

SOFF News

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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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SOFF's look forward each year to assisting DF&W biologists by tossing spawned out Coho into streams as nutrients for salmon and steelhead fry.



One of the club's favorite conservation projects each year is the annual fish toss. The toss consists of planting several hundred spawned out silver salmon into Taylor Creek as nutrients for salmon fry that were spawned in the creek. Here we have a group of SOFF volunteers ready to tackle the several bins of carcasses that will be going into the creek.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Rich Hosley:
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Kevin Daniels:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

Umpqua Fish Populations

I recently sat down for an interview with Greg Huchko, head fisheries biologist for the Umpqua Watershed. I wanted to find out the status of wild and hatchery components of the salmon and steelhead of the Umpqua Watershed. The Umpqua has runs of fall and spring Chinook, coho, and summer and winter steelhead.

The mouth of the Umpqua is at Winchester Bay, just a few miles from Reedsport. The Smith River is a large tributary that enters the Umpqua from the north near Reedsport. The main river runs from the forks near Roseburg down through the town of Elkton. The North Umpqua runs from the headwaters near Diamond Lake west through the town of Glide, then just north of Roseburg to the forks, where it joins the South Umpqua. The South Umpqua flows from the headwaters down through Tiller, Days Creek and Canyonville before it turns north and passes through Roseburg to the forks where it joins the North Umpqua.

FALL CHINOOK – These fall-spawning fish are found mostly in the Smith River and the South Umpqua and Cow Creek. It is legal to fish for them in the main Umpqua up to the forks. There is a small hatchery program run by the Reedsport-Gardiner STEP group on the lower river. There was a

hatchery program on the South, but it was discontinued a year ago because of low return rates. Fishing for fall Chinook happens in the late summer and early fall on the lower parts of the main river. Counts of spawning redds on Cow Creek have been done for over twenty years to help determine the run size.

COHO SALMON – The Coho run on the Umpqua happens in the late fall and early winter. Anglers can fish for Coho in the main river up to the forks. The only hatchery program for Coho on the Umpqua is done by ODFW with the help of the Umpqua Fishermen's Association. It is a mitigation program, making up for the loss of spawning habitat



The Umpqua River - home to numerous salmonoids.

BLM Photo

above Galesville Dam on Cow Creek near Azalea. Adult fish are trapped at the base of the dam and trucked to the Rock Creek hatchery near Glide. Juvenile fish are clipped and returned to Cow Creek as smolts and either released at the base of the dam or acclimated in a net pen there and released later. In a good year there will be 500 or more adult Coho that will swim into the trap below the dam.

WINTER STEELHEAD – There is a large and healthy run of winter steelhead on the Umpqua. This is a very popular fishery, starting in the main river in late November and early December and continuing until late March in the upper parts of the South. The hatchery part of

the run comes from two acclimation ponds in Canyonville, which is where most of the adults for broodstock are captured and trucked to the Rock Creek hatchery. The smolts from these brood fish are fin clipped and returned to be acclimated before being released into Canyon Creek. One acclimation pond is operated by the Cow Creek tribe near the casino in Canyonville. The other is also in Canyonville, and is operated by the Umpqua Fishermen's Association. Steelhead caught in the Umpqua system must be released if they are wild fish, while fin clipped steelhead may be kept. The upper deadline for steelhead fishing on Cow Creek is the Middle Creek Bridge, and it is Jackson Creek on the upper South Umpqua.

SPRING CHINOOK

– The spring Chinook run is mostly a North Umpqua show. There is a small run of a few hundred on the South. The average run of springers is about half wild and half hatchery fish. The South Umpqua is closed to all spring Chinook, most of the fishing pressure happens on the main river in April and May. Brood fish are caught at the Winchester Dam fish ladder. Some are also caught as swim-

ins at the Rock Creek hatchery.

