

SOFF News

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March 2021



SOFF NEWS

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

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Although the Covid-19 persists, members of the So Oregon Fly Fishers still find opportunities to take to lake or stream in pursuit of salmonoids and other fisheries.



Gary Miller, long time life member of the So Oregon Fly Fishers, is not cowed by the Coronavirus and goes and fishes Pyramid Lake in Nevada on a cold and wind day and is rewarded with this fine 13 plus pound cutthroat trout.

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

SPECIAL MENTION

Bill Burns:
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FROM THE BOARD



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by

Michael Mazingo

Two months down and we are full speed into the new year. I remember as kid listening to adults talk about how the new year was going to be different every year. Sitting here as an adult I have come to learn that only the number changes. Change in and of itself will happen whether we want it to or not. Sometimes change can be great thing and other times we just have to roll with the punches. The biggest change we have all had to deal with over the last year is human contact. Not seeing each other in person really sidetracked our lives and left many of us with cabin fever.

In January we jumped into the digital/social media era with both feet. In January we had our first virtual general meeting with Russ Levitt as our guest presenter. Russ gave an excellent presentation on floating the John Day River for small mouth bass. If you happened to miss it please check our webpage, as we are working on getting it archived to there.

Our first two virtual meetings went better than I had hoped they would and I was excited to see everyone's faces and hear their voices. Going forward the club will have our monthly general meetings on the third Tuesday of the month via Zoom at 6pm. John Smith is working diligently at getting present-

ers lined up for the future and with any luck we will be able to post 2-3 months ahead of time.

Our January meeting had 23 participants log in. The club can support 100 members per meeting and is free to participate in. You only need to have a zoom account, which is also free. If anyone is unsure how to set up a zoom account, please reach out to myself or Jacqe Storfold and we will help you. I hope that our meetings will continue to grow and hopefully reach our 100-participant limit.

With warmer weather around the corner I am anxious to get back outside and into the rivers. With Steelhead season upon us and Spring right around the corner it's time to put those long hours

“Our first two virtual meetings went better than I had hoped they would and I was excited to see everyone's faces and hear their voices. Going forward the club will have our monthly general meetings on the third Tuesday of the month via Zoom at 6pm.”

at the vise to fruition. As we move closer and closer to Spring I would caution everyone to keep a close eye on water temperatures, continuing to fish deep in the water column can remain a very effective tactic well into the first months of spring.

Although we are still a few months away from warmer water temps it is good to note that trout will remain sluggish and hesitant to move much for food when the water is in the 30s to 40s. With the return of sunny days many fly fishers will be anxious to start throwing dry flies again, however, March and April can be great months to to set a nymphing rig deeper in the water.

If like me you have become more of a fair weather fisher, just remember that there are many factors at work that can change river bottoms from season to season. Winter run off and snow melt

are the largest contributing factors as they tend to push mud and sediment down river. If you find the river to be cloudy or murky please take more caution with your steps and maybe try fishing a fly with lots of flash and maybe a little gaudy.

I hope to see everyone (or at least pictures) out on the water this year. Stay safe and see you soon, tight lines.

Club Member Receives Coveted Frank Moore Conservation Award

Thomas Collett, an active member of Oregon Fly Fishers International (FFI) for many years, has been named this year's recipient of the coveted Frank Moore Conservation Award by Oregon FFI. He has been a longtime champion for activities associated with conservation of fly waters on behalf of Southern Oregon Fly Fishers and Rogue Fly Fishers. He has also been very actively involved with Rogue Climate Change, Rogue Riverkeeper, and Water Watch non-profit organizations, where he has led the opposition for years to the proposed liquefied natural gas project proposed by Pembina to be built in the State of Oregon. Tom has not only attended meetings and rallies in conjunction

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ATTENTION!
Board Meeting
The Board of Directors
will meet via Teleconference
The next meeting is scheduled:
Mar. 2nd at 6:00pm or
the first Tuesday
of the month
All members welcome

PROGRAMS

Future Programs

Mar 16	Anthony Carruseo
Apr 20	Bob Wolfe
May 18	Jim Cox
Jun 15	Dax Messett
Jul 20	Dark
Aug 17	Dark
Sep 21	TBA
Oct 19	TBA

WHEN:

March 16, 2021



TIMES:

Zoom Meeting

6:00 P.M.

