

# SOFF News

Vol. 25 No. 5 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

May, 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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E-Mail: [dchebul@centurylink.net](mailto:dchebul@centurylink.net)

**SOFFers are missing a good bet if they don't sample the fishing in some of our local lakes. These lakes can produce some outstanding catches.**



**Buck Woodburn took his new Dave Scadden pontoon boat to Galesville for its maiden voyage and was rewarded not only with a great kickboat, but with a 21 inch rainbow to seal the deal. In addition, he also landed and released rainbows in the 15 to 17 inch range. What a great way to christen his new boat!**

**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

*This is the second installment of a column President Dave started last month on the Rogue River.*

*The Editor*

### Rogue Fish Populations Part 2

This is the second part of last month's column about populations of anadromous fish in the Rogue Basin. Last month I gave some information about Fall Chinook, Coho and winter Steelhead. This time I will discuss spring Chinook and summer Steelhead. Both of these runs have made the Rogue famous, springers because of their size and flavor and summer steelhead because of their fighting ability and willingness to take a fly.

Spring Chinook – These large fish go through the Grants Pass area in May and June. They are traveling upriver when the flow is higher than it is in the fall, so they naturally would spawn much higher in the Rogue System than the fall run. A good part of their natural spawning habitat was blocked by William Jess Dam at Lost Creek. To mitigate this loss a large hatchery program is operated at Cole Rivers Hatchery just downstream from the dam. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife releases large numbers of fin-clipped juveniles at four different locations and two different sites each year. Some of these fish are also coded-wire tagged, enabling the ODFW to monitor them. A good year would be a return

of more than 15,000 adults. Fishermen can keep clipped fish as well as wild fish during specified times of year and section of the river.

Summer Steelhead – These fish are divided into early and late runs. The early run gets to Grants Pass in June and July, while the late run comes through between August and October. This population is at risk, so only hatchery-clipped fish may be kept. There is a hatchery program for them, with releases at Cole Rivers. Summer Steelhead gave the Rogue it's national reputation as an excellent place to fly fish. Both adults and the immature and smaller "half pounders" will readily grab a fly. If you can imagine a beautiful October day on the river with some hungry fish you get the idea. It doesn't get much better than that.

Besides the populations of salmon and steelhead in the Rogue, there are populations of trout and sturgeon. The trout populations are mostly in the upper Rogue, upstream of Lost Creek Reservoir. The Department of Fish and Wildlife stocks the upper Rogue regularly in the spring and summer months. The area upstream of Prospect where the highway gets close to the river is the section that is stocked with rainbow trout. One can find fish from below Union Creek up past Muir Creek. The river up that far is smaller and easy to fish in some places. There is also a section that is above Muir Creek where the road gets away from the highway. This is more rugged country, with a trail that follows the river upstream from a crossroads near Minihaha Creek.



A pair of salmon on the Rogue lay in repose as their work is now done begetting a future generation.

There are two species of sturgeon in the Rogue: green sturgeon and white sturgeon. The northern green sturgeon is related to the southern green sturgeon that is found throughout the Sacramento River. White Sturgeon are occasionally found in the Rogue, but I was told by a fisheries biologist that they move into the lower Rogue but do not spawn there. There are a few fishermen who

target sturgeon in the lower river, with the Huggins Canyon and Copper Canyon sections prime spots. I hooked one once in a section of the river

just above Blossom Bar while fishing with gear for half pounders. The fish was at least four feet long and with 8 pound test line I had no chance of landing it. A fishing guide who went past us in a drift boat told us that they can be found occasionally as far up as Rainie Falls.

All of the different varieties of salmon and steelhead in the Rogue

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:

May 1st at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month

All members welcome

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

Jun 19	Little Leaf Guides
Jul 17	No Meeting
Aug 21	No Meeting
Sep 18	TBA
Oct 16	TBA
Nov 10	Annual Auction
Dec 18	TBA
Jan 15	TBA

### WHEN:

May 15, 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.



