



Leader Line
Steve Saville
President

April showers bring...

As I am writing this, it's raining. So, what else is new in the "Great Northwest?" We have managed to get through some of the coldest weather I can remember in years past but along with it brought some of the best fishing I have had in recent years. March was a month of firsts for me. I had the opportunity to fish the Yakima River recently, during the yearly Skwala Stonefly hatch. It's the first time I have ever fished it, primarily because of the winter weather and driving conditions. During the trip, the wind blew, there was snow on the ground, it snowed, and it was generally uncomfortable at times, but the fishing was good. In fact, it was better than many times I have ventured over the pass to the river. The impetus was the Skwala hatch of course, but also the club's outing. I saw some of our members but my brother and I pretty much had the river to ourselves. We caught numerous beautiful rainbows over 17' in length and a few slightly smaller fish. We lost our share as

well but all in all I have to say the river, though low, was in beautiful condition along with the fish.

I was unable to attend the club's outing to Rocky Ford Spring Creek due to illness, but several members enjoyed a warm day, and they found the fishing to be excellent. Check out the web site to see pictures of some really large trout caught by our members. Tess Frazier landed a behemoth of a trout while on the trip. Others fared well too.

March also brought the Fly-Tying Expo in Albany, Oregon. It was my first trip to the two-day event, and I found it to be eye opening in many ways. I have attended such events in the past but not on such a large scale. If you haven't been and you enjoy fly tying as I do, you owe it to yourself to attend in the future. I had the opportunity to rub elbows with some of the country's best fly tyers and was able to watch and learn some new methods from real experts. There were also many booths where one could buy materials, books, and look at some of the latest equipment available. Though I most likely don't need it, I was able to test out one of the newest prototype rods under development by

Next Meeting
April 9, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Tower Lanes

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Program 7:15 p.m.

the Meiser Rod Company. To use an old friend's phrase, "it's a cannon." I will be sure to attend the event next year.

A couple of reminders. The Puget Sound Fly Shop is now open and looks good. Stop by and say "Hi" to Matt and don't forget that the end of March brought the end to the fishing license year so be sure to get a new one as soon as possible if you plan on fishing. The weather looks good, and the sea run cutthroat fishing should be getting better. Lowland lakes open soon, and the rivers will not be far behind. All in all, spring fishing looks good on many fronts whether you are a lake, river, or a saltwater fisher so get out and do it.

Tight lines!



Education

Mike Koslosky

Fly-tying

Join us to tie an emerging midge pattern on Saturday April 8 from 9:30 to 11:30 at Tower Lanes for the outing to Spencer Lake. *This occurs prior to our April meeting, so make note of it and add it to your calendar.*

This lake is known for some bruiser rainbows and very large lake resident cutthroat. Other successful patterns have been Montana Leech, egg sucking leech and wooly buggers. Cool weather may favor the midge hatch so be prepared for whatever these hungry fish are searching for. Bring your fly-tying equipment. Materials will be provided. Small meeting room. Contact Steve Saville if interested. stevesaville@comcast.net

Continuing Education

Many of us search YouTube videos for tying tips, gear reviews, and techniques to fish special

waters. Google is also another frequently searched site for all manner of fly fishing topics. All this extra education gives us the opportunity to correct mistakes, learn new skills and stay up to date in this fast changing sport we enjoy.

Add FlyFishInstruct.com to your list of places to visit. Heather Hodson of Spokane has launched this new learning site and I can attest to its professionalism, comprehension, breadth of topics and the skill of the presenters. Classes are offered Zoom style and are very affordable. Participants also receive plenty of follow-up support, downloadable documents, and access to any course one has taken. Presently you can select from courses in Match the Hatch, Aquatic Entomology, Spey Fishing Basics, Fly Fishing 101, Reading Trout Water, Mending the Line for Success, custom classes for individuals, and more. Remember, anyone can master a skill if they just put their mind to it and practice, practice, practice.



Outings

David Frazier

March Madness...PSFF-Style

March was an unusually active month for club outings, even by our standards. Our trio of trips started with a double-header to the Yakima River March 6-8 and the Fly-Tying Expo in Albany, OR, March March 10-11. And then there was the weather delayed outing to Rocky Ford spring creek near Ephrata, March 15-16. Read on.

