



Leader Line

It's Time

I'm wondering what happens now. Maybe I'll plan a steelhead trip. I know — I want to go fish Pyramid Lake in Nevada! Somehow I don't think I'll have as much free time as I'm hoping for. This is my last Leader Line column as President of Puget Sound Fly-Fishers, which I joined in 2017. I volunteered to be Membership Chair for three years and am finishing a two-year stint as President. It has been a source of pride being President, the first female President since PSFF's inception in 1956. I'm stepping down so another person will have the opportunity to help guide PSFF to it's best level. Prior to PSFF I belonged to Kitsap Fly Anglers in Poulsbo and San Jose Fly Casters in San Jose, CA. Along the way, anglers have

shared their talent, knowledge, equipment and friendships with me.

There were a few things I wanted to accomplish during these past two years: gain more members after Covid, find a body of water that we could call ours and help maintain it, partner with various groups to establish some specific conservation efforts and encourage more diversity in the club. I've achieved most of my goals. A huge thank you to my fellow Board members and Committee Chairs for their patience, encouragement and support. These folks have stepped up to make PSFF an active, thriving club in the fly-fishing community. They have helped provide a website, classes, fishing outings, special events and speakers, all to help us become better anglers. Thank you.

Then we have the members of PSFF who have been supportive in volunteering for work parties, setting up and participating in special events, donating fly-fishing items for raffles and auctions and just showing up to help each other. The knowledge and experience that exists in this club still amazes me. I've been fly-fishing for 28 years and have discovered there's always something new to learn. We persistently try to sharpen my skills and continue to remember our obligation to keep our waterways beautiful, clean and safe for its inhabitants.

Recently my husband and I visited France for five weeks and had the opportunity to fly-fish at a private catch and release resort outside Paris. We did not bring any gear, but the young couple who owned the resort provided everything we needed: rods, reels, lines, nets, even flies. There might have been a language barrier, but we all understood "fly-fishing-speak." Anglers take care of each other. This sport has provided some of the most exciting moments in my life and also the most serene, quiet moments, too — and I wasn't even fishing, just looking at the beauty around me, realizing how fortunate I was to have easy access to the local waters and beauty of the PNW (the upper Stehekin River comes to mind). Fly-fishing gave me comfort, solace and strength when disease took 2 of my children recently; and the stories. Oh my! The stories shared with other anglers, some incredible and some so hilarious I've spit food out of my mouth. I'll stay a member of PSFF and keep the tradition of sharing what I've learned and experienced, especially with those new to fly-fishing. Just don't call me an old-timer. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your club President. It was a pleasure.



Enjoy your holidays,

Tess Frazier
President

PSFF Needs You

The position of President 2026 has been filled (announcement at the December general meeting), but we still need a Programs Chairman. Mark Paul, our present Programs Chair, has speakers already booked for January and February 2026. Not only that, he has a list of speakers to draw from for the remaining months. No experience necessary (I definitely had none), just the desire to meet new people and offer them an opportunity to get paid and have dinner, just by sharing their knowledge. You are never alone. All the existing Board members and Committee Chairs are there to help each other. Input is always welcome and there are many to guide and ask questions of. Please volunteer. Contact any Board member or Committee Chair.

Cady Lake

On Nov. 3, gravel was delivered and spread throughout the parking area near the boat launch and all areas along the access road where we needed to fill holes. Thank you to the small but mighty group that spread the gravel (in the rain). We have also put up signage on the donation box showing that folks can donate to Cady Lake either in the donation box on site or on our [WEBSITE](#).

Annual Holiday Celebration

This will take place at our December general meeting. See Raffle Chair Fred Olin's column inside this edition of the newsletter. You must register with Fred if you wish to buy and be served dinner.

Planning for 2026

The annual Planning Meeting of the Board of Directors and Committee Chairs will take place in early January 2026. Any suggestions, concerns or questions you would like addressed, please contact a Board member or Committee Chair.

Raffles

Christmas Party & Silent Auction

Our annual celebration of a fine fishing year and major fundraiser will be held December 11 at Tower Lanes (instead of a December General Meeting). Doors will open at 5:30 and dinner will be served at 6:30. To ensure the served dinner and your choice of entrees (roasted pork loin or Parmesan chicken) **you need to contact Fred Olin at (360) 509-9478 or folin67cougar@gmail.com by December 1.** The price is \$25 per plate and includes dessert. (Pay at the door).

If you miss the December 1 RSVP deadline, you may still attend the event but may need to order your dinner from the cafe menu. There will be adequate seating for all; families welcome!



The auction will include donated guided trips to the Missouri River, Yakima and Nisqually rivers and local lakes. There are also floats, rod/reel combos (new and used), fly tying equipment, and collectible bamboo rods. Members have also donated several baskets with a variety of contents.