Jim Andras

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

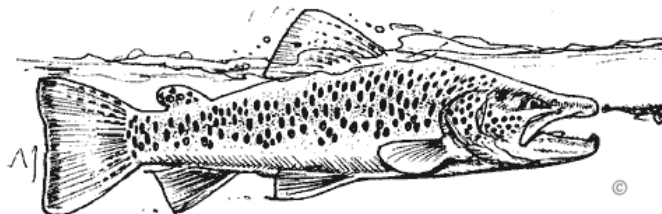
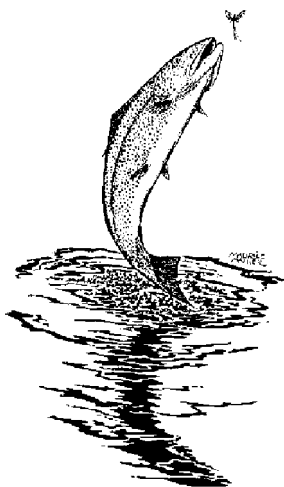
System are our treasures. They are most certainly the reason many of us in the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers live where we do. The local economy benefits from the visitors who come to the river to fish. Motels, restaurants, grocery stores, convenience stores and fishing guides rely on both locals and visitors for their business.

What we as citizens and fishing enthusiasts can do to help these runs of fish to be around in the future is to get involved. Join a watershed council as a member or contributor. Participate in fish-related projects with the ODFW. Become educated by reading about local and state-wide issues concerning fish, their habitat and the river system. Ask questions and learn more about the Rogue and the famous runs of fish it supports.



**J**im Andras grew up lipping largemouths from water hazards on local golf courses in the Arizona desert. At ten years old, he was obsessed: burning through pages written by the masters, practicing blood knots with twine and working his first summer guide season in 1994.

Jim moved to Southern Oregon in 2005 and guides the Rogue and Klamath Rivers. He occasionally takes a decent photograph and supports organizations that work to ensure better habitat, policy and protection for wild steelhead.



# CASTING ABOUT

After 40 Years with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife,

## David Haight is Retiring!



1978



2018

## Come help him celebrate!

**What:** Picnic and Barbeque

**When:** Saturday June 16 from 1:00 PM to 5:00 PM

**Where:** River's Edge Park—off of Cole M. Rivers Drive on the south side of the Rogue River between Cole Rivers Fish Hatchery and Lost Creek Reservoir

**Cost:** \$10.00 for barbequed tri-tip and chicken, beans, salads, sides, desert, and soft drinks

**Please** RSVP to Amber Winslow ([amber.d.winslow@state.or.us](mailto:amber.d.winslow@state.or.us)) at the Rogue Watershed District Office by June 1, 2018.

Payment for the meal and/or contributions for a gift can be made by sending a check made out to Amber Winslow to:

Amber Winslow  
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Rogue District Watershed District Office  
1495 East Gregory Road,  
Central Point, OR 97502



2019 +

# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## Outing to Copeland's Pond

There are several events that members of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers look forward to each year. One of those is the outing to Copeland's Pond each spring. For those that are not familiar, Copeland's Pond is a private pond, owned by club members Bob and Valerie Copeland, which offers some of the best fishing in the area for big largemouth bass, crappie, and other warm-water fish.

The outing to Copeland's Pond will be Saturday May 5. You

can arrive any time after 8:30. We will spend the morning fishing. At noon, the club will provide hamburgers, chips, and drinks. Those attending are requested to bring a salad, side dish, or dessert to share. You can then spend the rest of the day fishing and visiting with fellow club members.

To get to Copeland's Pond, take Redwood Highway west from town. Turn north off the highway onto Ap-

plegate Avenue then look for the club signs where Applegate Avenue turns right and becomes Leonard Road.

