

SOFF News

Vol. 24 No. 6 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

June, 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 and guests enjoyed the yearly outing at Copeland's Pond for their local 'fix' of outstanding warm water fly fishing.



Mark Swanburg proudly displays a fine example of a largemouth bass he caught at this year's annual outing at Copeland's Pond. Some sixty or so anglers took part at this year's event which produced goodly numbers of bass, crappie and bluegills for all those that attended. The only fly in the ointment was the incessant wind.

**Dinner Reservations: E-mail - 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

Anadromous Fish- What do they need and how can we help?

The Rogue Basin contains populations of several species of ocean-migrating or anadromous fish. These fish hatch out of the gravel in a river or small stream and eventually migrate to the ocean before returning as adults. The Rogue has always been known for the runs of salmon and steelhead it produces. Commercial gill netting began in the Rogue more than a hundred years ago. To this day salmon and steelhead are a boost to local economies, with lodging, restaurants, sporting goods stores and fishing guides making part or all of their living from those who come to fish the river.

The Rogue contains populations of fall Chinook, Coho and spring Chinook salmon. Summer and winter Steelhead are

also found here, and I will focus my discussion on them. What do these Steelhead need to survive as a species and how can we help them? I am not a fish

biologist, but I will try to explain some of what they need for survival in our part of Oregon from my perspective and with my limited knowledge. As for the second part of the question, I do know how we can help, which I will explain at the end.

Adult summer steelhead get up into the river in July and August, and their winter cousins start up the river from late fall to late winter. They need passage, the small streams they seek for spawning must not be blocked by dams, poorly designed culvert crossings or tight log jams. They also need spawning gravel of the right size so they can scoop out a depression in the stream bottom and lay



Logs placed in the streams provide hiding places and shade for juvenile fish.

cool water, small insects to feed on, hiding places, structures for protection from floods and streamside vegetation that provides shade and insects. Some

of our better steelhead rearing streams actually dry up or get extremely low in



President Dave drills holes for willows and other vegetation to be planted streamside to also provide shade.

late summer. The juvenile fish must be able to get down to the river during the dry season to survive until the fall rains allow them to get

back up to the protection of their natal stream. If all goes well the juveniles will spend up to two years in area streams before migrating back to the ocean to grow to adult size and return to the river to spawn.

What can we do as a club and as individuals to help Rogue steelhead survive? As a club we can continue to donate to Oregon Stewardship, FFF Osprey and Western Rivers Conservancy and local watershed councils. These groups help educate the public on fish-related issues and advocate for healthy fish populations and streamside habitat protection. The SOFF also can continue to help watershed coun-

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

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Jul 20	No Meeting
Aug 17	No Meeting
Sep 19	Spey Clave
Oct 17	John Shewey
Nov 11	Annual Club Auction
Dec 19	Mark Bachmann
Jan 18	TBA
Feb 20	TBA

WHEN:

June 15, 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.



Alex Rachowicz - Greased Line Steelhead



I was born to be a fly fisherman. My first paycheck in life was for a fishing tournament with my Dad when I was still too young to even have a paper route in the Midwest, and I've been a sponsored fisherman of some sort most ever since. My journey out West to the Rogue Valley began in the mid 90's when my oldest sister worked at National Parks in Washington and Northern California, and I instantly fell in love with fly fishing out here on visits. I started, owned, and guided for trout out of my fly shops in Colorado during the 2000's. During that time I caught my first steelhead on trips to the Trinity and Clearwater Rivers, and I've officially been a steelhead junkie ever since! When my fly shops in Colorado were big enough for me to sell them I did, so I could move out here to chase steelhead full time and get closer to my family in Northern California. I've since caught steelhead on almost 50 different rivers in the Pacific NW while spending thousands of days on the water and behind the oars. I am a fully Certified Professional Fly Fishing Float Guide from my days in Colorado.

My preferred method to chase steelhead by far is on the greased line swing, but I also enjoy teaching the art of nymphing for steelhead out of the boat. I also still have that passion for Trout and matching the bugs they eat that just never goes away.

President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

cils and agencies with by volunteering to help plant trees along local streams. Individually, SOFF members can actually join a watershed council. The Rogue River watershed council covers the Grants Pass area and Bear Creek and the upper Rogue. The Seven Basins council covers the areas near Gold Hill and the town of Rogue River. The Applegate Partnership covers the entire Applegate Basin and the Illinois Valley council covers the upper part of the Illinois River and tributaries. You can join a watershed council for twenty or thirty dollars. They use grant funding and membership money to help protect and enhance fish populations and habitat.

