CENTRAL OREGON

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President's Message

Given this is the last President's message for 2023, I want to take this opportunity to reflect on this past year. First, I want to thank all the COF members who volunteered to support the activities of COF in 2023. I realize that all COF members have numerous commitments for their time. As I grow older, I have come to the conclusion that time is one of my most precious resources. I appreciate you including COF activities as a priority for your valuable time. Second, thank you to all the COF individuals who have stepped up to take a leadership role. Third, thank you for electing me to a second term as your president. I have enjoyed my first year as the COF president. Fourth, Thank you to Jen Luke and the ODFW for providing leadership of the youth programs in Central Oregon. Finally I want to thank everyone who donated to, and purchased items at the very successful 2023 banquet. I'm looking forward to 2024 and hope you are as well.

As I look forward to the 2024 fishing season, one of my priorities is to improve my fly fishing skills. With that said, I suggest that you watch this YouTube. I found it informative: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZD13OCjlmQ. It is rather long but worth watching. During my time as a member of COF, I have learned a lot from my fellow COF members. I encourage you to visit with COF members to improve your fly fishing skills. Attending outings has been one way I have improved my fly fishing skills. I encourage you to attend an outing. For example, several years ago at an outing on Three Creeks, I was not catching fish and I noticed that Tim Quinton was. I rowed over and asked him for help. He suggested several things, and I started to catch fish. Finally, in 2024 I plan on fishing at least two places near Bend that I have not fished.

Plan on attending the Holiday party on December 20th. This is a great opportunity to share holiday treats and fellowship with COF members. I wish all COF members a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Tight line.

Tred A Chaliel

Fred A. Cholick fcholick@gmail.com 785-410-1866





Shop: 541.678.5633 375 SW Powerhouse Dr.#100 Bend, Oregon 97702 confluenceflyshop.com tyekrueger@confluenceflyshop.com TYE KRUEGER

Cell: 804.221.7748
Reservations: 541.323.3007
info@deepcanyonoutfitters.com
deepcanyonoutfitters.com

COF Holiday Party

WE KNOW THE HOLIDAY SEASON GETS REALLY BUSY FOR EVERYONE, SO WHY NOT TAKE A LITTLE TIME OUT TO SHARE SOME TIME WITH OTHER COF MEMBERS? PLEASE JOIN ANY AND ALL TO CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAY SEASON.

WEDNESDAY, 20 DECEMBER 2023 5:30 PM TO 7:30 PM HOLLINSHEAD PARK, 1235 NE JONES RD, BEND, OR

THE FOOD: BRING SOMETHING TO SHARE WITH ALL. COFFEE, TEA WILL BE PROVIDED.

TIM QUINTON WILL PROVIDE AN INSTRUCTIONAL CLASS FROM 6:00 TO 7:00.

HOPE TO SEE EVERYONE THERE!

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Past President TIM QUINTON

HOLIDAY PARTY | DECEMBER 20TH

HOLLINGSHEAD BARN, 5:30-7:30, 1235 NE JONES RD

COF PROGRAMS

Happy Holidays!

Remember, there's no bad weather, only bad clothes, and Central Oregon fishing can be excellent through the winter. One of my favorite memories is fishing dry flies to rising trout on the Metolius when there was fresh snow on the ground. The day started out at 9 degrees but I have good clothes and the bugs and fish did not care.

There's no presentation in December but in January we will hear from Phil Fischer, a member of Sunriver Anglers. His presentation on fishing Crane Prairie is the best I have seen. As always, I'm looking for program ideas. If you have a topic that you are curious about, let me know and I'll try to put something together. I'd like to explore the idea of having club members give short 20 minute presentations on a fishing experience they have had. We could pair up a couple of speakers in a meeting that way.

For example, I have spent a fair amount of time fishing for steelhead on the Klamath River in California this year. It's a productive fishery and only 4 hours away. It's probably not worth an entire hour but could easily be entertaining for 20 minutes. Anyone care to present at the same meeting?

- YANCY LIND PROGRAMS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

CONSERVATION

Now is a good time to look back over the past few years to see how the fish trap at Pelton Dam has functioned fish during the reintroduction period for the upper rivers above Lake Billy Chinook. The following table shows the counts for the various fish collected at the Pelton fish trap for the years 2019 thru part of 2023.

