



Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

F O U N D E D 1 9 6 1

2017 FCO/FFF Dinner/Auction Don't Miss This Opportunity

The annual FCO/FFF Dinner/Auction will be held on Tuesday, May 9th at the Multnomah Athletic Club. Festivities start at 5 pm with the Wet Fly Hour and the Silent Auction. A gourmet dinner overseen by Philippe Boulot, MAC's renown chef and FCO member, will be served at 7 pm with the Oral Auction and the Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise beginning at 7:30 pm. This year the Paddle Raise will benefit the **Deschutes River Alliance**. There are about 45 high quality silent auction items, including lots of fly fishing gear (rods, reels, waders, vests, float tube, etc.), custom-tied flies, fly tying equipment and materials, fishing art, fine wine, Yeti cooler and much more. The Oral Auction has the following donations for your consideration:

- JHC Trout Spey Rod and Bauer Reel
- A Trip to Pronghorn Lake Ranch in Southern Oregon for Trophy Trout
- 3 Days/2 Nights at a Cannon Beach Cabin
- A Carp Fishing Trip with John Bartlett and Teri Beatty
- Ross Canyon Big Game Reel with 2 Spools
- 3 Deschutes River Fly Fishing Trips
- 4 Days/3 Nights at a Devil's Lake House
- 2 Steelhead Trips on the Clackamas, McKenzie or Willamette Rivers
- Burkheimer Spey Rod and Islander Reel
- Abel SD 5/6 Reel in Deep Blue
- 3 Days/2 Nights at a Deschutes River Cabin for up to 6 Anglers
- 2 Days/1 Night at Rocky Ridge Ranch for up to 4 Anglers
- A Philippe Boulot Gourmet Dinner for 6 Hosted by Lisa Hansen

It promises to be a wonderful evening checking in with old friends and fishing buddies, sharing the latest fishing stories and supporting the DRA's efforts to improve the lower Deschutes.



President's Message

May 1st what does that mean to you? To me it's a collection of different memories. There is very little that I would rather do than go fishing. It doesn't matter where or for what species, it just matters that I am out there doing what I love. When I was a young girl one of my favorite things to do on May 1st was to collect flowers from our yard and make pretty cones with handles. I would fill the cones with the flowers and then I would award them to my favorite neighbors. Hanging these bright cones on the door, ringing the bell and hiding in the bushes. It brought me such joy seeing the smiles on their faces.

Now May 1st means spring and more time for fishing. Tomorrow I head out for my first Carp trip of the season. Always a chance it will still be too cold and yet that hardly matters. Time on the water will make it a perfect day. I enjoyed seeing everyone that made it to Rocky Ridge Ranch. A successful outing that we will do again. Thanks again to Mike Collins for the best BBQ I have had in my entire life.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the Auction on May 9th at The Multnomah Athletic Club. John Prych has planned a fantastic evening that you won't want to miss. Thank you to John and his committee for all your hard work and dedication to the Fly Fishers Club and the Fly Fishers Foundation. Also Thank you to the generosity of the Boards & Members for your thoughtful donations.

My best to you,
Teri



Member Matters

If you missed last month's meeting it was an educational and entertaining event. Doctoral student and recipient of the Tom McAllister Oregon State Scholar recipient, Thaddeus Buser, took us into the mysterious and amazing ecology and biology of sculpin fishes. He has dedicated his research to revealing how the myriad species of sculpin behave, survive, and relate to the ecosystem. His detailed CT imaging of sculpin has helped elucidate their evolution in ways never before reported. He braved the extreme conditions of the Aleutian Islands to venture out to the westernmost point of the chain and find sculpin thriving in the frigid waters. The talk was fantastic for us science geeks and entertaining for any fisherperson. Mr. Buser shared his deep appreciation for the support provided by your Flyfisher's Foundation that helped make his work on imaging these unique fish possible.

