

SOFF News

Vol.26 No.6 The Monthly Newsletter of The Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Inc.

June, 2019



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 recent outing of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers and guests to the annual Copeland Pond was a successful venture as the fishing for bass, crappie and bluegill was wide open. Even a carp or two made an appearance.



Dave McCants proudly displays a nice bass he took at the Copeland Pond outing. McCant was fishing with Jim Ulm who took the photo as well as weighed the fish which tipped scales at 5.4 lbs. McCant caught the bass on a Black Syn Carey pattern which can be found on the SOFF blogsite.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
John Storfold:
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Jennifer Mazingo:
Dave Roberts:
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John Storfold

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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by
Michael Mazingo

Summertime, just hearing the word brings a smile to my face and a flood of memories to the forefront of my mind. Summer is the time of bar-b-ques, family and fun. When I was a kid it was also the time for new adventures and new scars. Warm weather just seems to have an effect on people that makes them want to be a bit of a risk taker or at least take a bit more of a risk than normal.

I think I may have mentioned this before but I am a bit of a knucklehead and find that the way I learn best is through pain. Now when I say pain I'm not talking fifty shades of grey but rather "Don't touch the stove it's hot", then touches stove to confirm it's hot kind of pain. Whereas people like to say they went to the school of hard knocks, I tend to tell people I went to the school of Pain and Suffering: An, I Told You Not to Do That University. To put it in laymen's terms I learn things the hard way and not always on the first attempt.

Just looking at my hands I am reminded of at least a couple of dozen hard learned lessons, like the time I was goofing around while framing a wall and shot a ring shank nail into my hand. Sadly this is one of those lessons in pain I would have to relearn a year later. I am happy to report there was not a third lesson in the years to follow but seeing as I'm still alive there is still time.

By now you are probably convinced I am either dense or am about to make a point. Thankfully I can set your fears aside (for the time being) and talk about the groan worthy subject of safety.

It seems every year I hear about another fisherman, boater, swimmer, etc. drowning in our beloved rivers and lakes. Almost always these deaths could have been easily avoided with just the simplest of precautions taken. I myself am often guilty of not wearing a life vest (while fishing alone) because I rationalize that I am a strong swimmer. Of course, this is based off of my younger years and I often forget to factor in that I rarely ever go swimming anymore.

When I was twelve I could ride my bike all day and jump ramps. I know without doubt if I tried that today it would end badly and most likely add to my extensive scar collection. So, why is it I can recognize that my abilities on a bike aren't what they used to be but not that my swimming skills have probably diminished as much if not more? The answer is simple; I just don't want to wear the life vest and therefore lie to myself. When my children were younger and they would lie and profess their innocence I would always ask them "Who are you trying to convince, Me or You?" If only we were able to ask that question of ourselves we could avoid

putting ourselves in unsafe situations.

Unfortunately like me many of you may be unwilling to admit that the days of our youth are behind us and we just

can't rely on stubbornness to get us out of a jam. I know that due to my many injuries that wading above my knees is not a good idea. I also know that I have no inkling to find



President Michael presents Ed Michalski with a special club recognition award.

out how much water my waders can hold. How many of you are willing to admit that your balance may not be what it once was? Or that you are not the swimmer you used to be? Or that maybe you just need a little help getting in and out of a boat?

Most water accidents can be avoided by being truthful to ourselves and admitting that we need to take one or

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:
June 4th at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

| | |
|---------|----------------|
| July 16 | No Meeting |
| Aug 20 | No Meeting |
| Sep 17 | Steve K |
| Oct 15 | Lance Grey |
| Nov 9 | Annual Auction |
| Dec 17 | Dave Meurer |
| Jan 21 | Dave Hughes |
| Feb 18 | Phil Rowley |

WHEN:

June 18, 2019



TIMES:

5:00 PM
Social Hour
5:50 PM
Brief Meeting
Announcements
6:00 PM
Dinner

WHERE:

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



Dr. Jerry Freileich - The Secret Lives of Rivers



President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

two extra precautions. According to the Canadian Red Cross there were 889 fishermen deaths from 1991-2000. The two most common reasons were alcohol and carelessness (or, put another way, loss of judgement and lack of respect for the power of water). The alcohol related deaths are easier to prevent as you can't become impaired if you just leave it at home. I grew up in a home where the saying "Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat and drink beer all day" was considered funny but accurate. As I grew old enough to put that twist on the old aphorism to practice I realized these two things are a bad combination and as such, have not mixed the two.

