

Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

F O U N D E D 1 9 6 1

Please note: December 6th is the first Tuesday in December, not the regular second Tuesday meeting time. The event begins at 6:00pm.

Please join Flyfishers Club of Oregon for Couples Night on Tuesday, December 6th with special guest speaker Dave McCoy of Emerald Water Anglers.

At a young age, Dave's father introduced him to fishing and sparked a lifelong passion to experience and enjoy life in the great outdoors. Growing up in Eugene, Oregon, his stomping grounds were and remain legendary namesakes such as Crane Prairie and Hosmer Lakes as well as the Deschutes, McKenzie and Umpqua Rivers to name a few. While Dave quickly discovered the thrill of having a fish on, it was the awe of his surroundings that instilled his deep passion for fishing and conservation. Dave has dedicated his professional life to the fly fishing industry and has spent the last twenty-plus years relentlessly trying to surpass expectations as a guide, outfitter owner, conservationist, and fly fishing ambassador. Dave is quick to note that he is nothing in his pursuits without his wife Natalie and daughter Nessa, who constantly remind him why he is so inspired without saying a word. In addition to co-owning and operating Emerald Water Anglers, Dave is a Patagonia and Costa Ambassador, Winston, Airflo, Echo and Bauer pro staff member; IFFF Certified Casting Instructor; and widely published photographer.



President's Message

Today as I sit down to write this message I reflect on all that I am Thankful for. First and foremost are my family and friends. These are the people that have shaped me into the person that I am. These are the people that share their life lessons and passions that are constantly changing who I am and who I want to be. This is the story I want to share with you- People often ask me how I learned to fish. It started with a man named Tom McIntosh, he was my grandfather. Often on Sunday he would come pick me up at our home in Coos Bay. We would drive to a nearby lake named Ten Mile Lake. I was 7 years old and this was my favorite adventure. We would sit on the shore and grandfather would put a worm on the hook. He would cast it into the water and hand me the pole. I would laugh and reel in the fish and then we would do it again. When he dropped me back at our house, he would tell my mom "well, Teri caught all of the fish today." I doubt my grandfather had any idea that these days I spent with him on the shore of Ten Mile Lake would ultimately form the fiber of my being and the love for angling. Grandfather passed before I learned to Fly Fish and sometimes I think of that when I'm on the river. I would have enjoyed sharing this with him. I am Thankful.

I wish all of you joy, peace and happiness during this Holiday season.

My best to you,
Teri



Member Matters

We have 189 members as of November 27, 2016. Our newest member is Jerry Brask of Vancouver, WA. In addition to fishing, Jerry enjoys writing and a bit of fly tying. Say hello at an upcoming meeting!

Any new members that join between now and December 31 are fully paid through the end of 2017. Approach your friends to join you in our great club, and perhaps consider a gift of a membership for Christmas/Holiday giving.

In early January you will start seeing your dues renewal notices for 2017 in the mail. Remember that a portion of your dues goes to the Flyfisher Foundation, which contributes generously to fly fishing and conservation causes including the funding of a grant at OSU for fisheries research and a grant to the Multnomah County Library to support the rare books collection. For Regular members, the contribution portion of your dues is \$20, which is tax deductible. A portion of the dues for Associate and Non-Resident members also goes to the Foundation.

The rest of your dues are used to help support the great programs we have at our monthly meetings and for the other activities of the club. Our club is in good financial condition.

Tight Lines,

Rick



News from your FCO Board of Directors

The 2017 slate of officers is shaping up and we need volunteers to serve on the board. As our FCO President, Teri Beatty says, "Being on the Board is cool!" We are recruiting for several board positions and we would love to have YOU volunteer! It is not a big time commitment. We meet approximately four times a year to plan your Club's activities, review financials, address membership recruitment, participate in auction planning, and provide input on program planning. Depending on the board position, there are activities between meetings but none are onerous. I have been on the FCO Board for over 6 years and I thoroughly enjoy it! Be part of the energy behind your Club as we enter 2017! Contact Teri Beatty for more information at teribeatty@windermere.com. Thank you!!

