

# SOFF News

Vol.24 No.3

The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

March, 2017



## 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)

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**One of the more popular events each year is the annual North West Fly Tyer's Expo held each year at the fair grounds in Albany.**



Each year fly tyers and want to be fly tyers gather from around the Pacific Northwest at the Oregon Council's of the IFFF North West Tyers and Fly Fishing Expo to be regaled by the latest in hair, hackle and artificial materials that can be bent around a hook and made attractive for salmonoids and other denizens of the deep.

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

## SPECIAL MENTION

**Rich Hosley:**  
**John Storfold:**  
**Kevin Daniels:**  
**Ray McClenathan:**  
**Sonja Nisson:**  
**David Haight:**  
**Sue Keeling:**  
**Dave Roberts:**  
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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

The record rains in Oregon this winter have really made our winter steelhead fishing a challenge. I was supposed to lead the 9<sup>th</sup> annual SOFF outing to Cow Creek in mid-February. The high water forced a one-week postponement, and even more rain and high water caused us to cancel it for this year. So I want to make up for the cancelled outing in part by writing about the fish populations in the Cow Creek watershed.

The headwaters of Cow Creek are a short distance from the headwaters of Evans Creek. It runs north, then turns west and runs into Galesville Reservoir, which was built in 1986 and 1987. It then runs past Azalea, through the small town of Glendale and enters the Cow Creek canyon. It then runs through the town of Riddle before joining the South Umpqua near Canyonville. The largest tributary is West Fork Cow Creek, which enters Cow Creek about halfway between Riddle and Glendale. The upper deadline for winter steelhead is the Middle Creek bridge, which is only a short distance upstream from West Fork. In past years, our group would meet in Glendale, then drive downstream to the West Fork bridge for a group photo before we started fishing. The paved road follows the stream all the way to the Riddle/Tri-City area, where it connects with Interstate 5. Our group would fish pools and tail-outs from the upper deadline at Middle Creek all the way down to Doe Creek bridge, which

is a distance of about 12 miles.

The Cow Creek watershed has populations of resident rainbow trout and cutthroat trout, which are mostly in the headwaters and smaller tributaries. It also has populations of migratory Chinook salmon, Coho salmon, winter steelhead, sea run cutthroat trout and Pacific lamprey. The trout season is open from late May through September 15<sup>th</sup>. There is no open season for salmon on Cow Creek, and the steelhead season runs from December through the end of April. The steelhead are a bit larger than the Rogue winter fish, with an average fish in the 7 to 10 pound range and some big ones over 15 pounds. The steelhead are all wild fish and must be released. I have caught my share of these fish on gear and flies, and I must say that if you catch one you will not forget the experience!

The construction of Galesville dam on upper Cow Creek improved habitat conditions for salmon and steelhead in the watershed. The dam holds back water from the winter rain and snow, and spreads out the release of that water from May through October. The increased flow and cooler water temperatures help the juvenile fish make it through the hot summer months. Increased flows in the fall also help migrating adult salmon make it to their spawning areas in the upper part of the watershed. Galesville Reservoir contains rainbow trout, trout-sized coho, largemouth and smallmouth bass, crappie and bluegill.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife operates a mitigation program for coho salmon to make up for lost habitat above the dam. The Umpqua Fishermen's Association helps the ODFW capture adult coho at the base of the dam. Some of these fish are trucked to the Rock Creek hatchery near Glide. They are spawned there, then incubated and hatched. After a year at the hatchery, the juvenile fish are returned to a net pen at the base of the dam, where they are fed for a time then released into Cow Creek to start their migration

to the ocean. I have been a member of the Umpqua Fishermen's Association since 1987 and have helped with the coho program. In most years there are a lot more adult coho returning to the base of the dam than are needed for the mitigation program. In recent years we have used some of these surplus fish to give to the Douglas County food bank. Also, some of the hatchery adults have been trucked to the upper part of the reservoir and released there to continue upstream to spawn.

The mitigation program calls for a certain number of coho juveniles to be released each year at the base of the dam. To allow for an accident or disease outbreak at the hatchery, a few thousand fish in excess of that number are raised at the hatchery. If there are no problems, those excess coho juveniles are fin clipped and released into the reservoir to grow to trout size so they can be caught by fishermen. This program has provided a very popular fishery for Galesville anglers. A problem with some language in environmental impact documents written before the dam was built has resulted in a halt of the release of adult and juvenile coho into Galesville. I have joined with a past president of the Umpqua Fishermen's Association to urge the Douglas County Commissioners to re-establish the release of these fish into the lake. I have spoken with ODFW personnel

Continued on Pg. 3

### ATTENTION!

#### Board Meeting

The Board of Directors 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 Night
May 18	TBA
Jun 15	TBA
Jul 20	No Meeting
Aug 17	No Meeting
Sep 21	TBA
Oct 19	John Shewey
Nov 11	Annual Club Auction

## WHEN:

Mar. 16, 2017



## TIMES:

5:30 PM

Social Hour and  
Fly Tying Demo.

