

SOFF News

Vol.25 No.12 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc. December, 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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If it is December, then winter is nearly upon us and with that, SOFF members are eagerly looking forward to the winter steelhead that will be returning to their local rivers.



All though not a winter steelhead, club member Tom Brandes, guided by club member Teresa Kasza holding the fish, is justifiably proud of his bright 'chromer' catch.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
John Storfold:
Kevin Daniels:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Dave Grosjacques

Get Involved and Make a Difference

This is the 84th President's Column that I have written. I have been fortunate enough to serve as the president of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers for seven years, from 2009-2011 and again from 2015-18. It is time for someone else to take over. I know a lot of you might be tired of listening to me on that meeting microphone anyway! After organizing more than 80 board meetings and general meetings I need a break. In the next few years I will continue to act as habitat chair and board member. My focus will start to change from club issues to regional and state issues. I belong to three fishing clubs, am on the board of two watershed councils and am now a member of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Step Advisory Committee and Restoration and Enhancement Board. I think I will have plenty to do!

When thinking about what to write in this, my last column as president of SOFF, I had lots of ideas. The subject I decided on was payback – what have I gotten out of my 15-year relationship with our club? I am not a lifetime member, and pay my dues each year. I attend meetings, club outings, projects and special events. What is the payback, what do I get out of it? What has the SOFF and my relationship with the members done for me?

The answers to these questions are

many in my own case, and hopefully in your case as well. I joined the club in 2003 because of conversations I had with Bob Roberts at the Oregon Council's annual Fly Fishing and Tying Expo (held in Eugene at that time) and with Tony Brauner at the Medford Sportsman's Show at an Oregon Council of FFF booth. Both had served as club president and both invited me to come to a meeting. I took them up on the invitation and attended my first SOFF meeting. There I met SOFF members Jay O'Brian and Redge Heth. I distinctly remember them making me feel welcome as we talked in the food line. Jim Tehan was president that year and I was very impressed with how Jim handled the meeting part of the evening and at the organization of the club as each chair gave a report on club activities. I was hooked!

In my years as a member I have learned a lot about fly tying, fly casting and fly fishing. Bob Roberts was teaching the fly tying class at that time and I took the class twice in a row. From Bob I learned how to pick the best materials and to use them the correct way in tying. I also learned to heed Bob's advice and to look at each fly critically when I finished it. Did I do the tail the right way? Did I crowd the head or leave too much headspace? Expert fly tiers and friends Loren Black and Ed Morphis helped increase my knowledge and skills in tying and impressed upon me some simple principles in tying that helped a lot. Attending the Albany Expo also helped me as a tier, allowing me to see expert fly tiers do what they do best. I always come back from Albany with a few materials and things that I do not really need, but that is part of the fun! Then 5 years ago Ed Morphis disagreed with me when I told him I was not good enough to tie at Albany. He sponsored me that year and I have tied there ever since. My strength as a tier is in tying simple flies that are proven fish catchers!

When I joined the club my casting stroke looked like someone trying to swat a circling bee with a broomstick.

There was lots of motion but not much in the way of results. Club members John Edwards, David Haight, and Larry and Bobbi White helped me get the basics of casting down to the point where I could cast a decent loop and get it somewhere near where I wanted the fly to go. Attending SOFF casting clinics featuring famous casting instructors also helped, showing me and the other attendees the little things that make casting easier and more accurate. Another little thing that has helped my casting is my habit of leaving at least one fly rod rigged up with practice yarn and ready to go in my shop. On a warm day I can grab the rod and head for the front lawn to practice. It is fun, takes only a few minutes, and is free! My theory is that it doesn't hurt and might even help my casting stroke.

When it comes to fly fishing and places to fish in Southern Oregon, I have had help from so many SOFF club members that I cannot list all of them here. I will say that attending all of the club outings that I could manage opened my eyes to locations and fishing techniques that produce fish.

