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President's Message

We are in the dog days of summer. This should be prime time for fly fishing. My success this last month fishing has been marginal at best. I hope that COF members have been more successful than I have been.

The COF picnic will be held at Aspen Hall on August 15, 2023. You do not want to miss this opportunity for good food and fellowship. Please register so that Mark can determine the food requirements. A big thank you to Mark Hamilton for taking the lead in organize the picnic and being the head chef. Also please pitch in and help with the setup and cleanup.

The Kokanee Karnival Steering Committee met and made several decisions: 1. Fall Streamside event will be on September 25, 26 28, 29. Please see the article in this month's newsletter. 2. Spring Angling Clinic will be held at Aspen Hall/ Shevlin Park on April 22, 23, 25, 26, 29 and 30, 2024. More information will be provided later. 3. The KK budget for 2024 was approved and will be presented to the COF board at the board retreat. 4. Mary Barron has updated the KK website Please check it out, and thank you Mary for all your efforts.

The board retreat will be held in October. If there are topics that you want the board to address, please contact me. An At-large board position will be vacant. This position is a great opportunity for a COF member to engage with the leadership team. The At-large position does not have any specific duties, other than engaging in board discussions. My initial engagement with the COF board was via the At-large position, which I found very rewarding.

As in the past several newsletters, I have requested that COF members provide fish pictures for the Newsletter. Once again I did not catch a picture worthy fish. Lucky I have been fishing with a Next Cast member –Vinny. In addition to catching more fish, he also catches picture worthy fish. See below.



Fred A. Cholick

Fred A. Cholick
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785-410-1866

2023 COF

Outings Calendar

AUGUST 3

THREE CREEKS LAKE
Leader Fred Cholick

AUGUST 23

EAST LAKE
Leader Wild Women of the Water

SEPTEMBER 21-23

JOHN DAY RIVER
Leader Tim Schindele
May be postponed until October



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OPEN

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Kokanee Karnival

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Past President

TIM QUINTON

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL COF PICNIC | AUGUST 15TH

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ODFW Presentation Recap

There is no presentation in August, so I thought I'd give a brief recap of a very informative July presentation by Tim Porter, ODFW Assistant District Fish Biologist. Below is a summary along with links to the presentations and additional discussion on my blog. In September we will hear from ODFW again, this time regarding dam removal on the Klamath River, the largest dam removal project in US history. In October Tye Krueger, owner of Confluence Fly Shop, will present on his fishing trip to Mongolia, one of my bucket list trips.

Crooked River fish sampling results were better than feared but certainly showed an impact from flows of only 10 cfs for a few weeks last fall. Trout declined 20% from the prior year, with the impact primarily on fish larger than 12". Additionally, the surviving larger fish had lower weights compared to the prior year indicating inadequate food availability. Whitefish declined by about 50%. Bad news, but it could have been worse. [Click Here](#)

Annual tui chub removal in the high lakes has been ongoing since 2010 with a few exceptions. Stocking the lakes with trout strains that may eat chub proved ineffective while trapping has had good results. Thousands of pounds of chub are removed annually. Evidence of its effectiveness comes from angler reports and improved trout condition factors. [Click Here](#)

Knowing that flows would be low in the Crooked River in the spring of 2022, ODFW performed a study to track out migrating chinook and steelhead smolts to identify problem areas in the river. Last year only 13% of chinook smolts and 1.5% of steelhead smolts released into the Crooked upstream of Opal Springs made it to the Selective Water Withdrawal tower in Lake Billy Chinook. It appears that low flows cause high mortality as smolts go over a small irrigation dam. Easier predation is also a factor. [Click Here](#)

- YANCY LIND
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OUTINGS

Smallmouth Bass Walk & Wade ON THE JOHN DAY RIVER AT COTTONWOOD CANYON STATE PARK | SEPT. 21- 23, 2023

