contact information. Thank you.

The club will have another tailgate party at Munn Lake in September to thank the "Friends" and club website and in the Garden Hackle.

Tight Thread,

Dave



Please -- do not park your car or truck in North Olympia Fire Department's Emergency Vehicle Driveway during SSFF meetings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the station are full, please use the parking area behind the building.

Willy Worm says thank you!



South Sound Fly Fishers

OFFICERS, DIRECTORS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Club Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month except December, starting at 6:30pm. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:00 pm. Both regularly scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station (Boston Harbor Fire Station) 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA.