

SOFF News

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March 2020



SOFF NEWS

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Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 1144
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Web Site: www.soff.org

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SOFF members are done waiting for winter steelhead as they have arrived in the Rogue as well as other coastal rivers and are waiting to be caught by willing anglers.



Ray McClenathan proudly displays a 10 lb Steelhead he took while fishing the North Umpqua with John Storfold in early February. They then fished the Coquille the next day and Storfold prevailed for big fish.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
John Storfold:
Kevin Daniels:
John Smith:
John Storfold:
David Haight:
Jennifer Mazingo:
Dave Roberts:
Ed/Sandy Michalski:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Michael Mazingo

It's that time of year again when I start really cranking out flies for the Spring. This year feels a little different for me however and I have really buckled down and focused in on 5-6 flies instead of tying the normal 12-14. Maybe the recent workshops we hosted with Dave Hughes and Phil Rowley have me fired up or maybe the tying Expo in Albany this month has done it. Either of those things is a good reason but I think this year it is my upward trend in health that has gotten me into the spirit.

I lost 40lbs. this past year and am feeling pretty good about it and the health of my back. I still cannot stand for any significant amount of time, thus limiting the time I can stand in the river to short trips with plenty of breaks. I also cannot sit in my pontoon boat for longer than an hour or two at a time without my back reminding me that I am indeed but a mortal man.

In my twenties if you would have asked me to go fishing for just an hour or two I most likely would have declined your invitation. The thought of gearing up and making a trip for such a short amount of time on the water would have seemed a "waste" of time. I always felt that if I was going fishing, it was going to be for the entire day if not longer.

Having my first grandchild this past year has me looking back and I noticed that the versions of me at 7 and 47 are

definitely smarter than the 20 year old who thought it was a "waste" of time. The 7 year old would have been excited and antsy to go fishing for 10 minutes let alone an hour or two and I find the 47 year old version agrees.

As I sit here writing this and watching my granddaughter play on the floor I am reminded what is most important in this life; the little things that make big memories. I am reminded that an hour can create can become the cornerstone of a cherished memory and that just an hour or two can have a profound impact.

This past weekend I spent the morning with other SOFF members along with my son planting trees for the Applegate Watershed. Even though my back limits the amount and type of work I can do we managed to plant around two hundred trees in just a couple of hours. I can only imagine the impact that that time will have in the years to come both for the water and my son and I.

This is the year I start to look past the unrealistic expectations I have subconsciously placed on my time. I look forward to my time on the water this year regardless to how brief it may be at the moment. Jennifer and I bought a new fifth wheel in November and having it will make it possible to rest comfortably between morning and afternoon fishing and hopefully allow me to

fish more. At the very least it should allow me to nap more comfortably and give me a place to tie more flies when the weather or fish become temperamental.

I hope to see many of you out on the water this year and make plenty of memories. Additionally I hope to see you at the Expo in Albany on the 13th & 14th. Once again our club is very well represented

with roughly ten percent of the tiers are from SOFF. If you haven't attended the Expo in the past or haven't been in some time I highly recommend it. The show continues to grow every year and the tiers seem to get better and better. With almost 200 tiers on display along with vendors, casting demonstrations and clinics this year is bound to be another great one.

If you happen to attend the Expo

Continued on Pg. 3



President Michael presenting Rich Steed with the club's Appreciation Award.

ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors meet in the conference room of the Tap Rock Restaurant
The next meeting is scheduled:
Mar. 3rd at 6:00pm or the first Tuesday of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Apr 21	Fly Tyer's Night
May 19	Russ Leavitt
Jun 16	Rick Newton
Jul 14	No Meeting
Aug 20	No Meeting
Sep 15	TBA
Oct 20	TBA
Nov 14	Annual Auction

WHEN:

March 17, 2020



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.



Brian O'Keefe -Trophy Trout - Argentina, Kamchatka, Alaska & Chile



I have had so much fun pretending to call fly fishing photography work, that I still describe this endeavor as a 'hobby out of control'. I sold my first fly fishing photograph when I was 16 years old, and let me tell you, that was a fairly long time ago. Since then, it has been my absolute pleasure to work with some of the finest publishers, magazine and photo editors and graphic artists in the world. I could go on and on, especially with the addition of blogs and all the websites for fly fishing lodges, products, travel companies, etc. It has been a good ride and thanks to everyone who has helped me along the way. I am more of a shoot from the hip photographer. I rarely use a tripod and I usually have to put down my fly rod or the oars to organize a shot. My style is basically editorial in nature and natural. I do not use professional models or fancy lighting. If I did, I couldn't call this a hobby out of control. I have a very deep collection of images. From my backyard pond, here in Oregon, to far flung destinations like Alaska, the Bahamas, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, Tonga, England, Mexico, Belize, Sierra Leone, Christmas Island and many more. Every decent fly fishing photographer has these kinds of lists, also. But, I have a little more time on the water than most. For example, I have made over 50 trips to Alaska and over 30 trips each to the Bahamas and Belize. Let me know what you are looking for, I'll probably have it.