After Brief
Announcements

WHERE:

Zoom Meeting



A Zoom Presentation By Anthony Carruseo

Frank Moore Award Cont. From Pg. 2



Tom Collett receiving a club award at a past general meeting. with this project for over fifteen years, but he has also served as the local "champion" for opposing the project



Anthony found a passion for fly fishing at a young age. He followed that passion to the foothills of gold country and beyond, to the vast tundras of Alaska, and finally back home to Northern California, where he turned his passion into a career. A natural leader, Anthony brings together a group of like-minded guides with superior work ethics who want nothing more than to see their clients have a great time on the water. His confidence and positive demeanor is infectious, and a trip with Anthony is certain to make for a memorable vacation. When he isn't guiding, you can find him chasing the white ball on manicured fairways or chasing anadromous fish on the coastline.



Tom Collett's Award

and kept our club members and the public informed in regards to the damage this project could do to our valuable fisheries. Tom is very deserving of this honor and should be congratulated by all of us who are fortunate enough to know him.



1-4-2021

CASTING ABOUT

Pebble Creek Mine Denied Key Permit

On Wednesday, November 25th The Army Corps of Engineers denied a key permit for the proposed Pebble Creek mine in Alaska, striking a consequential blow to the proposal. U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Alaska Commander Col. Damon Delarosa issued a statement saying that a plan to deal with waste from the Pebble Mine “does not comply with Clean Water Act guidelines,” and that “the proposed project is contrary to the public interest.”

The decision to deny the permit for the long-disputed mine represents a major win for environmentalists, fishing enthusiasts and tribal rights. The project was opposed by an unlikely coalition that included Donald Trump Jr. and other prominent Republicans, as well as conservationists, commercial fishermen and Alaska Natives.

“Today’s decision speaks volumes about how bad this project is, how uniquely unacceptable it is,” Joel Reynolds, a senior attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council, which has fought the mine for years, said in an interview. “We’ve had to kill this project more than once, and we’re going to continue killing for as long as it takes to protect Bristol Bay.”

Trump officials had allowed the Pebble Limited Partnership, a subsidiary of a Canadian firm, to apply for a permit even though the Obama administration had concluded in 2014 the firm could not seek federal approval because the

project could have “significant” and potentially “catastrophic” impacts on the world’s largest sockeye salmon fishery. As recently as July, the Corps concluded that the mine would have “no measurable effect” on area fish populations.

But state and federal agencies warned that the project would permanently damage the region, de-



stroying more than 2,800 acres of wetlands, 130 miles of streams and more than 130 acres of open water within Alaska’s Kuskokwim River Watershed. The proposed site lies at the river’s headwaters.

And an unlikely coalition of opponents formed when President Donald Trump’s eldest son, Donald Trump Jr., Fox News host Tucker Carlson and Vice President Mike Pence’s former chief of staff, Nick Ayers – who all have enjoyed fishing or hunting around Bristol Bay – joined with traditional environmental groups and the region’s tribes in opposition to the project. President-elect Joe Biden has already said he would not allow the mine to be built. “It is no place for a mine,” Biden said in a statement in August.

“The Obama-Biden Administration reached that conclusion when we ran a rigorous, science-based process in 2014, and it is still true today.”

Opponents received a major boost in September when the Environmental Investigation Agency (EIA) released recordings of secretly-taped Zoom calls in which the project’s top executives boasted of their influence inside the White House and to Alaska lawmakers to win a federal permit. Alaska’s two GOP senators, Lisa Murkowski and Dan Sullivan, issued statements saying they opposed the plan and within days Pebble’s CEO, Tom Collier, resigned.

Pebble Partnership’s new chief executive, John Shively, called the rejection politically driven and said the firm would consider other options going forward, including an appeal of the decision or filing an amended application seeking federal permits. Opponents are hoping that under President Biden, the EPA will use its long-standing authority under the Clean Water Act to preemptively halt projects that the agency thinks will pollute nearby waterways. Groups that fought the mine expressed confidence Wednesday that it might finally be on its last legs as a consequential transition takes place in Washington.



OUTINGS AND WORKSHOPS

Outings-April through June

Future Outings

With the Coronavirus situation looking a little better, we have scheduled outings through June. The following is a brief summary of what we have planned. We will provide details about these outings as we get closer to each one. We will plan outings and activities for later in the year based on how the virus recommendations and restriction evolve.

For April, we will hold the outings that were cancelled last year. We will make the trip to fish the Sugar Creek Ranch—a private trophy-trout fishery—on the 13th and 14th. This trip is already fully booked, but anyone interested in this trip can send me an email to be placed on an alternate list in the event that someone wants to cancel. The price would be \$255. For those that are not (and for those who are) so fortunate to be able to go to Sugar Creek Ranch, we will fish Bass Lake on the Shasta Valley Wildlife Area near Yreka, CA on April 12. This small lake has a good mix of warmwater fish and trout, and typically offers good fishing for big largemouth bass.

