



LEADER LINE

Fishing the Seasons of Life

Netting memories is common among anglers. You place two in a boat together and — quicker than you can say, “I remember when ...” — their eyes roll back in their heads and the highlight reels start flickering.

My most vivid fly-fishing memory is also one of my earliest. After nearly four decades, the vision remains so persistent that I wonder if it is not a memory at all, but a dream. Or a memory of a dream. However I try to uncoil it, my mental movie has never abandoned me. It *must* be important. And the feelings I’m left with leave me to wonder if it’s history or prophecy. I was about 40 years old, a time when we start wondering if the hike is leveling off or starting to go downhill. It was also a time when I didn’t know enough about the sport to realize that I didn’t know anything at all.



Next Meeting
FEBRUARY 12

Dinner
Program

6:30 PM
7:30 PM

Tower Lanes
6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

LEADER LINE (continued)

I was fishing upstream on Putah Creek in the unfishy part of northern California west of Sacramento. I was pounding the water a little too thoroughly when I paused to look up. Across the slow, green ribbon I saw an old man — my guess, at least 80 — wielding a rod and a wooden staff as he worked his way patiently in a backwater. He reminded me of a great blue heron in faded waders. He was stalking intently. His casts were long and liquid, unhurried and casual. It was obvious he had been in the zone for quite some time. He played one fish, then another. I was mesmerized, in awe, and a little envious.

It was only later, having many times reflected on this memory, that I started to consider this master of time travel could actually have been me at twice my age. Would I ever be so lucky to become such a noble angler? And I still wonder: Was it history I experienced — or prophesy?

Which finally brings me to my point. The parallels between the years of our lives and the

seasons of the year are a useful cliché. As we all know through purposeful aging, these comparisons are clichés for a reason: They're often true.

We are green and naive in the spring, strong and lithe in the summer, enduring yet leaning in the fall, brittle but wise in the winter. Not an infinite circle of the seasons — but a wavering line, the length of one life and the memories we choose to define it.

Make the memories. Hold them close to you. Play them back, again and again.



*David Frazier
President*

THE TYER'S BENCH

On January 24, 2026, a group of Puget Sound Fly Fishing members completed their third class of beginning fly-tying at the Tower Lanes Bowling Alley. I watched this group advance quickly and enjoy the company of others who wanted to learn how to create a fly that will catch fish.



Learning the art of fly-tying means that you've used your clever human brain to deceive a wild animal into thinking something artificial is real.

You have created something with your own hands that has fooled the fish. It's literal art—like a painter who has created a portrait so realistic, people think it's a photograph. The satisfaction of catching a fish with a fly you tied is like you've received your first piece of candy when you were growing up. I watched this group advance quickly and they are now able to tie flies that will catch fish. Watching them tie and see the artistry in their creations was very rewarding.

I have been asked numerous times "Why should I learn to tie flies?" The art of fly-tying is synonymous with the act of fly fishing itself. For me it's not just tying, but a way of expressing what I have learned on the water, turning feathers and fabrics into works of art to fool fish. The feeling of catching a fish on a fly you tied has inspired countless anglers to develop new patterns and revolutionize fly fishing throughout the years.

*Mike Trask
Tying Instructor*

PROGRAMS

GEORGE PESS

George will present results from the Elwha River, where the largest dam removal ever undertaken resulted in measurable ecosystem changes due to the re-connection of ecosystem processes such as upstream and downstream organism movement, the rapid transformation from lentic to lotic conditions in former reservoirs, rapid shifts in community structure and food webs, and accelerated habitat creation through sediment deposition. The resumption of free passage for aquatic organisms has re-established anadromous fishes to areas that have been void of such species for 100 years, prompting rapid increases in salmonid life history diversity.