So get involved and make a difference! Volunteer for projects and join a watershed council. We can all help make sure that healthy fish populations and good fish habitat in the Rogue Basin will be as good in the future as it is now.

**FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS**



CASTING ABOUT

Al Kyte's Casting Study

By John MacDiarmid CCI

In 1992 Al Kyte and G.T. Moran published a casting study titled, "The Biomechanics of Distance Casting" You can find this study in the Spring 2015 edition of *The Loop*. *The loop* is the publication of the casting group in the Fly Fishing International (Up until recently the Federation of Fly Fishers.) It is viewable under the headline casting. All members of the FFI have access to *The Loop*.

This is the first of three articles that will be done on the study. This first installment will give some background on Al Kyte and describe the study. The second and third articles will compare and contrast the backcast and forward cast of the two groups of casters: the Elites and the Good. Learning about good form and technique should aid us in improving our cast.

Background and Description of the Study: Al Kyte was a P.E. Professor at U.C. Berkeley and thankfully he was a casting geek. When the Fly Fishers International established the casting certification program a few years ago, Al was one of the first Casting Board of Governors. They set up all the rules and govern the casting program. Long retired from Berkeley, Al has also retired from an active role in the casting program, he is one of the few Casting Board of Governors, Emeritus.

In the early 80s I was a member of the Diablo Valley Fly Fishers in Walnut Creek and so was Al. He was an active member of the club and a down to earth pleasurable person. He liked telling the story that early in his teaching career he was a high school football coach and

so was his father. Their two teams went up against each other and Al's team won. He has also published two books: *Fly Fishing, Simple To Sophisticated* and *The Orvis Guide To Better Fly Casting*.

When videos first came out Al was quick to see the value of this tool in analyzing the cast. Watching and breaking down the cast with the naked eye is like trying to see an atom with any kind of visual aid, it cannot be done. We somewhat guess what is happening based on the results.

Videos with freeze stops changed all that for understanding casting. The laboratory was the U.C. Berkeley gym where Al set up 2 stationary cameras aimed at a casting station. A black curtain with vertical and horizontal lines hung on the wall behind the casters. White dots were laced on the casters at critical spots such as the wrists, elbows, hips, even ankles. Twenty of the best casters in northern California cast from this spot while the cameras were rolling. They all used the same rod (9' 7wt.) and the same line. Also they held the line with their line hand at the same spot (46") and they made their longest cast shooting the line. The beauty here is the study eliminated so many variables and they were able to compare and contrast the casters' styles and techniques.

Based on the casting results, the casters were grouped into two groups: the Elite casters that had a mean distance of 80' and the Good casters that had a mean distance of 71'.

There were 9 casters in each group; data from two middle distance casters was removed. In summary the Elite

Casters did 13 things different or better than the Good Casters.

The next article will discuss the differences in the backcast between the two groups and a third article will discuss the forward cast differences. This will give us some things to think about to improve our casting.

Thank You Letters From This Year's Scholarship Winners

Dear Southern Oregon Fly Fishers,

I am extremely honored to be the recipient for this scholarship and would like to thank you for this honor and the time and consideration associated with the award! I would love to be able to come to one of the meetings but it may not be until the end of summer that I could come over as I am in New Zealand right now studying abroad here in Christchurch and then I start a stream survey job but I plan to try to come out before the fall. I am studying over here to expand my knowledge in fisheries and culture before I head to my final year at Oregon State.

I am heading into my senior year at Oregon State and I am excited and preparing to go out into the fisheries field and manage populations of salmonids and work with fish in general!

I grew up in McMinnville, OR and was raised fishing the rivers around the coast, along with the Columbia as well as the Rogue River. I grew up fishing but it wasn't until the last couple of years where I took up fly fishing and it has been a passion that has shaped my life immensely. It has given me an un-

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OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake Outing

By Jerry and Sue Keeling

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.

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



After a great day of fishing and an excellent dinner, there is nothing better than sitting around a campfire regaling the others about the big ones that didn't get away.

