

# SOFF News

Vol. 25 No. 3 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

March, 2018



## 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 Fisher's look forward to working on conservation projects each year such as this tree planting on Butcher Creek.**



Photo by Ron Fox

When the call goes out for volunteers for various conservation projects such as this recent tree planting on Butcher Creek, members of the SOFF can be counted on to take shovels in hand and pitch in. Many times this involves working in dirty and muddy conditions, but they do so without complaint.

**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:**  
**John Storfold:**  
**David Haight:**  
**Sue Keeling:**  
**Dave Roberts:**  
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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

### SOFF OUTINGS – PEOPLE, PLACES AND THINGS

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers have outings throughout the fly fishing year. I have always felt that outings are among the most important events that we offer as a fishing club. Car clubs drive their cars, model airplane clubs fly their planes and fishing clubs go fishing! The SOFF has a schedule of great outings that is put together each year by outings chair David Haight. The slate of outings is not set in stone, David is always looking for a new place to go. Some of our outings have been so successful that they are annual events for our club. The Copeland Pond outing in the spring and the Lava Lake outing in June are two examples. I always tell new members that a SOFF outing is the best way to get to know the members of our great club. The monthly dinner meetings are good for meeting people and saying hello, but to really get to know people an outing is the way to go.

Two of the outings that have become annual events are the Cow Creek trip and the Lemolo Lake trip. I have been the host for both of these outings for several years. The Cow Creek outing in February is a strenuous one, with steep banks and brush to challenge the brave souls who come with us to see a rugged canyon and chase Umpqua winter Steelhead. Cow Creek is a stream where the fluctuations in flow

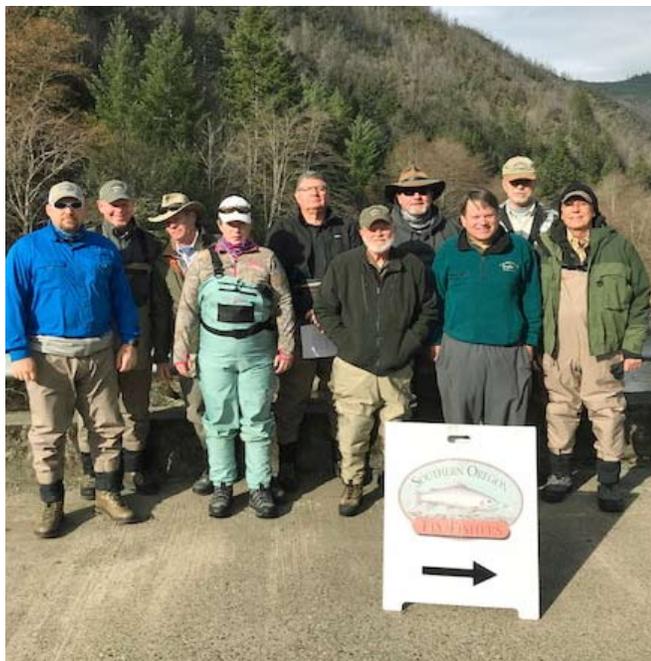
make it a challenge. There are several stream gauges on Cow Creek that can be checked online before going. The one we use is the Riddle gauge, which is just upstream from the town of Riddle and not far downstream from where we fish. I like to fish Cow Creek when this gauge is reading 500 to 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs). On this year's

Cow Creek outing we fished it when it was running at a bit less than 300 cfs. Last year we had to postpone and finally cancel the outing because of high flows. The stream gauge was showing flows of 1500 to 4,000 cfs, which makes it almost impossible to fish it with flies. When we hit it right the steelhead fishing can be pretty good on that stream, four years ago our group of 8 fly fishers hooked six fish and landed three the first day and hooked three the second day and landed one. This year David Russell landed one the first day of the outing but that was all we could do. I got a nice fish a week before the outing while on a scouting trip and Joe Knapik got one that week as well. It is tough fishing at times but worth the drive if the water is right.

The Lemolo outing has been held the week following Memorial Day for several years. This year it will be held on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, the Wednesday and Thursday before the Memorial Day weekend. I will be up there from Monday until Friday that week. Poole Creek

campground is the headquarters for the outing, with many members staying several days. The lake also has an RV park with hookups and some small cabins

for rent. For this outing some sort of boat works best. SOFF club members have used lake boats, drift boats, float tubes and pontoon boats to get to the best fishing



Fridays group at President Dave's annual Cow Creek Outing.

spots on the lake. The lake contains brown trout, rainbow trout and a few kokanee. The lake is at an elevation of over 4,000 feet, so the weather can be a game breaker. One year I drove through a snowstorm on June 1<sup>st</sup> to get to Lemolo. I made it to the lake and was greeted by a very empty campground and 4 inches of snow! Only three other club members made it up there that

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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:

March 6th at 6:00pm or

the first Tuesday

of the month

All members welcome

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

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
Nov 10	Annual Auction

## WHEN:

Mar 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.



