Happy February Flyfishers!

What a mild winter so far – Eagle Crest has lost money on my golf membership this year! And fishing continues to be pretty good in our local waters, so get out there and breathe it in, whatever your outdoor sport. Of course, this nice weather comes at the expense of our water levels – for example, as I write this Wickiup Reservoir is at 39%. We’ll need a bunch of years of ABOVE average snowpack to offset the current drought situation.

Sherry’s fly-tying Zoom classes are going strong; if you aren’t getting the notices from her prior to each weekly class send her an email (found in the member’s section, club roster, of the website). See the article in November’s newsletter for all the info. A big thanx to Sherry for doing this – we probably wouldn’t have our winter fly tying class at all if it weren’t for her!

More good news from FFI: I attended the Zoom quarterly meeting of the OR council on the 13th and was afforded the opportunity to plead our case for the grant that was originally denied. The council voted and we were awarded a $750 grant for our monthly presenters! After COF was awarded the grant the council unanimously voted to remove speaker fees from the list of approved grant subjects, so we won’t be getting this grant again. If any of our members have grant writing experience and would like to help out with future grant requests (from FFI or others), please contact me.

Speaking of FFI, they are looking for volunteers to fill vacancies on their OR council board, so if you are a member and want to help out your local chapter, get in touch with Sherry (she’s the past and interim president). FFI is an outstanding organization, and well worth your membership dues. They are one of the few national (and even international in FFI’s case) organizations who specifically look out for fly fishermen. And don’t forget we still need Education and Banquet chairpersons for COF – support your local club!

Cool video of the month: So you think you’re a bad ass? How long can you hold your breath after strenuous exercise? That is the concept that Alex (a guy in his 30’s who is in really good shape) tests in this video – exercise vigorously (I remember those 6-count burpees well!) for the length of time you are fighting the fish, then stick your head underwater and see how long you last – the answer will surprise you! Gives us a better idea of why the idea of “keep ‘em wet” is so important. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ufnOERWOxeo

As always, thanx for being a part of this great Club, and feel free to let me (or any board member) know if you have ideas for improvement.

Get out and fish!

Tim Quinton, President COF
This month’s presenter will be award winning author, TV host, speaker, and photographer Gary Lewis giving his presentation on Wyoming’s Grand Slam. This adventure is a pursuit of Wyoming’s four cutthroat trout sub-species in their native habitat.

Gary has hunted and fished in eight countries on three continents and in the islands of the South Pacific. He was born and raised in the Northwest and has been walking forest trails and running rivers for as long as he can remember. He is a past president of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association and a recipient of NOWA’s Enos Bradner and Legacy awards. Gary has penned over 3000 fishing and hunting articles for newspapers and magazines. His credits include Sports Afield, Outdoor Life, Flyfishing & Tying Journal, to name a few. He frequently writes Outdoor Hunting and Fishing articles for the Bend Bulletin. He is the author of 16 books, including the Central Oregon Fishing bible, Fishing Central Oregon. Gary is host of Frontier Unlimited, a syndicated television show. He resides in Bend with his wife of 32 years, Merrilee, and three daughters all accomplished hunters and anglers. You can visit Gary’s website at garylewisoutdoors.com.
there are a lot of signs to Owyhee State Park. If you make a mistake, any of the roads will get you there. You basically need to go southwest from the store. Check it out on Google maps.

Take Owyhee Lake Road up towards the dam. There is a bridge just below the dam with a sign to the irrigation department. Cross the bridge and you’re at a campground with an outhouse and trash service. There is no cell service. There is WiFi at the museum on the irrigation department property. There is no password so you can just hangout on the bench outside the museum and use the wifi. Water is available.

You have the choice of camping at the campground, camping along the river, staying at a motel in Vale or Ontario or renting one of the two bungalows that the irrigation department manages that are next to the campground. To book one of these, go to www.owyheedamcabins.com and click on the three bars in the upper left. Take a look at the cabins and then click on the cabins calendar button. If the bungalow is not booked, send an email request to owyheedamcabins@gmail.com and request a booking.

Unlike the Crooked, there are no developed campgrounds along the river. If you choose not to stay in the campground, you can just pull over and set up camp anywhere you like. The 10 miles of fishing below the dam to Snively Hot Springs is the best fishing.

Dry Fly Innovations has an excellent blog at: http://www.dryflyinnovations.com/blog. There are tons of archived re-
ports on the site. Unfortunately, it is now a paid site so you will have to decide if it is worth it to you to go back to last March to see how the hatch was a year ago. Their stoneflies are killer. I am making an order now so that I will have a dozen or so ready for this trip.

The camping area is now first come first serve – reservations are no longer available at the camping area and the fee is currently $5.

All are welcome on this outing. There is no limit to how many can come, but please let me know if you plan to attend so I can get a rough head count. If you are pulling a big rig, please park just OUTSIDE of the campground proper along the river and leave the camping area for tenters and small trailers.