With over 26 years at NOAA and multiple degrees including a PhD from the UW in Aquatic and Fishery Sciences, George has contributed to salmonid recovery by developing and implementing projects quantifying ecosystem responses to restoration. His work spans stream and watershed restoration, emphasizing habitat restoration's impact on salmonid populations. George has collaborated extensively with federal, state, local agencies, first nations, NGOs, and academia to advance salmon and steelhead conservation goals, authored multiple peer-reviewed articles in prominent journals, and secured substantial funding annually to sustain research efforts emphasizing actionable science for ecosystem recovery.

George is an affiliate professor at the University of Washington and lives in Seattle. He loves the outdoors and spending time with his wife and two daughters.

*Tim McKey
Programs*



A NOTE FROM OUR LIBRARIAN

February Theme: Fly-Tying

Starting this month we are trying something new with the library. I will bring only a portion of our collection, covering a specific topic and rotating different topics each month. At the February meeting all the books will be related to fly tying. Whatever patterns you want to brush up on, you're sure to find the tips you need somewhere in these books.

At the same time, our complete library is always available to you. Just look through the library listing on our website ([LINK](#)). Send me an email (twkrughoff@gmail.com) with the

specific book you want to check out, and I will bring it to the next meeting, even if it's not part of the topic of the month.

We'll try this for a few months and see how it works. Let me know what you think!



*Tom Krughoff
Librarian*

2025 PSFF MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Continuing to Improve a Great Fly Fishing Club

The PSFF Board and Committee Chairs met on January 17, 2026 to discuss and start taking action on the results of the fall 2025 membership survey.

"Thank you all for helping me become a better fly fisher"

This is a quote from a member that responded to our fall 2025 membership survey. It is evident from the overall replies to the 2025 survey that members value the Puget Sound Fly-Fishers and appreciate the progress that has been made since the 2021 survey. Below are some highlights of the changes the club made since 2021:

- Revamped the monthly meeting format
- Two local annual social events: a holiday party and a summer BBQ
- Increased education related to casting, beginning fly-fishing course, and fly-tying
- Provide information about each outing regarding flies to use, specifics about the body of water, and events on weekdays and weekends
- Create new PSFF website
- Use email to get information out to members and create an on-line calendar for events
- Adopt an annual planning meeting in January

The complete results of the 2025 membership survey will be posted to the club website for your reading. The executive summary follows: Fifty-three surveys were returned out of a club membership of about 140, or a 38 percent return rate.

1. The average age of those completing the survey was 68 years, compared to 67 in 2021.
2. The top three reasons for joining PSFF were education, speakers, and outings. Top three in 2021 were education, social interaction, with speakers and group outings tied for third.
3. The top expectations of PSFF were education, fishing locations, and companionship. The prior survey indicated

education, location, and companionship as the top three expectations.

4. The top two reasons for enjoying fly fishing were being in nature and fishing/catching.

5. The average overall rating for PSFF was 4.5 on a 5-point scale. Prior average was 4.

6. The top three areas that identified for improvement were conservation, education, and outings. Prior suggestions were social interaction and education.

7. Numerous specific suggestions were offered under the areas for improvement. Feedback supported the members' priorities of education, outings and conservation.

8. Members offered numerous specific suggestions for items they would like to see more of, and provided suggestions for subjects that members need help. Good information was provided for planning future education and speaker programs.

9. Members had limited suggestions they would like to see less of.

10. The ranked order of favorite fishing waters were Rivers and Streams, Lakes and Saltwater. Same as earlier survey.

11. Preferred times to fish were evenly split between Weekends and Weekdays, with the highest response as It Didn't Matter. Same as earlier survey.

12. Members ranked Newsletter and Email as the preferred methods of communications. Same as earlier survey, suggesting continued use of emails to communicate with members and the forum is not, at this time, an assured way to get new or revised information to members.

13. 88 percent of the responding members indicated that they were familiar with the forum. That is up from 80 percent.

14. Specific and general comments throughout the surveys suggest that PSFF is highly valued and that expectations are being met.

The Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will use the above input to guide future decisions and actions. Feel free to reach out and share ideas and suggestions. It is your organization.

