

# SOFF News

Vol.26 No.3 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

March, 2019



## 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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## Good Times are in store for SOFF members who head north to Albany for the annual Fly Fishing Expo.



Club Member, Dave Roberts, tying flies at a recent Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo. Although you can't see the entire hall, suffice to say that the hall was packed with Expo. goers stopping at either the demonstration tyer's stations or checking for a deal at the many vendor booths. Considering the distance traveled, SOFF is always well represented at the event.

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

## SPECIAL MENTION

**Bill Burns:**  
**John Storfold:**  
**Kevin Daniels:**  
**John Smith:**  
**Vacant:**  
**David Haight:**  
**Jennifer Mazingo:**  
**Dave Roberts:**  
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# FROM THE BOARD



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE by Michael Mazingo

The greatest (fishing) lie ever told. If I polled our club members, most would likely say the greatest lie fishermen/women tell is how big the fish was. That would seem to be the most likely answer but what if I told you it is not the correct answer. The correct answer is so great we even tell it to ourselves. My wife has always been the biggest culprit in our house but I must admit I am quite often guilty of it myself. So innocent and easy to say, however, even though a lie, it does sum up one's love for fishing. So what is this "greatest lie" I speak of. It is made up of just two words and they are as powerful as any we may speak on the water. "LAST CAST".

Why do we say these words, often knowing full well we mean last five or ten cast? The good book says "The last shall be first and the first

last." So doesn't that mean that the proclaimed "Last Cast" is really just the first last cast?

How many of us have had a slow day on the water only to see a swirl out of the corner of our eye while retrieving our last cast? Or the fish will crest in the very spot you just put your fly ten seconds ago? Or you just have that "fishy" feeling all of a sudden? Maybe like me you think they heard you say last cast and are now laughing at our incompetence to hook one of them. They knew all day this time would come, their time for revenge. The fish are just toying with us at this point. They waited patiently for us to say those two little words. Well, we'll show

them by casting ten more times if necessary. Don't those fish know that when we proclaim "Last Cast" they are supposed to hit our flies with gusto and glee? Did

no one make them read "Fly Fishing for Dummies" or "Complete Angler's Guide to Oregon"?

Who has tricked themselves into believing that no one will notice if your just a few minutes late? Who among us hasn't tried to use aeronautical

mathematics to determine exactly how much time it will take to get home if you hit every light just right? Maybe, just maybe we can squeeze another ten minutes out if our math is correct.

The funniest thing for me personally is I find it easier to leave when the fishing has been good than when it has been slow. Slow days make me question what Mother Nature or the fish are doing wrong that my fly seems invis-

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President Michael presents immediate past president, Dave Grosjacques with an engraved net and an engraved knife in recognition of the many years Dave served SOFF as president.



President Michael presents Greg Carratt with an engraved knife recognizing Greg's participation in many of the club's activities.

**ATTENTION!**  
**Board Meeting**  
 The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the Tap Rock Restaurant  
 The next meeting is scheduled:  
**Mar. 5th at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month**  
**All members welcome**

# PROGRAMS

## Future Programs

Apr 16	Fly Tyers Night
May 21	Scott Richmond
June 18	Dr. Jerry Freilich
July 16	No Meeting
Aug 20	No Meeting
Sep 17	TBA
Oct 15	TBA
Nov 9	Annual Auction

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

ible. Like most of you I have spent a lifetime trying to outsmart a creature with a brain the size of a pea. As ridiculous as that statement may be I have never questioned my own sanity about it. Every cast is a chance to prove my intellectual superiority over these fish. It will prove that my hours upon hours at the vice were a masterpiece of intellect and art. It will prove that just uttering the words "Last Cast" will guarantee a fish story for the ages.

The last cast for me is bittersweet. If the next cast really is my last cast for the day than it also means it is the last chance to be relieved of life's problems. It simply means that I must turn from the river and face the rest of the world once more. It is an end to serenity and the start of longing. Longing to once again face the river and start the aquatic chess match. Longing to find peace along the current, longing to get a small glimpse of heaven on earth and a longing to outsmart the fish.

Fishing can be and usually is the best medicine for the soul. This is why we must lie to ourselves and those around us by convincing ourselves it is time to leave. That with this last cast I am ready to face the world once more. That I am cured instead of further addicted. I hope that those feelings will never leave me, that every day I must convince myself to leave. I pray that all of you have those same feelings and peace on the water that drives you to proclaim "Last Cast".

## WHEN:

Mar. 19, 2019



## TIMES:

5:30 PM

Social Hour and  
Fly Tying Demo.

