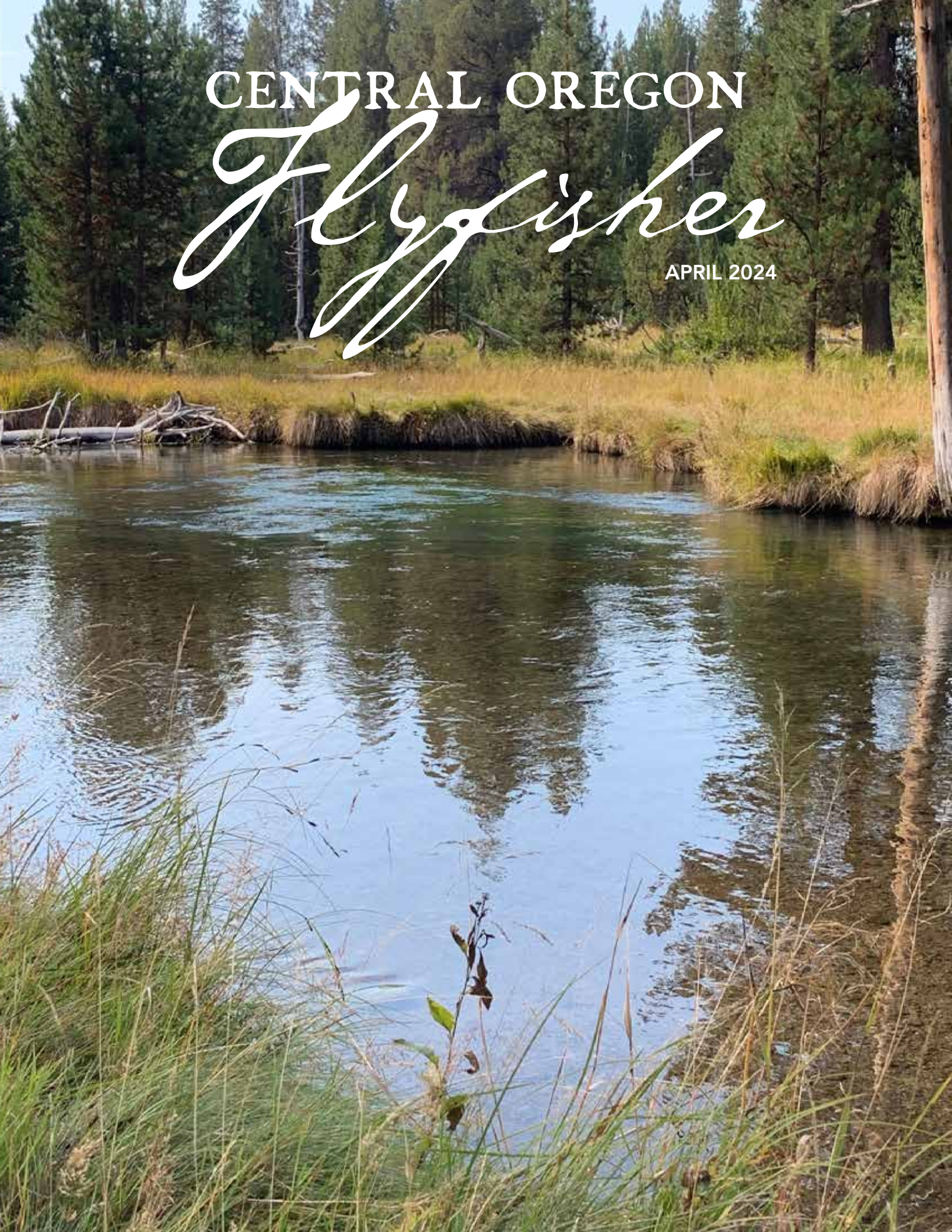


CENTRAL OREGON

Flyfisher

APRIL 2024





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President's *Message*

March was a great month for COF. The Trout Pond at the Redmond Sportsman's show was a success and raised \$3,100 for the club. This success was due to the leadership of Kevin Sansom and the volunteers that helped. The volunteers gained a lot of experience at netting fish. It was exciting to watch the kids catch them. The kids were catching fish like the shootout at the OK Corral. Also the COF banquet was a success. From my prospective everyone at the banquet had fun and enjoyed the event. It was my honor to be the emcee and recognize 7 COF members for their outstanding contribution to COF. These are the two major fund raisers for the club.

Spring is in the air. I always look forward to spring and April. For me it is the start of trout season. I know that there is good fishing in the winter, but I'm not a big fan of fishing during cold weather. I'm looking forward to many great fishing reports at the monthly meetings. As I said last month, I assume all COF member have done their pre-season maintenance on their fishing equipment.