Fish Collected at Pelton Dam

	2023*	2022	2021	2020	2019
Steelhead	568	1181	884	1075	1106
Steelhead (Wild)	27	46	88	95	37
Steelhead RM (Fry Planted)	1	7	12	14	16
Steelhead LM (Smolt Planted)	78	99	40	44	30
Spring Chinook	830	2197	600	242	414
Spring Chinook (Wild)	11	32	52	13	20
Spring Chinook RM (Fry Planted)	0	14	52	8	32
Spring Chinook LM (Smolt Planted)	13	18	20	5	15
Sockeye	67	35	35	52	14
Sockeye RM (Fry Planted)	0	0	0	13	53
Sockeye Hatchery	0	0	0	0	2
Fall Chinook	158	185	416	300	339
Bull Trout	45	57	86	36	26
Rainbow	2397	2453	1948	1640	1283
Total	4225	6324	4234	3587	3387

2023* Counts only thru November 22, 2023 (Partial Year)



It appears to me the number of Steelhead is relatively stable with wild fish (approximately 10%) with origins above Lake Billy Chinook. The Smolt acclimating program for steelhead is adding significant numbers to this natural production for the tributary rivers and streams.

Spring Chinook numbers seem to fluctuate over a greater range. Fewer adults are wild fish (approximately 1.5% in 2022) with nearly equal numbers added by the smolt acclimation program in tributary streams and rivers above Lake Billy Chinook.

The sockeye returns are very low when you consider the large number of smolts passed thru the SWW facility on Lake Billy Chinook. This year the Sockeye total number exceeds the number of Spring Chinook arriving at the facility.

The reduction of fry planting in 2018 has reduced the number of steelhead and Chinook fish with origins in the streams above Lake Billy Chinook. The few reported fish in 2022 and 2023 are due to three ocean fish and possibly fish that reared in the freshwater for an extra year before beginning their trip to the ocean.

The fall Chinook numbers show a decrease over the past few years.

Low numbers of Bull Trout are passing the Pelton Trap, but there may be a slight increase in recent years. I am surprised and encouraged by the large number of Rainbow trout and there seems to be a significant increase in recent years.

WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER

Wild Women joined together for their annual Holiday Party this December and a big shout out to all the women who joined in the fun. Our women's group has a long history of creating inviting activities to connect and learn from one another. I am grateful for so many extraordinary women in this group. As the winter months encroach, we will create more fun events to simply connect and share our love of Central Oregon and of course, fly fishing!

- SUE COYLE WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

FLY TYING

Basic Fly Tying Skills Classes JAN & FEB, 2024

It's finally here! Registration for Members is now open on our COF website for the 6 Basic Skills Fly Tying in person classes. Tuesday evenings, 5:30 – 8:00 from Jan. 9th to Feb. 13th at Larkspur Center, Bend, in Classroom 2. Registration is required so that we can contact you with great info, fly videos or patterns for each class, and all the things that depend on good communications.

To Register, on the COF webpage, Login (if you don't yet have a login, you'll need to set one up - just

click on Login at the web page upper right corner, and follow directions provided) on

https://www.coflyfishers.org

Once on the website, under the Calendar & Events dropdown menu, click on Upcoming Events, then find Basic Skills classes and just follow the directions. There's a \$20 fee. Refundable if notification is received no later than Jan. 6th, 3 days (not the 2 days previously announced) before the first class on Jan 9th. Class Size limited to 12 tiers, first come, first served. Waiting list available.

All vises, tools and materials provided for in class use, as well as *substantial additional supporting information*, *both online and physical*.

The expanded schedule will allow a better handle on the basic skills needed to tie a greater range of fly tying techniques and effective, durable flies for local waters.

Class Schedule:

WEEK 1: Jan 9th; Brief discussion of tools, vises, thread & thread handling following up on several emails of tools and techniques sent out ahead of class. We'll be starting easy, a Zebra Midge and a PT Perdigon. All classes will include "How to fish" info. Tie 2 copies of each fly during class. Classes will build on techniques from all preceding classes (but you can catch up).

WEEK 2: Jan 16th; *Wooly Worm* and *Wooly bugger*. Discuss properties, advantages, and disadvantages of each material and patterns and their and advantages in recognizing alternative materials and the good of "variants", as well as the new techniques involved.











