



Leader Line

The year was 1956. A column in the Tacoma Times contained a notice regarding a meeting at the Tacoma YWCA to discuss the possible formation of a flyfishing club to replace the defunct Tacoma Casting Club. Twenty people attended and that was the beginning of what we know as Puget Sound Fly-Fishing (PSFF). There were 23 charter members who laid the groundwork for what we enjoy today. 2026 will mark the 70th anniversary with over 130 members. Many like-minded organizations have not lasted as long, and many others are struggling to find a path to the future. In the normal course of events, there may be a time when PSFF struggles however, that time is not now due to active membership and involved leadership.

PSFF's purpose is to encourage flyfishing, conservation and education. We recognize that our future is one built on service to our

members, the sport of fly fishing and the environment – upon which we depend on so heavily for recreation and peace of mind. A reasonable question is why PSFF continues to thrive. The answer to the question is as diverse as flyfishing itself.

Maybe it's the monthly Newsletter full of activities, announcements and useful information. The Newsletter is public and free on-line (psff.org). A significant number of non-members enjoy the content every month. Monthly meetings are also open to the public. On the second Thursday of the month (except August) attendees enjoy new insights; discover new fishing opportunities and all things fly fishing from knowledgeable people on a broad spectrum of topics. PSFF invests considerable resources to help ensure quality presentations. Zoom allows quality presentations from any place there is Internet. In addition, each month attendees can participate in a raffle for some great items.

Next Meeting
October 9

Dinner 6:30 PM
Program 7:30 PM

Tower Lanes
6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

The recently updated website is a window into PSFF. Through it, members have access to schedules, an active forum and other resources. Much is written about flyfishing and a great place to find those resources is the PSFF library containing every imaginable topic covered. The list of books is available online so members can browse and have it available at the next monthly meeting. Now that is service!

That's just the start. PSFF has a long history of supporting the NW Youth Conservation & Fly-Fishing Academy with money and member volunteer involvement. In partnership with Peninsula Metro Park District, a beginning fly fishing class introduces new fly fishers to the sport from start to finish. If you want to fly fish, you need to be in or on the water. Well organized Outings, to all kinds of fishing opportunities, are offered year around.

Helping with various aspects of fly fishing is a part of what PSFF is all about. Members help members up their game and learn. From fly tying to casting, rod building, equipment and fishing techniques are all available. Fly fishing can be a lifelong learning adventure.

Conservation is big part of PSFF's mission. PSFF helped get the Sea-Run Cutthroat Coalition started and continues to support the Coalition's incredible work to understand a remarkable species. In addition, PSFF has recently adopted Cady Lake as a priority public

catch and release fly fishing only fishery which is gem in anybody's book.

The above is only part of the PSFF story. During meetings and outings, members share stories/experiences, discuss/debate and learn. Members with similar interests plan their own trips and many become lifelong friends. Members from all walks of life are involved. Women and men are actively involved in the leadership and shaping of PSFF's future. Every January, a planning meeting is held to orient new volunteer leaders and map out the year's priorities. New and former Board and Committee members work together for smooth transitions.

A survey is currently out for member input. Members' views, priorities and suggestions are critical to continually moving forward. We welcome new views and ideas as PSFF continues to evolve.

"Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after"

– Henry David Thoreau

*Dennis Beardsley
Guest Contributor*



Keeping Them Sharp

At first glance I'll bet you were expecting a tip on how to keep your hooks sharp. That is always important. But something that is even more important is keeping your memory sharp. Most of us can recall, I hope, instances where we just can't remember what we did the other day, had for breakfast, the name of that person we had lunch with. We frequently just brush it off as one of those annoying quirks of aging. It doesn't have to be that way. Our brains are very good at making changes if we know how to give our grey matter some tricks to help it re-wire pathways from the tried and true to something new.

Dr. Sanjay Gupta, CNN's resident neurosurgeon consultant has uncovered research showing the brain does indeed create different neural pathways as new information and activities are performed. He uses the term "neuroplasticity" to explain how the brain can shift processing information from one section of the brain to another in the event of head trauma, stroke, cerebral infections, etc. Mental processes that were often done by a certain hemisphere of the brain, which is now no longer operative, have been re-directed to other sections of the brain to serve that function. He also notes that the brain has the ability to generate new nerve pathways - "neurogenesis" that help us improve our memory capacity.