I encourage everyone to take advantage of the COF Outings. Outings provide members the opportunity for fellowship and to learn from other members. Outings are one of the benefits for COF members. During an outing to Three Creeks several years ago, I was not catching anything. After getting advice from Tim Quinton I caught 11 fish. Please review the list of Outings in the newsletter and attend if possible.

This Months tips. Go to this link for 25 tips on how to fly fish for trout. I have watched most to these YouTubes and found them interesting. I hope you do as well. <https://drifthook.com/blogs/discover/25-tips-on-how-to-fly-fish-for-trout>

Tight lines -

Fred A Chalick



*An Active
Member Club*



[COFLYFISHERS.ORG](https://www.coflyfishers.org)



[@CENTRALOREGONFLYFISHERSCLUB](https://www.facebook.com/CENTRALOREGONFLYFISHERSCLUB)

2024 COF

.....
Outings

BY ALLEN CAUDLE

Below is a proposed outline of the outings for the year. Subject to change based upon weather, fires, schedule of leader etc. We are still in need of leaders and suggestions. Please contact Allen at ascaudle@gmail.com

APRIL

Middle Deschutes

MAY *open*

TBD, need volunteers

JUNE

Crane Prairie Lake

JULY

Williamson River

AUGUST *open*

SEPTEMBER

Fall River

OCTOBER

Metolius

NOVEMBER

Lower Deschutes Walk in from Mecca

DECEMBER *open*



Phil *Hager*

Program

THAT WON'T
Work!

COF MONTHLY MEETING: APRIL 17TH

BY YANCY LIND

Phil Hager is an Honorary Lifetime Member of COF. He served as president in 2001 & 2002, helped start Kokanee Karnival, and coordinated the kid's fishing pond at the Sportman's Show for several years. He has presented to COF on fishing various waters in Central Oregon, created a CD about Diamond Lake, and wrote a booklet called "Tips & Tricks to Still Water Fishing".

Phil has been fly fishing since he was 4 years old and has fished all over the country, parts of Canada, Mexico and other countries. Much of the knowledge he has today came from those experiences and years of volunteering with ODFW. Phil was also on the state FFI board, on the FFI conservation board, and has worked on a wide range of projects on various waters in Oregon.

Phil says he has heard the 3 words, "That won't work!" so many times he couldn't count them all. After a while, he came up with the response, "Don't say that too loud, I don't want to embarrass the fish I've caught!"

Phil will be passing on various tips, suggestions, and methods that he has found that both simplified the effort and yielded much better results.



Outings

MIDDLE DESCHUTES *Discussion & Explore*

APRIL 14TH

BY YANCY LIND

Licensed guides are not allowed to take clients on the Middle Deschutes (Benham Falls to Lake Billy Chinook) and while there are some easy spots, access to this stretch of the river can be challenging in places. As a result, it is not as well known to anglers as other parts of the river, despite the good angling opportunities it provides. I have spent many years exploring the Middle Deschutes and appreciate the combination of nearby proximity and reasonable sized redbands, browns, and white fish.

This "outing" is going to be different. We'll start by talking about the different parts of the Middle Deschutes, seasons, and access points. I will provide handouts with information that you may find helpful.



YouTube is a great resource to find multiple ways to learn different nymph techniques. Visit [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) to get started!

We will then go for a hike to explore stretches above and below Steelhead Falls. Irrigation season starts April 15 after which this part of the river fishes best. The goal will be to give you the information you need to come back as the water drops. There can be a good stonefly hatch in May and June, without the crowds of the Lower Deschutes.

Hiking down to Steelhead Falls is on a good trail, but there is a fair amount of elevation change, so be prepared for a steep hike out. We'll meet in Crooked River Ranch on April 14 at 8 am, talk for an hour or so, go for a hike, and be done by noon. You could just come for the talk (which will cover the entire Middle Deschutes) and perhaps the first hike to Foley Waters which is less strenuous.

Let me know if you would like to be included. I need to limit this outing to 10 club members.

Education

GREEN DRAKES on the METOLIUS

BY TIM QUINTON

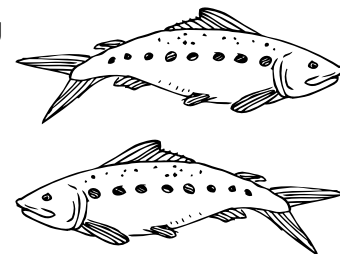
Happy April Flyfishers! This month we'll be looking at Green Drakes on the Metolius. They won't start emerging until May, but I wanted to give you plenty of time to prepare for the largest mayfly we have in Central Oregon rivers.

