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President's Message

Water Policy Issues in Central Oregon

I think that most COF members are aware that there are a multitude of water policy issues relating to our rivers in Central Oregon. For each issue, there are a multitude of organizations working on the issues and those organizations hold a multitude of competing views. Many of these views are diametrically opposed to each other. One's stand on an issue often depends upon where one sits.

I believe that COF's role is to bring the issues to our members' attention and to provide the resources so that you can make up your own mind. With that in mind, I've listed many of the major players.

The Upper Deschutes (Little Lava Lake to Bend)

The current big issue is the widely fluctuation in flow between summer and winter as a result of irrigation. There is a Deschutes Basin Study Working Group (BSWG) with 38 members seeking to come up with a long term plan for the basin. COF is a member of the BSWG and our representative is Dave Dunahay. The study group is a collaborative process between government agencies, the irrigation districts, the cities, and environmental groups.

Current results from this effort include an increase in winter flows on the upper Deschutes from 20 cfs to 100 cfs. For more details on the BSWG, see <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/studies/deschutes/index.html>. Major environmental groups involved in the study group include the Coalition for the Deschutes <http://coalitionforthedeschutes.org>, The Deschutes River Conservancy <http://www.deschutesriver.org>, Trout Unlimited <https://deschutes.tu.org>, The Upper Deschutes River Coalition, <http://udrc.org>, The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council <http://www.upperdeschuteswatershedcouncil.org> and Water Watch of Oregon <http://waterwatch.org>. I encourage you to visit these organizations websites to learn their views. For the Central Oregon Irrigation District's latest position see <https://www.usbr.gov/pn/studies/deschutes/index.html>.

In addition the BSWG, a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) being developed that will become part of an application *Continued on page 9*



FFI

An Active Member Club

Please join us for “Understanding the Downstream Sub-surface Drift of Aquatic *Bugs* for Improved Fly Fishing Success at Rivers and Streams”, presented by John R. Anderson, retired scientist and longtime COF member. 🐟 For most fly fishers the word “drift” seems ingrained with being able to mimic and maintain a drag-free drift while a fly pattern drifts through variations in downstream currents. However, there is an even more important type of drift that, for most fly fishers, is the most overlooked and least understood aspect of fly fishing. This program will address this gap by discussing various aspects associated with the daily and seasonal downstream sub-surface drift of the various aquatic “bugs” (macroinvertebrates) eaten by trout and mountain whitefish. Topics covered in this illustrated program will be: how scientists study drift; factors that trigger such drift; how sub-surface drift varies throughout a diel (24-hr period); what bugs typically are found drifting; how knowledge of sub-surface drift cycles can improve fly fishing success during the many days when there is “No Hatch to Match”; and how to catch trout and mountain whitefish by learning to MATCH THE DRIFT. This program is based on personal studies conducted with drift nets and a review of hundreds of drift net studies conducted in many different countries that have been published in various scientific journals.

Pre-Meeting: 6:15, View vials of preserved aquatic larvae and nymphs that John has collected.

OUTINGS

Owyhee River Outing

October 18–22, 2017 Wed. to Sun.

The COF Owyhee outing is now scheduled for October 18–22. We had hoped to go in March but the high water required us to cancel that date. I have checked with Nate Brumley from Dry Fly Innovations in Boise and he recommends mid to late October as prime time.

The Owyhee River downstream from Lake Owyhee Dam is a gem. Think the Crooked River on steroids. Instead of rainbows and white fish, think browns, big browns. A 15-incher is a small fish. While you can use the same flies and rigs you use on the Crooked, think small stuff. Size 18–22 work well. To get a better idea of what the Owyhee looks like, watch Brian Huskey’s video of the Owyhee at: <http://vimeo.com/5327229>.

OUTINGS CALENDAR 2017

MONTH	DAY	DESTINATION	LEADER
October	18–22	Owyhee River	Lee Ann Ross
October	12–15	Deschutes River Steelhead	Lee Ann Ross
Oct/Nov	TBD	Eagle Lake	Charlie Schillinsky

To sign up for an outing, please contact the outings leader directly with a cc: to the outings coordinator at outings@coflyfishers.org. Email addresses and phone numbers are available on our website coflyfishers.org. Due to the nature of the water, some outings will have a limit on participation. Sign-ups will be taken on a first come, first served basis.

