



Leader Line

My Personal Journey to PSFF

Hello, my name is Tess Frazier. I'm the new president of Puget Sound Fly-Fishers for 2024. Let me take you through a brief history of how I got here.

I was introduced to fly-fishing in 1994 by my future husband, David Frazier, the current PSFF Outings Chair. He took me on one of his club outings with San Jose Fly-Casters to fish for bass at Salt Valley Springs Reservoir in the Mother Lode country of Northern California. Having never fished in my life, he handed me a spinning rod with a bass lure on the end. He told me just "toss it out there and twitch it" as he

busied himself prepping his fly rod. I did as instructed. On the second twitch I thought I was caught on a log. The line started moving and I yelled, "I think I've got a fish." That fish turned out to be a 5-pound bass — my first fish ever!

The next day I tried my hand at fly-fishing on the Stanislaus River. I remember this so clearly: My first cast, a Prince Nymph, promptly landed my very first Rainbow trout. I was hooked. To this day, the tug is still thrilling.

I quickly found that joining a club was the best way to learn to fly-fish. I learned about rigging a fly rod, casting, fly patterns, where to fish and how to fish. This was a time when women were scarce in fly-fishing clubs and I wasn't confident enough to ask too many questions about why I should do things a certain way. I found ease in talking to other women trying to learn the sport

Next Meeting

January 11

Tower Lanes

6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

Dinner: 6:30

Program 7:15

and those who had established themselves as competent.

I've now been a member of PSFF for seven years and served as Membership chair for three years and on the Board of Directors for two of those years.

My mid-life challenge was to learn fly-fishing. Thirty years later, I still might not be the best at casting or, for that matter, catching. But I love this sport and the respect it's taught me for all living things and the environment we share.

I'm proud to be part of an all-volunteer leadership team committed to serving the interests of Puget Sound Fly-Fishers. Our club has been active for an astounding 67 years. As the first woman president, I intend to offer some new ideas, a different perspective and more opportunities to enhance your fly-fishing knowledge and skills. I want to help PSFF continue to grow, strengthen its presence in the fly-fishing community while setting the example of an active conservation group.



After my first fish on my first cast, I was hooked.

Two years ago, Board member Greg Shimek mentioned that he “hoped to live long enough to see a woman be president of PSFF.” Well, ready or not, here I am.



*Tess Frazier
Club President*

Outings

Happy New Year on the Fly

I'm feeling the tug of fishing memories and dreaming about those I hope to make in 2024. The first fish in winter is always a surprise — a happy one for me but I suspect less so for the fish. If you're like me, now is the time to refill (and reorganize) fly boxes and get serious about making plans for the months ahead. Come join us. It'll be a hoot.

I'm excited to say the Fly-Fishing Show is finally back, Feb. 17-18 at the Meydenbauer Center in Bellevue flyfishingshow.com/bellevue-wa/ Expect lots of classes, seminars, fly-tying demonstrations, fly-fishing celebrities and authors, guides and





exhibitors, free FFI casting instruction plus, for one night only, the International Film Festival. Tickets are \$20; \$15 in advance at flyfilmfest.com/bellevuewa/

I've booked my road trip to Albany, Oregon, for the Northwest Fly-Tyer & Fishing Expo on March 8-9. Last year was the first time I attended. I was pleasantly surprised by how much fun I had at this sprawling two-day event. Details have now been posted at nwexpo.com/ Ticket discounts are available to veterans and members of Trout Unlimited; be sure to bring along your appropriate ID cards.

I strongly urge you to make reservations for overnight accommodations if you're planning to attend the Fly-Fishing Show in Bellevue for more than a day, as well as the Albany event, and camping accommodations for the outings at Mayfield Lake, Leech Lake and Pass Lake. Lodging near the Bellevue show and in Albany tend to fill fast, as do the state parks. You can book Ike Kinswa State Park now (they even have some nice cabins). Condos at White Pass Village Inn (Leech Lake) start taking reservations on Jan. 3 for our dates. To book a campsite at Deception Pass State Park, get online starting at 7 a.m. Jan. 15. I've already marked my calendar to remind myself.

Cady Lake Report

It was a fine December day at Cady Lake. Fairly clear, fairly cold, fairly windy, fairly fishy. Just what the doctor ordered between late fall storms. After breakfasting at The Hideaway in Belfair, six of us pisca-prospectors (say that



real fast) caught fish. Nothing huge, but willing is willing.

Hot flies: black sparkle leeches, chironomids and various trash flies — Fabs, Blobs and Koosh Bops — on full-sinking lines played off the bottom. Thanks for sharing your day with Tess and me: Ron McNeal, Bryan Habeck, Jim Baker and Julie Kelner.