What are these Big Bugs? Basically, we have 2 Drakes: Western Green Drakes: *Drunella grandis*, *Drunella doddsi* (the Bigger (8-12), earlier ones); and *Drunella flavilinea* (the Smaller (14), later ones). They both belong to the Crawler family of Mayflies, and have an incomplete metamorphosis (like all mayflies – nymph, dun, spinner). They inhabit various habitats, from fast riffles (most common) to slower sections of the river; and are generally the largest mayfly species in the waters they occupy (Grandis & Doddsi). They like highly oxygenated rivers with lots of woody debris – like the Metolius, Fall, and Upper Deschutes rivers. There is also an Eastern Green Drake – completely different bug; they are larger and burrowers. Somebody should really tell the "A Certain Fly Shop" up in Hood River that they have the wrong Green Drake on their website!

Grandis & Doddsi emerge during May/June, with another emergence in Sept; Flavs in Sept/Oct. Emergence is in the afternoon, usually between 2 and 6. It may only last a short time, so it pays to be ready when they start to pop. Overcast/rainy days are best for a good emergence. Unlike most other mayflies, the Green Drake unfolds its wings 6-12 inches below the surface when emerging (March Browns do this too). The bug's wings are also much larger than the smaller mayflies. The wings can take longer to dry on the surface of the water before the bug can fly away. Many anglers fish a Green Drake Cripple or a Soft Hackle pattern (sometimes on the swing) which represents this half-hatched bug that may be stuck right below the surface or in the surface film.

No specialized equipment is needed for these bugs: your favorite trout rod (5 or 6 wt), reel with decent drag

system and backing, floating line, 9 – 14 ft leaders tapered to 4x or 5x (you can get away with heavier tippet in faster water). It usually pays to have at least several patterns for



your dry flies when fishing the Drakes – the pattern that worked yesterday may be totally ignored today. And don't be afraid to put a dropper off the back of your dry – either a nymph, emerger, or a different size or pattern of dry.

[This video](#) from Catch Magazine's 12th issue in 2010 captures some great footage of the bugs themselves and some good fishing action on the Metolius. OK, the angler "hitchhiking" to the river is a little hokey, but if you can get over that it's pretty good.

If you have a subject you'd like to see in this column, or something you'd like to see me cover during the Education Hour at the beginning of our monthly meetings, please let me know. cgtimq@gmail.com

Other News

KOKANEE *Karnival*

APRIL 22TH, 23TH, 25TH, 26TH,
29TH AND 30TH

BY FRED CHOLICK & JEN LUKE

The Spring Angling Clinic is approaching fast. The dates are April 22th, 23th, 25th, 26th, 29th and 30th. Shevin Pond/Aspen Hall. The clinic starts at 8:30 and ends at about 2:00. Sun River Anglers serve lunch which is hot dogs, cookies and drinks. The Spring Angling Clinic provides approximately 60 5th graders each day the opportunity to develop skills on water safety, care of the catch, casting, fishing equipment and fun fishing. This is a great opportunity for COF members to volunteer and have fun. We do not expect that individuals will volunteer for all six days but would hope that COF



members can volunteer for a day or two. Each day we need: 2 individuals for water safety, 2 individuals for knot tying, 3 individuals for Fishing equipment and fly fishing casting, 2 individuals for care of the catch and 2 individuals for fish station/certificates. Finally, all volunteers are needed to help when the kids are fishing. Please contact Fred Cholick (785-410-1866) if you are available to help the next generation learn to enjoy the pleasures of fishing.

2024 SPECIAL AWARDS BASIS *A Synopsis*

**AWARDS COMMITTEE, JOHN HOWARD,
PETE MARTIN, & STEVE LICHTENBERGER**

HONORARY LIFE MEMBER, MARY BARRON

For the entirety of her involvement with COF (as documented by being #1 in hours over the last 12 years) Mary has gone far above and beyond in terms of time, energy and gifted skills, rapidly answering all calls for help with any technical or nontechnical issues within her purview. Recognized by stepping up to a Board position during the COVID years, she was a primary basis for communications for COF between the Board and Members. Personally training up Zoom Presenters (and Board Members), many of whom had no pre-existing skills. Without her guidance and provision of Tech support, navigation of the difficult waters of Wild Apricot, our web server, would have been virtually impossible without her continuous informed and high level of participation. Also participating in other events as varied as conservation, the library, or providing hands where needed, she's continuously in the midst of things. She is the kind of person that prefers to quickly but quietly provide the technical structure for COF, maintaining with a wicked sense of humor and understanding a good portion of the social structure as well.

FLY FISHER OF THE YEAR, SUE COYLE

Over the last 5 - 6 years, Sue has built a vibrant community of women anglers who share their

passion for fly fishing and support each other through life's challenges.

Sue's dedication to this group has been unwavering, with social gatherings to fishing events, and educational workshops, she has created opportunities for us to learn, connect, and have fun.