By far the most important thing I have gained from joining the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers is the association with and friendship of the members of the club. In 2018, my closest non-relative friends are almost all from the club. We fish together, tell lies and

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:

Dec. 4th at 6:00pm or

the first Tuesday of the month

All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Jan 15	Jack Trout
Feb 19	Rick Hafele
Mar 19	Steve Day
Apr 16	Fly Tyers Night
May 21	Scott Richmond
June 18	Dr. Jerry Freilich
July 16	No Meeting
Aug 20	No Meeting

President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

make up excuses together and generally have a good time. I have friends and fellow international travelers in members Russ and Lucky Leavitt and Kevin O'Malley. I have friends on the SOFF board that I meet before the board meetings to chat about flies, fly rods, fly lines and the latest trout or steelhead hot spot. I totally enjoy tying flies and fishing with these old friends and with newer members, saying always that it is a lot of fun to tie flies and to go fly fishing, but it's a lot MORE fun if you do those things with other people from the club.

Going into the future, I will continue to learn and be an active member of our club. I often tell people that if they are really passionate about something, they should try hard to get involved and make a difference. I am happy to see new members of our great club do just that. Working alongside old timers like some of us (Duane!), their willingness to get involved will produce good outcomes for them personally and for the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. Let's go fishing!

FEDERATION OF
FLY FISHERS



WHEN:

Dec. 18, 2018



TIMES:

5:30 PM

Social Hour and
Fly Tying Demo.

6:30 PM

Meeting

7:00 PM

Dinner and Program

WHERE:

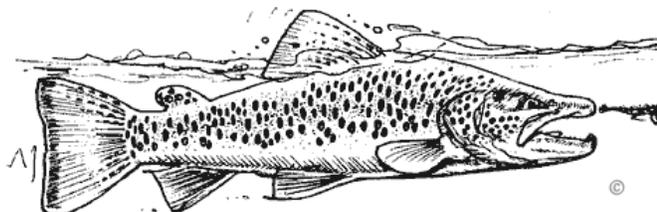
Wild River Pub
533 NE F St. G.P.



John Shewey - Casting for Swingers



John Shewey has been accused of being a deadbeat slacker, but he steadfastly refutes such charges and insists instead that he is a lifelong fly-fishing addict. He usually admits to being the editor-in-chief of *Northwest Fly Fishing*, unless you are mad at the magazine, in which case John is likely to deny any involvement. His 30-plus-year career as a writer and photographer has produced countless magazine articles and nearly 20 books. A couple of his books are pretty good. John's most recent titles are *Classic Steelhead Flies*, *Birds of the Pacific Northwest*, and *Oregon Beaches: A Traveler's Companion*. When not plunging into a cold river over his wader tops in pursuit of summer-run steelhead, John spends considerable time on the verge of cardiac arrest following his Weimaraners around Oregon's chukar country.



CASTING ABOUT

Status of Law Suit Against Medford For Harmful Sewage Plant Discharge To The Rogue River

John MacDiarmid

Back Story

Fishing below Tou Velle State Park, the Medford Sewage Plant discharge is very obvious. The effluent bubbles up on the left bank and a long plum of suds, sometimes .4 mile long, is seen working its way across the river. The aquatic vegetation changes also. Thick growths of weeds cover the substrate and algae coats the rocks in all but the fastest water. Long suspecting the 17.5 million gallons per day discharge is harmful and illegal pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act, The Rogue Fly Fishers raised \$5,000 to do a definitive study of the discharges' impact on vegetation and macro invertebrates in the Rogue. Rick Hafele who had recently retired as the Oregon DEQ chief aquatic entomologist designed the study. He also did the in stream collecting and analyzed of data. A laboratory in Corvallis was retained to identify the insects Rick collected. That was in 2012. The resultant report, *Medford Regional Water Reclamation Facility Outfall Assessment Study*, was filed in January 2013 and can be found at the Rogue Fly Fishers Web Site.