Lisa Hansen

2017 Auction Committee Forming

The Annual FCO/FFF Auction is a popular and extremely successful event. Please consider making your mark on the 2017 Auction by volunteering for the Auction Committee! You will join a fun and dedicated group of FCO members who help obtain auction items, follow-up with previous donors, and plan the May event. Please contact John Pynch at jgpyrch1@msn.com and join the team! Your help will translate into funds to support the great work of the Flyfisher Foundation.

The Distinguished Presidents of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon presentation now available as a PDF - [Members Only](#) (Login required)



Literary Angler

McKenzie River 2-Fly Tournament - by John Pynch

It all started with a challenge by Tony Reser and Joe Palanuk at the 2016 FCO/FFF oral auction. They had won the 2015 McKenzie River 2-Fly Tournament and didn't think anyone could beat them. For the 2016 live auction, Tony contributed the entry fee for two fishermen in this year's event. Although we didn't win the bid for the donation, my son, Matthew, and I signed up for the tournament to see if we could out fish Tony and Joe.

The annual McKenzie River 2-Fly Tournament is a fundraiser for the McKenzie River Trust and is supported by The Caddis Fly Angling Shop owned by Chris Daughters. This was the 9th year for the tournament and it has raised nearly \$9,000 for the protection and restoration of the McKenzie River. The tournament is restricted to 10 boats, each with a guide that donates their time and equipment, and 20 anglers (2 per boat). Each fly fisher is limited to two flies. If you lose your flies, you can keep fishing but the fish you catch don't count. The winning boat has the longest total length of their three largest trout (or steelhead, if you are lucky). The fish have to be measured and photographed with the tape. It is a challenge to set up a successful method of recording the trout without harming them. It takes a real team effort: one to hold the net, one to keep the fish wet while measuring it and one to take the picture. Believe me, it takes a few times to get the system down and working smoothly.

The night before the tournament, the Caddis Fly Shop hosts a pizza dinner with beer and wine. After the meal, each two-angler team draws their guide and selects the flies they plan to use. Arrangements are made when and where to meet your guide and which section of the river you will fish. Prizes are available for the top three teams. Fishing is from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Each guide picks up the lunches and drinks that are provided by the Caddis Fly Shop. After fishing, a hosted dinner with refreshments is provided. Then the judging takes place. Each team submits the pictures of their three largest fish and the winners are determined.



Our guide was Matt Ramsey. He did a great job of putting us on water that held nice trout. We fished one person at a time off the front of the drift boat, switching after each fish was netted. We used a 4 weight rod with a 5 to 6 foot leader tied below a Thingamabobber. Watching for any movement of the strike indicator and setting the hook properly was a real challenge initially, but our guide coached us to success. Ninety percent of our fish were caught on a #8 Mega Prince nymph.

This year, Matt and I out fished Tony and Joe without losing any of our flies. We caught over 30 trout with the three largest totaling 50.75 inches. We came in second, losing to a team that had a 52-inch total. Matt landed the biggest fish, a beautiful 19-inch rainbow. We had a wonderful time and highly recommend this event for FCO members and their fishing partners.

A Glass Half Full - Steelheading 2016

By Club Member – Geoff Roach – Late November 2016

I wrote this to friends on August 4:

“An Aside About 2016 Summer Steelhead: 2016 is shaping up to be one of the worst Columbia Basin runs in recorded history! Not good. I can expand if you care to know more.”

