

# SOFF News

Vol. 24 No. 5 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

May, 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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**So. Oregon Fly Fishers are waiting to see how the closure of the ocean salmon season will impact the salmon fishery in our local rivers.**



Your editor proudly displays a fine example of a bright silver salmon taken on the Olga River in Kodiak Alaska. It would appear that if anyone wants to catch a 'salmon' they may have to go to Alaska as the ocean salmon season for south/western Oregon has for all practical purposes been shut down this year.

**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:**

**Kevin Reiten:**

**Sonja Nisson:**

**David Haight:**

**Sue Keeling:**

**Dave Roberts:**

**Ed/Sandy Michalski:**

**John Storfold**

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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

**Dave Grosjacques**

### Tying Variations

For some fly fishers, tying flies is an important part of the sport. It is not for everyone. Some fly fishers try it and don't like it. Others try it and tie occasionally. Still others try it and make it a big part of their life, tying all the time. My friends who do not tie appreciate the tier's art and are more than willing to try flies given them. As an everlasting intermediate tier myself, a real highlight in my tying is when someone uses a fly I tied and catches a big fish.

Passing along the knowledge and techniques of the art of fly tying is one of the purposes of our club, as stated in the first part of our bylaws. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers sponsors a fly tying class each winter for ten consecutive Wednesday evenings. Past instructors include Ray Slusser, John Edwards, Bob Roberts, Ed Morphis and Dale Heath. Our current instructor is Kevin Daniel. I know that many of the members of our club who tie flies took the class from one of these talented tiers. The SOFF also hosts a fly tying night each year at our April meeting. This year's event was held on April 20<sup>th</sup>. Fly Tying Chair John Storfold did a good job organizing the affair, with 20 tiers from SOFF showing how to tie their favorites. I want to give a big thank you

from the club to those tiers who made our tier's night a big success.

At our tying night each tier had a vise, thread bobbin and scissors. But that is about where the similarities ended! I saw 20 variations of fly design, materials use, tools and techniques. This variety is what makes a tying event so much fun to see. Another interesting thing to me was the conversations that were going on between the tier and those watching. Most tiers explained their fly tying as they went along, as you would expect. But the important part of the conversation was when the tier talked about how the fly was supposed to look and how it



**One never know where the urge will strike one to tie a fly. Here President Dave takes to the vise while sitting outside at Lemolo Lake.**

was supposed to act in the water. This led into fly presentation discussions, where the tier explained how that particular fly would be best presented in a lake or stream to entice a hungry trout or steelhead. Fishing success will certainly be the result of these conversations!

Another side to fly tying variations is a simple one: to use one particular fly pattern and to change parts of it to make it even more effective for a particular fishing situation. My example is the Stillwater Bug that I tie. The SB is a Denny Rickards pattern I got from him at the Albany Expo in 2008. The basic pattern calls for a marabou tail, body and wing. Some angel hair and gold dubbing add sparkle, and burnt

orange hackle adds movement. If you buy one of these from Denny it will be tied in sizes 8 and 10 on a long shank hook. To start tying variations of the standard pattern, I experimented with a size 6 long shank hook, with more weight added. This variation was done at the request of Ray McClanathan, who wanted to try it in Klamath Lake. Ray showed me later a photo he took of a 5 pound rainbow he caught on this fly, and told me an even bigger one got away. I also have tried varying the colors of marabou, using red, grey, white and purple instead of the standard olive, burnt orange and black.

This fly can be tied sparse, using less marabou to produce a very slender outline. It can also be tied with a lot of marabou, making a thicker body. Other variables that can be experimented with on this one include the amount of weight added, the amount and type of sparkle and the color of the thorax dubbing. For the tiers I know, this type of experimentation is very common. Some of them forget about standard patterns entirely and come up with a fly that is uniquely their own, tying it in all sorts of different ways.

This experimentation and work with variations of a fly is part of what makes us tie. When we produce

**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:**  
**May 2nd at 6:00pm or**  
**the first Tuesday**  
**of the month**  
**All members welcome**

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

Jun 15	Alex Rachowicz
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
Jan 18	TBA

## WHEN:

May 18, 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.



