

# Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

F O U N D E D 1 9 6 1

## Tuesday, June 14th

Please join Flyfishers Club of Oregon and the Deschutes River Alliance for the annual state of the Deschutes update on June 14th at the University Club in Portland. Greg McMillan and DRA's new Executive Director, Jonah Sandford will present an update on their understanding of changes in the lower Deschutes River and their advocacy efforts to protect the river.

Don't miss out!

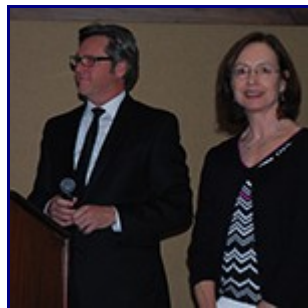


## 2016 FCO/FFF Dinner Auction

### 2016 Auction Huge Success

The 2016 dinner and auction established new fundraising records for The Flyfisher Foundation, as supported by the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon. Contributions to the Keith Hansen Memorial Conservation Paddle Raise totaled \$20,100 (*a new record*). The oral auction raised \$13,175 (*a new record*), the silent auction produced \$5,675 and the drawing for the new Hardy Zenith Sintrix Fly Rod brought in another \$1,120 (*a new record*). Overall, preliminary numbers indicate that the 2016 auction grossed over \$52,000. There were 130 paid attendees this year. Everyone had an enjoyable time connecting with old and new friends, sharing fishing stories and consuming a delicious meal provided by the Multnomah Athletic Club under the supervision of FCO member and chef extraordinaire, Philippe Boulot. The Western Rivers Conservancy and their Thirtymile Creek steelhead enhancement project in the lower John Day River watershed will be the beneficiary of the paddle raise. Oregon State University and the Multnomah County Central Library will continue to receive their annual donations from the Foundation. Kudos to all who attended and helped make this year's event so successful. As an additional bonus, we had 15 folks sign up as new FCO members.

John B. Pyrch  
2016 Auction Chair  
FFF Vice President



## *President's Message*

I just got off the Columbia River from a two day carp extravaganza. The weather was very warm but perfect for wet wading. Saturday started out with Steve Willhite, John Montana & myself fishing the Columbia on the carp trip that Steve bought at last year's Fly Fishers of Oregon Club Auction. Let's just say that Steve brought the Columbia River Carp to their knees. I don't know how many he caught, because I stopped counting. You'll have to get the skinny from him. We did have a nice double and a fun photo of that. Thanks so much to Steve for buying it and John for donating it.

Then today I joined my husband Ross and an avid Fly Fishing Pro Dan Blanton for another day of carping. Dan traveled from California up to Oregon to learn more about carp fishing on the Columbia. He fished several days and did well. It's always a treat to fish with a Pro that has traveled the world and has fun stories to share. We hope to head his direction for some Striper Fishing in the Delta.

I am looking forward to next weekend's Rocky Ridge Ranch Club fishing day. I promise great weather, a yummy lunch and good photos. To everyone joining the fishing should be awesome. If you have questions please contact me. We will gather between 8:00am-9:00am for gear set-up and coffee at the Rose cabin which is through the main entrance then left towards the upper lake. Jim Teeny will be there to give tips.

My best to you,  
Teri



## *Member Matters*

### **Many New Members From Auction**

Our 2016 auction was successful in many ways, but especially in gaining new members for the club. A total of 15 signed up through the paddle raise. They are:

- Bill Baker
- Ben Beatty
- Ken Betschart
- Cosmin Bisorca
- Jim Carmin
- Nick Ehlen
- Susan Glen
- Terry Strom
- Kathy Kim
- Parker Lee
- Charlie O'Boskey
- Jeff Perin
- Mike Sandoval
- Ron Sandrock
- Paul Waldrum

Be sure to welcome them when you see them at a future meeting or event!

We also have about 34 that have not renewed yet for 2016. If you are one of those, please do so by June 20 as we will be updating the roster on the website after that and would like to be sure everyone is included.

Our total membership, new and renewals, as of June 1 is 181! Thank you for your interest in being a member!

Tight Lines,

Rick

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## **FCO SURVEY RESULTS**

By Janet Arenz

Thanks to all of you who took the time to contribute your ideas and comments to the FCO survey! It's possible this is the only membership survey the Club has ever done. We had a fantastic level of participation -- fifty-two percent!

Below you will find the March 2016 survey results. The board has had significant dialogue about the data and comments you provided, and at their April meeting had already begun implementing your recommendations.

Non-members were included in the survey – we have their addresses because they signed up to receive our email program announcements, or were previous members who didn't renew. They comprised 18% of the survey respondents (20 responders out of 110 total). This is a significant portion of the survey results, and provides good insight into recruitment and retention considerations for the Club.