Another report from the April meeting – a very successful Club outing to Rocky Ridge Ranch! I heard the fishing was hot and so were the BBQ skills of member Mike Collins! I'm still waiting for some pictures and maybe a little boasting on the catch. Rumor has it that folks had so much fun, Teri Beatty is considering a second trip in September. Stay tuned to the Flyline and attend upcoming meetings to make sure you get a spot on the next trip! And Thank You Teri and Ross Beatty for arranging a great outing for Club members! Tight lines, Lisa Hansen



Literary Angler

Editor's Note: Flyfisher Foundation member and past Club President, Dr. Mark Metzdorff, submitted the following correspondence and poem for your enjoyment. I hope we get another opportunity to meet his friend Pierce. And Mark, I didn't fish the Tweed but I was fortunate to fish the River Test with Keith years ago. It certainly tested my stealthy abilities! LKH

I get emails from a friend, Pierce Clegg, who used to own Babine Norlakes Lodge where I went yearly for about 14 years before he and I retired. He was my guest at club meetings on a couple of occasions and gave a presentation at one of them. In a recent note he included the following message and poem. It rings too true to we aging anglers:

"I will close this update with a cool poem I found while cleaning up some damage in our shop which flooded a bit from rain on the frozen ground...it has rained hard three times this winter, but with the ground so frozen the water had now where to go but all over the place...so many septic and plumbing systems in our area are frozen and every time it rained the water found it's way to the only places it could go; the lowest point of gravity where ever it was. Frozen creeks had water running over the top, layer by layer, freezing until the frozen new creeks of ice began making new trails into household yards or where ever. What a mess and any cardboard boxes we had on our shop floor were soaked. I found myself opening lots of old boxes containing old Norlakes records and stuff. Lots of old files and with them old memories of all sorts that I had planned to go through and now the flooding has forced me to do. So I came across a poem by Zummerset Zurgeon typed on an old letterhead from [The Collingwood Arms Hotel, Cornhill, Northumberland](#). So in memory of Sam, Yukari and so many other Babine angler souls..."

The babbling brook, the rippling rill
The smiling stream entice me still
But yet I find them getting colder
Each time I wade now that I am older

The breakneck banks, the slopes of slime
The rugged rocks I used to climb
So easily but now they differ
They're mighty steep now that I'm stiffer

The stinging sleet, the scorching sun
The wailing wind, are not such fun
From each of them in turn I suffer
Now that I am an ancient buffer

The portly pigs, the chewing cows
The staring sheep, all make such rows
Did that blare come from bull or heifer?
I'd better mind now that I'm deafer

The kinking knot, the fiddling flies
The nylon noose, all try my eyes
In foiling them I once delighted
They're just plain hell now I'm short sighted

What joy do I still find therein?
I must confess the nearby Inn
The path to it I'll once more follow
For all thanks be I still can swallow!

"And I assume swallow a Molson Canadian beer or some Crown Royal rye whiskey :)"
Pierce

Also in the email chain was a response from another former guest or acquaintance of Pierce, Mike Monkman, whom I don't know, but who adds some history about the poem:

Dear Pierce and Anita,

Many thanks for keeping us in the loop! Now about the poem. The author's name is a corruption of "Somerset Surgeon", Somerset being a county in the South West of England where the letter S is pronounced as a Zed (Zee to you!) Presumably the poem was written on the Collingwood Arms letterhead because someone who loved the poem was staying there. The Collingwood Arms is very close to the best salmon River in the British Isles, the Tweed, which for part of its length forms the border between England and Scotland. A day's fishing at the peak of the run can be easily \$12000.

The village of Cornhill is on the English side of the border. Northumberland is the English County nearest Scotland. I believe ten thousand salmon are caught in the Tweed each year and the fishery has improved beyond all recognition since they stopped the netting of salmon in the estuary. Good Sea Trout fishing too, (sea run brown trout, but generally smaller than our steelhead.) In the upper reaches and tributaries of the Tweed there is excellent brown trout fishing, where the soft hackled flies which originated the North of England over a hundred years ago are still popular.

Finally, a brief Google search yielded the following:

www.si.com/vault/1956/04/16/597355/the-outdoor-week

Here the poem was reprinted in a 1956 Sports Illustrated, with the title "Nunc Est Bibendum" which apparently means "Now is the time to drink" (I don't speak Latin!). The poem in SI was reprinted from something called "The Fishing Gazette, Great Britain". This SI issue was about 4 years before the 1960 SI issues with articles on wet fly fishing written by our own V. S. "Pete" Hidy, first president of the FCO.

I am sure both Pierce and his correspondent wouldn't mind if you reprinted the poem and any other aspect of the exchanges you deem of interest. Didn't you fish the Tweed?

Best,

Mark Metzdorff



And more words of wisdom from Mark – Fishing the trees of Lake Creek in central Oregon – In the difficult high-water conditions of spring steelheading, it pays to fish the "soft edges" of runs and riffles. If you're lucky enough to feel a "grab", the best response may be to use a "strip-strike" and then, "Hang On"!