*Fred Olin
Raffles*

Outings

Greetings PSFF Members and Friends,

It is hard for me to believe 2025 is coming to a close, however that means more outings to come in 2026!

December and January I will not be officially planning an outing, but if weather permits I will post a "flash outing" meaning it will probably be a 2 day notice posting in "groups" on our website with a location and time. Also if you are going fishing and would like some company, please post on groups where and when, it may encourage others to get out and fish!!

This month I will be penciling in the outing calendar for 2026. I want to incorporate more small rivers and streams. I was so bummed that the North Fork of the Skokomish River was cancelled because of the forest fire this year. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.

I enjoyed being out of the water with y'all this year, wishing you many tight lines in 2026!

Warm regards,



*Julie Kelner
Outings*

Education

December

Fly Tying

After a year of trying to catch the eye of trout, here is your opportunity to catch the eye of your friends and family. At this month's fly-tying event, we will tie Christmas flies, suitable for hanging on your tree! So, get in the creative spirit, and join us for some holiday fun. We will provide the bobbles, decorations and other materials, just bring your vise and tools.



Stillwater Setup and Techniques Seminar

A big thank-you to club member Ryan Puddy for hosting November's Stillwater class. It's easy to get stuck, doing what we have always done, without really thinking about other processes and techniques. Always good to

hear how others find success. Even though the class cost me hundreds for a new reel and lines, it was well worth it. And after receiving multiple positive comments, we will continue this format with other topics next year.

Beginning Fly Tying Class with Mike Trask

Only one spot remains for the upcoming beginning fly tying course. Starting January 10, for four weeks, we will meet in the small room at Tower Lanes from 9:00-11:30 AM. Mike Trask will systematically take beginners through the gratifying process of creating your own flies. Mike is an exceptional tyer and teacher, is well organized, and knows what patterns work. Even those of us who have been at this for a while can improve our methods with this course. Check out his posts on the fly tying section of the forum. If you would like to sign up, contact Mike Trask or Rob Jensen.

Casting Improvement and FFI Casting Skills Development Program

PSFF, along with South Sound Fly Fishers and Overlake Fly Fishers, held a FFI Casting Skills Development Program session on November 22. Turnout was fantastic, with many of our members attaining bronze and silver status. Thanks to Steve Saville and others for helping to score and the South Sound Club for the course setups. It's nice to meet members from other clubs who share our common interest and will plan on making this an annual event.



*Rob Jensen
Education*

Conservation (A NEW COLUMN!)

This is the first installment of a new section in the PSFF Newsletter focused on conservation. This is part of a larger effort to expand the club's focus on options to protect and enhance the environments needed to maintain healthy fisheries in the south Puget Sound region.

Conservation efforts can take several forms:

- individual or group volunteer efforts to improve or enhance watershed environments
- advocacy and/or fund raising for conservation related causes
- education regarding how to be good stewards of our watershed environments
- adoption of a specific area of interest as a club project (e.g., Cady Lake)

In this edition I will focus on a few individual volunteer opportunities coming up in the next few months. We are fortunate that there are many groups in the south Puget Sound region that are focused on improving watershed health. My goal is to highlight a few events each month that may be of interest to the membership. Click the teal links below to visit external websites for more information.

NISQUALLY LAND TRUST

Various volunteer options are available with the [Nisqually Land Trust](#) (NLT). These are listed on their [volunteers](#) website. They have a great [events calendar](#) that makes signup easy.

Powell Creek Protected Area Planting with Nisqually Stream Stewards

Saturday, December 6 from 9AM – 12PM.

This is a work party focused on planting trees and shrubs on protected land along the Nisqually River. More information and signup can be found [here](#).

Anderson Island Planting

Saturday, January 24 from 9AM – 12PM.

This a work party to plant native trees and plants at a site on Anderson Island. More details can be found [here](#) at their volunteer site. The registration is not yet available as of this writing.

Wednesday Volunteer Work Parties

They have weekly Wednesday half day volunteer work parties at various sites. They suggest contacting them at volunteer@nisquallylandtrust.org to learn more.

Site Stewards

There is an option to "adopt" a site within their coverage area. Email them at the volunteer email address to learn more.

PIERCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

The [Pierce Conservation District](#) (PCD) sponsors a number of volunteer events year round. They also have a good events [calendar](#).

South Prairie Creek Preserve Work Party

Saturday, January 31 from 8AM – 12PM

Saturday, February 21 from 8AM – 12PM

This is a work party to remove invasive plants in a preserve that was developed over the last 20 years to help protect salmon habitat along the Carbon River. Signup links and details can be found [here](#).

I am reviewing volunteer offerings from the following organizations each month and will include these as appropriate in future newsletters for your consideration.