Outing Coordinator: Tim Schindele, tjsfishes@bendbroadband.com, 206-819-5396

Outing Fee: \$25.00 (covers costs for campsites, extra vehicle parking and two meals)



We like to go to the John Day River in late summer/fall when the river flows are really low, down to less than 100 cfs. Then, you can walk and wade and easily cross the river for long distances above and below the campground at Cottonwood Canyon State Park. This is not a float trip, although you can float if you want

to arrange that. The fish are in the deeper pools and runs. It can seem like you'll get a strike on every cast and it is too much fun! A rig with two flies—two fish hooked is not uncommon. Most of the fish you'll land are 4-7 inches but you'll catch larger ones. Bigger fish are in the deeper water and are usually caught when the sun is off the water, so early in the morning and before dark. There are also channel catfish, carp, trout and steelhead in the river but rarely caught, especially that time of the year. We're limiting this outing to 12 members total; that means 10 others, plus Renee and me. The smaller number will allow us enough room to spread out and fish and not be on top of one another. You need to contact Tim soon to reserve a spot if you want to attend this outing. Don't just show up.

Directions: Get yourself to Cottonwood Canyon State Park, which is north on Hwy 97 and southeast of Wasco, OR, on Highway 206, about 140 miles from Bend. In the park, follow the signage to Lone Tree campground at the northeasterly end of the park next to the river. We have reserved sites 10, 12 and 16. This is dry camping with no hookups or running water at the campsites. Renee and I will leave for the park on the morning of the 21st and should be there by noon. Look for our dark blue Chevy Silverado pickup with the Adventurer truck camper on it in one of the sites. Each site can accommodate several vehicles/RVs and several tents, although each additional vehicle, after the first one, pays an additional charge. Each campsite is \$14 per night and we reserved them for 2 nights. Four persons per campsite. Your outing fee will cover these costs.

Recommended Gear: Seems like just about any fly will draw strikes. We use dries, terrestrials, wet flies, soft hackles, steamers, small poppers and other bass flies. Rods that are 3 wt up to 6 wt are suitable in your preferred length. The smallmouth aren't leader-shy and a 6 foot length of leader/tippet is plenty. You need a current Oregon fishing license.

Additional Info: Renee and I are planning to feed you one dinner (21st) and one breakfast (23rd), so we have some carved-out social time together. You may be asked to help with meal preparation. We aren't vegans. Your outing fee will cover the cost of food for these two meals.

It can still be really warm there during the daytime, there isn't a lot of shade, but this is wet wading and the sun goes behind the hills and it cools off in the evening.

Bring your bicycle if you want to ride up or down river further than you may want to walk. Don't ride over goathead aka puncture vine.

The park has a nice shower house, a restroom with flush toilets and other well-kept pit toilets.

We have to vacate the campsites by noonish on the 23rd, but you can stay in the park and fish on Saturday, you just have to move out of the campground. If you think you'll want to stay more days, reserve a site sooner, rather than later, as the park has been discovered, is popular in the fall, and the campground can be filled with reservations made months in advance.

Any leftover outing fees will be donated to COF.

- TIM SCHINDELE

TJSFISHES@BENDBROADBAND.COM, 206-819-5396

CONSERVATION

This is my notes from the morning sessions of the PGE fish conference held July 13 at the Deschutes County Fairgrounds.

The first session involved PGE talking about their efforts in the Salmon and Steelhead reintroduction for the Deschutes watershed above Lake Billy Chinook. They are continuing to tweak operations at the SWW facility on Lake Billy Chinook to improve downstream smolt passage at this facility. So far, shifting to night-time power generation seems to benefit smolt movement towards the collection at the SWW. It was interesting to note that all smolts are to be acclimated prior to release now to improve adult return numbers to the river of release. This year guide nets were added to the SWW to improve movement of fish into the SWW. Newer acclimation sites are located closer to the SSW to improve survival of smolts in the various rivers (More on this in September).

