



Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

F O U N D E D 1 9 6 1

SAVE THE DATE for Oregon State Scholar Thaddeus Buser on Tuesday April 11th, 2017 @ 6:00 pm.

This month's presenter is our Oregon State Scholarship recipient, Thaddeus Buser. He will be discussing his research on the evolution, ecology, and biology of sculpin fishes, as well as how his experiences as a fisher have influenced and in turn been influenced by his experiences as a fish scientist. Here is what Thaddeus has to say about his work:

"The link between an organism and the environment that sustains it is one of the most basic but critical elements in life sciences. Understanding this link is important not only for scientists, but also for fishers and other outdoors enthusiasts. As a scientist, I have explored this topic in a group of bizarre and often overlooked fishes commonly known as sculpins or "bullheads." I've used highly-sophisticated methods such as CT scanning and 3D video motion tracking, as well as extremely low-tech methods such as solo-backpacking across Adak Island with little more research equipment than a camera and a bottle of preservative. In each case though, the question of how a species fits in and is shaped by its environment is what drove my curiosity. Growing up fishing, I spent innumerable hours pursuing game fishes throughout Washington State. From targeting steelhead in gorge country, to Coho salmon and lingcod along Washington's exposed Pacific coast, I was immersed (sometimes literally) in a variety of habitats while I targeted the different fishes that they contain, and developed some of the questions that I continue to drive my research today."

Thaddeus' Bio:

Thaddeus grew up in western Washington and spent much of his time on local rivers fishing for steelhead with his dad. He often found himself drawn to the bizarre fish that they would sometimes encounter such as sculpin, suckers and whitefish. This fascination with atypical (some would say "ugly") fishes stayed with him over the years and eventually turned into an undergraduate project on sculpin biology (University of Washington), which turned into a master's thesis (University of Alaska, Fairbanks), and ultimately a Ph.D. dissertation (Oregon State University). He has traveled the Pacific coast of North America from Attu Island in the Aleutian Archipelago, to Newport, Oregon collecting and studying sculpins. He uses the insights that he's gained by observing these fishes in nature to develop hypotheses about how each fish makes a living and fits into its environment. When he's not in the lab or flipping over rocks looking for sculpins, he still pursues salmonids on northwest rivers, often with his four weight, hoping for a sea-run cutthroat and praying for a steelhead.



President's Message

Spring is officially here.

I hope that means the rivers will shape up and give all of us a chance to get out and enjoy some time on the water. Next weekend April 8th is our cub trip to Rocky Ridge Ranch. I look forward to hosting 22 fisherman, two wives and the Ryan Family for a wonderful BBQ lunch. Mike Collins (Master BBQ chef) will be grilling up his favorites for a delicious lunch. I will have food and snacks for the day, Ross will be on hand to help those who are new to still water fishing.

Please mark your calendar for some important upcoming club events. The annual club auction is May 9th, 2017 at the Multnomah Athletic Club. We are still looking for donations. If you have too many Fly Rods cluttering your gear space we would love to help you out. Please contact John Pynch or me and we will come pick up what ever gear you would like to give us. We are also looking for fishing opportunities and overnight cabins, let us know if you can help.

Movie night is June 13th, 2017. We will be watching the new Patagonia film "Finding Fontinalis" a movie in search of the world record Brooke Trout. It is a beautifully executed film shot in Patagonia and narrated by Bart Bonime director of fish for Patagonia, who will be flying in to tell you behind the scene details of his experience. We will be in the large ballroom of the University Club for the film. Great movie food and a special movie snack bar will make for a fun summer evening. This is a perfect event for a date night, to bring a guest or both.

I look forward to seeing you at the April meeting to hear from our OSU scholarship student. I read his bio and it sounds like a great presentation.

My best to you,
Teri



Member Matters

Time to Sign Up!

Just a reminder for gentle readers of this month's Flyline (and thank you for reading!), don't miss the 2017 auction page where you can find the link for your reservations. It is not too early to reserve a table and fill it with your friends and family. John Pynch and Dave Moskowitz have lined up a great time for all!

Bragging Rights

Here a few words from FCO Board member, Steve Willhite, on his recent trip to the wilds of the Olympic Peninsula:

"This fish was caught on a "yarnie" which is used instead of a bead. I was nymphing on the Sol Duc River in the Olympic Peninsula, WA. It's near Forks the site of the Twilight movies. I did not see any vampires or werewolves! It rains over 300+ inches a year. They are having similar record rain as we are."



Literary Angler

Editor's Note: Flyfisher Foundation member and past Club President, Dr. Mark Metzdorff, submitted the following correspondence and poem for your enjoyment. I hope we get another opportunity to meet his friend Pierce. And Mark, I didn't fish the Tweed but I was fortunate to fish the River Test with Keith years ago. It certainly tested my stealthy abilities! LKH

I get emails from a friend, Pierce Clegg, who used to own Babine Norlakes Lodge where I went yearly for about 14 years before he and I retired. He was my guest at club meetings on a couple of occasions and gave a presentation at one of them. In a recent note he included the following message and poem. It rings too true to we aging anglers:

"I will close this update with a cool poem I found while cleaning up some damage in our shop which flooded a bit from rain on the frozen ground...it has rained hard three times this winter, but with the ground so frozen the water had now where to go but all over the place...so many septic and plumbing systems in our area are frozen and every time it rained the water found it's way to the only places it could go; the lowest point of gravity where ever it was. Frozen creeks had water running over the top, layer by layer, freezing until the frozen new creeks of ice began making new trails into household yards or where ever. What a mess and any cardboard boxes we had on our shop floor were soaked. I found myself opening lots of old boxes containing old Norlakes records and stuff. Lots of old files and with them old memories of all sorts that I had planned to go through and now the flooding has forced me to do. So I came across a poem by Zummerset Zurgeon typed on an old letterhead from [The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill, Northumberland](#). So in memory of Sam, Yukari and so many other Babine angler souls..."