Chillin' at the Yak

Tess and I arrived in Ellensburg mid-day Monday and met up with Penny Mabie at Red's Fly Shop on the Yakima River to pick up a couple of local patterns. We dressed for comfort in the cold daytime temps (upper 30s to about 43). Tess had a

couple of grabs wading at Umtanum on a Purple Prince Nymph; I had two grabs swinging an Olive Soccer Mom (gotta love these names), followed by a hard grab that broke off my 4x tippet. Steve Saville, fishing with brother Mike, later told me he had seen us under the bridge as they drifted by, which reminded me how difficult it can be to find each other on such a long and complicated river.

We later met up with Julie Kelner, who had returned from a float with *two* guides, friend Steve Burns and his own guide-friend. She must have been getting good guide advice in both ears. She boated a 17-inch rainbow and a bigger mountain whitefish. We shared stories and laughs at dinner that night at the Ellensburg Pasta Company.

On Tuesday, Tess drove back home with Julie, leaving Penny and myself to have breakfast at a great little place called the Wild Huck Restaurant on Third Avenue downtown (the new owners hadn't put up a new sign yet). From there, I introduced Penny to the Irene Rinehart stretch near town. No fish, but we ran into club member Barry Miller and his friend Len.



Penny Mabie prepares to scoop a well-deserved rainbow on the Yakima River.

On Wednesday we opted to try upriver from the Ringer boat launch. I was still swinging flies but carrying a nymphing rod as secondary. Throughout our fishing during occasional snow flurries, I had

been looking for water that was slower and deeper. We finally found it in a side channel. Sure enough, I started seeing a fish slashing and disappearing near the far bank and before long Penny and I each finally brought nice rainbows to net, hers swinging an Olive Soccer Mom and mine on either a Zebra Midge or a two-toned beaded worm pattern (the fish spit the fly in my net before I could get a look at which one it took).

Frankly, I'd forgotten how tired you can get walking a stoney river all day. But we practically had the river to ourselves. I need to return in April when the water temperature rises into the 40s.

Northwest Fly-Tyer & Fly-Fishing Expo

From the Yakima outing, I drove down to Albany, OR for my first visit to the Fly-tying Expo, which had been recommended by several PSFF members. The expo had been cancelled the previous three years due to the Covid pandemic and everyone there seemed happy to get back to the tying arena. I was happy to learn that people with FFI membership cards and veterans got in free.

There was a good turnout on Friday and even more later in the day on Saturday. Lots of incredible tyers sharing lots of valuable techniques. It was so impressive to sit with them one-on-one and being able to ask questions or just talk fishing as they applied their magic to hooks. One of the vendors there was selling used fly-fishing books, including our club's remaining stock of titles culled from our own lending library. There were lots of deals on rods and reels (which I managed to avoid) and tying materials (which I *didn't* avoid). I also managed a few good deals at the silent auction.

The live auction at the banquet generated more than \$7,000 from the bids on 16 donated items. There was one item I was considering — a bass-fishing day in 2024 with Chester Allen on a private

pond with a *lot* of big fish. I figured I could go for \$500. Unfortunately that was the *opening* bid. That trip went for \$1,000! This being the first show since 2019, I guess there was a bit of a pent-up demand and more open wallets.

PSFF had a sizable showing, too. Besides myself, I counted at least nine other members in attendance: Alan Yamashita, Steve Saville, Dennis Ehlers, Kristin Macy (and her serene brown lab, Kokanee), Ron McNeal, Tom Krughoff, Jim Maus, Mike Clancy and Chic Sundahl. The bad news was that at least five of our members ended up contracting Covid, apparently the virus that keeps on giving.

Rocky Ford ‘Fish Tank’

Rescheduling this outing gave us some much better weather — and the fishing was great, too. Instead of temps (with wind chill) of 9 degrees, we got sunny days with highs into the 50s. The downside of changing dates was a reduced turnout, but it was good to see Rob Jensen and his daughter Kara Jensen enjoy Rocky Ford for the first time.

Tess had her personal best rainbow on Day 1, landing (with the assist of two helpful strangers) a grand fish of about 30 inches, caught on my brown scud and only 5X tippet! I had a fish that I couldn't get into my net, but it was more in the range of 26 inches, a mere minnow.



Tess landed her personal best using only 5X tippet, and netted it with “the kindness of strangers,” who estimated its length to be about 30 inches.

