

SOFF News

Vol. 24 No. 10 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. October, 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 who venture north to Alaska are continually rewarded with a fine array of salmon and bottomfish.



Jan Knapik proudly displays a fine buck Coho Salmon that she caught on a recent trip to the Kanektok River in Alaska. She was with her husband Joe and Kevin O'Malley on the trip and they all caught fish.

**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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Fly Tying Chair

Fly Tying Instructor

Programs

Auction Chair

Outings Chair

SOFF Wear

OR Council IFFF Rep

Raffles

Project Healing Waters Chair



FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

What Do They Need and How Can We Help?

The by-laws of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers begin with Article I, Section 1. This part of our by-laws states our purpose and goals as a club. The second goal is "To assist our government agencies with fisheries related research and habitat improvement projects." The SOFF has provided volunteers for many types of projects that provide this assistance to agencies involved in fish habitat improvement and research. Some of the projects were organized by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife office in Central Point and others by local watershed councils.

The projects our club has been involved with needed either funding or volunteer workers or both. All of them attempt to help protect and/or restore fish populations and their habitat in the Rogue Basin. SOFF helps by pledging money as part of a grant request by a watershed council. We also provide volunteers to help plant trees and shrubs along the edges of streams and to place salmon carcasses in streams for nutrient enrichment.

The big questions connected to all of this work are: What do these fish need and how can we help them? To answer these questions fisheries biolo-

gist rely on multiple studies done in the Northwest on the life cycle and needs of adult and juvenile fish. Salmon, steelhead and trout have complex life cycles involving multiple factors at different times and places. For our area of the Middle and Upper Rogue, we can help improve fish populations and their habitats by paying attention to the small tributary streams that act as incubators and nurseries for fish. Each small stream is different. Some possess characteristics that are beneficial to fish, while others exhibit properties that impede or harm fish. The "good streams" need to be protected and the "bad streams" need help.

So what do fish need? Adult salmon



President Dave takes part in a fish habitat project by checking a DFW fish trap on a local stream.

and steelhead need passage and flow. They must be able to get to their preferred spawning area in a stream without being stopped or slowed down by obstacles in the stream channel or by low flows. Agencies try to find obstacles like illegal dams or poorly constructed culverts and remove them or correct the passage problem. The adult fish returning to spawn also need resting pools and hiding places. Agencies at times add large logs to a stream channel to provide cover and form pools.

Juvenile fish need cool water, hiding places to avoid predators and insects to eat. Agencies plant trees and shrubs along the riparian areas of small streams, providing cooling shade and a place for

insects. When possible, streams are enriched by salmon carcasses obtained from fish hatcheries. The decaying salmon provide bits of food containing important minerals for juvenile fish. These young fish also need protection from the extreme volume and flow of winter floods. The addition of large wood into and next to the stream channel provides this protection.

So what streams deserve protection or restoration? Agencies cannot afford to do work on every small spawning stream. Good habitat for spawning and rearing can be quantified by doing a habitat survey of a stream. A team walks the stream from mouth to headwaters, recording the size of riffles and pools, the gravel size and the amount of streamside vegetation. This information helps agencies decide which streams have the best conditions for spawning and rearing salmon and steelhead. It also helps determine which streams could be helped by doing habitat improvement projects by identifying limiting factors for juvenile fish.

Other methods used to evaluate streams are done by actually counting fish. Spawning surveys are done on certain streams in the fall and winter. These surveys involve counting spawning

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:
Oct 3rd at 6:00pm or
the first Tuesday
of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Nov 11	Annual Club Auction
Dec 19	Mark Bachmann
Jan 16	Steve Day
Feb 20	Marlon Rampy
Mar 20	TBA
Apr 17	Fly Tyers Meeting
May 15	TBA
Jun 19	TBA

WHEN:

Oct. 17, 2017



TIMES:

