

SOFF News

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April, 2018



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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A highlight each year is the club's annual Fly Tyers night when some of the SOFF's best tyers come in to show their prowess at the vise.



John Storfold, the long time fly tying chair, takes a momentary break to discuss the fly that he is tying with a club member at a previous fly tyers night. This year, Storfold has once again enlisted SOFF members and club associates alike to demonstrate new flies, new techniques, and new material for the benefit of the fly tying membership.

**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:
John Storfold:
David Haight:
Sue Keeling:
Dave Roberts:
Ed/Sandy Michalski:
John Storfold

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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Dave Grosjacques Rogue Fish Populations

I wrote a column for the February newsletter about fish populations in the Umpqua. This month I will do the same for the Rogue River. I interviewed Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife fisheries biologist and SOFF member Ryan Battleson and got additional information from Rogue Basin head fisheries biologist Dan VanDyke. Forgive me for any mistakes in the numbers, this is a non-professional's view of the different runs of anadromous fish present in the Rogue.

The Rogue starts at Boundary Springs, which is near Crater Lake. It flows southwest into Lost Creek Reservoir at William Jess Dam, then through the towns of Shady Cove, Gold Hill and Grants Pass. From Grants Pass it flows northwest and then west through the Wild and Scenic Section to Agness and then to the mouth at Gold Beach. Large tributaries include Elk Creek near Shady Cove, the Applegate River near Grants Pass and the Illinois River near Agness.

Fisheries biologist Dave Loomis, former head of fisheries in the Umpqua, told me years ago that a discussion of salmon and steelhead in Oregon must include the influence of the "Four H's", which are hatcheries, harvest, habitat and hydro. The Rogue fish runs are most certainly influenced by all four of these factors. Harvest is the influence of fishermen and the fish they keep to

take home and put on the barbecue. Cole Rivers Hatchery just downstream from Jess Dam provides the hatchery influence. The habitat for fish is in some areas all natural and in others greatly influenced by timber harvest, agriculture, water use and other human activities. The hydro is the effect of dams on the flow and fish populations.

The Rogue has a history of dams, starting with Ament Dam in Grants Pass, which was built more than 100 years ago, then removed. Savage Rapids Dam near Grants Pass and Gold Ray Dam near Gold Hill both had fish ladders, but still affected fish runs until they were both removed in recent years. The construction of William Jess Dam at



Photo Courtesy of WaterWatch

Lost Creek in the 1970s and Applegate Dam near the headwaters of the Applegate in the 1980s continue to affect river flows and fish runs to this day. Gold Ray Dam had a counting station on the fish ladder, which was very useful to fisheries biologists for many years, giving them accurate information on numbers and timing of the Rogue's salmon and steelhead. Even though it was removed along with the dam, the data from that counting station continues to be used by ODFW to compare with current estimates of fish numbers and run timing.

Fall Chinook – This run is relatively healthy in the Rogue, with the peak of the fish arriving in the Grants Pass area from late August until mid-October. This is an all-wild run, with no hatchery programs in the basin. The construction of Jess and Applegate Dams allows man-

agers to increase the flow of the river during the upstream migration of fall Chinook adults, providing them with cooler water and more of it. These fish historically spawned lower in the system compared to the spring Chinook run in May and June. With the removal of Savage Rapids and Gold Ray Dams these fall run fish are starting to use more of the river upstream of Grants Pass for spawning. Adult fall Chinook have recently been seen in greater numbers in Bear Creek and Ashland Creek. Fall Chinook can be kept by anglers,

two per day and twenty per year.

Coho Salmon – The run of coho in the Rogue is much smaller than in the Umpqua, due to a lack of passage to many of the small

streams they prefer for spawning. Warmer water during the summer rearing season for juvenile fish and a lack of estuary habitat near Gold Beach are

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

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

May 15	Jim Andras
Jun 19	TBA
Jul 17	No Meeting
Aug 21	No Meeting
Sep 18	TBA
Oct 16	TBA
Nov 10	Annual Auction
Dec 18	TBA

President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2
 also limiting factors for coho in the Rogue. There is a hatchery program for coho, with fin-clipped smolts released each year at Cole Rivers Hatchery. These fish arrive in the Grants Pass area in November and December, and fin-clipped adults may be kept by fishermen.

