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President's Message

Happy September Flyfishers! Hopefully the really hot days of summer are over by now and we can start to enjoy some of our excellent late summer/fall fishing here in Central Oregon. We are continuing our video meetings for the foreseeable future – it looks like these COVID restrictions will be with us for quite a while longer. I've heard predictions of anywhere from 6 months to over a year before things get back to some kind of "normal", so figure out a way to keep your body and mind active while staying safe and healthy. Some of our club members have gone on vacations out of the state and have had some excellent fishing, all while keeping their health a priority – it can be done, just be smart about it!

We held several club outings lately, one I attended was at 3 Creeks Lake. The 8 of us that attended had a nice time, and we were able to gather for a shoreside lunch and maintain our distancing while sharing fishing techniques, flies, and tales. Yes, you CAN do this safely, so I encourage anyone who is interested to participate in these outings. We even caught some fish!

This month you'll see the results of the Membership Survey from July, so take a look and see what your fellow members said about dues increases and how we spend our money. Liz and I are taking a look at how much our dues increase will be, based on club expenses, both essential (necessary for running the club) and non-essential (nice to have, but not mandatory). We'll make our recommendations to the Board in Sept and come out with the decisions in Oct.

I received an email a while ago from Dave Dunahay, our member with his "finger on the pulse" of the local water issues. As you may recall, we put out an email blast a while back telling you of the proposed hydro power project on the Crooked River at Bowman Dam. The email Dave passed on to me was from Mike Taylor, a member of the ODFW Fish Passage Task Force, and summed up the meeting held on June 26. In a nutshell, the fish passage waiver requested by ODFW was denied, and that the offered mitigation package was pretty thin. If you were one of our members who (like me) submitted comments against the waiver, then your voice was heard! The path forward is to look at possibly increasing the downstream mitigation measures. The ODFW presentation (especially their fish biologist) was pretty impressive, and destroyed the idea that the habitat above Bowman Dam would be useable by Steelhead and Chinook.

Cool videos of the month: Another of Phil Rowley's videos, this one for tying a Crystal Sedge Pupa fly. This looks to be an excellent fly; I've used some that look pretty close to this and they work really well. He also gives some good advice on fishing this fly at the end of the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jW1z3kbsd08> Then another one from The Huge Fly Fisherman, this one on setting the hook for different types of fishing. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w5l8obrWHyU> As always, thank for being a part of this great Club, and feel free to let me (or any board member) know if you have ideas for improvement. Get out and fish (safely of course)!

- *Tim Quinton*

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**GENERAL *virtual* MEETING | SEPTEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup>**  
SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL! LOOK FOR AN EMAIL TO COME THAT EXPLAINS THE DETAILS.



This month's virtual program presenter is **John Shewey** who will be giving his "Exploring Oregon's Outback" presentation Wednesday, September 16th.

John has been accused of being a deadbeat slacker, but he steadfastly refutes such charges and insists instead that he is a lifelong fly-fishing addict. He usually admits to being the editor-in-chief of *American Fly Fishing* (formally Northwest Fly Fishing, etc.) unless you are mad at the magazine, in which case John is likely to deny any involvement. His 30 plus year career as a writer and photographer has produced countless magazines articles and nearly 20 books. A couple of his books are rather good. His most recent titles are *Classic Steelhead Flies*, *Birds of the Pacific Northwest*, and *Oregon Beaches: A Traveler's Companion*. When not plunging into a cold river over his wader tops in pursuit of summer-run steelhead, he spends considerable time on the verge of cardiac arrest following his Weimaraners around Oregon's chukar country.

**SPECIAL NOTE TO ALL COF MEMBERS:**

If you are not tuning in on our monthly virtual meetings you are missing out on great monthly presentations. COVID-19 has taken a toll on all of us, but your fly fishing club is still going strong and providing quality presentations for your enjoyment. We are looking forward to seeing you at this month's meeting.

**WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER**

The summer months have been busy for our Wild Women even in the midst of our ever challenging and ever evolving reality of physical distancing. Fly fishing is the perfect sport to enjoy together while apart. We have hosted zoom gatherings over the summer, two in August. Our own Debbie Norton took time to share with us her experience of living in Mexico. She shared about the fishing and the realities of living in Mexico and of her connection and involvement with communities in which she lived.

Wild Women hosted another excellent Zoom gathering in August and our presenter was Molly Semenik of Tie the Knot Fly Fishing. Molly is a Certified Master Casting Instructor with FFI, including the Two-hand Casting Instructor certification and received the Mel Krieger Fly Casting Instructor award from FFI in 2018. Too many

accolades to list. She gave an hour presentation with a focus on improving loop shape and accuracy. My take away... trajectory. She gave tips and drills to improve our cast.

Molly Semenik and our own Mary Ann Dozer and Sherry Steele are all valued leaders with Fly Fishers International. Take the time to explore the FFI web site and the education section. Not a member of FFI? I encourage you to sign up and for women especially, join FFI Women Connect. A fantastic networking, educational, social and just plain fun group of women!

Looking for you on water this September. Fall fishing is on its way!

- SUE COYLE  
541-668-3565, [WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)



## EDUCATION

### Tim's Tips #7: Caddis Time!

First of all, I apologize for not thinking of writing this one a couple of months ago, when the caddis were starting out on our local streams. Hopefully there's still enough activity to make this worth a read (and there's always next year!). Have you ever seen all that surface activity during the last hour before dark on the Deschutes when there were clouds of caddis all around and had a hard time hooking up? I've been in that position, and over the years have discovered a way to have some best-of-season fishing during those times.

Many times, my dry flies were ignored as I watched fish after fish eat "something" off the surface (or so it appeared!), and no amount of fly changes had any effect. One evening, in the last minutes of light, I was wading back to my boat and dragging my line along, not reeled in. Since it was a fast, slippery wade I was moving pretty slowly, and the line was just hanging in the current below me (which was also where I had been fishing). You all know what happened next – a big redside slammed the fly, jumped 3 times to show off, then dove into the weedy bottom and threw the fly. Luckily it hadn't broken off in the growing darkness, and I tried it again – just cast out and let the fly "hang" in the current (for like 10 seconds!)

with similar results (landed this one, about 13").

It turns out that trout like this, probably because the caddis are doing something just under the surface where they are vulnerable to the trout. I'm not sure if it's egg laying or emerging, I just know it really works. The fly I use for this method is an Iris Caddis (available at most of our local fly shops and pretty easy to tie, we've tied it in our winter fly tying class). It has a loop of white Zelon for a wing, and I apply some paste floatant to that part only. That little bit of white actually shows up pretty well in the low light conditions and choppy water of a riffle.

I cast it a few feet above a riseform, let it drift drag-free until the line comes tight, then let it swing in the current on a tight line until the fly is directly below me, then let it "hang" in the current for up to 10 seconds (approx). The fly is usually underwater in steps 2 and 3. Some fish will hit it on the drift, some on the swing, but the vast majority nail it on the hang. Rich Fitterer and I used this method last month on the lower Deschutes and "the hang" accounted for about 75% of our hookups. I recommend going up to 4x tippet (I usually use 5x for my dry flies there), since the fish don't seem to care and they can really slam your fly (I've been broken off more than once on 4x by a big rainbow using this method). And don't strike when you get a take – the fish will usually hook themselves in this situation and if you do the "rip



their lips off Bassmasters strike” you’ll probably break it off. Just lift gently and fight the fish on a tight line. A lot of them get off anyway, no matter what you do, but it’s a lot of fun!

The photo above is the Iris Caddis – thanx to John Kreft for his excellent photo skills!