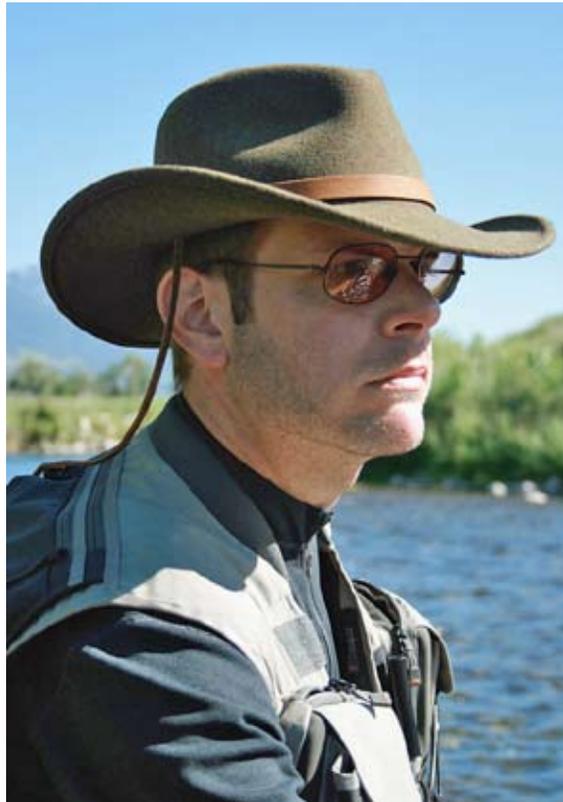
5:30 PM
 Social Hour and
 Fly Tying Demo.
 6:30 PM
 Meeting
 7:00 PM
 Dinner and Program

WHERE:

Wild River Pub
 533 NE F St. G.P.



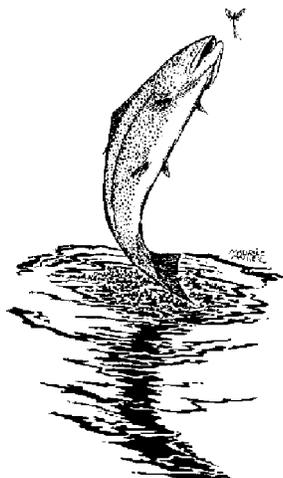
Jason Borger - Nymphing



President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

adults, carcasses and spawning redds in a measured section of a stream. Juvenile fish surveys are done in the summer by stunning or netting small fish, or by putting on wetsuits and snorkeling in a small stream. These methods produce data that shows how many fish are using that section of the stream. When put together with the habitat survey results, a clearer picture of what juvenile fish need and prefer emerges. The outcome is that local streams can be rated for potential protection or restoration projects that will help fish.

So we attempt to protect and restore fish populations and their habitat in local streams. They deserve our help. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will continue to be a partner in these efforts. We will continue to get involved and make a difference.



Jason Borger grew up in the world of fly fishing, and has been involved in fly-fishing education and the industry in general for much of his life. His work in the study and teaching of fly casting has lead to his involvement as a fly-fishing consultant and double for commercials and films, including *A River Runs Through It* and *The River Why*. Jason has contributed articles to magazines such as "Fly Fish America," "Fly Fisherman" and "Fly Rod & Reel," as well as numerous international publications. Jason also co-founded the Fly Casting Institute, which is dedicated to advancing the science, medicine and art of fly casting. His J.Borger Fly Fishing brand produces gear and media focused on education and lifestyle. In addition to his angling background, Jason has a professional history in illustration and production graphic design, as well as a degree in film and television production and theory. For more information, visit fishfliesandwater.com

CASTING ABOUT

SOFF AUCTION SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11th 4:00 PM

By Sonja Nisson

Our annual fund raiser auction is just around the corner. We are excited to be hosting this year's auction at the Grants Pass Golf Club. The party will start at 4 PM and includes dinner, a glass of wine and the auction event, all for \$25. The buffet features prime rib, chicken marsala and vegetarian options,

a l o n g with all the trimmings! The silent auction, cup raffle, and oral auction include great items donated by our members, the guiding community, and local businesses. If

you want a few flies, holiday gifts, a get-away trip, or a guided fishing trip, you can find it at the auction (yes, even our famous home made pies).

Donations for the auction will be



Sonja Nisson, auction chair, keeps an eye on all the proceedings.

accepted through the month of October.



After enjoying a fine dinner, some of last year's auction participants review their bid sheets in anticipation of the oral auction.

Bring them to the SOFF October meeting or call Sonja Nisson at 541-582-4833 and arrange for pick-up. Fly rods and reels, fishing accessories, tying equipment and materials, dry bags, reel cases, flies, gift items, wines, gift baskets, and miscellaneous items you would buy yourself are in demand at the auction. Due to space

l i m i t a t i o n s and lack of interest at previous auctions, we are not accepting used waders or clothes, boots, kitchen ware, used books, or artwork for this auction.

