

# SOFF News

Vol.30 No.5 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

May 2023



## SOFF NEWS

A publication of  
**Southern Oregon Fly Fishers**  
P.O. Box 1144  
Grants Pass, Oregon 97528  
Web Site: [www.soff.org](http://www.soff.org)

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Newsletter Editor  
E-Mail: [dchebul@centurylink.net](mailto:dchebul@centurylink.net)

**It's spring and members of the SOFF are in a quandary! Should they fish for cold water fish such as trout and steelhead or should they fish for warm water fish such as bass, crappie or bluegill? What a dilemma!**



One of the club's most popular outings of the year is the annual outing to Copeland's Pond. Here Mark Swanburg displays a fine example of a large carp taken during the annual outing. There aren't many carp in the pond, but if you hook one, you'll certainly know.

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

## SPECIAL MENTION

**Bill Burns:**  
**John Storfold:**  
**Kevin Daniels:**  
**John Smith:**  
**Dave Grosjacques:**  
**David Haight:**  
**Vacant**  
**Dave Roberts:**  
**Vacant**  
**John Storfold**

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Fly Tying Chair  
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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

**Robert Stafford**

My fishing history started when I was in grade school and my friend David and I would get on our bikes with our spinning rods and ride to the port of Redwood City, California. We would fish for hours catching perch, shiners, and the occasional small shark. When we were old enough to drive, we'd travel to Half Moon Bay and fish off the breakwater. It didn't really matter if we caught anything; it was fun just to try. My trout fishing began around that same time when my family would go camping at Memorial Park in the coastal mountains of San Mateo County and my brother, Tom and I would fish in Pescadero Creek which flowed through the park. During high school my brother-in-law and I would drive east to fish the Stanislaus, the Calaveras, and Mokelumne rivers.

After I joined the U.S. Coast Guard in 1968, I didn't do much fishing for several years, but I picked it up again after I married Linda whose dad, John and her brother, Larry were both avid fishermen. Family camping get-togethers at Burney Falls in northern California would find us on day trips to Hat Creek and the McCloud and upper Sacramento Rivers. John loved to fish Diamond Lake, Howard Prairie and Galesville reservoirs and I would always try to accompany him whenever possible.

When I retired from the Coast Guard in 1988, we finally settled in

southern Oregon and John, and I continued our outings. As he got older, we'd stick closer to home and try our luck at Lake Selmac where he could sit in a folding chair and wait for a bite. Later, when Larry moved up from California, he and I began to fish the upper Rogue above Prospect using fly rods and salmon eggs and that was my first experience using a fly rod.

In 2012 I left the working world behind and joined the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. With little to no knowledge of fly fishing, I took the fly fishing, and the fly tying classes the club offers, and became more involved in SOFF's activities such as tree plantings, fishing outings, and helping Dave Grosjacques set up and demonstrate the clubs' "stream table" at outreach programs. I became the clubs' President in 2022, in my second term now and, with lots of help from the Board, things are returning to normal, post-Covid. I don't yet have any stories about fishing in other countries or even other states, but I still love fishing in our local rivers and lakes.

I've met so many of you over the years; some have become good friends, but all have been welcoming and helpful. I always enjoy interacting with everyone at our general meetings and look forward to seeing all of you at the next one.

## The Annual Auction is Coming Up and Your Help is Needed.

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 conservation 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

**Continued on Pg. 3**

**ATTENTION!**  
**Board Meeting**  
**The Board of Directors**  
**will meet in the conference room**  
**of the Tap Rock Restaurant**  
**The next meeting is scheduled:**  
**May 2nd at 6:00pm or**  
**the first Tuesday**  
**of the month**  
**All members welcome**

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

Jun 15	Marc Williamson
Jul 20	No Meeting
Aug 17	No Meeting
Sept 21	TBA
Oct 19	TBA
Nov 11	Club Auction
Dec 21	TBA
Jan 18	TBA

### Auction Cont. From Pg. 2

raise a goodly amount of money for our conservation efforts as well as the scholarships to OSU. Everyone benefited from the generosity of the membership.

Now that times are better, the 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 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 usual donate items are overwhelmed by other worthwhile groups asking them also for donations.

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



### WHEN:

May 18th, 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



### Denny Rickards - Stillwater Presentations



### Denny Rickards

For the past thirty years Denny Rickards has had an opportunity to fish and guide anglers over some of the most challenging trophy trout waters in the Western United States. His simplistic approach and techniques on presentation have accounted for browns over 20 pounds, cutthroats to 15 pounds and rainbows in excess of 16 pounds.

Over 250 days a year are spent doing what he loves best: guiding, writing, tying flies, conducting fly fishing schools, and field-testing developing tackle manufacturer's products.

