



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

THE GARDEN HACKLE

Volume 18 Issue 10

October 2018

Page 1

President Wayne talks about the fall fishing activities.

Page 3

Gene Rivers discusses the October program featuring author David Paul Williams.

Page 6

Jim McAllister on the upcoming Chum Salmon outing..

The Leader's Line

By President Wayne Dixon Sr.



Greetings everyone,

It's that time of year when the leaves are orange and a brisk breeze reminds us all that summer has left us for the moment. As we prepared to hunker down for a long winters nap so do our friends in the rivers.

Like the bears, our fish are preparing to fatten up before a long cold swim in the winter rivers and lakes. Dry fly fishing is not over, just on hiatus for a while. Although there are a some hatches that happen in the winter, a more productive use of your weekends would be to go sub surface. A lot of folks tend to think that winter fishing in the PNW is limited to steelhead.

There is however a lot of trout fishing still available on the Yakima, Spokane, and Deschutes. Red Brassies, zebra midge, Pats Stonefly, and egg flies (Yellow/orange) are always my favorite producers in the cloud covered days of November and December.

Late winter in eastern Washington, you might try a zebra midge or brassie dropped off a parachute Adams at 6-8 inches will cover both stages and produce fish. Muddler minnows (dark brown) imitate a sculpin and can produce some big trout.

I didn't even mention the great winter Sea Run Cutthroat and Coho fishery we have here in the sound. Whatever your thrill, winter does not signify the end of fly fishing, only the shifting of gears, dressing a little different and exploring the many options we have here in the South Sound area.

Fish On!

Pease,

Wayne



Photo by Howard Nanto



Fly Fishing for Bass in the Northwest

Our October program is one I have wanted to schedule for some time. Author David Paul Williams will be our speaker. A well known expert on Bass fishing David is known for his book “Fly Fishing for Western Smallmouth”.

David’s presentation will cover Bass fishing for both Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass in the Northwest. This is your chance to learn from an expert.

David will be tying flies prior to the meeting he will also have books for sale and will be happy to sign his book.

David Paul Williams sent the following information:

Washington’s Best Smallmouth Bass Waters In this where to go and how to catch them presentation, David Paul Williams, “the acknowledged northwest master of smallies on the fly,” covers some of the best Washington smallmouth bass waters, plus a bonus of some great largemouth waters as well.

David Paul Williams caught his first smallmouth bass in 1972 and loves to share his knowledge of this amazing gamefish. Author of Fly Fishing for Western Smallmouth (Stackpole Books), he has written for numerous magazines including Fly Fisherman, American Angler, Northwest Fly Fishing, Fly Fusion, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, Bassmaster, Salmon-Trout-Steelheader, Salmon Steelhead Journal, Backpacker, Northwest Travel, Seattle Magazine.

David is a Department Editor of Flyfishing & Tying Journal, the "In The Field" editor for Washington-Oregon Game & Fish magazine and gives entertaining media presentations to fishing clubs and outdoor organizations. He is a demonstration fly tier and speaker at numerous fly fishing expos and sportsmen's shows.

He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fly Fishers International and Editor-In-Chief of Flyfisher magazine as well as secretary and former newsletter editor of the Washington Council FFI.

This will be an very informative and fun presentation so don't miss the October program! See you on the 16th

Gene Rivers





Photo by Howard Nanto

Greetings Anglers,

As you probably know SSFF has the election of officers at the club's Annual Meeting in November. The Directors are then appointed by the club president.

During my time as Conservation Chair the club worked with the WDFW and volunteers to jump start the fledgling sea run cutthroat studies begun by club members, which spawned the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition as we know it today. We are proud of this work and continue to support it. We started the Munn Lake project that continues to provide year around opportunity for members and the public alike. It's been fun.

I have been serving as the Conservation and Political Chair on and off for long enough that it's time for someone else to have a turn. That's what past President Gary Kellogg said to me to guilt me into being president myself the first time. "We all enjoy the club so it's only fair to take your turn to keep it going". Well the club will be celebrating its 50 year birthday next year so we've been keeping it going for quite a while. The club has a long history and solid reputation as supporting our resources, so I'm passing that torch to someone who can come in with fresh energy for common interests, but I will be available to work with the new chair.

If you are asked to serve as a director, do not hesitate to help out. You will find it a very positive and rewarding experience.

