

SOFF News

Vol. 24 No. 4 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

April, 2017



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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So. Oregon Fly Fishers bemoan the fact that this season's local steelhead fishery has been a bust due to the record rain fall we had this year.



By the time your receive this newsletter, the Applegate will be closed to steelhead fishing. This year the Applegate has been a bust due to the 'monsoonal' rains we experienced. So that you know that there are steelhead in the Applegate, I have included a photo of Tom Morris with a fine specimen taken a couple of years ago.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Rich Hosley:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

Casting Reflections

I am not an expert. Now that I have gotten that disclaimer out of the way I want to share some reflections on fly casting.

Casting a fly is the trademark of our sport. To some it is simple, natural and comes fairly easily. To others it is a puzzle that is never solved. After 40 years of doing it, I have not come close to mastering it. I have been fortunate enough to watch and listen to famous casting instructors from all over the West. I have also had the opportunity to get some casting instructions and advice from SOFF members. After all of this, I wondered why my casting ability got only a little bit better.

I found out why in a very simple way several years ago. I won a 6-weight rod and wanted to compare it to a 6-weight I already owned. I rigged up both rods with casting yarn and went out in my yard. I could feel the difference after 3 or 4 casts with both rods. I didn't know why the newer rod was easier to cast for distance, I just knew it was. But the most important thing I discovered that day was that it was fun to practice casting with yarn in the yard! Before that I only did fly casting when I was fishing. Practice was not done, only fishing. I changed that and my casting improved.

Another thing that I must mention

about casting is that it draws people to fly fishing. They see how simple a good caster makes it look. They watched the movie [A River Runs Through It](#). They want to try it. I have seen this time and time again when I work with beginners at SOFF's annual fly fishing clinic in May. These folks want to get a rod in their hand and try casting. We spend a lot of time with casting at the clinic and the participants cast until their arms are tired and want more!

The casting motion is simple enough. The caster raises the rod to pick up the line off the water and start the back cast. The rod flexes, then straightens back out as the line goes back. Then



President Dave shows his casting style.

the rod is flexed again as the caster starts the forward cast, and straightens back out again as the line goes toward the target. The art and science of it is to know where, when and how to move the rod. The point at which the rod tip starts and stops during this series of motions is a key fundamental to successful casting. I have heard some say it's like painting a straight line with the rod tip. I have heard others say to move the thumb of your casting hand in a straight line. Others preach the three-count motion of back cast, pause, forward cast. Does this sound like an art and a science? I believe it is.

Casting on a stream, lake or salt flat is much more than just knowing how to cast. It involves the casting variables which must be dealt with to success-

fully get the fly where and how you want. The wind is a variable that can make casting a challenge or even make it unsafe! I got to go to Belize a few years ago and was casting to bonefish on the salt flats. The wind was always blowing. The fishing guide showed us how to cast with a sidearm motion so the line would be less affected by the wind. I have experienced the infamous "right ear wind" that can take a cast and move the line and the fly into the caster. In this type of situation another method must be used so that you don't hook your right ear! Some casters will cast with their left hand, or keep the rod in their right hand and cast with the tip over their left shoulder to keep the line downwind.

Other variables depend on where you are fishing, of course. The depth, speed and turbidity of the water you are fishing can dictate the type of cast you want to make. The size, weight and length of the rod you are using and the type of leader setup are also variables to consider. The weight and type of fly you are using can also affect casting style.

The casting platform is another key variable. If you are wading, getting into the best position to make the cast is crucial. In some cases you are restricted by deep and/or swift current so

Continued on Pg. 3

ATTENTION!

Board Meeting

The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the
The Brew Pub

The next meeting is scheduled:

Apr. 4th at 6:00pm or

the first Tuesday

of the month

All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

May 18	Devin Olsen
Jun 15	TBA
Jul 20	No Meeting
Aug 17	No Meeting
Sep 21	Spey Clave
Oct 19	John Shewey
Nov 11	Annual Club Auction
Dec 21	Mark Bachmann

WHEN:

Apr. 20, 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.



Annual Fly Tyer's Meeting

This year our Fly Tyer chair, John Storfold, has put together a super list of tyers to regale you their fly tying abilities. There will be new patterns, new materials and new techniques to help you produce a fly that will be only a little less effective than dynamite. So come on down, bring your notebooks and cameras to record the steps in tying these 'dynamite' flies.