- LEE ANN ROSS
ROSSLEEANN@YAHOO.COM

CONSERVATION

Mirror Pond Fish Passage

The PacificCorp hydroelectric dam on Mirror Pond was constructed circa 1910. This dam does not provide for fish passage at the present time; the original fishway was taken out in the 1960’s. Upstream fish blockage at Colorado Avenue, and downstream fish blockage at the North Unit Irrigation District (NUID) diversion dam have been removed by publicly financed projects in the recent years.

Currently the barrier to fish passage at the Mirror Pond Dam is the only remaining barrier for 94 miles of river between Wickiup Reservoir and Big Falls in the lower Middle Deschutes. ODFW has stated removal of the Mirror Pond Dam would open access to 190 miles of stream habitat for fish.

A team has been formed consisting of the following people:
- Bend Park and Rec
- City of Bend
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Coalition
- PacifiCorp
- Trout Unlimited

The purpose of the team is to plan, design, construct and maintain a structure to provide fish passage at the existing Mirror Pond Dam to allow effective management of the fisheries resources in the Deschutes River in the future.

- TOM SHUMAN
MADRASFISH@GMAIL.COM

WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER

We have an excellent Zoom Gathering coming up on Wednesday February 24th @ 6pm. Liz Jones will guide us through a basic class on aquatics and their stages with the purpose of assisting you on how to recognize aquatic insect action on the water and how to select a fly out of your fly box for successful fishing. You will receive an email invitation to the Zoom Gathering. Be sure to join us!

- SUE COYLE
WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

BOARD BITS

(A REVIEW OF THE JANUARY 2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS’ MEETING)

FFI – Tim attended the January FFI Board meeting. COF was awarded $750 for help with our monthly programming budget. FFI needs officers. Please contact Tim if you are interested. 65 COF members are also FFI members. Our yearly FFI membership fee is $500.

Sportsmen’s Show – March 11. We have been asked to do the Kids Pond again. We have decided not to participate this year. COVID and the age of our volunteers was the reason. We would like to do it in the future.

Education – we need an education director. Eric & Tim would like to do a class on euro nymphing. Any other ideas?

Banquet/Auction – We will do nothing until we can get together in person. We will need to reconfirm the donated guide trips and a few other items.

Crooked River Cleanup – Tim will ask Pete to let us know the status.

Member Services -Bob – 146 paid renewals, 111 overdue renewals, 220 active members. Those that have not renewed by the end of Feb will be archived and lose access to the members’ section of the website. We were curious as to why a member might not renew… many are aging out, COVID, higher dues, miss the in-person meetings.

Programs – Art – Jeff Perin will present in Jan. Bob Clouser is a possibility in the future.

Outings – Eric – March seems to be, historically, the first month for planned outings. LeeAnn would like to plan for an Owyhee outing. Bob will look into a joint outing with
a Washington club. Eric will look into outings at a few of the “pay to fish” lakes. Canada is questionable.

Wild Women of the Water – Sue – Sue has planned outings, classes and ZOOM meetings. They are going well. The Facebook page is hooking up ladies.

Next Cast – Fred – nothing to report.

Conservation – Tom – The Deschutes Basin Study meets every other month. Tom will attend.

Kokanee Karnival – Frank – Frank is getting contacted by the schools for in-school classes this spring. ODFW and Jenn will handle the “Fish Eggs to Fry” classes.

Webmaster – Mary – please run your web postings by Tim. Mary will then help. We decided not to continue to post fly tying pattern recipes on the website.

The BOD meeting was moved from the 2nd Thursday to the 4th Thursday of each month.

- KARI SCHOESSLER
SCHOESSLER.KARIVAN@GMAIL.COM

MEMBERSHIP

Welcome to Our New Members

Sandra Duncan -Sisters
Jim Glock - Eugene
Austin Rose - Redmond
Connie Stein - Bend

As of January 17, 2021, Central Oregon Flyfishers counts a total renewed membership of 241 which comprise Individual 104, Family 80, Out of Area Individual 28, Out of Area Family 8, Honorary Life Members 16 and Youth/Next Cast 5. We have 143 members pending renewal

- ROBERT SHIMANE
MEMBERSHIP@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

LIBRARY

COF library services will resume once monthly meetings restart at the Bend Senior Center. Since the center is closed, we are currently unable to access library items stored there.

Our DVD collection and a select number of books, will be available for checkout once monthly meetings resume.

Sign in on our website https://coflyfishers.wildapricot.org, click on Members Area and select Library to see a list of our books and DVDs. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to email

- HELEN GUERRERO-RANDALL
LIBRARY@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

COF CLASSIFIEDS

FOR SALE: License plate fish. License plates are mounted on 3/4 inch plywood. They measure 42 in long. They can be made looking left or looking right. I can make fish with all Oregon plates, all Washington plates or a mix of plates. If you have a special request let me know. The price is $199 with $50 of that going as a donation to the club. Please contact Lee Ann Ross by email, rossleeann@yahoo.com
FOR SALE: Two Bucks Bags Brand Mustang Float Tubes, plus fins and booties; Enjoy Central Oregon’s pristine lakes with matching Buck’s Bags Mustang float tubes with fins and booties (same size but pictures make blue tube look bigger). Have been used less than ½ a dozen times and are in great shape! His and her Christmas gifts perhaps?! $450 OBO. Please contact Chris Cooper, ccoopergolfer@gmail.com, phone number 541-350-1631.

