

# Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

FOUNDED 1961

## **Save the Date - February 13th, 2018. Guest Speaker Josh Linn will present the Keys to Winter Steelhead Success.**

Josh is a native Oregonian. His father introduced him to fly fishing at a young age. Over the years he has been mentored by a great many anglers and that influence has turned him into a respected angler, guide, and instructor. He has taught hundreds of people to cast and guided many anglers into to their first steelhead.

Josh has spent the better part of the past 20 years chasing steelhead throughout the Pacific Northwest and remote places in the world. During that time he has guided and fished many rivers including the Infamous River X in Alaska, the Deschutes and the Sandy rivers in Oregon as well as more distant locations such as Russia and soon to be trip to Sweden.

Over the past decade Josh has worked with major manufacturers such as Rio and G Loomis to develop fly fishing tackle. Recently, Josh held a position at G Loomis as the their National Fly Fishing Sales Manager. Currently, he has a managing role at Royal Treatment Fly Fishing. If you are ever looking for Josh you'll find him in one of two places, the fly shop or on the river chasing steelhead.



## *President's Message*

Greetings Fly Fishers,

I came upon this skeleton of a Giant Trevally on my Christmas Island trip. Artistic or Creepy? I thought it was pretty cool. We have a busy spring ahead of us. At the February 13th meeting you will be electing your FCO Board. This was published in Member Matters last month. I am very excited about the talented group of volunteers we have representing our club. The FCO Board will also vote to approve the FFF slate. Please make your reservation online, this is a very important meeting.



The Rocky Ridge Fishing trip on April 7th is SOLD OUT! That happened fast, and speaks loudly to the obvious fun of the outing. Our talented Master Griller Mike Collins will be back creating his culinary yumminess. I will send an email out to everyone that registered with details. You will need to go to the club web-site click pay dues and check the box that says Rocky Ridge.

The 2018 Annual Club Auction is approaching fast. Please save the date, May 8th, 2018. It will be held at the Multnomah Athletic Club. Chef Phillipe has created a very special menu for our event. I am currently taking names for table hosts, you can host a table of 8 or 10. The cost is \$85.00 per person. I am also asking for donations of gear, flies, wine & experiences. If you have a special fishing trip that you love please donate the trip. I am looking for weekend cabins on the coast or in central Oregon. If you love to cook consider donating a dinner either at your home or in the home of the person that buys the dinner. Your support is greatly appreciated. Lastly I hope everyone is finding time on the water. I fished the Nestucca and Trask last weekend and though I didn't land a Steelhead, I enjoyed the scenery.

My best to you,  
Teri

## *Member Matters*

This time of year is great for winter steelhead fishing on the coast and the Clackamas and Sandy Rivers, trout fishing on the Crooked or Metolius, and for paying your 2018 dues! Everyone should have gotten their first notice by now and it would really be helpful for the club if you would send in (or pay via credit card through PayPal) your payment as soon as you can. Also, please be sure we have your correct email as we are discovering several that are not current.

On another note, this time of year is also a good time to curl up on the couch reading your favorite magazine to get ready for the coming seasons of fishing! When you are done with the magazine, remove the address label and bring it to the monthly meeting. Place it on the table outside the main dining room doors so other members can enjoy it as much as you. Please take one to enjoy!

Tight lines,  
Rick Pay, Membership Chair

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### **An Open Letter to the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon**

David Moskowitz - January 2018

It has been a great privilege to serve as the Flyfisher Foundation Board President for the past 6 years. I will not be presenting my name as a nominee for the Board during the Annual Elections on February 13.

I want to begin by thanking Dr. Curt Marr and Dr. Robert Sheley who were the FCO members who invited me to join the FCO and eventually backed my acceptance as a member of the FCO before the FCO Board. It was a curious and long process to become a FCO member – something that is now part of the history of the Club, not a monthly or quarterly tradition. It is one of many changes that have occurred in recent FCO history as this venerable organization has struggled to maintain viability amidst a changing culture and economy, social media, and even changes in our sport and literary foundations.