## Devin Olsen - European Style of Nymphing



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

a fly that looks pretty good and that catches fish we have a feeling of accomplishment. We spent some time carefully tying a fly that works! I also think that all people have a need for creativity in their life. Tying flies is a great way to create something that you can be proud of. Some flies are difficult to tie correctly and others are pretty simple. Why do we do it? Why tackle a difficult fly when a simple one will work just as well? It is the challenge of doing something that is not easy, like getting a par on a difficult golf hole. There is also the fact that if one practices tying and gets some good instruction, he or she can show noticeable improvement. Who knows, maybe someday if I keep practicing I will be able to tie flies like Dan Kellogg and Dave Roberts!

**FEDERATION OF  
FLY FISHERS**



I started fly fishing at age 9. I will never forget my first day where I caught a cutthroat on an ant in the first meadow of the famed Slough Creek in Yellowstone on a hand me down fiberglass 7 weight! Though I'd been fishing with hardware since I was a toddler, that day started an addiction to fly fishing that I can't seem to shake.

It was in 2004 that I became interested in competitive fly fishing and continues to this day. The year 2016 marked my 8th consecutive berth as an angler for Fly Fishing Team USA in the 36th Fips Mouche World Fly Fishing Championships in Vail, Colorado. The year prior in Bosnia I was incredibly fortunate to finish with the individual bronze medal and even more fortunate to have been a part of the squad that won the first team medal (a silver) for the USA at a world fly fishing championship. In 2016 we followed that feat with a team bronze. Fly fishing competitions have exposed me to tactics and techniques from incredible teammates and fellow fly anglers from across the globe. I hope to share what I've learned through this site to make you a better angler.

Away from competitive fishing, fish have sculpted my professional life as well. I hold a bachelor's degree in ecology and a master's degree in fisheries science. I currently work for the Nez Perce Tribe Department of Fisheries Resource Management as a salmon and steelhead biologist in Joseph, Oregon.

# CASTING ABOUT

## Annual Wine Dinner

By Bruce Cochran

**D**id you mark your calendar for July 22nd? You may be asking yourself what's on July 22nd? It's the SOFF wine dinner, which this year is being held at Schmidt Family Vineyards. The event will start at 6:00PM and will include appetizers, Tri-Tip, Chicken, side dishes, and desert. For those of you who might be new to the club, we do not hold our monthly meetings in July and August. We do, however, hold this event as a great way to get together with some people you haven't seen in awhile, have some good food, drink some wine, share fish stories, and just have a good time. The event will take place in the Round room adjacent to



**The fruit of the vine- oh so fine will be the exclamation by all those present at the club's annual wine dinner**

the gardens which will be open to us. Imagine a nice summer night where you can take a walk with your significant other, enjoy a glass of wine as you stroll through beautiful gardens. If you haven't been there, the Round room offers air conditioned seating (if it's too

hot) or a gorgeous patio that you can also enjoy. You're probably asking yourself "Well this sounds like fun, what is it going to cost?". The cost is \$25 dollars per person and the club will be purchasing some wine. Additional wine, of course, will be available for purchase either by the glass or bottle. Reservations will be required and will be needed to be made in advance. Watch the following newsletters and e-mails for when to make reservations. Hope to see you there!

## Rogue Flyfishers hold Annual Auction

"Rollin' Down the River Dinner & Auction"

**E**very year as we do in November, the Rogue Flyfishers holds a fund raising auction and this year is no exception. Their auction will be held on May 24, 2017 at the Jackson County Expo Fairgrounds at the Padgham Pavilion. The auction will include a buffet dinner catered by Rosario's Restaurant for \$25 and will be served at 6:10pm.

Time table for the event is:

Silent Auction runs from 4:30 through 5:45pm

Bucket Raffle begins at 4:40 and closes promptly at 6:00pm

Steelhead Paddle Raffle begins at 7:00pm

Live Auction begins at 7:10pm and concludes by 8:45pm.

Some of the Prizes Offered: drift-boat trips, still water trips, custom rods, reels, fly tying tools and materials, Golf packages, wine baskets, cameras fishing accessories, custom hand tied flies, hotel accommodations and much more.