Dave and Mary Ann Dozer



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

year. Other years we have had temperatures into the 80s, with sunblock a mandatory item to have in the boat. For members who have a camper or trailer and can spend the night, we have a fishing story session each afternoon at 4. Stories of a hot spot found or a big one that got away are heard and then dismissed as fiction by most. I would like to see 25 members attend this year. We will be up there before the Memorial Day crowds, and on our way home on Friday before the endless line of cars hit the lakes and campgrounds for the three – day weekend. So let's go fishing! Send me an email if you have questions about the Lemolo Outing. We will be there and we will have a good time, no matter what the weatherman throws at us!

## Photo Potpourri



Rich Hosley presents Tom Beverage, with a Gary Anderson rod for having his ticket drawn in the annual raffle for paying his club dues before the New Year.

After many years of living in Corvallis, Mary Ann and Dave Dozer relocated to Sisters, Oregon 3 years ago and are loving life in Central Oregon.

Dave Dozer had a fishing rod in his hand as soon as he could walk, and caught his first fish, a carp on a night-crawler, at the age of 4. His father had an old bamboo fly rod in Dave's hands by the time he was 8, and he was tying his own flies at the age of 10. Over the past 40 years, Dave has fished extensively across northern California, Oregon, eastern Washington and central British Columbia. Several years ago, Dave focused his efforts towards learning the art and craftsmanship of building bamboo fly rods. He now designs and builds custom bamboo fly rods under the company name of Bamboo Pursuits. He also offers bamboo rod building classes, where he mentors one or two students through the rod building process.

Mary Ann is a Fly Fishers International Master Casting Instructor and is a member of the FFI Casting Board of Governors. Her first fly fishing experience was in 1995 in Yellowstone Park and her passion for the sport took hold. When her high-tech career wound down after 20 years, Mary Ann opted to pursue her passion for fly fishing and share it with others. Mary Ann has been teaching & guiding for 10 years in Oregon and Idaho. She currently guides full-time in Central Oregon for the Fly Fishers Place in Sisters, Oregon. She loves to introduce new anglers to fly fishing or take anglers' skill to that next level. Her love and finesse of casting has put her on the Winston Pro-Staff Team. Mary Ann is available for casting instruction, fly fishing workshops, and presentations.

# CASTING ABOUT



## Northwest Fly Tyer & Fly Fishing Expo

[www.nwexpo.com](http://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

## March Outings

In March, I will be leading two outings to target winter steelhead: On March 17, I will be leading an outing for the Rogue Flyfishers to the North Umpqua River, and on March 24, an outing for the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers to the Applegate River. Members of both clubs are welcome to attend either of the outings. These two outings highlight the diverse options we have in Southwest Oregon to fish for winter steelhead. The Applegate is a small river with water that is relatively easy to read and fish. It is well suited to nymphing tactics, and when conditions are right, fishing can be outstanding. The North Umpqua is a much larger river. It has a strong tradition for swinging the fly, and is a great place to use a Spey rod. It is among the most beautiful rivers in our area, but with its clear water, deep pools, and heavy runs; it can be a challenging place to catch a steelhead.

### North Umpqua Outing

We will meet along the North Umpqua at Swiftwater Park (just a little below Rock Creek and the lower boundary of the fly water) at 9:00 AM on Saturday March 17. After a brief discussion about the river and how to fish it, we will tour access points and fishing holes in the lower half of the fly water. We will then spread out along the river to fish. At that time, I will

be happy to help anyone looking for additional instruction about fishing the North Umpqua or about steelhead fishing in general.

During the winter season, Spey rods can be an asset on the North Umpqua, but single-handed rods of about 8-weight will also work. Sink-tip lines or shooting heads will help you get your flies down to the fish. A wide variety of flies will work--from traditional steelhead patterns to large intruder-style flies. The North Umpqua can be difficult to wade, so bring your waders, wading boots with good traction, wading belt, and wading staff. If you have one, an inflatable PFD will add an extra level of safety. Be sure to pack your rain jacket, polarized glasses, sun screen, food, water, and the rest of your normal fishing accessories.