Winter Steelhead – The winter steelhead run on the Rogue is healthy, despite the low numbers this year. Twenty thousand returning adults would be considered a good run, with the normal ups and downs over the years from weather and ocean conditions. A large number of fin-clipped adults are released by the ODFW each year. There is a target number for returning hatchery adults as mitigation for habitat lost due to dam construction. This target has been met in nine of the last ten years. The average ratio of wild to hatchery for this run is three wild fish for every hatchery fish. Fin-clipped adults may be kept, and wild fish may be kept (one per day and five per year) during certain months in specified sections of the river.

(CONTINUED NEXT MONTH – Spring Chinook, Summer Steelhead and others)



WHEN:
 April 17, 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.



Annual Fly Tyers Night

As usual, the April meeting is dedicated to the Art of Fly Tying and as such, John Storfold, fly tying chair, has recruited some of the club's best tyers to demonstrate their abilities at the vise. Those that will be there for the annual fly tyers night will be:

Bruce Bochman
Kevin Daniels
Dave Grosjacques
Chuck Huntington
Dan Kellogg
Ed Morphis
Dave Roberts
John Smith
Mark Teeters

Tom Corbiere
Steve Day
David Haight
Joseph Knapik
Michael Mazingo
Dave McCants
Kevin Reiten
John Storfold
Paul Wolflick



Some of the tyers from a previous fly tyers night exhibit their skills at the vise.



CASTING ABOUT



“Rollin’ Down the River” Dinner & Auction

Sponsored by: Rogue Flyfishers Club

When: Wednesday May 16, 2018

Doors open at 4:30pm

Where: Centennial Golf Club

1900 N. Phoenix Road

Medford, Oregon

**Cost: \$25 entry fee includes Buffet Dinner catered
by**

Centennial

Dinner will begin @ 6:10pm

(Dinner includes Roasted Tri Tip and Chicken Marsala)

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

Bucket Raffle begins at 4:30 & closes promptly at 6:00pm

Steelhead Paddle Raffle begins at 7:00pm

Live Auction will begin at 7:10pm, concluding by 8:45pm

Prizes offered: drift trips, still water trips, custom rods, reels, fly tying tools & materials, Golf packages, wine baskets, cameras, fishing accessories, custom handtied flies by some of our valley’s top fly tiers, hotel accommodations and much more.

Seating is limited to the 1st 150 presold tickets. Tickets purchased by April 1st are entered in the Early Bird Drawing.

Reserve and purchase tickets: email mmasters2243@charter.net to reserve your seats and make out a check (\$25 per seat) to Rogue Flyfishers and mail it to:

RFF c/o Mike Masters

2591 Savannah Dr.

Central Point, Or 97502

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

April 14th Outing to Squaw Lake

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will try a new destination for our April outing—Squaw lakes. For those who are not familiar, Squaw Lakes are two small lakes in beautiful setting among the Siskiyou Mountains just east of Applegate Reservoir. Both lakes have good populations of cutthroat trout, largemouth bass, crappie, and other warmwater gamefish. Lower Squaw Lake is the larger of the two and is over



Squaw Lake, a lake not fished by many members unless they take the 0.2 mile hike into it.

A Derek Billick Photo

100 feet deep. Upper Squaw Lake is relatively small, but still over 50 feet deep. Both lakes have primitive Forest Service facilities and camping sites that allow only walk-in access.

The outing will be held on Saturday April 14, and we will meet at 9:00 AM on the south shore of the lower lake (the shore closest to the road and parking area). To reach the lakes, take Applegate Road up to Applegate Reservoir, cross over Applegate Dam, and follow

the road up Squaw Creek to the lakes. The road will turn to gravel after a couple of miles. It is about seven miles from Applegate Dam to the lakes. There will be signs identifying the parking area for Lower Squaw Lake. Road access ends at a gate adjacent to Upper Squaw Lake.

There is a \$5.00 day-use fee that may or may not be collected when we will be there, so if you have a federal pass, bring it.