[com/5327229](http://vimeo.com/5327229)

It takes about five hours to the Owyhee. Travel on Hwy 20 from Bend, via Burns to Vale. Towards the end of town, turn right at the Cenex Gas Station onto Glenn Street. (Fill up before you leave town). Glenn Street becomes Lytle Blvd. Go for about 14 miles. Turn right just behind the little store, then take the first left. Turn right on Klamath and then left on Norwood, right on Owyhee Ave

and left on Owyhee Lake Road. Sound confusing? Not really, there are a lot of signs to Owyhee State Park. If you make a mistake, any of the roads will get you there. You basically need to go southwest from the store. Check it out on Google maps.

Take Owyhee Lake Road up towards the dam. There is a bridge just below the dam with a sign to the irrigation department. Cross the bridge and you’re *Continued on page 3*



PHOTO: BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

Owyhee River continued from page 2

at a campground with green grass and an outhouse. Bring money so we can make a donation to the irrigation department for use of the campground. I think we donated about \$10 a head per night last year. **There is NO water, no cell service and no other facilities.** There is Wi-Fi at the museum on the irrigation department property. There is no password so you can just hangout on the bench outside the museum and use the Wi-Fi.

You have the choice of camping at the campground, camping along the river, or staying at a motel in Vale or Ontario. Unlike the Crooked, there are no developed campgrounds along the river. If you choose not to stay in the campground, you just pull over and set up camp. The 10 miles of fishing below the dam to Snively Hot Springs is the best fishing. If you are pulling a big rig and staying with us at the campground, please park just OUTSIDE of the campground proper and leave the camping area for tenters and small trailers.

Dry Fly Innovations has an excellent blog at: <http://www.dryflyinnovations.com/blog>. There are tons of archived reports on the site. Unfortunately, it is now a paid site but COF has a free membership that Dry Fly Innovations gifted us after Nate Brumley's talk to

the club last year. The membership expires October 15 so go look at the site now. Our email is library@coflyfishers.org and the password is *dryflyguy*. You can go back to last October to see how the hatch was a year ago. Nate suggests the following bugs for mid to

late October. There are links to his website so you can see what the bugs are. I plan to order a dozen so that I have at least some flies that I know will work.

- [Black Caddidge #22](#)
- [Olive Brown Emperor Caddis #18](#)
- [Black w/Black Wing Colored Emerger #22/20](#)
- [Blood Midge Colored Emerger #22/20](#)
- [BWO Colored Emerger #22/20](#)
- [Black Hoagie's Cripple #20](#)
- [BWO Hoagie's Cripple #20](#)
- [BWO Convertible Mayfly #22/20](#)
- [Hoagie's Spent Midge #20](#)

All are welcome on this outing. There is no limit to how many can come, but please let me know if you plan to attend so I can get a rough head count for the campground.

~Lee Ann Ross, rossleeann@yahoo.com

Deschutes River Steelhead Trip

Oct. 12-15 | Beavertail Campground

The COF annual steelhead trip to the lower Deschutes River will be Thursday October 12 through Sunday October 15. The float from Beavertail to Macks Canyon is an easy float with only class one and two rapids. While this is advertised as a steelhead outing, there is no reason that the trout fisher folks can't join in. If you are

not a steelheader, you are still more than welcome to attend. If you are not into floating, there is great access for either steelhead or trout water from the road. If you want to arrange your own guide for the day, that would work too.

We will try to get the group campsite at the north end of the Beavertail campground. If that is occupied, we will try to use individual sites at the south end of the campground. There is a \$25 per night camping fee for the group campground, and if we can get that campsite, the cost will be shared among campers. If not, we will just pay for our individual sites. Everyone is responsible for one's own meals. You will also need to get your own boaters pass at www.boaterpass.com.

We work together to shuttle vehicles to the take out at Macks Canyon (14 miles round trip) so that everyone can get back to the campground at the end of the day. Please sign up in advance so we have a feel for how many folks are coming and how we can arrange the shuttles.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Lee Ann Ross.

~Lee Ann Ross, rossleeann@yahoo.com

CONSERVATION

Steelhead and the Lower Deschutes

It's the time of year when many of us turn our thoughts to steelhead fishing on the lower Deschutes River. As I write this column in mid-September the predictions for a historically low steelhead run in the Columbia Basin, including the Deschutes, are coming true. Compared to last year at this time, only half as many steelhead have made it past the Dalles Dam on the Columbia River and the *Continued on page 4*

Conservation continued from page 3

count at Sherar's Falls on the Deschutes is the lowest in four decades. The outlook is particularly dismal for B-run steelhead where a return of only 1,100 fish is projected.