For those wanting to stay overnight, there are several options. Most of the Forest Service and BLM campgrounds will still be closed for the season; however, Boulder Flat and Horseshoe Bend campgrounds usually stay open for the winter. The Dogwood Motel (dogwoodmotel.com, 541-496-3403), located near the lower end of the fly water, is a decent place to stay at a reasonable price. The Steamboat Inn (thesteamboatinn.com, 800-840-8825) is a great place to stay, if it fits your budget, and it overlooks some of the best water on the river. There are also numerous lodging and dining options in Roseburg.

### Applegate Outing

As we have done in the past, we will start the Applegate Outing by meeting for breakfast at 8:00 AM on Saturday March 24 at the Shari's Restaurant on the corner of Agness Avenue and the Grants Pass Parkway. If you don't want

to eat, be there by 9:00 AM. We will caravan to the river from there.

Bring your fishing gear, waders, rain jacket, polarized glasses, lunch, and water. Single-handed, switch, and smaller Spey rods in the 7 to 8-weight range are suitable for the Applegate. Pack your floating and sink-tip lines, and bring a variety of nymphs and standard steelhead patterns. As I said above, the Applegate River is very well suited to nymphing techniques. An effective setup is to use a large, heavy nymph, such as a salmonfly nymph, with a size 10 A. P. nymph, hare's ear, pheasant tail, or similar fly on a dropper. For those that want to swing flies, traditional steelhead patterns, egg sucking leeches, and smaller intruder-style flies work well. Many people feel having a little chartreuse on the fly helps when fishing the Applegate no matter which technique you choose.

Because it is so productive, I will spend some time during the outing discussing proper nymphing techniques, as well as going over when, where, and how to fish the Applegate River.

As I said above, no matter which club you belong to; feel free to attend either or both of the outings. Between the two, you will have the opportunity to experience two outstanding, but different steelhead fisheries, and get an introduction to the two common techniques for fly fishing for steelhead. If you are already familiar with the rivers and techniques, come out for a pleasant day on the river with friends, and maybe share some of your knowledge with some of the newer members.

**David Haight, Outings Chair**

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### 2018 Outings

Mar 17	North Umpqua with David Haight
Mar 24	Applegate Outing with David Haight
Apr 14	Squaw Lake with David Haight
May 5	Copeland Pond with David Haight
May 23-24	Lemolo Lake with Dave Grosjacques

# FLY TYING CORNER

## Holy Watermelon Flashback



- Hook:** # 8 Nymph Hook (You can Vary the Size Based on Water and What You're Fishing For).
- Thread:** Olive 8/0.
- Tail:** Signal Green Saddle Hackle.
- Body:** Rust Orange UV Dubbing.
- Ribbing:** Medium Green Wire.
- Flashback:** Medium Gold Tinsel.
- Collar:** Pheasant Rump Hackle.
- Head:** Orange & Green Glass Bead.

### Tying Instructions:

**P**inch the barb and place the bead on hook and lay a tread base back even to the point of the hook. Tie in saddle hackle tail to equal the shank of the hook and wrap thread forward to two eye lengths behind the eye.

Tie in ribbing on bottom side of hook, wrapping back to the bend and wrap thread forward.

Tie in tinsel on top of hook and wrap back to the bend of the hook and make dubbing loop. Wrap the dubbing material forward and tie off.

Pull the tinsel over the back and tie off.

Wrap the ribbing forward and tie it off, again two eye widths behind the eye.

Tie in saddle hackle and make 4-5 wraps and tie off.

Finish by building up wraps behind the bead until bead is set against the eye and whip finish.

**Fly Tied By: Michael Mazingo**

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

- 3-6 Board Meeting.
- 3-9-10 Fly Tying and Fishing Expo in Albany.
- 3-13 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 3-17 Club Outing - North Umpqua.
- 3-20 Club Meeting with Dave & Mary Ann Dozer
- 3-24 Club Outing - Applegate Steelhead.
- 4-3 Board Meeting.
- 4-10 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 4-17 Club Meeting - Fly Tyers

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

of cotton, a net that would trap snouts, fins and jaw corners that would require me to bring a fish to the bank, with the fish flopping around and tangling itself ever more all the while I was trying to unhook the fish and untangle it from the net. With that job done, the fish was grabbed with dry hands and unceremoniously dropped back into the creek with a limited amount of resuscitation due to the banks of the creek being over grown with stinging nettles. Did I do my best for the fish to insure its health and well being?

I have also been guilty of removing a fish from the water, laying it on the bank while taking several seconds to remove my camera from a shirt pocket, power it up and taking a photo of my quarry, followed by once again challenging the stinging nettles trying to release the fish.