The babbling brook, the rippling rill
The smiling stream entice me still
But yet I find them getting colder
Each time I wade now that I am older

The breakneck banks, the slopes of slime
The rugged rocks I used to climb
So easily but now they differ
They're mighty steep now that I'm stiffer

The stinging sleet, the scorching sun
The wailing wind, are not such fun
From each of them in turn I suffer
Now that I am an ancient buffer

The portly pigs, the chewing cows
The staring sheep, all make such rows
Did that blare come from bull or heifer?
I'd better mind now that I'm deafer

The kinking knot, the fiddling flies
The nylon noose, all try my eyes
In foiling them I once delighted
They're just plain hell now I'm short sighted

What joy do I still find therein?
I must confess the nearby Inn
The path to it I'll once more follow
For all thanks be I still can swallow!

"And I assume swallow a Molson Canadian beer or some Crown Royal rye whiskey :)"
Pierce

Also in the email chain was a response from another former guest or acquaintance of Pierce, Mike Monkman, whom I don't know, but who adds some history about the poem:

Dear Pierce and Anita,

Many thanks for keeping us in the loop! Now about the poem. The author's name is a corruption of "Somerset Surgeon", Somerset being a county in the South West of England where the letter S is pronounced as a Zed (Zee to you!) Presumably the poem was written on the Collingwood Arms letterhead because someone who loved the poem was staying there. The Collingwood Arms is very close to the best salmon River in the British Isles, the Tweed, which for part of its length forms the border between England and Scotland. A day's fishing at the peak of the run can be easily \$12000.

The village of Cornhill is on the English side of the border. Northumberland is the English County nearest Scotland. I believe ten thousand salmon are caught in the Tweed each year and the fishery has improved beyond all recognition since they stopped the netting of salmon in the estuary. Good Sea Trout fishing too, (sea run brown trout, but generally smaller than our steelhead.) In the upper reaches and tributaries of the Tweed there is excellent brown trout fishing, where the soft hackled flies which originated the North of England over a hundred years ago are still popular.

Finally, a brief Google search yielded the following:

www.si.com/vault/1956/04/16/597355/the-outdoor-week

Here the poem was reprinted in a 1956 Sports Illustrated, with the title "Nunc Est Bibendum" which apparently means "Now is the time to drink" (I don't speak Latin!). The poem in SI was reprinted from something called "The Fishing Gazette, Great Britain". This SI issue was about 4 years before the 1960 SI issues with articles on wet fly fishing written by our own V. S. "Pete" Hidy, first president of the FCO.

I am sure both Pierce and his correspondent wouldn't mind if you reprinted the poem and any other aspect of the exchanges you deem of interest. Didn't you fish the Tweed?

Best,

Mark Metzdorff



And more words of wisdom from Mark – Fishing the trees of Lake Creek in central Oregon – In the difficult high-water conditions of spring steelheading, it pays to fish the "soft edges" of runs and riffles. If you're lucky enough to feel a "grab", the best response may be to use a "strip-strike" and then, "Hang On"!

Conservation Corner

Editor's Note: This is a big one. The Oregon Wildlife Policy was adopted in 1997 to state the Fish and Wildlife Commission's overriding obligation is to set policy to prevent serious depletion of wildlife indigenous to Oregon. However, the spirit of the policy with regard to fish management appears to have been diluted over the years in favor of increasing harvest opportunity rather than preventing decline of our wild native fish. Bill Bakke sent out this action alert last week to let conservation-minded anglers know about a new bill being proposed to clarify the policy. Please consider attending the hearing and sending an email in support of the bill to the legislators below. LKH

The Oregon Wildlife Policy is being revised to make conservation of fish and wildlife the primary concern of Oregon so that public benefits and the public trust is sustained. Jim Myron and I have been working on this issue for over twenty years and Rep. Helm has initiated a bill to make conservation the primary purpose of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Feedback from agency folks are telling us conservation is less important than utilization and oppose the bill.

Action Alert

Support HB 3228

Conservation of Oregon's native fish and wildlife is not succeeding at the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) because many of the department and the commission's decisions make conservation co-equal to utilization.

The Oregon Department of Justice (DOJ 1997) informed the agency that: "The Commission's and Department's overriding obligation is to manage to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species, which thereby enables the Department and Commission to provide optimum recreational and aesthetic benefits."

Conservation is necessary in order to have long-term public benefits, preserve the public trust in wildlife management decisions and maintain ecosystem benefits from fish and wildlife.

Even though the ODFW director has previously informed the staff and Commissioners about the DOJ conclusion, the Commission and Department continue to favor utilization over conservation.

House Bill 3228 proposes a simple solution to correct this problem by modifying ORS 496.012:

"It is the policy of the State of Oregon that wildlife shall be managed to prevent serious depletion of any indigenous species, **thereby allowing for the intrinsic, aesthetic and recreational benefits of wildlife to be optimized** for the present and future generations of the citizens of this state. In furtherance of this policy, the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall represent the public interest of the State of Oregon and implement the following coequal goals of wildlife management: The bill adds a new goal to the list: **(7) "To protect, maintain and restore indigenous nongame wildlife resources for their intrinsic values, ecosystem functions and long term benefits."**

A public hearing on the bill is scheduled for April 11th at 8 am. Attend the hearing if you can and testify in support of the bill. Please send your email support for the bill to the House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee Chairman Representative Brian Clem brianclem@oregonlegislature.gov and

to hagr.exhibits@oregonlegislature.gov

Bill Bakke and Jim Myron