President's Message Cont. From Pg. 2

this year don't forget about the Friday night social hosted by our very own editor Duane Chebul and his wife. The Friday evening social with plenty of food, wine and fellowship is worth the drive alone in my opinion and a much anticipated event each year.

I hope to see you all and turn an hour or two into a mountain of memories.

Dues Deadline

Members,

Pay your 2020 dues by April 1, or your membership in the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers is deleted. You have been warned with emails, phone calls, and multiple months of warnings at meetings and via SOFF'S Newsletter that this would happen, and the time to update is thirty days away and rapidly approaching. This message is directed to every non-renewed membership in the club except three. Two of those are guide memberships that donated a fishing trip at the 2019 auction. The third is a special circumstance. Everyone else, times up, there are no other exceptions!

On April 1, I will remove you from the 2020 Membership List and your data will be deleted from the 2020 SOFF Membership Directory. Additionally, you will be removed from the mailing list and will no longer receive a copy of the SOFF Newsletter.

Thanks, Bill Burns

CASTING ABOUT

Dave Hughes - Matching Western Hatches Clinic

By Ken Heindsmann

For those of you who were not able to attend the club's recent Matching Western Hatches clinic presentation by Dave Hughes, you missed a very informative and enjoyable workshop.

Dave's extensive knowledge on the subject of entomology and how to apply it when fly fishing -- coupled with his wry sense of humor, made for an enjoyable experience for all. He worked to limit his personal stories and stay on subject, yet his tales of fishing with, and being out-fished by such experts as Polly Rosborough, Rick Hafele, Jim Schollmeyer and Dave's own wife, added spice to the somewhat technical presentation.

Use streamside analysis tools, which may include an aquarium net, magnifying glass, and tweezers. He suggests making a kick screen net from two 3/4" dowels, 3' of fine mesh window screen and a staple gun. Use it to gather underwater samples from the along the streambed you are inspecting and fishing. Inspect what you find in your kick screen (or by turning over rocks) near the bottom of the stream. If no one single type of nymph dominates your collection, use a fly that approximates the size and look of most of what is crawling about. "Focus on what's hatching in the water, not just what is flying in the air." Use natural colors.

Make a correct presentation. "Make your first cast your best cast." Fish often move along and near stream and river banks, and focusing on correct presentation when initially approaching an area to be fished is critical.

Dave stressed that when creating and tying a fly to match what you have collected, keep in mind that the fish

sees the underside of your fly, and it is those underside colors that are most important, what's on top to a certain degree is for the fisherperson.

The balance of his excellent presentation covered numerous specific insects, the months when they are present, suggested artificial flies, hook sizes, and water conditions. In an attempt to cover this extensive information without going into too much narrative detail, I will shift to a briefer format in which the insect, time most active, the water conditions and the suggested flies and hook sizes will be listed.

Mayfly Feb/April
Dun hatches on smooth water
Pheasant Tail 12-16 March Brown
Compareadun

Blue Wing Olive Feb/Nov
"They're Everywhere"
BWO Sparkle Dun 16-22

Pale Morning Dun May/Sept
Hatches in "bumpy" water
BH Fox Squirrel 14-18
Ginger, Red, or Blue

Gray Drake May/Sept
Big river insect
AP Black 16
(Spinner most important)
Works in a lot of situations
Large Green Drake Big river insect
8-12 (Dun most important)

Lesser Green Drake
Carry an olive imitation cripple
pattern
Quigley, Compareadun 12-14
(Dun most important)

Tricos Aug/Sept
Dawn hatch female

Male spinner most important
Dark Brown 20-22

Pale Evening Dun May/June
Small stream along shore line @
dark
Light Cahill (wet)

Stonefly
Small rivers, use wet fly
Yellow Sally 12-16, 3X hook
Underside needs a furcal pit

Salmon Fly May/June
Close to shore Nymph very impor
tant
Brooks Montana Stone 2-12
Salmon Simplicity

Golden Stone Fly May/June
All streams
Copper John 4-10
Salmonfly Nymph
GS Stimulator (foam)
Partridge and Green

Caddis Fly March/Sept
Larval pattern on bottom,
Pupa up near surface
Olive Caddis larva 12-18
Use natural colors, elk hair

Gray Sedge
Get it on the bottom
Olive or Tan, bead and weight

Western Terrestrials

Grasshopper
Fish edges
Parachute Hopper 6-14
Tan or Gray

Beetles Summer
Stillwater, small patterns

Continued on Page 7

OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

March Outing: Winter Steelhead on the Applegate River and Other News

The Applegate River typically provides 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 for fly fishers. In my opinion, the Applegate River offers fly fishers one of the best opportunities to catch winter steelhead that can be found.

