

SOFF News

Vol.30 No.3 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. Feb/March 2023



SOFF NEWS

A publication of
Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 1144
Grants Pass, Oregon 97528
Web Site: www.soff.org

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Newsletter Editor
E-Mail: dchebul@centurylink.net

When its early March, members of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers eagerly look forward to the annual Fly Fisher's show in Albany.



Club members, Bob Stafford and Michael Mazingo spend time watching Club Member, Joe Knapik demonstrating the construction of a fly. In addition to Knapik, there are 150 other tyers tying over a two day period.

**Dinner Reservations: E-mail - info@soff.org
or call the Club at (541) 955-4718**

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
John Storfold:
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John Smith:
Dave Grosjacques:
David Haight:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
Robert Stafford

This year is off to a good start. January's meeting had the largest attendance in a long time. It was great to see so many familiar and new faces. Let's keep it up!

The monthly raffle has had a great selection of items. Thank you to the board members and volunteers who run it. Our board members are also deeply involved in this year's auction which will be held on November 11th at the Grants Pass Golf Club. With that being said we need your help with donations and volunteers to help with set-up and with conducting the cup raffle, the silent auction and selling tickets. So, if you know someone who would make a donation to our club, or if *YOU* have something you would like to donate or you would like to help, please let one of the board members know. Last year we were able to make donations to the other non-profit organizations our club supports. We also conducted the fly tying and the beginning fly fishing classes. All of these are made possible through funds raised at the auction so let's make this auction another successful one.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at our monthly meetings.

The Annual Auction

By The Editor

Let's go back some three years to the pre-covid era when people went out, got involved and in general, enjoyed life.

Fast forward those three years and we now have a society that has been cowed by the extollers of the pandemic and only now as things have eased off, have they been regaining control of their lives.

I see this in the attendance at the general meetings. Slowly, but surely the membership is returning and the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers is regaining the vitality that it has shown in the past. Although the club continues to function, many things that we did in the past has been either eliminated or drastically curtailed.

One of many things that the club prided themselves on in the past was their financial contribution to the many conservations causes that we supported. The groups that were funded were champions of the environment and spent the funds wisely for the benefit of the various fish that called our rivers, streams and lakes home.

It's not enough to make our waterways better, but we needed the trained personnel to do the physical work necessary to insure the continued viability of the fish that live in those waters. To that end, SOFF has

provided two scholarships annually to help defray some of the costs for students studying fisheries biology at Oregon State University.

One of the things that the membership could be justly be proud of was the way they responded to our annual fund raising auction. Whether it was the silent or oral auction or the last few years before covid the raffle pots, they could be

counted on for either soliciting items from business acquaintances, friends and

other sources and then freely bidding on those items. We were able to raise a goodly amount of money for our conservation efforts as well as the scholarships to OSU. Everyone benefitted from the generosity of the membership.

Now that times are better, the



A few raffles ago we also raffled off this drift boat as part of our annual fund raising auction.

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ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors
will meet in the conference room
of the Tap Rock Restaurant
The next meeting is scheduled:
Mar. 7th at 6:00pm or
the first Tuesday
of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Apr 20	Fly Tyers Meeting
May 18	Denny Richards
Jun 15	Marc Williamson
Jul 20	No Meeting
Aug 17	No Meeting
Sept 21	TBA
Oct 19	TBA
Nov 11	Club Auction

AuctionEleven Tips Cont. From Pg. 2

club is once again conducting a fund-raising auction in November of this year. To make bidding attractive, we will need items that will appeal to the broadest interests of the members. To that end, the board of directors are working diligently to provide the auction items that will ensure a successful effort, but we can't do it alone. In the past, we had a auction chair



Two of the Seven Silent Auction Tables at the last Auction

person who would organize the efforts to solicit donations; this year we were unable to get anyone to step up which left it up to the board to obtain the ever scarce donations as the various businesses that usually donate items are overwhelmed by other worthwhile groups asking them also for donations.