WEEK 3: Jan 23rd; *Peacock and Partridge, and the Soft Hackle Wet Fly*. Discuss various types of hackle pliers, feathers, etc.

WEEK 4: Jan 30th; Gold Ribbed Hairs Ear, and the Bead Head Pheasant Tail Nymph. Discuss dubbing techniques, alternate materials, variants, and additional info.

WEEK 5: Feb 6th; *Parachute Adams, and a Rusty Spinner*. Discussion of hackles, winding hackle, winging techniques, body and tailing materials, variations using the same body and tailing to create emergers, and surface film considerations, etc.

WEEK 6: Feb 13th; Use of a *dubbing loop for* body and thorax using both natural and synthetic materials (e.g., Seal Bugger), *and one other fly demonstrating other valuable techniques*. TBD after consulting class on week 5.

There will be up to 8 loaner Renzetti Traveler pedestal style vises (one left handed), tool kits, and additional materials available for Registered class members who want to also tie at home. (Deposit required). Practice is a major Basic Skill! Prizes will be awarded to those doing the best at home work, weekly!

If you are an experienced tier, please give us a hand coaching our beginners.

Untangling Confusion: For future emails relating to these classes, please look for **COF Basic Fly Tying Skills** as part of the title. Although both of these are both sent out by Central Oregon Flyfishers, they are completely different than the **COFTG Zoom Winter Tying Classes.**

Questions or to volunteer, please reply to:

John Howard, winterflytying@coflyfishers.org or Bob Shimane, membership@coflyfishers.org

- JOHN HOWARD Winterflytying@coflyfishers.org

EDUCATION

Merry Christmas, Happy Hannukah, and Happy Kwanza everyone! For this first of the winter months, I've got an excellent article on midges, since midges (chironomids) are a major food source for trout during the cold weather. We'll be covering midges and other wintertime trout food during the **Education Hour** from 6 – 7 pm at the December meeting. https://

flylordsmag.com/broder-tips-the-complete-lifecycle-of-a-midge/?utm_source=The+Flylords&utm_campaign=b9c3681113-Newsletter+11%2F21%2F23&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_985ec1d746-b9c3681113-81633447

And speaking of other wintertime trout food, what discussion would be complete without our old buddy the Blue Winged Olive? This is an excellent article that describes the insect in its different stages and the various fishing methods to match it. The only caveat I would add is that in our area, BWOs emerge during the winter (a lot!) as well as the times they mention in the article. https://theflycrate.com/blue-winged-olive-mayflies-everything-you-need-to-know/

For winter fishing in Central Oregon, one of our best rivers is the Crooked, and I fish it a fair bit. If you would like to get educated on the various food sources and fishing methods in that river, check out COF member John Anderson's outstanding book "Fly Fishing Oregon's Crooked River: Insect Drift and Seasonal Fish Diets as a Guide to Successful Fly Fishing". I've read it cover to cover several times. We have a copy in the COF library in the Elks Lodge. I couldn't find it on Amazon, but the Deschutes Public Library lists 2 copies available. You also might try one of our local fly shops. And if you see John at a meeting, ask him about it! Here is an article about John and his book from 2015, a Bend Bulletin article posted on the Deschutes River Conservancy website:

https://www.deschutesriver.org/blog/news/getting-the-facts-straight-on-the-crooked-river/

Thanx for a great fly-fishing resource John! If you have a subject you'd like to see discussed 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.

- TIM QUINTON CGTIMQ@GMAIL.COM

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our New Members

James Geagan - Bend

Stephen Klarquist - Bend

John Lewis - Redmond

Sam Moersfelder - Bend

Martin Sacco - Bend

Renewal notices were sent on November 16, so make sure to renew. COF has returned to regular operations following a gradual normalization post pandemic. We look forward to many activities in 2024.

- ROBERT SHIMANE MEMBERSHIP@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

OTHER NEWS

Donations Request for Monthly Membership Raffles

We are going to be having raffles again at the Monthly Membership meetings at the Elks, starting with the January Meeting.

