

# Flyline

A Publication of the Flyfisher's Club of Oregon

F O U N D E D 1 9 6 1

## Save the Date - April 10, 2018

Brent Hublitz - Fishing opportunities in the Klamath Basin

The Klamath Basin is home to enormous Redband Rainbow Trout, elusive Brown Trout and unimaginable scenery. Anglers can fish the famous hex hatch on the Williamson, the gin clear waters of the Wood, or try for the monsters roaming in Agency & Klamath lakes. The Rogue River, with its fall run of "half pounders", and legendary winter Steelhead fishing is also nearby.

Come learn about all the wonders that this region of Oregon has to offer from this month's speaker, Brent Hublitz, the owner-operator of Trophy Troutfitters. Trophy Troutfitters is a family-owned, independently operated fly fishing guide service based in Klamath Falls, Oregon. Brent has over 20 years of fly fishing and guiding experience on the many waters available in the Klamath Basin. He will be highlighting the specialized techniques used on his local waters and the best seasons to approach them.



## SAVE THE DATE!

The FCO/FFF annual dinner/auction is scheduled for **Tuesday, May 8th** at the Multnomah Athletic Club (1849 SW Salmon Street, Portland). Registration, the Wet Fly Hour and the Silent Auction will begin at 5 p.m. The dinner will be served at 7 p.m. and be followed by the Oral Auction and the Keith Hansen Memorial Conservation Paddle Raise. This year the funds from the paddle raise will support the North Umpqua watershed by supporting the North Umpqua Foundation's Fish Watch program on Steamboat Creek and the Steamboaters/Trout Unlimited adult salmonid counting project at Winchester Dam.

MAC's renowned chef Philippe Boulot has put together an outstanding menu:

Passed Canapés

Oyster Shooters with Tequila, pineapple salsa

Chicken and Biscuit Wild Mushroom Croquette

Salad

Strawberries , bitter greens, balsamic glaze, burrata

Entree Choices

Quail and Salmon

Fried quail, Serrano wrapped roasted salmon, polenta, zucchini noodles, Mama Lil's chimichurri

Sole

Parmesan crusted sautéed sole, Polenta, Asparagus

Eggplant Osso Bucco

Braised eggplant, spice tomato sauce, potato rosti

Dessert

Chocolate Decadence Cake with Raspberry Sauce and Chantilly Cream

The cost for this outstanding event is \$85 per person and includes wine. Mark your calendars, invite your friends and plan to join the festivities. Please register and pay online [today](#). - **The deadline to register for the Auction is April 27, 2018.**

Teri Beatty (503-709-0788) and her team will be collecting donations for the silent and oral auction until April 21. If you have items you would like to contribute, please get in touch to arrange for pickup by one of the auction team members.

teribeatty@windermere.com

## *President's Message*

After hearing about all of the great fishing on the North Umpqua, I decided to check it out myself. Last week I fished it two days and the fishing was every bit as good as I had heard. It is a beautiful river filled with big bright Steelhead. I call it fish therapy and nothing recharges me more than being on the water.

We have some exciting club events coming up. Next Weekend I will be hosting 23 club members at our 3rd Annual Rocky Ridge fishing outing. I have ordered perfect weather, epic fishing and Mike Collins is grilling up lunch. It really doesn't get much better than that.

On May 8th we have our Annual Auction/Dinner Benefit at the Multnomah Athletic Club. The cost is \$85 per person which includes dinner and wine. You can click on the website to make your reservation. Chef Boulot has created a very special menu for our event. If you would like to host a table please contact me at 503-709-0788. We are looking for donations- Rods, Reels, Wine, Dinners, Trips. My team is ready to come pickup any items you are donating.

Items you can look forward to bidding on at the Auction- New 5wt Vintage Design CF Burkheimer Rod, Crabbing Trip to the Oregon Coast, Guided trips on the Umpqua, MacKenzie, Roque, Sandy, Clackamas & Columbia. Lodging at the Steamboat Inn, Entomology & Lunch on the Salmon River, Lodging on Devils Lake & Camp Sherman. Franklins Famous Pickles and a whole lot more. Make your reservation and plan on a great evening with friends.

