

# Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

F O U N D E D 1 9 6 1

## **Tuesday, March 8th at Flyfishers Club of Oregon!**

Guido Rahr, President of the Wild Salmon Center, will give us a briefing on major salmon conservation issues across the Pacific Rim, with short updates on the Pebble Mine in Alaska, large scale development in the Skeena watershed, and the poaching epidemic in the Russian Far East. He will also describe a recent expedition to a remote river in Russia that is home to a race of giant taimen that feed on adult chum salmon and grow to 100 pounds or more in size. Don't miss out!



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

## President's Message

### **"In Like A Lion, Out Like A Lamb"**

On my recent trip to Christmas Island the El Niño effects certainly made it feel like the Lion had arrived. Christmas Island normally gets about 20 inches of rain per year. We saw substantially more rain than that; our week had daily squalls and poor visibility making the fishing conditions challenging. The guides did a wonderful job of navigating the lagoon in search of better conditions. When we couldn't sight fish we would troll for Trevally, Queen Fish & Snapper until the cloud cover cleared. Amazingly, none of the weather challenges impacted our fishing. We may have worked a little harder, but the fishing was the best I have seen in 6 trips. Everyone in our group landed nice Trevally, Bonefish & Triggers. I was fortunate to land a 50 pound Giant Trevally. It felt like I hooked into a freight train that ran me 250 yards into my backing! It was a species and size that I have hunted for many years.



Teri Beatty with a Christmas Island Giant Trevally

We can only hope that if March starts of cold and stormy that it will end warm and sunny. Regardless of the weather, I'm sure that everyone is looking forward to spring fishing for steelhead and trout. Please share your fishing stories with Lisa Hansen at [kwaterbuff@comcast.net](mailto:kwaterbuff@comcast.net) for the Flyline and Joe Palanuk at [support@wolfpk.com](mailto:support@wolfpk.com) for photos.

Welcome to our new and current FCO and FFF Board Members! Your time and energy is greatly appreciated. The depth and knowledge that you bring to our Club is improving it for us all. I would also like to welcome our new Club members. We have an exciting year of programs for 2016 - you can find the [calendar](#) on our website.

My best to you,  
Teri

## *Member Matters*

### **Membership Renewals are Brisk!**

It is membership renewal time and the renewals for 2016 have been brisk! So far 117 members have renewed or updated their contact information and counting Lifetime and Honorary members we already have 141 on the roster for 2016. Almost 50 2nd notices went out recently so if a good number of those renew, we will have a strong roster for 2016 to support our programs and other activities being discussed by the Board.

If you haven't renewed or updated your contact information, please do so as soon as possible. Also, if you have fishing partners that should be members, invite them to go to the website to join. It would be great to get to the historical highs of over 200 members!

Tight lines,  
Rick Pay



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### **Rick Pay and Jerry Brown Honored at February FCO Meeting**

