



LEADER LINE

Can Tying Flies Make You a Better Fisher?

There was a time when the idea of tying my own flies was right up there with sewing my own waders. Truth be told, I was more traumatized by my inability to tie knots.

Commercially tied flies were a commodity that seemed to fit into the whole, let's-buy-stuff! aspect of our esoteric sport.

A fly shop is not that different from a candy shop. They're both stocked with row after row of small, brightly colored delectables. In one shop you get a paper bag and start popping in the most eye-grabbing sweets, with names like Fire Bombs, Peppermint Starlights and Horehound. In the



other you fill up a little plastic cup with Gold-Ribbed Hare's Ears, Sparkle Caddis Pupae, Parachute Purple Haze thingies. Both shops stun you with gotcha marketing. Both will hook you.

Unlike a candy store, a fly shop will try to sell you the ingredients for making your own trout treats — hooks and threads with strange colors and numbers, purple and pink feathers, beads of all sizes and flavors, parts of dead birds, dead deer, dead anything. And little baggies of sweet-looking fluffy stuff. Ummm!

Next Meeting
APRIL 9

Dinner
Program

6:30 PM
7:30 PM

Tower Lanes
6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

LEADER LINE (continued)

And what's with all those stainless steel and brass gizmos? Does Hannibal Lecter shop here?

For some of us, a time comes when you look around and notice that your fishing friends aren't hanging out by the fly bins anymore. Across the room you hear people talking about "sticky" hooks, GSP thread, sparkle flash, Frenchies and boobies. What the whaaat?!? Have I just walked into an adult fly shop?

There's a definite language barrier — just when you thought you were one of the cool kids. "I just scored my PB bow swinging a wicked Dr. Death. Sweet!" But now your best fishing bud has betrayed you and he's hanging out with those tyer dudes.



Photo from confluenceflyshop.com

So you start watching YouTube videos. You check out a fly-tying class at your local club. You buy a vice, some of those frightening tools and start producing some incredibly "buggy" flies.

And then, and then some smarty-wader fly club president writes a wry newsletter column with a headline that asks, "Can Tying Flies Make You a Better Fisher?" A better fisher? Is there no end to this Jacobs Ladder? Yes to the first question. No to the second. (Sorry.)

Some very experienced masters of

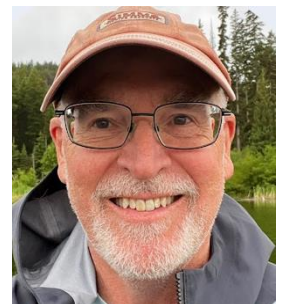
the fly will tell you that fly-tying is more of a side hustle to fishing. A hobby. They'll point out that there are a lot of tyers out there who don't even fish. Just look at folks in Kenya, Thailand, Sri Lanka and India who produce flies en masse.

What about getting into the literature of fly-fishing? That's a massive store of knowledge that will both entertain and educate you during the cold, rainy winters — as will fly-tying. A side channel or the main body of water? Either way, lifelong learning is the hallmark of our beloved sport. There's always more to learn.

Tying flies is no exception. There are those who really know their turkey biots from their goose quills who place tying right up there with learning to double haul, read the water and identify hatches.

There is no question that learning these skills will make you a better fisher. One of my favorite guides gave me the hobby speech and then immediately followed it up by saying how great it is to be able to adjust the standard commercial patterns to improve their functionality in home waters. More weight, ampler size, different materials.

Think of making a Prince Nymph, one of the most productive nymphs in any fly box, with a cone head and a tinsel body instead of peacock hurl. Or adding a few turns of bright orange thread as a collar to a simple midge pupa. You might also dive head first into the shallow water of trash flies where you construct a fly that imitates a candy. Ummm, candy!



*David Frazier
President*

PROGRAMS

STEPHEN NEAL

Stephen will be sharing a pictorial journey and decade of knowledge fishing Chopaka Lake, one of only two fly-fishing-only lakes within Okanogan County in north-central Washington. The remote 150 acre lake is adjacent to and partially within the Chopaka Mountain Wilderness Study Area, offering excellent wildlife viewing in addition to fly fishing for trout.