The survey included questions in the following areas:

Demographics  
Monthly Club Dinner Programs  
Dinner Program Venues  
Annual Club Dues  
Communications  
Charitable Activities of the Foundation  
Closing Comments

### **TOP EMERGING THEMES FOR MEMBERS AND NON-MEMBERS ALIKE:**

- \*\*Want club organized outings/activities (even if just 1-2 x year)
- \*\*Conservation work is important (more so for non-members)
- \*\*People will join to support the club, even if they can't participate much
- \*\*Increase the use of social media
- \*\*Provide less expensive meal options
- \*\*Change of venue (some of the time, as people enjoy the University Club or don't see it as an issue)

The survey has been an incredible tool for the FCO and Foundation Boards. It has affirmed core issues, interests and membership qualities. It has also been a catalyst for action in areas where we heard both member and non-member suggestions. As a result there are new activities in motion. President Teri Beatty has already begun to bring fly-tying to the Wet Fly Hour and also instituting an annual Club fishing event (June 11 at the Rocky Ridge lakes outside of Tygh Valley, see registration information on our website). Our Program Chair, Sarah Lonigro, brought back the casting clinic and picnic at West Mooreland Park in

Portland (August 9th). Foundation President Dave Moskowitz has already put together a website work group to beef up and improve the information on the Foundation activities and the impact of our conservation focus.

The FCO and Foundation boards have also committed to looking for ways to improve welcoming both members and new members, and making it friendlier for non-members at meetings. This will include having name tags made, asking guests to say something about themselves during introductions, and reaching out to invite people to join. We'll look for at least one higher profile presenter during the year. We will keep the current lower price dinner option at the University Club and will ask for that menu item to be changed periodically or for a second item to be available. We will look for a third possible non-University Club program/event location. We will continue our conservation support, and more aggressively showcase the impact of our contributions on the website. We'll also look into social media options for communication.

This [brief summary of the survey](#) has been the catalyst for improvements in the Club. We are very thankful for the investments members have made with their very strong participation in the survey, and are excited about all we have learned.

If you would like a copy of the survey with raw data, please contact me at [janetrocky04@yahoo.com](mailto:janetrocky04@yahoo.com) and I will email it to you. I'm also happy to receive any comments from you.

## *Literary Angler*

*Editor's Note: Oh, to be blessed by the gift of the pen. We have the good fortune to have such talents in our Club and one of our shining stars is Steve Aguilu. Steve recently won the Attic Institute's Winter Writing Competition in the fiction category (<http://atticinstitute.com/node/2092>). He is working on four novels including one on fly fishing. He entertained us during our special December event with his reading of "The Night before Fishtmas." He wrote the following piece about a sense of place - beautiful. LKH*

Saturday, December 12, 2015

### I Am Trout

I have often joked, when expressing my strong sense of place, that I am like a trout. When I move into a new home or workplace, I set up a routine, a ritual of daily life that allows me to optimize my energy. In essence, I pick a rock and settle in behind it, reluctant to move, except at the very most extreme of seasonal flood.

I am happy going to the same restaurant over and over, if I like the food; happy to fish the same creek a thousand times if the fish are there. Fifty years after getting my braces off, I still eat the same Baskin Robbins flavor that was a ritual after a trip to the orthodontist... Rocky Road. Heaven help me if they ever stop making it.

I think of Max, the 26 inch mega rainbow, sitting behind the concrete ruin of the old water retention wall on Rocky Ford Creek in Central Washington. He lay there, in apathetic amusement (allow me a bit of anthropomorphism) for four seasons as I tried everything in my box from midges sized at the limits of my vision to weighted green scuds that raised puffs of silt from the stream floor. All I got was an occasional twitch of pectoral or tail, a jaundiced roll of the eye (yes the water is that clear!) to indicate that I was even within visual range. Now that is a fish who knows where he belongs (at least until my teenaged Tommy, in contempt of my cynical warnings not to waste his time, had him on the first cast, but that's another story...).

Then there's Barney... Barney the Bull Trout. Barney was tagged with a Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT tag) in a Methow River migration study one summer in the early 2000s. Three days later, his signal was picked up in the Naches River, a tributary of the Yakima, some 300 miles away. That is a mile an hour faster than the average human walks, for 24/7, three days straight. That is a rock of a different water.

This weekend is a big one for my son Tommy and, I realize now, for me.

For almost 20 years, I worked and raised my children on the sunny (and now at times, smoky) back slopes of the Washington Cascades. I have returned to Wenatchee to help my youngest son move to Seattle for his new job. I am excited for him, his new life and opportunity, his chance to live near his brother.

But I am sad also. It is the end of an era. The last of my kin leaves the place we called home for 20 years. It brings back the memories of soccer games, swim meets, concerts, graduations. I close my eyes and sense the flow of faces and sounds, the old patient struggling to maintain his dignity in an increasingly vulnerable time of life, the laughter of a friend across the water as his reel screams, the glow of birthday candles on my oldest's face as he formulates his wish, the cry of a new life laying in my hands, squirming, wet and full of spirit.