You can reserve your seat by mailing your reservation request to the SOFF PO Box. Include the names of those at your table, a phone contact number and a check for \$25 per person. All seats are reserved. We have sold out the last two years and cannot accept walk-ins at the door. Reserve today or, better yet, invite a friend or two to join you. If you have questions about reservations, call Jan Knapik at 541-450-3775.

This is our sole fund raiser. Come and join the party, support our club and the fisheries we all enjoy, and be prepared to have a great time! See you at the auction! Sonja Nisson, 2017 Auction Chair.

Certified Casting Instructor Workshop

By John MacDiarmid

The Fly Fishers International Certified Casting Program is a global program for teaching and certifying fly casting instructors. At present there are approximately 25 instructors (CIs) in Oregon. Some are actively teaching casting and assisting other casters on the path to becoming certified. Others are not active. Once certified, the certification is valid as long as the caster belongs to the Fly Fishers International and pays an annual renewal fee. Jim Wigington a Master Certified Casting Instructor will hold a 1 day workshop on October 14 at the Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park in Central Point. He will be assisted by John MacDiarmid a Certified Casting Instructor. Questions regarding how to get started in the program, how long it usually takes, what is the test like, how much help is there and many other questions will be answered. We will perform some of the casting tasks on the test. Bring your fly rod. There will be a \$50 fee, RSVP John at johnmmacdiarmid@gmail.com or 541-840-0183.

FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS



OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

October Outing - Summer Steelhead on the Middle Rogue

Many of you have probably heard that much of Oregon is experiencing record low salmon and steelhead returns this year as a result of poor ocean conditions over the last few years. Fortunately for us, the salmon and steelhead from the Rogue River rear in a different area of the ocean than those from other parts of the state, and we are getting good numbers of fish back this year. In fact, the returns for adult summer steelhead, halfpounders, and fall chinook are all above average. With the releases from Lost Creek Reservoir dropping, we should be in store for some good steelhead fishing. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will try to cash in on this when we hold an outing to the middle Rogue on Saturday October 21.



John Storfold, assisted by Redge Heth and Ray McClenathan, lands a summer run steelhead on a recent middle Rogue outing.

We will meet for breakfast at 7:00 AM at the Shari's Restaurant (on the corner of Agness Avenue and the Grants Pass Parkway), have a brief strategy session at about 8:00, and leave for the

river shortly thereafter. In the past, we have usually have fished from Chinook Park to Schroeder Park; however, during the last couple of years, we have not found as many fish in this section. Consequently, we will wait to decide where to fish, so we can go where the fishing is best. We hope to get enough boats so that all the participants that want to float the river will have the opportunity. If we don't, however, have boat space for everyone, there is a lot of good bank access in the Grants Pass area.

The Chinook salmon should be actively spawning, and steelhead should be feeding on the nymphs the salmon kick up and the eggs that escape the redds; thus, dead-drifting nymph and egg patterns should be productive. Participants should bring a six to eight-weight rod, a floating line, 3X leader, and flies. Effective patterns include Globugs, Hare's Ears, Pheasant Tails, Prince Nymphs, Copper Johns, and Stonefly Nymphs. The flies should be lightly weighted or weight should be attached to the leader to get the flies down near the bottom. Those that prefer to swing flies, can bring the flies and equipment for that. Since we will be on the river most of the day, bring food and water, rain gear, waders, polarized glasses, and your typical fishing accessories. If you have a driftboat, whitewater raft, or pontoon boat, please bring it.

Since we usually have several of our

new members looking for the opportunity to float the river and learn the basics of fishing for steelhead, **it would be great if those members with a driftboat would attend the outing and take a fellow club member or two out for the day.** This outing is usually a lot of fun, and with a good number of steelhead present in the river, we should have a productive day.

If you have questions, would like additional information, or are willing to take someone in your boat, please contact David Haight at tmdrhaight@info-structure.net.