Keeping Them Sharp (continued)

What we can do to facilitate this is very simple. Next time you are tying a fly turn your vise 180 degrees so the hook shank is facing the opposite direction from where it normally lies. When you tie a Woolly Buzzer for instance, you can almost do it with your eyes closed because you have done it so many times in the past. You have developed muscle memory to tie on marabou, palmer a hackle, use a whip finisher, twist and wind peacock herl. When you turn your vise 180 degrees you have to consciously think about each and every one of those steps because they are not routine for you anymore. Another trick - tie a Woolly Buzzer but use a #18 2x long streamer hook. Now you have to focus on using small motor skills to create this fly at this tiny size. If you have a grass area to practice casting, use your non-dominant hand. Try a simple pick up and lay down 30' cast. Again you have to concentrate on what and how to do it. If you can manage that try adding a double haul and see how much more difficult that becomes.

Try one of the many apps for your phone with free memory and recognition games. **Vita Mahjong** is one example that asks you to match unique symbols and images to clear the board. Plenty of other video games offer the same benefits so try a few out and mark your progress as you play over time.

Each one of these changes to your normal way of doing things results in the brain making new neural connections. These new connections help keep the brain actively processing information which in turn improves your brain health resulting in less fog, fewer forgetful episodes, less confusion, and quicker response times. Try it. You have nothing to lose and plenty to gain including quicker hook sets when that fish strikes!



Mike Koslosky
Guest Contributor

Programs

FISHING ALASKA

This month we will hear from Sawyer Keener and Dave Pishko of Outpost on the Nush.

Owner and Head Guide, Captain Dave Pishko is a lifelong outdoorsman and the ultimate handyman. Dave has guided both fly fishing and waterfowl for 13 years, with 4 of those as head guide at the Outpost on the Nush. He tied his first fly at 6 years old, and is now a signature tier for Yellowstone Fly Goods. Sawyer Keener is a U.S. Coast Guard-licensed captain and seasoned fly fishing guide with roots in the trout waters of Montana. Starting young, he managed Bauer Fly Reels before the age of 25. His guiding career has taken him from the rugged rivers of Patagonia to the wild flats of the Everglades, where he spends his off-season chasing tarpon and tide.

Today, Dave and Sawyer guide in Alaska June through September, bringing a deep respect for place, a focus on craft, and a creative eye to every day on the water. Whether you're there to catch fish, learn the nuances, or just experience the solitude, their approach is thoughtful, patient, and rooted in years of experience across some of the world's most iconic fisheries. They will talk about their fish camp and what it takes to operate for three and a half months in remote Alaska.



Mark Paul
Programs

Raffles

We will have a TON (not easy to do) of trout flies to replenish your collections. Also, due to the time year, there will be a selection of salmon/steelhead lures. These are larger, I suppose because your fingers are numb when using them.

For those of you who might be headed to a tropical island named for a holiday - Easter and Christmas come to mind - you will be able to bid on some tarpon, bonefish and other gaudy items.

As you begin to put away your equipment and start your holiday wishlist, keep in mind that we can always use outdated, tarnished or offbrand items for those of us who break or lose stuff regularly. It is also that time of year to start amassing items for our Christmas Auction, the most important being Jackson, Grant and Franklin bills.



*Fred Olin
Raffles*

Outings

Cady Lake Outing

Hello Members!

Fall is now upon us, so let's head to PSFF's "adopted" lake, Cady. Located in Mason County west of Belfair it is about a 15 acre fly fishing only, catch and release lake. It is one of my favorites, quiet, lots of wildlife, only one house in view (the owner's) and some large trout in the depths. You will need a floatation device to fish this lake: float tube, kayak, pontoon, small row boat. The launch is considered a hand-launch. Please bring a life jacket and whistle in case the DFW happen to stop by to check. Selective gear rules also apply.

The WDFW typically stocks this lake in September so hopefully this will be the case prior to the outing. There is room for quite a few vehicles since the club and TU did some clearing last year. There is a donation box located at the launch, all donations go to PSFF to help with the cost of upkeep, thank you!

Now gear: 4, 5 or 6 weight rods will work. Intermediate, full sink and floating lines, depending on your method. Trolling, cast and retrieve and indicator still fishing are all options.

Flies: This one can vary, these fish can be very particular!! Leeches, wooly buggers and variations, balance leeches, orange or pink blobs, chironomids, Mop flies. To the many members of the club that are excellent lake fly "gurus"- please post your Cady Lake fly suggestions in the forum!

I added the October 25th outing since some members are not available during the week to attend.