Because of this, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers traditionally hosts an outing to the river each March. This year, it will be held on Sunday March 22. We will meet for breakfast at 7:30 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 8:30 AM. From there, we will caravan to the river and tour access points along the lower portion of 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 salmon-fly 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. Be sure to bring your waders, rain jacket, polarized glasses, and your usual fishing accessories. Remember also to pack food and water for the day.

I will spend some time during the outing discussing techniques for both nymphing and swinging for winter steelhead, as well as going over when, where, and how to fish the Applegate River. At the time I am writing this, conditions look good for fishing on the Applegate River this spring, so if you

are not already taking advantage of this great fishery right in our backyard, come to the outing and give it a try!

David Haight, Outings Chair

Outing to Bass Lake on the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area

The Shasta Valley Wildlife Area, located just east of Montague, California, has a couple of small lakes that offer excellent fishing during the spring for both trout and a variety of warm-water species. Trout Lake is open only on Wednesdays, Saturdays, and Sundays from the last Saturday in April through the end of September, and is managed for trophy rainbow trout and largemouth bass fisheries. Bass Lake is open for fishing every day of the year. Since our outing will occur on Wednesday April 8, before Trout Lake opens, we will go to Bass Lake.

Bass Lake is stocked with rainbow trout during the spring and has an interesting assortment of warm-water species. In addition to bass and crappie, which are found in many of the lakes and ponds in our area, Bass Lake has walleye and white bass—two excellent gamefish we don't usually find in our area. There are opportunities to fish from the bank, but emergent vegetation along much of the shoreline makes fishing from a floating device a better option. The lake is small and has a gravel launching area, making float tubes and pontoon boats a great option. Small boats can also be launched. Electric motors are allowed, but gas engines are prohibited. The equipment and techniques that you typically use to fish for trout, bass, and panfish in lakes and ponds around

Continued on Pg. 7



Dave Haight with a nice Applegate Winter Steelhead.

2020 Outings

Mar 22	Applegate Steelhead
Apr 8	Trout Lake
May 2	Copeland Pond
May 29-30	Lemolo Lake
Jun 26-28	Cascades Lakes
Jul 17-19	East Lake
Aug 22	Rogue at Union Creek
Sep 19	Clinic/Picnic
Oct 4-5	Lower Rogue Half Pounders

FLY TYING CORNER

Quigley's Cripple



- Hook:** Standard Dry Hook #12 -16.
- Thread:** Veevus 12/Olive.
- Tail:** Brown Zelon
- Body:** Olive Brown Dubbing.
- Rib:** Small Gold Wire.
- Thorax:** Olive Dubbing.
- Wing:** Natural Deer Hair.
- Hackle:** Grizzly Dyed Olive.

Tying Instructions:

I watched many you-tube videos on tying this fly and after 2 dozen attempts, I got this one tied to my satisfaction that I could put it on the newsletter. Even though every video said this is an easy fly to ty including the late bob Quigley in his video.

This fly is not tied exactly as any one of the versions that I watched but more a blend of materials. I had good success with this fly on East lake last year on the outing. My success was not in quantity but in quality. And having an 18" Rainbow come up and inhale your offering and then the screaming of the reel is all exhilarating.

Here we go. Dress the hook with thread and tie in our tail, making your tail about the length of the shank of the hook. Tie in the rib and dub the body up to the 2/3 point. Spiral wrap the ribbing with about 4 wraps and tie off. Make a small dubbing ball with the olive dubbing. Just in front of the ball put a stacked pencil width clump of deer hair with a wing the length of the hook with the tips out over the eye. Make a couple loose wraps and then pulling up secure the hair. Holding the butt ends cut off the butts at an angle a little behind the tie in point. After securing them and a couple of wraps in front of the wing which should push the wing back from the eye. Now make a couple of posting wraps around the base of the wing and move the thread back to the tie in point. Tie in your hackle and make about 3 wraps and tie of. I made a few half hitches to make the head. You can whip finish if you want. I still have a tough time making whip finishes on these small flies. Place a small amount of head cement.

Hope you enjoy fishing this fly as much as I did.

Tight lines. 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

- 3-10 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 3-13-14 Fly Tyer Show in Albany.
- 3-17 Club Meeting with Brian O'Keefe.
- 3-22 Club Outing Steelhead on the Applegate.
- 4-7 Board Meeting.
- 4-8 Club Outing - Trout Lake.
- 4-14 SOFT Fly Tyers, Madrone Mobile Home Park in Gold Hill.
- 4-21 Club Meeting - Annual Fly Tyers Meeting.
- 5-2 Club Outing - Copeland's Pond.

here will work: Six-weight outfits with floating and slow-sinking lines should be suitable for any of the species in the lake. Stripping Woolly Buggers is usually a great technique in these multi-species fisheries, but you could also fish nymphs, streamers, and poppers. For those of you that listened to Phil Rowley's presentations last month, this would be a great opportunity to try using a balanced leech below an indicator.