Reserve and Purchase Tickets by emailing Mike Masters at [mmasters2243@charter.net](mailto:mmasters2243@charter.net) or calling him at 541-261-2243.

Every year we get a delegation from the Rogue club to our annual auction

so turnout is only fair. Let's get out there and show our support for their annual fund raising auction.

## SOFF Selects Annual Scholarship Recipients

**T**he Southern Oregon Fly Fishers award two \$1500 scholarships annually to outstanding students in the Fisheries Sciences program at Oregon State University. We have done this since the early days of our club to help promote those individuals that we feel will go into careers that will help insure the future health of the fisheries resources that are so important to us. The recipients are selected based on their scholastic achievements, work and volunteer experience in the field, involvement on campus and in the community, career goals, and financial need. For the 2017 - 2018 academic year, the club selected Tyler Johnson and Christopher Derrickson.

**Tyler Johnson** is a junior. He grew up in Idaho, where he developed an interest in fisheries while camping and fishing with his family. He has gained experience in the field of fisheries sciences while working for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, and since moving to Oregon, has worked for the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, full time, for the last four-plus years, while going to school and maintaining a 4.0 GPA. Tyler expects to graduate with a degree in Fisheries Sciences during the summer of 2018. After graduation, he plans to earn a Master's Degree, and then pursue a career focused on the preservation of aquatic and marine ecosystems.

**Christopher Derrickson** is a senior that expects to graduate in the  
**Continued on Page 7**

# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## SOFF June Outing to Lemolo Reservoir

By Dave Grosjacques

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers outing to Lemolo Reservoir will be Thursday, Friday and Saturday, June 1<sup>st</sup> to June 3<sup>rd</sup>. This is the eighth spring we have done this outing. The host for the outing will be club president Dave Grosjacques. The campground at Poole Creek on the lake near the main boat ramp will be the meeting place for the outing.

Dave needs to know what day members will arrive so that he can touch base with you on fishing locations and fly and presentation options. There will be a SOFF sign at Dave's campsite at Poole Creek. Club members will meet each afternoon from 4 to 5 at Dave's campsite to tell fishing stories and plan the evening and next day's fishing.

Lemolo Reservoir is 13 miles north of Diamond Lake. Diamond is about a 2-hour drive from Grants Pass. The lake has rainbow trout and brown trout, and a few kokanee. There is a small re-

sort on the lake with gas, a store, boat rentals and an RV park. The best way to fish the lake is with a boat; casting or wind drifting with an intermediate sink fly line. At times dry fly fishing or fishing with chironomids will also produce.



President Dave leading the way at Lemolo Lake.

Over the 8 years Dave has hosted this outing he has seen everything from snow days to hot, sunny days, with an occasional thunder and light-

ning storm thrown in as well. Campers should be ready for any kind of weather. The mosquitoes are usually out in the mornings and evenings, and if the weather is right they are out all day. We are hoping this year's cooler weather will make the mosquito situation better than last year.

Send Dave an email ([dasa29@msn.com](mailto:dasa29@msn.com)) if you have any questions about the outing. He will be at the lake from Tuesday until Sunday of that week. There will be several other club members at this outing who have fished the lake and they will be glad to help anyone fishing it for the first time. Let's go fishing!

for this event, Dave Haight needs to know who will be attending. If you're planning on attending, be sure to send Dave an email at [tmdrhaight@info-structure.net](mailto:tmdrhaight@info-structure.net) or call him at 541 855-9043 to let him know how much food to purchase.

Also remember that this is a pot luck event, so bring something to share with those others that are attending.

Other than that, come prepared to catch lots of fish.

## Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake Outing

We have one of the longest running and more popular club outings coming in June – the Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake outing. Find the joy of fishing the clear, pristine waters of the Central Oregon area – Deschutes River, Big & Little Lava Lakes, Hosmer Lake, Cultas Lake, Crane Prairie Lake, Fall River, and many other bodies of fine fishing water. The dates are Friday, June 23 through Sunday June 25.