This is why it is necessary for

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WHEN:

Mar. 16, 2023



TIMES:

5:30 PM

Social Hour and
Fly Tying Demo.

6:30 PM

Meeting

7:00 PM

Dinner and Program

WHERE:

GP Golf Course
230 Espey Rd GP



Gary Lewis - Fishing Central Oregon



Gary Lewis is an award-winning author, TV host, speaker and photographer. He has hunted and fished in eight countries on three continents and in the islands of the South Pacific. Born and raised in the Northwest, he has been walking forest trails and running rivers for as long as he can remember.

He is a past president of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association and a recipient of NOWA's Enos Bradner and Legacy awards.

Lewis has penned over 4,000 newspaper and magazine articles. His credits include *Sports Afield*, *Outdoor Life*, *Field & Stream*, *Fly-fishing and Tying Journal*, *Rifle*, *Gun Digest*, *African Hunting Gazette*, *Covey Rise and Game & Fish*. Lewis is host of **Frontier Unlimited**, an international television show. He is the author of 17 books, including *FISHING Central Oregon*, *John Nosler Going Ballistic* and *Fishing Mount Hood Country*.

Lewis lives in Central Oregon. With his wife of 36 years, Merrilee, he has three daughters, all accomplished hunters and anglers. Visit garylewis-southdoors.com



CASTING ABOUT

EPA issues final determination blocking development of Pebble Mine

Thirteen years later, Pebble Mine's millions of opponents finally have something to cheer about

by Hatch Magazine - Tuesday, Jan 31st, 2023

Thirteen years after tribal communities in the Bristol Bay region of Alaska first petitioned the federal government to use its authority under the Clean Water Act to protect the watershed from the threats posed by the proposed Pebble Mine, those communities finally have something to celebrate. Today, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized 404(c) Clean Water Act protections that will stop the proposed Pebble Mine from being built at the headwaters of Bristol Bay.

The EPA's publishing of its Final Determination marks the culmination of a multi-decade long battle to protect the world's most prolific sockeye salmon fishery from the ravages of the mining industry. The finalization of protections — which permanently prevent the use of both Kaktuli Creek and Upper Talarik Creek at the headwaters of the Bristol Bay watershed — in the disposal of dredged or fill material resulting from mining of the nearby Pebble Deposit. The determination not only serves to prevent development of the proposed Pebble Mine, but blocks any future plans to develop the Pebble Deposit that would result in impacts similar to or greater than the plan denied by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in 2020.

Along with the recent reinstatement of the Roadless Rule in southeast Alaska's Tongass National Forest, the finalization of these protections for Bristol Bay serve as rare bright spots for the Biden administration, which has largely failed to put forth the bold, progressive environmental agenda it promised voters in 2020. Instead, the Biden administration has neglected to meaningfully address the mounting

climate crisis, outpaced the Trump administration in approval of oil and gas drilling permits on public lands, and recently held the largest offshore oil drilling lease sale in history.

“Under President Biden, the EPA has not only restored its commitment to science and law but truly listened to the original stewards and first peoples’ of this land. Ignored by our own state government, our Tribes petitioned the EPA 13 years ago to use its 404(c) authority to protect Bristol Bay, to protect our people,” said Alannah Hurley, executive director of the United Tribes of Bristol Bay. “Today, these Clean Water Act protections provide certainty that Pebble cannot be built in Bristol Bay. On behalf of UTBB, I’d like to say *quyana, chin’an*, thank you to the EPA and the Biden Administration not just for this decision, but for working throughout this 404(c) process to consult with our Tribes. EPA’s action today helps us build the future where our people can remain Yup’ik, Dena’ina, and Alutiiq for generations to come.”

The process to protect the Bristol Bay region of Alaska under the authority of the Clean Water Act began under the Obama administration, during which—after years of scientific study and several rounds of public comments—the EPA published a Proposed Determination to prevent mining in the region. But the process was never completed and in 2019 the incoming Trump administration sought to withdraw the proposed protections, once again opening the door to the development of the Pebble Deposit. That attempt was ultimately blocked by the courts, allowing the Biden administration to resume and ultimately complete the process.