In Rick's study, the bug life in the riffle above the Sewage Plant was compared to the bug life in the two riffles below the discharge. The downstream riffles are .4 mile(Highbanks) and 1.0 mile(The Willows) below the discharge. The discharge is 130.5 miles from the ocean. The study is very interesting and you are encouraged to read it. One easy to comprehend result is stone fly species diversity. In the first riffle above the discharge, 9 species of stoneflies were found; only 1 stone fly was found at High Banks and 4 species were found at The Willows. It should be noted that two other local fly fishing clubs, Southern Oregon Fly Fishers and

Klamath Country Casters helped fund the study and the Oregon Council of the Fly Fishers International(Formerly the Federation of Fly Fishers.) was also a big contributor.

The Federal Environmental Protection Agency has the ultimate authority and responsibility for regulating water quality, however, Oregon, like most states, has been approved to implement the federal program. After the study was published we were hoping Medford would accept responsibility for polluting the Rogue and cooperate in developing a higher level of treatment to this sensitive receiving water. If not, we figured DEQ would rewrite Medford's discharge requirement to protect the river. If neither of these agencies accepted their responsibility, we expected the Regional EPA would step in and protect our river as they are directed to do under federal law.

Since the 2013 Report was filed, no improvements have been made. DEQ did do a Rogue Study and Medford hired a consultant to evaluate the impact of the discharge. Both these studies found similar results to the original 2013 Hafele Report. Clearly, there was only one action left for the environmental community concerned with the Rogue degradation, the courts. Accordingly in October, 2017 the Northwest Environmental Advocates (NWEA) filed a Sixty-Day Notice of Intent to Sue to Remedy Violations of the Clean Water Act, City of Medford, Waste Water Treatment Plant. The NWEA retained the Earthrise Law Center at the Lewis and Clark Law School to proceed with the legal work.

Where we are now

NWEA's Clean Water Act lawsuit against the City of Medford was filed in May of this year, and is now well

underway. NWEA alleges that Medford's wastewater discharges from its Regional Water Reclamation Facility have caused or contributed to violations of two of Oregon's water quality standards: the "biocriterion," which provides that waters of the State "must be of sufficient quality to support aquatic species without detrimental changes in the resident biological communities"; and the general narrative criterion that prohibits such in-stream conditions as "the development of . . . growths having a deleterious effect on stream bottoms, fish or other aquatic life"; "objectionable discoloration, scum, oily sheens, or floating solids;" and "aesthetic conditions offensive to the human senses of sight, taste, [or] smell..." In its answer dated June 6, the City of Medford denied all of NWEA's claims.

NWEA believes that the existence of these violations has been well-known to both Medford and DEQ since at least January 2013, when the Rogue Fly Fishers and Rick Hafele published the report detailing the impacts of Medford's discharges on the river and documenting nuisance algae growth, shifts in the macro invertebrate community, and other detrimental changes to the river ecosystem immediately downstream of Medford's discharge point.

Subsequent sampling and observations by NWEA, DEQ, and others have only confirmed Medford's ongoing violations, and in December 2016 EPA added the Middle Rogue River (RM 110.7-132.2) to Oregon's list of "impaired waters" under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act because EPA found that river segment was not meeting the biocriterion.

Continued on Page 5

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

New Year's Day Chili Feed

As 2018 draws to a close, we all start looking forward to that most special of holiday traditions—the New Year's Day Chili Feed at the Holy Water. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers and Rogue Flyfishers have joined together for this event for over two decades now.



Members of both SOFF and RFF gather together for the joint Annual Chili Feed at the Holy Water. Pots of hot chili as well as steaming coffee pots make the day enjoyable.

As usual, we will gather at the picnic shelter in River's Edge Park on the south bank of the Holy Water. We should have a fire going by 10 AM and will eat around noon. We need people to bring chili, and will again have a contest where participants will select their favorite pot of chili. The competition has become intense in recent years, and we have enjoyed some very good chili as a result. Those not bringing chili can help out by bringing cornbread, salads, desserts or other items to share. The clubs will provide coffee and tableware.