- Dennis Beardsley and Joe Harrison

RAFFLES

If you're new to fly fishing or if you started out with an inexpensive combo outfit, we have a wonderful upgrade in one of our silent auction items - a 5 1/2 wt, 9', 4 pc. Loop Multi rod with sleeve and hard case in new condition - made in Sweden.

Also, because of its value, we will auction a wonderful box (from North Forty in Spokane) of flies that you will be amazed by.

Our raffle baskets will feature vests, several types of flies and a battery tender for your electronics power.

We will also have a surprise box that, unlike last year, WILL be "fishy".

*Fred Olin
Raffles*



OUTINGS

Greeting members and friends!

February's outing will be indoors...let's get ready for spring fishing! The Fly Fishing Show is back. Please review the details if you wish to attend.



At the Fly-Fishing Show, expect lots of classes, seminars, fly-tying demonstrations, fly-fishing celebrities, authors, guides and exhibitors, FFI casting demonstrations, and more!

Bellevue Show Info

Dates: February 14 & 15, 2026

Times: Saturday: 9am – 5:30pm
Sunday: 9am – 4:00pm

Location: Meydenbauer Center
11100 NE 6th Street
Bellevue, WA 98004

For the fastest entry, follow the Advance Ticket signs when you arrive. Optional ticket insurance is available at checkout for added peace of mind. Any ticket may be used on any show day. Tickets are non-refundable.

More info and to purchase tickets in advance:
<https://flyfishingshow.com/bellevue-wa/>

Tickets available at the door *CASH ONLY*

1 day pass \$20
2 day pass \$35

The International Fly Fishing Film Festival
One night only on **Saturday, February 14 at 5:30pm.** \$20; \$17 in advance.

Purchase tickets here:

<https://flyfilmfest.com/bellevuewa/>

Also, in March we will be heading to the Yakima River for the club's annual rendezvous. I will know by the first week in March if the location will be in Cle Elum or Ellensburg, more information to come!

Warm regards,

*Julie Kelner
Outings*



2026 PSFF OUTINGS CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

THE FLY-FISHING SHOW

Saturday-Sunday, February 14-15
Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue

MARCH

ANNUAL PSFF RENDEZVOUS ON THE YAKIMA

Friday-Sunday, March 27-29
Whispering Pines Campground (or Big Pines Campground)

APRIL

CADY LAKE

Saturday, April 18
Mason County

MAY

LAKE KOKANEE

Saturday, May 23
Hoodsport, Mason County

JUNE

GREEN RIVER

Tuesday, June 23
King County

JULY

NACHES RIVER

Saturday-Sunday, July 18-19

AUGUST

PSFF ANNUAL PICNIC

Saturday, August 15

DOSEWALLIP RIVER

Tuesday, August 18

SEPTEMBER

PACKWOOD AREA @ LA WIS WIS CAMPGROUND

Saturday, September 19
Colwitz River, Ohanapecosh River, Leech Lake

OCTOBER

TBA

Details to come

NOVEMBER

BLACK FRIDAY LAKE FISHING

Friday, November 27
Location announced pending WDFW stocking report

DECEMBER

FLASH OUTING

Details to come

CONSERVATION

This month's Conservation note highlights a volunteer option, an organization focused on west coast steelhead recovery, and some ideas on how we can all be the best stewards of our most important partner-the FISH!

The Clover Park Technical College has a Natural Resources Laboratory and Research Park ([LINK](#)) at Flett Creek in Lakewood. Flett Creek feeds into Chambers Creek and provides habitat for Coho salmon and coastal cutthroat trout. A bit of background from their website:

In 1993, Clover Park Technical College (CPTC) purchased 110 acres of a former dairy farm (Flett Dairy) adjacent to its main campus in Lakewood. The property is called the Natural Resources Laboratory and Research Park at Flett Creek (also known as the Flett Property), which is used to train students enrolled in its Environmental Sciences and Technology program. The outdoor lab facility includes approximately 80 acres Flett Creek Wetland, a large oak savannah, and a strip of coniferous forest. This diversity of ecosystems makes it an ideal site for students to practice plant identification, wetland delineation, mapping and surveying, water quality testing, forestry measurements, and other environmental monitoring techniques.