Tight lines,

Don Freeman

Club Outings

Jim McAllister Outings chair



Hello Fellow Fly Fishers,

The October outing will be at Hoodspport where we will target some big Chum Salmon. This outing will be October 27th the last Saturday of October. Put it on your calendar as it is always a great outing to attend with fellow club members.

For those of you unfamiliar with this fishery we will have some experienced fly fishers on hand that are happy to share their knowledge with you. This is an outing that we can guarantee you will long remember. Fishing the Chum run is always exciting because they are a strong fish that will test you and your fly fishing equipment.

I will provide more details at the October 16th club meeting but here is a basic outline of the outing.

When: Saturday October 27th

Where: Hoodspport. Meet up at Haggén's parking lot 8:00AM and convey/carpool to fishing spot in Hoodspport.

Bring: 8 wt. minimum rod with 15 to 20 lbs leader and tippet. Dress warmly and bring a salmon net if you have one. Bring your own water and snack or lunch. Also remember your fishing license with salmon catch record card. Licensing is required even if we catch and release all the fish. We will discuss optional floating devises and answer any questions you have at the October 16th club meeting.

Outing Backcast:

The September outing was at Hidden Lakes. These are warm water lakes that are close in. We fished the lakes from the bank and had success with both wet and dry flies. Members had a good time hooking Blue Gill and Bass.

Tight lines,

JIM



Fly Tying Class

SSFF and the City of Olympia are holding four beginners fly tying classes on Monday nights running through the month of October at the Olympia Center. The class runs from 6:30 to 8:30 each Monday night. The class will be taught by Janet Schimpf and assisted by Jim Maus who has many years of tying experience.

There are two more seats available for this class and registration is still open. Call 360.753.8380, or register in person at The Olympia Center (222 Columbia St NW, Olympia, WA 98501) Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-7:30 p.m. and Saturday 9 am-4 p.m. The cost is only \$39 for all four classes.

Janet Schimpf was inducted into the Washington State Council FFI Fly Tying Hall of Fame at the Ellensburg Fly Fishing Fair this year. Janet is the first woman so honored. Janet estimates she ties “a couple of hundred dozen flies a year” for her commercial tying business. Janet works at her bench most days. She teaches tying at the annual NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy and shares her tying knowhow at SSFF programs and FFI events. After 40 years of commercial tying Janet still enjoys the process of tying sturdy beautiful flies such as the Olive Willie and a Crawdad pattern with feather claws.

Jim Maus has tied countless flies over the years and is often seen tying some of his favorite flies at various fly club and FFI sponsored events in the Northwest. Jim has tied most types of flies fished in Northwest waters. His knowledge is extensive when it comes to fishing and he and Janet make a great teaching team.

Fundraising

John Sabo Fundraising Chair



Greetings Fellow Fly Fishers,

Continued Support of the South Sound Fly Fishers' Alan Harger Fund

The club has received generous donations of fly fishing gear and equipment, with the stipulation that the items only be used to generate monetary donations to the club's Alan Harger Fund. Alan was a long-time supporter of the Club and Fly Fishing in the South Sound. Al's will establish the Fund, in his name, to support the NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy. Since that time, the Club has maintained the Fund, which makes annual donations to the Academy.

The club continues to welcome cash donations and donations of fly fishing gear and equipment that is targeted toward sustaining the Al Harger Fund. See me at the Raffle Table before the meeting.

The donated fly fishing gear will be on a table at the rear of the room at the next meeting, September 18th. All funds raised will be deposited in the Al Harger Fund, for the benefit of the Academy. Stop by the table before the meeting or at the break (items will not be available after the meeting), and find just the things you need for this fly fishing season.

SSFF Patches

Official SSFF Patches are available at the Raffle Table for only \$5. These can be placed on a cap, shirt, jacket, or fly fishing vest to show your membership in the club.

SSFF Stickers

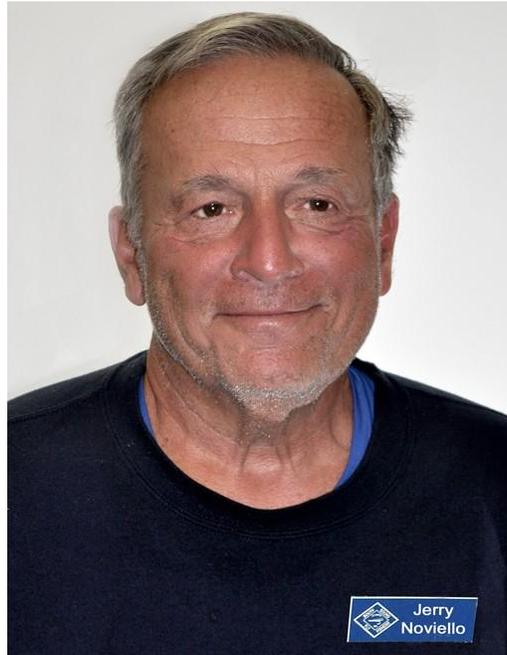
Official SSFF Stickers are available at the Raffle Table for only \$10. These can be placed on your boat, truck, auto, motorcycle, skateboard, or virtually any hard smooth surface to show your membership in the club.

