



Tuesday, April 12th at Flyfishers Club of Oregon!

Program:

Jim Cox, Director of Donor Relations for Western Rivers Conservancy will make a presentation entitled "Sometimes To Save A River You Have To Buy It." WRC has been working to conserve and protect lands on more than 55 rivers in eight western states. The presentation will focus on how WRC purchases riverlands across the West to protect and conserve vital river ecosystems and to provide compatible public access. Included in the program is stunning photography of past and current projects including work on some of the most iconic fly fishing rivers across the West including Idaho's Salmon River, the Yampa in Colorado, the Madison River in Montana, California's Smith and Klamath Rivers, Washington's Hoh River, and Oregon's, North Umpqua and Sandy Rivers. A special focus on Oregon's lower John Day River will end the presentation as the Club will be raising funds to support WRC's efforts on the John Day at its annual auction next month.

Personal Bio:

Jim joined Western Rivers Conservancy as Director of Donor Relations in 2011. He has more than 25 years experience working professionally in the nonprofit sector. Jim is a past steering committee co-chair of the Nonprofit Association of Oregon, and is an active member of the Northwest Planned Giving Roundtable and is also a member of Trout Unlimited, Flyfishers' Club of Oregon, IFFF, the Native Fish Society, and The Freshwater Trust among many other conservation groups. Jim holds a Bachelor of Theatre Degree from Willamette University. In his free time, you can find him fly fishing and hiking along the outstanding rivers of the West.

Ross Beatty will be tying flies during the Wet-Fly hour so don't miss out!



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

President's Message

Spring Has Arrived

I decided to spend the first day of spring in beautiful Kent, Oregon. I drove to the Maupin Fly Shop to get directions to a private lake. The property is part of the Justison Ranch and the lake we were on was Davis Lake. The morning was clear and cold with magnificent views of both Hood and Jefferson. The fishing started off a bit slow, but by 11:00 am the bite came on. I was using my 6 weight rod with a full sinking line and a large white wooly bugger. The fish were good size, healthy, had bright markings and were good jumpers. There was a hatch on the water but rarely did I see a fish come to the surface. They stayed deep and hit the fly hard. The owner of the ranch Jon Justison stopped by to say hello and check on our fishing. It was a great day of lake fishing in the high desert of Oregon.



Next weekend I plan to head to another favorite private lake Rocky Ridge Ranch. The fishing is similar and there are three lakes that can be fished. This will be the spot for our first Fly Fishing Club day trip on June 11th, 2016. We have 12 people signed up and room for more. Jim Teeny will be there to fish with us and also share some lake fishing secrets. I will be hosting an afternoon Barbeque and homemade apple pie. For more information please go to member messages. If you would like to sign up please give me a call.

I hope everyone is planning to attend the Auction on May 10, 2016. Last year was the first time I was able to attend and we had a great time. I know John Prych is busy planning another terrific evening, so mark it on your calendar.

My best to you, Teri

Member Matters

Membership Renewals are Brisk!

It is membership renewal time and the renewals for 2016 have been rolling in! So far 150 members have renewed or updated their contact information. If you have not renewed yet, please do so soon as we will be updating the membership roster on the website with members who have renewed. Don't let your name be left off of that list!

New Members

We have three recent new members to welcome to the club:

Phil Streeter from Portland enjoys fly tying and rod building. He is interested in kayak fishing and pursuing the wily carp as well.

Harv Fleming is also from Portland and has already attended meetings and is looking forward to club activities.

Ron Maben joins us from Woodland Hills, California as a non-resident member. He enjoys painting watercolors, cityscapes, landscapes and "sometimes" trout. He wants to explore fishing close to Portland to see what is local. If anyone is an expert related to that, please reach out to Ron to share a few places he can try.

Welcome to our new members!

Everyone please invite your friends to the club meetings and help grow our membership.

Tight lines,
Rick Pay

Attention Bamboo Rod Enthusiasts!

We received a message from the Corbett Rodbuilders to forward their invitation to a Rod Maker's Gathering May 12 – 15, 2016 in Kamloops, B.C. The Corbett Rodbuilders still had room for registrants as of early March even though they have a soft deadline of February 15th for registration. They are featuring topics of interest to beginners and experienced rod builders. Please follow the links if you are interested in learning more. [Invitation](#) [Registration](#)

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](#)



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.**

Literary Angler

Bright and Shiny

@ David A. Moskowitz

A shimmering glint caught my eye as I cast and stepped through lower Slide Riffle a few short years ago.

