



SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS

# THE GARDEN HACKLE

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May 2020

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## LEADER'S LINE

By President Gene Rivers



**Greetings to All SSFF Members,**

It seems like years since I've been fishing. The Covid-19 Pandemic has drastically changed all our lives and will continue to do so for some time. The good news for fly fishers is that in Washington State we can now resume recreational fishing. However, no official club outings are planned by our Outings Chairs until we are in Phase 4 of the Governor's Reopening Plan. You can go fishing on your own of course but follow the recommendations of Health Officials.

In April the Board of directors did not meet because everything was still shut down. In May we started having our monthly board meetings via Zoom. In the future all board meetings will be conducted via Zoom.

In March the Fire Station was closed to the public so we were no longer able to have our general club meetings there. We are in communication with the Fire Department and will notify the membership when we can resume use of the Fire Station for meetings and other events.

Our plan is to also start having general club meetings in June via Zoom on the third Tuesday of each month at the normal 7:00 pm time. Members will receive an email invitation for these meetings. Your dues need to be current to receive your invitation to the monthly club meetings. Be sure to download the free Zoom application on your computer if you would like to attend these online monthly club meetings. Also make sure your email address is current. Contact Randy Allen, our Vice President if you need to update your email address with our SSFF club email list. His contact info is on the last page of each Garden Hackle. We will do all our announcements of club activities etc. at the monthly general club meetings using Zoom.

Stay safe,

Best Regards,

***Gene***



Hello Fly Fishers,

With all the changes in play relating to fishing and outdoor recreation, the outings committee decided not to plan for a scheduled outing on any weekends in the month of May.

On May 5th the state of Washington opened some fresh and salt water sites to recreation but placed a number of restrictions on those planning to use these sites.

If you plan to fish, please follow the laws and regulations and check the WDFW website for the latest changes. (<https://wdfw.wa.gov/>).

Please stay safe.

*Wayne*



Photo by Howard Nanto



### Greetings,

Here is the outlook for Northwest salmon fishing from the Coastal Conservation Association based on the North of Falcon meetings. Keep in mind the opinions expressed in this message are those of CCA and do not necessarily reflect the policies and opinions of South Sound fly Fishers:

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The annual salmon fishing season-setting process known as "North of Falcon" has once again gone south for anglers. While there may be some modest increases to a few Puget Sound fisheries this summer, WDFW has agreed to drastic new cuts, including the complete closure of the winter Blackmouth fishery. Columbia River fisheries will also see reductions under the proposal.

While we can expect the usual co-manager spin about how the closures were based on "conservation" and "mutual sacrifice" and will likely place blame on factors like lost and damaged habitat, the true culprit of the Puget Sound reductions is WDFW's acceptance of arbitrary, one-sided policies demanded by Puget Sound treaty tribes. If left in place, these policies will drastically curtail Puget Sound recreational fisheries for years to come.

#### **Puget Sound Winter Blackmouth Fishery Eliminated**

In a historic new low, the popular winter Blackmouth Chinook fishery will be closed across northern Puget Sound's areas 6, 7, 8, 9 and 12. This unique fishery has provided much-needed winter fishing opportunity through mark-selective fisheries focused on hatchery Chinook with minimal impacts to ESA-listed wild Chinook.

WDFW's elimination of the winter Blackmouth fishery was driven by a new 12% exploitation rate limit on fin-clipped Stillaguamish hatchery Chinook agreed to by WDFW as part of a 10-year state-tribal Puget Sound Chinook Harvest Management Plan (PSCHMP). WDFW had options to avoid this crippling new constraint, including simply not marking Chinook from this conservation hatchery program.

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CCA Washington [sent a letter](#) to WDFW back in 2018 warning of the consequences of this arbitrary policy. George Harris, President of the Northwest Marine Trade Association, addressed this troubling provision in [remarks before the Washington Fish and Wildlife Commission](#) earlier this year. WDFW ignored these warnings

It is now clear that this arbitrary policy is not about conservation. In fact, under the agreement this season, two tribal fisheries with relatively high impacts on Stillaguamish hatchery chinook are expected to match or exceed their recent average harvest levels. What's worse, according to one analysis the complete closure of the winter Blackmouth fishery won't increase the escapement of wild or hatchery Chinook to the Stillaguamish.

### **Limiting Anglers' Access to Hatchery Chinook, Greater Inequity in Puget Sound Harvest Sharing**

Puget Sound sport fisheries were already constrained by weak "wild" ESA-listed Chinook populations. Through the adoption of mark-selective fisheries, we've reduced our mortalities to these ESA-listed stocks, only to have these conservation savings absorbed by tribal fisheries.