- TIM QUINTON  
CGTIMQ@GMAIL.COM

***Blasts From The Past!*** *The COF Newsletter archives hold some excellent information that is factual, timely, and never gets old. This month’s article (from Nov 2010) is another excellent Bill Seitz discussion of our local waters, particularly Steelhead, which have started entering the Deschutes. Initial reports so far have been pretty favorable! Some of the info may be dated, but most of it is still current. Thanx again Bill for this excellent article! If any members have ideas for similar articles please let me know. - Tim Q*

## Deschutes River Steelhead

This popular fishery (an average of over 12,000 sport anglers annually from July to the end of October) is primarily driven by the catch of wild steelhead, Deschutes Basin hatchery fish from the Round Butte Hatchery, and out of basin stray hatchery steelhead from programs located throughout the Columbia River Basin. Population monitoring by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) indicates that hatchery stocks outnumber wild steelhead. However, angler catch surveys show that wild fish make up an unusually large component of the total number of fish caught.

The steelhead of the LD are summer steelhead. The adults enter the Deschutes from the Columbia starting in June and continue to enter the river throughout the winter months. Many anglers don’t know it, but the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS) is a threatened species under the Endangered Species Act. The status and viability of the wild steelhead in the Deschutes are critical to the recovery of the Middle Columbia River DPS. Because of its threatened status, all wild steelhead caught on the LD must be released immediately. Steelhead in the Deschutes remain in the river in the summer, fall, and winter months and then spawn in early spring. Winter steelhead, found mostly in coastal rivers and streams, enter the rivers in winter and spawn in early spring.

Since 1977, the ODFW has conducted angler surveys

at Heritage Landing near the Columbia and the Macks Canyon Road. Wild steelhead typically represent the highest proportion of the total estimated angler catch even though they were the lowest proportion of the total steelhead sampled at the Sherars Falls fish trap. For most years since 1990, the proportion of wild steelhead caught by anglers was over 60%, while the proportion of wild steelhead in the total catch at the Sherars Falls fish trap was well below 30%. Why wild fish are caught at higher rates is unknown. The data certainly suggest that wild fish are more aggressive biters than hatchery fish.

Spawning habitat for wild steelhead in the LD is primarily limited to a few tributaries, including Buck Hollow Creek, Bakeoven Creek, Trout Creek, Shitike Creek, Warm Springs River, and a few other smaller tributaries. Some fish also spawn in the main stem, especially in low-water years when tributary access is poor. The amount of spawning in the main stem is unknown due to the river’s large size and the difficulty of observing redds in spring flows. ODFW electrofishing studies have demonstrated wild fish hold in the lower 43 miles of river longer than hatchery fish. In recent years, Trout Creek has supported as many as 600–800 redds while Buck Hollow Creek had 300–400 redds. Some stray hatchery fish spawn in the lower basin. After the fry hatch, they usually spend two years in freshwater before they migrate back to the ocean. Most of the returning adults are called 1–salt fish (they spend a year in the ocean); however, the larger fish are 2–salt fish. A 1–salt fish usually weighs four to six pounds; the 2–salt fish run six to nine pounds.

One of the biggest wild steelhead management issues in the LD is the extent of reproductive impact that out of basin stray hatchery steelhead have on wild summer fish. The spawning interactions between wild and stray hatchery fish pose a serious conservation risk to wild Deschutes steelhead. To that end, ODFW has placed fish traps at most of the spawning tributaries to trap stray fish and prevent them from spawning with wild fish. The ODFW also recognizes the importance of hatchery fish to the angling public. About 10,000 steelhead are harvested annually, approximately 75% from the sport fishery and 25% from the Indian subsistence fishery using traditional dip nets at Sherars Falls. All sport fish caught are hatchery origin; wild fish must be released. Hatchery fish outnumber wild fish about two to one in the Indian dip net fishery. When the thousand or so wild fish are subtracted from the above total, it leaves 9,000 hatchery-killed fish

annually. These numbers add up to an escapement (fish returning from salt water) of 18,000 to 19,000 hatchery steelhead.

A recent article in the Bend Bulletin highlighted steelhead fishing on the LD. According to the article, this has been a good year for steelhead numbers in the LD. The Bulletin daily reports the escapement of steelhead and salmon in the second page of the Sports section. Check it out. There is still time to get out there and fish for these magnificent fish. – *Bill Seitz, Former Conservation Chair*

## CONSERVATION

I listened in on the 2020 PGE fish conference 7/23/2020. I learned a lot about the current introduction program for anadromous fish into the upper Deschutes Basin. I took note of where the adult fish chose to spawn in the upper Basin Rivers and streams last year.