Stephen is originally from northern California. He has lived in Buckley, WA since 2011 and is currently the Secretary and Program Chair of the Alpine Fly Fishers and past president of Fly Fishers for Conservation (Fresno, CA). In addition to fly fishing Stephen also authors Back of Beyond, a recurring monthly article on nature, conservation, and fishing experiences featured in the Alpine club newsletter and distributed by several other clubs in Northern CA as well as the Northern California Council of FFI.



*Tim McKey
Programs*

FROM OUR LIBRARIAN

April Theme: General Fly Fishing

At the April meeting the library will feature general fly-fishing books, i.e. everything except fly tying and destination genres. As always, you can look at the library spreadsheet on the web site ([HERE](#)) and reserve ahead of time any title that you would like to check out.

Please remember the library guidelines when checking out books:

- *Check-out privileges are for members only.
- *Please fill out the library card with your name & date and drop the card in the “catch and release” basket.
- *Books are due two months after the check-out date.



*Tom Krughoff
Librarian*

RAFFLES

April's raffle will consist of another multiple winning selection of fly boxes, a silent auction for a truly unique bamboo backpacking rod, more fly tying materials, a lightweight fishing vest, and much more!



*Fred Olin
Raffles*

OUTINGS

Greetings members and friends!

Cady Lake Outing

Mason County - 8 AM Saturday April 18th

Spring 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 to keep in check with the DFW if they happen to stop by to check, also selective gear rules apply.

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.



Photo by WA Fly Fishing Forum

Flies: This one can vary, these fish can be very particular!! Leeches, wooly buggers and variations, nymphs in mid water can work well. There are many members of the club that are excellent lake fly "gurus" please post your suggestion in the forum!

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

DIRECTIONS

**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!

There is a donation box located at the launch, all donated funds go to PSFF to help with the cost of upkeep, thank you!

PSFF Rendezvous on the Yak – RESCHEDULED

Yakima River – April 24-26

We rescheduled our annual retreat from March to April due to Yakima River conditions. We will now be meeting at Whispering Pines RV Park April 24-26. All other details are the same; hope to see you there. Please RSVP if you're planning to come.

Cheers!

*Julie Kelner
Outings*



2026 PSFF OUTINGS CALENDAR

APRIL

PSFF Rendezvous on the Yak (RESCHEDULED)

April 24-26

Whispering Pines RV Park

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

Greetings PSFF members! This month I'd like to highlight a couple of volunteer options.

The first is with the **Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group (HCSEG)**. There are many volunteer options on their [volunteers page](#). One that seemed particularly interesting was monitoring outmigrating juvenile coho and steelhead. I checked the signup link for the Tahuya/Dewatto option (you need to have registered as a volunteer to obtain the password) and there are still many open slots in April and May. And you could hit Cady Lake in the afternoon!

I'd like to give a shoutout to Jason Hardt, our web guru, for loading the PSFF calendar with many conservation options that have a tie to fisheries habitat and recovery. We will continue to update the calendar as new options arise.



Steve Knowles
Conservation

COHO + STEELHEAD MONITORING

Join us this spring to monitor outmigrating juvenile salmon and steelhead! Volunteers assist staff at rotary screw traps with identifying fish, recording data, and supporting general trap operations. The information collected helps scientists understand juvenile production and survival of wild coho and steelhead populations in the canal. No prior experience is needed—just curiosity, a willingness to learn, and an interest in contributing to important conservation work.

WHY ARE THERE TWO SIGN-UPS THIS YEAR?

We made this adjustment in response to recent project budget reductions, which require us to be more strategic about staff travel during the monitoring season. Because the Little Quilcene trap is much farther from the Salmon Center in Belfair, we are hoping to connect with volunteers who live in or near the Quilcene area or on the north end of Hood Canal who may be willing to assist with trap checks there.

You will not be able to sign-up without registering as a volunteer first. [Click here to register.](#)

TAHUYA / DEWATTO

Volunteer shifts available every day!