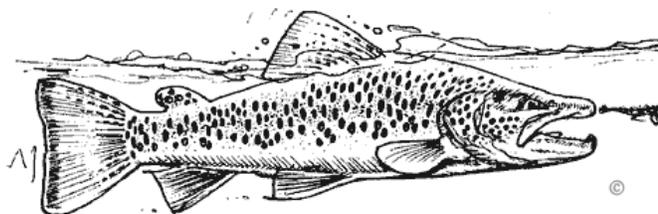
Carelessness however is harder to fix as it requires us to be truthful to ourselves. As stewards of our sport/hobby we continually look for ways to set an example for those who will come after us. We try very hard to be mindful of our streams and lakes, the fish who swim in them and others who are also trying to enjoy them.

I ask each of you (myself included) that this year let's start trying to leave the best legacy possible for our future generations by practicing safety through self-examination and truthfulness. I hope everyone has a safe and happy summer.

"The only fisherman/woman you should try to be better than, is the fisherman/woman you were yesterday."

-Unknown

Dr. Jerry Freileich is a native of Philadelphia. He worked at the Academy of Natural Sciences there beginning at age 11. He is an aquatic ecologist who spent 25 years working for the National Park Service in six parks nationwide. For the last 13 years he was Research Coordinator at Olympic National Park and recently retired to Bend. Jerry's PhD work was a study of salmonflies at Grand Teton National Park. The work required individually tagging 3,000 salmonfly nymphs with tiny numbered tags and following their movements about in the river. Although this gave him the microscopic-eye view of river ecology, he warns not to try this at home.



CASTING ABOUT

Women's Casting Clinic

By Jan Knapik

Editor's Note: This was the first ever Casting Clinic just for ladies under the auspices of the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. Jan Knapik, club secretary, developed the idea and worked on it for the better part of last year finally bringing it to fruition this year when she hosted 15 ladies for an all day clinic at the Harry and David Pavillian at Reinhart Volunteer Park.

Even in somewhat inclement weather the program was such a success that Knapik is planning a sequel for next year.

It was raining when I got up and my first thought was "Oh no, I wonder who will show up to cast in the rain". But when I arrived at the park, the rains



The ladies assemble for a group photo during the class.



The ladies practicing their casting on the lawn.

had slowed to a slight drizzle and then stopped. Our class was full with most of

the 15 participants driving through pouring rain to get to the park. We even had a participant from Klamath Falls. Way to go, ladies!!

The day went very quickly with Rachel Andras demonstrating and teaching casting, talking about the life of insects and how that determines which fly to use, equipment, waders, and knot tying. She followed up with suggested books to reference. Suddenly, it was three and our time was up. The women all expressed pleasure and satisfaction with the class and an interest in future women's events.



Among other things, the ladies were instructed on the gear that they would need to be a fly fisher.



ODFW Volunteer Opportunity

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) trains the people who participate in their fry trapping program to identify the fish in the local creeks and streams. They have indicated a willingness to extend this class, which lasts about two hours, to any of the Rogue Fly Fishers club members who are interested in the subject. They intend to schedule at least one class, but they would like to know the level of interest for this opportunity. If you are interested in attending a free two-hour session taught by one of the biologists at ODFW, please let Bridget Worthington at ODFW know by emailing her at Bridget.F.Worthington@state.or.us. She will contact you by email regarding the announcement for the class.

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) manages fish traps on local streams and creeks to gather data on the trends in fish by general type (i.e., trout, steelhead, invasive species, etc.). This information is very useful to them in their continuous activities associated with fly fishers and other fishers, and also is very good information for fly fishers. The Rogue Fly Fishers has had numerous members participate and many continue to participate. The Department has a specific trap located at the intersection of Sam's Creek Road and Sam's Creek Loop (in Sam's Valley) that requires volunteer help. This is an opportunity for club members to contribute a little time to our mission of conservation and, at the same time, assist ODFW in a very worthy cause. If you are interested, please contact Bridget Worthington at ODFW (Bridget.F.Worthington@state.or.us) and let her know of your interest.