The restriction on Stillaguamish hatchery Chinook is a powerful tool for limiting sport fisheries' access to hatchery Chinook across northern Puget Sound. Is it any surprise that tribal gillnet fisheries will reap the benefit? In fact, according to WDFW data, the overall tribal share of available Chinook is expected to increase from 56% in 2019 to at least 62% in 2020. Left unchanged, you can expect this inequity to increase as recent hatchery production increases begin returning to Puget Sound and recreational anglers are forced to sit on the banks.

### **Columbia River Fisheries**

Columbia River fisheries will also see reductions under the North of Falcon agreement. Our popular Buoy 10 fishery will see the largest reduction, going from a 20-day fishery in 2019 to just 12 days in 2020. The rest of the lower Columbia River will see limited fishing opportunity during the peak of the run.

CCA is also monitoring the continued closure of recreational fisheries in Washington under Governor Inslee's stay home order. We will keep you posted on any developments there and with additional analysis from North of Falcon.

Thank you,  
CCA Washington

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I am washing my hands and staying home.

*Don*

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## Membership

Randy Allen, Vice President



**Hello Club Members,**

Please welcome a new member that recently joined:



**John Mankowski** began fly fishing in middle school when he lived in Kingman, Arizona. He became more involved with about the sport about 35 years ago, after college. Work, marriage, and kids preempted fly fishing interests. Careers in wildlife management took him to Moscow, Idaho, then to Yakima with the Washington Dep't of Fish and Wildlife. John's career was a wildlife biologist in the DFW Environmental Policy division, specializing in water quality, streamflow protection, and natural resources management. He is now semi-retired from his conservation career. Our conservation folks will want to talk with you, John!

He learned to tie his flies when he started fly fishing, and he retained all his tools and materials. With limited time he found it more efficient to buy flies rather than tie his own. But, time is becoming more available and he may dust off his tying gear.

Wanting to associate with a local club John found SSFF. He's looking forward to meeting new fishing buddies, learning local access points, and joining our weekend and mid-week outings. He is a Denny Rickards devotee and especially enjoys fishing the lowland lakes incorporating Denny's tactics (did you catch that, McAllister?). John enjoys our local streams as well. And he's been out with us to Burfoot Park looking for some sea-run cutthroat trout. Asked about his move from the east side of the state to the Olympia area he explained it was because of his love for all the water nearby; lakes, streams, saltwater. It's all here.

Welcome, John - We're glad to have you with us!

*Randy*

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## Club Treasury

**Jim Maus Treasurer**



### **Hello Fly fishers,**

If you have not already done so, please pay your 2020 club dues. Members pay annual dues of \$40.00. New members just joining the club pay \$45.00. The extra \$5.00 is to help cover the cost of producing your name badge.

You can pay dues by mailing your check to the club PO Box. The address is: South Sound Fly Fishers, PO Box 2792 Olympia WA 98507. Make your checks payable to South Sound Fly Fishers or just write the initials "SSFF."

Dues payments can also be made by credit cards through Paypal. Go to the Paypal site and indicate the funds are to go to South Sound Fly Fishers. The club must pay extra fees for this service so checks are preferred for dues payments.

**Remember that South Sound Fly Fishers is a non-profit tax exempt organization under 501 c (3) of the Internal Revenue Code.**

Tight lines,

*Jim*



Greetings Fly Fishers,

Let me add my hope that you and yours remain well during the Covid outbreak!

On March 2 we launched our five-week Introduction to Fly Fishing. After two enthusiastic weeks the class was put on hold due to the COVID-19 shutdowns; The City of Olympia stopped all classes in the Olympia Center.

The city and SSFF are planning to complete this class. No one knows when groups will be allowed to meet in classroom settings, but we do plan to reconvene and finish the course.

Thanks go to Wayne Dixon, Jim Maus, and Ben Dennis for making the first two weeks great.

The fly casting class is also on hold. This is a seven week class for single-handed rod casting (no spey rods).

Everyone is looking forward to future outdoor activities. As-of now the City is working to publish a new Experience It! catalog of classes. Again, we are discussing a work-around plan to conduct this class when we receive the go-ahead.

The seven-week course looks like this:

1. Classroom in the Olympia Center - Review gear setup, rods, reels, lines, leaders, and tippets. Help students set up their rods.
2. Hands-on casting starts: Pick-up and lay-down cast
3. False casts
4. Off-side cast
5. Reach-mend and S-Cast

6. Stripping and shooting line

7. Roll cast, ends and line management (a streamside session planned on the Deschutes River)

· On the water clinic (see below)

Outdoor casting will be from 6:00 - 8:00 pm, location to be announced in the Olympia / Tumwater area.