There is no vehicle access to either lake, so you will have to carry your gear 0.2 miles from the parking area to the lake. Consequently, you can only use float tubes or small boats you can carry. Those needing some help to get gear to the lake can show up a little early, and we will help haul items to the lake. For those who don't want to bring a floating device, there is plenty of good bank access; however, having a boat or float tube will likely make it easier to find fish.

The usual stillwater techniques will work at Squaw Lakes. Trout can be caught by casting and stripping or trolling woolly buggers or nymphs, or by suspending midge patterns below a strike indicator. The bass and other warmwater species can be targeted by casting woolly buggers or nymphs to structure. Five to six-weight rods should be adequate to target anything in the lakes. Intermediate or slow-sinking lines will probably be the most useful,

but bring a floating and a fast-sinking line as well. Besides your usual lake fishing gear, be sure to bring food and water. Since it will be early spring, bring your hat and sunscreen and your raingear, so you will be prepared for any type of weather.

If you have never fished these picturesque lakes, come give them a try. Even if you have, come enjoy a pleasant spring day on the lake with your fellow club members.

David Haight, Outing Chair

Photo Potpourri



Long time SOFF club member and now an Arizona resident, Gary Miller displays a nice 21" rainbow he took from Spring Creek in the White Mountains in Eastern Arizona. The fish was released to fight another day.



2018 Outings

- Apr 14** Squaw Lake with David Haight
- May 5** Copeland Pond with David Haight
- May 23-24** Lemolo Lake with Dave Grosjacques
- June 9** Diamond Lake with Steve Day
- June 22-24** Cascade Lakes with Sue & Jerry Keeling

FLY TYING CORNER

Balanced Leech



- Hook:** Daiichi 4647 Jig Hook, Size 8-12.
- Thread:** Veevus 10/0, Black.
- Tail:** Black Marabou and White Cystal Flash.
- Weight/Bead:** 5/32 Brass Bead on an Attached Straight Pin.
- Body:** UV2 Black/Red Dubbing.
- Collar:** UV2 Hot Pink Dubbed Collar.

Tying Instructions:

Pinch the barb on the hook and mount in the vice. Dress the hook with thread.

Now here comes the experimentation part. Take a straight pin and cut it with a pair of angle cutters to a length approximately a shank length. Place your bead on a straight pin and place the pin on top of the hook and lash it down with the bead extending out beyond the eye of the hook. The exact distance is to affect a balance when the hook is suspended by your leader. You will have to play with this dependent on the size of the hook and the weight of the bead. I would recommend playing around with the placement before fully dressing the fly. You can test the balance and move the pin and bead accordingly until you have a balance point.

Once you have this done, make sure the pin is lashed down tightly and apply some super glue to the shank to ensure the pin does not slip.

With the thread about mid shank, tie in the tail, so that it is equal to the hook shank plus the pin and tie back to the bend in the hook.

Tie in two strands of white crystal flash on each side of the tail and tie down. Cut off the crystal flash just a little longer than the tail.

Now make a dubbing loop and place your dubbing in the loop, spin and form a body combing the dubbing to the rear of the hook as you go forward past the hook eye to just behind the bead. Tie down and cut off any extra. Now I chose to add

Continued on Pg. 7

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

- 4-3 Board Meeting.
- 4-10 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 4-14 Club Outing - Squaw Lake with Dave Haight
- 4-17 Club Meeting - Fly Tyers Meeting.
- 5-1 Board Meeting.
- 5-5 Club Outing - Copeland Pond.
- 5-8 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 5-15 Club Meeting with Jim Andras.
- 5-23-24 Club Outing Lemolo Lake.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

did want was some arctic fox. In past shows I wouldn't have had a problem finding this material, but was none to be found this year. It seems that when I want a particular material, it is sure not to found there.

One of the vendors that got a lot of play this year was the Dave Scadden pontoon boat booth. It seems that the membership liked what they saw and three club members came away with new Scadden pontoon boats.



Club members Buck Woodburn and Nick Merrill lay down cash for their new Scadden boats.

As usual, there were rod and reel vendors who displayed medium to high cost rods and reels. There was something there for everyone's budget.