On May 1st, we will have an outing to Galesville Reservoir—another lake that offers good fishing for both trout and warmwater fish.

Dave Grosjacques will make his annual trip to Lemolo Lake following Memorial Day, and will host an outing there on June 4th and 5th. Lemolo Lake

offers good fishing for brown trout, and Dave is a great host—even if he always picks a cold, wet weekend for this outing.

Our annual outing to Lava Lake is going to be combined with an outing the Rogue Flyfishers are having to Crane Prairie that same weekend—June 25th through 27th. Steve Day will be the host for the combined outing and will be camped in Rock Creek Campground at Crane Prairie. Some SOFF members are planning to camp at Lava Lake, but Jerry Keeling advises that the RV park at Lava Lake now requires a minimum stay of one week. There are plenty of Forest Service campgrounds in the vicinity of these lakes, but if you want to go, you should make reservations soon since these campgrounds can fill up fast.

David Haight, Outings Chair

Outing to Bass Lake on the Shasta Valley Wildlife

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 warmwater 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 Monday April 12, we will go to Bass Lake.

Bass Lake is stocked with rainbow trout during the spring and has an interesting assortment of warmwater 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 great options. Small boats can also be launched. Electric motors are allowed, but gas engines are prohibited. The equipment

Continued on Page 7

Crane Prairie Outing June 25th thru June 27th 2021



If you've ever wanted to fish Crane Prairie, or fished it and struggled with figuring it out, this will be a great opportunity! Crane can be tough but with a little direction with timely information, it can be a blast.

Keith Hardcastle and Steve Day are hosting this Outing and will be there to help. The Official Base Camp for this adventure will be in the Rock Creek Campground at Space 10. Rock Creek Campground is located at the south west corner of the Lake and close to some great fishing locations. There is a boat ramp in the Campground and the shoreline there is such that personal watercraft can be launched with ease. Your Hosts will be at the Lake all week and with a little luck will have things dialed in by the Outing Weekend.

Continued on Page 7

2021 Outings

Apr 12	Bass Lake
Apr 13-14	Sugar Creek Ranch
May 1	Galesville Reservoir
Jun 4-5	Lemolo Lake
Jun 25-27	Crane Prairie

FLY TYING CORNER

Green Butt Purple



- Hook:** AJ #5.
- Thread:** Danville 6/0 Black.
- Tinsel:** Small Silver Oval Nickel.
- Back Body:** Chartreuse (Latimer Uses Green Wire).
- Front Body:** Ice Dub Holographic Purple Uni-Stretch.
- Wing:** White Kip Tail, (Could Use Calf Tail or Kid).
- Wing Accent:** Purple or Green Sheen Angel Hair.
- Collar:** Purple Guinea.

Tying Instructions:

I love tying simple clean design flies. Tying flies is just about as close as I get to fishing anymore, so I haven't proven the effectiveness of this fly myself, but it is well attested. Also, it has two traditional steelhead attractor colors, chartreuse and purple. The pattern was developed by Tom Larimer.

Here is how I tie it. Start by laying down a base of thread from halfway point of the shank, secure the end of the tensile underneath at that point. At the same point, tie in the chartreuse floss and form the abdomen by wrapping back to just shy of the hook point (keeping tensile under shank), then forward to the tie in point. I tie the fly on a nickel hook, so the chartreuse does not need a base. If I were to tie it on a black hook, I would want a base of white thread under it.

After tying off the floss, form a dubbing loop about three inches long and place the rough dubbing into it, twisting it to form the dubbing as I want it, then wrap the front half of the body fairly full. I don't need to pick it out, but you may want to. Groom the dubbing away from the back half of the body and wrap the tensile to front of the dubbing. Tie in a sparse wing with tip ending just ahead of the bend, and before wrapping fully, use a drop of head cement. Tie in a few sparse strands of angel hair on either side of wing and trim to length. Tie in by tip a purple guinea feather, fold and wrap to just beyond wing tie in. If feather shaft is small enough, flatten with thumbnail and wrap 1-2 times around hook under head. Form a head that suits and finish.

Fly Tied By: Ed Morphis

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

- 4-6 Board Meeting (To be held Electronically)
- 4-12 Club Outing - Bass Lake
- 4-13-14 Club Outing - Sugar Creek Ranch
- 4-20 Club Meeting - Bob Wolfe
- 5-1 Club Outing - Galesville Reservoir
- 5-4 Board Meeting (To be held Electronically)
- 5-18 Club Meeting - Jim Cox
- 6-1 Board Meeting (To be held Electronically)
- 6-4-5 Club Outing - Lemolo Club
- 6-15 Club Meeting - Dax Messett
- 6-25-27 Club Outing with the Rogue Club to Crane Prairie.