I am a glass half full- optimistic type guy. I look for the positive news and delight in the idea some things are getting better in this world.

Last years retruns (light blue) for Sockeye were poor. The following chart shows the 10 year average (black) at Bonneville Dam and last years returns. Note this year (red) seems to be slightly above the 10 year average with peak runs occurring later in the year compared to historic

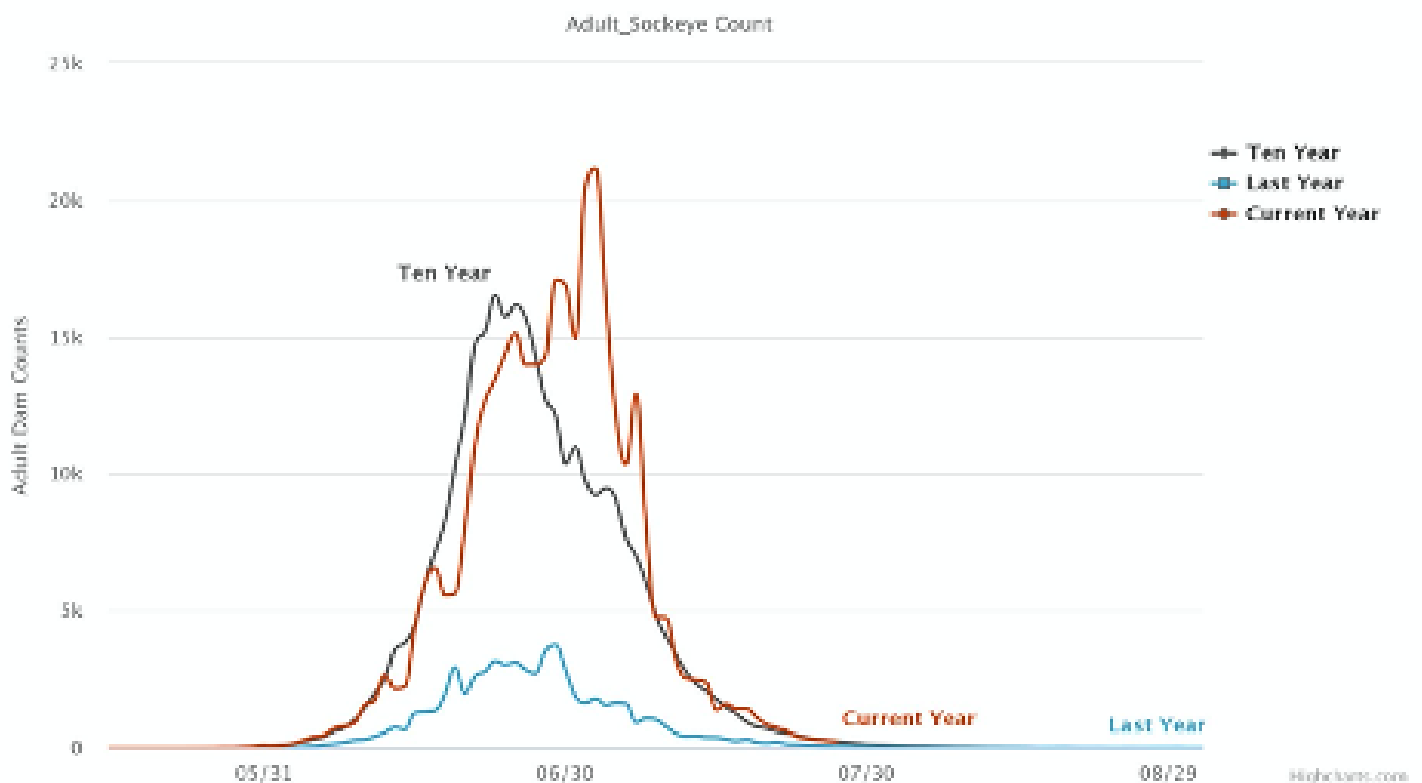
10 year averages. When these fish arrive at Pelton Dam later this year we should expect greater numbers than arrived last year. The fish biologists are looking forward to more adult sockeye late this year into the fall spawning period. Fish Biologists warned the people attending that Sockeye numbers fluctuate greatly thru the years.