("B-run" steelhead are from the Clearwater, Middle Fork Salmon, and South Fork Salmon Rivers. Unlike other Columbia Basin steelhead – "A-run" – they spend 2 years rather than 1 in the ocean, and are generally larger in size.)

This depressing situation has been decades in the making. Dams are a primary culprit along with habitat degradation and loss, increased predation, pollution, commercial harvest, and the stocking of hatchery fish as "mitigation". Global warming must now be added to that list as a significant factor. Unusually high ocean temperatures for the past few years have disrupted the food chain and smolts entering the ocean have largely starved or been eaten by warm water predators that have moved north. Consecutively record hot summers for multiple years has degraded habitat via elevated river temperatures, drought, and sedimentation from runoff due to increased forest fires.

The good news is that water temps in the lower Deschutes are

currently ideal for steelhead and should continue to be so for the remainder of the season for those who want to turn the fish of a thousand casts into the fish of five thousand casts. Steelhead anglers are encouraged to use caution, however, and do whatever you can to catch and release wild fish unharmed. Below are suggestions from ODFW:

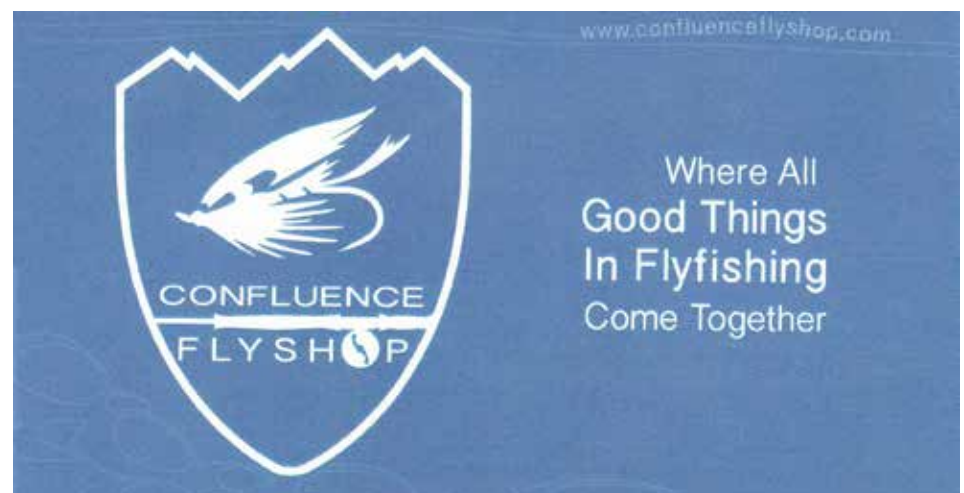
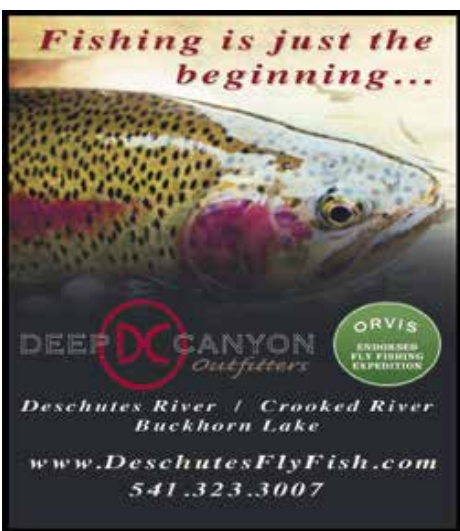
- Use barbless hooks (even where not required)
- Use tackle strong enough to bring your fish in quickly
- Land fish as quickly and carefully as possible
- Avoid removing the fish from the water
- If taking a photo, cradle the fish at water level and quickly take the picture
- Remove hooks quickly and gen-

tly while keeping the fish under water

- Use long-nosed pliers or hemostats to back out a hook
- If a fish is hooked deeply, cut the line near the hook
- Revive fish (point them into slow current or move them back and forth until gills are working)
- When possible, let the fish swim out of your hands
- Fish when it's cool out – early in the morning and late in the afternoon – fishing is better and stress on fish is less

Of course, always kill and keep hatchery fish. They are there for harvest and should be removed before they have the opportunity to spawn.