Bass Lake Continued From Pg 5

and techniques that you typically use to fish for trout, bass, and panfish in lakes and ponds around here will work: Five or 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, poppers and balanced leeches.

The Shasta Valley Wildlife Area is about an hour and a half drive from Grants Pass. Take I-5 south to Yreka, CA, then take Hwy 3 east to Montague. From Montague, take E Webb Street, which becomes Ball Mountain Little Shasta Road, east to the Wildlife Area. I plan to be there by 8:00 AM, but you can arrive when you like. (It will be easy to find us on the small lake.) 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.

Outing to Sugar Creek Ranch

The outing to Sugar Creek Ranch, scheduled for April 13 and 14, is fully booked.

Crane Prairie Continued From Pg. 5



Crane Prairie is famous for the large, robust Rainbows, affectionately known as "Cranebows". Brook Trout, Kokanee and Largemouth Bass call Crane home as well. Crane Prairie is a shallow lake over flooded timber with Damsels, Leeches and Chironomids dominating the food chain.

Reservations for Rock Creek Campground are now available through recreation.gov. Quinn River Campground and Cultus Lake Campground are very close and only a short drive to Rock Creek. I would strongly recommend getting reservations as soon as possible if you plan on going.

Currently we are keeping our fingers crossed so that we can have our famous Pot Luck BBQ on Saturday evening the 26th. We'll keep you posted on that and we will follow up on fishing techniques, fly patterns and more as we get closer to the Outing.

So, come on out, fish, fellowship and enjoy. For more information contact Steve Day at icrsrd303@gmail.com or (661) 742-5835.



This is what it is all about - a Crane-bow at hand and ready for release.

Editor's Notebook Cont. From Pg. 8

parties that my wife and I hosted each year after the close of the show on Friday night is also fondly remembered.

The event in 2020, 2021 was canceled and a determination in November for 2022 event is yet to be made. As with our club and maybe even more so with the fly-tying event, because they recruit talent and vendors from far and wide will a two and maybe a three year hiatus be enough to end its run? I sure hope not but time will tell.

There is a great big world out there filled adventure just waiting to be experienced as well as a host of waters both moving and still that needed to be fished. Don't let the Virus lull you into a dull complacency, rather if you are able to get your vaccinations, get them then go out and take on the world. In the meanwhile, I'll make every effort to produce a monthly newsletter in a timely fashion and if you would remember the old editor and send him stories, photos or whatever else, I'm sure he would really appreciate it!





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Editor's Notebook

I have been writing as well as editing this newsletter for the last 18 years and in all that time I developed a routine. I always aimed for a date of publication that was at least the 5th of the month of the issue. Month after month I followed that routine with little to no deviation. Then came 2020! There were no meetings, no outings, no club get togethers and very little fishing.

Beginning in March 2020 and continuing through February 2021 there was no newsletter. Since there were no club activities, there was nothing to write about and there was no newsletter. Beginning with the February edition, an effort was made to see what could be used as fodder for the newsletter. As the newsletter is the one remaining link to the club membership it was imperative that it come out for continuity purposes in the hope that we would still have a

membership when the time came to once again meet in person.

Now that you know the whys of no newsletter, now the rest of the story. As you read this edition, you will note that March is just about over. Does it take me almost a month to write and edit it – no, then why is it so late? It's late because I have lost the discipline needed to get it out in a timely fashion. For 17 years the discipline was there month after month. I generally had the necessary material to fill the newsletter, albeit a little brow beating, cajoling, and begging was on many occasions resorted to, to accomplish that task. Now that, that drive is diminished, it will take some doing to rekindle it.

Now I have written about me and the newsletter, but how about the membership? Since the first of the year, the club has hosted a Zoom general meeting each month, but its reception by the membership has been temperate

at best. The club by starting the Zoom meetings is trying to rekindle interest in the club by the membership. If that interest wavers and diminishes, can the club rebound when we eventually open again for business? That's a good question, one that I hope when the time comes, we can shake ourselves out of the doldrums and apathy caused by the Covid-19 and get on with our lives.

Talking about changes because of the Covid-19, as I look at the calendar for March, I reflect on the second weekend of the month. This was the date of the annual fly fishing and tying show in Albany. This was another thing I looked forward to each year, from the very first year I attended in Eugene to its move to fairgrounds in Albany. I wonder in all that time, how many tyers did I have had the opportunity to observe and interact with? The

Continued on Pg. 7