I was told to watch for partnerships by a wise lady who was my boss in the BIA. This year many agencies (ODFW, PGE, USFWS (Warm Springs Hatchery) and CTWS) actually agreed to partner to release excess adult Chinook that arrive at the Warm Springs Hatchery into Lake Billy Chinook to find natural spawning areas in the upstream rivers. Prior radio studies showed adult fish returned to Lake Billy Chinook exhibit "tourist" characteristics by wandering about visiting different rivers before selecting their final spawning site. This "tourist" characteristic has also been

noticed in some “stray” fish being found at hatcheries not of their origin in the past. I think this is a good characteristic that allows for cross pollination in natural runs to improve survival of the species. In tagging studies for bass tournaments it was also observed that some fish stayed in the area they were originally caught and some migrated to new areas after being caught and tagged. It is my hope that at some time in the future enough adult fish will be collected at the PGE fish trap on the Deschutes River to populate the upper rivers eliminating the need to transfer fish from the Warm Springs Hatchery, but for now these added fish should increase the naturally spawning fish in the upper rivers. These increased adult fish should supplement the added smolts to be produced at the various hatcheries in the future.

The second session included a talk on smolt size (more on this in October) and a radio tag study that basically tracked about 100 smolts (50 steelhead and 50 Chinook) released into the Crooked River at the Ochoco Preserve site. Survival was very poor. Prior studies have noted that less smolts are surviving in the Crooked River compared to smolts released in the Metolius River by ODFW. Radio tags marked the path of the smolts with attention given to final locations where the smolts were presumed to die. Reasons for the high mortality were not presented but it is widely assumed that both high water temperature and predation, or both, are the primary causes. I am reminded of the quote from Thomas Edison who after failing to invent a working light bulb by 100 combinations stated he had



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learned 100 ways not to make a light bulb. After this radio study for the Crooked River I wonder what was learned about how to successfully have a smolt migrate from the Ochoco Preserve site to the SWW facility. A third study by the USFS identified population trends in Wychus Creek and genetic characteristics of fish in several drainages in Central Oregon (I will talk about this more in future columns). Overall, most of the presentations and reports are not encouraging. As each year passes more is learned and adjustments are considered, with some implemented. This constant feedback loop informs adaptive management principles applied to the reintroduction program. I hope continued progress will be made in the next few years to improve the fish runs above Lake Billy Chinook.

Afternoon sessions covered different topics related to the Deschutes drainage.

If you want to see more in detail on these presentations visit the PGE website at <https://portlandgeneral.com/about/rec-fish/deschutes-river/deschutes-updates>

- TOM SHUMAN
CONSERVATION@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER

Wild Women of the Water will be meeting up on East Lake for a day of fishing. We would like to invite all COF members to join us. We plan on fishing August 23 and will connect for lunch around 1pm on the beach at East Lake campground. Bring your own lunch, check fishing reports from your favorite fly shop. Hope to see you there.

- SUE COYLE
WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

EDUCATION

Kokanee Karnival

Another excellent opportunity to volunteer to engage with youth. It is time for the Fall Streamside program. The program is scheduled for September 25, 26, 28 & 29, 2023. The Stream Side program will be conducted at two locations: Sheep Bridge and Metolius Pond. We are expecting twelve 5th grade classes to participate. At each site, the students engage in aquatic insect collection, water quality and fish life cycle. They also have the opportunity to see Kokanee spawning and observe redds. Each site needs 7 to 10 helpers to assist

the students (no experience necessary). As I have indicated in the past, one of the critical missions of COF is to engage with youth. The Fall Streamside program provides COF members the opportunity to ensure that the next generation understands the importance of our natural resources.

Please contact me at fcholick@gmail.com if you are available to volunteer.