Bob requires that fish caught from the pond be released, so the fish have the opportunity to grow to impressive sizes. During previous outings, club members have landed large-mouth bass over 20 inches and crappie over 15 inches. You can catch fish right from the bank; however, a float tube, pontoon boat, driftboat, or other small watercraft will give you better access

to the fish. If you plan to target crappie or panfish, 3 to 5-weight rods work well, but if you hook into a big bass or carp, you may wish you had something heavier. For bass or carp, a 6 to 8-weight rod would be a good choice. Slow sinking lines will likely be the most useful, but bring your floating lines as well. Your fly box should contain bass bugs, rabbit-strip flies, woolly buggers, leeches, streamers, and nymphs. Olive or white woolly buggers have worked well for both crappie and bass in past years. Large, olive rabbit-strip flies or leeches have been effective for the bigger bass.

The outing to Copeland's Pond is always a lot of fun—both for the great fishing and the opportunity to enjoy the company of fellow club members. We greatly appreciate Bob and Valerie's generosity in allowing us to enjoy their property. If you plan to go, call or e-mail me by May 2, so I know how much

food to purchase.

**David Haight, Outings Chair**

**541-855-9043, [\*\*\[infostructure.net\]\(http://infostructure.net\)\*\*](mailto:tmdrhaight@</a></b></p>
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## Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake Outing

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 22 through Sunday June 24.



**Sonja Nisson with a nice rainbow she took from Lava Lake at last year's Cascades Lakes Outing.**

We will meet at site #7 (Jerry & Sue) at the Lava Lake RV Resort/Campground on Friday and Saturday mornings at 8:00am to present and share information on local fishing. On Friday night, we will meet at 5:30 also at site #7 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 meet at 5:00 for social hour with the group dinner beginning at 6:00 at site #7. This year dinner will be Tri tip and chicken

**Continued on Pg 7**

### 2018 Outings

<b>May 5</b>	<b>Copeland Pond with David Haight</b>
<b>May 23-24</b>	<b>Lemolo Lake with Dave Grosjacques</b>
<b>June 9</b>	<b>Diamond Lake with Steve Day</b>
<b>June 22-24</b>	<b>Cascade Lakes with Sue &amp; Jerry Keeling</b>
<b>July 28</b>	<b>Howard Prairie with Kevin Reiten</b>

# FLY TYING CORNER

## Purple Flash



- Hook:** Standard Salmon Hook, Size Of Your Choice.
- Thread:** Black.
- Tag:** Flat Gold Tinsel.
- Tail:** Red Hackle Fibers.
- Body:** Purple Braided Mylar, or Diamond Braid, or Poly Flash
- Collar:** Deep Purple Saddle or Hen Hackle.
- Wing:** Red Fox Squirrel Tail.
- Checks:** Jungle Cock (Optional).

### Tying Instructions:

1. Tie in thread and wrap back to point of the hook and tie tag and wrap about 3/16 of an inch.
2. Tie in tail hackle fibers ( approximately 3/4" extending past the end of the hook by about 5/16").
3. Tie in brad and palmer threw body, leaving room for the collar and head.
4. Tie in hackle and do about 3 wraps.
5. Tie in wing (red fox should be even with the end of the hook) and then jungle cock cheeks (not shown in this picture) and finish off the head.

**Fly Tied By: John Graves**

We want to thank John for sharing another excellent fly with his fellow club members.

**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

- 5-5 Club Outing - Copeland Pond.
- 5-8 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 5-12 Fly Fishing Class with Dave Grosjacques
- 5-15 Club Meeting with Jim Andras.
- 5-23-24 Club Outing Lemolo Lake.
- 6-5 Board Meeting
- 6-9 Club Outing - Diamond Lake with Steve Day.
- 6-12 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 6-19 Club Meeting.

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

now with the articles that I received from David Haight that weren't included in this issue. These articles plus photos included the last two outings – the Applegate and Squaw Lake.

Speaking of David Haight - can you believe that he is hanging up his 'net' as to speak and is retiring after 40 years as a biologist for the ODF&W. Looking at Dave today; he must have started his career at about age 12! I for one would certainly like to wish good luck to Dave in his retirement and that all his future endeavors are successful including that he always has the right flies for all the waters that he wants to fish.