They have a number of volunteer events planned at this location throughout the year (schedule on next page). Derek Faust is a professor at the college and can provide more information.

[MAP](#)

I am working to input all volunteer opportunities I uncover into the PSFF calendar and will highlight upcoming events each month.

I continue to be impressed by the number of organizations working to protect and enhance our various fisheries. I recently ran across the [Wild Steelhead Coalition](#). Their mission statement is:

The Wild Steelhead Coalition is dedicated to increasing the return of wild steelhead to the

waters of the West Coast.

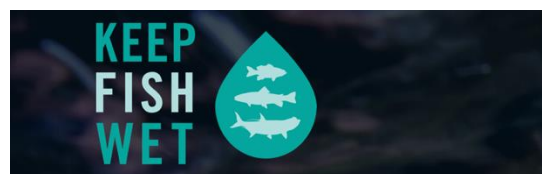
Some of the [recent issues](#) they have focused on include lobbying for changes to how wild rainbow trout populations are managed by WDFW in Washington, lobbying to get Olympic steelhead listed under the Endangered Species Act, continuing to work to prevent the Chehalis dam mentioned in last month's newsletter, and encouraging [fish handling techniques](#) that improve steelhead mortality after release (more later in this note...). They do not offer volunteer opportunities but do seek donations to continue these efforts.



The [Keep Fish Wet](#) organization has developed science-based recommendations on how to reduce the mortality of any fish that is caught and released. Their three guiding [principles](#) are:

1. Minimize air exposure. This means keeping the head and gills in the water as much as possible.
2. Eliminate contact with dry surfaces. This means if you do have to contact the fish with your hands get them wet first. And use a rubber net.
3. Reduce handling time. This means both keeping the time short you are playing the fish and minimizing the time spent releasing the fish.

They have a number of specific [tips](#) that provide practical choices based on these principles. They also encourage people to become [advocates](#) of these strategies by taking a simple pledge to follow these principles.



CONSERVATION (continued)

Please note I am not trying to tell any of you what to do. I am merely sharing some options for you to consider that can improve the survivability of each precious fish that is caught.



*Steve Knowles
Conservation*

Join us for Habitat Stewardship on CPTC's Flett Outdoor Laboratory in 2026!



What: Clover Park Technical
College Flett Outdoor Laboratory
Habitat Stewardship

Where: Clover Park Tech. College
4500 Steilacoom Blvd. SW
Lakewood, WA, 98499

Here is a Google Maps link to the suggested parking lot: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/zqYDX1ogeJZemu5t5>. You can cross the street at the Steilacoom Blvd. and Hageness Drive intersection.

Why: Protect the oaks from
invasive species & restore
riparian habitat!

Questions: Contact Derek Faust
derek.faust@cptc.edu

When: 9AM to Noon(ish) on the
dates listed below

- Saturday, January 24th
- Saturday, February 21st
- Sat., April 18th Earth Day!
- Saturday, May 16th
- Saturday, June 6th
- Saturday, July 18th
- Saturday, August 15th
- Saturday, October 10th
- Saturday, November 21st
- Saturday, December 5th

Please dress appropriately for the weather and wear good footwear.

Some tools will be available. If you have your own tools (gloves, loppers, shovels, weed wrench), please feel to bring them to ensure we have enough!

EDUCATION

Fly Tying

On **February 14 at 9:00AM** in the small room at Tower Lanes, Steve Seville will be teaching how to tie the Miyawaki popper, Triggs chumbaby, and Dehlia's squid just in time for this spring's sea-run season.



Fishing Booby Flies

If you plan to head out to some local lakes this winter, Booby flies are highly effective, buoyant stillwater flies designed for targeting deep, cold-water trout by using large foam eyes on a sinking line (Type 3 to 7) to keep the fly just off the bottom. Key techniques include a slow figure-of-eight retrieve with pauses, or short, fast strips (4–6 inches) followed by a 3–5 second pause, allowing the fly to dive and rise alluringly. These have become this winter's go to fly for many on local lakes.