Fact of the matter was I had given several presentations to the FCO before I became a member, typically presenting a slide show (later a power point) on some campaign or another such as "Save the forest, Save the Fish, Save the Sagebrush" or the like. FCO members were a fairly enthusiastic and often supportive audience for conservation presentations of that type. These appearances were made easier because I knew many FCO members as homeowners on the Deschutes (my home waters) such as the Bachman-Dick crew, Jock Fewel, Bob Groves and John vonSchegell, Dale Forester and Tom Tongue. I knew other FCO members from years of conservation work, like Roger Bachman, Guido Rahr, Anne Tattam and David Moryc.

Regardless, after all those years, it seemed a natural part of the order of things that I found myself at the University Club with my blazer but not my briefcase. While I held that first wet fly-hour drink in my hand (courtesy of Curt and Robert), I must have

seemed like an easy mark for John Hoopes who was the Program Chair under Janet Arenz' early tenure.

"Hello Dave, welcome to the club. I remember when you gave a presentation a few years back. You seemed a natural. Do you know other people who might be interested in making a presentation? I have been the Program Chair for a few years and I am looking to plug a few holes in the upcoming calendar. In fact, do you want to give a presentation about your current work? In fact, I will not be here next month and perhaps you could introduce the speaker we have lined up? Actually, there is nothing to this job. You get someone to agree to present, make a reservation here and there. Piece of cake. I have the rest of the year pretty booked but there are a few details to iron out. I keep all my notes right here, and here is the backpack with the FCO lap top and video projector. You just get here a little early, set up the show and "boom" you sit back and enjoy the show. Easy Peasy. Thanks Dave, you are the new Program Chair. Let me buy you another drink."

For about the fifth time in my life, responsibility, title, "prestige" and a whole bunch of someone else's work landed right in my lap. Boom.

This is no complaint – I was appreciative of the opportunity to give time to the FCO – and finding interesting programs suited my professional connections and my personal passions for flyfishing and conservation. In the end, this one year volunteer gig turned into three interesting years, and thank goodness for the wonderful and hardworking Sarah Lonigro who graciously and enthusiastically took the reins from me and made her own mark on FCO Programs for three years following me.

Watching, as a new FCO member get into the swim of things, from afar like a blue heron patiently waiting for its next meal to swim into range, was Flyfisher Foundation President D. Mike Collins. If ever there was a person whom the FCO would gladly appoint "President-For-Life" it was Mike. Mike had performed rescues of the auction and filled and completed just about every duty on the list for the Club and Foundation, as he cheerfully, professionally and promptly made things happen. And while Mike did not hand over the keys to the kingdom as completely and immediately as John Hoopes had, he expertly drew me in to the Flyfisher Foundation realm. It happened so smoothly and effortlessly that I have had trouble determining exactly when I was first elected to the Foundation Board by the FCO Board.

Because of Mike's professional organizational skills, it was pretty smooth sailing working with the Foundation. We had members with years of service to the FCO and the Foundation so our institutional memory was well preserved as I, with the incredible John Pynch as my vice-President, took the reins and began a pretty good ride into some new territory. I am most proud of our efforts to lower administrative costs and maintain a balanced investment posture, at the same time increasing our charitable giving to worthy causes, while working to preserve the historical record and archives of both the FCO and the Foundation. I am proud of taking on the dirty work of drafting our first-ever FCO member survey after years of talking about it, and so very grateful to Janet Arenz who polished and delivered it. I urge the FCO and Foundation Boards to revisit the results and act accordingly. I am also very excited about the creation of a permanent funding source for the FCO's literary and archival projects including a presentation on the FCO and Foundation's history by Mark Metzdorff, a video project

capturing the reflections of the FCO by some charter members about the FCO history, and finally, providing the funds necessary to plan and produce a 60th Anniversary Edition of the Creel.

None of this would have been possible without the hard work and counsel of many FCO members. Janet Arenz was the FCO's first woman president and first president to serve multiple terms and she and Curt generously bought me many drinks as I struggled to set up the presentations each month. They are among the best FCO "ambassadors" we have! Lisa Hansen has almost singlehandedly maintained the FCO's literary connection as editor of The Flyline. Joe and Suzette Palanuk diligently maintained the FCO's website and answered to many masters patiently and helpfully.