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Annual Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake Outing

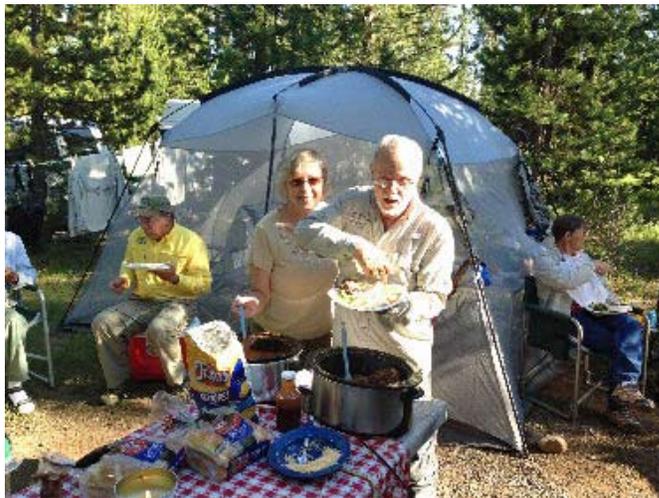
We have one of the longest running and more popular club outings coming in June – the Cascade Lakes/Lava Lake outing. Find the joy of fishing the clear, pristine waters of the Central Oregon area – Deschutes River, Big & Little Lava Lakes, Hosmer Lake, Cultas Lake, Crane Prairie Lake, Fall River, and many other bodies of fine fishing water. The dates are Friday, June 21 through Sunday

June 23.

We will meet at the site with the SOFF sign in front (Jerry & Sue's RV site) at the Lava Lake RV Resort/Camp-



Joe Knapik with a 23" rainbow taken at a recent Lava Lake outing.



Sue and Jerry Keeling providing the Saturday night dinner at the Lava Lake outing.

ground 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 at the same site 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 the same site. We will again serve barbequed Tri tip and chicken 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.



Ron Cremo with a nice Lava Lake Rainbow.



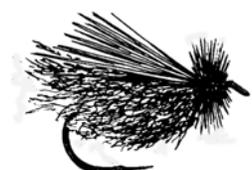
Sitting around a campfire telling stories of the big one that got away!

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 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



2019 Outings

| | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Jun 21-23 | Cascade Lakes. |
| Jul 18-20 | East Lake |
| Aug 24 | TBA |
| Sept 7 | Clinic/Picnic |
| Oct 19 | Rogue Steelhead |
| Nov 2 | Rogue Coho |
| Jan 1 | Chili Feed |
| Feb | TBA |
| Mar | TBA |

FLY TYING CORNER

Prince Nymph



- Hook:** Size 8-14 Nymph Hook.
- Thread:** Veevus 12/0 or Equivalent. (Your Choice).
- Tail:** White Goose Biots.
- Body:** Peacock Herl.
- Ribbing:** Small or Fine Gold Wire.
- Wing:** White Goose Biots.
- Hackle:** Grizzly Hackle.

Tying Instructions:

The prince nymph is one of those flies that fall into the category of “DON’T LEAVE HOME WITHOUT”. I don’t go trout fishing without it with me and have caught many fish with it. I am sure at one time or another we have had it in the newsletter but it has been a while and there are new members in the club that may have not seen this fly. So here I am showing once again one of the mainstays of trout flies.

We start as usual by pinching the barb to “protect the fisherman” and oh yes maybe ease the release of the fish. Once I have laid a thread dressing on the hook and build a thread bump just above the barb of the hook. This helps separate and keep the biots out.

Tie in the biots. They should be about a hook shank long. Tie in a wire ribbing.

Tie in about 5 strands of Peacock herl and make a herl rope with your tying thread and wrap up the hook to about two eye lengths from the eye and tie off.

Wrap your ribbing up using open wraps. Shoot for about 5 wraps and tie off. Cut or helicopter off the extra wire.

Tie in your wing biots and secure. Build up a head for an area for the hackle.

Select some hackle, tie in, and make about 4-5 wraps and tie off and whip finish. Head cement is optional. Although traditionally the hackle is just used as legs I chose to leave a fuller collar.

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

- 6-4 Board Meeting
- 6-11 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone
Mobile Home Park in Gold
Hill
- 6-18 Club Meeting with Dr.
Jerry Freleich
- 6-21-23 Cascade/Lava Lakes Outing
- 7-2 Board Meeting
- 7-16 No Club Meeting
- 7-18-20 Club Outing - East Lake
- 8-3 Wine Dinner - Plaisance
Ranch
- 8-6 Board Meeting
- 8-24 Club Outing TBA
- 9-3 Board Meeting
- 9-7 Club Outing and Picnic at
Tou Velle Park

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

in remission from breast cancer. One would think that the last place anyone suffering the ill effects of breast cancer would be on a river in waders casting for the smallmouth bass that inhabit that part of the river, but there they are. Maybe it is the camaraderie, maybe it's the encouragement provided by the other members of the group or maybe it is the therapeutic nature of fly fishing that allows for your cares and concerns for the time being to be put on a back burner and enjoy all that life has to give if only for the moment.