Although, I didn't attend any of the seminars or casting instruction, I heard they were well attended.

Well that's all for the show, but now the real event started. After the

close of the show on Friday night, the editor and his wife hosted their annual club and others reception. Starting small some 8 years ago, we, along with a couple of club member shared a bottle of wine in a small hotel room to today where the event has expanded to a suite to accommodate the growth of the reception. This year we had in excess of 40 or more club members and guests dropping by for a glass of wine or a hors d'oeuvres. There were three types of hot items, plus chips, dip, fresh fruit, cheese and sausage and other things.

It is here that I need to make a confession. This year we tried a new recipe for party wings that I've had before. I requested the recipe and just knew that they would be a big hit. As we have no oven in the hotel room, this item had to be prepared before hand and re-warmed in a slow cooker.

As we hadn't sampled the wings at home, we tried at the event. After this trial, we decided the wings had no taste and needed something to be done with them. This necessitated a quick trip to the store to see what could be found to help out the taste. After wandering the aisles of the store it was determined that teriyaki added to the existing sauce would do the trick. The party went on and I wouldn't have a chance to taste the wings until everybody left. It was only then that I discovered the horrible truth. The wings went from being bland to like eating a salt-lick and they only way I could get them down was by taking



Bob Stafford and President Dave Grosj-acques man the Fly Tyers and Volunteer's packet desk for the Fly Tyers Fair.

one bite of wing followed by a bite of a fresh strawberry. Needless to say that the editor and his wife have learned their lesson, in that there will be nothing served unless it has been well vetted by them beforehand. So wings may be served again, but it won't be from that recipe. So with that I apologize to all our guests that forced down one of those salt-lick wings!

While I'm still talking about a fly tying event, I want to remind the membership that if you were unable to go to Albany this year, Albany is coming to you. This month the club hold its annual fly tyers night when some of the best in the club get together to hold forth and show their abilities at tying flies. As said earlier, several of the tyers at the Fly Tying Fair is Albany were our very own club members. John Storfold, fly tying chair, has recruited almost all of them to come out on fly tyers night. So if you have a question on a tying technique, or maybe a new pattern or new material for an existing pattern, then this a must see program for you. I'll be there, without any wings, to watch and learn.

Balanced Leech Continued From Pg. 6 a hot spot just behind the bead. You can do this with many different ways. I chose to use a small bit of UV dubbing (about two wraps) just behind the bead and whip finish.

Remember this is your fly when you decide to tie it, so be adventurous and play around with different materials and different techniques. The hole point of tying our own flies is to personalize them with weight or not with beads or not, different colors and different materials.

Fly Tied By: John Storfold





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Editor's Notebook

Well the annual Fly Tying Fair and Fly Fishing show in Albany is over and now I'm already marking the calendar for next year's extravaganza.

I never get tired of watching skilled tyers demonstrating their abilities at the vise. This year was no different. There was a ton of people (including some 8 or 9 club members) that were holding court over the two day event. There were recognized named tyers and the not so recognized whose work would stand up against any of the big named tyers. In fact some of these lesser known tyers were easier to watch as they didn't have as many people stopping by to watch them which allowed one to sit down and interact with the tyer. Questions one had regarding material

or tying techniques were answered in detail for all the note takers. In many instances if you watch the entire fly being tied, you were rewarded with a



Some of the partygoers at the annual SOFF reception hosted by the editor and his wife, Karyn.

sample fly to take home and attempt to copy. My only problem was that there so many tyers that I wanted to see, that I ran out of time to see them all.

Then there were the vendors. At

first glance, I thought there were less vendors then in years past, but I was told by show staff that the number of vendors there were greater than in past shows. At any rate, I made a point to see as many of them as I could. I was a little disappointed in the vendors displaying fly tying material. If you wanted new age material there were several vendors selling it. In fact I made several purchases of the material because it appealed to me and not for a particular pattern that I wanted to tie. Oh well, it will go into my trove of 'stuff' in the hope that I'll be able to use it one day. The other vendors with

fly tying material had the more traditional things that I really didn't need such as capes and saddles or other type of feathers. The one thing that I

Continued on Pg. 7