Also let me call you attention to the flyer on page 4 of this newsletter. It is the announcement of Dave's retirement party which will be held on June 16<sup>th</sup> (see the flyer for additional details). It is my hope that as many club members as possible will turn out for the affair and recognize Dave, not only for his long time association with ODF&W, but for all he has done for the club as the long time club outings chair.



## Lemolo Outing 2018

By Dave Grosjacques

The Lemolo outing this year will be on Wednesday and Thursday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>. Host Dave Grosjacques will be there from Monday until Friday morning that week at Poole Creek Campground. The lake is about a 15 minute drive north of Diamond Lake along highway 138. It is at an elevation of 4300 feet, so expect mountain weather and conditions.



**After a hard day of catching all those rainbows and browns at Lemolo, President Dave relaxes with a well deserved adult beverage.**

The lake has a small resort on it, with cabins and boats for rent. There is also a small store and gas station. An RV park with hookups is next to the resort. Poole Creek campground is the largest and best campground of the four on the lake. That is where Dave will be and where most SOFF members have stayed in past years. A larger store and more cabins are available at Diamond Lake, as well as a gas station.



**Nick and Jackie Merrill ply the waters at last year's Lemolo Outing**

Lemolo is best fished with a boat. Lake boats can be launched at the

boat ramp which is in the Poole Creek campground. Pontoon boats and float tubes can be used near Poole Creek, and also up at the far end of the lake in the North Umpqua arm. Intermediate lines work well, with a large variety of flies producing fish. Lemolo has a healthy population of brown trout, as well as rainbow trout. Most of the fish are in the 12 to 16 inch range, with a few larger ones.

Send Dave an email if you plan to attend, letting him know what day you will arrive. The SOFF sign will be out at Dave's campsite at Poole Creek, where we will meet for fish stories each afternoon at 4. There are rumors of an updated hot spot map of the lake that will only be available to Lemolo outing participants. Dave will have a large map and more information at the May general meeting. Let's go fishing!

### Cascades Lakes Continued From Pg. 5

breast. 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). Please bring your own chairs if possible as we have limited seating. Come join us for some good food, good friends and good fishing.

**Make sure you sign up no later than June 12 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 dinner in May, or email Jerry & Sue Keeling at [jerrykeeling@msn.com](mailto: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 fishing and great memories.

**Jerry & Sue Keeling**



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97528  
E-Mail: [www.soff.org](http://www.soff.org)

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## Editor's Notebook

**A**s I sit here contemplating on what this month's topic should be, I am buoyed by the knowledge that unlike most months, the muse of literature has paid me a visit and left an overabundance of material for this month's newsletter. Be still my beating heart!

I should be overjoyed and not look a gift horse in the mouth, but I am flummoxed (always wanted to use that word) as to what to use for this month's column. Should I give up my column to material that I haven't used – I could, but no I don't think so. It is better to have items in reserve for next month's newsletter when the 'pickings' could be a lot slimmer than now. So I guess that means I'm back from whence I started and now have to come up with something to write about.

This month, the muse didn't visit John Storfold and he came up 'dry'

for this month's fly of the month which necessitated that I reprised a fly from several years ago. Looking for a fly to use put me in mind of a club resource



**Dave Haight - Fly Fisher**

that is available to all club members and that is the fly achieves now found

on the Club's website. Rich Steed, the new web master, has collected all the flies that were ever printed in all of the club's newsletters, beginning in 1994, and has archived them on the website. What a great resource for fly tyers looking for patterns that they may have seen in a past newsletter and now want to find and recreate. If you haven't had a chance to look at this archive you're missing out on some great patterns.

There is also another of thing that I hope will become a continuing feature and that is a post outing article. Up to this point outing articles were generally before the fact announcing an outing – where when, what was needed, etc., and never really include such things how many people attended, who they were, were they successful at catching the targeted fish and finally photos showing the participants and fish caught. I hope that will change

**Continued on Pg. 7**