[Hood Canal Salmon Enhancement Group](#)
[South Puget Sound Salmon Enhancement Group](#)

Nisqually River Council

(website is currently corrupted so no link provided at present)

[Green River Coalition](#)

[Chambers-Clover Creek Watershed Council](#)
[Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife](#)
[Stream Team](#)

Also, please reach out with any ideas or conservation interests you have. I'd like to setup an active group within PSFF that can help focus the considerable talents of our members onto conservation efforts of interest.

Steve Knowles
Conservation

JANUARY PHOTO CONTEST

It's dark and the fish are sleepy, so use these winter months to prep flies for 2026. Submit a photo of your tying station and a separate photo of your face by January 3 to Kara (kajen8@gmail.com). January meeting attendees will take a guess at who belongs to which tying station. Epic bragging rights for those who guess right!

Membership

Welcome to December 2025

Member Survey

Fifty-three members have returned the membership survey, a report will be presented to the PSFF board at the January annual planning meeting. Stay tuned for results.

We continue to see new members join PSFF. You will find below a bio to help you get acquainted. Please reach out and welcome Franklin at the next meeting or outing he attends.



FRANKLIN RIGSBY

I grew up in Phoenix, AZ and started fly fishing this year. The picture below is of my first catch on a fly rod, taken in June. I have fished local lakes, creeks, rivers, and the Puget Sound. I have worked in telecommunications/data centers for around 25 years. I have two adult children and three adult stepchildren, all of whom are spread around the world.



*Joe Harrison
Membership*

December Anniversaries/Years

Brian Combs	1	Joseph Vlaming	4	Beth Mason	9
William Kling	1	Penny Mabie	5	Bryan Habeck	11
Merritt Kline	3	Jim Baker	7	Steve Hammer	13
Barry Miller	3	John Fullerton	9	Ned Krilich	18
Gary High	4				

Fly Fishers International & WSCFFI

Events for 2026

Fly Fishing Show

February 14-15, 2026

Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue, WA

NW Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

March 13-14, 2026

Linn County Expo Center, Albany, OR

Washington FFI Fly Casting & Tying Fair

April 19, 2026

Pickering Barn Park, Issaquah, WA

Women Connect Missouri River Rendezvous

May 22-24, 2026

Craig, MT

NW Youth Conservation & Fly Fishing Academy

June 20-27, 2026

Panhandle Lake, Shelton, WA

FFI Website

I highly recommend that the FFI website flyfishersinternational.org is worth reviewing. It has everything, fly tying, casting and a lot more to review.

[FFI WEBSITE](http://flyfishersinternational.org)

FFI– National Award

FFI Lifetime Achievement in Fly Casting
Education Award

The National casting award went to our Don Simonson, a member of the Washington State Council. He joined the FFI in the 1980's, became a Certified Casting Instructor (CI) in 1995 and a Master Casting Instructor (MCI) in 2000. Don joined the National Casting Board of Governors in 2006. He received a well-deserved Mel Kreiger Award in 2013. We are very pleased for Don, he has been involved with our WSCFFI events for many years.

The presentation was made on a national zoom meeting, monitored by Sam Matalone, our webmaster and awards chairman for FFI, there was a "moment of silence" for our members who have passed this past year, it was very sobering to learn how many of our friends have passed on. RIP dear friends.



*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 Admin	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 Admin	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

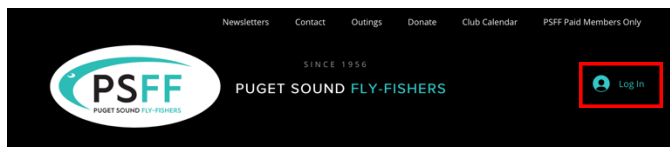


Figure 2

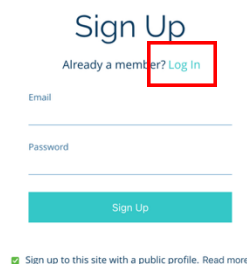


Figure 4

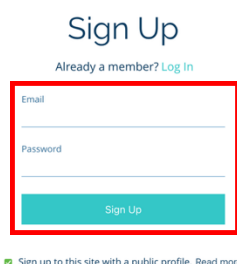
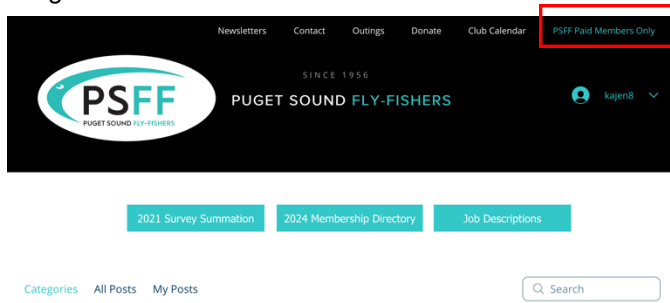


Figure 3



Forum

Welcome! Have a look around and join the discussions.

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