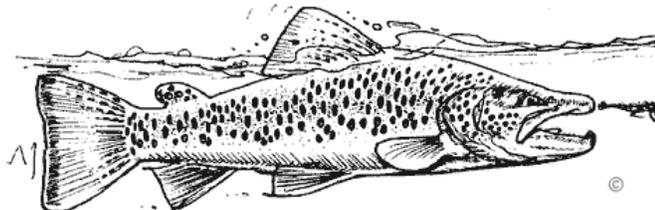
Those club members tying this year are:

Bruce Bochman, Kevin Daniels, Dave Grosjacques, Jeff Fox, Morris Fruitman, David Haight, Dale Heath, Joe Holzen, Chuck Hunnington, Joseph Knapik, Dan Kellogg Ed Morphis, Marlon Rampy, Dave Roberts, John Storfold, Mark Swanburg, Mark Teeters, Josh White and Paul Wolflick.

As noted before all these tyers with the exception of three were at the recently concluded Fly Tying Fair in Albany. If you were at the Fly Tying Fair and missed seeing any of these tyers, or missed the Albany show, you're in luck as these tyers will demonstrating their fly tying prowess to the delight of one and all.



These are just some of the tyers that will demonstrating their abilities at the vise at the Fly Tyers meeting.



President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

you have to make the type of cast that will work best from where you are. If you are in a boat or float tube, you can move around to make it easier to make a successful cast. Another set of variables involves the snagging capabilities of sticks, rocks and overhanging brush. One must avoid snags on the back cast and sometimes the forward cast, and watch for snags in the water as the line is retrieved.

All of these conditions can be a problem, or they can be dealt with using patience and experience. The thing to remember is what ALL of the instructors I have listened to tell me: "Practice, practice, practice!" To that I want to emphasize making practice easy and fun to do. Keep a rod rigged up so you can grab it and go out in the yard or street. Pick out targets for distance and some more difficult targets with obstacles to cast over, under or around. Spend 5 or 10 minutes casting a couple of times a week. You will enjoy it and your casting will improve!



CASTING ABOUT

SOFF AUCTION

By Sonja Nisson

Your auction committee is already hard at work planning the 2017 SOFF Auction. Due to an extensive remodel, Taprock will not be able to host our event, but not to worry- we have GREAT NEWS! We will be holding our annual SOFF Auction at Grants Pass Golf Club. SAVE the DATE - Saturday, November 11, 2017. Grants Pass Golf Club is known for great food and a warm and fun atmosphere- perfect for our party. Now is the time to put the date on your calendar. A special invite to all our veterans- Our party falls on veterans day this year and it will be an honor to have you share a part of your day with us!

An added note - In the past three years, our auction has grown, but our committee has lost several members. We need your help!



Sonja Nisson putting together the annual auction.

We Need

Volunteers to help before the auction

Volunteers to help the day of the auction

Volunteers to help at the auction

Volunteers to help clean up

or

Go All Out and volunteer to join the auction committee!

To join in the fun while making this year's auction a success, call Sonja at 541-582-4833.

Annual Wine Dinner

By Bruce Cochran

Save the Date

Guess what is happening on July 22nd? Its the annual SOFF wine dinner. Imagine this: A wonderful dinner, beautiful grounds, and good wine. Schmidt Winery in the Applegate Valley, is where our event will be taking place. Our



The inviting front door at the Schmidt Winery will greet those club members and guests attending the annual wine dinner.



A view of Schmidt Winery gardens.

dinner will be held in the Round House, which overlooks their gardens and vineyards. You can take your loved one, with a glass of wine and stroll the gardens and enjoy the evening. Dinner will be Tri-tip, Chicken, Summer Salad and Vegetables along with their famous wood fired bread. To start the evening, we will enjoy chips and various dips and finish off the evening with a wonderful desert. Stay tuned for more information and how to sign up. We look forward to seeing you there.

Community Rewards

By Jan Knapik



The club has received our first check, \$54.04, from the Fred Meyers Community Reward Program!

So thanks to all that have signed up for a reward card and selected the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers to receive their Community Reward Points.

If you've not signed up, see Jan Knapik at a General Meeting and she will help you sign up. Remember selecting the club does not affect you, you still earn your Rewards Points, Fuel Points, and Rebates, just as you do today. The amount given by the Fred Meyer Reward Program is based on how many folks select our club, so, the more that sign up the more monies will come to the club.

To sign up we will need to sign into your Fred Meyer digital account or create one. Also, we will need your Fred Meyer reward card number to proceed.

FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS



OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

May Outing - Copeland's Pond

For those of you that have been concerned about not seeing the Copeland's Pond outing on the schedule, don't worry, we are going—it just took a little longer this year to schedule the date. What has become, by far, the club's most popular outing is scheduled for May 6. For those of you that are new to the club and don't know why this is a big deal, Copeland's Pond is a private pond, owned by club members Bob and Valerie Copeland, that offers some of the best fishing in the area for big largemouth bass, crappie, and other warm-water fish.

We will follow our usual routine: You can arrive any time after 8:30, and spend the morning fishing. At noon, the club will provide hamburgers, chips, and drinks. Those attending are requested to bring a salad, side dish, or

dessert to share. You can then spend the rest of the day fishing and visiting with fellow club members.