The On the Water Clinic will follow the casting lessons and will be aimed at the new folks that have some gear and some skills. Here we will integrate the training concepts to help students catch and release fish they catch.

Help Needed ! We will take the new students to nearby water and coach them as they cast, mend, and bring fish in for proper release. Remember that first fish you caught? I certainly do. And it was an experienced fisher who calmly talked me through the hook-up, to bringing the fish into my hand. How amazing. We want to create that same excitement for these folks.

Please contact me - we need your help with our new students on the water. Date and location are to be determined. See my email address on the last page of the newsletter, or call me at 360 701-9662 if you would like to help.

Introduction to Fly Tying will be in the Fall. Class dates have not yet been announced.

Classes will be listed in the "Experience It!" catalog mailed to Olympia addresses by the Parks, Arts, and Recreation Department. More details will follow in future editions of the Garden Hackle. Or, for more information send me an email or a phone call.

Thanks in advance!

*Randy*



## **Hello Fellow Fly Anglers, The Pebble Mine**

First, let me say, I am not against mining, in my opinion, this Pebble Mine is in the wrong place. I have learned that this is a 22 year event, maybe more. This will have an incredible impact on a very pristine area that could have an impact on the Bristol Bay that enjoyed 63 million sockeye last summer alone.

I have learned about an abandoned mine in Butte, MT. and what the results are when the mining company moves on to other locations. Please Google “Berkley Pit” and you will learn what happens when the mining companies move. Berkley Pit is now a 1 mile long 1/2 mile wide lake. It is filling up with heavily acidic water to the depth on 900’.

In 1995, a flock of migrating geese landed on the Berkley Pit. 342 geese died. In 2017, 3,000 to 4,000 snow geese died from the lake. My point is, the impact that this mine will have on this pristine area over the years, could be devastating.

Please sign on to the petition to President Trump to not let this happen. Please go to [www.savebristolbay.org](http://www.savebristolbay.org) for the petition and more information.

**All 2020 major events sponsored by FFI and/or the State Council FFI, have cancelled or postponed until further notice.**

**The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is cancelled this year.**



## Club Bulletin Board

**Parking is not permitted in the Fire and Medic Truck Driveway during SSFF meetings. Please keep this driveway totally clear of any private vehicles during SSFF meetings and events.**

When the parking spaces in front of the fire Station are full, please park in the lots behind the Station. The driveway to these lots is about 60 yards north of the fire house. The parking behind the building is now well lit at night and can accommodate many vehicles.

- **Call** 911 to report poaching in progress, a dangerous wildlife complaint, or an emergency.
- **Call** 877-933-9847 for non-emergency poaching/violation reports.
- Send an **email** to [reportpoaching@dfw.wa.gov](mailto:reportpoaching@dfw.wa.gov).

Or use your cell phone to send a **text tip** to 847411 (TIP411) by entering WDFWTIP, followed by a space, and then entering your report.

**Club Dues for 2020**—During these COVID-19 times 2020 Dues can still be paid by mailing a check to: SSFF at PO Box 2792 Olympia WA 98507. Thank you for supporting the SSFF mission of conservation and education.

### **Discover Pass Tip**

If you need to use your annual Pass on the day of purchase your email receipt will be valid for 10 days, please display this receipt on your cars dashboard. if you are unable to print you can write down the transaction number and the date from your email receipt on a piece of paper to display on your cars dashboard until you receive the pass in the mail. – The Annual Discover Pass is valid for parking through month of purchase of next year for any DNR, WDFW or State Park parking area.



## SOUTH SOUND FLY FISHERS -2020 Officers, Directors, contacts

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Director at Large and Womens Fly Fishing, Beth Mason [aerobar2@hotmail.com](mailto:aerobar2@hotmail.com)

Club Meetings are at 7:00pm the third Tuesday of every month except August and December. The Club Picnic is in August and the date and location are announced a month ahead.

Board of Directors meetings are held the first Tuesday of every month starting at 6:00 pm.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and until announced otherwise, all scheduled meetings are conducted on-line using Zoom. The meeting announcement and meeting code will be sent to paid members ahead of the meeting by email. The firehouse is closed to public meetings until further notice.

New website: [southsoundflyfishers.com](http://southsoundflyfishers.com)

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

SSFF Garden Hackle Newsletter  
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