The Shasta Valley Wildlife Area is about an hour and a half drive from Grants Pass. We will meet at 7:30 AM, on April 8, in the Rogue Valley Mall parking lot and caravan from there. Look for my grey Tundra and the club's sign near the entrance to the mall off of Crater Lake Highway. In addition to your usual fishing gear, bring food and water, sun and weather protection, and a PFD for your floating device. You will, of course, need a California fishing license. One-day licenses are available, and can be purchased online or at the Blackbird in Medford, as well as at vendors in California. Anyone going along that does not have a fishing license will need a California Department of Fish and Game Lands Pass to enter the Wildlife Area. It will be best to purchase licenses or passes ahead of time since it will not be convenient to do so the day of the outing.

I have listened to quite a few anglers here in the Rogue Valley talk about the great fishing in Bass and Trout Lakes and have wanted to give them a try. This outing will be a great opportunity to try something new.

David Haight, Outings Chair



Hughes Seminar Cont. From Pg. 4

Black Foam Beetle 12-20
Black Crow?

Ants
Black Winged Ant 14-22
Black Quick Sight Ant

Stillwater Hatches

Speckle Wing Calibaetis April/October
Short strip in shallows
Turkey Quill Calibaetis 12-18
12 in Spring, 18 in Fall
Morris Emerger

Big Yellow Mayfly
Take position before dark
Hatch happens in the dark
Brown Woolly Bugger 6-12

Damselflies May/July
Along shore
Brian Chan Baby Damsel 8-16
Scud Hook, Olive to Brown

Midges & Chironomids
Surface patterns, all year
Black Ugly Duckling 16-20
Scoot midge in bursts on the water near last light
(Dave's favorite "still" fly)

Editor's Note:

I want to thank Ken Heindsmann for his concise synopsis of Dave Hughes' clinic and seminar.

According to Heindsmann, this was an excellent presentation by Hughes, one in which those attending were given a 'heads-up' as it were, to what the trout might be taking at specific times of the year and to key their offerings to the patterns that he suggested.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

you are staying overnight at the host hotel, which is the Comfort Suites located adjacent to the fairground or another hotel in the area, I, your humble editor and his wife will be hosting our usual Fly Fair reception. All members of Southern Oregon Fly Fishers are more than welcome to attend. Not only are there club members in attendance, but also those folks that I drag off street. Maybe not off the street, but I get a lot of special guests that are either tyers or other luminaries of the fly-fishing brotherhood. So, make a point of stopping by, just ask at the desk where we're holding forth or listen for the laughter and good times, we'll be there.





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Editor's Notebook

Hot damn! It's that time of the year again that I look forward to each year. What is it that causes so much anticipation on my part? It's the annual Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing show presented each year by the Oregon Council of the International Federation of Fly Fishers at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany Oregon. This year it will occur on March 13th and 14th.

This year there will be almost 200 separate fly tyers demonstrating all facets of tying. There will be the traditional trout patterns, both dry and sub-surface, bass bugs, saltwater patterns, steelhead patterns art patterns which includes the Atlantic Salmon pattern. If you have never been to the event before, the tying area is set with 10 to 12 rows of tables and you walk between them taking in each station as you pass. For me, my flies of choice are those for trout and steel-

head and I will take the most time at each of those stations. If a pattern really intrigues me, I have been known to stand or sit at that particular station for an extended period of time watching as a particular fly is tied several times over trying to commit to memory each step in the creation of the fly. The only problem with doing this is that there are so many flies being demonstrated that they all tend to blend into each other after a while. One method to forestall this from occurring is to bring a notebook and take notes and then use a camera or your phone to take a few photos of each step.

Although all the tyers are very talented, if their specialty doesn't really appeal to me, I'll stop momentarily and then move on.

As if that is not enough, there are numerous classes that will be taught on a variety of subjects from tying a special pattern to reading the water

and to personal safety as you chase after a trout or steelhead.

Next there are the casting classes that are taught. From novice to advanced casters, there are new techniques being presented to make one a better caster. I did note with a bit of unhappiness, that there were no spey classes being taught, one of the areas of fly casting that I lack in. Too bad for me!

Lastly there are the vendors that man their booths on the edges of the arena. They sell everything from fly tying materials, to rods and reels, to boats and all things in between. One note of caution however, if you're looking for a specific item such as special fly-tying material that is hard to find, make a point of being at the show early because those items really go fast.

Now for the really big event. If

Continued on Pg. 7