The charts showing spawning locations obtained by monitoring tagged fish last year showed nearly all the Sockeye chose spawning locations between Candle Creek and Monty Campgrounds on the lower Metolius River. Only one adult last year was tracked in the Camp Polk Meadows section of Whychutes Creek. No adult Sockeye were tracked into the Crooked River. Little road access is available in the preferred spawning section of the Metolius River. Looks like if you want to see, or fish for these fish you may need to take a hike. Look for the king size Kokanee colored fish (red body with green heads) swimming close to the edges of the river.

Note: Fishing for Sockeye in Alaska on the Kenai River is done in the shallow edges of the river with streamer flies tied in bright colors (like Clouser Minnows). No need to cast far out to the center of the river/stream.

- TOM SHUMAN  
MADRASFISH@GMAIL.COM

Bonneville Dam Adult Count Graph



## OTHER NEWS

### Membership Questionnaire Results Recap

We had a great reply rate, supplying much appreciated input to the Board. Heart felt thanks to those that took their time to consider & reply to the survey!! And thanks for considering the impact of COVID on our finances!

- On the question about having different fees for individual and family groups, over 3/4s said yes. Comments boiled down to “greater benefit, greater charge”. Comment details were quite a bit more varied, of course.
- For the appropriate amount for individual dues, about half said yes to the \$50. About a third said they'd rather have \$40. Comments mentioned “great value”, support for COF, not pricing out members, and eliminating some activities that the club now supports.
- With the question on amount for Families (Bundle), responses were more equivocal, with the small majority going for \$75. Comments reflected the difference between a couple and bundle of 5, some kind of % increase based on number in bundle, and lots of others.
- Out of Area memberships, the \$30 option got selected the most, but over half of the total responses were good with charging \$40 or \$45. In the comments, several said it should be less than \$30, but a couple, apparently from out of area, said they'd be fine with paying the standard member fee.
- Youth - Next Cast age limit? About 2/3s chose 18 as an appropriate age. Comments reflected noticeable confusion over exactly what's a “youth”, as well as how Next Cast fits here. Board take note.
- On the question on currently subsidized events and classes and should the participants cover costs, about 2/3s responded Yes. With the most (33) comments of all the questions, most of those suggested it would be reasonable for the attendees to carry a larger portion of the costs. Concerns over cost levels were also expressed.

For those looking for more detail, log in to our COF webpage, go to the Members Section and look for Member Survey Results or [Click Here](#).

- JOHN HOWARD  
ZENDOC@AOL.COM

## LIBRARY

COF library services will resume once monthly meetings restart. Our DVD collection and a few of our books, will be available at monthly meetings for check out. To access the rest of our books, you can find a title on our website's library collection list <https://coflyfishers.wildapricot.org>, and email the librarian to bring it to the next meeting [library@coflyfishers.org](mailto:library@coflyfishers.org).

The librarian arrives at the meeting early to give members extra time to look for items before the meeting starts. Sign in on our website <https://coflyfishers.wildapricot.org>, click on Members Area and select Library to see a list of our books. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to email Helen Guerrero-Randall, the club librarian.

- HELEN GUERRERO-RANDALL  
LIBRARY@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

## BOARD BITS

A review of the COF BOD Aug 6, 2020 virtual meeting

The results of the membership survey were discussed. John will write an article for the Sept newsletter about the survey results. The board will discuss and decide on the dues at the retreat on Oct 10. Tim & Liz will meet and work on the club's basic operating expenses.

Deschutes Basin Watershed Council - We decided that we would like to be informed but not be a formal member of the organization. Tom will interact with them as a private citizen, but not represent COF.

Banquet - It was suggested that maybe we hold a banquet and an auction next year with what we have and not solicit any more donations. No one has stepped forward to lead it.

Trip Reports/Tips & Techniques - please check them out in the members section of our website. We haven't heard any input from members. Thank you to Tim for submitting items.