Over the years I have witnessed others as they have attempted to release a fish and after seeing some of their methods, such as reeling a fish to the rods tip top and try to shake the fish loose, tossing it back into the water without any resuscitation efforts at all and a host of other methods that were detrimental to the fish and it's a wonder that any of these fish survived.

The current thought on catch and release is that the fish should never be removed from water. It can be lifted up a little for photographic purposes, but should never be taken entirely out of water. As long as you have immediate access to the water, such as wading, or in a boat or from a float tube this should be easy to do. Of course this doesn't take in consideration of wading a fast flowing stream, a high sided boat or even a float tube that needs the fish brought to you for release.

Is catch and release the main problem facing the decline of fish in the Holy Water, who can say, but I don't doubt it is a contributing factor. Removing a fish from the water and handling it with dry hands certainly doesn't do it any good. Taking it out of water for a photograph sets up a dichotomy for me. On the one hand I want to see the fish released swiftly to fight another day, yet on the other hand as the writer of the newsletter, I need photos of fish. Maybe the answer to this concern would be to keep the fish in the water until someone else is ready to take the photo, then raise it only high enough to take the photo and then release it.

Let's hope the committee aided by other anglers that fish the Holy Water not only catch a fish but, record its vital statistics and deposit the survey cards in the collection containers. Only by doing this will we ever know the cause of the decline and then take remedial steps to correct this problem.

## Holy Water Creel Study

By Michael Mazingo

**O**n February 6th, Ryan Battleson from the ODFW along with volunteers from SOFF and the Rogue Fly Fishers began a Creel Study of the trout at the Holy Waters.

This study should go a long way in helping us determine the overall health

& sustainability of the trout population in this much loved stretch of the Upper Rogue River.

This study involves catch & release fly fishing for trout at the Holy Water (Riversedge Park above Cole rivers hatcheries spillway) and recording as much relevant information (length, is the adipose fin clipped, is it tagged, external parasites and condition of fins) as possible.



Photo by Michael Mazingo

**John Storfold doing his best to help out with the creel survey.**

On the February 6th we were fortunate to have 10 volunteers and were able to catch and release a total of 17 trout, tagging 13 previously untagged fish. We will continue to meet every month on the first Tuesday and Third Saturday at Riversedge Park at 11:00 AM.

In addition, there are several stations placed around the area where you can find cards to record the info of your catch for the day if you wish to participate but are unable to make it on the posted days.





P.O. Box 1144  
Grants Pass, Oregon  
97528  
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## Editor's Notebook

A couple of months ago, club member Harry Foster told me about a group from his other club, Rogue Fly Fishers, which was forming. The group in conjunction with Oregon DF&W biologist Ryan Battleson was formed to investigate the lack of fish of any size in the Holy Water, that part of the Rogue River from the Lost Creek dam to the spill way at the Cole Creek Hatchery.

The initial group was composed of 10 RFF members with Will Johnson and Jack Patterson the co-chairs. It was planned that they would meet twice a week at the Holy Water, fish there and record their catch.

I mentioned to Foster that members of So. Oregon Fly Fishers routinely fish the Holy Waters and maybe we should join them in this study and with that an invitation to join them was made. The commit-

tee was brought up at a recent SOFF board meeting and that led to our new Vice President Michael Mazingo volunteering to become part of the committee and will keep the membership appraised on what is learned during the study period. To see more on what's happening with this group refer to Mazingo's article on page 7 of the newsletter.

I must admit that it has been three years or so since I last fished the Holy Water and as far as memory goes, I can never remember a time that I did any good there. For that matter, I don't remember ever catching a fish at the Holy Water. I have seen numerous fly fishers catch fish there; however, I wasn't one of them. With that said, I have never had to release a fish there as the Holy Water is catch and release only.

I started thinking about the lack of fish in the Holy Water and for the

sake of argument, discounting the non-human causes of fish depravation such as drought conditions or disease or for that matter the escapement of fish over the spillway at the hatchery, could some of the cause be the mortality rate now believed associated with catch and release?

As a non fish eater, I can say that for the odd times that I was up in Alaska, all the fish I have ever caught, were what I thought were tenderly released to fight yet another day. It was just recently that I have read articles that caused me to start reflecting on what I thought was my humane treatment of a played out fish.

As I have written about before of my yearly trip to Hot Creek, a creek of geothermal origins, shallow depth, narrow width and prohibition of wading in its waters; I can think back of the times that I landed a fish in a net made

Continued on Pg. 7