As a professional fly tier, his suggestive patterns have appeared in various outdoor magazines and are on display at Cushner's Fly Fishing Museum in Florence, Oregon. Based on past reviews, his books and companion videos are now considered the "bibles" for fly fishing lakes.

When he isn't fishing or guiding, many hours are spent studying trout behavior, their habitat, and the various insects found within their environment.

His knowledge and ability to teach others were a prerequisite to establishing his fly fishing schools/clinics which have become a priority for anglers seeking the ultimate from their angling experiences.

# CASTING ABOUT

## Making the Most Of Spring High Water Tips for fly fishing success during early spring conditions by Matthew Reilly - Hatch Magazine

Experienced trout fishermen who have learned to succeed in the gamut of weather and water conditions presented throughout the year relish high water for its habit of rearranging fish into predictable, concentrating holding locations and bringing the river's biggest, most aggressive citizens out to play. Likewise, the spring high water period on secondary rivers and streams represents a fantastic window of opportunity for small stream fishermen to catch their biggest fish of the year.

Consider these points to change your game in high water and make the most of this window.

### FISH BIG FISH WATER

It should go without saying, but is often not considered. When the water comes up and big fish become more vulnerable to angling efforts, put in your hours on streams known for (or rumored to hold) big fish. It's very unlikely you'll pull a trophy from a stream not capable of supporting a trout into old age. If brown trout fin the waters, even better.

### PICK YOUR SHOTS

When rivers rise, trout relocate into soft seams and pillows behind rocks along the banks of the river where they can cruise for disoriented prey, and sometimes in the very bottoms of deep pools where current can rush by delivering food without requiring much energy expenditure to retain position. Large trout will occupy such prime lies. Search for these, and fish them well. Utilize predictability. Don't waste time and energy wading and maneuvering to fish unlikely pieces of water.

### THROW BIG

Cold, early-season trout aim to stash big, calorie-rich meals in their tanks to recover from winter lethargy. As water temperatures rise into the upper 40s and past the 50-degree mark, trout become more active.

So, too, do crayfish and minnows—two staple foodstuffs for large trout. High, warming water, in environments where crayfish over-winter by burrowing in the bank, pulls the arthropods out of hibernation. Minnows are disoriented by high water, which requires them to shuffle about searching for new holding areas, making them more vulnerable prey. Trout notice these changes, and adjust their menus accordingly.

Thus, impressionistic streamer patterns fished at an appropriate speed, relative to water temperature and trout activity, will take big fish.

### BEEF UP YOUR TACKLE

Fish heavy—a heavier rod and heavier tippet—and consider your options for fly presentation.

If you normally fish a stream with a four-weight, consider swapping it out for a six- or seven-weight. In heavy current, even a 12-inch rainbow can test a limber four-weight. A beefier stick will assist in casting larger flies, and will be better suited to wage war with a swollen-river beast.

When fishing high water, I typically start with a 2X or 3X tippet (depending on water clarity) and scale down if I don't see results. You'll need the larger diameter for casting larger flies; you can often get away with it in high, turbulent water; and you'll need it when the One eats.

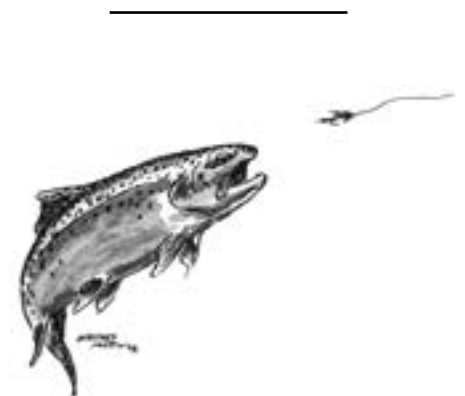
As far as fly presentation goes, make sure your fly is finding the bottom and moving slowly. This can be achieved with split shot or sink tips. I've even had success in smaller streams with tungsten-weighted leaders. The options are many.

### KNOW HOW TO GET OUT

Norman Maclean's character spends many a paragraph visualizing a fight with a not-yet-hooked trout and analyzing the Blackfoot River for a place to land a potential fish—something small-stream fishermen, not used to tangling with large fish, often never think about.

When water is high and ripping and wading is limited and dangerous, this is imperative, as a hooked fish's immediate move is often downstream, and the current is a willing facilitator. Take a mental note of unwadable holes, strong currents, and sweepers along the bank. Plan your escape route and execute it safely as soon as a fish is hooked.

Once you've learned the ins and outs of fishing secondary streams at high water for trout, you won't be able to think about anything else after a spring rain. Give these tips a shot and hold on.



# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## Copeland Pond Outing

May 6

Each year we are given permission to fish as a club on Copeland's Pond. This year the date of that outing has been set for May 6<sup>th</sup>. As we approach that date it is important for me, or anyone who organizes this event, to get a reasonably accurate head count of the folks that plan to attend. I can be contacted on my phone at 541-659-7890. Please let me know as quickly as possible so that sufficient food can be arranged.