Feel like supporting COF? Have some extra equipment or tools just laying around, or that you've moved on from, just taking up space? Like to show your fly tying skills? For all things fly fishing, tying or related, it would be great to get new or gently used donations. Please either just bring donations to a monthly meeting or contact

Monthly Membership Raffle (co-leaders):

Jack Patterson, jfpat44@gmail.com 541-941-4156 or John Howard, zendoc@aol.com 707-548-5176

- JOHN HOWARD WINTERFLYTYING@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

We Have Money To Donate!

The COF Board has budgeted \$3,000 for grants in 2024. We are looking for opportunities that will directly benefit club members on local waters in a short period of time. Example projects include invasive species control, angler

access (trails, ramps, docks, etc.), habitat improvement, and similar. We have repeatedly funded some projects and are looking to widen our outreach. If you know of a project that needs a little financial help, please contact Tom Shuman at conservation@coflyfishers.org.

- TOM SHUMAN CONSERVATION@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

Thank You Crooked River Volunteers!

Thirteen Central Oregon Flyfishers turned out on November 4th to clean up our adopted section of the Crooked River Highway. Early morning showers gave way to dry and mostly sunny skies for our litter pickup. Here is the volunteer list sent to Dick Olson for documentation.

Robert Shimane Tim Quinton
Liz Sherry Randall Davis
Harry Harbin Renee Schindele
John Lewis Tim Schindele

Jane Lewis John Butler

Bill Raleigh Peter Martin

Dick Olson



CHECK OUT THE NEW SIGNS

Have you noticed the new BLM signs along the Crooked River? A person at the Prineville District BLM told me that the campground signs were installed last year, however, this Lower Crooked River National

Wild and Scenic sign was installed just before our cleanup. This sign is at milepost 12 on the north end of our adopted section.

- PETER MARTIN CLASSIFIEDS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

BOARD BITS

CENTRAL OREGON FLYFISHERS ELECTION RESULTS - 2024

We held elections online in November. The following is your Board of Directors for 2024...

President – Fred Cholick

Vice President – John Howard

Treasurer – Tim Schindele

Secretary – Jack Patterson

Wild Women of the Water & FFI rep - Susan Coyle

Membership - Bob Shimane

Programs - Yancy Lind

Education - Tim Quinton

Outings Coordinator - Allen Caudle

Conservation - Tom Shuman

Kokanee Karnival & Next Cast – Fred Cholick

Banquet/Auction - Tim Schindele

Website - Mary Barron

Member at-large - Kevin Sansom

Member at-large - Steve Lichtenberger

FYI – non-board members/coordinators are as follows...

Winter Fly Tying - John Howard

August BBQ - Mark Hamilton

Volunteer Data – Dick Olson

Social Media – Molly Vernarecci

Newsletter – Kelly Alexander

Librarian – John Howard

Classified Ads & Crooked River Cleanup – Peter Martin

Kokanee Karnival co-chair - Jen Luke

Banquet/Auction co-chair - Renee Schindele

Monthly Meeting Raffle - John Howard & Jack Patterson

Sportsmen's Show coordinator - Kevin Sansom

- KARI SCHOESSLER SCHOESSLER.KARIVAN@GMAIL.COM

COF CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: OUTCAST PROWLER FLOAT

TUBE. Excellent condition. Includes fins, backpack straps, carrying case, and repair kit. \$275 OBO, Kevin Sansom (541) 749–8205, kevinjsansom@gmail.com



FOR SALE: SAGE MODEL ONE 7116-4 TWO HANDED SWITCH ROD, 11'6", 7 wt., 4-piece, sock and tube, \$450.00, perfect for steelheading the lower D, also includes Rio Scandi Shooting Head, 420 gr. and Rio Powerflex Shooting Line, like new, fished twice, retail new; rod-\$860, shooting line-\$40, scandi line-\$55, total of \$955, Peter Martin, landline, (541) 388-8956, pcmartin@bendbroadband.com



FOR SALE: THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR SALE BY TIM QUINTON, CGTIMQ@GMAIL.COM, 509-392-3516

WINSTON 8'3 WEIGHT AIR FLY ROD & NAUTILUS REEL, PRICE REDUCED TO \$700

This is a beautiful Winston rod and reel setup for small stream fishing! It comes with original tube, a 4pc 8' Redington rod/reel case, and all are in great condition. The Nautilus FWX 1/3 reel includes backing and 3 wt line and neoprene case. Asking \$700 for the outfit (\$500 for the rod and \$200 for the reel). I am open to splitting up the pair, let me know which one you are interested in.