Low returns are deeply troubling but there are reasons for at least some hope. Ocean *Continued on page 5*



Conservation continued from page 4

temperatures are forecasted to cool in the near future, although they will likely stay high by historical standards. Also, this year saw record numbers of outmigrating smolts on the Deschutes due to improved river conditions from a wet winter and modified operations at the Pelton-Round Butte dam complex. If the smolts find food to eat in the ocean we could see higher returns in two years.

The lower Deschutes is an emotional subject for many with claims and counter claims often made by the many parties studying the issues affecting the river. A current example of this is the "Black Spot Disease." Symptoms are caused by a parasite that exists across North America including most rivers in Oregon. A fish-eating bird (typically a great blue heron, osprey, eagle or kingfisher) eats an infected fish. The black spot or worms are released and grow to sexual maturity in the bird's intestine. The adult worms pass eggs with the bird's droppings. When the eggs reach water, they hatch into free-swimming organisms that then penetrate snails for further development. Finally, after leaving the snails they burrow into the skin of fish and form a cyst. The fish surrounds the cyst with black pigment that gives the disease its name. If an infected fish is consumed by a bird, the cycle repeats itself. Multiple peer-reviewed scientific articles state that the parasite generally does not harm fish although there have been rare cases where heavily infected fish were blinded by cysts that form around the parasite. This has not been reported on the Deschutes. Per ODFW,

Continued on page 6

EDUCATION

How To Rig Up Your Fishing Boat Class

A big thanks to Lee Ann Ross, Gary Davis, and Lynn Roy for bringing their boats down to the Bend Parks and Recreation building to show folks what they had done to modify or make the boat work for them to fish from. Thanks to all who attended. We will try to add a component to the



Gary Davis's new seat on his kayak, with gear baskets on stern.



Gary Davis showing his new trailer.

COF East Lake Outing next July and actually open up an afternoon to try out each other's boats, on the water, in advance of the Tri-Tip Roast dinner. Stay tuned for more details to come.

Beginning Fly Tying Class

Cliff Price will be hosting another beginning fly tying series in November held the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th, for club members only. There will be room for the first 8 people who sign up. Several slots will be held open for students in the Next Cast program. There is a \$10 fee for the series of classes, payable in advance. Most materials will be supplied or available to borrow during the class. This class will be taught at the Environmental Center from 6-8pm. If you have questions or are interested in signing up, please send an email to education@coflyfishers.org.

Net Building Class

Folks are inventorying supplies to host another net building class. The class will most likely be held mid-January. Further details will be available in the November newsletter. If you are interested at all in building your own beautiful wood net, please send us a note. The first 6 folks to sign up will be happy with their end product! Sign up at education@coflyfishers.org.

Please Contact Debbie Norton or Dalton Miller-Jones at education@coflyfishers.org if you have ideas for education classes this fall.

~ Debbie Norton

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NEXT CAST FLYFISHERS

Fall fishing is here! The weather has changed and the fish are eating well to prepare for winter. Several of our Next Cast members are still on the local lakes, along with some great action on the rivers. We have seen several pictures of big kokanee landed at Sheep's Bridge!

Keep up the great work and keep posting your pictures! Check out Instagram #nextcastflyfishers.

Upcoming activities:

Beginning Fly Tying, November 7, 14, 21 & 28; 6:00 at the Bend Environmental Center. This is a great opportunity for our beginner fly tyers to advance their skills. Visers, tools, and materials will all be provided. This session has limited space and will fill up quickly. You must sign up IMMEDIATELY if you are interested.

Net Building, January 2018. Details coming soon! This is the opportunity to hand make a landing net. The frames are all put together, you will sand the frame to a perfect sheen, then apply many coats of finish to make it beautiful!! Net baskets are tied into the frame and it is ready to fish!

The Next Cast Flyfishers program provides opportunities and coordinates activities for young fly anglers in the area. We offer fly fishing instruction through classroom activities, fly fishing summer camps, ongoing COF events, and individually through mentorship and teaching.

Providing these opportunities, young anglers will be exposed to fly fishing and increase their interest and level of involvement.

Please contact me directly if you have questions.

~Karen Kreft, nextcast@coflyfishers.org,
503-409-0148

Conservation continued from page 5

reports of Black Spot Disease are increasing across the state, although they do not know why. Infestation rates may be cyclical or may be increasing due to environmental changes but Black Spot Disease is not contained to the Deschutes and does not appear to have a negative impact on Deschutes fish. There are those who believe that the changes in the water temperature regime in the Lower Deschutes has increased the snail population and thus increased the prevalence of the black spot disease.