As usual we provide burgers and fixings for them, but we also ask that salads and desserts be brought to add to the meal. It has been a practice to have an enjoyable potluck lunch break, with good stories (and lies) to share.

Last year we had a bit of weather blow through, but those that came all had a good time and a good day of fishing. The weather is supposed to warm up toward the end of the month, so hopefully we will have a nice day to enjoy this event.

For those who are newer to the club, Copeland Pond holds warm water species only. There are some good-sized largemouth bass, crappie, blue gill, and others to be had. This is a strictly catch and release outing, so the fishery is maintained. A 4-5 weight fly rod is recommended, but there are those that say a 6 weight is needed.

Fishing is best from a floating device, and we have folks that show up with everything from float tubes

to bass boats. For boaters with power boats there are speed restrictions.

The location of Copeland's Pond is 1000 Applegate Ave. This is southwest of Grants Pass and can be accessed by either going west on Redwood Highway to Applegate Ave. and turning right, or by heading west on Leonard Rd. to the confluence with Applegate. The gate opens at 8:30am, but it would be helpful for folks to plan their arrival at around 9:00.

Dan Egleston Outings Host

## 2023 Owyhee River Outing

May 17-21

You are correct, it is quite a drive to get there...8-9 hours depending on how you drive. However, it can be a wonderful couple of days of breathtaking views and perhaps some very large Browns. If not the big boys, there are plenty of 12" – 20" fish. Afternoon bite could be a PMD hatch, or multitudes of midges for dry fly action. Last May yielded fish on stripping buggers, nymphing chironomids, pheasant tail nymphs, BH hares ear patterns, and then be ready with dry flies when the time is right. General size flies I've found to work are between 14 - 20s. Throwing large streamers slowly across the bottom can produce some large fish in the early mornings and once the sun is off the water in the early evening.

Camping is all along the river on BLM land, I will try to get the larger areas as the Host campsite. It is all dry camping. We will have a potluck early dinner on Saturday. I will provide brats. I will be giving further details to those of you interested in coming out via text messages.

Please text me at 541-261-2243 or email at [mmasters2243@charter.net](mailto:mmasters2243@charter.net)

Mike Masters – Host

## SOFF Beginning Fly Fishing Clinic

**When:** Friday, May 12 9AM – 3:30 PM

**Where:** Reinhart Park

**Cost:** \$20

**Who:** The clinic is an annual event put on by the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers

**Instructor:** Dave Grosjacques

**Email-** [grosjacquesd11@gmail.com](mailto:grosjacquesd11@gmail.com)

This beginner's flyfishing clinic is for those new to flyfishing, or for a refresher for those who have done some flyfishing. Email Dave at the above address if you want him to save one of the 10 spots available. The \$20 is to cover the rental fee for the Harry and David shelter at the park. It is payable the day of the clinic, just come a bit early. You can use fly rods owned by the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers or bring your own if you have one. The clinic will share information about fishing licenses and tags, places and best times to fish, species of gamefish in S. Oregon, river, and stream equipment, fly casting, knots, flies, safety on and near the water, boats and lake fishing techniques and other topics. Each participant will get a flyfishing catalog and a copy of the current game fish regulations. Lunch break will be from approximately 12 noon until 12:30. We should be finished by 3:30 or a bit earlier.

We hope you can make it!  
SOUTHERN OREGON FLY FISHERS



## 2023 Outings

May 17-20	Owyhee River Brown Trout
Jun 2-3	Lemolo Lake
Jun 9	Rogue Salmon
Jun 17-18	Diamond Lake
Jul 12	Upper Klamath Lake
Aug 12-13	N. Umpqua Steelhead
Sep 8-10	Lava Lake
Oct 14	Rogue Steelhead

# FLY TYING CORNER

## Stretch Magic Midge



- Hook:** Scud; Daiichi 1120, Dai-Riki 135, TMC 2457 - Size 14.
- Thread:** UTC 70 Olive.
- Bead:** 10/0 seed beads – one solid white followed by one transparent green with silver lining.
- Rib:** UTC 70 Olive.
- Body:** Stretch Magic – size .7 mm.

### Tying Instructions:

A note about materials: Transparent seed beads with silver lining and solid white seed beads can be found in bead shops or craft stores.

Smash the barb and place the white bead on the hook, followed by the green bead. Place the hook in the vise in a vertical position, with the eye pointing down. This makes it easier to tie on the Stretch Magic. Tie in the thread a little past the midpoint of the bend of the hook. Tie in the Stretch Magic at this point leaving about a 1/4" tag. Reposition the hook to a normal tying position in the vise. Spiral the thread forward to the bead on the bare hook, creating a rib. Wrap the Stretch Magic forward, placing each wrap next to the previous one, and stretching it as you wrap, until you reach the bead. Secure with 2 – 3 tight wraps. Stretch the Stretch Magic and cut as close as possible. Whip finish and apply head cement. Stretch the tag end of the Stretch Magic and cut as close as possible.