The Holy Water can offer good trout

fishing during the winter, and there will be opportunities to fish both before and after we eat. Swinging or drifting small marabou leeches, wooly buggers, micro intruders, or nymphs along the bottom

your 2019 fishing license.

We always have a great time no matter the weather, so make up a pot of your favorite chili, break out your trout rod, and come help us celebrate the new year and the joy of fly fishing!

David Haight, Outings Chair

December Special Raffle

By Bill Burns

There will be a special raffle at our January meeting. Participation will be limited to those members who have paid their 2019 membership dues. As of November 25, 2018, there are only twenty members in this category out of a current membership of 196! The winner will receive one of Gary Anderson's custom fly rods. To be eligible, your dues must be paid before January 1st, 2019. If you mail your check to the club PO Box, it must be postmarked earlier

than January 1st.

The rod that Gary Anderson is donating is a two-handed spey rod he designed for the Rogue River. It is a 13'0" 7 weight from his Nova series.

This raffle has been approved by the club's board of directors to motivate members to renew their dues in a timely manner. The club's life members are not included in this raffle even though their commitment to SOFF is significant and appreciated.

Article II, Section 3 of the club's by-laws reads: **All dues shall be due and payable prior to January 1 of each year.**

Medford Discharge Cont From Pg 4

The parties are now in the discovery phase of the litigation. NWEA and Medford will exchange expert reports in January; discovery will close in March; and any "dispositive motions" (that is, motions that, if granted, would fully resolve one or both of NWEA's claims against Medford) will be filed by April 12, 2019. NWEA and Medford agreed to bifurcate the case into separate liability and remedy phases; that means the court will first decide whether Medford has violated the Clean Water Act, and only if it answers that question in the affirmative will the parties gather and present evidence on what Medford needs to do to fix the problem. A trial date has not been set, but if needed it would likely be during the Fall of 2019.

Implications

While the NWEA lawsuit deals with one discharge, Medford, it is clear that water quality is mismanaged in our state. Why is DEQ more concerned with protecting the \$ of the discharger than protecting the Rogue River? How many other Oregon rivers are under regulated for water quality?

2019 Outings

Jan 1	Holy Water Chili
Jan 19	TBA
Feb 16	TBA
Mar 16	TBA
Apr 20	TBA
May 18	TBA
Jun 15	TBA
Jul 20	TBA
Aug 17	TBA
Sep 21	TBA

FLY TYING CORNER

Bead Head Possie Bugger



- Hook:** Daiichi 1560, Tiemco 3761, Size 8-10
- Lead:** 015, 6-8 Wraps (Optional).
- Head:** Gold Bead, Either a 5/32" or ,a 1/8" .
- Thread:** Black 8/0. (70 Denier)
- Tail:** Australian Opossum (Guard Hairs with Some Underfur.
- Rib 1:** Pear Flashabou.
- Rib 2** Fine Gold Wire.
- Abdomen** Australian Opossum Fur (Guard hairs and Underfur Dubbed).
- Legs:** Partridge.
- Thorax:** Black Ostrich Herl.

Tying Instructions:

Fly Reprinted from July 2011

Smash the barb and place bead on the hook. If extra weight is desired, put 6 – 8 wraps of lead on the bare hook and slide into the bead. Cover lead with thread and build a “thread ramp” behind the lead. Wrap the thread to the rear of the hook above where the barb was. Tie in a sparse and short tail of mostly guard hairs and some underfur. (Most of the underfur should be brushed out.) Do not stack. Tie in one strand of pearl Flashabou and the fine wire rib. Dub the abdomen with opossum fur (both guard hairs and underfur). I use the direct dubbing technique, but a dubbing loop may be used if you want a spikier body. Wrap the pearl Flashabou rib over the abdomen and tie off. Counter-wrap the fine gold wire over the abdomen and tie off. Tie in a partridge feather by the tip and make 2 turns. Tie in Ostrich Herl by the butt end, make 4 - 5 turns and tie off. Whip finish and apply head cement.