John

Membership

by Randy Allen, VP

Please welcome Jerry Noviello



Jerry Noviello - Although new to Olympia, and new to fly fishing, Jerry is not new to fishing. He fished most of his life in the East enjoying the New York Finger Lakes and Pennsylvania. It's rare to meet folks who know Alexandria Bay, 1000 Islands, New York; Jerry knows the beautiful St. Lawrence River well and shares many fond memories of that wonderland. He moved to Olympia earlier this year and found SSFF. Now he's spending the *better* part of his life in our Northwest.

His Florida friends are fly fishers, but never managed to nudge Jerry from bait and spin fishing. But, he knew they were having a great time. With his move to Olympia he also moved into fly fishing, and is enjoying all the area has to offer. He's outfitted himself for both salt and fresh water. A week or two ago he fished the Humptulips River and a couple of days ago Priest Point. He will volunteer his experience there, but the fish were pretty tight-lipped about it. It's fishing. Jerry's interested in learning all our members can teach. Jerry's outgoing personality is a great fit as he's looks forward to meeting new fishing friends in the club.

And, congratulations on your nice King Salmon! That should open conversations. Welcome, Jerry!

Welcome Kody Etzinga



Kody Elzinga - Kody grew up and learned to fish in Michigan. His dad was an avid fly fisher who started Kody fishing at a young age. Like father, like son - he became seriously interested in fly fishing when he was about 14-15. He learned to fly fish Michigan's world-class streams, the same spectacular rivers Hemingway wrote about most.

In the winter of 2017-2018, responding to a new job opportunity, and ready to experience new parts of the country and new waters, Kody moved to Olympia. He remains in close contact with several buddies who also transplanted west, to Eugene, Oregon. True to his upbringing his fly-fishing love remains river fishing. From Michigan rivers to Oregon's Umpqua, Willamette, and other world-class waters, Kody's there. Recently Kody camped with his buddies and fished nymphs and October caddis on the Willamette River, outside Eugene. With a huge smile he reports the evening dries brought him some very respectable trout!

Lucky for us - Kody found the SSFF as he sought local clubs on-line. He's enjoying connecting with new fishing friends, learning the Northwest fisheries, and local techniques. And for something different than he's used to, he's looking forward to our Hoodsport chum outing.

With all your background you're going to be a sought-after asset. We welcome to you and all you're bringing to the club, too, Kody!



Hello fly Fishers,

We experienced another wonderful event in Boise in August. The Fly Fishers International again conducted a very successful Fly Fishing Fair. Attendance, income, vendor success, programs were the best they have ever experienced. We conducted another successful Youth Camp, unfortunately we were limited to indoor activities, due to the 108 degree weather. Next year, the event will be held in Bozeman, MT.

At the request of our newsletter editor, Dave asked me to write about my experience at The Fair this year. I was awarded the President's Award and in addition, The FFI Lew Jewett Memorial Award. "This award is presented to an individual who, preferably, but not necessarily, is a non-professional who had promoted the sport through youth education, innovation in equipment and technique, and overall biological knowledge of the system on which fly fishing depends." I sincerely appreciate the award, but I must give credit to our wonderful volunteers, who contribute their time for our youth of today. I also need to thank Dick Nye, Gene Rivers and some other unknown supporters for their support in me receiving this award. Thank you.

The President of the WSCFFI, Carl Johnson has stepped down from that office after 13 years. Carl has been a wonderful, dedicated leader that deserves a well-deserved rest. He will still be involved with the planning and execution of the annual Fly Fishing Fair. Bill Wheeler has assumed the responsibility of President of the WSCFFI.