SUMMER STEELHEAD – This

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:

Feb 6th at 6:00pm or

the first Tuesday

of the month

All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

| | |
|--------|-------------------|
| Mar 20 | Dave Dozer |
| Apr 17 | Fly Tyers Meeting |
| May 15 | TBA |
| Jun 19 | TBA |
| Jul 17 | No Meeting |
| Aug 21 | No Meeting |
| Sep 18 | TBA |
| Oct 16 | TBA |

President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

is perhaps the most famous fishery on the Umpqua. These fish go up the North Umpqua, with some fishing pressure in the Glide area using gear. The main fishery is on the well-known fly only part of the North. The fly only section runs from the deadline a few miles above Glide up to a small dam at Soda Springs. There is a hatchery program for these fish, with about half of the run wild and half hatchery. Special regulations for flies and attachments to your fly line are in place for this part of the North Umpqua.

For fly fishermen who want to try the Umpqua system, the best opportunities are for summer steelhead in the fly section of the North Umpqua and for winter steelhead in Cow Creek and the upper part of the South Umpqua. The SOFF has had outings to both places in recent years. Catching a steelhead with a fly rod is an unforgettable experience. Go out and give it a try!

Instructions Wanted

A few years back I purchased a drift boat and I'm interested in floating the upper Rogue and am looking for a club member that might be interested in providing me with rowing instructions for that section of the river. If anyone would be willing to do this, they can contact me at geomgray@comcast.net. Thanks.

Michael Gray

WHEN:

Feb 20, 2018



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.



Marlon Rampy - The 'Trout' Highway



Some of the largest trout in the first 49 states are quietly swimming, finning and eating in the glimmering rivers and lakes of Southern Oregon.

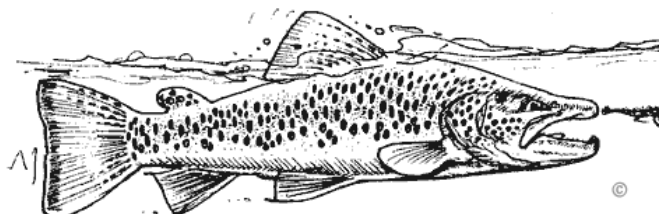
The "Trout" Highway 97 winds its way along some of the most beautiful and productive trout water Oregon has to offer.

Marlon's presentation on Oregon Highway 97's "Trout Route" will be a multimedia composition of beautiful photos, sound, scenery & fish that will take us on a detailed journey through Southern & Central Oregon's premier fly angling opportunities.

Since its inception in 1995, Marlon's guide business, Wildwest Fly Fishing, and its internet counterpart flyfishoregon.com, has steadily gained a dedicated following as a quality fly fishing experience.

Marlon Rampy is a full time Guide in Oregon's Klamath Basin. His passion for photography and guiding the Basin has lead him to unlimited photo opportunities. His photography has been published in Northwest Fly Fishing, the Drake, CATCH Magazine and Flyfishing & Tying Journal.

Marlon is the head guide at the Lonesome Duck Lodge on the banks of the Williamson River. To see more of his images visit flyfishoregon.com



CASTING ABOUT



Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

www.nwexpo.com

March 9 - 10, 2018

**Linn County Expo Center
Albany Oregon**



**200 Demonstration Tyers
All Day Casting Demonstrations
85+ Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Classes**

30-Minute Private Casting Instruction

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Cow Creek Outing - 2018

The Southern Oregon Fly Fisher's outing for February will be fishing for winter steelhead in Cow Creek, a large tributary of the South Umpqua River. We will meet in the parking lot behind Glendale High School at 9 AM on both Friday and Saturday, February 16th and 17th. After an information meeting in the bleachers, we will car and truck pool for the 20-minute drive to the upper deadline



A group photo of Dave G's Rangers aka Cow Creek Outing participants suited up and ready to go.



If you listen to where President Dave tells you to fish and the fish gods are smiling, you too can catch a Cow Creek Steelhead just as John Storfold did!

for winter steelhead. Vehicles can be left in the parking lot at the school until we head home. We usually fish until mid-afternoon before heading back to Glendale.