The early dawn take of my waking muddler by a summer steelhead still reverberated in my mind though the explosion was over in the blink of an eye or 50 wing beats in the amazing life of a hummingbird. My heartbeat was just settling back to normal, and I began to see things again.

When you see something under water, you are never quite sure whether you are about to find buried treasure or another boot-smashed beer can. The flowing waters and current seams allow you merely fleeting glimpses through it, then the window into the underwater world disappears for long moments before re-appearing, although never exactly as before.

I waded out through the waving fronds of invasive Elodea and over a small bright clump of gravel to see if there was indeed something bright and shiny out there, deeper.

And there was! I could definitely see something metallic half submerged in the fine bright basaltic gravel. I was nearly waist deep in the steady flow and so I was glad to have my wading staff to help push at the metal object. Something told me it was not an old can of beer.

Holy shit, it was a reel.

As my staff unearthed the reel, the current lifted and tumbled it downstream in the run but I made steady progress edging the reel towards the bank even as it moved downstream. Gradually, as the current yielded it, grasp and bankward progress increased. Finally I figured the warming September air would dry my shirt sleeve if soaked by the deeper than expected grab of this unexpected river bounty.

A Lamson trout reel. Likely a Number 3 though the insignia was missing. The flyline was cracked and growing moldy but it housed a multitude of nymphs of many species - mayflies, caddis and one massive stonefly we later named Lester the Lamson Molester.



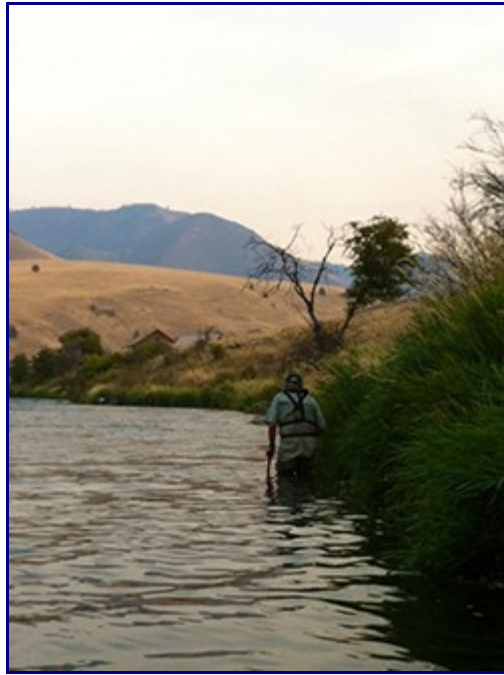
Each of the reel's multiple spool holes was perfectly filled by a perfectly sized piece of gravel - the vented spool had sorted the gravels nicely.



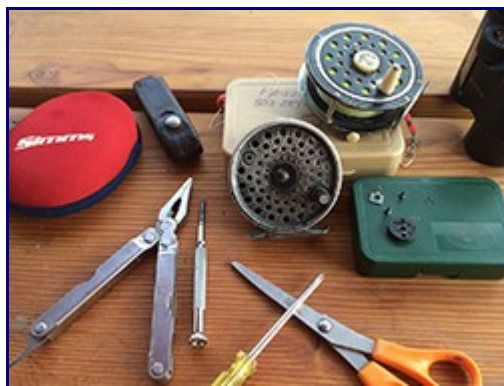
I was pleased with my find, and I stuffed it in to my chest pack and waded back in the run, resuming my methodical and now melodious search for summer steelhead.

Slide Riffle has been a favorite of mine for many years, though it rarely has yielded a fish. I often do not fish it as its easy wading and distance from the bank makes it a very good run to send those who are not fans of the typical Deschutes River wade - full of slippery basalt, or those who have not given up their single-hand casting for the game-changing two handed rods. So I was very pleased with the morning as I had found an aggressive fish and a trout reel - and still had half the run to wade - casting and stepping through.

Not surprisingly, the remainder of the run held no further encounters and I ambled through rattlesnake country back to the Fitzpatrick Homestead - the riverside home to Roger Bachman and a group of his fans and friends and family. The new home on the Deschutes rose from the ashes of the old homestead and while the creature comforts inside are remarkable, the well-shaded porch is a master work by the architect and builder.