“This is an incredible day for the Bristol Bay region.” said Nelli Williams, Alaska director for Trout Unlimited. “For more than a decade, the science has remained strong and public support has been unwavering for Clean Water Act protections. An Alaska-sized thank you to the Biden Administration and the EPA for listening to Alaskans, Tribes, anglers and hunters, and for doing the right thing for a world-class renewable resource and the people and jobs that depend on it. The work in Bristol Bay isn’t done, but today is a milestone to be celebrated.”

“Today’s decision may be the most popular thing the federal government has ever done for Alaska,” said SalmonState Executive Director Tim Bristol. “Thousands of Alaskans and over a million Americans from across the political spectrum have called for protection of Bristol Bay’s one-of-kind salmon resource from massive open pit mining and today, the EPA delivered. This is a victory for every single person — from Bristol Bay’s tribal citizens, commercial fisherman, sport anglers, business leaders, chefs, scientists, and so many more — who have spoken out over the years, and we thank the EPA and the Biden Administration for this well-considered, heavily documented, overwhelmingly popular move.”

“These restrictions and prohibitions by EPA, coupled with the recently completed Pedro Bay conservation initiative, provides a strong sense of relief — but we will not rest until the threat of large-scale, open pit, acid waste generating mining is completely eliminated from the headwaters of

Continued on Page 7

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Lower Sacramento River Outing

March 18-19

by Jerry Haynes

We were rained out last year but as promised we are going to the Sacramento again in 2023. Come join us for an opportunity to hook large wild Sacramento River Rainbows. The Sacramento is one of the best trout stream fisheries on the West Coast and a three hour drive down Interstate 5 from Medford.



Dave and Tanya Haight with nice rainbows taken from a previous trip to the lower Sacramento

There is limited bank access and best fishing is from a boat. For those who don't have a water craft to float the river, we have arranged for a limited number of spots for guided fishing by Jeff Goodwin Guide Service of Redding <https://www.jeffgoodwinfishing.com>. The cost of the guided trip is **\$250 per angler** and includes all fishing gear and files as well as lunch provided by the guides.

If you would like to fish with a guide or otherwise attend the outing, please contact Jerry Haynes at jerry.haynes2021@gmail.com.

Guided fishing spots are limited so don't delay in reserving a trip. Updates and additional information will be emailed to those on the list as we get

closer to the outing date.

January Outings Report

by Kirk Kowalke

It was still dark as I headed out for the coast steelhead outing hosted by Dave Haight. I have always liked driving the early morning hours before sunrise, very little traffic and that alpenglow that comes to the hills and valleys as the sun begins to welcome a new day.

I timed my departure so I could make a few casts at the pull off on the Winchuck River. It was a beautiful scene at the mouth of the river as the sun just began to wipe away fog and the morning shadows. As the tide was about an hour past high I was hoping a few fish had entered and would take my swung fly. I was surprised and delighted to see a very good turnout of both RFF and SOFF members. Some had been there

Nor-Vise For Sale



I bought my GEN 2 Nor-Vise brass hub in 1998. It comes with a matching thread post and the smaller wheel jaws, and I've since added shank jaws. It should accommodate the current standard large and fine point jaws with no problem. I've been told it is a quick and easy fix to upgrade to a front hub that will except new components if desired. This vise comes with a base/storage box that is especially nice to have and the original VHS instruction tape. I've also included an original version of the auto bobbin which is still compatible with the current version of spools.

A dubbing table is an additional plus along with a hair stacker. I'm asking \$300 for the whole set up.

Also for sale is a box of materials including hooks, a large selection of hair, dubbing materials etc. for \$30.

