



## Leader Line

# A Little Rain in Your Life

As I sit here pondering what to write about this month, the rain is falling. We need it. It's been several weeks since we have had any sort of moisture and the rivers need it. It's been hot! A few drops on the ground are a good thing for all of us and some rain will bring the fish into the rivers. That too, is a good thing for those of us who enjoy wading the rivers and streams in search of trout, salmon, and steelhead. I haven't waded in several months but am looking forward to a trip south to the Cowlitz River.

I had the opportunity to drive to Canada recently, along with eight other members and a ninth person to partake in some really good

trout fishing on Corbett Lake. The lake is well known for its trout, and it didn't disappoint. Though the catch was small, the fish were big, averaging 20" or larger. I caught all but one on dry flies. That has always been my choice and the fish were eager to take the flies. I'm told the fishing was down a bit from previous years but the day we arrived saw one guest boating a massive 13-pound rainbow. Thanks to Jim Baker for setting this trip up and lending his expertise on fishing Corbett Lake. I already look forward to next year.

As of today's writing, WDFW has yet to open marine area 11 which is my favorite place to fish for salmon. The hope is that there will be enough escapement to allow the area to re-open in the coming days. The Pink salmon fishing should be in full swing shortly and I'd hate to miss another run of the small but feisty

## Next Meeting

September 14

### Tower Lanes

6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

**Dinner:** 6:30

**Program** 7:15

salmon. Be sure to check the regulations before you head out. There have been several emergency closures that affect the local areas.

There are a couple of items of note on the calendar. Fly Tying on August 5<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) will feature flies for Pink Salmon. The materials will be provided but bring tools and pink thread if you have it. We will feature several different patterns that I have had success with in the past and one in particular that is my secret weapon. Later in the month is the Club picnic.

The picnic will be held on Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> at my family's property in Dash Point. We have had several gatherings there in years past and if Area 11 opens in time we will be able to fish for Pinks that day. The tide should be favorable and there is plenty of area to fish on the beach.

There are numerous yard games to play, casting, and good food. Hopefully the weather will be good, as well. In years past we have been treated to a view of Orca whales out front, ospreys, and bald eagles doing what they do best. Be sure to let Tess Frazier know if you are planning to attend. She will send the directions to the cottage on my family's property. There will be a "sandwich board" with the club logo at the head of the driveway so look for that. Parking is limited so park tightly and hopefully we can get everybody in. I'm looking forward to seeing you on the 19<sup>th</sup>.



Tight lines everybody!

*Steve Saville*  
Club President

## Pinks and More



*Bryan Habeck and Steve Saville last year at Dash Point.*

### Dash Point Park & Pier, Tacoma,

**Saturday, Sept. 2, 8AM**

Let's hear it for odd-numbered years when the pink salmon arrive in Puget Sound. The 2023 run is expected to be the best since 2013. This year's forecast is for a whopping 4 million pinks! And September is also coho time. Get your coffee on and

meet us in the Dash Point Park & Pier parking lot at 8 a.m. The tide will be going out and, with a little help from nature, the fish should be on the move on this sandy-bottomed, north-facing beach. The tide will drop from about 9 feet to 1 foot between 8:30 a.m. and noon. Low tide is at about 1:13 p.m.

**Flies:** For pinks, the favorite color is pink — HOT pink. Top colors for coho can range from hot pink to chartreuse, purple and black, often with white or light-colored bodies. Patterns include Clouser minnows, sand eels, herring patterns and surface flies such as gurglers and Leland Miyawaki's Beach Popper.

**Gear:** Fish can range in size from about 2 to 8 pounds in our region. Hook sizes from 2 to 6

are recommended. Rods of 6-8 weight with floating or intermediate-sinking tips or lines. Bring a stripping basket if you have one. Let's hope the wind hasn't foiled and spoiled the beach with tangling weeds as it did in 2022.

**The Rendezvous:** Let's gather for at 8 a.m. at the Dash Point Park & Pier parking lot, 1500 Beach Dr. NE, Tacoma. Dash Point is about 26 minutes northwest from Tower Lanes in Tacoma.

**Number of Pinks returning to Puget Sound**

# 4 million

**As always, please contact me if you are attending:** David Frazier, [dfrazier@wavecable.com](mailto:dfrazier@wavecable.com) (360) 265-6963

## Cowlitz River Outing

### Blue Creek Boat Launch area Saturday-Monday, Sept. 16-18

September and October can be an exciting time on the Cowlitz.

On an ideal day, you can expect to find steelhead, coho and sea-run cutthroat trout. During this time last year I was into SRCs on size 8 and 10 wet flies that were swung or stripped. Steelhead were

seen being taken and there was much talk of the silvers coming through in the vicinity of the Blue Creek Boat Launch where I was fishing. The weather was also warm and just about perfect. But given the unpredictability of forecasting this past year, please don't quote me on any unrealized promises!