This pattern can also be tied in different colors by changing the olive thread and the green bead to black, tan, or red. (The white bead is always used.) I learned to tie this fly from Bob Wolfe at the International FFF Show in Spokane last year.

Fly tied by Jay Daley

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjohn@charter.net



## Membership Form

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

- 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

- 5-6 Club Outing - Copeland's Pond
- 5-9 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 5-12 Beginning Fly Fishing Clinic at Reinhart Park
- 5-17-20 Club Outing - Owyhee River
- 5-18 Club Meeting - Denny Rickards
- 6-6 Board Meeting
- 6-13 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 6-15 Club Meeting - Marc Williamson

## Southern Oregon Women on the Fly Calendar for May

This is a preliminary calendar of events for the Southern Oregon Women on the Fly. More details of the events will be forthcoming in general club emails.



**Cast & Hang**  
Southern Oregon Women on the Fly

**Cast. Learn. Connect.**

TUESDAY, MAY 9  
TOUVELLE STATE PARK  
5:30PM



**FLY FISHING 101**

MAY 30  
5:30 PM

**Fly Fishing Basics**  
Knots - Flies - Rod Setup  
Blue Heron Park  
Florence, OR  
Cost: \$10



**LEARN TO FLY  
CAST WITH  
RACHEL ANDRAS**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH  
*Southern Oregon Women on the Fly*

SATURDAY, JUNE 3 @ 10AM  
Chuck Roberts Park - Talent, Oregon  
\*Limited Capacity & Pre-Registration Required

\$25

## Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

ner at a local winery.

And so, it started. During the past 15 years we have been to several wineries out on the Applegate and now we are venturing a little further to the Plaisance Ranch and Winery in Williams. We have been there for the last five years and have always been rewarded with an excellent dinner and superb wine.

This year, once again we will be at the Plaisance Ranch. The date for the wine dinner is July 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 4:00 pm for the wine tasting, along with hors d'oeuvres, followed by dinner at 5:30 pm that according to Rich Steed, host for the dinner will 'knock your socks' off. The cost for the dinner is \$30.00 per person with reservations to Rich Steed, along the dinner payment no later than July 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mark your calendar now and get those reservations in so you won't miss an outstanding social and entertaining get-together. For those that don't fish, do not worry as there won't be any fish spoken there that afternoon.



Tuesday, May 23rd

**CO-ED  
FLY TYING NIGHT**

COPPER JOHN	NTMPH	
SPECIES:	5:30PM	HOSTED BY:
TROUT	MEDFORD	MIKE BEAGLE

\*Limited Seating & Pre-Registration Only\*



SOUTHERN OREGON WOMEN ON THE FLY

*Ladies Fishing Meetup*

Saturday, May 13  
4:00pm

- Community
- Connection
- Fly Fishing

Meet @ Lake Selmac Park  
Bring a picnic potluck item to share!



I saw this guy wading a river in Montana and I was impressed. Not only was he using a walker to help him wade, but he was also wet wading.

As I have become older and less steady on the old pegs, I often think of this photo and look around for an old walker. Who knows this could be me in the very near future.



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Grants Pass, Oregon  
97528  
E-Mail: [www.soff.org](http://www.soff.org)

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## Editor's Notebook

Hopefully, by the time you receive the newsletter, the Copeland Pond outing is about to occur or has already occurred. I checked the weather for the event and noted that there was a slight chance for rain for the day of the event and that put in mind of a classic outing to Copeland's several years ago. An old timer with the club, the late Loren Black, was always one to fish Copeland's whenever the opportunity presented itself and this day in question was no exception. The day was gray and overcast with light rain falling, but that didn't deter Loren. He was out in his pontoon boat, wearing his waders, a raincoat and covered by a big black umbrella. No rain was going to stop him, he was there to fish! It's funny how certain things like that stick out in your memory.

Now on to other business and information. Steve Day will be hosting a joint club picnic on June 17th at Tom



**Loren Black in the rain.**

Pearce Park. More details will be coming and will be emailed to everyone.

And as usual, the club will be holding a wine dinner in July. A little history of the wine dinner is that some 15 years ago, a decision was made that due to vacation time and other summer activities, the months of July and August would be dark and that we would resume our regular meetings in September. Many members were used to meeting for 12 months of the year and those two dark months would be a problem for some of the members.

So, to continue and ensure continuity, it was decided that we would have a social meeting either at the end of July or the beginning of August where the members could get together, bring their spouses, significant others or whomever and enjoy a night comradery. After much discussion, it was decided that we would have a wine dinner.

**Continued on Pg. 7**