A paved road follows Cow Creek all the way down stream from Glendale to Riddle. We will stop for a group photo at West Fork, which is just below the upper deadline at Middle Creek Bridge. Then the group can spread out to fish. A map with road

milepost numbers will be useful to help find access spots. The canyon is steep and brushy in most places, and there are not a lot of spots to access the stream. Participants must watch out for slippery trails, overhanging limbs and tripping hazards while accessing a fishing spot. Some of the spots on the map have been named so we can tell right where you were when you hooked that big one!

Medium to heavy steelhead rods,

leader and flies will work on Cow Creek, spey rods work great because some of the fishing spots have no back cast room. Spey or single hand rods should be size 7 to 9. A floating line and sink tip will get the flies down. The fish are all wild and must be released. Our best day was in 2014 when our group of nine hooked six Steelhead and landed three. To be safe while fishing, most SOFFers wear a life jacket or vest, have a good belt for their waders, wear sunglasses and carry a wading staff. The fishing will be from Middle Creek Bridge (the upper deadline) all the way down to the Doe Creek Bridge.



President Dave passes out maps of his favorite Cow Creek steelhead holes. Just be advised that the maps self-destruct at the end of the outing. Also note the white board in the background. Just goes to prove that you take the teacher out of the classroom, but you can't take the classroom out of the teacher!!

This outing depends completely on the weather. We have had to cancel twice in the ten years we have been fishing there. If the water is too high and muddy to fish, Dave Grosjacques or Duane Chebul will contact you. The go or no go decision will be made on Thursday the day before the outing. We will try to notify you first by email before trying to call. Please respond to the email on a cancellation right away so we know you got the message about not going. So let's go catch a big one!

2018 Outings

| | |
|-----------|----------------------------------|
| Jan 13 | So. Oregon Coast Steelhead. |
| Feb 16-17 | Cow Creek with Dave Grosjacques. |
| Mar 24 | TBA |
| Apr 21 | TBA |
| May 19 | TBA |
| Jun 23 | TBA |
| Jul 21 | TBA |

FLY TYING CORNER

Red Butt Carey Special



- Hook:** 1X Heavy Size, 1 to 4x Long.
- Thread:** Your Choice.
- Tail:** Pheasant Rump.
- Body:** Red Mylar.
- Ribbing:** Red Wire.
- Thorax:** Peacock Herl.
- Collar:** Pheasant Rump Hackle.

Tying Instructions:

Wrap a thread base to back of hook and tie in pheasant rump tail just above the barb. The tail should be about equal to the gap of the hook.

Tie in Mylar to make red butt in front of tail. Return thread TO front of hook (leave some head space as not to crowd the eye).

Tie in 6 to 8 peacock herls and lash down on top of hook back to the front of the red butt.

Tie in red wire for rib then make a rope of herl and wrap to front of the hook.

Leave room for hackles and head.

Tie in rump feather by the tip and make 2 wraps for collar and tie off and build a neat head. That's it!

Fly Tied By: Kevin Daniels

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

- 2-6 Board Meeting
- 2-13 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 2-16-17 Club Outing to Cow Creek with Dave Grosjacques.
- 2-20 Club Meeting with Marlon Rampy.
- 3-5 Board Meeting.
- 3-9-10 Fly Tying and Fishing Expo in Albany.
- 3-13 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 3-20 Club Meeting with Dave & Mary Ann Dozer
- 3-24 Club Outing TBA

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

d'oeuvre, a glass of wine, a beer or a non alcoholic drink and socialize with your fellow club members along with an occasional special guest that also has been known to show up.



Some of the club members arriving for the reception.

Well that's it gang. If you can plan on making the trip up to Albany and the Linn County Fairgrounds on either March 9th or 10th come on down. I'm sure you won't be disappointed; I know that I have never been!