Sonja Nisson displays a fine rainbow taken from Lava Lake on a recent Cascade Lakes outing.

We will meet at site #22 (Sonja Nisson's site) at the Lava Lake RV Resort/Campground on Friday and Saturday mornings at 8:00am to present and share information on local fishing. On Friday night, we will meet at site #16 (Jerry & Sue) to continue the new tradition of sharing snacks, appetizers and hors d'oeuvres. Bring your own fa-

### 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-pounds.
Sept. 16	Klamath Basin Trout.
Oct 21	Middle Rogue Steelhead.

### Copeland's Pond Outing

Just a reminder that the Copeland's Pond outing is scheduled for Saturday, May 6th. Since this is an outing where the club is providing hamburgers with all the fixings and drinks, outing chair

Continued on Pg 7

# FLY TYING CORNER

## Bob Quigley's Hackle Stacker



- Hook:** Size 16 - 20, Mustad Dry or Similar.
- Thread:** 6-8/0 Uni Olive or Similar.
- Tail:** Bronze Z-lon.
- Body:** BWO Dry Fly Dubbing (Dun).
- Thorax:** Green Closed Cell Foam or BWO Dubbing.
- Hackle:** Medium Dun.
- Hackle Stacker**
- Loop:** 6-7X Tippet Material or Mono Thread.

### Tying Instructions:

Dress the hook with your thread to the bend in the hook. Move the thread back to mid body and tie in your Bronze Z-lon to imitate a trailing shuck. The shuck / tail should be 2/3 the length of the hook shank.

Now dub the body, up to the 2/3 point leaving room for the thorax and hackle.

Once you are finished with your body tie in some mono-thread. Tie it in a 2 inch long loop that you will use as a post to wrap your hackle on. Secure it and make a few figure 8's around the base to secure the thread well.

Now tie in a hackle (the hackle should be 1 to 1 1/2 as long as the hook gap). Start wrapping you hackle up the post while keeping tension on the loop/post. Wrap up so the heights of the wraps are equal to the distance from the post/loop to the head space. Once you go up, wrap back down and secure the hackle at the base of the (now parachute) and trim the excess.

Make sure you have a nice thread wrap in front to now place a foam ball with 1 1/2 wraps of green foam cut in about a 1/8 inch strip. Secure with one wrap over the back crossing over to the eye of the hook on top and back again and over one more time to get the thread in from of your now formed foam thorax. Now pull all the hackle back, and pull the post over the thorax and tie down just as you would a wing case. Make a couple loose wraps and then pull the post forward firmly and tighten up the wraps and secure and form your small head with a few half hitches and whip finish as you desire.

Pulling the parachute over the thorax and tying ti down has form what is known as a hackle stacker. With the foam thorax this fly will fish as a dry struggling with its shuck in the water.

Continued on Pg. 7

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjon@q.com



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

- 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
- 6-6 Board Meeting
- 6-13 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 6-15 Club Meeting - Alex Rachowicz.

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

original didn't call for. Why did he do it? Maybe he was just exercising his creative ideas or wanted a fly that was easier to tie than the original or maybe it just fished better.

I saw examples of this at the recently concluded 'Fly Tyers Night' meeting. As I made my rounds of the assembled tyers, I had occasion to stop at several of their locations and watched what they were doing. I saw Bruce Bochman tying his leech fly. This fly is such a generic pattern, that I can't really give credit to the originator. This is a fly that Bruce swears by as evidenced by photos of several large fish that he has caught on the pattern. Not satisfied with the fishability of the original, he has modified it so that it has become a buoyant neutral fly that no longer dips up and down on the retrieve, rather is retrieved in a straight line; an adaption for better fishing.

Then there was Marlon Rampy who can always be counted on for creating original patterns. In this case it wasn't about the fly itself rather it was in the technique he used in tying the fly. He used a set of plastic clamps that held his fly tying material until he was ready to use it. He was able to take materials such as feathers and only use a

portion of the feather for what he was tying.

Then there were Dan Kellogg and Dave Roberts two stalwarts of the craft who never fail to surprise and enlighten me with abilities at the vise.

And lastly, but not least were all the other tyers at the event that demonstrated their skills at the vise.