6:30 PM

Meeting

7:00 PM

Dinner and Program

## WHERE:

Taprock Restaurant  
971 S.E. 6th St. G.P.



## John Kreft - Fishing the Metolius River



John Kreft is this month's featured speaker and will present a program entitled "A Secret River West of Sisters...the Metolius". While his famous quote is "there are no fish in the Metolius" - some fly fishers know better. His presentation will include fishing access points along the river, the fish available, bug life, and a few tips about his method of catching the elusive Redsides, Brown Trout, and Bull Trout in the river.

John is renowned for his famous "John Kreft flies" which he has graciously donated dozens and dozens to the Central Oregon Flyfishers (COF) monthly raffle. He has managed the COF Winter Fly Tying since 2012 and contributes to the Fly of the Month column in the COF newsletter.

In addition to the COF activities, John was the treasurer for the Oregon Council - IFFF for 4 ½ years and Chair of the 2015 and 2016 NW Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo in Albany. He has been an exhibition fly tyer at the NW Expo, Western Idaho Fly Fishing Expo (Boise), Northern California Fly Tying Expo (Redding), and several national IFFF Fairs. He is on the board of Central Oregon Project Healing Waters, teaching fly tying and fly fishing to veterans.

Lastly, John started the website *RiverKeeper Flies* ([www.johnkreft.com](http://www.johnkreft.com)) in March 2014, which is a great resource to novice and experienced anglers. His weekly posts include a variety of topics including fly fishing, fly tying, and volunteer work. A couple of notable tabs on the webpage includes **Fly Patterns** (including Crooked River flies) and **Resources** (knots, hook and bead conversion charts). Many pictures accompany the posts and fly patterns to help with his story-telling style.

John and his wife Karen (a noted fly fisher in her own right) live in Sisters.

## President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

about it, and I was told that the reason for the freeze on putting coho into the lake is not a money issue or a biological issue. We hope that it can be worked out and that this popular fishery can be continued.



A few of the club members that attended a previous Galesville outing.

So for the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, the Cow Creek basin provides multiple fishing opportunities that are relatively close to home. You can catch a large winter steelhead in the Cow Creek canyon, or trout and several warm water species in Galesville Reservoir. We have been talking about an unofficial outing to Galesville in April or May. I would be willing to unofficially schedule a weekday trip with SOFF members and help those who have never fished there learn the lake. Send me an email if you are interested. Let's go fishing!



# CASTING ABOUT

**Northwest's Largest Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo**



## Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

[www.nwexpo.com](http://www.nwexpo.com)

# March 10 - 11, 2017

Linn County Expo Center, Albany Oregon  
Hours: 9am - 5pm

200 Demonstration Fly Tyers

All Day Casting Demonstrations

90 + Classes on Casting, Fly Fishing, & Fly Tying

Sponsored By:  
Oregon Council of IFFF



**New Vendors | Reception Fund Raiser | Public Welcome**

# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## March Outing - Winter Steelhead On The Applegate River

**W**e are fortunate here in Southwest Oregon to live near some of the best steelhead streams in the world. With runs of both summer and winter steelhead, we can enjoy steelhead fishing throughout the entire year—river conditions permitting. As we near the end of winter, the Applegate River typically offers an outstanding opportunity to catch steelhead on a fly.

For those that are new to the area, the Applegate is a small river with water

that is easy to read and fish. It is well suited to nymphing tactics; however, there are plenty of places to swing flies. Winter steelhead arrive in the Applegate late in the season, so fishing usually gets going around the middle of February and keeps getting better until the season ends on March 31. Since most of the land along the Applegate River is private, unless you know someone, access is limited to several public proper-

ties scattered along the river. Since the river is quite shallow at the flows that offer the best fishing and there are no boat ramps, few people use driftboats on the river. The use of small pontoon boats; however, is getting more popular. If you do float the river, be aware that some sections of the river have dams, low bridges, rapids, and other obstacles.

Also, remember, by law, you must get out of the boat to fish.