How I Contact Policy Makers

By Tom Collett

The is part II of an article that ran in last month's newsletter in which Collett gave his objections to the proposed LNG Pipeline that will cross the Rogue River near Trail.

Once again the board of directors have not taken a stance on the pipeline, but merely makes the information available for the membership to weigh and take what action that they would deem necessary.

The Editor

The idea is to take up some of their time and get your idea across. The attitude is that they may not understand all sides of the issue and you are willing to help clear up some things for them. Be business like but friendly. I insert a little humor at the end of the contact. Avoid any political context. Don't wait, Send those letters now.

Plain old school letters are good. A pile of envelopes is hard to ignore. Human nature is to find out what is in them. Perhaps you will get a return letter. This first return letter will usually be the, thank you for your input and concerns. Then this is where it gets good. Right away I send a second letter that says, I appreciate your response but you didn't address my concern and meanwhile another related issue is really bothering me. I keep this pattern going if I can. Politicians and public servants like to control the conversation by changing the subject, so then it is my job to bring the conversation back on course. If I get no response then I send a second letter. This letter is about how the first letter must have got lost in the mail so here is the same message again and I look forward to hearing from you. Here is what I sent to our own Greg Walden.

Representative Greg Walden
14 N. Central Ave. Suite 112
Medford, Oregon 97501

Dear Representative Walden,

As an American citizen I am angry that a foreign energy company can use eminent domain to force their way onto our landowners properties and their neighbors properties. We are supposed to be protected by the constitution. Having a 36 inch high pressure LNG pipeline on your property is dangerous and diminishes the value of your property. The neighbors of the pipeline properties are also in danger and have diminished property value. The pipeline property owners are offered a one-time payment that is so low it is laughable except it isn't funny. The neighbors aren't offered anything, nothing. It is too bad about your lost property value. Where is our government and our fifth amendment of our constitution? Help us defeat this pipeline so we can turn our frown upside down.

Printed Name, Signature, and Contact Info

2018 DUES

For those of you who have yet to pay your membership dues, they are past due.

January 1 is the due date specified in the club's By-Laws. I know most of you are well-intentioned, but intentions don't get your check written or mailed. Please renew your dues right away and spare me the necessity of contacting each of you individually. Thank you.

Rich Hosley, Membership Chairman





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Editor's Notebook

Can it be that a year has almost passed since the last IFFF Oregon Council's Northwest Fly Tyer and Flyfishing Expo? For an old time fly tying junkie like myself the nearest reference would be "Yes Virginia there is a Santa Claus" as to the excitement that comes over me at the prospect of watching 200 of the best fly tyers from around the northwest demonstrating their skills at the vise.

It boggles the mind as to the artistic abilities of some of these tyers, particularly those that specialize in the classic Atlantic Salmon patterns which are works of art unto themselves and of which will probably never be affixed to tippet let alone cast upon the waters.

Then there are those that specialize in the various steelhead patterns. These patterns often crafted with colorful marabou, literally pulsate in

the tyer's vice and one can only image what the elusive steelhead would see as the fly undulates with the current in a stream.



Then there are the trout flies both dry adults and subsurface nymphs that are ready to entice any careless trout.

Finally, there are the utilitarian patterns that are meant for warm water and salt water fish.

So regardless of your inclination, there will be people tying various fly

patterns in which you might have an interest in duplicating.

And then there are the classes. There are classes in fly tying, fly casting, spey casting and even in shadow box building to mention a few. A word of caution, these classes are very popular and will fill up fast. I would suggest that if you're interested in one of these classes that you sign up right away to secure a spot.

And if this isn't enough there will be numerous vendors present selling rods, reels, fly tying equipment, boats, guides and other items appealing to the fly fisher.

Lastly, if you're there Friday and are staying overnight, be sure to attend the SOFF reception hosted by the editor and his wife. As usual, we will be holding forth at the Comfort Suites hotel just ask at the desk for the room number. Stop by and have a hors

Continued on Pg. 7