Margie Brandon
541-601-2428



2023 Outings	
Mar 18-19	Lower Sacramento
Apr 12	Lake Selmac Fly Fishing Clinic
May 6	Copeland Pond
May 17-20	Owyhee River Brown Trout
Jun 2-3	Lemolo Lake
Jun 9	Rogue Salmon Fly
Jun 17-18	Diamond Lake

Continued On Pg 7

FLY TYING CORNER

Amitie - French For Friendship



- Hook:** Steelhead/Salmon Hook #4-#8
- Tag:** Small Oval Silver Tinsel.
- Tail:** Red Goose Biots.
- Body:** Black Silk/Foss.
- Rib:** Small Oval Silver Tinsel.
- Wing:** Yellow Artic Fox Hair.
- Wing:** Peacock Sword.
- Cheeks:** Red Goose Biots.
- Hackle:** American Hen Saddle, Black

Tying Instructions:

I tie this with black thread. The tag consists of four wraps of small silver oval tinsel at bend of the hook. The red biot tail length is equal to the hook gap.

The biots are tied against the oval tag bump causing the biots to splay out. The body is black silk floss. The rib is small oval silver tinsel, wrapping forward at least 4 wraps.

The yellow artic fox wing is tied in, the length of the wing should extend to the middle of the tail biots.

The peacock sword wing should match the length of the artic fox wing. I use 6 to 10 strands of peacock sword, how many depends on fullness of herl, The biot cheeks are tied in on both sides.

The point of the biot extends 3/4 length of the body. For the hackle, I use American Hen Saddle in black. The length of the hackle is as wide as the hook gap or a little longer. I find this to be softer and provide better movement. Tie in hackle feather by the tip of the feather and wrap four to five wraps.

Tie off the hackle feather and build a small head and whip finish. I use UV resin to complete the head.

When swinging the Amitie fly, it can be used with a floating line or a sink tip depending on light conditions and water flow. Between the red biots and the movement of the yellow artic fox and peacock sword contrasts will entice strikes.

Fly Tied By: John Storfold

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjohn@charter.net



Please make checks payable to:
SOFF and mail to: PO Box 1144,
Grants Pass, Oregon 97528

Membership Form

- Regular.....\$35.00
- Family.....\$45.00
- Youth.....\$10.00
- Contributing.....\$50.00
- Lifetime (Individual).....\$350.00
- Lifetime (Couple).....\$450.00

Name(s): _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: Home () _____ Work: () _____
 Email: _____
 Personal interests: _____

Renewal: _____ New: _____



CHANGING LINES

COMING EVENTS

- 3-7 Board Meeting
- 3-10-11 Fly Tying and Fishing Show
Albany Convention Center.
- 3-14 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone
Mobile Home Park in Gold
Hill
- 3-16 Club Meeting with Gaary
Lewis.
- 3-18-19 Club Outing - Lower Sacra-
mento.
- 4-4 Board Meeting.
- 4-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone
Mobile Home Park in Gold
Hill.
- 4-12 Club Outing - Lake Selmac
- 4-20 Club Meeting - Fly Tyers
Night.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

a member of the club for the room number. Hopefully, I'll see you there.

Let's see what else is happening! Do you know anyone that is interested in fly fishing, but doesn't know how to go about it? You're in luck as the club's annual "Fly Fishing Clinic" is scheduled for May 5th at Harry and David pavilion at Reinhart Volunteer Park. The clinic will be conducted by Dave Grosjacques as well as other club members. For more information, contact Grosjacques at grosjacquesd11@gmail.com.

And finally, I've had to combine February and March's newsletter as I just didn't have enough material to do February by itself. I have finally caught up with the current month and hope to continue that trend. To do so, I need material. This includes photos, stories and anything of interest that would make for interesting reading. So don't be shy, send me any material that I can use and thereby help the old editor to produce a timely newsletter.

Pebble Mine Continued from Pg 4

Bristol Bay," Bristol continued. "This will take vision and leadership from our decision-makers, and we look forward to working with them to reach this goal."

The finalization of protections preventing the development of the Pebble Mine come on the heels of Bristol Bay breaking records for the return of sockeye salmon for the third year in a row—with over 79 million sockeye returning to its waters in 2022.