If you want to learn more about fishing the Applegate, come to the club outing on Saturday March 18.

We will start off by meeting for breakfast at 8:00 AM at the Shari's Restaurant on the corner of Agness Avenue and the Grants Pass Parkway. If you don't want to eat, be there by 9:00 AM. We will caravan to the river from there.

Bring your fishing gear, waders, rain jacket, polarized glasses, lunch, and water. Single-handed, switch, and smaller Spey rods in the 7 to 8-weight range are suitable for the Applegate. Pack your floating and sink-tip lines, and bring a variety of nymphs and standard steelhead patterns. As I said above, the Applegate River is very well suited to nymphing techniques. An effective setup is to use a large, heavy nymph, such as a salmonfly nymph, with a size 10 A. P. nymph, hare's ear, pheasant tail, or similar fly on a dropper. For those that want to swing flies, traditional steelhead patterns, egg-sucking leeches, and smaller intruder-style flies

work well. Many people feel having a little chartreuse on the fly helps when fishing the Applegate no matter which technique you choose.

Because it is so productive, I will spend some time during the outing discussing proper nymphing techniques, as well as going over when, where, and how to fish the Applegate River. Given the conditions we have experienced this winter, there is a chance the river could be out of shape for our outing, so be sure to check the club website for any updates just before the outing.

**David Haight, Outings Chair**

### For Sale

Easily load your boat on your vehicle with the Eide automatic boat loader (Model #305). This model carries up to 250 # and accommodates boats 10'-15' in length. It is removable—no bolting to the vehicle. The hand-cranked winch attaches to the loader. #305 fits vans, suburbans, sport vehicles, and carry-alls.

Price: New in 2000 was \$895

My price is \$350

Contact Bruce Bochman 541-471-1985 or 541-761-1176



The Applegate Outing is both a fishing and instructional event. Here Dave Haight and Josh White provide a little instruction before those club members go in pursuit of the steelhead.

### 2017 Outings

Mar 18	Applegate Steelhead
Apr 22	TBA
May 6	TBA
Jun 1-4	Lemolo Lake
June 23-25	Cascade Lakes
Jul 29-30	Umpqua Bass
Aug 19-20	Lower Rogue Half-pounders.
Sept. 16	Klamath Basin Trout

**FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS**



# FLY TYING CORNER

## Olive Dirty Bird



- Hook:** Dai-Riki 075, Size 8
- Thread:** Black 6/0
- Bead:** Black 5/32 Bead.
- Tail:** Natural Partridge
- Rib:** Medium Copper Wire.
- Body:** Olive Rabbit Dubbing.
- Wing:** Olive Krystal Flash.
- Collar:** Natural Partridge.
- Head:** Black Rabbit Dubbing.

### Tying Instructions:

Clip a clump of partridge about 1/8 inch wide, and tie in at the bend of the hook for the tail. Then tie in the copper wire and wrap the thread back to the tail. Twist the olive dubbing onto the thread and wind the dubbing to the back of the bead. Wrap copper wire over the dubbing to just behind the bead. Cut 4 strands of Krystal Flash about three quarters of an inch long and center the Krystal Flash behind the bead and tie in, then fold the forward facing strands back and wrap thread in front so that all the strands are facing back. Tie in partridge by the top just behind the bead, and make 2 to 3 wraps around the fly, creating a collar. Make a couple of wraps with the thread in front of the collar, and twist black dubbing onto the thread. Make 2 wraps with the black dubbing in front of the collar, whip finish and that's it.

**Fly Tied By: Josh White**

According to Josh White of the Rogue Fly Shop, this is an excellent fly to have tied up and in your box, particularly if you're going on the March outing on the Applegate. We thank Josh for providing this fly of the month.

**John Storfold**

**Fly Tying Chair**

**541-660-6584**

**steelyjon@q.com**



## 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

- 3-7 Board Meeting  
 3-10-11 Albany Fly Fishing Expo.  
 3-14 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.  
 3-16 Club Meeting with John Kreft.  
 3-18 Club Outing - Applegate Steelhead.  
 4-4 Board Meeting  
 4-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.  
 4-20 Club Meeting - Fly Tyers Night.  
 5-2 Board Meeting.  
 5-6 Tentative Club Outing.

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

California and Oregon over the last 30 years, I have never left one of them, that I haven't learned something from it. That's the beauty of one of these affairs; you can always learn something new.

As I said, there are 200 tyers all told that are demonstrating over the 2 days of the event, but not at the same time. This means that you have ample opportunity to continuously see new tyers as the Expo progresses.