- FRED CHOLICK
FCHOLICK@GMAIL.COM

- JEN LUKE
JENNIFER.A.LUKE@ODFW.OREGON.GOV

SOCIAL MEDIA

Do you have photos from your latest fishing outing, fishing reports, or information you'd like to share on COF's social media channels? Send them my way! This type of activity is a great way for us to show the community how active our club and members are.

If you haven't already connected with us on Facebook and LinkedIn, make sure you do so!

- LIKE us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CentralOregonFlyfishersClub>
- FOLLOW us on LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/Central-Oregon-Flyfishers>

Until next time,

- MOLLY VERNARECCI
SOCIALMEDIA@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

OTHER NEWS

3-Day Fly Fishing Camp Recap

The 3- Day Fly Fishing Camp was a success. The camp was conducted in cooperation with Redmond Park and Rec. The following great group of volunteers did a great job providing instruction to the kids. Vince Salomone, Phil Martin, Jeff Jones, Carol Ann Cary, John Howard, Tim Quinton, Tom Shuman, Brad Cleaver, Scott Roberson, Dick, Olsen, Liz Jones, Vinny Detweiler, Kevin Sansom, and Danny Kara. Vinny has moved from a camp participant to an instructor. Twelve kids participated in this years camp, which is the limit. Half on the kids had never fly fished. There were 5 kids on



the waiting list. Each kid catch more than one fish. As in the past the insect collection and identification was the biggest hit for many of the kids. We are already planning for next years 3-Day fly Fishing Camp.

- FRED CHOLICK
FCHOLICK@GMAIL.COM

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our New Members

Justin Bubenik - Bend

Carl England - Bend

Eric Miller - Sisters

Randy Raggon - Philomath

Rachel Sloan -Bend

275 members

- ROBERT SHIMANE
MEMBERSHIP@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

COF CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: WENONAH SPIRIT STANDARD SLIDER 17' CANOE. Great condition! Stored in garage. Includes two paddles. \$1750 cash only. (503) 780-2014



FOR SALE: 12' FLYCRAFT STEALTH BOAT WITH GEAR RACK, 12' RAFT TRAILER \$3500 Honda 2.3 hp motor \$1000. Easy launch at shallow lakes, drift WS to TC. 541-588-214, 619-241-1589



FOR SALE: CLASSIC ACCESSORIES CLARK FORK PONTOON BOAT Green, Sportsman's Warehouse, never been used, \$175.00, 541-480-1796.



FOR SALE: DESCHUTES STEELHEAD SEASON (HOPEFULLY) IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER. SAGE MODEL ONE 7116-4 TWO HANDED SWITCH ROD, 11' 6", 7 WT., 4-PIECE, SOCK AND TUBE, \$500, ,comes with Rio Scandi Shooting Head, 420 gr. and Rio Powerflex Shooting Line, Like new, rod and line fished perhaps twice, retail; rod-\$860, shooting line-\$40, scandi line-\$55, total cost \$955, Peter Martin, landline, 541-388-8956, pcmartin@bendbroadband.com



FOR SALE: FELT SOLED HIP BOOTS, SIZE 13, \$20. Fly Tech by Stearns, new in the box, keeps your feet dry launching your boat, Peter Martin, landline, 541-388-8956, pcmartin@bendbroadband.com



COF MEMBERS: Got a "fishy item," (broadly defined), to sell, find, or giveaway? Ads are free and run for one newsletter. If the item is not sold, please resubmit your ad for the next month's newsletter. Submit ads to classifieds@coflyfishers.org by the end of the third week of each month. - CLASSIFIEDS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG



TRUSTY MUSKY

BY PETER MARTIN

The Trusty Musky is a soft-hackle that I fish as a dry fly. I don't know if it mimics a mayfly or caddis or even the stage of the bug, but it really has worked for me.

This pattern comes from my friend Larry who I met when we happened to camp next to each other in the Hayspur CG. Larry passed away in 2012. He fished Silver Creek on his way to and from Yellowstone Country, so I would see him twice annually, early June, then again on his way home in late September. I believe his favorite water was the Henry's Fork where he spent most of his summer fishing and camped in the gravel pit.