My hot fly was a size 14 red chironomid with silver ribbing. I also caught fish on a black wooly bugger and a San Juan worm. Tess even caught a fish on a small Adams dry. For those that missed the Rock, you can make up for it during our May rendezvous at Park Lake, which only about 25 minutes away. Speaking of Park Lake, May 19-21, I heard a rumor that the fishing at Dry Falls has started to come back. Also, think about adding a couple more days to fish up at Omak Lake. It's perhaps the best month for catching Lahontan cutthroat.

Up Next: Spencer Lake

Saturday, April 22, 9 a.m.

Breakfast at Spencer Lake Bar & Grill, 1180 E Pickering Rd, Shelton, 8 a.m.

Spencer Lake is perhaps the most popular trout water in Mason County — for good reason. The 212-acre lake receives early and mid-spring plants of rainbow and fall plants of cutthroat trout, making it a very steady producer throughout the year. And of all the months of the year, April is the most productive for trout. You can even have a shot at one of the jumbos, which average 24 inches, or about five pounds. Spencer has excellent fishing for bass and perch.

Join us for a morning feed at Spencer Lake Bar & Grill, 1180 E Pickering Rd, Shelton, 8 a.m. The restaurant is at the northeast end of the lake.

Please RSVP me if you're planning on attending (or have signed up but cannot attend): David Frazier dfrazier@wavecable.com (360) 265-6963

2023 Outings

MAY

- a) Annual PSFF Gathering: Park Lake, Sun Village Resort, Friday-Sunday, May 19-21
- b) Mineral Lake, Saturday, May 27, 9 a.m.

JUNE

- a) Lake Kapowsin (bass), Saturday, June 10, 7 a.m.
- b) Leech Lake, Friday-Monday, June 23-26

JULY

Merrill Lake (Hexagenia hatch), Friday-Sunday, July 14-16

AUGUST

Little Deschutes River, Saturday, Aug. 12, 9 a.m.

SEPTEMBER

- a) Dash Point Pier (Coho & pinks), Saturday, Sept. 2, 6 a.m.
- b) Cowlitz River (Coho, cutthroat, steelhead), Saturday-Monday, Sept. 16-18

OCTOBER

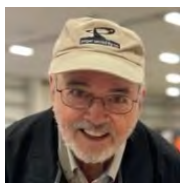
Island Lake (Mason County), Saturday, Oct. 7, 9 a.m.

NOVEMBER

Johns Creek (chum salmon), Friday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

DECEMBER

Cady Lake, Saturday, Dec. 2, 10 a.m.



Programs Chic Sundahl

Reading Still Water with Marc Williamson

This month we are going to learn about reading still water from one of the Pacific Northwest's premier still water fishermen, Marc Williamson, owner of Fall River Fly-Fishing. He will discuss the components of still water: levels/depths of water, definitions and components of the different zones. He also looks at different issues with regard to the

fish such as sound and smell. Attendees can expect to see and hear things not heard before regarding still waters.

Marc began fly-fishing over sixty years ago and has been teaching fly-tying, fly-fishing and fly-casting for over 20 years. He presents to fly clubs throughout Washington, Oregon and Montana (what happened to Idaho). He also presents at many sportsman and fly-fishing shows. He last presented to our club in July of 2015. Marc lives in Scappoose, Oregon.

Come join us - Thursday April 13, Tower lanes



Chic Sundahl and Kirstin Macy at the Northwest Fly-Tyer & Fly-Fishing Expo in Albany, OR - in search of speakers & new programs



Membership Tess Frazier

Puget Sound Fly-Fishers now has 113 members. Thank you to all who have renewed their membership and welcome to all our new members.

In case you've missed the memo — we have a newly designed PSFF.org webpage which was launched in January this year. If you have not done so, all members must re-register (Sign Up) on this new webpage, be confirmed as a member, then be given access to the Members Only Forum. Also, if

you have renewed your membership from February 1 on, you must re-register. If you're a new member, please register.

A Rendezvous

Our annual gathering at Park Lake, Sun Village Resort will take place on Friday-Sunday, May 19-21 in Eastern Washington. This has become an annual tradition of our club and is always well attended. Save the dates and join the fun. We'll have a Saturday evening potluck where PSFF provides the BBQ and all attendees contribute a side dish. See the Outings portion of our newsletter for information regarding fishing the many lakes in the area.