Thanks in very large part to Sue's efforts with Wild Women of the Water, this group within COF has become one of the fastest growing Membership areas. In addition to that, within COF in general, she's taken part in multiple youth events, promoted basic skills fly tying to WWW, and other valuable support. Beyond Sue's leadership within COF, she has set up a Facebook page and contributed at the State and National levels via FFI's Women Connect.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION - OUTSTANDING SERVICE

TIM AND RENÉE SCHINDELE

The two of them singlehandedly revived the annual banquet, which had been on life support for three years due to the pandemic, despite members who said it was time to pull the plug. They raised over \$11,000 and created interest in the banquet for 2023 (and exceeded that in 2024.)

They had help, towards the end, but worked alone on the events for months. Their efforts put the club in an excellent fiscal position for 2024. The Banquet is also fun and just a good time to visit with each other.

TIM QUINTON

Following his presidency he could have faded away from COF activities to spend all his time at golf and fishing. Not so, as he has continued with his informative newsletter articles and stepped up to fill the role of Education Board Chair, a needed position that hasn't been filled since 2018. As the Crooked River cleanup coordinator I must mention that Tim is usually the first to respond to my call for volunteers. Pete Martin.

As Basic Skills coordinator, I can also add that Tim has reliably volunteered to coach our new tiers, along with providing general casting instruction, and well informed support for both outings and youth programs. John H.

DICK OLSON

Have you ever wondered where your volunteer hours and miles go? They go to Dick Olson. In the background and out of sight, Dick Olson has been accurately compiling our data for many years. Back in 2015, when data was needed for soliciting banquet donations, the board said contact Dick Olson. He was there.

Tracking the hours and miles for a volunteer organization is important for many reasons including annual 30-hour award fly boxes to members, supporting data to assist Awards Committee members in determining award recipients and maintaining COF records of hours/milage to state and local organizations requesting them (ie our "standing" as a non-profit organization).

BILL RALEIGH

Bill Raleigh has maintained and kept our Board Book updated for a very long time. Another of those jobs within COF that are often fairly low profile - until that information is suddenly needed. As in for the duties of officers (especially to incoming officers), maintaining and updating directory of Board Members, Program Directors, & support personnel contact info, as well as Wild Women of the Water and Mission Statements and our extensive Board Docs with most of our supporting documentation. Basically, the entire written history and structure of our club.

2024 BANQUET *Wrap*

BY RENEE AND TIM SCHINDELE

The Banquet team is pleased with the results from the 2024 Banquet & Fundraiser. We thought the Bend Golf Club venue was terrific, the food was tasty and the service was excellent. People really enjoyed themselves. It was nice to have room to spread out. The fundraising was very successful. Our net income was about \$11,300.00. We budgeted for net income of \$9,000.00.

Annual Award winners for 2023 were recognized at the Banquet. Mary Barron was awarded an Honorary Life Membership. Sue Coyle was awarded Flyfisher of the Year. Dick Olson was presented with an Award for Outstanding Service. Bill Raleigh was presented with

an Award for Outstanding Service. Tim Quinton was presented with an Award for Outstanding Service. Renee and Tim Schindele were presented with an Award for Outstanding Service.

It takes a team of volunteers to put on the Banquet. We owe the great success of the silent auction and the bucket raffle to our Donations Chair, Bob Shimane. He was especially tenacious in following up with the fly shops and the local golf courses. It was a job well done, Bob!

Fred was excellent as our Master of Ceremonies. He takes that job seriously and dresses for the occasion. He kept us entertained while keeping the festivities on track. Other members who had important roles at the Banquet helping with registration, raffle ticket sales and at the check-out, bucket raffle, fly box raffle and raffle runners were: Sarah and Scott Robertson, Jim Geagan, Laureen Lampe, Steve Lichtenberger, Ron Giaier, Bob Shimane, Danny Kara, Pete Martin, Kevin Sansom, Jack Patterson, Lee Ann Ross, Herb Blank, Bill Raleigh, Vinny Detweiler, Matthew Detweiler and Julia Luke with Yancy Lind as our Raffle Master. We don't want to forget to mention the Bend Golf Club and Banquet Manager Christie Henson and her staff, who did a wonderful job for us.

