

Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

FOUNDED 1961

Guest Speaker Joel La Follette – Oregon Trout Trail - November 14th, 2017

When it comes to fly fishing we all find ourselves in a rut at times, doing the same thing over and over because we know it and it's in our comfort zone. Joel La Follette is constantly looking for something new to experience with a fly rod in hand and shares his discoveries as he travels our state and the world.

A few years ago he came up with the concept of the Oregon Trout Trail in an effort to get his customers and newsletter readership to rediscover the wonderful native Trout fisheries we have in Oregon. Joel also wanted to challenge himself to explore more of the state his family has called home for 6 generations and learn more about how they helped shape Oregon.

The Oregon Trout Trail winds through the mountains and valleys of Oregon from the high deserts in the east to the Pacific Ocean in the west. It's a trail of discovery that challenges us all to explore our state to learn more about our native Trout and ourselves.

Joel La Follette learned the art of fly-fishing in the cool pine forest along the banks of the Metolius River at the ripe old age of 9. After an adventurous career that has included commercial fisherman, professional photographer, race car driving instructor, and over 18 years in the Fly Fishing Industry, Joel has settled in as the owner of Royal Treatment Fly Fishing in West Linn, Oregon.



President's Message

Ad-ven-ture

verb

1. Engage in hazardous and exciting activity, especially the exploration of unknown territory.

This is a word that many of us relate to on a regular basis. So much of Fly Fishing has very little to do with fish. It's the adventure, scenery and experience that drives us all too new destinations and new species of fish. In a few days I am leaving for Louisiana in search of Redfish, Drum & Alligator Gar. I look forward to all of this and maybe a nice cup of chicory coffee. Our program this month is Oregon specific and one you don't want to miss. Joel La Follette will give you good reason for a little wanderlust close to home as we explore Oregon's Trout Trail. Please make your reservation and payment online as we can no longer accept checks and walk-ins at the door. In November they will be cleaning out our local Westmoreland Casting Ponds. They would love to have some volunteers from our club if the timing is right for your schedule. Please watch for the dates and times in member matters. I'm excited to announce a Fly-Tying Round Table that will be held on Dec 2nd from 11am-1pm. This will be at the Orvis Bridgeport location. Please bring your skills to share. Beginners are welcome. I will be there tying various Christmas Island patterns, but look forward to learning your favorite pattern as well.

My best to you,
Teri



Member Matters

Fly Fisher's Stewardship Day on December 2nd to Clean-Up Westmoreland Casting Ponds

FCO members enjoy practicing at the Westmoreland Casting Ponds each summer during our annual picnic. I imagine some of you head down to the ponds to practice with a new rod or hone your accuracy before heading to the tropics for saltwater fishing. We received this notice from Ron Lauzon, a fly fishing instructor, who is recruiting folks to volunteer to "Help Give Back" to the Westmoreland Park & Casting Pond. Mr. Lauzon provides for us fly fishers by coordinating with the Portland Parks to assist with the clean-up of the drained casting pond, and the park grounds, with a "Fly Fishers Stewardship Day" on Saturday, December 2nd, 2017, from 9 AM to 12:30 PM. Please [read the notice](#) and let Mr. Lauzon know via email at ronlauzon@gmail.com if you can help out. Thanks!!



Save the Date for December Couple's Night!

Your Club's Holiday Event will feature Jim Klug of Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures. Jim will entice you and your guest with his presentation on Fly Fishing off the Grid. Mark your calendars for Tuesday December 12th and bring someone special along!

Book Review: A Temporary Refuge: Fourteen Seasons with Wild Summer Steelhead by Lee Spencer¹

I truly enjoyed Lee Spencer's chronology of the months and years he has spent as guardian over one of the most critical holding pools for wild summer steelhead in the Umpqua basin. Having had the pleasure of hearing Lee's observations first-hand while visiting the pool, his book brought sweet memories and connection with a river that is part of my soul. Lee takes you through the months of May through November and through the fourteen years of changes during those months when he meticulously documented the goings on around him from his perch above the Big Bend pool. Accompanied by his dear companion, Sis, Lee delights you with descriptions of the changing flora along with fauna that swoop over, dive in, and swim through the "refuge pool" This pool provides a healing sanctuary for steelhead before the fall freshets beckon them back to their natal waters.

Lee explains that steelhead jump "virtually purely for the purpose of raising their eyes above the surface so that they can see something clearly—a color or a movement or a shape or the source of a scent or sound—that has been detected initially from beneath the surface." He goes on to explain interesting rising behavior and the optics of how the world above the surface is observed from below.