Another example of differing opinion on issues concerning the Lower Deschutes concern bass and walleye in the lower most sections of the Deschutes. Populations of these invasive fish have exploded in the Columbia River over the years. In fact, not long ago both Oregon and Washington removed limits and encourage anglers to harvest their catch of bass and walleye. For decades there have been reports of these invasive fish seasonally leaving the Columbia and moving into the Deschutes only to leave when water temperatures dropped. Electro fishing by ODFW this summer and early fall confirms this pattern to be repeating and bass are now moving back to the Columbia. This is a

problem created by dams turning the Columbia River into a series of warm water lakes combined with the illegal planting of invasive species which now seasonally move up the Deschutes and other tributaries. Fishermen have reported catching bass up as high as Macks Canyon this year. There are those that believe that the changes in the temperature regime in the Lower Deschutes have increased the penetration of the bass up the river.

~Yancy Lind, Conservation Chair,
conservation@coflyfishers.org

CLASSIFIED ADS

Wanted to Buy: Ross Evolution reel, size 2, blue. Phil Martin, 949-637-4373, pmartin@philmartinassociates.com

For Sale: PRICE REDUCED Dave Scaddon Renegade 8' pontoon boat. Lightly used, good condition includes anchor system. Asking \$500. Contact Cliff Price, 541-410-0670, csp955@yahoo.com

For Sale: Two TFO BVK 10 ft, 4pc, 6 wt rods. \$150 each or both, \$300! This is half price. casrods47@gmail.com, 541-213-6121

Members: Got a fishing related item to sell? Ads run one month then can be resubmitted if not sold to classifieds@coflyfishers.org.



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- ~ Karen Kreft, *Next Cast Flyfishers*
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- ~ Kari Schoessler, *Wild Women of the Water*
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- ~ Susan Coyle, *Membership*
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- ~ Debbie Norton, *Education*
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- ~ Frank Turek, *Kokanee Karnival*
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- ~ Tom Wideman, *Banquet*
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- ~ Allen Caudle, *Director*
rdm_fishpond@coflyfishers.org
- ~ Dalton Miller-Jones, *Director*
education2@coflyfishers.org

Membership application at: coflyfishers.org

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- ~ Advertising: Mike Shadrach, 541-678-5717
- ~ Social Media: Molly Vernarecci,
socialmedia@coflyfishers.org
- ~ Librarian: Kathleen Schroeder
- ~ Raffle: Roger Vlach
- ~ Newsletter Design & Production: Darius Whitten,
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Hackle: Partridge gray feather

Head: Tying thread

Tying Instructions:

1. Lock in the thread behind the eye and wind to bend, half-way there add the copper wire, this keeps the body slim. Stop just beyond the hook barb.
2. Now lightly dub the tread and wind it forward towards the hook eye stopping about 3 eye widths from the eye and tye off.
3. Now wind the copper rib forward with 5 even wraps and tye it off. If you like you can tease out the dubbing just a little, it adds some life to the fly.
4. Tye in a single peacock herl and wind it as the thorax and tye it off, leaving enough space for the partridge hackle.

OK enough, the smoke has been terrible and the weather hot, but right now its 42 degrees, raining and the wind is at somewhere above 15 mph, what a way to bring summer to an end and bring in the fall. And for those new to Central Oregon get use to it! It's part of the challenge that makes fishing here fun and exciting.

The fly this month is a Purple Haze soft hackle it is what we call a variant or a different version of the original parachute pattern. The Purple Haze has been a steady fast fly here for while and what I have done is turn it into a soft hackle. I used some of the same materials just changed the hook style and the hackle. It fishes a little deeper as do most soft-hackles, and acts more like an emerger than the parachute dry as the original. I have fished both at the same time, using the soft-hackle as a dropper off the

bend of the dry fly version. Just a different look of the same coloring. Give it a try and enjoy the fall it is a great time to hook that big one that has been hiding all summer long.

Materials:

Hook: Light wire scud hook

#16 to #10

Thread: Purple or Dun/Grey 14/0

Body: Purple super fine dubbing

Rib: Fine copper wire

Thorax: Peacock herl

5. Prepare the partridge hackle for tying it in by the tip. Tye it in and take 1½ to 2 wraps of hackle and tye it off. Make sure you take at least 1 wrap of thread thru the hackle for strength.
 6. Finish with a nice neat head.
- Good Luck and Good Hunting!