*David Frazier
Outings Chair*

2024 Outings Schedule

JANUARY

Watch the Forum for a flash outing (weather permitting)

FEBRUARY

The Fly Fishing Show
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue
Saturday-Sunday, Feb. 17-18

MARCH

Northwest Fly-Tyer & Fishing Expo
Linn County Fairgrounds,

Albany, OR
Friday-Saturday, March 8-9

Lenice Lake
Trout: Tuesday-Thursday,
March 26-28

APRIL

Annual PSFF Rendezvous
Yakima River: Big Pines
Campground (BLM)
Trout: Friday-Sunday, April 5-7

MAY

Mayfield Lake
Ike Kinswa State Park
Pike, Trout
Tuesday-Thursday, May 28-30

JUNE

Leech Lake
Trout: Wednesday-Friday, June 5-7

JULY

Cedar River
Landsburg Road river trailhead,
Maple Valley
Trout: 9 a.m., Tuesday, July 9

AUGUST

Annual Club Picnic
11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 17

Egdon
Coho, SRCs: 8 a.m. Wednesday,
Aug. 21

SEPTEMBER

Cowlitz River

Hosted at John & Kathy Clark,
near Toledo
Cutthroat, Steelhead, Coho,
Chinook:

Tuesday-Thursday, Sept. 17-19

Lake Kokanee

Trout: 9 a.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25

OCTOBER

Pass Lake

Deception Pass State Park
Trout: Tuesday-Thursday,
Oct. 15-17

NOVEMBER

Beaver Lake — Sammamish

Trout: 10 a.m. Friday, Nov. 15

DECEMBER

Purdy

SRCs: 10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13

Programs January Speaker

This month's speaker is Mike Sturza, owner of Lost Creek Fly Shop and Mike Sturza's Fly-Fishing Guide Service in Onalaska WA.

Mike, a lifelong resident of Lewis County, started fly-fishing in the early 1980's with a single-handed rod for trout in the high country and swinging for summer steelhead in the lower rivers. Later he went to a two-handed rod in the Cowlitz for salmon, summer steelhead and winter steelhead.

In 1988 the Tiger Muskie were planted in Mayfield Lake and, as

he puts it, "that's when the Tiger Muskie addiction started". He describes having a 20" - 49" Muskie weighing up to 35 pounds eat the fly from your 11' fishing rod. I have to say that sounds like an exciting catch.

You can find Mike's shop and guide service at lostcreekflies.com.



Mark Paul
Programs Chair

Youth Academy Enrollment now Open



The NWYCFFAcademy – Enrollment is now open for the June 22-29, 2024 Academy to be conducted again at the Panhandle Lake 4H Camp west of Shelton. Go to the website – nwyccfa.com to learn about the event, the application is available and more important information. To learn about the Panhandle 4H camp, go to panhandlecamp.com. It's a beautiful facility. Sadly, the facility where we conducted the event for years had a major fire and the main building was destroyed.



Mike Clancy
Legislation/FFI



To learn more or apply, scan the QRcode or go to nwyccfa.com

Membership Welcome to 2024

This article will serve as my first newsletter article as your membership chair. Since joining the club a year ago this month, the fellowship, education and outreach opportunities at PSFF have enriched my retirement from 37 years on the faculty of Washington State University at Puyallup. My impression at the first meeting I attended was how welcoming members were and quick to engage in a conversation.

I am excited to try some new initiatives for recruiting new members and recognizing them as they join. Stay tuned for how you can participate

It's Time to Renew your Membership

Members were sent an email reminder in December to renew their membership to Puget Sound Fly-Fishers. **The deadline to renew is February 1.** You can do this **online with a credit card** or **send a check or money order in the mail.** See our website psff.org, scroll down to **Join The Club** and **“click” on “Join Now” button.** Forms and the opportunity will also exist at our January meeting for you to use a secure connection to renew. We want to retain you as a member so please renew.



Joe Harrison
Membership Chair

129

 # of PSFF Members

Anniversaries/Years January:

Bob Anderson	10	Rachel Dagovitz	1
Julie Kellner	3	Doug Post	7
Bo Burney	5	Paul Fournier	16
Bobby Kemp	4	Charles Queen	1
John Clark	34	Paul Frye	2
Larry Minturn	1	Eric Shry	1
Jim Covell	1	Joe Harrison	1
David Oliver	2	Amy Weller	10

Letter from the Editor

With the year ending, I just wanted to extend a big thank you to all those who have contributed to the club and to this newsletter over the year – especially Tom Long, for carrying the torch producing the newsletter for the first half of the year.