Americans move, on the average every five years. I lived in a house next to the cafeteria where my dad taught high school math for three years and the rest of my precollege years, five houses down from the east gate of the campus. I did not leave Tucson until I came to the northwest for family practice residency in Spokane. For Tommy, this is an even bigger move. He came to Wenatchee from his birthplace, Mount Vernon, WA when he was only four. If Mount Vernon was his natal gravel, Wenatchee has been his rock since that time.

Now, as we say goodbye to that part of our life in Central Washington, I am warmly haunted by the images that surface in my mind. Fortunately, death is not the only moment when one's life flashes before his eyes.

And so the search goes on, for a new rock, new ruffles of laughter and bright days that bring me nourishment and peace. I still hunger for that old home right next to the school where I grew up...

I went back to Rocky Ford Creek, just before I moved down to Portland this summer and stood on the muddy remnant of the ridge of soil that was once solid bank. The old concrete footing has slumped into the bottom of the creek and the pool behind it is gone. Max is gone as well.

Then I recalled the lesson of the river.. that the river has a life of its own. Some say that you can never really go home. But to my mind, home is a series of rocks behind which we find safety and succor. And all around us is the real source of life, the water: the people we meet, the people we help, the people who help us and most of all, the people we love. That is life... channels changing, levels rising and falling, but never asleep. It is the greatest gift of all, and that is where our real home lies.

So, here's to the Barney's of the world. My hat is off to anyone who can hang his



anywhere, anytime and call it home. But I am just looking for a good rock. One that will bring my old friends to visit and one that will bring new friends that I may someday call old friends. And, I hope I can help Tommy find a new rock of his own this weekend.

Keep swimming...

Dr. Steven Aguilu



## *Conservation Corner*

*Editor's Note: I had the opportunity to speak with Deschutes River Alliance President and Director of Science and Conservation, Greg McMillan, about their recent press release announcing a 60-day notice of intent to sue Portland General Electric for violations to the Clean Water Act. Greg possesses a wealth of knowledge about the ecology of the Deschutes. His organization has amassed an amazing yet sobering amount of data on the health of the river we hold dear. Please come to this month's meeting to hear more about the Deschutes, its current state, and what needs to be done to improve the health of the river and its aquatic inhabitants. LKH*

Last month the Deschutes River Alliance (DRA) announced they had had enough. Since their inception in 2013, the DRA staff, supporters, and volunteers devoted their efforts toward understanding what was going wrong on the lower Deschutes River. A dense algae was growing on the rocks. Hatches were not as prolific. What was driving these changes? The only way to find out was to begin collecting solid data on water temperature, algae blooms, dissolved oxygen, and hydrogen ion concentration (pH). During the course of their research, they documented over 1,200 water quality violations on the lower river. And the evidence strongly pointed to Portland General Electric's (PGE) Selective Water Withdrawal (SWW) Tower at the Round Butte Dam. The tower was designed to create surface currents that would direct out-migrating juvenile fish to a collection facility near the dam where they could be loaded on to trucks and transported around the dam complex to continue their journey to the salt. But the effect of this system preferentially pulled warmer and more polluted surface water originating from the Crooked River into the Deschutes rather than the colder and cleaner water from the Metolius that flowed during bottom draw operations at the dam. The DRA meticulously documented their findings on water quality. They presented the data to PGE. In fact, they met with PGE no fewer than 25 times to address the obvious negative changes that were happening on the lower Deschutes. They documented an increase in water temperature that spanned late winter, spring, and summer months. Their research "on the ground" and via aerial photography documented dramatic increases in "nuisance algae blooms" that caused "negative impacts on the biology" of the river. And, as fishermen know and the DRA demonstrated, the timing and abundance of aquatic insect hatches has changed since the SWW Tower began operation. But the picture is even darker. PGE convinced the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) to "lower the bar" on the water temperature requirements during the latter weeks of typical spawning times. ODEQ shortened the defined spawning time on the Deschutes by 45 days (previously October 15 to August 1st, now October 15 to June 15). Thus, water quality no longer had to meet the stricter spawning time standards in the first half of the summer and PGE did not have to spill as much cool water over the dams. The DRA has submitted a [60-day](#)

[notice on intent to sue PGE](#) for water quality violations that had been previously agreed upon during the utility's Pelton-Round Butte Hydroelectric Complex relicensing in 2005. The notice cites "hundreds of violations" of PGE's Water Quality Management and Monitoring Plan for water temperature, dissolved oxygen, and pH. And the DRA has the evidence to support their claims, thanks to a devoted group of folks who love the Deschutes. Follow along with the DRA at their website [deschutesriveralliance.org](http://deschutesriveralliance.org), through social media, and by coming to this month's FCO meeting.

Lisa Hansen



Round Butte Dam. Selective Water Withdrawal Tower and Fish Collection Facility is housed in the structure in the left of the photo. Photo by Greg McMillan.