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 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 din-

ners in May and June, or email Jerry & Sue Keeling at 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

Copeland's Pond Outing Summary

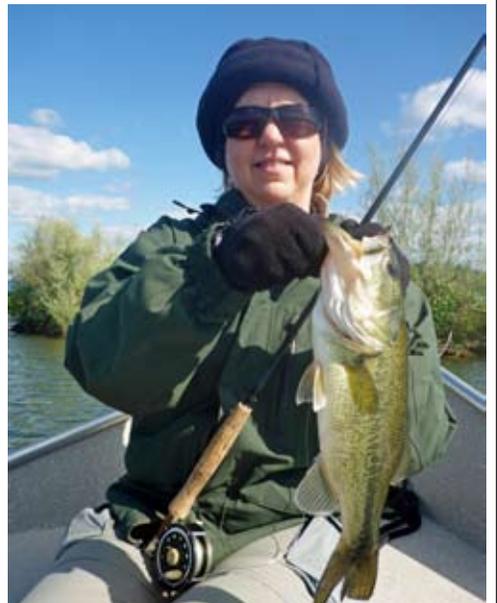
Every spring, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers are fortunate to be the guests of Life Members Bob and Valerie Copeland to fish their private pond. This May, about 50 members enjoyed fantastic fishing, with most everyone landing

some really nice fish. As usual, there were a lot of good-sized largemouth bass landed, as well as some nice crappie and bluegill. At noon, members



A bass caught by Kevin Reiten at the Copeland's Pond Outing. Kevin estimated the bass to be 5-6 pounds.

took a break from the fishing to enjoy hamburgers expertly grilled by Norm Cone and potluck sides and desserts. The only down side was a stiff wind that not only made casting and fishing more challenging, but even made eating lunch somewhat difficult. None the less, it was a great day!



Tanya Haight with a nice bass taken at Copeland's Pond.

Thank you to Bob and Valerie for allowing us to fish their pond and use their facilities. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers really appreciates their generosity for allowing us this special opportunity.

David Haight, Outings Chair

2017 Outings

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.
Nov 4	Fish Lake Tiger Trout

FLY TYING CORNER

Lefty's Deceiver



- Hook:** 1 to 4/0 Short Shank Saltwater Hook.
- Thread:** Light Yellow Heavy (You can use White or Whatever You Want Depending on the Head that You Want).
- Tail:** 4 White Feathers
- Body:** Braid (I Used Silver).
- Wing:** White Bucktail UV2 and Chartreuse Bucktail UV2.
- Flash:** Flashabou and Crystal Flash.
- Eyes:** Stick on Holographic Sized to Fit the Hook.

Tying Instructions:

Start you thread and wind back to just above the barb of the hook. Grab four fairly even white feather, leaving the fluff on. Twist them together and tie down the fluff, leaving the feather about 2-3 times the length of the hook. The youTube I watched said that a lot of people feel they have to get the feathers even and such but he said that Lefty just grabbed four as once it was in the water it was just fine. So suit yourself. I took the easy way and I think it came out just fine. Now right behind the eye, tie in a clump of white bucktail, on either side of the hook. Let clumps kind of wrap around the hook leaving a flat spot on the top for the chartreuse. The bucktail should come back about half way on the tail. Now tie in two strands of medium flashabou on each side of the fly just about even with the tail. Now tie in two strands of crystal flash on each side of the fly about the same length. The original recipe called for silver crystal flash but I did not have any so I used what I had. Now tie in a clump of chartreuse bucktail a little shorter than the white bucktail on top of the hook to finish the wing and whip-finish. You should have a fair size head to stick your eyes to. Make sure they are even on both sides of the hook. Now finish you head with either epoxy (if you do use a rotator to keep the epoxy from sagging or you can use UV it is a lot easier to work with and when you hit it with the light it sets fast and you don't have to worry about the time and the sagging.

This fly was originally designed by Lefty Krey. At least that makes sense for its name. I tied some up as I am headed to Baja this week and they are a staple to have in you fly box. I am sure this pattern works well on bass and other species on different size hooks and in different colors.

Fly Tied By: John Storfold

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

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
6-23-25	Club Outing - Cascade Lakes.
7-11	Board Meeting
7-20	No Club Meeting
7-22	Annual Wine Dinner - Schmidt Winery.
7-29-30	Club Outing - Umpqua Bass.
8-1	Board Meeting.
11-11	Annual Club Auction.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

worked a number of jobs in the biology field with most of that time being spent working in fisheries. My mother works in fisheries, and from a young age I was exposed to the importance of the work. Now I am working hard to finish up my degree, so I can make an even greater impact on the field. I am hoping to one day be in a position in which I can study and preserve aquatic ecosystems.