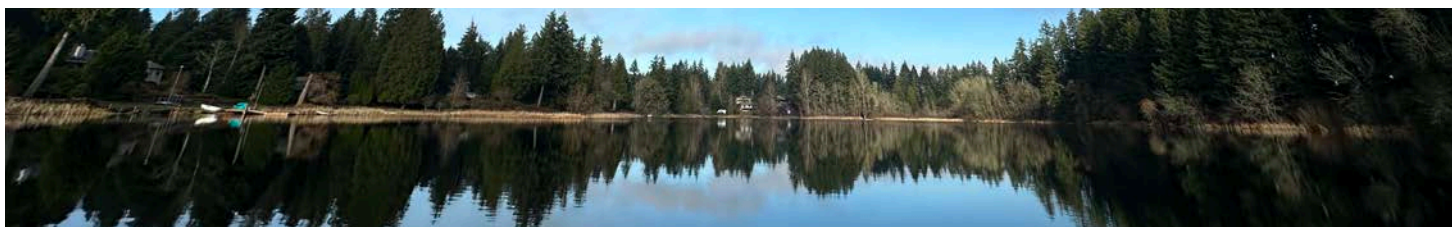
With that said, I would encourage all members to submit photos with captions, or articles about your adventures, or other fly-fishing experiences that are of interest. You can send them to me; my email address is on the club directory on our website. Or you can post directly on the Members Only Forum (see Page 7 for details).

The club is richer, and your membership experience is as well when you share.

Wishing you all a great New Year filled with tight lines, good health and family fun.



Bryan Habeck
Newsletter and
Website Editor



Education

January 2024

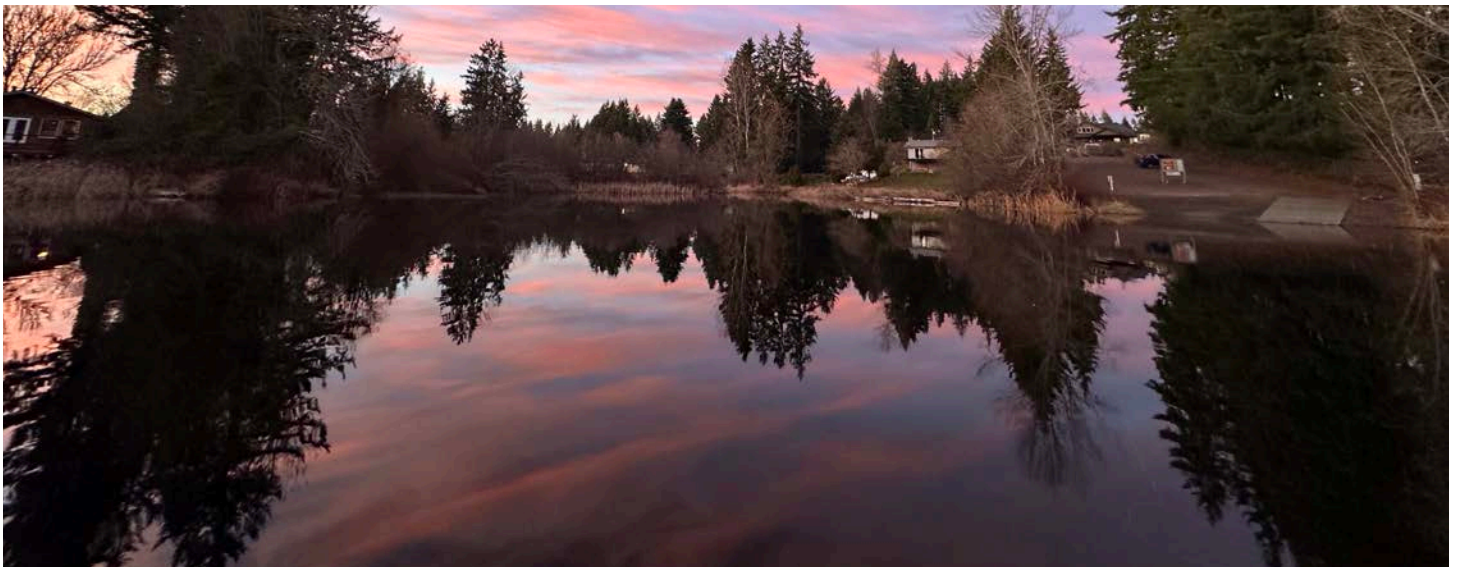
Make sure you join us for the January meeting where Neil Fox, owner of FFD Fly Rod (fishonrods.com) will be discussing the upcoming rod-building class. Specific dates have not been nailed down, but we are targeting late January, early February. Space is limited and a signup sheet will be available at the next meeting.