Bob requires that fish caught from the pond be released, so the fish have the



Fishing must be easy at Copeland's Pond if even the old editor can hook up!

opportunity to grow to impressive sizes. During previous outings, club members have landed large-mouth bass over 20 inches and crappie over

15 inches. You can catch fish right from the bank; however, a float tube, pontoon boat, driftboat, or other small watercraft will give you better access to the fish. If



One never knows what might take your fly at Copeland's Pond as attested to by Mark Swanburg with this giant carp he took at a previous outing.

you plan to target panfish, 3 to 5-weight rods work well, but if you hook into a big bass or carp, you may wish you had something heavier. For bass or carp, a 6 to 8-weight rod would be a good choice. Slow sinking lines will likely be the most useful, but bring your floating lines as well. Your fly box should contain bass

bugs, rabbit-strip flies, woolly buggers, leeches, streamers, and nymphs. Olive or white woolly buggers have worked well for both crappie and bass in past years. Large, olive rabbit-strip flies or leeches have been effective for the bigger bass.



After a hard morning fishing at Copelands, outing participants recharge their batteries with hamburgers and drinks provided by the club and potluck supplied by the members.

To get to Copeland's Pond, take Redwood Highway west from town. Turn north off the highway onto Applegate Avenue then look for the club signs where Applegate Avenue turns right and becomes Leonard Road.

The outing to Copeland's Pond is always a lot of fun—both for the great fishing and the opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow club members. We greatly appreciate Bob and Valerie's generosity in allowing us to enjoy their property. If you plan to go, sign up at the April meeting or call or e-mail me by April 30, so I know how much food to purchase.

David Haight, Outings Chair
541-855-9043, tmdrhaight@info-structure.net



2017 Outings

May 6	Copeland's Pond.
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.
Oct 21	Middle Rogue Steelhead.

FLY TYING CORNER

Orange Tied Down Caddis



- Hook:** Standard Numph, Size 6-16.
- Thread:** Black 3/0
- Tail:** Natural Dark Deer Hair
- Body:** Orange UV Dubbing (Original Calls for Orange Yarn).
- Wing Case:** Natural Dark Deer Hair
- Hackle:** Coachman Brown.

Tying Instructions:

After laying thread foundation attach a small bunch of deer hair at the shank bend. The tips of the deer hair will be the tail and the remainder will form the wing case. The tail should be about 2/3 the length of the shank. Hold the remainder up and make 3-4 wraps, with the thread, in front of tail to help keep it out of the way.

Tie in your Hackle by the tip, shiny side up. Next form a dubbing loop and wrap thread forward leaving 2 eye widths spacing. Add dubbing in the loop and after twisting and making a dubbing rope, wrap body to the point where the thread is and tie off. Wrap Hackle forward, about 2-3 times up to and tie off. Separate and press Hackle from top down along the sides (or trim top Hackle off). Pull deer hair forward and tie off, forming the wing case. Be careful not to let the hair spin. Trim excess hair and finish head. Apply 1-2 coats head cement.

This fly was developed by Doug Stewart and who swears by this fly for small mouth bass.

On the second day at Albany my son Iziah and I were sitting down watching John Shewey tie. As Shewey began his second fly, the Max Canyon, he said "Not that this person would ever tell you, but the inventor of this fly is sitting right here." He then pointed at an older gentleman sitting quietly next to Iziah. As it turned out that was none other than Doug Stewart himself... Myself and others seemed to politely recognize but shrug this information off. It wasn't until Shewey was done

Continued on Pg. 7

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

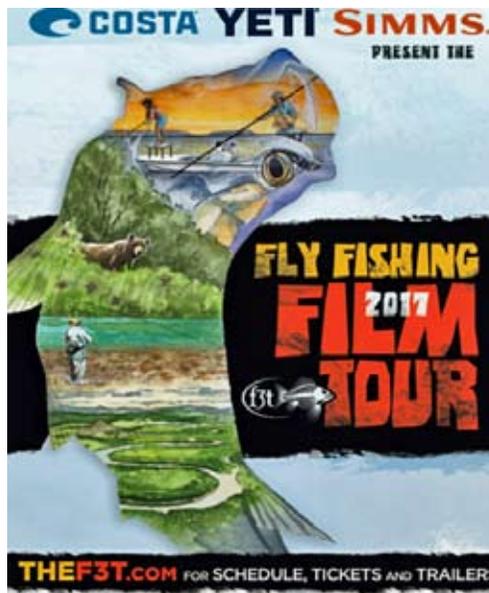
- 4-4 Board Meeting
- 4-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 4-20 Club Meeting - Fly Tyers Night.
- 5-2 Board Meeting.
- 5-6 Club Outing - Copeland's Pond.
- 5-9 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 5-18 Club Meeting - Devin Olsen.
- 5-20 Begining Fly Fishing School.
- 6-1-4 Club Outing -Lemolo Lake

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8
the producer F3T, so I include it now.

