

July 2023
Volume 67 #7



Leader Line

Steve Saville

President

Ahhhh, Summer!

It's finally here with just a couple of hang-ups. This time of year is my favorite, meaning between now and November 1st. There is so much action going on that it's hard to decide what to do. The choices are endless it seems. First, there are several very inviting events on our calendar. The outings are plentiful and varied. You can go to Merrill Lake and fish for several species. It is one of the premier times to fish the Hexagenas Mayfly hatch. They are the largest of the Mayflies. We'll be tying those at our July tying session and the fish will logically (?) be feasting on the emergers, adults, and spinners.

Next up is a day at Dash Point for Coho and Pink Salmon, and then a trip to the Cowlitz River for Coho, Steelhead, and Sea Run Cutthroat trout. Check the calendar for these upcoming dates and

be sure to pick up the information sheets at our next meeting. The Cowlitz is currently fishing very well for all three species so don't miss an opportunity to share a day with your fellow club members.

Probably one of my favorite fisheries is the Pink Salmon run. I have spent many days fishing for Pinks from the beach and I can verify that they can be a handful on a fly rod. The Pink Salmon return to several rivers emptying into Puget Sound during the odd numbered years only and this year, if predictions hold, should be a very good year from many beach locations as well as from a boat for those who have watercraft.

I'll be heading for Corbett Lake in Canada this month with several other members to fish for huge rainbows. I'm looking forward to the opportunity to learn more about lake fishing. Thanks to Jim Baker for putting this trip together. It should be exciting.

I would like to remind you all that we have no meeting during the month of August but do have a club picnic. This year it is my pleasure to host the picnic at my family's property in Dash Point. There

Next Meeting
July 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Tower Lanes

Dinner 6:30 p.m.

Program 7:15 p.m.

will be several activities as well as fishing for pinks throughout the day. The tides are favorable. An informational flyer and emails will be forthcoming so be sure to be on the lookout for the event. The last time we held the picnic there, before the pandemic, we were treated to Orca Whales out front as well as Bald Eagles flying by and Ospreys fishing. It was quite a sight.

As September is approaching, it is my duty to put out a call for new board members who are willing to serve. We have several positions that will become vacant at the end of the year. We need people to serve. Rarely does service require more than an hour or two per month but as I have said before, "It takes a crew to run this ship." Job descriptions are available for viewing or downloads on the club web site.

Finally, I'd like to thank Tom Long for serving as Newsletter Editor for several years. Tom has produced quality newsletters that have become the talk of several clubs throughout the state. Bryan Habeck will be taking over responsibility for the newsletter beginning in August. Also, again, many thanks to Mike Koslosky for his service as Education Chairman. Rob Jensen will be assuming the duties in October.

Tight lines, everybody! Get out there and fish!

Gonna Fish, then Fish and then Fish!



Outings David Frazier

Can You Say *Hexagenia limbata*?

Merrill Lake, Friday-Sunday, July 14-16

The world's largest mayfly brings in a lake's biggest fish. At Merrill Lake, that can mean brown trout weighing several pounds, as well as native cutthroat and some rainbows, including triploids. When the Hex hatch is on — traditionally six to eight weeks from July through August — things can get downright insane from just before sunset and well into the night.

When fishing at night, use a head lamp, 3X tippet and shorter leaders to avoid tangles and break-offs. When you think you've heard a splash near your fly, avoid setting the hook; wait for the fish to latch on and pull. Trout are known to drown the big bugs before biting them.

During daylight hours, when you're not tying on the usual summer fly patterns (calibaetis, caddis, beetles, ants, chironomids, water boatmen, BWOs, leeches, blah-blah-blah), you can hang a huge size 6 Hex cripple on the surface or drop a huge Hex nymph along a silty bottom about 10 to 40 feet down. Hex mayflies can be up to 1 $\frac{3}{8}$ inches long, not counting their tails.

Merrill Lake was formed when lava flows from Mt. St. Helens blocked the stream valley. Fishing can be good all over this 283-acre lake, but many Hex-perts swear by the north end.

This is a year-round catch and release lake. Fly-fishing only. No barbs, no split shot, no gas motors. Bring your Discover Pass. Headlamps are essential for the sunset bite, as well as the ability to find your way back to your put-in spot. Bring 4-6-weight rods with floating, intermediate and sinking lines.

We'll be trailering to Cougar RV Park & Campground, site 18, in Cougar, which also has tent sites and cabins. Call (360) 238-5224 for availability. Merrill is only 15 minutes from Cougar. Merrill Lake is in Cowlitz County, about 2.5 hours from Tower Lanes in Tacoma.

Leech Lake Report

This was an all-weather outing if you were with us for more than Saturday. Rain, wind and sun was with us at various times on Thursday and Friday. The better weekend days had some wind (and a lot of other anglers). The parking lot was overflowing, as was the launch site. But the fish were there, too. Brookies, of course, up to about 12 inches, and triploid rainbows up to 18 inches.



Ryan Puddy - all weather and ready to fish

Lots of flies seemed to work at some time or another. I had good days using my Koosh Bop,

which is a Bop (boobie and mop combo) that uses a rubbery tail made from a Koosh toy. Another crazy eye-opener for me was the Fab fly, a brightly colored and lightly floating version of the Blob fly. The difference the Fab uses a tab of foam off the end of the fly instead of a bead. Both patterns use Jelly Fritz and were fished floating off the bottom using an intermediate line. Damselfly nymphs also worked well.