6:30 PM

Meeting

7:00 PM

Dinner and Program

Steve Day - Stillwaters

## WHERE:

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



South central Oregon has some of the finest Stillwater fishing in the country. Numerous lakes within a short drive of the Rogue Valley are nutrient rich and boast healthy populations of trout.

Stillwater fly fishing can be unnecessarily frustrating. Learning how to approach lakes with a systematic strategy can often times turn a poor fishing day into a great one.

Steve will share his knowledge of Stillwater fly fishing and demonstrate a common sense system to improve Stillwater success.

Steve had the good fortune of growing up in a fishing family. From childhood, fishing the Pacific Ocean to the Colorado River, the Eastern Sierra, waters of the intermountain west, and the rivers of the Pacific Northwest, all were part of life.

Fly fishing became a passion while living for almost forty years in Bishop, California. the "Heart of the Eastern Sierra". The Owens River, Crowley Lake, Bridgeport Reservoir, the Walker Rivers and countless lakes and streams all unique and captivating.

Steve's experiences, passion and knowledge, has provided an opportunity for him to give back. He serves as a volunteer with ODFW on fisheries studies and projects and provides input to ODFW as one of the Applegate River Keepers. He provides education through club presentations, fly tying instruction and outings.

"I am who I am and what I am, largely as the result, of someone taking me fishing."

# CASTING ABOUT

## Fish Toss - 2019

By Duane(The Editor)Chebul

January 25th, dawned gray and cold like the many days preceding it, the only difference this was day that Dave Grosjacques, habitat chair had selected for the club's annual 'Fish Toss'.

The fish toss has become an annual event for the club and it is this time that representatives of Oregon's Department Fish and Wildlife brings a truck load of spawned out silver salmon for 'salting' as

to say, Taylor Creek for the benefit of the young silver salmon and steelhead that are spawned in the creek. Not only that, it also adds to the bio-diversity of the creek for the benefit of not only the fish, but to insects that call the stream home and to the various animals that prowl the stream for food.

Fortunately, Dave took pity on us and set a meeting time of 10:00 AM, a civilized time to say the least. The group that was to tackle the toss consisted of Dave Grosjacques, Greg Carratt, Nick Merrill, Russ Leavitt, Ken Heinds-

mann, OF&W biologist Ryan Battleson and the Editor.

As usual, Dave had the group sign releases while waiting for Battleson to arrive with the fish. He arrived tow-

ing a trailer with three tubs loaded with fish to be tossed. In some previous tossings, the fish arrived so 'rank' that you had to hold your breath for fear of retching. Not this time; however, as

the fish were either fully frozen or recently thawed and emitted no odor. This was going to be a good day. After Dave briefed the assembly as to where we were going which was to Taylor Creek Road and then travel 5 to 8 miles up it to a side creek of Taylor Creek where we were going to toss the fish.

In route up the Taylor Creek Road, we could see all the recent damage caused by the "Taylor Creek Fire". There were burnt and downed trees on both sides of the road and in other places only one side showed any sign of fire damage. There were logs that fell over the creek or in the creek

that would eventually be shelter for the newly hatched fish. There were racks of salvaged logs waiting for buyers; there were felled logs that would end up rotting because they couldn't be salvaged and there were stands of trees that showed no fire damage at all. Just the luck of the draw as to whether one



A tub of slimey and bloody fish ready for tossing.



The group with the last fish to be tossed.



Greg Carratt tossing fish from the tubs.



Nick Merrill with a salmon on a meat hook reading for tossing.

tree survived and the next one didn't!

But I digress, now to the heart of the matter the fish toss. In the past, fish toss was the method of getting the fish into the stream. Because the fish were so bloody and slimy, we were given nitrile gloves as well as cotton gloves that were used over the nitrile gloves which was the only way to hold the fish so that they could be thrown. This year a new wrinkle was added. Instead of holding the fish, ODF&W supplied

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# OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

## March Outing: Winter Steelhead on the Applegate River

Those of you that have been in the club for a while know that the Applegate River can offer excellent fishing for winter steelhead. Being relatively small and shallow with a low gradient, the Applegate is well suited for fly fishing. Plus, the majority of winter steelhead enter in March when the flows are usually lower and conditions are ideal.

The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers will host an outing to the Applegate River on Saturday March 16. As we have done in the past, we will meet for breakfast at 8:00 AM at the Shari's Restaurant on the corner of Agness Avenue and the Grants Pass Parkway. If you don't want to join us for breakfast, be there by 9:00 AM. From there, we will caravan to the river and tour access points along the lower portion of



David Haight with a nice steelhead that he took on a recent Applegate outing.

the river.

As far as equipment, single-handed, switch, and shorter Spey rods in the 6 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. 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. Be sure to also bring your waders, rain jacket, and polarized glasses.