Join us as club member Jim Baker leads us through the setup and technique of fishing these flies. This seminar will take place on **Tuesday, February 17 at 6:30PM** in the small room at Tower Lanes. Let Rob Jensen know if you would like to attend as space is limited.



Beginning Fly Fishing

Again, this year, PSFF is hosting a four-week beginning fly fishing course. The dates are **April 28, May 5, 12, 19, from 6:00-9:00PM** at the Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor. Signup is through PenMet Parks. The course material can be found on the new fly fishing education group on our website. The website is

not live yet to sign up for the course; this info will be included hopefully in the next newsletter and on the forum....stay tuned!

Casting Improvement and FFI Casting Skills Development Program

Mark your calendar for this year's Casting Improvement and FFI Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) sessions. There are now four levels in the FCSD from beginner to advanced: Foundation, Bronze, Silver and Gold. The first session will be in conjunction with FFI's Fly Casting & Tying Fair on **April 19, 2026, 9:00AM - 4:00PM**, at Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah, WA.

[LINK](#)

The second event will be a joint session with SSFF (South Sound Fly Fishers). It will take place **Saturday, Sept 12, 10:00AM** at Tumwater Historical Park, 802 Deschutes Way SW, Tumwater, WA 98501. This session will be open to all who want to work on their casting technique, even if you are not interested in the FCSD program.

New Fly-Fishing Education Hub

There is newly established Fly-Fishing Education Hub Group on our website. There you will find links to an archive of outings information sheets, the complete course material for the beginning fly fishing class, useful links to education resources, and copies of previous club presentations. On the website, find it under Groups, or click this [LINK](#). Check it out!



*Rob Jensen
Education*

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to February 2026

We begin 2026 with 147 members in PSFF. Thirty-seven of the 147 members joined since the start of 2025.

Membership Renewal

Be watching your email for a renewal of your membership to PSFF. The subject line will read "Plan Ordered". The message will say that "You've Ordered Yearly Renewal Plan" and

Plan Price: \$xx.xx

Plan Starts: date

Valid Until: date

You can renew from the home page of the PSFF website, scroll to the bottom three blue panels, select the middle panel – join now, once on the next page scroll all the way to the bottom and click on the black button called "Purchase New or Renewal Membership. Then click on "Yearly Renewal". OR, you can log into your membership portal and click on "My Subscriptions"

We continue to see new members join PSFF. You will find below a bio to help you get acquainted. Please reach out and welcome Julie at the next meeting or outing she attends.

JULIE HANADA

I grew up in California, "belly fishing" (lying on your belly and throwing your line under) the wharfs south of Santa Cruz and trout fishing in the Truckee area with the family. I've lived up and down the West Coast. I took Orvis' into to fly fishing in 2013, then moved to San Francisco for work and joined the GGACC where I learned to cast. My goal was to learn to cast when I was working so that I could fish when I retired. I retired in 2022, and a fair caster (just got my FFI silver). But I'm a lousy fisher - completely befuddled, and thought a club with meetings and outings would be what I need. I have been following you all for a couple years, and appreciated your newsletter. I have been planning on joining and I'm making it work this year. I have met members at different events, so I feel optimistic joining this group. Thanks for having me.



*Joe Harrison
Membership*

CORRECTION A typo in January's newsletter incorrectly stated that two-thirds of our members joined PSFF in 2025; this should be corrected to say that we had "32 new members join in 2025."