Conservation Corner

*Editor's Note: Deschutes River Alliance Executive Director, Jonah Sandford, sends this summary of the great work they are doing to unravel the complex ecologic changes that have occurred in the lower Deschutes since the Pelton-Round Butte Hydroelectric Project came on line in 2009. Mr. Sanford said this year's **Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise** will support their ambitious plans for collecting water quality data in Lake Billy Chinook, the Deschutes, and the Crooked River. Go to their excellent website to learn more. LKH*

The Deschutes River Alliance Science Team is now in its fourth year of investigating the sources and extent of the ecological changes occurring in the lower Deschutes River. Detrimental changes in water quality, nuisance algae proliferations, and changes in aquatic insect populations and hatch timing have dramatically altered the angling experience on the lower river. The DRA's scientific work, supported in large part by the Flyfisher Foundation, is still the most thorough publicly available analysis of these critically important issues.

This spring, the DRA will release four reports based on information gathered in 2016:

- The **2016 Lower Deschutes River Water Quality Report**, released in early April, examines in detail several water quality issues in the lower river. The report is based on continuous hourly data collected one mile below the Reregulating Dam, for criteria including pH, temperature, and dissolved oxygen.
- The **2016 Lake Billy Chinook Water Quality Report** is based on two years of water quality data collection in Lake Billy Chinook. The DRA Science Team gathered extensive data from both the surface of the reservoir and from depth, in an effort to better understand the water quality changes observed in the lower river as a result of surface water withdrawal.
- The **2016 Lower Deschutes River Macroinvertebrate Hatch Survey** will present analysis of aquatic insect populations and changes in hatch timing on the lower Deschutes River. 2016 marks the third year of this survey, which is performed by concerned fishing guides with a long history of fishing the lower river and observing adult insect activity. This survey has been critical in understanding the changes in aquatic insect populations over the last several years.
- In the **2016 Lower Deschutes River Benthic Aquatic Insect Report**, the DRA has contracted with a Portland State University professor to compare pre-tower benthic aquatic insect samples with similar samples collected in 2016 by the DRA Science Team. The report will provide a detailed analysis of recent changes in benthic insect populations.

In 2017, the DRA will continue to collect and analyze water quality data above and below the Pelton-Round Butte complex, and continue the Science Team's examination of changes in aquatic insect populations. This work will include:

- Lake Billy Chinook Irrigation Water Sampling.** During 2015 and 2016 fieldwork on Lake Billy Chinook, the DRA Science Team discovered several irrigation-related water inputs to the reservoir. These inputs occur at the terminuses of irrigation canals that traverse about 100 miles of agricultural land, and take the form of waterfalls dropping into LBC during periods of irrigation in the agricultural areas between Bend and Madras. No previous work has been done by management agencies or the dam operators to assess and sample the possible nutrient load (nitrogen and phosphorous-based nutrients) from fertilizer carried in this water. This data can determine how these waterfalls influence the massive algae blooms observed in the reservoir, and their contribution of harmful nutrients that are now discharged to the lower Deschutes River.
- Lower Deschutes River Water Quality Monitoring.** As in 2016, water quality

parameters including temperature, pH, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and chlorophyll- a will be continuously monitored, one mile below the Reregulating Dam.

•Deschutes and Crooked River Basin Water Quality Monitoring and Imaging Data. In 2017, the DRA will collect water quality data from various Middle and Upper Deschutes and Crooked River basin sources to determine the causes of the basin's water quality degradation, and use that information to assemble imaging data for the basin. The DRA's science work from 2013- 2016 has established the Crooked River as the source of the vast majority of Lake Billy Chinook's nutrients and other agricultural pollutants now discharged by SWW operations downstream to the lower Deschutes River. Collecting water quality and imaging data from the basin is the first critical step in a long-term strategy to address pollution sources upstream in the larger Deschutes River basin.

All of this work has been made possible by generous funding from the Flyfisher's Foundation and others. This science will continue to form a strong basis for the DRA's ongoing advocacy efforts to return cold, clean water to the lower Deschutes River.

[Jonah Sandford](#)

Executive Director

[Deschutes River Alliance](#)

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Executive Director [Blog](#)

Here is the latest information on the dam project from co-owner, [Portland General Electric](#)
<https://www.portlandgeneral.com/corporate-responsibility/environmental-stewardship/water-quality-habitat-protection/deschutes-river/updates-events>