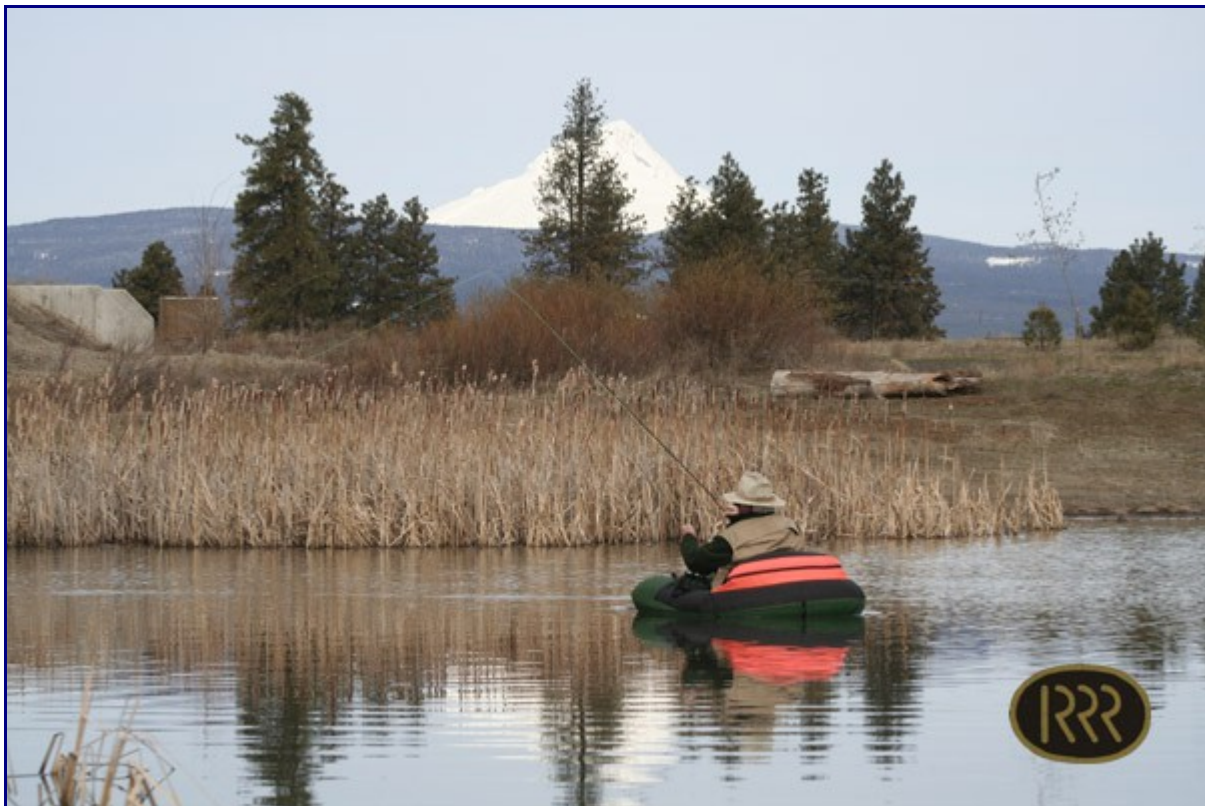
Incoming FCO President Teri Beatty presented service awards to two well-deserving members of the FCO. First, Jerry Brown was recognized for his decades of service to the Club and the Flyfisher's Foundation. He has served many roles including Vice-President, President (2002), Treasurer, and long-time board member. He and his family have actively involved in our annual auction as well. Jerry is stepping down from his most recent position as Treasurer of the Flyfisher's Club Board. Thank goodness he will continue to be an active and much-loved member. Rick Pay was recognized for three consecutive years as the Club President. Rick steered the Club with a steady hand during his tenure that was marked with sound financial management, active board engagement, and remarkable dedication. Please thank Jerry and Rick for their years of service to your Flyfisher's Club of Oregon!



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### **FCO Fishing Trip, June 11, 2016, Rocky Ridge Ranch**

Please join your fellow club members for a day of fly fishing at one of Oregon's Premier destinations. [Click here for more information](#)



## *Literary Angler*

*Editor's Note: We can count on an amazing presentation on salmon conservation in the Pacific Rim with Guido Rahr of the Wild Salmon Center this month. Over the past 12 years that I have been an FCO member, Guido's presentations have always stood out for his amazing photography, passionate message, and depth of knowledge of the critical conservation challenges facing Pacific salmonids. I thought it would be interesting to turn back the clock to a summer day in 1948, when two legendary fishermen plied the waters on Vancouver Island where the fish were equally legendary. This "diary entry" is taken from Tommy Brashaw: The Ardent Angler – Artist by Stanley E. Read.<sup>1</sup> Tommy and friend, Roderick Haig-Brown, ventured out on the island pools on the Campbell River to hunt for steelhead. They nearly met their match. LKH*

### **Tommy's Diary**

"Aug. 31st. Called for Rod at 1.30 . . . Valerie [Haig-Brown] came with us to the island pools.