Tye Krueger's Confluence Fly Shop and Deep Canyon Outfitters fishing/camping trip on the lower Deschutes was the highlight of the silent auction. It brought in a whopping \$3,900.00. The other 11 member-hosted trips, a record for member donated trips, raised \$2,320.00 in the silent auction, plus quite a few raffle tickets for the one in the bucket raffle. Other fly shops stepped up and we received generous donations from Fin & Fire, The Flyfishers Place, Patient Angler, the Bend Fly Shop and the Big Y Fly Company in Hood River. Five golf courses contributed rounds of golf: Bend Golf Club, Broken Top Golf Club, Eagle Crest, Widgi Creek and the Greens in Redmond. There isn't space to mention them all but some local restaurants and merchants who gave generously were Anthony's Restaurant, Mt. Bachelor/Sun Country Tours, Bend Pet Express and Newport Avenue Market. Members who provided especially valuable donations were Dennis McMahan, Mark Reisinger, Fred Cholick and Gary and Lisa Davis. See below for the complete list of donors.

Glad you could come. If you didn't, you missed out. We'll see you next year.



1. SARAH ROBERTSON & JAMES GEAGAN 2. FRED & CATHY CHOLICK 3. RENEE & TIM SCHINDELE 4. BILL & JANE RALEIGH 5. CAROL ANN CARY, SUSAN COYLE & NANCY NEYENHOUSE 6. TYE KRUEGER AND BRETT HULEN 7. KYLE, MATTHEW & VINNY DETWEILER 8. LORRAINE RODICH, DEBORAH LEWIS & CATHY SCHROEDER 9. SHELLEY & RON GIAIER 10. YANCY LIND & TIM QUINTON 11. ERIC STEELE, RICHARD OLSON & DAN PEBBLES 12. RYNIE MIYASHIRO & MIKE QUAN

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Schindele
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Bob Shimane
Tom Shuman
Eric Steele
John Tackmier

Membership

WELCOME TO OUR *New Members*

BY ROBERT SHIMANE

Ellie Gage - Powell Butte
David Harrison - Madras
Natalie Osborne - Bend

Michelle Schwarzenbach - Lemoore, California
Mike Ward - Bend

COF has returned to regular operations following a gradual normalization post pandemic. We look forward to many activities in 2024, and Education and Outing activities are planned for the year.

Board Bits

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE *Board of Directors Meeting*

March 28 2024, Blackbear Diner

BY JACK PATTERSON

President Fred Cholick called the meeting to order at 6:00PM with 10 of 12 board members present. There was one guest.

The minutes of the February meeting were approved as presented.

Treasurer Tim Schindele presented the monthly report and it was approved by acclimation.

New Business: Guest Mark Hamilton, chairperson of the annual picnic, informed the Board that Aspen Hall at Shevlin Park has been reserved for

Tuesday, August 20th. He sought feedback and suggestions from the Board regarding last year's picnic. After discussion, it was decided that his year's menu would include chicken, more fish and less pork. It was also determined that the club would solicit and use private gas grills this year at a saving in excess of \$200.

The club voted to purchase new vises for fly-tying classes as the ones currently in use are "shot". They no longer hold hooks securely and cause frustration among new tiers. Bob Shimane researched the cost and source for new vises and he made a motion that the club purchase 10 new vises at a cost of \$1683.00. After a second to the motion and discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

After a lengthy discussion about advertising in the club's newsletter, it was decided that our policies need to be reviewed as to who is advertised and the size of the ads. Yancy Lind will review the policy and make recommendations to the Board at the next meeting.

Old Business: Fred reported that the club's participation in the recent Sportsman's Show at the Expo was a success. After an initial concern about not having enough volunteers, members stepped forward and filled the empty spots. The club received \$3000 for its work, plus an additional \$100 for the sale of flies used in the event.

Tim Schindele reported that the banquet was a large success with over 90 people attending. The event grossed over \$16,000 and netted a total of \$11,236 after expenses. The Board gave special recognition and to Tim and his wife, Renee, for coordinating this event. Bob Shimane was also given thanks for his outstanding job in securing the items that were auctioned and raffled. The general feeling was the venue and food were excellent.

Fred reported that there was no opposition from members for selling the club's utility trailer which has not been used for several years. The Board voted to sell it at fair market value. Fred will determine a price and seek a buyer and then report to the Board for final approval.

Committee Reports:

Membership: Membership chairman, Bob Shimane reported that the club has a current membership of 229. Five new members were added last month.

Outings: Outings Chairman Allen Caudle reviewed the outings schedule for the year and indicated that he is still seeking members to propose and lead outings. With that, Steve Lichtenberger volunteered to lead an outing to Crane Prairie in June. He will work out the date and details and inform the members.

VP Report: Vice President John Howard reported that this year's fly-tying classes were a success and noted that several members of the class attended the banquet for the first time.

Website: Mary reported that she has renewed the contract with Go Daddy (the web provider for the Kokanee Karnival) and 3 domain names related to the Karnival.

Wild Women: Susan Coyle reported that an outing for the women has been scheduled for the Crooked River. Time and date to be revealed shortly.