I hope to see you there, please give me a heads up if you are coming!

Directions: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/Yb1C3PWNVMYxUeNr6>

**If you have never been there before, when you pass the Cady Lake Manor sign, continue down the hill and take the first unmarked gravel road to the left!

Julie Kelner
Outings Chair

juliekelner@gmail.com
(360) 731-2202



*Julie Kelner
Outings*

Outings



JANUARY

Watch the Forum for a FLASH outing
(weather permitting)

FEBRUARY

The Fly-Fishing Show

Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue
Saturday-Sunday, February 15-16

MARCH

Sea Run Cutthroat

Oakland Bay, Shelton
Tuesday March 4th Noon
Oakland Bay Rec Area, WDFW Parking

APRIL

Annual PSFF Rendezvous

Yakima River: Whispering Pines Campground
Cle Elum Friday-Sunday April 11th, 12th, 13th

MAY

Rattlesnake Lake

King County
Saturday May 3rd

JUNE

Lake Kokanee

Hoodsport, Mason County
Tuesday June 10th

JULY

North Fork Skokomish River

Staircase Campground
Monday July 14th

AUGUST

Annual Club Picnic

11 AM – 4 PM
Saturday August 16th
Outing for **Pinks, TBA**

SEPTEMBER

Puget Sound Beach Fishing

TBA
Saturday Sunday 13th

OCTOBER

Cady Lake

Mason County
Tuesday October 7th

NOVEMBER

Black Friday - Get Outside and Fish

TBA
Friday November 28th

DECEMBER

TBA – Watch the forum for a FLASH outing.

Education

October

Fly Tying

On Saturday October 11, we will tie a black and red leech. This is a 'go to' pattern for many of us this time of year. If you haven't noticed, many of our local lakes have recently been stocked, so join us on the 11th to tie this easy and effective pattern. Get out there and see how well this fly works!



Fly Casting

Need a tune-up? Club member Michael Merringer has generously offered to meet up with club members looking for some one-on-one instruction. Steve Seville has also been

very generous in sharing his time and knowledge of casting techniques and is often available for some instruction. Regardless of your skill level, don't hesitate to contact Mike or Steve for a lesson. I have personally experienced their training sessions and my casting quality has much improved and my frustration level has reduced!

Stay Tuned

We are in the process of scheduling a joint session with the South Sound Club for members it achieve their bronze, silver and gold certifications. More details to come soon.



*Rob Jensen
Education*

Membership

Welcome to October 2025

Membership Survey due OCTOBER 6!

Please be watching for a mail-in survey to your US mail postal box. Our last survey was competed in 2021 and it is time to poll our membership once again.

Welcome to New Members

We continue to see new members join PSFF. You will find below bios to help you get acquainted. Please reach out and introduce yourself!



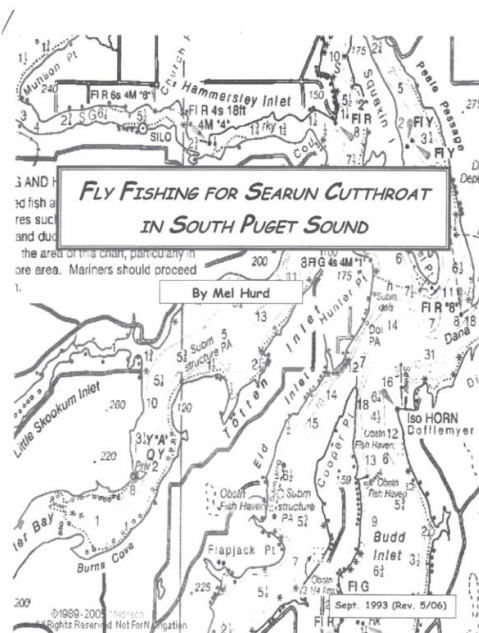
*Joe Harrison
Membership*

October Anniversaries/Years

Tim McKey	1	Tess Frazier	8	Mike Saville	12
Jerry Brown	2	David Frazier	8	James Maus	32
Michael Merringer	3	Steve Knowles	12		

Fly Fishing for Searun Cutthroat in South Puget Sound, by Mel Hurd

This is a 20 page booklet written by Mel Hurd, long time member of SSFF. This is an absolutely wonderful guide to fish for our searun cutthroat in our back yard. The booklet is a means to support our conservation program and the Academy. We recommend a \$10+ donation, or more, go to PayPal for SSFF booklet or mail a check to me, 2531 Simon Lane NE, Olympia, WA 98506, and I'll be happy to mail you the booklet. It is so easy to read and learn.