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 an added bonus, Allie Scott has generously invited the outing participants to her and Paul's house, on the banks of the Applegate, for lunch.

**David Haight, Outings Chair**

## Hyde Lake Outing—Trophy Trout

Hyde Lake, a private lake on Yamsi Ranch, offers anglers excellent fishing for trophy rainbow trout. The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers fished the lake several times over 10 years ago, catching good numbers of trout in the three to five-pound range each time we went. Unfortunately, several years of drought took a toll on the lake, but conditions have improved and the good fishing is back.

The lake and the trout fishery are managed by the Hyde family, and they are offering us the opportunity to fish the lake on Saturday April 13 at the discounted price of \$100 per rod. We have the lake for the entire day, so you can arrive as early as you want and stay as late as you want. Be warned however—if you plan to fish early or late, be sure to bring plenty of mosquito repellent.



Rainbows such as this 20 incher were common place in earlier outings at Hyde Lake.

Hyde Lake is about 300 acres, and is fairly shallow. It is well suited for driftboats or other small boats, pontoon boats, and float tubes. Electric motors are allowed, but gas motors are prohibited. Five to six-weight rods are ideal. A slow-sinking line will be the most useful, but also bring a floating line. Woolly buggers in black, brown, or olive usually work well, but come prepared with the usually assortment of stillwater nymphs and midge patterns.

**Hyde Lake Cont. on Pg. 7**

### 2019 Outings

Mar 16	Applegate Steelhead
Apr 6	Lake Selmac.
Apr 13	Hyde Lake (\$100 ea.).
May 4	Copeland Pond.
May 31-Jun 1	Lemolo Lake.
Jun 21-23	Cascade Lakes.
Jul 18-20	East Lake
Aug 24	TBA
Sept 7	Clinic/Picnic
Oct 19	Rogue Steelhead

# FLY TYING CORNER

## HAIR'S EAR NYMPH



- Hook:** Size 8-18.
- Thread:** Black or Olive 8/0 or Equivalent.
- Tail:** Hair's Ear Mask Guard Hair.
- Body:** Rabbit or Squirrel Natural or Olive.
- Ribbing:** Copper or Gold Wire (Medium or Fine, Hook Dependant).
- Wing Case:** Pheasant or Turkey Fibers (5-7).
- Thorax:** Rabbit or Squirrel.
- Note:** Bead Head is Optional.

### Tying Instructions:

De-barb the hook and place in the vice. Lay down a thread base to the rear of the hook just above where the barb used to be.

Cut a small clump of hair from a hairs mask and cleanout the under fur. Tie in a short tail, about shank long, tied in between the hook tip and barb. Tie down the extra material and now tie in your ribbing just in front of the tail.

Now dub the body up to about half way between the hook point and the eye of the hook. Using spiral wraps bring the ribbing forward and secure.

Now tie in your wing-case right in front of the body. Dub the thorax up to just behind the eye leaving adequate head space, (about and eye width). Note, the dubbing for the thorax should be buggy enough to pick out to imitate legs. Fold the wing case over the thorax and tie down and trim excess.

Form a nice head and whip finish. I used head cement of the head and UV resin for the wing case to make the fly more durable. This is one of those flies that I always have in my trout fly box, or what I categorize as one of my "don't leave without" flies.

Note: Many weight this fly. If you are, put a bead on first and then wrap lead or lead substitute according to how you are going to fish it. I normally use about 10 wraps of .020 for a size 10 hook. Adjust according to the hook size.

Fly Tied By: John Storfold

John Storfold

Fly Tying Chair

541-660-6584

steelyjohn@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

- 3-5 Board Meeting.
- 3-8-9 Fly Fishing Expo in Albany.
- 3-12 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 3-16 Club Outing - Applegate River
- 3-19 Club Meeting with Steve Day.
- 4-2 Board Meeting
- 4-6 Club Outing - Lake Selmac
- 4-9 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 4-13 Club Outing - Hyde Lake (\$100)
- 4-16 Club Meeting - Fly Tyers

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

been over stimulated by an abundance of flies that had been demonstrated.

You know, I doubt there are really many new patterns being developed any more, rather by using an existing pattern and then using new materials and tying methods and finally giving it a new name, gives the illusion that a new pattern has been born, rather than an old pattern with 'new clothes' as to speak. Regardless of what the fly is call, if it intrigues enough I want to tie it.

Since my particular interest lies in fly tying, I somewhat gloss over what else goes on which includes all the classes that are offered at the event. There are hands on classes that specialize in a particular fly or aspect in tying it. There are classes on destinations and finally, there is fly casting instruction, surely something for everyone.