I also took advantage of the overlapping runs to pull out both my 4-weight switch rod for the SRCs and my 14-foot 7-weight spey to chuck heavy line into the deeper runs on the far side of the river where I hoped to find one of bigger species. Single-handed rods would also work, but having the ability to get more distance seemed like a good idea. And it's a blast to cast.

If you plan on preparing for fishing for steelies and coho, bring along a stout rod — about

an 8-weight for single-handed rods, or a 6- to 7-weight spey. Have a variety of sinking tips to give you more options. If you're focusing some time of the SRCs, 5- or 6-weight rods with floating or slower-sinking lines should suffice. Trout speys of 3- to 5-

weight should be about right. Bring a wading staff and cleated boots if you have them.

I have this outing down for three days, but it can easily be a day trip. From Tower Lanes

in Tacoma, it's only about 1.5 hours to the Cowlitz River Blue Creek Boat Launch section, where trails lead downstream to plenty of enticing water. For info about free dry camping at the site, check out this video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fr4RepX1kgQ>

**As always, please contact me if you are attending:** David Frazier, [dfrazier@wavecable.com](mailto:dfrazier@wavecable.com) (360) 265-6963

## Merrill Lake Report

Tess and I had some quality time with fellow members Mark Paul, Barry Miller and Mike Clancy at Merrill Lake near Cougar, WA. Trouting with big yellow bugs in the evening was a huge hit. We fished the Hexagenia hatch on Friday at dusk. Barry had the hot fly Friday before the hatch using a large soft hackle. He netted at least five that we witnessed.

Mark had three on a purple wet fly and Tess had one on a similar pattern. And I was skunked the first day. It happens.



*Barry Miller had the hot hand during the pre-hatch hours of the Hexagenia hatch at Merrill Lake.*

The fun happens as soon as the sun goes down over the mountain. As the adults started popping en masse, we switched to emerger patterns. I had three smacks on my dry fly on Saturday without a hook-up. As dusk turned into darkness the headlamps got pulled out. The hatch was over as suddenly as it started. The number of beefy shucks floating on the lake was astounding.



I went out solo on Saturday evening at 7:30 to redeem myself and landed six trout — three rainbows and three cutthroat — all on the same pattern, a slim-bodied Hex nymph trolled and stripped slowly on an intermediate line.

This was Mark's first time with a huge hatch. He said it was one of the most amazing experiences as a fisherman. I couldn't agree more.

## Upcoming Outings

### AUGUST

**Canceled:** Little Deschutes River, Saturday, **Aug. 12**, 9 a.m.

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



*David Frazier  
Outings Chair*



## PSFF Summer Picnic

**Saturday, August 19, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

Our Summer Picnic will take place at the family property of our club President, Steve Saville. Join the fun, food and friends. You'll be treated to a beautiful, Sound-view setting, barbecue, lots of food, games, fish talk AND bring your fishing gear ... you'll have a chance to fish for Pinks and Coho at Steve's property in Dash Point. Come on, don't miss out, join us.

This is a potluck, so if your last name begins with A - M please bring a salad or side dish; if it

begins with N - Z bring a dessert. Bring your own beverages. We'll provide everything else including BBQ'd meat and bottled water.

Please RSVP to me in order to get directions emailed to you. Also, tell me how many people will be with you. See you there!

**tessfrazier@wavecable.com  
360-265-6833**

## Additional Membership News

Member Mark Paul has volunteered to be in charge of Programs for our club, while Rob Jensen will be Education Chair beginning October. Bryan Habeck is now our Newsletter Editor. Sincere gratitude goes to Chic Sundahl/Programs, Mike Koslosky/Education and Tom Long/Newsletter Editor for the many years of time and dedication that they've given to PSFF. Their talent and loyalty has made PSFF one of the most well-regarded fly-fishing clubs in Washington.

President and First-year Board Member. Please consider how you can contribute to PSFF by serving as either a Board Member or a Committee Chair. There are now 124 members in PSFF and we need folks to help run this club. 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! Job descriptions can be found under the Members Only section of our website psff.org

There are still a number of Board positions that will be vacant at the end of the year: President, Vice-



*Tess Frazier  
Membership Chair*

# 124

# of PSFF Members

**Welcome to New Member:** Wes Eklund

### Anniversaries/Years

#### August:

Brad Bates	1	Stacy Bates	1
Geoff Corso	5	Conrad Silvani	23

# FFI/WSCFFI

## A letter of appreciation from one of the participants in this years Youth Academy.

*I am writing this letter to express my sincere gratitude for the sponsorship you provided to support my participation in the NWYC Fly-fishing Camp on Lake Panhandle. I am incredibly grateful for your generous contribution, which made it possible for me to have an unforgettable experience at the camp.*