Before the above was completely clear, I began hunting for my first summer hook up on July 5. I didn't have a lot of time with a week away from Oregon and the demands of work. So, here is a little count down on the effort expended between July 5 and August 3:

- 8 morning and/or evening sessions on the Deschutes
- 860 road miles driving to/from the Deschutes (at least half of this in the dark)
- 36 miles hiking either from the mouth or from Macks Canyon
- 18 miles of the 36 with backpack by moonlight, fishing the dawn & dusk margins and napping midday over a weekend
- 1 definitive tug; a native steelhead

She came Wednesday morning August 3. A cold front moved in Monday dropping air temps from 97 degrees in The Dalles to 78. By Tuesday afternoon water temps were below 68. Wednesday morning first light found the water at 64 degrees.

Halfway through a swing at 6:55 AM that morning my fly and a fish met. The fish grabbed hard and my brain went into gear; relearning what I had feared I had lost during the empty void - let go of the loop, let go... and I did. She was a textbook summer D native; 28 inches and just starting to show those rainbow colors – gorgeous, healthy. With a hefty tail thrust she moved along and I rejoiced.

I went on to have one of those years that build steelheader character, where every fish was earned – no “give me’s” and many, many hours of casting, hiking; more daydreaming than usual. There’s a beauty in empty spaces once you let go. I filled some emptiness by reacquainting with fall trout. In early October I learned of the Cascade stonefly. Do you know it? It hatched en masse at a camp near Steelie Flats one evening. The emergent stoneflies, yellow and a bit smaller and daintier than the golden stones, crawled all over us and our camp. I had never realized it before. I trout fished during middays this year; in full sun, in riffles, in pocket water, in the depths just below. I presented October caddis on the surface while working upstream and was graced occasionally. I nymphed the smaller, slimmer yellow cascade stones on the way down. There was much joy in trout fishing with many wonderful rewards. Had steelheading not kicked my arse I would not have had these wonderful experiences.

My daughter and I put the drift boat in some lakes too, not something I have done much of in recent years. One joyful outing included an in-boat picnic with pulled pork sandwiches, potato salad, and homemade berry pie. This was an early supper discussing her dreams, her college applications and we were prepping for the evening’s Hexaginia hatch. So much fun and fish obliged.

I headed for the coast to look for a returning fish. I found one, momentarily, via skater in very low, clear water, in low setting sunlight. I invested a half day with Jack Harrell to learn more about ‘nooks and flies – fascinating and he was so kind and gave me the better part of his day

and the benefit of his knowledge. None of this would unfold in my world when steelhead returns are stronger in the Columbia Basin.

The D was stingy to me. I managed a few along way. And, soon I was on the move up the Columbia. I hit a river system in October just about right and my numbers improved. I made a long trip for a few days into Snake River Country, an annual affair for me and friends. And, we happened to have everything in our favor – air temps, water temps, dropping river on the heels of a significant fall storm, the bulk of the meager summer run below us. They moved up while we were there. Our numbers went up. We had all worked hard at swinging flies all summer. No one this year could be more grateful than we were (perhaps as grateful, but not more). Not a tug was taken for granted. To the person we had all had spectacular, yet mostly fishless outings, and we filled the emptiness in creative, unusual and rewarding ways.

So, yes, I can honestly say it was a superb season. But, let's do whatever it takes to build our returns for the many years ahead. For, I am putting the best spin on it possible - a glass half full - steelheading 2016.

Tight Lines and Happy Holidays.

Conservation Corner

Last year your Flyfisher Foundation awarded a \$5,000 grant to Trout Unlimited (TU) that was used to support their Angler Science Initiative on the West Fork of the Smith River and the Siletz River. Last month we received an update on the progress three TU chapters have made in monitoring water temperature and spawning activity on these rivers. Through their Angler Science Initiative, TU is educating anglers and guides to collect data that can help document the effects of logging practices, restoration projects, and climate on water quality and fish distribution. As agency budgets shrink, trained citizen scientists can help us better understand what is happening in key wild steelhead and salmon rivers in the Oregon. Please [check out the report](#) and the information about citizen science. Also, [here is a link](#) to a recent Statesman-Journal article about steelhead on the Siletz.

Your contributions to the Flyfisher Foundation make a difference for wild fish!

Lisa Hansen

