



## Leader Line

## A Review

My year as President of Puget Sound Fly-Fishers has been an eye-opener. A lot was made of the fact that I was the first female president of an organization that was 68 years old — one that actually excluded women in the early years. I have to admit, I volunteered because no one else did *and* I wanted to shake things up a bit: get more gals involved in the club, add more events for the members and make sure we remembered to have fun. I was totally accepted, sometimes with caution, and was trusted to help steer the direction of PSFF. Thank goodness I had so many mentors to guide me.

A great deal of thanks goes to my fellow Board of Directors and Committee Chairs. Participation in our outings has increased due to the efforts of Outings Chair David Frazier compiling a yearly calendar that all could use for planning. Nonetheless, the best laid plans.... The word “pivot” became David’s word of the year. We now offer an annual Fly-Fishing 101 course, casting clinics and beginning fly-tying classes thanks to Rob Jensen/VP and Education Chair. Monthly programs/presentations have packed our meeting room because Mark Paul/Programs Chair has procured top speakers in the fly-fishing and related industries to share their knowledge.

Since the Covid years, PSFF didn’t just survive, we thrived by growing our membership and offered reliable benefits. Not just outings and programs, but a friendly, social setting where folks

**Next Meeting**  
December 12

**Tower Lanes**  
6323 6th Ave, Tacoma, WA 98406

**PSFF**  
**Members Only**  
**Celebration Begins**  
6:00

could gather to meet, make new friends and talk fly-fishing. Bryan Habeck/Web Editor/Newsletter Editor/E-mail Communications Guru has guided PSFF's technical and social media journey. He made communicating and information available to all our members, plus made joining our club easy. Everyone on the administrative level has done their very best to keep our club fun, alive and thriving. I am incredibly grateful to each of them for their ideas, tireless work and support.

A guest attending our last general meeting commented "I've missed being in a friendly, fun, noisy meeting like this. This is great!" We intend to keep it that way.

#### Of Note:

- Our Members-Only Holiday Celebration will be Dec. 12. Please RSVP to Jim Baker, either by email or calling him. He is listed in our on-line directory.
- Great news! All open positions on the Board and Committee Chairs, have been filled. They will be announced at the Dec. 12 Holiday Celebration.



*Tess Frazier*  
Club President

## Programs

# You're Invited to the Annual Holiday Party!

Dec. 12



*Image courtesy of Bryan Habeck*

Mark your calendars for **December 12** at Tower Lanes – it's going to be a night to remember!

### What's in store?

• **A festive feast:** Enjoy upgraded club favorites like juicy pork tenderloin or savory chicken

parmesan, all for just \$20 per person (same as last year!).

• **Sweet treats:** Bring your favorite holiday dessert to share and help us spread the sugary cheer.

• **Silent auction fun:**

Bid on incredible items like rods, reels, a boat, a float tube, nets, clothing, guided trips, gift baskets, and fly boxes filled with members' tied fly patterns.

• **Memories on display:** A nostalgic photo slideshow celebrating our adventures.

No speeches, just good food, great company, and plenty of holiday cheer!

### Members, RSVP Deadline is December 4

If you're planning to attend but didn't get your name on the signup sheet, please RSVP to Jim Baker.

Don't miss this fun-filled evening – let's make it even better than last year!

*Jim Baker*  
Raffles Chair

## Outings

# It's Been a Good Ride

Rather than focusing on all the challenges I faced in planning and executing the 2024 calendar of outings, I'd rather look at this past year — my last as the Outing Committee Chair — as “nimble.” In the words of Jon Levitz's pathological liar character on Saturday Night Live: “Yeah, that's it!”

While my schedule worked out pretty well from January through June, the second half of this year evolved into one change after another. Let's recall, shall we:

- **July, Cedar River:** I had to change the meet-up location and start time (from 9 to 7 a.m.) because I feared the heat wave we were having would be bad on both the fish and the fishers. Everyone found the new location and got off the river just before the heat got too profound.
- **August, Annual Club Picnic:** Due to some confusion about the rental availability of the property at Dash Point, we changed the date. A fine time was had by all.
- **September, Cowlitz River and Lake Kokanee:** I had to move the location late in the game to the Cowlitz's Blue Creek Hatchery because our initial hosts had some unexpected conflicts. Our minor pivot to the Trout Hatchery site was pretty painless. Our second outing for the month was relocated to October because ...
- **October, Pass Lake:** I was aware that this outing might not come off. Unfortunately, I was correct. The lake's annual algae bloom, hastened by our heat wave, occurred and I had to cancel. Hence the move to Lake Kokanee. But then we found out there would be a temporary water drawdown due to maintenance work. That would leave the only launch site unusable. So I pivoted yet again and we shifted again, last minute, to Cady Lake. Always a safe bet. Fish were caught.
- **November, Beaver Lake:** Despite scouting this put-and-take lake two times, I learned that the main stocking done in the spring gets fished out pretty quickly, but that in the fall the state puts in at least 2,000 jumbos, which attracts lots of anglers. The trick is to hit it right after stocking. Based on their typical stocking before Veterans

Day, I scheduled our outing for about a week later. But then the stocking was only about 1,000 fish and reports from club members who went there said there wasn't much left to catch. So I thought, that could be a good thing because they'll plant the rest of the fish closer to our outing date. They did, but it was *after* our chosen date. So “we” pivoted again, this time to Munn Lake. Again, a safe bet. Fish were caught.