Kokanee Karnival: The annual spring angling clinic will be held on April 22, 23, 25, 26, 29 & 30. A request for volunteers to help with this event will go out soon.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:20 PM

Classifieds

FOR SALE: SIMMS Stocking Foot G4 PRO Waders, size Large, 12-13 Foot, \$390, cash only, complete with belt, shoulder straps, pockets, everything that comes from the manufacturer - In original box, like new, worn in the water once - didn't fit me, Sold new at \$699 - \$749, Rick Pay, 503.780.2014 - payclan@earthlink.net



FOR SALE: Wilderness Tarpoon 14 Fishing Kayak System, \$1200. This Sit-On-Top fishing kayak (14') system is in excellent condition and has been on the water 5 times. The kayak's hull flare enables stability and tracking while maintaining speed and responsive handling. Large storage well. Thule Hullavator lift system provides ergonomic loading and unloading of kayak. Includes Wilderness rugged kayak cover, anchor, straps, kayak cart, paddle, life vest and Thule Hullavator lift system. Text Stephen 901-412-3524 or saintsteve1@me.com.



FLY OF THE *Month*

BY PETER MARTIN



PMD EMERGER

MATERIALS

HOOK: Dry fly, #16, 18

THREAD: 8/0 Uni light Cahill or 6/0 Danville primrose

TAIL: Coq de Leon or Wood Duck

SHUCK: Mayfly Brown Zelon

BODY: Blue Ribbon Flies PMD Emerger Zelon dubbing

RIB: Small gold Ultra wire

WING: Natural or Dun CDC or Snowshoe Rabbit

THORAX: PMD Superfine Dubbing

One evening in June 2008, on my favorite creek, I encountered a large PMD hatch. PMD duns covered the water and it was a fish feeding frenzy. I confidently tied on my PMD sparkle dun which then was ignored cast after cast. The two flyfishers above me had the same results and they left. I waded to the bank, sat down to eat a candy bar, and watch the fish. Watching often can provide solutions. As I watched the frenzy, I realized the fish weren't taking the duns but something just under the surface. I opened my box and dug out a recently purchased Rene Harrop emerger pattern. I had a great evening and the pattern has been successful for years.

DIRECTIONS

1. Pinch the barb, start the thread, and coat the hook with thread. Tie on a shank's length tail of Wood Duck or Coq de Leon, and then a shuck of Zelon on top of the tail fibers. Trim the Zelon half the length

of the tail. Alternative to Zelon: Nature's Spirit Emergence Dubbing in hare's ear, brown, pheasant tail, or brown olive.

2. Create a tapered body with Zelon dubbing. Blue Ribbon's zelon dubbing is rabbit with zelon added for some flash. Alternative: There are many other dubbing blends of fur and flash that should provide the same affects. I use a body dubbing that sinks and wing and thorax materials that float.
3. Rib the body with gold wire.
4. Tie on two CDC feathers for the emerger's wing. Pull back the CDC stems on each side of the body forming legs. Trim the legs to the length of the body.
5. Dub a rather bulbous thorax of superfine. I usually take a wrap or two of dubbing behind the wing and then create the thorax.
6. I use Frogs Fanny on the wing to help the pattern float in the surface film. I cover the body and tail with my fingers and apply the desiccant only to the wing. Suggestion: When you buy a new bottle of Frog's Fanny be sure to save the old bottle. Carefully dump half of your new bottle into the old bottle. You'll find you get less waste working from a half-filled bottle.
7. I believe the pattern I fished back in 2008 was Rene Harrop's CDC Transitional Dun. Of course, I lost all of those flies so my material choices are based on my poor memory. Harrop describes the transitional dun in chapter 8 of his TroutHunter book as part dun and part nymph of an emerging mayfly. The TroutHunter formula uses Harrop's rusty olive caddis/emergent dubbing for the body and Harrop's PMD fine natural dubbing for the thorax.

Kelly Alexander catching a 23" Trout on the Sacramento River out of Redding on March 26th



Got a "fishy item?" Ads are free and run for one newsletter. Please resubmit your ad for the next month's newsletter. Contact classifieds@coflyfishers.org by the end of the third week of each month.

