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## President's Message

Happy New Year Flyfishers!

Well, 2021 is looking better and better with several COVID-19 vaccines starting to be delivered around the country. Maybe the earlier predictions of Summer '21 being the time we can get back to a more normal existence will turn out to be right? I know I'm looking forward to seeing everyone in person again! An interesting fact about COVID-19 and viruses in general: Vitamin D has been shown to reduce your chances of getting it, and if you do get it, reduce the severity of symptoms. Now all you Docs out there don't go nuke on me for saying it, but there is a lot of evidence, even if it hasn't been "clinically tested". Add to that the fact that over 40% of people over 50 years of age have low Vitamin D levels, and you can see why the flu (and other viruses) season is in the winter, when we are less active outdoors and there's less sunlight available, so we don't get as much as we usually do from our Sun. My Doc put me on a Vitamin D supplement when my blood test had low levels, and I've not had a cold (the common cold, pneumonia, and bronchitis can all be caused by the Coronavirus subfamily) or been sick any other way this year. Just sayin'!!

Sherry's fly-tying video classes have begun and are going pretty well; you should be getting the notices from her prior to each weekly class. See the article in November's newsletter for all the info.

Good news from FFI: we can piggyback our club insurance on their National insurance which will save us over \$1.5K a year. Big thanx to our Treasurer Liz for making this happen! Still no word on the FFI grant, and unfortunately, I suspect it won't happen.

Thanx to everyone who took the time (about 5 minutes!) to respond and vote on the recent By-Laws changes. Although a few members were apparently asleep when we discussed the dues increase some months ago; they thought this was a vote on that subject. The By-Laws update was passed and will be updated on the website soon.

Cool videos of the month: I was surprised to see that there are 4 of Rick Hafele's (our Oct meeting presenter) old videos on Jack Dennis's YouTube channel, all posted on 12/12. (<https://www.youtube.com/c/JackDennisFlyFishing/videos>). They are from the 80's, so the video quality isn't that great, but it still contains a ton of good fishing info that is as relevant today as it was then.

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*

Tim Quinton, President COF



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[PRESIDENT@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:PRESIDENT@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Vice President

JOHN HOWARD  
[VICEPRESIDENT@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:VICEPRESIDENT@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Treasurer

LIZ JONES  
[TREASURER@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:TREASURER@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Secretary

KARI SCHOESSLER  
[SECRETARY@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:SECRETARY@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Wild Women of the Water

SUSAN COYLE  
[WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Membership

ROBERT SHIMANE  
[MEMBERSHIP@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:MEMBERSHIP@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Outings

ERIC WHITE  
[OUTINGS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:OUTINGS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Programs

ART AGNEW  
[PROGRAMS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:PROGRAMS@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Education

VACANT  
[EDUCATION@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:EDUCATION@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Kokanee Karnival

FRANK TUREK  
[KK@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:KK@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Next Cast

FRED A CHOLICK  
[FCHOLICK@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FCHOLICK@GMAIL.COM)

### Conservation

TOM SHUMAN  
[MADRASFISH@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MADRASFISH@GMAIL.COM)

### Director At-Large

DANNY KARA & CAROL ANN CARY  
[DANNY.KARA@OUTLOOK.COM](mailto:DANNY.KARA@OUTLOOK.COM)  
[CAROLANN@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CAROLANN@GMAIL.COM)

### Winter Fly Tying

VACANT

### Classified Ads

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[PCMARTIN@BENDBROADBAND.COM](mailto:PCMARTIN@BENDBROADBAND.COM)

### Social Media

MOLLY VERNARECCI  
[SOCIALMEDIA@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:SOCIALMEDIA@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

### Website

MARY BARRON  
[MBARRON1449@GMAIL.COM](mailto:MBARRON1449@GMAIL.COM)

### Newsletter Design & Production

KELLY ALEXANDER  
[SUBMISSIONS.COF@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SUBMISSIONS.COF@GMAIL.COM)



**T**his month Jeff Perin, owner of Fly Fishers Place, located in Sisters, will be giving a presentation on the secrets of stillwater fly fishing. Jeff has been guiding Central Oregon since 1988 and has built a successful career fishing and guiding the Cascade Lakes as well as the Fall and Metolius Rivers.