~ Jerry Criss, 541-536-3581,
tffly44@msn.com

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President's Message continued from page 1

for one or more Endangered Species Act incidental take permits authoring the incidental take of listed species.

The Lower Deschutes (below Lake Billy Chinook (LBC) to the mouth)

The big issue in this section is the change in the water release regime from Lake Billy Chinook. As part of the relicensing process and in an effort to assist in salmon and steelhead reintroduction above the dam, Portland General Electric invested over \$110 million in a 273 foot Selective Water Withdrawal Tower in 2010 to help transport fish. As part of that effort, PGE has changed the water withdrawal system from a completely bottom withdrawal to a mixed system. The goal was to return the water temperature to what it was before the dam was built. The result is that the water temperatures in the lower Deschutes are warmer in the spring and summer and colder in the fall than before the mixing tower was established. PGE contends that there has been no negative impact on the lower river due to these changes while the Deschutes River Alliance contends that the changes in the flow regime has resulted in an increase in algae, decreased hatches, an increase in snails and worms, the emergence of Black Spot disease and a multitude of other impacts.

PGE works with a 14-member fish committee. Members can be found at <https://www.portlandgeneral.com/corporate-responsibility/environmental-stewardship/water-quality-habitat-protection/deschutes-river/our-partners>. PGE's major study on the river that they use to support their position is called the R2 Study. You can

find a link to download the study at this site under the title Deschutes Macroinvertebrate Study <https://www.portlandgeneral.com/corporate-responsibility/environmental-stewardship/water-quality-habitat-protection/deschutes-river/fact-sheets-studies>. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality had a number of questions about the study. The memo from DEQ to PGE can be found at this site. <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/58c778d4414fb5205e205605/t/59482a70ff7c50d4cb6ad11d/1497901683347/10+ODEQ+Letter+to+PGE+Regarding+Deficiencies+in+2016+R2+Resource+Consultants+Report.pdf>.

The Deschutes River Alliance has filed a Clean Water Act "Citizen Suit" against PGE for violation in water quality. PGE filed a motion to dismiss the case arguing that DRA had no standing to sue. The courts ruled in favor of DRA. PGE appealed to the Ninth Circuit and that court refused to hear PGE's appeal. The suit continues. You can find more information on the Deschutes River Alliance's views on the water quality issues at <https://deschutesriveralliance.wordpress.com>.

The other major player in all water issues in Oregon is the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. They have issued a number of reports, many of which are not easily accessible on the web. If you would like to know what is available, Yancy Lind can help you access documents.

These Central Oregon water issues are hot button issues for all those involved. Feelings often run high on all sides. There is a lot of good information out there, there is a lot of bad information out there. Again, so much depends upon where you sit. Even with the COF

board, we hold widely varying opinions on these matters. My goal is that, as a club, we provide you updates on the many sides of these issues that we provide you links to the opinions of the various players so that you can draw your own conclusions.

~Lee Ann Ross

OTHER NEWS

October Raffle

The rod for the October raffle will be a 6' 8" 3 piece 3 weight fly rod.

~Charlie Schillinsky

Outfitting Your Pontoon Boat



Learn how to outfit your boat just like Lee Ann's!

I've collected all the tips and tricks that I've learned over the years and on outfitting my pontoon boat. I've written it all up in a PDF and posted it on our COF website. If you would like to read it you can find it at:

<https://coflyfishers.wildapricot.org/resources/Documents/Presentations/Tips%20and%20Tricks%20for%20Outfitting%20a%20Pontoon%20Boat-.pdf>

~Lee Ann Ross

UPSTREAM EVENTS October 2017 *(Also see Outings Calendar on page 2)*

DATE	TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION	CONTACT
5th	6:30 PM	COF Board Meeting	Environmental Center	-
19th	6:15 PM	Pre-Meeting: Bug ID John Anderson	Bend Senior Center	Dalton Miller-Jones
19th	7:00 PM	General Meeting Program: Understanding Sub Surface Drift	Bend Senior Center	-

In the Future

Nov 7, 17, 21 & 28; Beginning Fly Tying; Environmental Center; Contact: education@coflyfishers.org

April 14th; 2018 COF Annual Banquet & Fundraiser; Riverhouse Convention Center;
Contact: 503-330-5505, tom@widemans.com



Central Oregon Flyfishers
PO Box 1126
Bend, Oregon 97709