

Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon
FOUNDED 1961

February 16th - Please join Flyfishers Club of Oregon and Jeff Currier for a great presentation!

"Fly Fishing Through Midlife Heaven"

While most men approaching 50 years are experiencing "Midlife Crisis", Jeff seems to have died and gone to heaven. In 2009 Jeff quit his day job of nearly 25 years running a fly shop amidst the most difficult financial times America has experienced since the Great Depression. Why? It was to follow his dreams. Jeff wanted to focus on his art, travel the country to teach and entertain about fly fishing, do more writing and best of all not have to ask permission every time he had an opportunity to go on a fishing trip.

His friends and family told him he was crazy, but his wife Granny supported the move. Well, let's just say Jeff hasn't learned the discipline of self employment yet. He simply works just enough to afford the bills and more importantly, the plane tickets he needs to fish the world. Put your seatbelt on and travel with Jeff to the most remote corners of the globe for the most amazing fish species ever pursued with a fly!



[Make your dinner reservations here.](#)
(pay ahead or at the door)

President's Message

That Time of Year

It's that time of year again. It is the time I occasionally chase winter steelhead. It is the time that I might go to central Oregon to fish the Crooked or see the Deschutes. I might even try the Metolius even though there could be snow along the banks. Most of the time, I am refilling fly boxes and attending seminars in anticipation of the coming seasons on the rivers.

For me, this is also a time of transition from the Presidency of the club. It is hard for me to believe I have served three years already. The talent we have on the board makes it easy to lead, more like remove obstacles so the other members can do their work. I would especially like to thank Janet Arenz for showing me how to be President, both by her example as previous President and by being there to answer questions as they came up. Sarah Lonigrow and Lisa Hansen gave the club great service as Program and Newsletter Chairs. They are what makes this such a great club to belong too. Brian Light served well to keep the membership rosters in order and collect the dues we rely on so much to put together the terrific programs we have.

Members of the board come and go over time, and this year two are departing. Jerry Brown has served this club (and the Foundation) over many years in many roles, most recently as Treasurer. He brought a steady hand and put in many hours to help keep the finances in order. David Moyrc brought a wealth of experience to help guide us. I would also like to thank all of the Board members who are continuing as they have given well and there is much yet to be done.

The elections will be at the club meeting in February. If you have a desire to join any of the boards, please let me, Teri Beatty or Dave Moskowitz know now or in the future. We always need new board members and roles to be filled.

Also, remember to submit your dues if you have not done so. We need your support to continue our programs and we are considering several other initiatives and perhaps some re-awakenings which will require financial support. I have enjoyed serving all of you and the club. Thanks for the opportunity.

Tight Lines,
Rick Pay



Member Matters

2016 FCO Dues

You should have received a notice for your 2016 FCO dues last month. For those of you who have already paid, Thank You! If the notice has been set aside, please give it your attention and send your check via mail or go online and submit your payment. Your support is critical to the quality and vitality of your Flyfisher's Club of Oregon!

2016 Elections

Elections for the Flyfisher's Club Board and officers will be held at the monthly meeting on February 16, 2016.

For 2016, the proposed slate of officers is:

- President – Teri Beatty
- Vice President – Paul Franklin
- Secretary – Janet Arenz
- Treasurer – Open
- Past President – Rick Pay

The two Board members entering into new three-year terms ending in Feb 2019 are:

- Harold Weight
- Jim Hillas
- 2018 slot – Steve Willhite There are three other board members whose terms are continuing and thus are not up for election:
 - Lisa Hansen
 - Sarah Lonigro
 - Brian Light

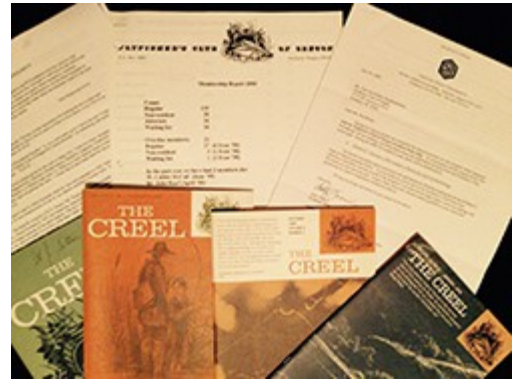
We will call for nominations from the floor at the February meeting if anyone is so inclined. The Flyfisher's Club Board will vote on the slate for the Foundation Board.