I think that it reflects well for the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers to continue to encourage more such classes as Women's Fly Casting Clinic as well as schedule possible outings geared to only women. Together with continued support of Casting for Recovery, we may be able to tap into a here-to-for unplumbed reservoir of new recruits to the ranks of fly fishers.

If you missed the Copeland Pond outing, you surely missed a great one. According to outing hosts, David and Tanya Haight, there were probably some 65 to 70 people that attended the event and everyone that I talked to caught fish. Bass, some sizeable, as well as crappie, bluegill and an occa-

sional carp made the day interesting for everyone.

As for me it was bass that I was after. Prior to the outing, I had been talking with Joe Knapik and became interested as he talked about casting to bass with a surface popper. Since I really didn't know how to tie a popper, I decided to buy a few. Shopping on Ebay, I found some that were interesting and made the purchase. When they arrived, I was surprised by their size. What looked small on the computer, turned out to be a lot bigger than expected and for better or worse they were going to be used. For one thing they were made of plastic and their weight was more in line for being casted by a bait casting or spinning rig and not a fly rod, but I was going to fish that popper. Not wanting to snap off the popper, I cut my leader short and tied on a 1X tippet. Even if I broke that casting, the fly floated so I could retrieve it.

I paddled my pontoon boat down to spot that did well for me the previous year and started casting. I think lobbing would be a better description of what I was doing. I learned quickly that casting this big chunk of plastic was a slow casting proposition. On the back cast you to wait for it to fully lay out if you were to get any distance at all. If you didn't the popper was barely past the length of your rod. And if you didn't give the popper enough arc, it would slam the tip of your rod. I did that so many times that I'm amazed that I did break the tip of my rod.

After a few casts it finally happened, there was this sudden hole in the water and my popper disappeared only to pop up again without a fish. This was to happen 18 more times. Some of the holes were huge and I just knew that they had to have been made by a monster bass while some of the other holes were smaller denoting a smaller fish. Big or little when a bass 'blows up' on your popper it is exciting.

I would like to say that out of 18 'blow ups' I hooked and landed several fish; unfortunately, that didn't happen.

The truth be told I hooked 4 fish and landed 2, but never the less, I had a great time and will use poppers again when I fish for bass. The only thing different, they will be smaller and made out of a lighter material.

Thank You from Casting for Recovery

Editor's Note: Every year at the December meeting the club donates the profits from the dinner raffle to Casting for Recovery with the club matching the amount raised. As you can see, the funds raised goes to a good cause.

Casting for Recovery recently held their Southern Oregon Retreat at the Big K Ranch along the Umpqua River. Fourteen women who are fighting or have survived breast cancer attend the retreat, where they shared their experiences, made new friends, and learned the therapeutic art of fly fishing. Everyone seemed to have a great time, and many made plans to meet up for additional fishing trips. The CfR volunteer staff thanks the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers for their ongoing support of Casting for Recovery. Without the club's generous donations of funds, flies, and volunteer help, the Southern Oregon retreat would not be possible.





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Editor's Notebook

I frequently hear that we don't seem to be attracting many new anglers to the ranks of fly fishers. Maybe we just haven't looked in the right places and that is the distaff side of the equation – and that is lady anglers. In the issue of the newsletter we have two stories dealing with lady fly anglers. The first being the Women's Fly Casting Clinic hosted by Jan Knapik and the second is a thank you from Casting for Recovery, who have found that fly fishing as an entity has a therapeutic effect on women currently suffering from breast cancer or have beat the beast and have reached survivor status.

I think that maybe male fly fishers haven't recognized the fact that there are many women, if given a bit of encouragement along with a little in-

struction would be more than eager to take up the sport if given half a chance. Maybe one of the limiting factors is



The ladies at the Casting for Recovery's recent retreat.

that fishing to some isn't lady-like or that there is no one to teach them those skills necessary to be a proficient fly fisher.

The Woman's Fly Casting Clinic is a good example of women eagerly looking for instruction without the fear of being ridiculed. In this instance

a woman instructor teaching an all woman class where questions could be asked without fear of being looked askew for the question.

It was interesting to note that the day started out rainy and cold, but still didn't deter those that had signed up from attending including one coming from as far away as Klamath Falls. It just proves the point that there are women in our society that are interested in fly fishing and are looking for someone to show them the way without making them look ridiculous in the process.

Then there was the group from Casting for Recovery who have a yearly retreat at the big K Ranch on the banks of the Umpqua River. The one pre-requisite for attending the event is that you currently have or are

Continued on Pg. 7