"2017 marks The F3T's 11th annual adventure with more than 150 screenings across the U.S. This year's lineup of films is our finest yet. From Siberia to Idaho, Mexico, Florida, Kamchatka, Alaska, Montana and more, the notable characters, unique storylines and unparalleled fishing in these films will lead you on an adventure around the globe!"

Make a point of getting a ticket and attending and then take part, if only vicariously, in the action that these films will provide.

And lastly, start preparing yourself for change as there is change in the club's immediate future. As you all know, the board is exhaustively looking for a new venue to host our club meetings and let's say that the pickings are meager to say the least. We have looked at several different locations and they all have drawbacks that would adversely affect the club's meetings. So let's hope that we can find something that will closely meet our needs and then minimize the disadvantages. Stay tuned!



This April The Ashland Fly Shop is proud to be hosting the 2017 Fly Fishing Film Tour in downtown Medford! This is a critically acclaimed collection of fly fishing films from around the world assembled for one awesome night of viewing! This is something we have wanted to host for years! We have a wonderful venue selected in Medford's new **Common Block Brewing Co.** It is located right next to the new Lithia building downtown. Tickets are available for \$15 at **Ashland Fly Shop**, **Rogue Valley Angler** in Medford as well as the **Rogue Fly Shop** in Grants Pass and also on line for \$17 at www.ashlandflyshop.com 541 488 6454. Hope to see you there!

**2017 Fly Fishing Film Tour
Wednesday, April 26**

**Doors Open at 7, Show at 8
Common Block Brewing Co.
315 E 5th St, Medford, OR 97501
(541) 326-2277**

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

Orange Caddis Continued From Pg. 6

with the fly and excitedly ask Doug if he could take a picture of him inspecting the fly that it dawned on me that I might be missing an opportunity to meet and talk to a legend of the Pacific Northwest.

Ever the people person I struck up a conversation with Doug asking for his autograph on pg.26 in the spring issue of Fly fishing & Tying Journal. Page 26 is the beginning of an article highlighting the Max Canyon. This led to spending the remainder of the morning talking to and watching Doug tie. I learned a lot (and took a lot of notes) from Doug in those couple of hours to include the Orange Tied Down Caddis.

It was definitely a once in a lifetime experience and one I won't soon forget.

Some of you may own one of his books, Tying and Fishing Outstanding Flies and The Practical Fly Fisher. Both are great and I would highly recommend to both the beginner and seasoned veterans alike.

Fly Tied By Michael Mazingo

Looking at this fly I am sure it will work anywhere you can get it wet and in front of a hungry fish.





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Editor's Notebook

Well that's it for another year – the annual Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Show in Albany has come and gone and according to my perspective was an outstanding success as usual. I will admit that my perspective is limited as my main reason for attending is the wide and varied assortment of fly tyers that hold court as to speak over the two days. The various classes that are offered, I'm sure are outstanding, but there were none that I cared to attend. The vendors that were there displayed their wares which covered a wide variety of items such as rods, reels, boats and fly tying materials. Since I wasn't in the market for new tackle or a boat, these vendors were only given a cursory inspection in passing. I did stop at the booths offering fly tying materials to inspect what they had to offer and buying items that I probably didn't need, but couldn't resist their allure.

If there was a downside is was that the attendance seemed to be down this year. Normally there are so many people in the aisles that it is difficult to walk up and down them. Some of the tyers have so many people stopping to see them, that they can only be seen in passing before the crowd pushes you down the row. This year you had ample time to stop, watch and talk to the tyer.

Lastly my wife and I held our annual reception after the Friday night closing. As usual it was a fun filled event with lots of food both hot and cold, numerous bottles of wines, several of which came from the cellars of Red Fox winery, coincidentally owned by club member Ron Cremo. There was also beer and soft drinks for those who opted for those refreshments. Over the course of the evening there were at least 30-35 club members and guests that stopped by. I hope they all had a

good time and are looking forward to next year's soirée, because the Good Lord willing and the Creeks don't rise we will back again next year.

If you missed Albany this year, do not despair because we will be having our own mini version of Albany at our April club meeting. This year at our annual Fly Tyers meeting, we will be having a least twenty of the club's premo tyers displaying their skills at the vise. Many of these same tyers also tied in Albany, so you'll get to see them without the long drive to Albany – a win-win situation. The only downside is that there is no reception after the tying event is over.

This year the Ashland Fly Shop is hosting a Fly Fishing Film Festival. For details refer to the story on Page 7 of the newsletter. In formatting the article for the newsletter, I was unable to include a synopsis of the films by

Continued on Pg. 7