April - May

9am - 12pm

Meet at the Salmon Center

[SIGN-UP](#) ▶

LITTLE QUILCENE

Volunteer shifts available every day!

April - May

9am - 12pm

Meet at Quilcene Trap

[SIGN-UP](#) ▶

The second volunteer pathway to highlight is with the **Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW)**. They have an extensive volunteer listing covering all manner of projects across the state. To access these listings you need to first get a WA.gov account, then fill out their volunteer registration form. It took me about 5 minutes starting at this [website](#).

Once at their volunteer site then some sorting is needed. I focused on Region 6 which includes Pierce County, and got the listing linked [here](#). There's a smolt counting option in Discover Bay near Port Townsend on many days in April and May, plus a number of other stewardship options closer to Tacoma.

This month's northwest conservation organization to highlight is [Long Live the Kings](#) based in Seattle. They have a simple and compelling mission statement, an impressive list of active [projects](#), and a large number of collaborative [partners](#). They don't utilize volunteers but might be worth considering for a donation.



MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to April 2026

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. No bios were provided this month, but please reach out and welcome Ray Kelpin and Donna Porter at the next meeting or outing they attend.

Member Website Navigation

Are you wanting to learn about how to best navigate our PSFF.org website and use the groups section to communicate with other members? A tutorial, called Website Orientation, is available under Files in the Membership group ([HERE](#)). If you would like to schedule a zoom session with the membership chair, Joe Harrison, for a tour of the website, send me a message at jjmmkk@comcast.net.

2025 Membership Survey

The complete summary of the 2025 member survey can now be found on the member section of the PSFF website under the membership group. Click on Files and look for 2025 Member Survey, or click [HERE](#).



*Joe Harrison
Membership*

April Anniversaries/Years

Mark Platta	1	David Stiffler	3	Gary Villella	7
Deb Fredrikson	2	Anne Stiffler	3	Tom Van Gelder	13
Hans Fredrikson	2	Mark Paul	4	Ron Zarges	16
Bob DeNully	2	Steve Fulkerson	5	Lee Winegar	24

Are You Ready?

Ask not what your club can do for you, ask what you can do for your club. Have you ever thought about taking the next step in your involvement in PSFF? Consider one of several leadership positions that come open from time to time. Ask around. Volunteers agree they get as much if not more out of their positions as they put in.

Let's talk!

By the end of this year, PSFF will have key committee chair vacancies that provide so much for its members: Outings Chair, Newsletter Editor and 1st year Director. To learn more about these opportunities, go to PSFF.org and click "More" at the top of the home screen. Select "Roles and Responsibilities," which provides a list of PDFs that outline the duties. Or click [HERE](#).

- David Frazier

EDUCATION

Fly Tying

On **April 11, 9:00AM** in the small room at Tower Lanes, Steve Saville will be teaching how to tie the mayfly emerger. These are highly effective flies that imitate the critical transition stage when a mayfly nymph rises to the surface and sheds its skin to become a winged adult. Designed to ride just below, in, or on the surface film, these patterns are essential during hatches when trout key in on this vulnerable, high-protein stage.



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 6:00-9:00 PM** at the Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor. Signup is through PenMet Parks; signup [HERE](#). The course material can be found on the new fly fishing education group on our website ([LINK](#)). If you, or anyone you know, wants a crash course in the basics of fly fishing and casting, this is your opportunity. Cost is \$75 for in-district and \$90 for out of district students and includes all course material.

Casting Improvement & FFI Casting Skills Development Program

Mark your calendar for this year's Casting Improvement and FFI Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) sessions; find more info [HERE](#). 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, **April 19 from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM**, at Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah, WA. Signup for classes on the [website](#).

The second event will be a joint session with SSFF (South Sound Fly Fishers). It will take place **Saturday, Sept 12 at 10:00 AM** 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 ([LINK](#)).

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. Check it out!



*Rob Jensen
Education*

WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

FFI (flyfishersinternational.org) has a number of free videos on casting techniques, including specialty casts, accuracy techniques and more. Our local Council (WSCFFI.org) also includes plenty of tips and tricks from casting to tying and even techniques to best photograph your

fly creations in all their glory. Joining FFI opens you up to additional classes and activities that are reserved for paid members so take a look at the generous offerings and improve your fishing and tying.

WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS (continued)

WSCFFI Casting and Tying Event

Mark your calendars to attend the Washington State Council of FFI Casting and Tying event at Pickering Barn in Issaquah on **Sunday, April 19**. The day-long event will offer Beginning, Intermediate, Advanced, Women's Casting and Spey Classes. There will be a free Walk-in Casting clinic and Casting Skills Development Course led by FFI certified instructors. There is plenty of time to practice and you can find the particular skills needed for each level at <http://flyfishersinternational.org/>. **Please bring your own equipment.** Except for the Spey Class, the recommended rod is 9ft 5wt with 7.5' of leader and a yarn fly attached (we will have a minimum number of loaner rods available if needed). The WSCFFI highly recommends that you wear a hat and sunglasses or other protective eyewear. Sunscreen is recommended.

There are a number of fee based classes available from beginning fly casting through advanced, plus the Fly Casting Skills Development program where you can earn bronze, silver or gold skills levels. A women's casting class is also on tap. Lunches are available to purchase for \$18. To register for any of the classes go to WSCFFI.org.



As a special treat PNW native and **fly casting champion Maxine McCormick**, will give a demonstration at noon. Maxine McCormick has been fly fishing for as long as she can remember, thanks to her dad. By chance, she was introduced to competitive fly casting at the age of nine and since then she has attended three World Fly Casting Championships winning seven gold medals in both accuracy and distance events. At the 2022 World Championships in Norway she took home four gold medals while winning all single handed fly casting events.

Her perfect accuracy result was the highest score ever recorded at the World Championships for male or female participants. She set a single hand fly distance record in the Women's Sea Trout event of 167'.

Maxine believes that the skills she developed while tournament casting has resulted in more confidence, success and fun on the water while fishing. She looks forward to sharing her efficient casting stroke with you and hopes it will improve your casting and fishing too. What Maxine loves most about casting and fly fishing is that there is always more to learn and how good you are is a direct product of how much practice you put in.



BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE CASTING CLASSES

BEGINNING & INTERMEDIATE CASTING CLASSES

CATCH MORE FISH WITH BETTER CASTS

FREE FLY TYING CLASSES-FAMILIES WELCOME

Register Now!

WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL & GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS (continued)

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

Washington FFI Fly Casting & Tying Event

April 19; 9AM-4PM

Pickering Barn, Issaquah, WA

Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous

May 22-24

Craig, MT

NW Youth Conservation and Fishing Academy

June 20-27

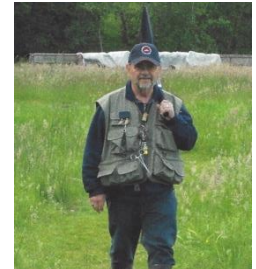
Panhandle Lake, Shelton, WA

The Northwest Youth Conservation and Fly Fishing Academy has been helping kids become better fly fishers since 2002. The Academy is a youth education program of the Washington Council of Trout Unlimited and generously supported by Fly Fishers International, both 501(c)3 non-profit organizations. The Academy is also supported by NW Fly Fishing Clubs, Trout Unlimited Chapters, the Gig Harbor Fly Shop, and very special individuals. The Academy sponsors a week of fly fishing training and activities for 12-

16 year-olds who are new to, or are interested in improving their fly fishing skills. Students receive fly casting and tying classes, plus many other fly fishing topics that cover everything from what fly to use, how to read a rise form, how the gear all works together, understanding of how the watery world works and why it's important to maintain and improve our fisheries. The Academy experience will propel students on a journey to becoming confident and effective fly fishers as well as future conservation stewards of the aquatic environment.



Mike Koslosky
WSCFFI



Mike Clancy
Legislation & FFI

PSFF OFFICERS

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

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	Tim McKey
Raffles	Fred Olin
Website	Jason Hardt

Puget Sound Fly-Fishers is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization which can accept donations and bequeaths.

Consider including PSFF in your estate planning to invest in future generations of fly fishers, with our thanks.