And then there are the vendors that display their wares tempting the fair goers with a wide variety of items that are needed to further enhance one's ability as either a fly tyer or fly fisher.

If you get the chance, make sure you attend the Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Fair as there is always something there for everyone. So come and enjoy!

### Fish Toss Continued from Pg. 4

long meat hooks that could be used to skewer the fish and fling them from the roadway to the creek below. No more having the fish slip from your hand as you tried to toss it to land halfway down the bank to become bear or wild animal fodder.

At one point, one of the tub's fish were frozen into a solid block and a suggestion was made to slide the entire block into the creek; however, that idea was nixed and we ended up breaking up the block and tossing fishicles into the



**Russ Leavitt attempting to break apart a fish frozen in a block of ice.**



**Dave G passes out maps and directions.**

creek.

After a couple of hours all the fish had been tossed; hopefully, insuring that their nutrients would be delivered to the fish. After cleaning up and a few photos taken, we returned to our parked cars to await next year's call to toss fish.

### Lost Rod

Dave Haight advises that RFF member Mick Cuffee lost a rod at the Holy Water. If found, call Mick at 541-855-1602

### Hyde Lake Continued from Pg. 5

It wouldn't hurt to bring a few dry flies as well—we have seen big trout feeding on ants blown onto the surface of the lake.

Hyde Lake (shown as Hawks Lake on Google Maps) is located in the Sprague River drainage east of Chiloquin. To get to there, drive around the north end of Klamath Lake to Chiloquin. In Chiloquin, cross over the Williamson River Bridge then turn left on Sprague River Road. In about five miles, turn left on the Williamson River Road. The lake is located near milepost 9—look for the SOFF sign.

We cannot camp at Hyde lake, but there are places near the lake where you can spend the night. Collier State Park along Hwy 97 north of Chiloquin, the Waterwheel RV Park along Hwy 97 south of Chiloquin, and the Sportsman's River Retreat off of Modoc Road all offer camping with full hook-ups. You can also camp on U.S. Forest Service land near the lake. If you prefer to have a roof over your head, the Lonesome Duck Resort is a great place to stay. (Plus, they provide a generous donation to our auction each year.) Melita's Motel in Chiloquin is less expensive, but decent, and there is a new Sleep Inn Hotel at the Kla-Mo-Ya Casino in Chiloquin.

If you are interested in attending this outing, you need to reserve your spot by sending a check for \$100 per person payable to the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers to the club Treasurer, Rich Steed. You can send checks to the club P.O. Box or give them to Rich at the March meeting. Be sure to note that the payment is for the Hyde Lake outing and specify who you are paying for. Payments should be received by April 5.

**David Haight, Outings Chair**





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## Editor's Notebook

Oh boy, as I write this piece, it's just a few days before one of the highlights of the year for me – the annual Fly Tying and Fly Fishing Fair at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany. This is the time of the year when some 200 or more of not only Oregon, but other states' premier tyers gather together to show and demonstrate their fly tying prowess to all who would stop by each of their tying stations to watch and be amazed.

The flies that are being tied range from an innocuous little size 20 dry flies to a 2/0 and larger salt water patterns and all areas in between will also be demonstrated. As we live here in the Pacific Northwest there will be many tiers tying steelhead and salmon patterns. Then there will be the artists of the fly tying world – those that produce the fully dressed Atlantic Salmon Patterns; flies so spectacular in their construction that

they would never touch the water in any type of piscatorial pursuit. Added to these are tyers tying all other genus of flies so that no one is left out in their preferences.

The tyers are seated at several rows of long tables which allow one to slowly walk down one side of the row and then come back on the other side all the while stopping and watching as each tyer does their thing with whatever they are tying at the moment. If a fly really intrigues one, there are chairs situated before each tyer so that the observer can be at eye level with the tier allowing the whole tying process to be more closely observed and questions asked if needed to clarify tying method or materials used.

I have watched some of the spectators who were so interested in a specific pattern that they recorded each tying step in a notebook and of late, used their cell phone to record and

document each step in the process. Although I have never recorded a pattern being tied in this manner, there were the times that I wished that I did. Something happens from the time that you see a fly demonstrated until you're sitting at the vise trying to replicate the pattern and a particular step or technique eludes you and the fly doesn't get tied as first seen.

I, my own darn self, needed to see a tyer demonstrate the same pattern over a three year period, before I finally was able to tie it. In fact I came back so many times, that the tyer felt pity on me and not only showed me how to tie it over and over, but in the last year he brought all the materials needed for its construction and gave them to me. Maybe I should have relied on some means of documenting the fly construction instead of relying on a sometimes faulty memory that had

Continued on Pg. 7