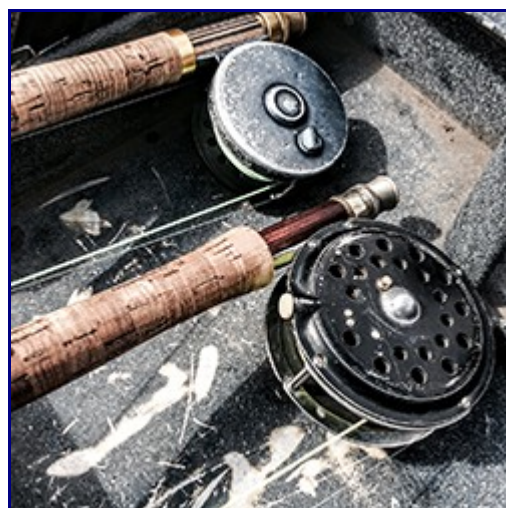


I plunked down from my morning fishing with strong coffee and a little treat and dug my unearthed treasure from my chest pack. For once, all the small tools I carry in my fly fishing equipment bag came in quite handy as I began to reclaim the reel. I soaked it in a pan of water and was able to evict and subsequently release the multitude of nymphs who had been squatting inside the reel and the line. Gradually, the sand and gravel released their hold on the spool and housing allowing me to separate them and begin the cleaning and scrubbing of the slightly rusted inner parts.



Considering its burial, the reel cleaned up rather nicely. But the life of a fly reel is incomplete unless it visits the Grants Pass shop of Archuleta's Reel Service, and after a phone call with Bill Archuleta, my Slide Riffle Lamson took the trip south for a truly complete servicing. I received the serviced reel and a new spool

in time for the next spring trout season. I truly enjoyed the smooth working but well-worn patina of my "new" Lamson and it seemed happy to holding fresh backing and a new line for the river from whence it came.



Conservation Corner

Washington Hatchery Management Challenged by Conservation Group

The Washington-based Wild Fish Conservancy has decided to take on the government over hatchery operations in a big way. Last month the WFC filed suit against the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the Department of Commerce (DOC), accusing the agencies of violating the Endangered Species Act (ESA). Section 7 states federal agencies must "insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by such agency...is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of any endangered or threatened species or result in the destruction or adverse modification of habitat that has been designated as critical for such species." In the lawsuit, the WFC accuses the federal government of "funding hatchery programs throughout the Columbia River Basin under the Mitchell Act without complying with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA). These programs adversely affect five distinct population segments (subspecies) of Chinook salmon and steelhead listed under the ESA, as well as threatened or endangered Coho, chum, and sockeye salmon and bull trout, along with their critical habitat."1 The 1938 Mitchell Act established a federal funding plan for hatcheries that was designed to mitigate for the human activities that threatened salmon runs, including dams, habitat degradation, water diversion, and pollution.

You may recall that the Native Fish Society and McKenzie Flyfishers were awarded a partial victory in their lawsuit against NMFS back in 2014 when the U.S District Court, Portland Oregon Division found NMFS violated the ESA by failing to produce an Environmental Impact Statement and ignoring negative effects of hatchery operations in their Hatchery Genetic Management Plans for the Sandy.

The WFC has been using litigation as a strategy to attempt to force state and federal agencies to change their ways when it comes to fisheries management in Washington. They have an active suit against NMFS and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), accusing the agencies of inadequate environmental review of the risks posed by farmed salmon operations in Puget Sound upon the wild, ESA listed salmonids. They have also taken NMFS to task after the agency failed to develop a recovery plan for endangered Puget Sound steelhead – the plan is over 6 years overdue and NMFS proposes to take another 4 years to complete the plan and map a strategy to attempt to save these declining salmonids. According to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA) website, the plan will be available for public review sometime this year

http://www.westcoast.fisheries.noaa.gov/protected_species/salmon_steelhead/recovery_planning_and_implementation/puget_sound/overview_puget_sound_steelhead_recovery_2.html.

NMFS (a division of NOAA) is responsible for working with state agencies and regional management councils to develop sound, science-based guidance documents for managing our native salmonids. The NOAA (therefore NMFS) mission statement includes “the recovery and conservation of protected resources, and healthy ecosystems—all backed by sound science and an ecosystem-based approach to management.” Advocacy groups such as the Wild Fish Conservancy and executive director, Kurt Beardslee, are finding themselves forced to resort to litigation in an attempt to get federal agencies to adhere to the regulations, laws, and timelines that direct their work. To follow the progress of these lawsuits, go to wildfishconservancy.org.

Press Release

Lisa Hansen



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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 Pyrch](#) (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.