KORKERS DEVIL'S CANYON WADING

BOOTS, SIZE 12 - \$75 These boots have been worn quite a bit but have plenty of life left in them. The cable on one of the boots was replaced last year, and both cables are in good shape. Comes with 1 pr of Studded Kling-On Soles and 1 pr of Kling-On Sticky Soles. Check out the Korkers website for the details: https://korkers.com/collections/fishing-footwear/products/devils-canyon?variant=24521933848676





SIMMS FLATS SNEAKERS, SIZE 9 – \$70. Worn a couple times but still in very good condition (lots of flats trips left in these boots!). Soles are in excellent shape, welt stitching excellent, no tears or holes in uppers or in the foam padding around the ankle. Retail is \$140.





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

COF MEMBERS: Got a "fishy item," (broadly defined), to sell, find, or giveaway? Ads are free and run for one newsletter. If the item is not sold, please resubmit your ad for the next month's newsletter. Submit ads to classifieds@coflyfishers.org by the end of the third week of each month.

- CLASSIFIEDS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG



IMPROVED ZELON MIDGE

BY PETER MARTIN

t is December so let's tie a midge. Since I mostly fish on the surface this month's pattern is the Improved Zelon Midge from Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone. BRF first describes a floating zelon midge on a 1990 pattern sheet with this improved version appearing in the 2005 new fly instructions. I have had good success on the Fall and Crooked with this midge pattern. Only two materials plus the hook and thread. It is easy to tie, floats well and is visible.

MATERIALS

HOOK: TMC 2488, #20, 22

THREAD: Uni 8/0 Olive dun or Danville 6/0

Olive

SHUCK & WING: Midge-gray straight zelon or

Crippled Caddis Tan zelon

BODY: Working thread over the zelon shuck

THORAX: Midge black zelon dubbing

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

- 1. Crimp the barb, attach the thread and tie in a zelon shuck. Wrap back over the shuck with your thread slightly around the bend of the hook and then back to the wing position. Trim the shuck half the length of the hook.
- 2. Figure-8 a strand of zelon for the wing. Trim to the length of the hook shank.
- 3. Dub a thorax of midge black zelon dubbing. Here you have the choice to either figure 8 the dubbing around the wing like a spinner wing or dub in front of the wing forcing the fibers backwards. I prefer the figure 8 results.
- 4. Whip finish.

MATERIAL NOTES

I favor the TMC 2488 for small dry flies. With a straight eye, 2X short shank, and 3X wide gap it ties small but still hooks fish. Zelon and zelon dubbing are Blue Ribbon Fly materials. I believe it was Mike Lawson who said if you find a flytying material you can't live without then buy a lifetime supply. Shopping at Blue Ribbon since 1989 I've followed that advice very well.

I believe zelon dubbing is a mixture of rabbit, including the guard hairs, and zelon. Hare Tron, which is rabbit and Antron, and the many other fur and synthetic mixtures available today, should substitute well. Likewise, there are wing and shuck substitutes such as EP and EP Trigger Point or MFC's Widow's Web. EP's Trigger Point Fibers in Pale Morning Dun is similar in color and shade to midge gray zelon. I've been using EP Trigger Point on spinner wing patterns for a couple seasons. I haven't used either new material but Fulling Mill's ultra dry yarn and dry dub ultra used in recent Davie McPhail's tying videos look interesting for dry flies.

- PETER MARTIN

PCMARTIN@BENDBROADBAND.COM

DECEMBER 2023 UPSTREAM EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
December 3rd	WWW Holiday Gathering	
December 20	Holiday party at Hollingshead Barn, 5:30-7:30	

In the Future

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
January 17th	Monthly COF Meeting at the Elks Club	
Tuesdays in January (9th, 16th, 23rd, and 30th), and the first two Tuesdays in February	Winter Fly Tying Basic Skills, Classroom 2, Larkspur Community Center, from 5:30 - 8:00PM.	John Howard, winterflytying@coflyfishers.org
January 25th	COF Board Meeting at 6:00 - Black Bear Diner	
April 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, & 30, 2024	Kokanee Karnival Spring Clinic	Fred Cholick, KK@coflyfishers.org