Membership - Bob is ordering more decals for new members. As new members join, they are sent a welcome letter and a COF decal.

Programs - Monthly meetings are around 40 attendees. The presenters have been well received. Art is helping the presenters. We will continue with this format as

long as the Senior Center is closed. Art is checking on a speaker for the December meeting (normally no presenter since we have a potluck).

Education – Jeff reported that MaryAnn is holding successful casting classes. We will be looking at how we can hold our winter fly tying classes in a virtual setting this year.

Conservation – Tom reported that the PGE conference had lots of good content. Tom will write his next newsletter articles based on the conference info.

Outings – LeeAnn has held an outing to East Lake, 3 Creeks Lake and a float trip on the Deschutes. She is looking at another trip to East Lake.

Wild Women of the Water – Sue organized a discussion with Debbie Norton on Mexico fishing.... great fun. Molly Semenik will speak, on ZOOM, to the ladies at the end of Aug on casting and accuracy.

Next Cast – Fred reported that we have 4 former Next Cast members on the US junior team...Joey, Anders, Isaac and Kage. LeeAnn will write an article for the October newsletter on these great kids.

- KARI SCHOESSLER  
SCHOESSLER.KARIVAN@GMAIL.COM

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome to Our New Members

**Milt McConnell - Bend**

**Van Mitchell - Bend**

**Dennis Rockwell - Bend**

**Ian Scanlon - Bend**

We are making every effort to welcome and connect with our new members. I am trying to put together an outing to the Crooked River for September. Date and time have not been worked out, but an email will be sent with the details.

- ROBERT SHIMANE  
MEMBERSHIP@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

## FLY SHOP CORNER

### Fly and Field Outfitters

Fly and Field Outfitters has established both summer hours and a Guide Service plan for the 2020 summer. So much has been in flux over the last couple months and we are mindful of our community concerns. For the foreseeable future the shop will be open from 8-6 Monday-Friday and 8-5 on the weekends. We are limiting the number of customers in the shop at any one time, so we apologize if you have to wait outside for a few minutes. We've been trying our best to get folks in and out so the next person can get their shopping done. But you know how it goes in a fly shop!

As for the Guide Service, we have worked diligently with our partners in the National Forest and BLM, along with state government and the Oregon State Marine Board to establish and implement a set of guidelines we feel will allow folks to get out with guides in the safest possible way. Please visit our website [flyandfield.com](http://flyandfield.com) for our "Covid Clause".

The usual In-Store Educational Events have all been put on hold. We will continue to host Facebook Live events throughout the summer. Please visit our website and get on our Newsletter Mailing List to hear all about what's going on around the shop.

## COF CLASSIFIEDS

**FOR SALE: Hardy Cascapedia MK II, 5/6/7 reel, \$300 or best offer.** Includes weight forward 6 wt. fly line and the original maker's neoprene case. Used only once and in perfect, like-new condition. Please contact Bruce at [bpv6643@aol.com](mailto:bpv6643@aol.com) for details.





**FOR SALE: Complete Nor-Vise Fly Tying Kit – Like New Condition.** Includes: NorVise – Fly Tying Station 300.00 – Retail 500.00, Standard Jaw, Mounting Board – 25.00 – Retail Bamboo Board – 80.00, Fine Point Jaw – 75.00 – Retail 125.00, Extra Standard Jaw – 15.00 – Retail 85.00, Lamp (fits mounted on nor-vise) – 15.00, Bobbin - 50.00 – Retail 65.00, Spool Arbor – 10.00 – Retail 15.00, and 10 Spools 40.00 – Retail 50.00. This entire Nor-Vise kit retails for \$920.00. I am asking for \$530.00 non-refundable, cash only, includes shipping, all offers considered. **Please contact Sherry Steele Email [steelefly@msn.com](mailto:steelefly@msn.com), 541-549-2072**



**THE FOLLOWING ITEMS ARE FOR SALE BY TIM QUINTON:** Contact Tim Quinton by phone at 509-392-3516 or email, [cgtimq@gmail.com](mailto:cgtimq@gmail.com)