In addition, review the Club Calendar on PSFF.org for a list of all of our fly-tying events. These will once again be held monthly at Tower Lanes on a Saturday in the small conference room from 9:30-11:30a.m.

We're offering a wide variety of flies throughout the year which incorporate a variety of materials and techniques. So now's the time to mark your calendar. Club members in good standing, whether a beginner or experienced welcome.



Rob Jensen
Education Chair



2024 PSFF - Officers and Committee Chairs

Club Officers

President: Tess Frazier
Vice President: Rob Jensen
Past President: Steve Saville
Secretary: Anne Stiffler
Treasurer: Dennis Beardsley
Director, 1st year: David Frazier
Director, 2nd year: Richard Stone
Director, 3rd year: Dennis Ehlers

Committee Chairs

Membership: Joe Harrison
Librarian: Tom Krughoff
Raffles: Rachel Dogovitz
Programs: Mark Paul
Education: Rob Jensen
Outings: David Frazier
Web Site Editor: Bryan Habeck
Newsletter Editor: Bryan Habeck
Legislation/FFI: Mike Clancy
Conservation: Greg Shimek

Having Trouble Joining the Forum?

1) Launch the PSFF.org webpage as shown in **Figure 1** and click on the Log In link (circled in red). That'll take you to the Sign-up or Log-In form in **Figure 2**.

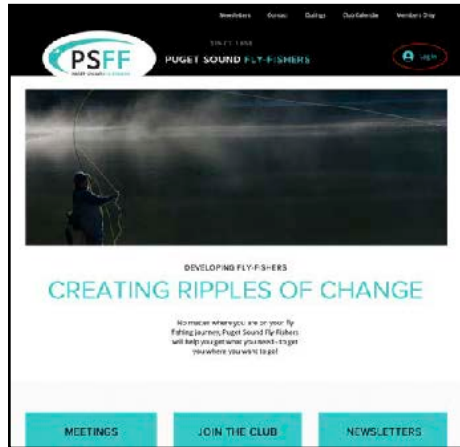


Figure 1

2) Log in or sign up

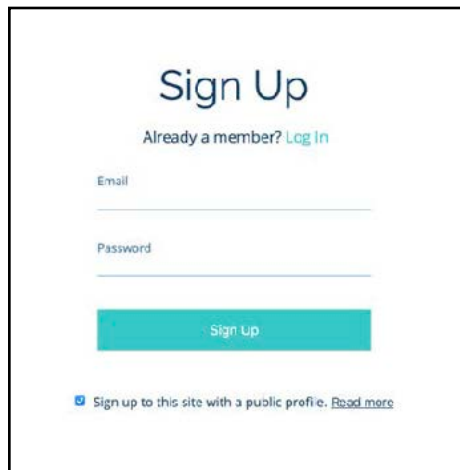


Figure 2

If you are registering as a new FORUM member, Sign Up first as shown in **Figure 2**. Enter your email address and create a password. Once you've done that and have received confirmation that you've been confirmed as a member and now have access,

then log in (clicking the teal type seen in **Figure 2**) and click on the Members Only link as shown in **Figure 3**.

3) Members Only will now available to you

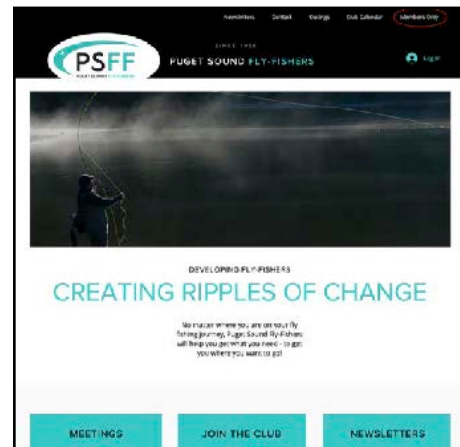


Figure 3

4) The Forum Page

Explore the different categories of discussions and learn about where others are fishing, and what they're tying.

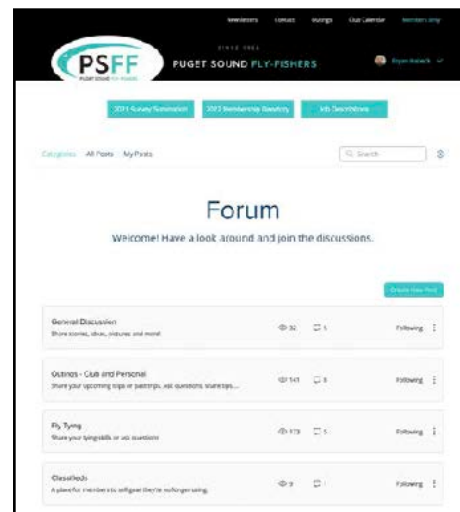


Figure 4