The rewards of buying items at our SSFF Auctions

A couple of evenings ago, Debbie and Kevin Ryan, Mike and Danna Clancy enjoyed, again, another incredible prime rib dinner provided by Jane and Dave Field at their home overlooking Ward Lake. The evening started with hors-d'oeuvre and a wonderful selection of wines. David unveiled the prime rib purchased from Haggens, who supports the "Double-R-Ranch" in eastern Washington. Jane said he had cooked the prime rib all day. It was absolutely delicious. With all the trimmings, veggies, baked potatoes, and Yorkshire Pudding. The meal was wonderful following with a great desert. After dinner drinks, with Sheffield Twany Port and Bailey's Irish Cream were enjoyed. The beauty of our event, we, the Ryan's, the Clancy's, the Field's support what our Club does for our community and our youth programs along with many, many more folks in our Club. Too many to number. See you at the next SSFF auction.

Here are some news releases from WDFW passed along by the State Council of FFI:

Action: Chinook salmon retention closes on the Toutle River and the North Fork Toutle. **Effective dates:** October 6, 2018 until further notice. **Species affected:** Chinook salmon **Locations:** The Toutle River from the mouth to the forks; the North Fork Toutle River from the mouth to the posted markers downstream of the fish facility.

Reason for action: Fall chinook salmon returning to the North Toutle Hatchery, located on the Green River, are tracking well below the pre-season forecast and are not currently projected to meet the hatchery broodstock goal. These fish must first migrate through the Toutle and North Fork Toutle rivers. Closing the Toutle River and North Fork Toutle River to chinook salmon retention will increase the number of hatchery fish available for broodstock and help ensure fishing opportunities in future years.

Additional information: The Green River is also currently closed to chinook retention. Retention of hatchery coho remains open on the Toutle, North Fork Toutle and Green rivers. All other permanent rules remain in effect. Please refer to the Sport Fishing Pamphlet for complete rule information.

Committee members sought for Puget Sound recreational fisheries enhancement group

OLYMPIA - The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) is seeking members of the sport fishing community to serve on a committee that oversees the Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Enhancement.

People interested in serving on the 10-member Puget Sound Recreational Fisheries Enhancement Oversight Committee have through Friday, Nov. 16 to apply.

The committee was created in 2003 by the Legislature to advise WDFW's Director on all aspects of the fisheries enhancement program. Key responsibilities of the program are to restore and enhance recreational fisheries in Puget Sound, ensure the productivity of sustainable populations of salmon and marine bottomfish, and promote recreational fishing opportunities.

Ten volunteers will be appointed to the oversight committee. Members serve two-year terms and may be re-appointed. The next term begins in January 2019 and expires in December 2020.

The committee, which is a broad representation of the sport fishing community, meets several times a year to review projects and provide guidance on funding activities related to the enhancement program.

To qualify, applicants should be closely linked and maintain strong communication with the recreational fishing community, have an understanding of salmon and bottomfish in Puget Sound and be able to attend the meetings.

Fish on,

Mike



This is another story from fly fisher, fly tier, mariner, college teacher and longtime SSFF board member Gary Oberbillig

Greetings Fly Fishers,

This story is about fishing Coldwater Lake. The story of Coldwater Lake starts with the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens as it was this eruption that created this lake along with making huge changes to the entire area.

Before the eruption, the big lake we used to fish at the base of the mountain was Spirit Lake. For thousands of years Mt. St. Helens had periods of volcanic activity with earthquakes, steam vents and erratic currents on Spirit lake. The Native Americans called this lake Nyas Cultus meaning “very bad lake.” They generally stayed away from this area.

When we were kids we fished this majestic lake which produced Rainbow and Cutthroat trout. It was a beautiful lake with pumice rocks as far down as you could see in the clear water. We did not realize it at the time but we were fishing the lake during a quiet period for Mt. St. Helens.

The mountain awoke from its slumber in 1979 and 80. Many earthquakes and steam vents opened up as Mt. St. Helens went into an active phase. The public was warned to evacuate and stay away from the area. Most everyone left the area except a few scientists and a longtime owner of Mt St. Helens Lodge named Harry Truman. Harry became a local folk hero refusing to leave the Mountain he loved, saying that if the mountain goes, he’d go with it.



Spirit Lake as we fished it in the 1960-70’s



Coldwater Lake with Mt. St Helens in the distance

On May 18th 1980 Harry went with the mountain as it erupted with a sudden pyroclastic blast burying the lodge and Harry in hundreds of feet of mud, wood and debris. The eruption collapsed the north face and blew ash from here to Montana and beyond. Spirit lake and most of the surrounding forest were gone. The eruption filled the lake with debris decreasing its depth and blocking its outfall to the north fork of the Toutle. The lake turned toxic and soon lost most of its life sustaining oxygen.