I am very grateful for my Foundation Board colleagues and for their service to the FCO and Foundation. The list is not long but quite illustrious: Jerry Brown, John Eustice, Mike Collins, Dar Isensee, Tony Reser, Tom McAllister, Rick Pay, Janet Arenz, and of course, John Pynch who along with Mike Collins were the workhorses behind everything we accomplished.

I am grateful for the chance to serve and proud of what was accomplished.

I will continue my work in wild fish and river conservation (now into my 31st year of those efforts), pursuing some of the greatest challenges we have faced yet, and thankful for your support of many of my efforts. I urge you to double-down on your support of the many excellent organizations in our region.

Hope to see you on the river.

David Moskowitz  
Flyfisher Foundation President (2012-2017)  
FCO Program Chair (2011 – 2013)  
FCO Conservation Chair (2015 – currently)



## Literary Angler

*Editor's Note: This interesting piece and link comes from our Program Chair and fisherman of the world, Ross Beatty. He brings our attention to an unusual phenomenon in steelhead and salmon reproduction. It's all about perpetuating the genes for the future! LKH*

On a recent steelhead trip I caught a juvenile steelhead around 16" long. The guide referred to it as a "precocious parr" because it was sexually mature and had never gone to sea. I thought this was interesting, so I did a little googling and found an article by Douglas Watts, who has studied this behavior in Atlantic salmon. I have included an out take where he talks about how these parr have found a way to successfully mate with mature salmon. It is a long paper, so I doubt most people would want to read it through, but it is a phenomenon that I wasn't aware of before.... [Click here for the link to the entire paper.](#)

Ross Beatty

### **A fascinating aspect of Atlantic salmon is the existence of precocious parr.**

Douglas Watts – retrieved 2/5/2018 from the above link

Atlantic salmon live in the streams where they were born until they are two years old. In the spring of their third year, when they are 6-7 inches long, they turn bright silver, their kidneys and other organs undergo a profound change to let them live in saltwater, and they head out to sea for two years, whereupon they return to their natal stream to mate and spawn as 8-15 pound adults. But some male Atlantic salmon take a different path. In the fall of their second year, they become sexually mature while still only the length of a dollar bill. Because baby salmon in freshwater are called "parr" (a very old Scottish word), these prematurely sexually mature males are called precocious parr.

Like many animals, male Atlantic salmon aggressively compete with each other for the right to mate with females. Male salmon compete by "claiming" a female as she is digging her nest and then trying to drive all other interested males away from the nesting site. While male salmon do not bite each other, they will use their heads and snouts (which become curiously enlarged and curved at spawning season) as battering rams to "head butt" a particularly obstinate competitor. As a rule, the larger male tends to win these competitive displays and the smaller male (or simply less aggressive male) moves away to find another available female or to wait on the sidelines for a rematch. In cases where three or more males are vying for one female, these competitive matches are tumultuous, with the male salmon chasing each other up and down a pool and in the shallows. This frenzy can continue for several days, especially if additional males arrive in the area after being driven off by other males at nests up or downstream, or as fresh males arrive from the ocean. The male battles only end when all the females in the area have spawned.

Enter stage right our little friends, precocious parr. Precocious parr are sexually mature male Atlantic salmon, but are only the length of a dollar bill. They are only two years old (rather than four), and have never gone to the ocean. Adult male salmon which have gone to sea and back are big fish, anywhere from 28-44 inches long and weighing

from eight to 40 pounds. They have swam from their home rivers more than 2,000 miles to their marine feeding grounds near Greenland and back, growing from 7 inches long to nearly 3 foot long in just two years. Most of their compatriots on this long migration did not survive, but were eaten by larger ocean predators at some point in their journey. These large males are the veterans, the survivors, are in the peak of condition, have a tummy full of milt and only one objective: to win a female salmon against all competitors and to pass along their genetic legacy.

So how does a precocious salmon parr that weighs a few ounces and is barely the length of an adult salmon's tail have any chance of competing for and winning a female? Isn't this totally wacky? Precocious male salmon parr do this by using their tiny size as an asset. Their secret weapon is as comical as it is effective. Here's the secret: during all of the time the big, giant male salmon are chasing each other around, fighting and vying between each other for "possession" of the female salmon and her nest, the precocious parr wait in the wings for the big males to be preoccupied with fighting other and then stealthily swim into the nest itself and sidle up alongside and underneath the female's abdomen, much like how a remora swims underneath the belly of a shark. Then they wait.