David Haight, Outings Chair

Fish Lake Outing— Catch Your First Tiger Trout

Fish Lake is one of the more scenic lakes in the Southern Oregon Cascades, situated in an old-growth forest between Mount McLaughlin and Brown Mountain. It is extremely productive, and is capable of producing some really nice trout. Unfortunately, illegally introduced Tui chub have become very abundant, and are competing with the rainbow and brook trout in the lake for food, severely impacting the quality of the fishery. In an attempt to bolster the fishery, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has been stocking tiger trout and Chinook salmon in the lake for the last several years. It is hoped that the tiger trout and Chinook salmon will take advantage of the Tui chub as an abundant food source, and create a high-quality fishery.

Tiger Trout are a cross between brook and brown trout, tend to be pretty aggressive, and can grow quite large. They have created popular fisheries in the places they have been stocked. Pri-

Continued on Pg 7

2017 Outings

Oct 21	Middle Rogue Steelhead.
Nov 4	Fish Lake Tiger Trout
Jan 1	Holy Water Chili Feed
Jan 20	TBA
Feb 17	TBA
Mar 24	TBA

FLY TYING CORNER

Little Brown Trout



- Hook:** Daiichi 2220 Streamer Hook or Equi i Sizes 6 to 10.
- Thread:** Black 8/0.
- Rib:** Small Gold French Oval Tinsel.
- Body:** Pearl Tinsel.
- Wing:** Fox Squirrel Tail and Peacock Herl.
- Flash:** Rainbow Krystal Flash.
- Throat:** White Bucktail.
- Eyes:** Adhesive Eyes.

Tying Instructions:

This fly is from the Sam Slaymaker series of Little Trout bucktail streamers. It takes some time to tie because of the UV finish application and drying. I have caught trout, crappie and bass with it at Galesville Reservoir.

Lay down a thread base to the bend, then tie the gold tinsel under the shank from a point 1/6th of the way from the eye back to the bend. Lay the gold tinsel back out of the way. Return the thread to the 1/6th point. This 1/6th point will be the rear part of the large, thread head the eyes will stick to. Tie in a long piece of large, pearl tinsel. Wrap it from the front of the body evenly back to a point right above the hook point. Reverse it carefully and wrap back forward to the starting point. Clip off the excess. Wrap the gold tinsel forward in even wraps as a rib. Tie off at the front, clip off the excess and whip finish.

Remove the fly and place it into a fly holder. Coat the entire tinsel body with UV glue. Try to get it all covered evenly. Use the UV light to harden it.

Place the fly back in the vise. Get a small bunch of white bucktail, stack it and tie it in just under the hook shank so it is just in front of the tinsel body. Get a similar bunch and tie it in just above the hook shank. Try to get the white buck above and below the shank so that the tinsel body shows through. The ends of the buck should extend just a bit beyond the hook shank.

Get 8 to 12 strands of Krystal Flash and tie it on right on top of the head so it is directly above the white buck. Get

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

10-3	Board Meeting
10-10	SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
10-17	Club Meeting - with Jason Borger.
10-21	Club Outing - Middle Rogue Steelhead
11-4	Club Outing - Fish Lake For Tiger Trout
11-7	Board Meeting
11-14	SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
11-11	Annual Club Auction
12-5	Board Meeting
12-19	Club Meeting

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

fishing related websites.

It is our hope that the new website will be up and running before the middle of the month. I'll send out a general email when we launch.

Lastly, the club's annual auction is only a month away. Sonja Nisson and her committee have worked tirelessly to produce an event that will have something for everyone. Once again there will be numerous items in the silent auction for bidders to try for, but this year Sonja has added a new twist to the bidding procedures. Also we'll have some 30 or more cup raffles with some outstanding prizes and lastly we will have the oral auction that is loaded with some great prizes just waiting for the spirited bidding that is sure to occur.

This year the auction will be held at Grants Pass Golf Course and Sonja has assured the membership that the facility is known for their excellent food and if anything since this is our first time there; they will try to out do themselves to encourage our return.

This year the seating arrangements we will be as we did last year. Instead of just randomly picking a seat, seating will be assigned as requested. This means if you have several people or for that

matter another couple that will be sitting with you, you can request either a whole table or partial table and you and your friends will be assigned to that table.

To date we have some 90 reservations in so far and more are coming in daily. It is the auction committee's intent to cut off reservations at 150, so you better get those reservations in early to guarantee a space.