Auction Continued from Pg. 3

the membership to step up and become involved in the overall efforts of ensuring the auction will be a success by either soliciting items, donating items, or lastly bidding generously at the auction. Only then



Not only are there going to be a lot of nice prizes that can be bid on, there will also be a great prime rib dinner to set the mood for bidding.

will we return to the days that provided the necessary funds to ensure that our mission as a club had been met.

Outing Continued from Pg. 5

and fished the rogue and sixes river the past few days. A few half pounders and some cutthroats were spoken of being caught. We headed up river and David made sure we stopped at many pullouts where we could return to later.

The bar at Social Security and Loeb

state park were active with many gear fishers and we moved on upriver where the fly fishing water is less crowded.

I liked the looks of Redwood bar and decided to wet a line. A nice run begins at the upper end and I waded in and began by swinging a dark intruder on a slow sink line. After every pass through the run, I would go a little heavier on my tip till I was down to a t-14 and switched intruders.

My hopes of a hit were wearing down but at this point it was about casting different weight tips and flies. Talked to two guide boats who said they had caught one or two above there and with the low clear water the consensus was the fish had moved through weeks before when the river bumped up. After visiting with some club members

I decided to drop back down to Loeb in hopes that the spin gear people had called it and I could get in a few casts. Turns out only one other gear fisher was at the upper end and I dropped in above him. It is nice to watch a gear caster lob a lure across the river to just within a couple feet of the other side. It wasn't long we were sharing the same run and I was dropping my intruder nearly as far. Again only casting practice for the both of us.

That night we all met up at Panchos for a very good meal and conversation.

The next day the group was meeting up and going to the Rogue to fish, I decided to head back and fish the Smith river at some spots that were shown to me at last year's outing, by David H. And Jerry Haynes. Again the Smith was running low and clear. After stopping off at several pulloffs and doing some casting practice I was about ready to call it when a nice steely porpoised near my fly and of course this added a few more casts to my day. Thanks to these outings I was able to fish 3 awesome rivers and meet up with some club members on the water. I hope to see you out there at these incredible outings our club offers.



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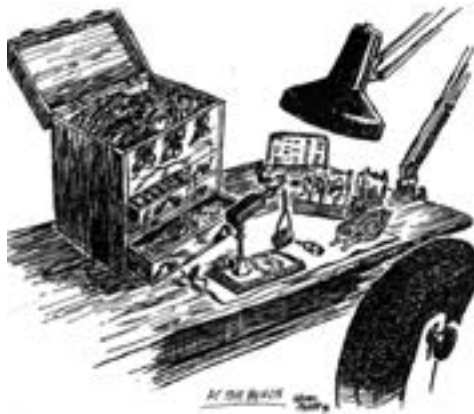


Editor's Notebook

Has it been three years since I had something to look forward to in March. Well, it is March again and that something I've been looking forward to is the Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo which will be occurring in Albany at the Linn County Fairgrounds on March 10th -11th.

To a fly-tying junkie this event is pure heaven. The thought of having some 150 to 200 primo tyers under the same roof over two days is something to look forward to. Depending on your preferences, there are tyers demonstrating the smallest midges to the largest salt water patterns and everything in between. If your interest lies in the area of Atlantic Salmon patterns, there will be people tying

these works of art. If your tastes range to the warm water side, there will be people tying bass bugs of various types.



I might suggest as you walk down the aisles and stop at each tying station and see what is being tied. If it interests you, you might stop and watch and if you're really

interested you might take notes on how to tie the fly being demonstrated or better still take a few photos with your cell phone.

And if fly tying is not enough, there are classes conducted over the two days that have broad appeal. Some of these include specific fly construction, fly fishing locations and the ever-popular casting classes.

Additionally, there is a banquet and auction at the end of the first day. In addition, raffles are conducted hourly over the two days.

If you don't find something that interests you, you haven't tried very hard, because it is there.

Lastly, the SOFF will be hosting a hospitality room at the Comfort Suite Hotel, see either myself or

Continued on Pg. 7