February Anniversaries/Years

Will Matson	1	Charles Lee	3	Becci Curtis-Lillie	13
Michael Cole	1	John Mackiewicz	3	Michael Lillie	13
Kyle Faust	2	Rich Skopin	3	Mike Clancy	25
Fred Olin	2	Tom Krughoff	6		
Jim Schmidt	2	Ron McNeal	6		

Home Waters



Stewardship in Action: How Your Support Is Making a Difference

President Steve Jones

One of the most important questions any fly fishing and conservation organization must be able to answer is simple:

How are we using our members' contributions to make a difference? Between 2014 and 2025, the Washington State Council of Fly Fishers International has distributed more than \$58,000 in grants and donations on behalf of our members. On average, the Council donates about \$5,000 annually. Those dollars have been invested with intention, guided by three enduring priorities that reflect the heart of fly fishing itself: youth education, veteran recovery, and coldwater river conservation.

Investing in the Next Generation The single largest share of our funding has gone to youth education, with nearly half of all donations supporting programs that introduce young people to fly fishing, conservation ethics, and outdoor stewardship. Our largest cumulative investment has been in the Northwest Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy, which alone has received more than \$16,000 over the past decade. We run the academy in collaboration with Washington Trout Unlimited, and they continue to be a knowledgeable and dedicated ally. In addition, we have supported kid's fishing days, youth camps, school outreach programs, and scholarship funds, helping students pursue fisheries biology and natural resource careers. These investments are not just about teaching kids to cast a fly rod—they are about building informed advocates for rivers, fish, and public lands who will carry this mission forward long after we are gone.

Honoring and Healing Our Friends A second major focus has been helping veterans and cancer victims in their recovery, particularly through long-standing support for Project Healing Waters and Casting for Recovery. Project Healing Waters uses fly fishing and fly tying to support the physical, emotional, and social recovery of wounded veterans. Casting for Recovery provides breast cancer survivors with fly fishing retreats that foster healing, and connection through time on the water. Together, these programs have received nearly \$16,000 from our Council. These organizations use fly fishing as a tool for healing – helping veterans and survivors reconnect with nature, find calm, rebuild confidence, and form supportive communities. Our Council has helped fund programs year after year, often during times when these services were needed most. It is a reminder that fly fishing is not only a pastime, but also a powerful means of service.

Protecting Coldwater Rivers and Fisheries

The third pillar of our giving has been coldwater conservation. From habitat signage and fisheries research to land acquisition and watershed protection, Council funds have supported organizations like Olympic Peninsula Fishing Innovations which makes tools for handicapped fishers, the Coastal Cutthroat Coalition, Western Rivers Conservancy and the Wild Steelhead Coalition. Notably, major gifts in 2021 and 2023 helped support land acquisition in the Grande Ronde basin and on the Yakima River—investments with permanent benefits for wild fish and fishermen. Smaller but consistent grants for signage, research, and education projects ensure that anglers and communities understand how to protect the waters we love.

Why It Matters

Every dollar represented here came from members who believe fly fishing carries responsibility along with enjoyment. These grants reflect your values in action—values that recognize education, healing, and conservation as inseparable from the future of our sport. As the Washington State Council of FFI looks ahead, continued member support ensures we can keep investing where it matters most: in young anglers, in those who have served, and in the cold, clean rivers that sustain us all.

Thank you for making this work possible.

From FFI website; accessed January 28, 2026. [LINK](#)

Fly Fishing International (FFI), WSCFFI & SSFF Events for 2026

Washington Sportsman Show

January 28- February 1
Puyallup, WA

Pacific Northwest Sportsman Show

February 11-15
Portland, OR

Fly Fishing Show

February 14-15
Meydenbauer Center
Bellevue, WA

NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

March 13-14
Linn County Expo Center
Albany, OR

The Big Horn Show

March 19-22
Spokane, WA

Washington FFI Fly Casting & Fly Tying Fair

April 19
Pickering Barn
Issaquah, WA

Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous

May 22-24
Craig, MT

NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy

June 20-27
Panhandle Lake
Shelton, WA



*Mike Clancy
Legislation & FFI*

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Past President	Tess Frazier
Secretary	Anne Stiffler
Treasurer	Dennis Beardsley
Director, 1 st year	Tedd Wilkinson
Director, 2 nd year	Mark Paul
Director, 3 rd year	Steve Saville

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