Fly Fishers International Spring Events 2026



**FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**
Washington State Council

Washington FFI Spring 2026 events

Fly Fishing Show

Feb. 14-15, 2026

Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue WA

[Bellevue, WA](#) | [The Fly Fishing Show](#)

FFI will be operating the Learning Center at the show as we have done for the past two years. To volunteer as a fly tier or casting instructor please contact president@wscffi.org.

Washington FFI Fly Casting & Tying Fair

April 19, 2026

Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah WA

Our premier casting and tying event is returning to Issaquah next spring with an expanded roster of classes and instructors. Details on classes and registration will appear in February. Watch the Washington Council newsletter and website for details.

[wscffi – Working Today for Tomorrow](#)

Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous

May 22-24, 2026

Craig MT

Join FFI Women Connect for a weekend of fly fishing and social events on the Missouri River. The two day gathering will be hosted by guide Trisha Campbell and Washington FFI Director Marion Hiller. Both are FFI Casting Instructors. For details go to:

[Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous Tickets, Craig | Eventbrite](#)

*Mike Clancy
Legislation & FFI*



2025 PSFF Officers & Committee Chairs

Club Officers

President	Tess Frazier
Vice President	Rob Jensen
Past President	(vacant)
Secretary	Anne Stiffler
Treasurer	Dennis Beardsley
Director, 1 st year	Mark Paul
Director, 2 nd year	David Frazier
Director, 3 rd year	Paul Fournier

Committee Chairs

Conservation	Steve Knowles
Education	Rob Jensen
Email Editor	Merritt Kline
Facebook	Tim Bayliss
Legislation/FFI	Mike Clancy
Librarian	Tom Krugoff
Membership	Joe Harrison
Newsletter	Kara Jensen
Outings	Julie Kelner
Programs	Mark Paul
Raffles	Fred Olin
Website	Jason Hardt

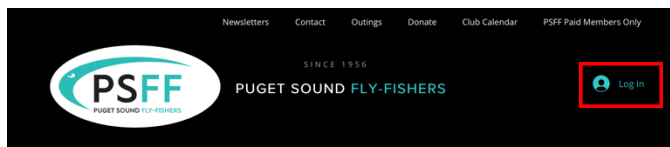
Having trouble accessing the Forum?

The forum offers current information for users on what to fish, where, and which patterns are hitting. Use the forum to post events, share resources, ask questions and organize outings around the area.

Existing Members

1. On the [PSFF.org](https://psff.org) website, click the Log In link (red box in figure 1)
2. Select the Log In option (red box in figure 2), then enter your email and password
3. Once logged in, navigate to the 'PSFF Paid Members Only' tab on the upper right of your screen, which will take you to the forum

Figure 1



New Members

1. On the [PSFF.org](https://psff.org) website, click the Log In link (red box in figure 1)
2. Enter your email and a password, then click Sign Up (red box in figure 4)
3. You'll need to wait to be confirmed as a PSFF member. Check your email
4. Pay membership dues (see 'Membership', above)
5. Follow steps 1-3 (left) for existing members

Figure 2

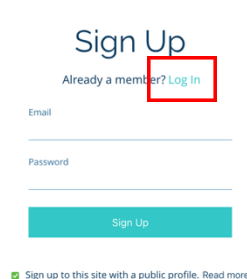


Figure 4

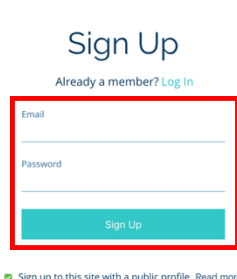
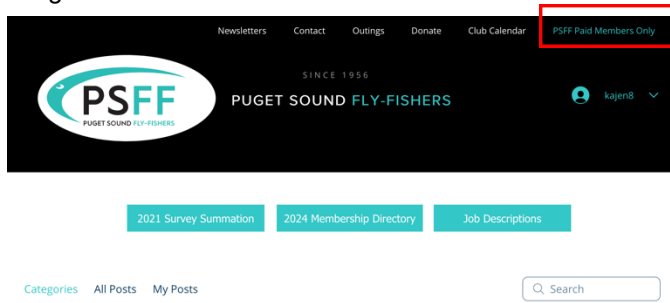


Figure 3



Forum

Welcome! Have a look around and join the discussions.