FOR SALE: Klamath 12' Aluminum Boat, \$350, nice boat for a very nice price, includes some accessories; two folding seats, bilge pump, floating cushions, dock bumpers, but no motor, trailer, or oars. Title in hand, more photos available. Peter Martin, 541-388-8956, pcmartin@bendbroadband.com



FOR SALE: Orvis Pro BOA Wading boots size 14.
Worn 5 times. Made a mistake – fit fine until I put in my orthotic inserts. I need a size 15 for inserts to work. New - \$298 For Sale \$100. Eric Steele 541-420-8108



FOR SALE: Patagonia Gunnison Gorge Wading Pants - \$175, Purchased in 2018, these wading pants have not been used very much. I got 1 hole in the lower leg, but it has been patched and there are no leaks in the waders. I wear a size 11 street shoe, I'm 6'1" tall and weigh 185. These waders fit me very well. Patagonia wading belt is included, but I did not use the belt, only a pair of suspenders (not included). Call or email if you have questions, want to make an offer, or want to look at them in person. Tim Quinton, cgtimq@gmail.com, 509-392-3516



INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE: Eric & Sherry Steele completed an inventory and determined we have rods that we are not using and many duplicates. We offer these rods & a few reels to our COF friends before we advertise on the open market. Call if you have any questions. Eric Steele 541-420-8108; steelefly2@msn.com

FOR SALE: Winston 3wt; 10'0" 4pc; Blllx Super 10 Euronymph; Serial#210335: \$600.

Matching Reel/Line: GALVIN RUSH R-5 LT Black; Airflo 3wt Euro Line: \$250.

FOR SALE: WINSTON 3wt; 8'6" 4pc; Blllx; Serial#124274: \$450.

FOR SALE: WINSTON 4wt; 7'6" 4pc; Bllt; Serial#150359: \$450

FOR SALE: WINSTON 4wt; 8'0" 2pc; WT TMF (Tom Morgan Favorite); Serial#129163: \$800.

FOR SALE: WINSTON 5wt; 9'0" 4pc; AIR; Serial#209709; \$550.

FOR SALE: SWEETGRASS 5wt 7'9"; Bamboo Hex SR Mantra; Serial#10-035; \$1,000.00.

FOR SALE: WINSTON 6wt 11'6" 4pc; Blllx Spey; Serial#196676; Sherry Steele signature \$600. Matching Reel/Line: GALVIN Reel black T-8 with Airflo Rage 420 Line; \$350.

FOR SALE: WINSTON 7wt 13'3" 4pc Blllx; TH Spey; Serial#131490; \$600.

Matching Reel/Line: GALVIN T-12 with Airflo Skagit Line; \$400.

FOR SALE: WINSTON 8wt 9'0" 4pc; Blllx JWF (Joan Wulff Favorite) Rod; Serial#147048; \$400. Matching reel/Line: LAMSON Litespeed reel; LS 3.5; \$200.

FOR SALE: SAGE 5wt 9'0" 2pc; DS2 590 Graphite II; Serial#98110; \$100.

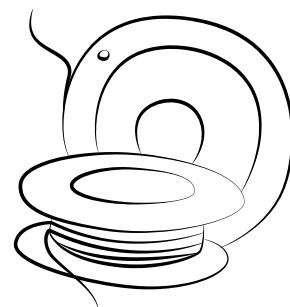




PHOTO BY VALARIE ANDERSON

Fly fisher people tie one on

By Valarie J. Anderson
Correspondent

There is nothing quite like sitting across the table from a fisherperson. There is genuine happiness in their eyes, laughter, and pats on the back. Their faces light up like a warm campfire when they start spinning yarns with hands outstretched (“It was that big!”).

We eavesdropped as the older guys shared the location of their favorite fishing holes. Some kids from a middle school fly tying club sparkled with anticipation and awe as they took in every word. Best of all, there was the shared love of fly fishing and the art of fly tying with all its glorious gear.

I was honored to join this enclave of dedicated men and women at the 2024 Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo in Albany, Oregon March 8 and 9. They invited me to tie a commemorative fly I’d created to celebrate Pearl Harbor’s anniversary. I named it “Pearl Harbor Remembrance.”

I crafted several variations of “Remembrance,” and finally settled on an adaptation of a classic salmon fly pattern. Like my book, “Pearl Harbor’s Final Warning,” it took me years to perfect it since I’m an intermediate tyer who leans more to the beginner’s side of tying.

Before the show, I’d set up a card table in the

family room and practiced and practiced, making sure my thread was flat like Jerry Criss taught me, watching my proportions as Sherry Steele had explained, and guiding my wraps John Kreft style so they didn’t overlap. Expert tyers, all; wonderfully patient people who teach and share their knowledge with anyone who asks as long as it doesn’t interfere with their fishing time.

As I sat tying my fly at the Expo, the guy beside me did a finish knot and parachute loop I’d never seen before. I stopped tying when my audience left to watch him. He’d gone back to some old tyers’ books to

See **FLY FISHER** on page 16

FLYFISHER: Tyers dream of summer and tight lines

Continued from page 3

Jearn his “new” methods. It’s always nice to hear that some people still use books. And he had some great tools. Really great.