*First and foremost, I would like to thank the Salmon Creek Fly-Fishers and the Bob Faust Memorial Fund for recognizing the value of outdoor education and offering this sponsorship opportunity. Fly-fishing has been a sport that has peaked my interest for several years and being able to attend this camp was a dream come true. Thanks to your support, I was able to immerse myself in the beauty of Lake Panhandle and enhance my skills in the sport.*

*Throughout the camp, I had the privilege of learning from expert instructors and experienced fly-*

*fishers. Their guidance and expertise helped me refine my casting technique, understand the intricacies of different flies, and gain a deeper appreciation for the delicate balance of nature. Additionally, the camp provided ample opportunities for me to bond with fellow participants who share the same love for fly-fishing, creating lasting friendships and connections within the fishing community.*

*The sponsorship you provided completely covered the expenses associated with the camp, including lodging, meals, equipment, and instructional materials. Your generosity allowed me to fully focus on learning and enjoy every moment of this remarkable experience. Your support not only impacted my personal growth but also reaffirmed my commitment to conservation and responsible angling practices.*

*I would like to extend my thanks to everyone who played a role in making this sponsorship possible. Your dedication to promoting outdoor education and environmental stewardship is truly commendable. I will cherish the memories and skills gained at the camp, and I am eager to share my newfound knowledge with others, thereby contributing to*

*the preservation of our natural resources.*

*Once again, I cannot express my gratitude enough for your support. Please accept my sincere appreciation for making the Fly-fishing Camp on Lake Panhandle a reality for me. I hope to continue being involved and contribute to its mission in any way I can. In fact, I was asked to consider being a gillie in the future!*

*Since camp I have had the opportunity to hone my casting skills on both a stream and a lake. My grandpa also took me to a garage sale where I found fly tying materials and line and a friend of his even plans to give me a salt water pole and reel.*

*So again, thank you for your generosity. I am truly grateful for this opportunity and the impact it will have on my lifelong pursuit of fly-fishing.*

Tae Anderson / 14 years old



Mike Clancy  
Legislation/FFI

## PSFF Library

It might be news to you that in addition to the books found in the club's library, we also subscribe to the periodical "The Osprey, The International Journal of Salmon and Steelhead Conservation." This is a very well-researched scientific journal, but it is written to be accessible to non-scientists who are interested in learning more about salmon and steelhead conservation. The most recent issue has a particularly interesting article titled "The Salmons' History



Lesson", by Robert T. Lackey. The author chronicles 10 major factors in the decline of wild salmon stocks, going back two hundred years, to the period just after the Lewis and Clark expedition. Some people might be surprised to learn that of the ten driving factors responsible for wild salmon decline, none were related to over-fishing by indigenous communities or sport fishers. Instead, Lackey points out the unintended consequences of beaver trapping, the stock market crash of 1929, World War II, and the

invention of air conditioning. How did these and other seemingly unrelated events affect the fate of wild salmon in the Pacific Northwest? Take a look at

this fascinating article to discover the answers. Happy reading!

Tom Krughoff / Library Chair

## Conservation Insights

As we are well into the summer fishing season, I hope everyone has been able to enjoy some time on the water perusing your favorite species. As the summer months continue, we are again seeing long stretches of hot weather, and as anglers, we all know what that means. Warm water temperatures really stress trout, especially in streams and the saltwater. This is the ideal

time to think about chasing our warm water species like Bass, Blue Gill, Crappie, Perch. Etc. Most information says that 70 degrees is the point to stop fishing but I personally stop at 67. Three degrees is significant. I always carry a thermometer and check the temperature often on hot days. Also think about using heavier tippet, land fish quickly, use wet hands and

release fish gently. August is forecast to be above normal temperatures, maybe even setting some record highs so fish responsibly and help preserve this valuable resource.



*Greg Shimek  
Conservation  
Chair*

## 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: Tess Frazier  
Librarian: Tom Krughoff  
Raffles: Jim Baker  
Programs: Mark Paul  
Education: Rob Jensen (Oct. start)  
Outings: David Frazier  
Web Site Editor: Bryan Habeck  
Newsletter Editor: Bryan Habeck  
Legislation/FFI: Mike Clancy  
Conservation: Greg Shimek



*Don't overlook the Puyallup River (opens 8/15) for not only Pinks, but Chinook and Silvers. Check the WDFW app for special regs before heading out as there are days reserved for tribal fishing only.*

*This is a 10lb. hatchery Chinook caught on an 8-weight switch rod by member Bryan Habeck in the tidal zone section of the river.*