While a couple of our members stayed to fish on Saturday only, those that were around for dinner on Saturday were fed BBQ pulled-pork sandwiches, coleslaw and cookies. Thanks for attending: Ryan Puddy, Tom Krughoff, Jim Baker, Julie Kelner, Rick McCabe, Dennis Ehlers and (too briefly) Ron McNeal.

Ohop Lake Report

Rain, showers and searching for the big bite. That was my first experience at Ohop Lake. While there were some limited hits and landings of spiny rays and trout Saturday morning, the overall impression was of casting practice under dampening skies.

Having said that, I still feel giving Ohop more time to redeem itself is in my future. It sure does look bassy.

Tom Krughoff expertly pivoted from searching for trout and bass and found success focusing on the lake's bluegill population, returning home with a healthy batch for a fish fry.

I spoke with a couple of returning bass fishermen who reported boating five nice largemouth at the far end of this long, narrow lake, where a small tournament was apparently finding success. These guys had arrived at the lake at 5:30 a.m. to find the parking lot loaded with boat trailers. And I thought getting there at 7 a.m. was early!

Studies have shown that rain and a lowering barometer tends to send bass into shallow water for dining opportunities. So ... I can see the advantage of having a motorboat when searching for hot spots spread over a large impoundment.

Upcoming Outings

AUGUST

Little Deschutes River, Saturday, **Aug. 12**,

Cancelled

PSFF Picnic, Saturday, **Aug. 19**,

11 a.m.- 4 p.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

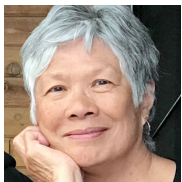
Island Lake (Mason County), Saturday, **Oct. 7**, 9 a.m.

NOVEMBER

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

DECEMBER

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



Membership Tess Frazier

Summer is here! At least the calendar tells me it's summer. The last two weeks have been filled with rain, cold air and wind, with temps in the low 60s. As I sit here typing, I look at the calendar to make sure it's June-July. Well, it's still early in the season so we have some sunshine and warmth to look forward to.

Congratulations and a huge thank you to member Mark Paul who has volunteered to be in charge of Programs for our club. Many thanks to Chic Sundahl for the years he has contributed to bring outstanding programs and speakers to our meetings. Thanks to Rob Jensen who will assume the Education Chair in October. If you would like to try your hand as a Newsletter contributor, an interim article on an education topic would be appreciated. Many of you have filled out your membership application noting that you would like to help with certain aspects of PSFF. Here's your opportunity! Responsibilities of the Education Chair and other positions can be found under the Members Only section of our website www.psff.org.

Save the Date

Summer Picnic

Saturday, August 19, 11am - 4pm

Our Summer Picnic will take place at the family property of our club President, Steve Saville. Save the date and join the fun, food and friends. A beautiful scenic, water view setting, barbecue, lots of food, fish talk, heck ... we'll also throw in an opportunity to fish for Pinks and Coho at Dash Point, a short walk from Steve's property. Come on, don't miss out, come join us. We'll talk more about it at the July 13 membership meeting.

There is no Membership Meeting in August so, watch for more specific information coming in member emails and appearing in the August newsletter.

Welcome to New Member:

Scott Nelson

Anniversaries / years

June

John Brett	13	Tom Fergi	5
Greg Gremer	6	Rick Hulscher	7

June (continued)

Chris Johnson	8	James Lindsey.	14
Tim McMullen	5	Phil Oliver	7
Graham Owen	6	Gene Rivers	7
Steve Saville	17	James Schmidt	6
Alan Yamashita	11		

July

JT Pikul	4	Allen Poobus	7
Richard Williams	1		



Conservation Greg Shimek

First Duckabush Project Tour Featuring: Fisheries Biologist Clayton David, from HCSEG

Join project partners, HCSEG and WDFW, at the Duckabush Estuary to learn how the Duckabush Restoration Project can benefit all the different species that call it home. Each tour will feature a special guest biologist who will provide a deeper dive into the different worlds of plants and animals that depend on the Duckabush Ecosystem.

First Duckabush Project Tour:

July 12th

2pm - 3:30pm

Meet at the WDFW River Access Parking Lot
Duckabush River Access, Brinnon, WA 98320

Featuring: Fisheries Biologist Clayton David, from HCSEG

Additional tours are available at various days and times throughout the summer, so come prepared with water, sun protection, and comfortable walking

shoes. The tour series will wrap up with a special salmon celebration event in September!

To register for July 12th click **Sign-Up** and open the link

SIGN-UP

Alternatively if you need assistance please email alexandra@pnwsalmoncenter.org

Thank you - It wouldn't be right to just slip out the door without a word of thanks to all of the faithful contributors to our Newsletter over the time of my stewardship these last 3 years. It has been a privilege to work with all of you. I have gained in my personal experience and in particular have appreciated your tolerance for so many typos and some experimenting with style. I am especially proud that we have been able to introduce photos to memorialize so many events. Special thanks to all of the Board members who faithfully edited my edits, and to those who join me retirement, Mike Koslosky who invited me to work in this way, Chic Sundahl for his faithful program contributions and Greg Shimek whose conservation commitment gives us all hope. The June edition of the PSFF Newsletter, put together by Bryan Habeck, tells me that this representation of our Club will continue to evolve. Next, I hope to see you all out along a river. Happy days... TL



PSFF - Officers and Committee Chairs

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: Tess Frazier
Librarian: Tom Krughoff
Raffles: Jim Baker
Programs: Mark Paul
Outings: David Frazier
Website editor: Bryan Habeck
Newsletter editor: Bryan Habeck
Legislation/FFI: Mike Clancy

Leech Lake - June 2023