I hope you're keeping track of this. There *will* be a quiz.

Fingers crossed on this month's outing to Purdy. Always a safe bet. Yeah, that's it!

## Purdy Outing

**10 a.m. Friday, Dec. 13**

As fall eases coolly towards winter, my thoughts turn warmly to our local beaches of Puget Sound. One my personal favorites, and a favorite of many other mid-Sound anglers, is Purdy.

Whichever side of the narrow bridge you prefer, the east side or across the Purdy Sand Spit, our native Coastal Cutthroat Trout are usually in attendance. By now, most of the seasonal salmon runs have petered out and the focus is on the CCTs and resident coho. The bridge separates Henderson Bay from Purdy Lagoon.

The fishing technique is pretty basic: Before entering the water, make short, soft casts to the water around you, lengthening your casts moderately as you work your way into the water. A 6-weight rod is ideal. Floating and intermediate fly line, depending on the variables, such as water depth; floating lines with 9- to 12-foot leaders of 3X for poppers and subsurface flies (weighted or unweighted). A stripping basket is helpful. When coho are showing farther out, many anglers prefer using a 4-weight trout spey.

Favorite subsurface flies include Clouser minnows (olive green and white, chartreuse and white),



shrimp patterns, sculpins, egg patterns, woolly bug-gers with an orange bead, squid patterns and olive flat-wing patterns. For topwater, Leland Miyawaki's Sea Run Beach Popper works great, as do various foam poppers in baitfish silhouettes, such as Gurglers.

**Directions:** Let's meet up in the parking area near Massimo's Italian Bar & Grill, 13802 Purdy Drive, Gig

Harbor. From Tower Lanes in Tacoma, Purdy is 13 minutes northwest off of Highway 16.



*David Frazier*  
*Outings Chair*



## Education

# December

### Fly of the Month: Christmas Tree

Time to get creative! Join us Saturday, Dec. 14th, 9:30-11:30AM at Tower Lanes to attempt to tie the Christmas Tree Ornament. Bring your tying tools, the clear bobble and materials will be provided.

### Beginning Fly Tying coming in January

A beginning fly tying class is scheduled for consecutive Saturdays, beginning January 11, 2025. This class is currently full, but let me know if you have interest as a subsequent class could be scheduled.

### Introduction To Fly Fish- ing Class

In 2025, we will conduct another Introduction to Fly Fishing class similar to our Spring 2024 event. We do need volunteers to help with the classroom and casting sessions. The dates are Tuesdays, May 6, 13, 20, 27 from 6:00-9:00 PM at Sehmel Homestead Park in Gig Harbor.



*Rob Jensen*  
*Education Chair*

## Membership

# Welcome to New Members

### Membership Update

We have had thirty-four new members join our club so far this year.

### Welcome to New Members

You will find below a short bio of recent new members to help you get acquainted with them. Please reach out and welcome John, Chris, and Tim at the next meeting or outing they attend.

#### John Dimock

I grew up in Southern California and started fly fishing about 1975. Most of my fishing at that time was on small streams in Southern California and the Sierras for rainbow trout. In 1981 I moved to Houston, TX and through friends had access to several private farm ponds that were stocked with bass and panfish. My wife and I moved to Tacoma in April and I have not fished since my arrival. I'd like to try Sea Run Cutthroat's and other species that are accessible near my home. I'm retired and spend a lot of time maintaining a 100-year-old Craftsman house and restoring antique cars.



#### Chris Zell

I grew up in South Dakota fishing mostly for walleye and rainbows in the Black Hills. I moved to Missouri early in my career where I chased

smallmouth, flatheads, and browns in the Ozarks. I have a bit more time now and am excited to learn to fly-fish and be part of the PNW fishing culture.

#### Tim McKey

I grew up in northeast Seattle and I've fly fished off and on since I was in my late 20's (I'm 63 now). I have fished around the northwest, mostly Washington but also Alaska, Oregon, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming. I target mostly trout including sea-run cutthroat, salmon and steelhead. Most fishing has been in rivers and streams but I also fish lakes and salt water. My career was in commercial construction in the Puget Sound region. I have two grown children and two step children - one grown and the other finishing undergrad in California. My son is the only family member interested in fly fishing. He lives in Everett and gets out when he can.