Just a reminder that Sonja and the auction committee will be at the next dinner meeting and will also be taking reservations. So if you really want to have an enjoyable dinner and the opportunity to bid on some super prizes, don't wait and get your reservations in. Also for those who made reservations at the last meeting, but didn't pay for them at that time, bring a check or cash to the next meeting or mail in your payment to the club's P.O. Box.

Little Brown Trout Cont. From Pg. 6

a small bunch of brown fox squirrel tail and tie it in just above the Krystal Flash. You should start wrapping the thread forward to the eye and back each time you tie something onto the fly, forming a large, oval-shaped head.

Get 4 to 6 strands of peacock herl or peacock sword and tie it in directly above the squirrel tail. The ends of all of these materials should be about the same, just longer than the bend. Finish rounding off and smoothing the large, oval head, then whip finish.

Remove the fly from the vise.

Remove an adhesive eye from the sheet with tweezers. Stick it onto the center of the thread head. Do the same on the other side. Place the fly into a fly holder. Apply a drop of UV glue to the top of the head of the fly, between the eyes. Use the UV light to harden that part, then turn it over and apply another drop under the head and harden it. You want a smooth clear head, with the edges of the eyes covered so they do not come off.

Fly Tied By: Dave Grosjacques

Tiger Continued From Pg. 5

or to being stocked into Fish Lake and two other lakes in Oregon, local anglers would travel to Nevada for the chance to catch one of these unique fish.



A Tiger Trout.

If you would like to try to catch a tiger trout, join the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers for an outing to Fish Lake on Saturday, November 4. We will meet at the U.S. Forest Service boat ramp at 9:00 AM. While you can effectively fish from the bank, having some sort of boat will increase your chances of success. Since one of the best areas to fish in the lake is near the ramp, anything from a float tube (as long as it is not too windy) to a motor boat will work. Bring a 5 or 6-weight rod, a floating and a slow-sinking line, leaders tapered to 4 or 5X, and an assortment of your favorite still-water patterns. Since big tiger trout are predators, be sure to include some woolly buggers and streamers in your box. Since Fish Lake sits atop the Cascades, remember to pack warm clothes and raingear. It is also a designated Sno Park after October 31, so you will need a Sno Park permit for your vehicle.

In addition to the opportunity to catch a new variety of trout and enjoying spending time on the water with your fellow club members, by participating in this outing you can help the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife evaluate the new fisheries. Since the tiger trout must be released, it is difficult for ODFW to collect information about them. We will compile information about the fish we catch and provide it to the Department.

David Haight, Outings Chair



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Editor's Notebook

There's an old adage that nothing stays static but is in constant motion and so it is with the So. Oregon Fly Fishers. An example of that is our recent relocation to the Wild River Pub, beginning with our September meeting. Not only have we moved to a new location, but we have changed the meeting day as well. The change of the meeting day was the most problematic; since the inception of the club back in 1994, we have met on Thursdays. Would the membership accept the new day? With the exception of one individual, who called to make a reservation for Thursday, the remaining 58 reservations knew the meeting day was Tuesday.

I've tried to talk to as many of those attending the last meeting as possible in order to see what they thought about the food (quality and quantity) as well as the service (drink

servers) and I received nothing but positive reviews. As an aside, if you're at a meeting and don't want to wait for service, you can go to the bar and purchase your adult beverage directly.

Do I think that everything will go smoothly at every meeting, probably not, but bring your concerns to my attention or to one of the board members and we'll see if we can rectify the situation?

Let's see what else is new! The club's website is about to be changed. The board of directions decided that our old website looked old and stale and so gave Vice President Bruce Cochran, Board Member Jerry Keeling and myself the task of researching various existing websites with an eye towards the construction of a new club website.

After getting an idea of what we wanted, the membership was asked what information that they would like

to see on the website and with that the committee was off in search of website development organization. After reviewing several potential candidates, we decided on a local company, 'Designs by Kiltz'. After a web designer was decided on, several meetings were held to determine exactly what we wanted on the web. The most important things to the committee were the ease of navigating the various pages along with the aesthetic look of the pages. Photos were to play a significant role towards that end.

VP Bruce Cochran took on the mantle of project lead and pushed the rest of us to aid where we could to make contributions to the development. I'm pleased to say that under Cochran's leadership, the development team has produced an outstanding product that should become the envy of not only other fly fishing clubs, but also non-fly

Continued on Pg. 7