My best to you,  
Teri



## *Member Matters*

We have had four new members join the Club so far this year. Daniel Drazan - Portland, OR - Dan enjoys fishing for both trout and steelhead as well as outdoor photography

Bruce Oldenburg - Vancouver, WA - Bruce is active in fly fishing travel, whitewater rafting, cycling, cooking and wine

Steven Pallet - Portland, OR

Mark Sherwood - Brookings, OR - Mark likes to chase big fish in BC, steelhead on the coast, trout on the Deschutes, and has a tremendous respect for wild native fish.

Rick Pay, Membership Chair

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### **Tribute to Roger Bachman 1924 – 2018**





Our Club lost a dedicated member of its tribe on March 9, 2018. Roger was a regular at our Club meetings along with his daughter, Sally and son-in-law, Ray. Here are some words of remembrance.

### **Dave Moskowitz**

I am missing my friend Roger. He was a beneficent water resources commissioner in our first meeting in 1991, and thereafter a colleague and friend at Oregon Trout, Native Fish Society and WaterWatch of Oregon. My thoughts are with his wonderful family and the large collection of the most interesting people in the world who considered Roger their dear friend as well. Roger always wished to be on the river - something we shared - and I know I will see him there whenever I go.

### **Teri Beatty sends this poem by Viscount Grey of Falloden**

"The time must come to all of us, who live long, when memory is more than prospect. An Angler who has reached this stage and reviews the pleasures of life will be grateful and glad that he has been an angler, for he will look back on days radiant with happiness, peaks of enjoyment that are no less bright because they are lit in memory by the light of the setting sun"

### **Lisa Hansen**

I am proud to be a member of Roger's tribe. He welcomed me as the first regular woman in the Club some 14 years ago. Roger made you feel like you belonged from the start. And that was very reassuring back then as some of the more conservative men were not opening their arms to a female member in their midst. Many Club members have had the privilege of visiting and fishing the home waters around his Fitzpatrick Homestead on the Deschutes. When I mention the famous Indicator Pool I'm sure it invokes fond memories of perfect drifts and fantastic takes. Roger guided me on my first trip to the pool. He stood in the water tucked in near the brush and let me know just how far I could safely wade. He knew the lane where the fish would hold and shared my excitement when fish after fish took my flies. And he warned me to watch for rattlesnakes on the way back to the cabin. Advice well taken!

I learned much from Roger when he would speak up during a meeting with a question or comment that revealed his depth of knowledge of the challenges that face our wild native fish. I found [this editorial he submitted just 4 years ago](#) that concisely lays out the threats hatchery steelhead pose to their wild counterparts. I appreciate how his regular presence at our meetings, along with daughter Sally, son-in-law Ray, and other friends, was part of our Club's ambiance. And I value now more than ever the greeting kiss I was privileged to receive each month (one of the perks for a female member!). Roger, I miss you. Thank you for sharing yourself, your homestead, and your wisdom with us.



John Pynch, Tom McAllister, Roger Bachman, and Jack Hart last September meeting at Roger's Fitzpatrick homestead to brainstorm on content for a new edition of The Creel.

[Click here for more pictures remembering Roger.](#)

If you have more tributes to send for Roger Bachman, please send them to your newsletter editor, Lisa Hansen, at [kwaterbuff@comcast.net](mailto:kwaterbuff@comcast.net). We are doubly sad to report another tragic loss for the Club as Tom McAllister passed away in March as well. We are putting together a tribute to Tom for the May Flyline. Please send your thoughts, stories, and pictures to Lisa Hansen.

## *Literary Angler*

### **Walk-N-Wade: 2018 Spring Break Report**

By Geoff Roach, Club Member, March 2018

Child rearing conditioned Tam and me to take a week's break in March. 2018 is no exception though our daughter, a university freshman, spent spring break as an all-expense paid intern at the Smithsonian Natural History Museum in DC. We loaded backpacks (and fly rod) and set off for Utah/Arizona canyon country. Our forty mile Paria River canyon hike would culminate at Lee's Ferry, Colorado River.