Initial assessments of recovery were not optimistic. It was thought that it would take many years if not decades before life forms would return to the lake. In 1985 a tunnel was completed that cut through Harry's Ridge to Coldwater creek, thus restoring the water flows from the lake to the Toutle river. Within three years lake waters became oxygenated, the food chain was restored and life returned. It did not take long before hikers packed fish to Spirit Lake and the fish began multiplying. Today the lake has sustainable fish populations and rumors have it that the lake will someday be reopened to fishing.

As a result of the eruption we now we have a totally new lake to enjoy. Coldwater Lake is one of the state's newest lakes. The lake is a ribbon lake five mile long and about a half mile wide at its widest point.

WDFW made an initial plant of Rainbow and Cutthroat trout in the early 1980's and these fish reproduced naturally. Today we catch the offspring of the original fish. They have never seen a hatchery impoundment and are born and grow up essentially as a wild fish. We have fished the full length of the lake and noticed that Rainbows populate south end of the lake and the Cutthroat tend to predominate at the far end.

All the downed timber created a carpenter ant paradise, so ant patterns are some of the most effective dry patterns to use near shore. Mayfly patterns are effective on floating, slow sink or sink-tip lines. Various dark Wooley Buggers are also effective.

The prevailing southwest winds blow up the lake from the boat access point. So watch weather conditions to avoid being stuck at the far end of the lake by a strong wind.

In addition to the creation of Coldwater Lake, Castle Lake was also formed during the eruption. Some SSFF club members report they have fished this body of water and caught some nice fish amongst the stumps and downed timber in this lake. Castle Lake is harder to access but can obviously reward a fly fisher willing make the trip.

It may take another 50 years before the forests are fully restored around the Mt. St Helens area but we trust that our grandchildren will have the chance of experiencing the tall forests we enjoyed at the base of this mountain many years ago.



Club Bulletin Board:

Help Coastal Cutthroat Trout. Volunteers are needed by the WDFW Coastal Cutthroat Trout Program. Learn about these iconic fish as you work to help further their recovery. If you would like to help--Call **Bill Young** at 360-426-8416. Bill has been a volunteer studying these fish and their habitat for many years. Please leave a message if Bill is out doing a redd count on a local stream. To learn more about these native fish, click on Coastal Cutthroat Coalition on the club website.



TEXT Your Poaching / Violation Tip

Enter WDFWTIP (a space) and the Report
Send to: 847411 (TIP411)
Reports are completely anonymous

Please...keep the Fire Station's fire and medic truck driveway clear of vehicles during all SSFF meetings. If the designated parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please use the parking areas behind the building.



Willy Worm says thanks....

FFI Fly of the Month

RAGHEAD SCULPIN



Published by Bob Bates

Fly Fishers International - Washington Council

OPENING COMMENTS

Stories about the Raghead Sculpin and fish would fill a book if they were all brought together. Since I live in the Northwest most of them are about the north Idaho cutthroat streams, but there are many others. If you search the internet you will find it used by Ozark anglers, also.

Mike Mercer developed it a few years ago. Steve Moran a local guide, rod builder, wood inlay artist and all around good guy found out about it and started spreading the word. Now if you know anything about guides they can tell you some great stories. There is no way to verify the voracity of them. However, there has to be a lot of truth in what he says or his repeat business would drop off. Steve is also a great tier, and I have tried for years to get him to the Washington Fly Fishing Fair, in Ellensburg, Washington. However, he always has guide trips scheduled during that time.

Fortunately, Janet Schimpf, a professional tier, was at the 2012 Washington Fly Fishing Fair in Ellensburg, WA and she was tying the Raghead Sculpin among other patterns.

Any kind of line can be used with this pattern. It all depends on the depth of water you are fishing and how fast the water is moving. People use full sink, sink tip and floating lines. In one story I was told, the angler knew that fish sometimes stay in relative safety under overhanging branches. In this case the branches touched the water but didn't penetrate. He was using a floating line and cast nearly to the bank up stream of the branches. He knew that the fly would sink just enough to miss the branches. A nice cutthroat thought it was a meal. Sometimes to fish this pattern you will go to the bottom where the real sculpins live. Most of the time I fish on or near the bottom.