The only time precocious parr mate with a female salmon is when there were also large males around, and a large male with the female. In these cases the precocious parr sidles up underneath the female's belly, waits for the female and large male to simultaneously emit eggs and milt and then the precocious parr emits his (much smaller) package of milt at the same time, which then settles into the nest with the eggs and the large male's milt. Interestingly, even though the tiny parr has a lot less milt to squirt onto the eggs than the large male, his abdomen is much closer to the eggs, because he positions himself underneath the female which places him just a few inches above where the eggs are deposited.



Photo from USGS.gov

## *Conservation Corner*

### **Conservation in the Developing World**

Marie Louise and I were traveling in India in January when I spotted this sign (see photo) across the road from a Catholic Church where our priest friend was ordained 30 years ago. Navelim is a town in the state of Goa on the southwest coast of India, on the Arabian Sea.

I could not find anyone or any information to elaborate on the NPG, but it appears that concerns about fossil fuels, mines and rivers are the same the world around. It struck me as a bit of a paradox, however, as it appears to the casual traveler that any river in India near a population center seems to function as a repository for sewage and litter, and they rely on the annual monsoon rains to sweep away the filth, to the ocean presumably. Probably better than the effluent of a coal mine, but we all live downstream...

Mark Metzdorff



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### **Fish Where They Don't Belong**

I know there is some good conservation news out there! But my inbox has been blasted with so much bad news. Public lands at risk of being opened up for resource extraction, wild steelhead runs at alarmingly low levels, wild B run fish on the brink of extinction, the very scary thought of oil drilling off our rugged Oregon coast. There is



an issue that seems to have moved to the back burner yet it still should be high on our list of concerns: The net pen industry on our Pacific coast. Remember the Cypress Island net pen failure back in August of last year. Over 300,000 Atlantic salmon were released when the Cooke Aquaculture Pacific's net pen failed due to negligence in maintaining the nets and moorings. An Investigation and Review Panel, made up of representatives from the Washington Department of Ecology, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Washington Department of Natural Resources recently released their report detailing the causes of the net pen failure and the response to the resulting disastrous release of non-native salmon. In 2017 Cypress Island Atlantic Salmon Net Pen Failure: An Investigation and Review, the panel found that Cooke failed to clean the nets and, as a result, they became heavy with mussels and other marine organisms. The weight of the marine life, referred to as biofoul in the report, put drag on the nets. The laden nets and supporting structure could not withstand the summer tidal currents and failed in July and again in August 2017. The second failure was catastrophic and it is estimated that approximately 250,000 Atlantic salmon escaped into Puget Sound. Cooke tried to recover some of the fish (they caught an estimated 42-62,000). An army of fishermen, primarily Tribal fishers, worked to extract as many of these invasive species from the Sound. But the Washington report estimates that up to 206,000 remain unaccounted for.

The Washington agency report cites Cooke for multiple failures, the most egregious being failure to report the magnitude of the August net pen failure. Initially, Cooke said 4-5,000 fish were believed to have escaped. When the state finally got out to inspect the site four days later, the bolus of a quarter million fish were out of the bag. As recently as this past December, "healthy" Atlantic salmon were caught in the Skagit River. The report states that the "long term impact of escaped Atlantic salmon in the rivers is not known at this time." The fish that have been recovered have shown no evidence of feeding nor of sexual maturity. However, the panel notes that in freshwater, they "may survive for some time." Monitoring will continue to follow both survival of the escapees and any evidence of spawning. The state agencies learned that they need to develop a better emergency response plan to deal with net pen failures. Some conservation groups are calling for much stricter regulations and oversight (not likely to be popular back in D.C). If you are interested in the details, please check out the report online.

Lisa Hansen

[https://www.dnr.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/aqr\\_cypress\\_investigation\\_report.pdf?vdqi7rk&1jj61o](https://www.dnr.wa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/aqr_cypress_investigation_report.pdf?vdqi7rk&1jj61o)



Cypress Island Net Pen Complex