March is a good time. The chance of flashflood in the slot canyon environment is lower than in July/August when thunderstorms can mean a swim for dear life, or worse. The Paria is cold now, 46 to 50 degrees. There are 300 river crossings. Good news for the angler! Over 3 mm neoprene knee socks we wore cheap hiking shoes - a size and half larger than we'd normally wear - and gators to avert the river's sediment. The hiking shoes double as wading boots, fitting over



wader booties, at Lee's Ferry for angling so there is no wading boot transport from PDX!



Once past entry petroglyphs and a century-old "cowboy signature", Navajo Sandstone walls rise and pinch. The narrows are 400 foot vertical cliffs, tightening in places to 6 feet wide. At mile 7.5 Buckskin Gulch joins. Buckskin is the world's longest and narrowest slot canyon – 15 miles, 400 feet deep and 3 feet wide in many places. Our first evening was spent 10 miles in at Fault Crack 1 of 4. These are nearly perpendicular strikes to Paria canyon caused by uplift. Fault cracks tend to hold springs bubbling reliable drinking water. Despite hiking wet, the Paria is undrinkable. It is consistently America's highest sediment laden river. I'd expressed to a friend, before setting off, my desire to connect with a ringtail cat. I had become acquainted with the animal 35 years ago. A ringtail took a fancy to our food cache this night. I watched until it depleted our gorp to alarmingly low levels.

Our second evening was at Wrather Canyon (mile 20.5) furnishing a spring and beautiful camp. Beavers of Paria are industrious. All mature cottonwoods close to the river's course here are deeply girdled – keep this in mind during campsite selection should the wind blow. Four miles further are spectacular petroglyphs. The Paria is unlikely to ever have been heavily inhabited, like nearby Grand Gulch. For Native Americans this was a major transportation corridor connecting



the Paria Plateau highlands and Grand Staircase environs with Colorado River country, including the Grand Canyon. The corridor also funneled an important prey, bighorn sheep, making it possible to corral fresh meat. The terrain here and accompanying petroglyphs support this. Last reliable water is mile 25 and we refill a two day supply.



Our final evening is a dry camp and our last day held extreme weather. Heavenly thunder and lightning squalls dazzled us. Low clouds burst over the rims of high country canyons carrying rain, snow and sleet. Moments later striking shafts of warm sunlight reigned as clouds parted. We took our time, buried in gear as needed, not wanting our trek to end. But, when we popped out at Lee's Ferry and tossed our packs in a car we'd stashed there, the trip was not over! We set up at Lee's Ferry campground in a pounding windstorm.

At 10:30 AM the next morning, I slipped on waders and hiking shoes – perfect match, grabbed my pre-built Lee's Ferry fly box, rigged the 4 piece, 9 foot, 5 wt fly rod I'd stowed in the car, and headed for the DIY section of the Colorado River.



Lee's Ferry is just below Glen Canyon Dam. The Colorado is gin clear here. It runs a constant 48–52 degrees and is considered a quality rainbow trout fishery. I had learned it is primarily a nymphing river that has dry fly moments. Mid March is a good time. By the time I was wading, the near-spring sun trajectory allowed light into all nooks and crannies to warm the river and activate an important fish food - midges. The hatch in March will occasionally bring fish to the surface.

I was not alone and the fishing is odd. It's a huge river, akin to nymphing the Columbia or the lower Willamette. Riffle habitat is few and far between. I had to use steelheading guile to politely work my way into position on a superb riffle where the Paria and Colorado join. Once there, I stayed. It afforded great wading and fish were active. People came and went. Fishing up or down on someone appeared well within the etiquette of the place. I did not mind – I was casting in a magnificent high red cliff place, on a beautiful cloud and wind free, 65 degree near bluebird day. Bugs were coming off and fish were on the bite – no worries!