*Joe Harrison*  
Membership Chair

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### December Anniversaries/Years:

Merritt Kline	2	Barry Miller	2	Jeff Pettigrew	2
Gary High	3	David Homback	3	Joseph Vlaming	3
Penny Mabie	4	Jim Baker	6	John Fullerton	8
Beth Mason	8	Bryan Habeck	10	Steve Hammer	12
Ned Krilich	17	Charles Sundahl	10	Greg Shimek	11

# Washington State Council – Fly Fishers International (WSCFFI)

The Council is making preparations for Feb. 15-16 Fly Fishing Show booth in Bellevue. A year ago, the Council joined a coalition of outdoor and conservation groups supporting the proposed Wild Olympic Campaign. In February 2023, the Council sponsored a reception along with Washington Wild at the Bellevue Show, promoting "Wild Olympics Campaign/Clean Water, Forests and Fish for Our Future". Senators Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell both support the efforts, and Murry's staff drafted the Wild

Olympic Bill. Cantwell guided the bill through the Senate Ag and Natural Resources Committee in March. It's been awaiting a floor vote since then.

Given the likely change in resource management policy in 2025, backers want to create a consolidated public lands bill that includes other states and lawmakers from both sides of the aisle. The goal is to pass the consolidated bill before the end of the year. Murray and Cantwell intend to include the Wild

Olympics bill in the package. If that happens, FFI would be asked to urge its members statewide to launch a letter/phone call campaign to urge Washington's 10 house members to support the package. Hopefully, when this is presented to the legislature, positive action will happen.



Mike Clancy  
Legislation/FFI

## 2025 Help Wanted

### Facebook Group Page Moderator/Editor

You must be on Facebook. This role allows you to create club posts or ads to promote the club, it's activities and meetings. Include training to set you up for success!

Contact Bryan Habeck if you're interested

## 2024 PSFF - Officers and Committee Chairs

### Club Officers

President: Tess Frazier  
Vice President: Rob Jensen  
Past President: Steve Saville  
Secretary: Anne Stiffler  
Treasurer: Dennis Beardsley  
Director, 1st year: David Frazier  
Director, 2nd year: Richard Stone  
Director, 3rd year: Dennis Ehlers

### Committee Chairs

Membership: Joe Harrison  
Librarian: Tom Krughoff  
Raffles: Jim Baker  
Programs: Mark Paul  
Education: Rob Jensen  
Outings: David Frazier  
Web Site Editor: Bryan Habeck  
Newsletter Editor: Bryan Habeck  
Legislation/FFI: Mike Clancy  
Conservation: Greg Shimek

# Having Trouble Joining the Members Only Forum?

1) Launch the PSFF.org webpage as shown in **Figure 1** and click on the Log In link (circled in red). That'll take you to the Sign-up or Log-In form in **Figure 2**.

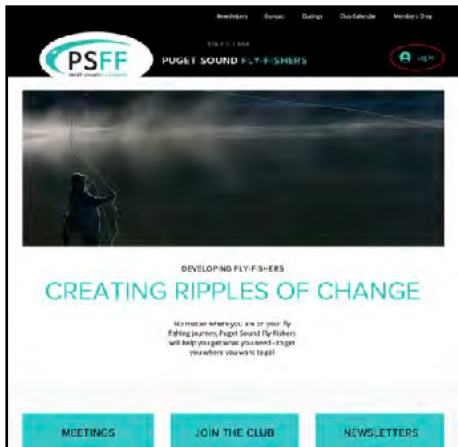


Figure 1

2) Log in or sign up

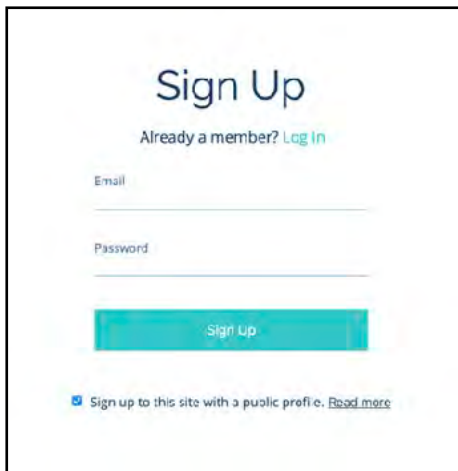


Figure 2

If you are registering as a new FORUM member, Sign Up first as shown in **Figure 2**. Enter your email address and create a password. Once you've done

that and have received confirmation that you've been confirmed as a member and now have access, then log in (clicking the teal type seen in **Figure 2**) and click on the Members Only link as shown in **Figure 3**.

3) Members Only will now be available to you

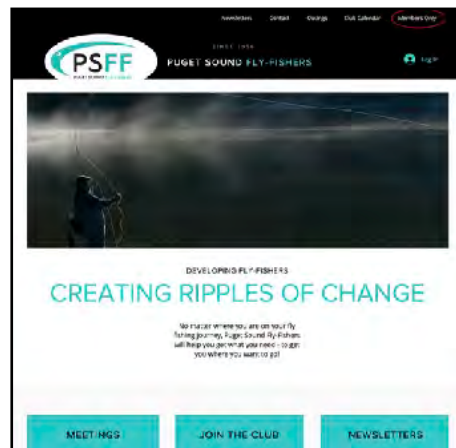


Figure 3

4) The Forum Page

Explore the different categories of discussions and learn about where others are fishing, and what they're tying.



Figure 4