We tried the lower pool first with fly, neither of us rose anything; then the upper pool where Rod went to the top & I took the bottom half – not a rise! I then changed to a 2 ¼" red & silver devon (same one I got the spring on yesterday). I started about half way down the pool and after perhaps a dozen casts I hooked a heavy fish at 3.48. After about 10 minutes it was hanging at the tail of the pool. I slacked off and it came upstream well above me, but only too soon started down and though I tried slacking again it kept on going and was soon in the rapids. Having less than 100 yds. of line I had to splash down on the run but it soon had it all out and I was at the very end; however I kept on going but found the line was round a rock in mid-stream. Rod came down with his big waders & took the rod, cleared the line and lo! the fish was still on some 100 yards downstream, apparently resting in the lower pool. I then took on the fight again & got down but by this time it began to move lower and looked like making a rush out of the pool.

Coming to another place where I couldn't follow without going over the waders I handed to Rod again whilst I cut round through the bush, taking the rod below. The fish was now hanging well out in the stream but having to keep up some resistance to the sideways pull.

Rod at this time estimated it at 18-20 lbs. but I felt it was heavier – possibly 25-30.

Palpably weakening now it swung below a boulder where there was an eddy. I held it there whilst Rod, sleeves rolled up, got it and grabbed its tail root, held

on & brought it ashore at 4.17 (29 minutes).

Mr. Lanfesty of Seattle saw half the fight and was in at the death & so was Valerie – both of them wet. We then went back in triumph to the lower pool & wetted the fish.

I didn't fish any more but Rod tried the upper pool down with a large Wilkinson without a rise of any sort.

Called at H.-B.'s weighed it on the bathroom scales – 39 lbs; confirmed this on scales on wharf, exactly the same and a good bright fish . . . ."

Keep dreaming,

Lisa Hansen

<sup>1</sup>Reed, SA. Tommy Brayshaw: The ardent angler-artist. The University of British Columbia, Victoria, British Columbia, 1977, p. 79.



Vancouver Island stream. Photo by Karl Konecny.

## *Conservation Corner*

### **A 21st Century Gold Rush**

*Editor's Note: Editor's Note: This piece on suction dredge mining ran in the July 2010 issue of the Flyline. Public outcry to stop the indiscriminate environmental damage caused by this technique led to the Oregon's Senate Bill 838 that placed a moratorium on the practice until final rules were developed. A bill designed to provide permanent rules never made it out of committee during the Legislature's short session last month. The lack of action means that a restrictions on suction dredge mining are now in effect until 2021 or until the Oregon Legislature passes permanent rules. If you are interested in wading into the weeds on this issue, you can read the regulations at [www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqpermit/mining.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/wqpermit/mining.htm). In the meantime, mining interests have filed suit arguing that their rights under 150 year-old federal mining laws. Now we must wait until 2017 when the Legislature meets for a full session for lawmakers to take up the issue again. In the meantime, the issue will most certainly be heard in the courts. Fly fisherman and river lovers will continue to monitor the suction dredge mining debate. LKH*

Several rivers in southwest Oregon are faced with a threat that we thought went bust in the 19th century – gold mining. Seven thousand new mining claims were submitted this year in Oregon, and the pressure is especially high on the Wild and Scenic Chetco River. Designated the 7th most endangered river in 2010 by American Rivers, mining claims threaten nearly half its length. Recreational miners and wealthy investors are moving in to use a technique called suction dredging, in hopes of extracting gold from the riverbeds. A suction dredge is essentially a floating vacuum cleaner that sucks up everything in the streambed and shunts the material into containers or pits, where gold can be extracted. The residual rock, silt, invertebrates, juvenile fish, and organic material are discharged back into the river, causing slit clouds and piles of debris. To set up an operation, streamside trees are cut down, deep pits are dug down to bedrock, and water is diverted outside the river channel. Locally, the process destroys spawning beds and riparian corridors. Downstream, suspended silt can increase the thermal absorption and raise already high summertime water temperatures. Dredging releases toxic metals like mercury, creating risk for wildlife and humans alike. But how could the Chetco, a designated Wild and Scenic River, be open for mining? The "Wild" designated Chetco in the Kalmiopsis Wilderness is protected from mineral extraction. Outside this zone in the 19 miles of "Scenic" and "Recreation" segments, there are no such protections. And the Mining Law of 1872 gives anyone who files a claim the right to mine the land.