FOR SALE:

• Orvis Western Series 2-piece 8 1/2 ft 2 weight rod in very nice shape, $120

• St Croix (IFT 804) Imperial 4-piece 8 ft 4 weight for $100

Fishpond Dakota (31 inch) Carry-on Rod and Reel Case (pictured) that went on only two trips and is in great shape. This case can hold approximately four 4-piece 9 ft rods. $100 for the case. Please contact Spencer by email, Spencercoe@global.t-bird.edu

MEMBERS: Got a fishing related item to sell? Ads are free and run for one newsletter. If the item is not sold please resubmit the advertisement for the next month’s newsletter. Submit ads to classifieds@coflyfishers.org before the middle of each month.

- CLASSIFIEDS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG
Walt Young, a Pennsylvania fly angler, invented the Walt’s Worm. Many serious anglers in the eastern United States make sure to have several Walt’s Worms in their fly boxes. Why? It owes its success to looking and acting like many different aquatic organisms. Competition anglers have embraced the Walt’s Worm and have embellished its simplicity with beads, hot spots, and flashy ribs. It is commonly called “Sexy Walt’s Worm”. It is truly a “blank saver” on the river. If you Google “sexy Walt’s worm fly” you will find numerous YouTube videos on how to tie the many variations of the fly.

I do well on the Crooked River with the Sexy Walt, usually in size 16, but a size 18 also works well especially in low water, low flow conditions. The standard dubbing for this fly is natural hare’s ear or squirrel material. Because of the importance of aquatic sow bugs in the diet of mountain whitefish and rainbows on the Crooked, a gray version works well. When asked about sowbug patterns, Devin Olsen, USA Team Member, believes the Sexy Walt is a good choice. I usually use copper beads but a silver bead also works well. Carry both colors with you. I use fluorescent orange thread for a hot spot. Lance Eagan, USA Team Member, uses a version with a silver bead, chartreuse hot spot, and a dubbing mixture of 50% rainbow sow scud dubbing and 50% natural hare’s ear dubbing. You can fish this nymph under an indicator or with contact (drop shot or euronymph) methods. I fish this nymph as a point fly (closest to the stream bottom). As for bead size, if you use contact methods with weighted flies, carry a wide range of sizes (3.8mm to 2.3mm tungsten slotted copper and silver beads). If you use unweighted or lightly weighted flies, use 2.3/2.4mm to 2.0mm brass beads in same colors. In the recipes below I cover the various options for the many variations. Google “walt's worm fly” and “sexy walt's worm fly” for directions on how to tie the “old” pattern and the “new” variations. Even though this is a simple fly to tie, it should be in your fly box and you should try it often in different types of water.

**Materials**

- **Hook:** Size 16 and 18 straight shank standard nymph or jig
- **Thread:** 8/0 fluorescent orange, pink, red, and chartreuse thread
- **Bead:** Weighted – 3.8 to 2.3mm slotted tungsten copper and silver, Unweighted – 2.3/2.4 to 2.0mm
- **Rib:** Sulky metallic silver or pearl krystal flash
- **Body:** Natural, gray, brown, or olive hare’s ear or squirrel dubbing

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# FEBRUARY 2021 UPSTREAM EVENTS

<table>
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<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<th>CONTACT</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>February 7</td>
<td>ZOOM Flytying @ 5:00</td>
<td>Sherry Steele, <a href="mailto:steelefly@msn.com">steelefly@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 14</td>
<td>ZOOM Flytying @ 5:00</td>
<td>Sherry Steele, <a href="mailto:steelefly@msn.com">steelefly@msn.com</a></td>
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<td>February 17</td>
<td>COF monthly ZOOM meeting @ 7:00</td>
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<td>February 21</td>
<td>ZOOM Flytying @ 5:00</td>
<td>Sherry Steele, <a href="mailto:steelefly@msn.com">steelefly@msn.com</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>February 24</td>
<td>WWW Buwgs &amp; Fly Patterns @ 6:00</td>
<td>Sue Coyle</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td>COF ZOOM Board Meeting @ 6:00</td>
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<tr>
<td>February 28</td>
<td>ZOOM Flytying @ 5:00</td>
<td>Sherry Steele, <a href="mailto:steelefly@msn.com">steelefly@msn.com</a></td>
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**In the Future**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 24</td>
<td>WWW: Sascha Clark Danylchuk, Founder of Keep Them Wet, will share the importance of how you handle fish. Also, how to keep your equipment ready for fishing season.</td>
<td>Sue Coyle</td>
</tr>
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