Where you see *italics*, I will use Larry's words to describe the pattern and how to fish it. His pattern sheet specified a #17 TMC 103BL, X-fine wire, wide gap, barbless black hook. Beautiful hook, but I quit using this extra-fine wire hook after straightening it on six successive fish one morning. I've tried a number hooks and now use Fulling Mill's Grab Gape hook, 3X-short, wide gap, barbless, black. Other than the hook style, I tie and fish it just as Larry shared his pattern with me. Feel free to experiment. Larry fished the TM successfully on the Firehole, Slough Creek, Henry's Fork, Silver Creek, and other waters in Montana and Yellowstone Country. "*This fly deserves the name I've given it... it can be trusted.*"

MATERIALS

Hook: #14, Fulling Mill Grab Gape Hook, 3X-short, wide gap, barbless, black

Thread: 8/0 Uni Olive Dun

Body: Tying thread, slightly into the hook bend

Thorax: Muskrat, shaggy and robust with some guard hairs included

Hackle: Partridge, both brown and gray phases work well, Larry preferred brown

Chemical: Water Shed

TYING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Attach the thread and wind down slightly into the hook bend then back to the thorax coating the hook. The thread forms the body
2. Dub a loose, shaggy, and robust thorax including some of the muskrat guard hairs.
3. *Tie the hackle feather in by the tip. Stroke most of the fibers backwards, and trim the few (fibers) left at the tip for a clean tie-in. This wraps the shorter fibers, the ones you want, first. ...sparse on the hackle... and loose and shaggy on the dubbing ... internal movement may be this fly's secret.*
4. Wind the thread through the hackle a turn or two for reinforcement and then finish the head so that it slightly forces the hackle fibers backwards, but just slightly.



PHOTO ARIAN STEVENS

Larry's comments on fishing the TM:

Whenever I encounter trout with "smutting" or "sipping" rise-forms and can't see an obvious solution to the question of what they are eating, I tie on this pattern. FAR more often than not, it works great.

Indeed, when I rig my rod and start off from the truck with little idea what might be "happening" on the stream, I often tie on a TM and hook it in the keeper. This pattern fools trout consistently unless that are truly "locked onto" a specific food form.

This pattern has one problem I've been unable to solve, even with Water Shed treatment it only floats a few casts then sinks. The presentation you are aiming for is IN the film, most of the fly under it, only a few hackle fibers above. I've tried dozens of variations in materials to improve floatation, but nothing comes even close to the real Muskrat and real Partridge for effectiveness. I simply plan on reviving the fly with Frog's Fanny every few minutes, which is usually after every fish, when they have the mysterious rises that signal me to grab a Trusty Musky."

FLY DRYING HACK

You don't have to be a fly tyer to benefit from this tip. I was skeptical watching Lance Egan on this Fly Fish Food video, so I tried it, it works, and not just on CDC.

The video title is, "Check out this CDC Drying Hack -- DRY FLIES". <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvUqPMBiFNc>

I've used this tip on everything fished dry or in the film; spinners, emergers, soft hackle dries, sparkle duns, hackle stackers, and parachutes. I have a couple loops of floss on each of my fishing vests. Life Flex, Sexi Floss, Span Flex, Super Floss, or Flex Floss, it's all the same stuff with a lifetime supply in every package.

- PETER MARTIN

PCMARTIN@BENDBROADBAND.COM

AUGUST 2023 UPSTREAM EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
August 3	Three Creek Outting	
August 15	COF BBQ, Aspen Hall, Shevlin Park	augustbbq@coflyfishers.org
August - 23	East Lake Outing, 1:00 on the beach at East Lake Campground.	

In the Future

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
September 21-23	John Day River Outing	tjsfishes@bendbroadband.com
April 22, 23, 25, 26, 29, & 30, 2024	Spring Clinic	



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