**Umpqua Ledges 650 Zero Sweep waist pack, \$70,** New condition, this is last year's model. The Ledges 650zs is the ultimate fly-fishing beast-of-burden. The suspended back panel/ABS frame sheet provides all-day comfort, support, ventilation and the industry's best and easiest rotation. The primary pocket holds four large boxes and this updated version has "portfolio-style" dividers that allow

easy box organization and easy in-and-out. The dividers also collapse which allows the whole space to be used for larger items if preferred. The two front pockets each hold an additional medium fly box and a top loft pocket provides accessory storage and organization. Four Zero Sweep™ retractor stations, a high-wear tool sheath, tippet pockets and a Zero Sweep™ foam fly patch round out this gear-swallowing fishing pack.

**Redington Original model Dually 4 wt switch rod.** This is a great 4 wt trout switch rod, casts large dries or heavy nymph rigs with ease. This rod is new, never been cast; it is 10'9" long, 4 piece. Asking \$150, retail is \$250. This is NOT the new model Dually

*MEMBERS: Got a fishing related item to sell? Ads are free and run for one newsletter. If the item is not sold please resubmit the advertisement for the next month's newsletter. Submit ads to [classifieds@coflyfishers.org](mailto:classifieds@coflyfishers.org) before the middle of each month.*

- [CLASSIFIEDS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:CLASSIFIEDS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)



## TLF STILLWATER CADDIS PUPA

**W**ater, water, where are you and where are bug hatches that we are noted for? At this point in time our water and fish food issues are becoming really becoming clear and for those who are new to Central Oregon, pay attention and look around, is this the future we want for our great fishing waters? Get involved in the issues or we won't be able to save our environment or sport from the over use of the resources.

The fly this month is a caddis pupa. Brian Chan the noted B.C. stillwater expert, in one of his videos discussed how we overlook this caddis phase when fishing stillwaters, yet to the fish it is good meal when a caddis hatch is going on. When the early morning black caddis is on, this pattern will take fish. The patten is fished with either a dry line/long leader or intermidate line.

### Materials:

**Hook:** Nymph hook #16 to #10 2x long, 2x heavy, or a curved hook will work.

**Thread:** Olive 14/0

**Body:** light to med. Olive dubbing, hares ear works well with a little tan ice dub mixed in.

**Rib:** Ultra-wire, small, chartreuse

**Thorax:** Peacock herl

**Wingcase:** Dark brown partridge hackle, 10 to 12 fibers

**Legs:** Tips from the wingcase material

**Head:** peacock herl

### Tying Instructions

1. Start the thread just behind the eye and wrap back, while on the way back tye in the ribbing wire and stop at the barb of the hook.
2. Now dub the body forward stopping 1/4 the length of the hook from the hook eye, wrap the rib forward in even turns and tye off at the body stopping point.
3. Pick a large dark brown mottled hackle feather from a partridge and strip off 10 to 12 barbules from the feather, keeping the tips as even as possible. Tye in the barbules at body tye off point, with the tips leaning to the rear of the fly and know that the tips are going to be the legs, and they are going to extend to just past the bend of the hook. Note: you will need to find the right length for the barbules because the wingcase and legs come from same feather.
4. Now wrap in the peacock herl thorax and stop before the eye leaving space for tying down the wingcase/legs.
5. Bring the partridge wingcase forward over the peacock and tye down, using only 2 wraps of thread, now bend the tips back along the body of the fly and secure then with about 4 to 6 wraps.
6. Finish with a nice neat peacock head and 3 to 4 half-hitches.

Note: When using peacock herl it is good practice to take a wrap through the peacock to help protect it from the teeth of a fish. If done with care it will not affect the looks of the finished fly.

“Good Luck, Fun Tying and Good Hunting”

- JERRY CRISS

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## SEPTEMBER 2020 UPSTREAM EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
September 3	COF BOD Virtual Meeting, 6:00 PM	
September 16	Virtual Monthly Meeting, 7:00 PM	



Central Oregon Flyfishers  
PO Box 1126  
Bend, Oregon 97709