If you are a serious tyer or have the aspirations of being a better tyer, then events like this are not to be missed. Add to this all the videos that are on line and surely without a lot urging you can become a fly tying junkie like me.

Well there's this month's article! Not too bad if I may so myself. Considering when I first sat down to write it, my mind was as blank as a sheet of paper. I hope that I have accomplished two things: How to get an original thought when the old cupboard is empty and if by chance you should use someone else's idea, just give the original thought credit and you're good to go. And fly tying is a lot of fun and doesn't have to be done in a rigid fashion, but is open to experimentation as to new materials, new techniques and fishability.

### Scholarships Continued From Pg 4

spring of 2018. He has maintained a 3.75 GPA while at Oregon State. Chris is from McMinnville, and has a passion for fishing. He worked for the U.S. Forest Service last year where he obtained experience in the developing science of environmental DNA. He currently is working in a lab at OSU cataloging invertebrate samples while going to school. After graduation, Chris hopes to begin a career working with salmon and steelhead.

### David Haight, Scholarship Chair



### Lava Lake Continued from Pg 5

favorite beverage and appetizer to share. On Saturday evening, we will continue with the club-provided main dish group dinner at site #22. This year our theme will be Mexican food. Each person attending will need to bring an appetizer, a side dish or dessert and their own beverage (the club will provide water and ice tea). If anyone has a great salsa or any other Mexican dips, please bring them. Come join us for some good food, good friends, good fishing along with some 'bloated' fishing stories.

Make sure you sign up no later than June 15 to attend the dinner as we need an accurate count in order to have enough food.

If you are interested in attending you can sign up at the SOFF club dinners in May and June, or email Jerry & Sue Keeling at [jerrykeeling@msn.com](mailto:jerrykeeling@msn.com) or call 541-218-7264. There are many options for camping in the area as well as cabins at various lakes.

You don't want to miss out on some great memories.

### Jerry & Sue Keeling

### Hackle Stacker Continued From Pg. 6

This fly can be tied in whatever color best matches the hatch.

This fly is my attempt to tie the famous tyer, Bob Quigley's Fly. I watched his video about 6 times on many of his flies that he made famous right here in the Rogue Valley and used here in Oregon as well as rivers in Northern California such as the Fall River and the McCloud.

Hope you have as much fun tying this fly as I did.

### Fly Tied By John Storfold





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## Editor's Notebook

There are times when I sit down to write the 'Editor's Column', and I get no farther than staring at a blank piece of paper. Try as I might, I can't get a cogent thought to rear its head from the ether of my brain. So what to do? Borrow an idea from someone else and expand on it. Sounds easy, but that's not always the case. How can you borrow someone's idea without plagiarizing the source? Confronted by this conundrum, I enlisted the aid of the Merriam-Webster dictionary. "Plagiarize – To steal and pass off the ideas and words of another as one's own without crediting the source." That's easy enough just take someone's idea, give them credit for the original thought, then take off from there.

Easy-peasy! But wait, whose original thought should I use? What is it that I want to say? If I can de-

termine that, then I don't need to use someone else's words or ideas. A revelation! Alas, I have come full circle and once again I'm staring at a blank sheet. I think that I shall just shut my eyes and let the inner me take over. Here goes!



As you all know by now, that I'm a fly tying junkie, not so much in the actual crafting of the flies, but rather the collecting of thousands of patterns over the years. So as I cobbled the

newsletter together, I read President Dave's column entitled 'Tying Variations'. This really resonated with me as I have seen thru the thousands of patterns that I have collected that original patterns are really in the minority of today's flies. Instead we see an original pattern done differently to suit a tyers eye for creativity or to make the fly fish better. New materials, new methods of tying go into the spinoff of the original pattern.

Dave addressed the Stillwater Bug, a lake pattern that he ties, one that was originated by Denny Rickards and how he has modified it to suit his creative juices as well as making it fish better.

Another example of that is John Storfold's piece on tying 'Bob Quigley's Hackle Stacker'. John chose to modify the pattern with the use of materials added to the fly that the

**Continued on Pg. 7**