Although my interests lie primarily with fly tying, there are other classes that are conducted at each Expo some of which are specialty classes on casting, flyfishing and fly tying.

Lastly, there are the vendors. Each year the Expo seems to attract new and different vendors who display fly tying materials, rods, reels, destinations, and guided trips all to entice the fly fisher.

Although I receive a lot of satisfaction from the Expo, one of the highlights for me is the annual reception that my wife and I host each year. It started out as a couple of club members stopping by my room for a glass of wine after the event ended on Friday night and has now progressed to me booking a suite and seeing that there are hot hors d'oeuvres, dips, chips and

other goodies for those attending. At last year's party, there must've been 35 to 40 people in attendance, a lot of them not only club members, but other tyers, vendors and even the president of the International Federation of Fly Fishers stopped by.

So if you're planning on attending the Expo, which again is on March 10 and 11<sup>th</sup>, at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, stop on by the Comfort Suites Hotel at the conclusion of Friday's events, ask for my suite number and join us.

## For Sale



### FOR SALE----GREAT FISHING BOAT

1975—13'4" Welded Aluminum Gregor w/Dilly Tilt Trailer,  
 Made in USA (Model Delux 400).  
 2002 Mercury 15HP short shaft outboard (very low hours)

Also included: set of oars, detachable boat dolly wheels, 2 anchors, 5 gal. gas can, 2 seats w/back, spare tire

**Price: \$2495.00 or Best Offer**

Contact Bruce Bochman—541-471-1985 or 541-761-1176



## 2017 MEMBERSHIP DUES

For those of you who have still not paid your 2017 membership dues, they are now 60 days past due. This is the stage of the renewal process where I need to track you down with emails, phone calls, home and office visits, etc. I tend to run out of time and energy and have been known to get cranky. Won't you please help me out by mailing your check to the club post office box today?

**Southern Oregon Fly Fishers  
 PO Box 1144  
 Grants Pass, OR 97528**

The 2017 edition of the club membership directory will be going to print on Monday, March 27. If you are planning on being included with your current contact information, I need to hear from you before then.

Thank you.

**Rich Hosley,  
 Membership Chairman**



**Rich Hosley presents Tom Beverage with a Gary Anderson Rod for paying his club dues before January 1st. Just goes to show that the early bird does get the worm or in this case a new fly rod.**



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## Editor's Notebook

As spring approaches I, like nature, have a re-awakening. Instead of having the sap flow as with a tree, my juices instill in me the need to tie flies. Now is the time when I thumb through countless fly fishing magazines, YouTube productions and other fly tying sources to see if I can find a pattern that intrigues me enough to attempt it. As usual, I never seem to find the right pattern that interests me enough to try it. Now here is my conundrum! Having collected thousands of patterns over the past 30 years or so, I can't find the right one to tie, now what do I do?

Fortunately for me, the annual 'Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo', scheduled for March 10 and 11<sup>th</sup> in Albany is almost here. At this event, there are 200 primo fly tyers demonstrating the art of fly tying. There are tyers tying the 'Grand Dame' of flies,

the Atlantic Salmon Patterns which are flies that due to their complexity and creativity need to be carefully enshrined in a shadowbox and hung on a wall to be admired and not fished. Next in the line of tyers are those that craft steelhead patterns. In my judgment, these flies rank just below Atlantic salmon patterns, still fairly complex to tie, but are used for fishing. And lastly, not to be outdone by the other two types of flies, are the traditional dry fly and nymph patterns. Regardless of your interest, there are numerous tyers demonstrating each discipline.

I relish the opportunity to walk up and down the rows of tyers, stopping at each tyer's station and checking out what each participant is tying. I must say that although Atlantic salmon patterns are in themselves works of art other than admiring them for what they are, I have little interest in tying one of them. Rather, my interests lie in

the everyday flies I might use. Those tying dry flies, as well as nymphs, probably receive the majority of my attention. If I really like a fly pattern being demonstrated I might sit down and watch it being tied several times, trying to remember not only the materials for the fly, but the steps necessary to craft it. I, like many others, have taken to carrying a notebook along with their cell phones or cameras to record every step along the way of patterns they wish to try at home.

I have to say, that I doubt there are many new patterns being developed anymore. Rather it is the traditional patterns that are being tied in a non-traditional manner. There's new materials, methods and techniques that may change of fly's appearance somewhat, but its genesis will harken back to an original pattern. After attending these Expos both in

**Continued on Pg. 7**