My line of work has revolved largely around population monitoring for both freshwater and saltwater species. My career in fisheries started with ageing Chinook Salmon and Steelhead scales in my home state of Idaho. This was done to assess the health of the endangered populations of anadromous fish in the Snake River drainage. In 2012 I made my way to the beautiful state of Oregon when an employment opportunity opened up. I currently work and reside in Newport, OR. I work with NOAA ageing flatfish, rockfish, and lingcod for population assessments. Currently, I am gearing up to age vertebrae from a couple of different Skate species. I am proud of my work helping assure that there are healthy populations of fish for future generations to utilize and appreciate.

Living in Oregon has also allowed me to finish up my fisheries and wildlife degree in the excellent program Oregon State offers. Many of the courses I have taken over the last few years have served to deepen my knowledge on ecosystems and the role fish play in them.

My interest in fish extends beyond the professional. I keep a few planted aquariums with different species of fish in them. My largest is a 75 gallon that houses Pumpkinseed Sunfish. I have always enjoyed keeping native species in aquaria. I think many North American species are every bit as pretty as exotic species, and I am surprised they're not seen in home aquariums more often. I also try to get outside and go fishing when I have time. Growing up in Idaho, trout fishing in high mountain streams was my first exposure to the sport. Currently, I have taken up ocean fishing since I am lucky enough to have it so close. Both surf and jetty fishing are common activities for me when I have a free weekend. I have not yet had the opportunity to try fly fishing, but it is on a long list of my fishing to dos! I enjoy trying new varieties of fishing as each seems to pose a new and interesting challenge. Though I am sure tangled lines are a challenge shared by most types of fishing!

In closing, I would like to again thank you for a second opportunity to receive this scholarship. It helps students like me afford college, and hopefully we are able to pay it forward by helping the natural resources we cherish flourish. If I'm ever in southern Oregon I will be sure to attend a club meeting if possible.

Thank you,

Tyler Glenn Johnson
Oregon State Student
NOAA Fisheries Technician
Fisherman

Thank You Cont. From Pg. 4

Understanding of conservation and concentrating on the wellbeing of fish and the fishery and has driven me to use my schooling to do something that I love and help conserve a resource that has taught me so much and made me into the man I am today.

Heading into my senior year in a Fisheries and Wildlife major I am looking to become more involved in my field. I am very blessed to receive this scholarship in my last year as it will allow me to pursue any opportunity that presents itself to me!

This summer when I return to Oregon after my study abroad experience I will start my new position of Biological Science Technician in which I will be doing stream surveys in John Day Oregon. Receiving this scholarship will allow me to not have to worry about money as much during my last year and will allow me to focus on school and achieve my goal of graduating with honors to which I am on track to receive.

This position will allow me to pursue my career goal of being a biologist in fisheries and I would like to show my gratitude because this scholarship has put me one step closer to achieving this goal.

Thank you again for selecting me for this scholarship and I will hopefully be able to come to the meeting when I return to Oregon!

Sincerely,
Chris Derrickson





P.O. Box 1144
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Editor's Notebook

This month my column will be a little shorter than usual as I needed the space for the club's second scholarship winner's letter of thanks.

With that said, I still have a few things to say. Our June dinner will mark the end of an era! Our association with the Taprock Restaurant and Event Center is coming to an end. Beginning with our September meeting, we will be moving to our new meeting location - The Wild Rivers Pub on F Street.



The Board of Directors settled on the Pub after a long and fruitless search for a different venue that would house our club meetings without being cramped.

Although the Pub meets our size requirements, but to get it we had to compromise and that compromise was to change our meeting day.

No longer will we be meeting on the third Thursday, instead we will be moving the meeting day to the third Tuesday of the month.

Some of you may remember that we did a year at the Pub before we moved back to the Event Center and who can say if after a period of time something opens that suits our needs and we can move there and return to our old meeting day.

In the meantime the board and I ask that you keep the faith and we'll all make the most of a difficult situation.

And now the letter.

To the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers,

I am writing this letter to extend my sincere thanks to your organization for selecting me for this scholarship. Not only this, but your gracious organization has selected me for the second year in a row! Financial assistance such as this goes a long ways towards making college affordable and accessible to me. I have been attending college off and on since high school. Whenever I reached a point in my school career in which I had to take a break, it was primarily due to lack of financial help. With scholarships like this and working full time, I have been able to secure my path towards completing my degree. Currently, I am wrapping up my junior year and heading into my senior year. Between my times in school, I have

Continued on Pg. 7