Fly fishing and tying is the ultimate sport for gearheads. There is not just one type of hackle plier; there are dozens. His hackle pliers were engineering perfection: flexible, precise, small, and handy. I grabbed my notepad and noted the South Dakota fly shop that carried them. By the time my shift ended, I was sure the new tools I coveted were well over a hundred bucks.

Someone interrupted my lustful reverie about new pliers and a magnetic material holder and asked, “Are you the lady that’s tying the mouse pattern that catches trout?”

“No, but let me know when you find her,” I said.

A trout eating a mouse — how fabulous is that? It’d have to be a big one, for sure.

And so the day went. People stopped and chatted, asked questions, and shared stories. Some had their dogs with them, others had their children or partner in tow. My favorite encounter was with a seven-and-a-half-year-old girl and her dad. She was enthralled with fly

fishing and tying. She told me, “I make pink flies that sparkle.” And her dad’s eyes smiled.

At the banquet and live auction that evening, I sat next to Jeff Perin, our local fly shop owner and resident fly fisherman extraordinaire. I gulped down his words like a trout during a salmon fly hatch. He was leading a trip to Belize soon. If only I had the money! He’d just gotten back from Argentina. Holy cow, Argentina! And yes, the fly tyers in his shop still use my long-deceased father-in-law’s table. I felt like I was in the presence of the water master himself.

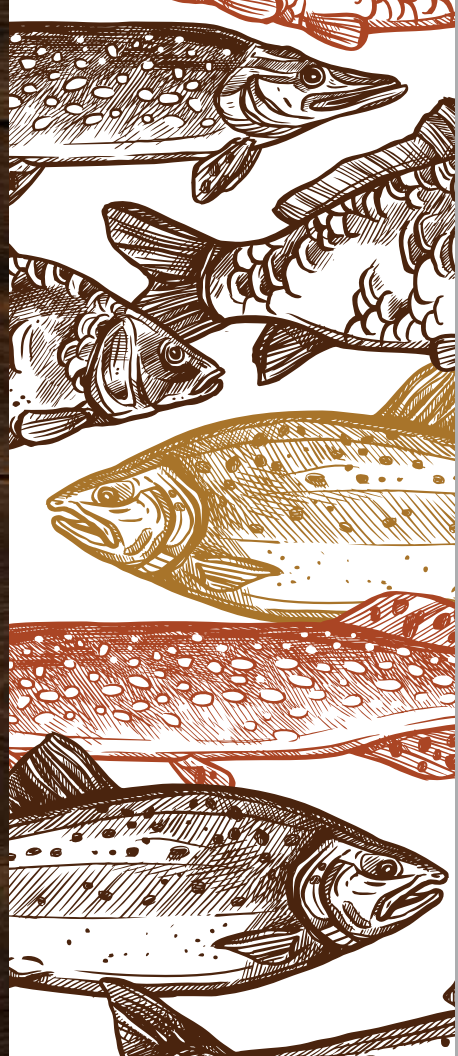
I am so fortunate. The richness of fly tying and fishing came into my life after I retired, thanks to one magnificent woman, Sherry Steele. I would never have met Jerry, John, or Jeff without her. She has done more to keep fly fishing alive than anyone I know. She organizes Expos, holds Zoom tying meetings, founded our fly-tying guild, and teaches fly-tying whenever possible. The MC at the

dinner announced her name at least four times.

Sherry has been my mentor and guide. She has never charged me a dime and is always there when I need a helping hand. She is a rare gift to Sisters Country. Like our fabulous sunrises, she brightens the fly fishing community with her light and generosity, for which I will always be grateful.

Thanks to Sherry, I’ve started two of my grandkids fly-tying. Iden is learning the art of taking a break as we progress to ever-smaller hooks. His eight-year-old sister, Harley, loves to tie pink sparkle flies, too. They eagerly await summer and dream of tight lines and “fish that big” slurping up their flies on the crystal clear waters of the Metolius River. So do I.

Valarie J. Anderson is an award winning author and a member of the FFI since 2009. She is also a founding member of the Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild in Sisters.



April Events

DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
April 13	CROOKED RIVER CLEANUP PCMARTIN@BENDBROADBAND.COM	BIG BEND CAMPGROUND
April 17	MONTHLY COF MEETING @ 6:00PM	ELKS LODGE
April 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, & 30	KOKANEE KARNIVAL SPRING CLINIC FRED CHOLICK, KK@COFLYFISHERS.ORG	ASPEN HALL
April 26	BOARD MEETING @ 6:00PM	BLACK BEAR DINER

In the Future

DATE	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
June 23, 24, 25, & 26	3-DAY FLYFISHING CAMP FCHOLICK@GMAIL.COM	
September 23, 24, 26, & 27	KK FALL STREAMSIDE FRED CHOLICK, KK@COFLYFISHERS.ORG	