If you are looking for information on suction dredge mining, you can find a

plethora of online opportunities for building your own suction dredge. Mining enthusiasts can go to "The New 49er's" website and join a "true life gold prospecting adventure," using suction dredges on the Rogue. Why the rush to southern Oregon? Well, some gold has been found in the Chetco and tributaries of the Rogue, although most experts believe there is no mother lode here. The recent influx of miners may be related to California's 2009 moratorium on all permits for suction dredge mining. Citing environmental uncertainties, these mining permits are on hold until their impacts have been thoroughly reviewed and new regulations are in place. Now, the Golden State's suction dredge enthusiasts have looked north to Oregon, where regulations are open to interpretation and state officials are reluctant to challenge individual rights provided by the 1872 mining law. Oregon State Police are charged with enforcing the regulations – another huge challenge given the remoteness of some of these waterways and the competing priorities of our state troopers. Peter Tronquet, Native Fish Society River Steward for the Rogue, said that these miners are moving in and appealing to local politicians to preserve individual rights to the land's minerals. Harvey Young, long-time fishing guide on the Chetco believes most of the mining activity is from recreational miners but some individuals may be unemployed and spurred by high gold prices. He has lived on the river for over 30 years and he has seen how the river has recovered since extensive logging was halted to protect spotted owl habitat in the 1990's. He says, "The Chetco is like a giant nursery for juvenile fish. The river is healthy. . . it has no dams and 90% of the fish are wild. These fish have adapted to the high summer water temperatures." But the thermal stress brought on by dredging could push this summer's temperatures to lethal levels. There is hope that new federal legislation introduced this month will eventually protect the Chetco from new mining claims. But time is running out. The 2010 mining session starts on July 15th and Cheto River supporters are waging a campaign to get Secretary of Interior, Ken Salazar, and Secretary of Agriculture, Tom Vilsack to immediately withdraw the river from the mining law. The river's protection cannot come too soon for Harvey Young. After all, when it comes to the value of the Chetco as a sanctuary for wild fish, he says, "It's what we have left."

Lisa Hansen

Find out more and support the cause: [Klamath Siskiyou Wild](#), [Kalmiopsis Audubon](#), [Save our Chetco](#), [American Rivers](#)





Suction Dredge Mining. Photo credit: Shane Jimerfield, Siskiyou Project, [www.kswild.org](http://www.kswild.org)

## **2016 FCO/FFF Dinner Auction**

### **Auction Update**

The FCO/FFF annual dinner/auction is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10th at the [Multnomah Athletic Club \(1849 SW Salmon Street, Portland\)](#). Registration, the Wet Fly Hour and the Silent Auction will begin at 5 p.m. The dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and be followed by the Oral Auction and the Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise. **This year the Paddle Raise supports the Western Rivers Conservancy efforts to enhance the habitat and access on Thirtymile Creek: the most important steelhead spawning and rearing tributary to the lower John Day River.**

MAC's renowned chef Philippe Boulot has revised the menu so you have a choice of petrale sole dieppoise, Painted Hills short ribs or eggplant fritters with roasted vegetables and tomato coulis. The cost for this outstanding event is \$75 per person. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and plan to join the festivities.

([Dave Moskowitz](#) (971-235-8953) and [John Pynch](#) (503-235-6111) are collecting donations for the silent and oral auction. If you have items you would like to contribute, please get in touch with one of them.