Submitted in January 2016 and reprinted in February 2016 by Rick Pay

Preserving FCO/FFF History and Tradition

The FCO has an agreement with the Multnomah County Library to house and expand our collection of rare fly fishing books and literature. In addition, they have agreed to develop an archive of all FCO activities, to include Board meeting minutes, auction programs, OSU scholarship recipients, all editions of The Flyline and The Creel, etc. (i.e., they want virtually anything that is related to the FCO and the FFF). What would make this collection even more special is members' journals, pictures, stories, old fishing brochures, etc. But they need our help in gathering material for the collection. If you or someone you know has FCO/FFF-related information and/or fishing journals/notes/memorabilia that they don't know what to do with, have them get in touch with John Pyrch (503-235-6111 or jgpyrch1@msn.com) or Jim Carmin (John Wilson Special Collections Librarian at 503-988-6286 or jimc@multcolib.org). They will pick up the material and deliver it to the library for cataloging.

Submitted by John Pyrch



Literary Angler

Nestucca at Full Crest

Submitted by Geoff Roach

January 2016

I was holed up in Pacific City against the cold rain and wind this MLK long weekend.

It was a late start with family in tow on Saturday. Rain drove down in buckets. Peeks at the hydrograph gave the whole story in a glance; a vertical line.

Sunday, I rose at 4:30 to check graphs - not good for my dear Nestucca that had turned the size and color of the Mississippi; and it was still heading up and out. I made coffee and tied flies to watch the dawn bring in the new day. I made family breakfast. I started a puzzle. I read a book and napped. I went bonkers.

I went for a midmorning drive to bird, look for elk and scout the river. There was no river. In its stead was a churning vat of chocolate pudding heading toward the ocean - Willy Wonka for real. I stopped by the Dory in Cloverdale where pluggers, side planers and drifters were buried in black coffee, bacon grease and yarns about... that one January when the fish were in and the river was behaving. "She'll fish in three four days" Not the news I wanted since by then I would be two days into a working stiff again.

I pressed on to Hebo where the bait and tackle concierge told me to head up Three Rivers - a little clearer, very small, and the hatchery is just a stone's throw above town. It was tempting knowing that just about every hatchery fish had to run that rivulet, but there was no water to swing a fly in and it looked less than interesting to me.

On thru Beaver I pressed and past the Grocery & Firearms. Beaver Creek was puking in some ugly water and adding a third to the Nestucca's volume. Above Beaver was only a little clearer but on I went past all the bridges and on to Blaine. Moon creek too at Blaine was cocoa. But, above as the Nestucca was leaving public land there was a glimmer of hope riding on no more than six inches of visibility.

I spent that afternoon swinging three promising runs by myself on that blown river in the middle of the Siuslaw National Forest. Once I got my head around the fool's errand nature of the outing and added another layer under my rain jacket the casting, stepping, swinging rhythm of the day was more than bearable and I was reminded of all the wonderful reasons I return to this drug as often as possible. I ended that evening at the boat ramp on the Nestucca where Three Rivers joins in. Here the clearer trib created a faint lens where I thought a last light fish might care to hold before it entered the creek for hatchery home. It was not my time. I headed for Pacific City wondering about my game plan for tomorrow. At midnight Sunday night, the gage crested by registering the faintest of drops. Then I knew I would be high above Blaine at first light in the morning.

I was up and out a bit behind first light - made no sense to push it. There would be no pressure from other fishermen. The rain had stopped falling through most of the night. I was above Blaine by 8 AM and found a foot or less of visibility and a river dropping well. Not a fishing soul on my river that morning. Swung it hard and moved from 12.5 feet of Type 6 to a T14 of 10 feet in length. No one was home. I moved off a pink/blue to an orange/kingfisher blue intruder pattern and still no love for me.

I pushed further downstream and toward muddy water to a spot I had discovered during an earlier Nestucca adventure. It was faster deeper and a bit shorter this trip, but it was promising. I walked to the head, a nice junction of water pouring fast over gravel/boulder shallows into a slower and deeper run below. A leisurely paced flow pushed through the run for about 50 feet before velocity amped, the bed shallowed, and my water rushed across another rocky sill.

I pulled the T14 outside the tip of my 12'6" spey rod and swung a short line - Nothing. I added an arm pull's worth of line and repeated the swing - Nothing. I did this again and one more time - Nothing. Casting was getting a bit tough due to high water that had me hemmed in among trees above, below, and overhead. I was 40 feet out now and the swing was text book and hopes where exceedingly high. Midway through the swing I first eyed my skagit head forming a rooster tail as it ferociously, unnaturally yarded upstream. A split second later my new/used Hardy Marquis reel sounded off like a tommy gun. Satisfaction, joy, and adrenaline kicked in and we were off on the journey together.