MATERIALS LIST

Hook: Daichi 2421 size 4

Thread: Uni thread 8/0 Camel (Brown, tan or olive)

Eyes: Eye balls, brass, pre-painted

Body and tail: EZE Bug yarn, a very bulky material. Also called Raghead in yarn shops. Janet buys it in tan and marks it with yellow and brown marking pens to give it a mottled look.

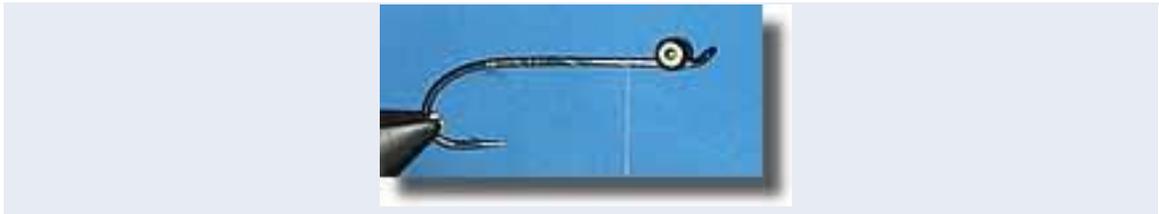
Pectoral fins: Swiss straw from fly shops or craft stores, olive or olivebrown

TYING STEPS



STEP 1

Attach the thread near the back and spiral it to the front. Leave thread near the hook eye.



STEP 2

Start with the eyes parallel to the hook shank. Put a few thread winds over the eyes, twist eyes perpendicular to the shank, put a few figure eights thread winds then thread winds behind and in front of the eyes. Make sure the eyes are secure.



Step 3

Secure yarn to shank just in front of the bend to give a shank length tail.



STEP 4

Wrap yarn forward in close wraps to make it buggy. Secure it under the hook leaving a little space behind eyes.



STEP 5

Open up a piece of Swiss Straw and tear off a ¼-inch wide strip. Hold on side of hook, bind it to shank, pass it under the shank and secure again. Have a good length of Swiss Straw for each side it will be trimmed later.



STEP 6

Move the thread forward to near hook eye. Wrap yarn forward to one wrap behind the eyes, one wrap in front of the eyes. Then make one wrap from front to back between the eyes, one wrap from back to front between the eyes and tie off yarn in front of the eyes of the fly and the eye of the hook.



STEP 7

Secure yarn trim and whip finish. Take fly out of vise to trim pectoral fins at about mid shank. (Some instructions say to trim the bottom wool at the front to make a flat head.)

CLOSING COMMENTS

OK you probably cannot see the pectoral fins in the last picture, but remember the fish can see things we can't. Some tiers use tan Rag wool for the tail and back part of the pattern which they wrap up to where the pectoral fins will be and tie it off there (Step 4). After attaching the pectoral fins they switch to olive Rag Wool for the front part of the pattern around the eyes. It is also called Mercer's Rag Sculpin and Rag Wool Sculpin.

The Garden Hackle thanks FFI Clubwire for sharing this pattern



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS - 2018

Officers, Directors, Chairs and Club Information

President: Wayne Dixon Sr. wkdixon@gmail.com

Vice President: Randy Allen randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Secretary: Mark Brownell brownellmi@outlook.com

Treasurer: Jim Maus jimmaus@comcast.net

Past President: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

Director at Large: Ben Dennis flyrodranch@comcast.net

Conservation: Don Freeman donfreeman74@gmail.com

Education: Max Doerge mdoerge@live.com

Fundraising: John Sabo chrisonquince@comcast.net

Membership: Vacant (Randy Allen Acting) randyandcarol2@gmail.com

Outings: Jim McAllister Jimspacmule@msn.com

Programs: Gene Rivers acu4pets@hotmail.com

The Garden Hackle Editor: Dave Field d_w_field@hotmail.com

Web-Master: Jordan Larsen larsenoutdoorproductions@gmail.com

WSCFFI Representative: Mike Clancy mtclancy39@comcast.net

WEB SITE: www.southsoundflyfishers.org

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

Club Meetings are held the third Tuesday of every month except December. Doors usually open at 5:30PM with the meeting starting at 7:00pm. Board meetings are held on the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:00 pm. All regularly scheduled meetings are held at the North Olympia Fire Station, 5046 Boston Harbor Road NE, Olympia WA. USA.

The deadline for the next Garden Hackle is 8:00PM **November 11, 2018.**