New Members

Brad Buerstatte	Yuka Mullen
David Pettit	J. Michelle Swope

Anniversaries/Years

Jim Collins	5	Georgia Daniels	1
Steve Fulkerson	2	Susan Hayman	1
Alan Hebert	1	Tom Long	4
Mario Machiel	1	Mark Paul	1
Les Rosenthal	17	Erik Saltrones	1
Tom Van Gelder	10	Gary Villela	4
Lee Winegar	21	Ron Zarges	13



FFI/WSCFFI
Mike Clancy

Washington Fly Fishing International Fly Casting Fair – Saturday April 29, 2023 9am – 4pm, Mountlake Terrace Ballinger Park, 98043

The WSCFFI will hold a Fly Casting Fair April 29th at Ballinger Park in Mountlake Terrace Washington. The daylong event will offer Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Youth and Spey Casting Skills Classes and a free Walk-in Casting clinic and Casting Skills Development Course led by FFI certified instructors. Families and kids are welcome. In addition, Fly-tying demonstrations and Fly-tying instruction classes will be held inside the Lakeview Room at the Mountlake Terrace Senior Center, hosted by some of the best FFI fly-tiers in the Pacific Northwest. Please go to the WSCFFI website – www.wscffi.org to learn more and the cost for events. Hope to see you there. Plenty of good parking.

Mike Clancy's position with FFI/WSCFFI and his work along with great support from our own PSFF membership is well known to most of the club. The annual Fly-fishing Academy has been a special interest for several years. With that connection in mind Mike submitted the following letter.

Please Help Support The 2023 NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy at Panhandle Lake, Shelton WA June 18 -25

Dear Friends of the Academy,

The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy is a non-profit youth education program supported by the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited. Additional financial support is provided by Fly Fishers International, NW Fly Fishing Clubs,

TU Chapters and generous local businesses and individuals. Our mission is to inform, equip and inspire a new generation of conservation minded fly-fishers. The Academy has been successful in this mission for the last 20 years. Every summer the Academy welcomes girls and boys between the ages of 12 and 16 for an exciting week long immersive learning adventure centered on conservation principles and fly fishing techniques.

Funding for the 2023 Academy will be extremely challenging to say the least. Costs to run the program have increased dramatically and we find ourselves looking at a potential \$10,000 shortfall. We have raised the per student tuition to \$500 for the all inclusive (including room and board) week long program but tuition only covers a small percentage of the \$2200 the program costs per student.

We need your help and request that your organization budget a contribution to the Academy as soon as possible and help to make the 2023 Academy a success. Donations in any amount to help run the program are most appreciated. You may also earmark your contribution of \$500 toward providing tuition to a deserving young person (named or un-named) or a specific scholarship amount if less than full tuition.

Please remit your contribution by check to :
NW Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy
% John Gravendyk
818 291st Ave NE
Carnation, WA 98014

The Academy can be a life changing experience for young people as they develop an enlightened understanding of stewardship, conservation and fly fishing. Please help us preserve this program!

The new Co-Directors thank you in advance for your generous support,
Carol Anderson, cja@windwalkermedia.com,
360-298-2999

John Gravendyk, gravendyk@hotmail.com,
425-615-0356

Bruce Merighi, bruce401@nwt.net, 509-679-2274

PSFF Library

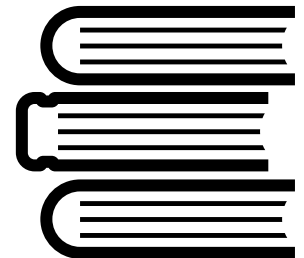
Tom Krughoff

Now that the library is open for business on a regular basis, it might be helpful to review the library policies:

- *You must be a current club member to check out books.
- *Maximum of three items at a time.
- *Please return books within two months.
- *Complete the card with your name and date checked out.
- *Place the check-out card and/or any returned books in the basket.

In order to keep the library at a manageable size, we are not accepting donations of books or purchasing new books at this time. However, we do want to keep our library up to date and relevant. If you know of books that would be good additions to our collection, give your suggestions to our librarian. I will keep a list of suggested books, and periodically we will see if there are outdated or less used titles that can be replaced with newer editions.