Fly tied by Dave Hamilton

We want to thank Dave for another fine Fly. I know I am going to add this one to my fly box.
Good fishing.

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjon@charter.net



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

- 12-4 Board Meeting.
 12-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
 12-18 Club Meeting with John Shewey.
 1-8 Board Meeting.
 1-8 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
 1-9 Start of the Annual Fly tying Class at Grants Pass High School.
 1-15 Club Meeting with Jack Trout.
 1-19 Club Outing - TBA.
 2-5 Board Meeting.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

Education Projects through area middle and high schools.

Public Education Classes about the art of fly fishing, fly tying and fly casting.

Youth Projects related to fly fishing and habitat improvements.

Because our auction was successful, we will be able to continue in our efforts to promote fly fishing, promote education in our community and improve our habitat to insure healthy fisheries for future generations.

For all those 130 people that attended and made the night an overwhelming success – take a bow, you guys did good!

One more thing about the auction, if you weren't there you missed an outstanding prime rib dinner. The chef at the Grants Pass Golf Course when all out and made a dinner that drew praise from all those that attended. And if anyone went away hungry is wasn't for lack of trying.



NORTHWEST FLY TYER AND FLY FISHING EXPO
 WWW.NWEXPO.COM

Meet Maxine's Coach Chris Korich
 12x World Casting Champion

Meet Maxine McCormick
 15 year old World Champion of Fly Casting

March 8 - 9, 2019
Linn County Expo Center
Albany, Oregon

- 200 Fly Tyer Demonstrations
- All-Day Casting Demonstrations
- 85+ Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Classes
- 62 Vendors & 90+ Casting Classes

FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL OREGON COUNCIL

2019 NW FLY TYER EXPO

One of the fly fishing highlights of the year is the annual Fly Fishers International Oregon Council's Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo. Over the years this event has become the primo fly fishing exhibition of the Pacific Northwest.

Original established as a single day event promoting the art of fly tying it has now morphed into a fly fishing spectacu-

lar in which over 200 tyers demonstrate their prowess at the vise turning out excellent examples of the classic flies, together with constantly developed new flies using new and innovative materials as well as new techniques. Added to this, are the all day casting demonstrations, the various classes on fly fishing and fly tying and private casting instruction.



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Editor's Notebook

Well the annual Southern Oregon Fly Fishers' auction is history

and once again the membership, as well as friends of the club, have stood tall when it came to bidding on items in the oral and silent auctions as well as the bucket raffle.

Per John Storfold, auction chair, the preliminary totals were: **Oral Auction \$17,550, Silent Auction \$3182.50 and the Cup Raffle was \$1170.00 for a sub total of \$21,902.50.** Added to that figure was **\$2,850.00 in Cash Donations** and we ended up with a Grant Total of **\$24,752.50!**

Granted that this is a gross amount and there are expenses that still need to be factored in, even after this amount has been

taken out there will be a substantial amount remaining to fund the various projects to which the club donates.



The silent auction is over, the names have been drawn for the cup raffle, a great dinner has been enjoyed and now it's time to get serious for the oral auction.

To all those of you who either donated items for the auctions and club

raffle or bid on these items this is a rundown on where these funds go to support:

An Annual Scholarship Fund to help students pursuing a career in Fishery Science at Oregon State University.

Conservation Projects: Public Education, tree planting, and stream repair on the Applegate, Middle Rogue and Illinois watersheds'

"Project Healing Waters": A rehabilitation project that teaches fly fishing and fly tying to disabled active military personnel and veterans at the local VA Hospital.

"Casting for Recovery": A programs that teaches survivors of breast cancer the art of fly fishing.

Support of Rural Outdoor Edu-

Continued on Pg. 7