Rains had warmed the water temps and it was 50 degrees in the air at this time, i.e. 11:20 AM on Monday morning MLK Day. The beast I was tied to grabbed for the sky and it leapt there, tail walked there and rolled me up and down the run. He was silvery, but red hued in the cheek, healthy, fresh and powerful. I was stuck in place by trees and fast deep water that I could not see into. The fish worked me high and low in the run, but he stayed pinned. We played a long while as I tired him down and he me. I hatched a landing plan for the beast. It was clear he was a wild Nestucca native and a beautiful specimen - with a tail of paddle proportions. I would land this buck by tailing it in knee deep water. I got him in close a few times, but with my gloveless hand I could not seal a grip. Against better judgement I decided as a last resort to strand him in the shallows on a small soft bottom between tree roots. I would corral and encourage him toward the landing from behind - prodding him out of deeper water toward the shallow. With my rod well up between trees and limbs the fish nestled where I needed it, I went for a light pin when he made an explosive final run for deeper water taking the tip of my rod just inches past my Hardy. I felt the rod give in. I got the fish back to in hand, retrieved the orange/kingfisher blue intruder and rested the three-quarters of spey rod I had left. The next few minutes were focused on reviving fish and fisherman and taking in the Nestucca at full crest in January.



Photo credit: Geoff Roach

Conservation Corner

Oregon Rivers Achieve High Honor

Over 25 years have elapsed since an Oregon river was blessed with state scenic status. Thanks to the hard work of state agencies, local organizations, conservation groups, and dedicated citizens, two rivers just made the grade. The Molalla and Chetco now enjoy protection under the Oregon Scenic Waterways Program. The designation requires permits and review of any building within 1/4 mile of the river. Logging, mining and dredging activities are prohibited within the 1/4 mile riparian zone. Thirteen miles of the upper Molalla River from the Table Rock fork to the Glen Avon Bridge are now covered under the program that is administered by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The vast majority of the new Molalla scenic waterway runs through Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands. The BLM manages two campgrounds and a group camping facility on this stretch of the river. New trails have been built and the river serves as a stronghold for wild winter steelhead, salmon, and cutthroat trout. The Molalla scenic designation is split into 3 segments. The uppermost segment has limited access and is designated "scenic river lands." The middle segment, starting at Pine Creek, is designated "recreational" and has campgrounds and many trails for access to the river. The final segment from Trout Creek to the Glen Avon Bridge contains more private lands and is designated as "river community area." Development in this area will be allowed in a way that is compatible with the natural landscape.



A 44 1/2 mile section of the Chetco River from the headwaters to the Rogue-Siskiyou national forest border was designated in by the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System in 1988 (over 27 miles wild, 8 miles scenic). The state scenic designation covers 14 miles of the Chetco from the Steel Bridge to Alfred A. Loeb State Park. The Chetco plan splits the 14 mile section into three separate management areas based on the river flow, banks, and potential for recreational use. The upper section contains the Chetco Gorge and access is limited. It is within U.S. Forest Service territory and is now an "accessible natural river area" by the state designation. The next section is the "scenic section" and it has combined stretches of public and private lands. The lower section is "recreational" and has several access points. The Oregon Scenic Designation will protect this section of the Chetco for the public as well as preserve the value and beauty of the riparian area for local land owners.



The Molalla and Chetco join 19 other rivers and Waldo Lake on the list of Oregon scenic waterways. The Oregon Scenic Waterways Act was established in 1970. The State carefully evaluates candidate rivers based requirements that the river must be free flowing, offer scenic value, and provide recreational opportunities. Thanks to the strong support from the local watershed organizations and citizens, many outdoor enthusiasts will enjoy the beauty of these rivers for decades to come. The regulations on riparian activities will help improve water quality for fish and wildlife. Finally, the local communities win when the recreational value of their rivers bring people from near and far to enjoy the forests, campgrounds, and a river that flows where its natural environment intended.

Lisa Hansen

2016 FCO/FFF Dinner Auction

Auction Donations Needed

It is time to begin assembling items for the 2016 FCO/FFF dinner/auction.

If you have any quality fly fishing gear, float trips, guided fishing adventures, overnight stays at cabins, custom-tied flies, good wine, fine art, rare books, gourmet dinners/food items or any other desirable contributions that you would like to donate to this year's auction, please contact John Pynch (jgpyrch1@msn.com) or Dave Moskowitz (moskosalmo@gmail.com). They will be happy to collect the donations and provide you with a tax receipt for your items ***Also, please mark your calendars now and plan to join the festivities on May 10th from 5 to 9 p.m. at the Multnomah Athletic Club.***