Angler pressure made no difference. There was a moment when a parachute Adams style #18 purple haze produced gorgeous dry fly takes. But, nymphing was the bomb! Winning combo, consistently across the day, was an olive mini leech and chironomid dropper. Pink, red, orange, black chiros worked. Neither purple nor blue produced. I was easily at thirty fish to hand; all respectable in the 12-18" class. Some were strong and crisply beautiful; aerial in flight. Others were just coming off the redd. Warning! The river's dam-controlled rise and fall are dramatic. Thankfully, I started on a high tide and watched the river drop. The bite stopped during the changeover. Once stabilized, it was back. The DIYers here are accomplished high stick nymphers, and there were many new recruits too. I favor a longline nymphing technique to extend the dead drift, though more line on the water means strikes are missed. I was quite productive and several anglers popped by to inquire about the style. It was fun to swap info.

Tam had made another hike out of this day and we caught up at 5:00 PM. We

headed for Kanab, Utah, via the Juniper Ridge Saloon – on the AZ side of the border – for steak and quality tap beer (Utah is getting there on the beer front, but stay in AZ for beverages), then a shower and a bed. Saturday, with grand walk-n-wade memories front and center, we toured Zion National Park and then we were Vegas bound for a flight home. 2018 Spring Break is in the bag.





## *Conservation Corner*

### **Support Wild Steelhead on the North Umpqua River at the May Auction!**

Next month's Keith Hansen Memorial Paddle Raise will support conservation efforts on the spectacular North Umpqua River. The well-deserved grant honorees have a track record of devotion to the river and its wild fish. First, The North Umpqua Foundation (TNUF) has funded the Fishwatch Program for two decades. Years of observations from its long-time caretaker, Lee Spencer, were recently published in the book, [A Temporary Refuge: Fourteen Seasons with Wild Summer Steelhead](#)

Here is an excerpt from the grant application submitted from TNUF:

*The North Umpqua FishWatch is a cooperative program using outreach, deterrence and public education to protect native steelhead and salmon stocks in Steamboat Creek, a tributary of the North Umpqua River, from poaching and harassment.*

*The concern: Wild summer steelhead runs on the North Umpqua River range from 2,000 to 4,000 fish. Each year, an average of 500 wild summer steelhead hold in the Big Bend Pool (aka The Dynamite Hole) in Steamboat Creek, arriving in May and staying in the pool until the fall rains come, as late as mid-December. Those holding in the Big Bend Pool alone can account for 12 to 25 percent of the total run and over 30 percent of the run returning to Steamboat Creek. This pool is in a remote location but quite accessible from Forest Service Road 38 which receives high recreation traffic during the summer and fall. The fish are clearly visible to anyone who might stop at the location and although Steamboat Creek is closed to angling, there is a troubled history of dynamiting, snagging and other illegal take of fish at this pool along with other pools in Steamboat Creek.*

Funds from the FCO/FFF auction will go to support the continued presence of the caretaker to deter poachers and continue his stewardship over the Big Bend Pool.

Check out the [TNUF Facebook page](#) for more information.

Our second grantees, the Steamboaters and Trout Unlimited, submitted a grant designed to improve the technology for fish counting at Winchester Dam. Accurate fish counting of salmonids is critical for monitoring the health of the anadromous fish runs and evaluating effects of changing climate, fishery

management, and conservation efforts. Fish counting at the dam is under the purview of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). As agency budgets shrank, the fish counts on the North Umpqua fell behind. Steamboaters members were alarmed and stepped up by purchasing software called Fish Tick and hardware to help ODFW accurately obtain counts at Winchester Dam. Your support at the FCO/FFF auction will help fund the purchase of additional hardware and interns studying fisheries at Umpqua Community College and Oregon State University who will help volunteers review the data obtained by Fish Tick. The passion and history these groups have for the North Umpqua is reflected in these words from their grant application:

*Our organizations (Steamboaters and Trout Unlimited) have made decades of investments in this watershed and the protection of its steelhead populations are of the highest priority for us. Additionally, both of our organizations have established long term, positive relationships with managing partners and are perfectly positioned to guarantee success for this program.*

Check out the [Trout Unlimited NW Website](#) and [Steamboaters Facebook page](#).

Lisa Hansen