Over the years, Lee may have observed more wild steelhead behaviors than anyone. His theories (and deductions) are fascinating. The final chapter, his heartfelt tribute to Sis, was difficult to read. Sis was his constant companion at the perch, through the woods, and on the river during long days and nights on the pool when human presence was absent. During one particularly adventurous fishing expedition with Lee, Sis scampered on happily as we bushwacked and climbed over logs down a frighteningly steep descent to a "secret run." She reveled in the forests of the North Umpqua. In the book, Lee speaks as if Sis shared his thoughts and conclusions from his observations. I hope that his latest canine companion, Maggie, gives him the same fulfillment.

Inspired,

Lisa Hansen ¹Spencer L. A temporary refuge: Fourteen seasons with wild summer steelhead. Patagonia Works, 2017.

<http://www.patagonia.com/a-temporary-refuge-fourteen-seasons-with-wild-summer-steelhead-by-lee-spencer-hardcover-book/BK785.html>

P.S. The North Umpqua Foundation has been instrumental in supporting Lee Spencer's work to protect the wild steelhead for the past 19 years.
<https://www.facebook.com/NorthUmpquaFoundation/>



Conservation Corner

Editor's Note: It is difficult to keep up with all the conservation news, new threats, and new action alerts that come to my inbox. I've chose a few to highlight recent happenings here in the West. There are many talented and dedicated individuals who work hard to inform us of these issues. Please take some time to read their work. LKH

The fire is nearly out. Now what?

Over 48,000 acres of our spectacular Columbia River Gorge burned in September. I drove out this past weekend through miles of somber ridges and slopes that were solid black from the highway to the highest ridge. What to do? The House of Representatives has passed a salvage logging bill that would significantly loosen environmental rules in forests hit by wildfire. According to scientists and pre-eminent Gorge advocates from Friends of the Columbia Gorge, this bill will further harm forests like those that line our Gorge. Friends emphasize that, "Salvage logging is completely inappropriate for the Columbia Gorge. If passed, the Walden clear-cut bill would mandate commercial logging in areas impacted by the Eagle Creek fire and require the Forest Service to develop plans to log the Gorge without environmental review, short-circuiting public involvement and limiting legal challenges. This is unacceptable." <https://gorgefriends.org/protect-the-gorge/walden-clear-cut-bill.html>

More fires! Fire as friend in the Umpqua National Forest

North Umpqua worshipers may have had their travel plans dashed when two large fires converged and closed the river and highway for weeks in September. Again, salvage logging and road building is proposed to "manage" the forest to reduce the impacts of future wildfires. In the most recent issue of the Steamboat Whistle newsletter, local resident, naturalist, and friend, Karl Konecny explains the ecologic benefits of wildfire and the harms of salvage logging as a management strategy in our forests.

[North Umpqua Complex Fire by Karl Konecny](#)

Wild Willamette winter steelhead at the edge of the ESA cliff

As Congress considers revising the Marine Mammal Protection Act to allow killing of California sea lions that are devouring Pacific salmon and steelhead in our river systems, the Native Fish Society points out that the sea lions are not the only culprits. NFS River Steward Program Director Conrad Gowell presents a comprehensive review of the myriad threats to the Willamette's wild winter steelhead populations.

<https://nativefishsociety.org/news-media/of-wild-winter-steelhead-sea-lions-and-crisis-management>

Alaska Pebble Mine proposal rears its ugly head yet again

Just when we thought the disastrous Pebble Mine proposed in critical salmon spawning headwaters above Bristol Bay was on its last breath, the Environmental Protection Agency reversed its prior ruling that the mine "would irretrievably damage multiple Bristol Bay rivers and place at risk the world's most productive salmon region." The fight goes to the next round as locals, fishermen, and conservation groups are outraged. The Conservation Angler <https://theconservationangler.files.wordpress.com/2017/10/tca-comments-on-pebble-proposed-determination-docket-id-no-epa-r10-ow-2017-0369.pdf> and Wild Salmon Center <https://www.wildsalmoncenter.org/2017/10/26/said-leave-bristol-bay-intact/> are among

groups who took yet another stand against this atrocious proposal.

Down on the SE range – Some good news of the feathered variety

Friends of Malheur Refuge was awarded a National Fish and Wildlife grant that will help fund a new Nature Center and Cranes' Nest Nature Store. The new center will serve as a point of contact for refuge visitors, providing up-to-date wildlife sightings as well as a space for multimedia presentations and environmental education programs. The Friends of Malheur have plans to install two eBird Trail Tracker systems that will allow refuge visitors to access data on bird sightings around the refuge and other Harney County hotspots. Birdwatchers can use the tracker to record their own sightings as well. The eBird's system provides an online database that allows uses to learn where birds are being reported across North America. If you are a birder, you may want to donate to the cause <http://www.malheurfriends.org/donate.html>.