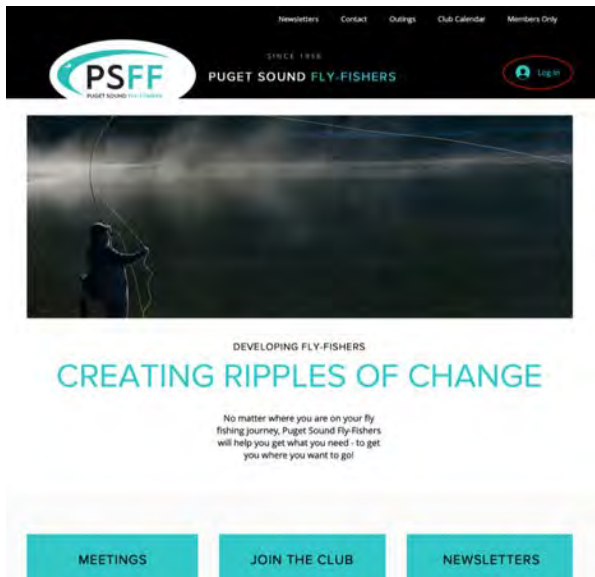
One more thing, if you have checked out one of our books and found it to be particularly useful or entertaining, please let me know. It's helpful for me to know which titles our members find most relevant.



How to Access the Forum

1) Launch the new [PSFF.org](https://psff.org) webpage as shown in Figure 1 and click on the Log In link (circled in red). That'll take you to the Log in and Sign Up form in Figure 2. Expand the Figure below to see the Log-in circled in red.

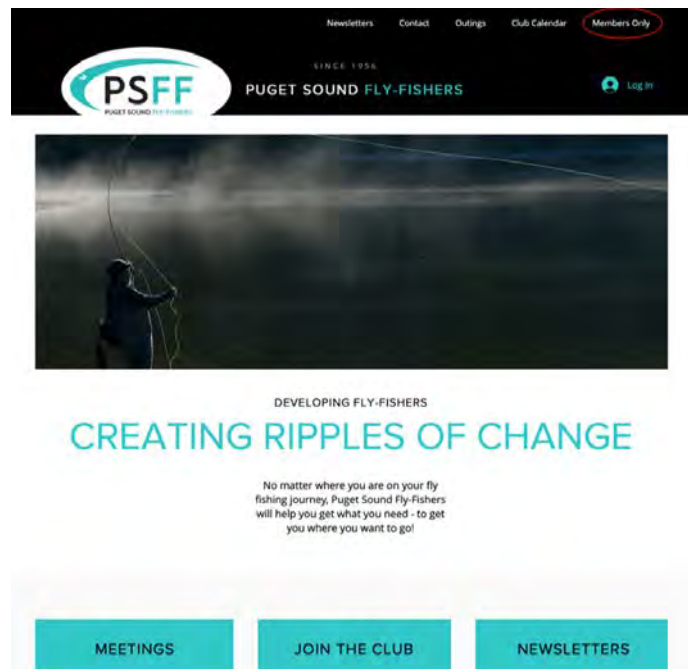
Figure 1



access, then log in and click on the Members Only link as shown in figure 3

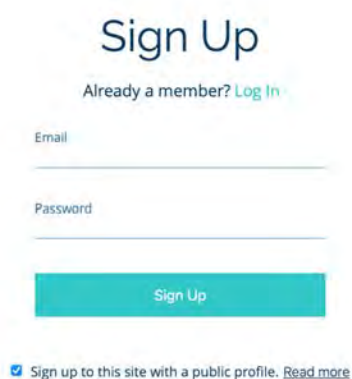
3) Members Only is now available to you

Figure 3



2) Log in and sign up

Figure 2



4) The Forum Page

Figure 4



If you are registering as a new Forum member, you need to Sign Up first as shown in Figure 2 by clicking on the Log In and Sign up Link shown in Figure 1. You enter your email address and create a password. Once you've done that **and** you have received confirmation that you've been confirmed as a member and now have

PSFF - Officers and Committee Chairs

Club Officers

President: Steve Saville

President-elect: Vacant

Vice President: Rob Jensen

Past President: Greg Shimek

Secretary: Amy Weller

Treasurer: Dennis Beardsley

Director, 1st year: Richard Stone

Director, 2nd year: Dennis Ehlers

Director, 3rd year: Bryan Habeck

Committee Chairs

Membership Chair: Tess Frazier

Librarian: Tom Krughoff

Raffles: Jim Baker

Programs: Chic Sundahl

Outings: David Frazier

Web Site Editor: Bryan Habeck

Newsletter Editor: Tom Long

Legislation: Mike Clancy

FFI Representative: Mike Clancy

Education: Mike Koslosky

Conservation: Greg Shimek