Jeff started in the fly shop business while still in high school purchasing his fly shop and guiding service at twenty-two. There is nothing Jeff loves more than the thrill of technical angling and sharing his discoveries and techniques with his friends and customers.

During the season you will find Jeff in his Hewes boat guiding his clients on East and Paulina Lakes, Crane Prairie Reservoir, Lava Lake, Hosmer Lake, Three Creeks Lake. The Metolius River and East lake are his two favorite Central Oregon Waters, and he spends many of his days off fishing both. Over his 40 years of fishing, he has fished virtually all over the world from Kamchatka to Christmas Island frequenting Patagonia and Belize on a regular basis.

## EDUCATION

### Blast From The Past!

*The COF Newsletter archives hold some excellent information that is factual, timely, and never gets old. This month's article, from November 2012, is another excellent Bill Seitz discussion of barbless hooks. I've been a proponent of going barbless for a long time, and Bill lays out some of the reasons why we should all do it. Thanx again Bill for this excellent article! If any members have ideas for similar articles please let me know. — Tim Q*

### BARBLESS HOOKS: DO THEY SAVE FISH?

That question was recently addressed by Dr. Gary Grossman, University of Georgia, in the recent issue (November/December 2012) of American Angler. He stated that it would seem intuitive that barbless hooks would result in lower fish mortality, but there is little evidence to support this view. Most studies base their conclusions on short-term mortality (that is, 24 hours to several days), which may not represent long-term mortality, especially under natural conditions. Several state resource agency biologists have suggested abandoning barbless hook regulations because they felt natural mortality of wild trout is much higher than the small reduction in acute mortality produced by barbless hooks. How does a hook cause mortality in fish? Mortality is either caused by wound damage and/or handling stress. In earlier newsletter articles, I have addressed the proper catch and release procedures. Barbless hooks may not produce less wound damage, but these hooks clearly result in less blood and reduced handling times. Dr. Grossman felt that, given the lack of good information on long-term mortality but known positive effects, it would be unwise to abandon barbless hook regulations. I agree and would add that fly anglers should be encouraged to use barbless hooks even though not called for in the regulations. My experience in heavily fished catch and release waters in Alaska (Yes, Alaska has many rivers with catch and release requirements for rainbows.) and the Lower 48, is that barbed hooks and/or improper handling techniques can cause significant physical injury to the fish (for example,



missing mouth parts). I observe injured fish frequently on the Madison River in Montana and the Crooked River in Central Oregon. Of course, another reason to use barbless hooks involves the fly angler. Barbless hooks are relatively easy to remove from your body and clothes. (I speak from painful experiences.) I also think barbless hooks, especially larger gap hooks on large fish, penetrate the fish's mouth parts with less hooking pressure, resulting in more hookups and landed fish. So, my take home message is this: Please pinch the barbs on your hooks even if not required. The fish, you and your fishing partner will appreciate the effort.

- BILL SEITZ  
FORMER CONSERVATION CHAIR



## Managing Tippet and Line Materials

Some years back while fishing the Lower Owens River, which is outside Bishop California, I was approached by a serious looking woman with a clipboard in hand wearing expensive binoculars

around her neck supported by an elaborate harness system. She promptly began to lecture me on how to appropriately dispose of tippet material beginning with the words "you fly fishers are killing birds."

She was with the Audubon Society and participating in the annual bird count along the river. We had a pleasant conversation. I assured her I did indeed manage my tippet materials appropriately and picked up stray line on the bank. She educated me on the danger of fly line materials when left strewn on the ground, in bushes and hanging from trees. Some years later in my SoCal neighborhood a peregrine falcon was spotted hanging high in a tree entangled in fly fishing line. My husband, a high voltage lineman, put on his climbing gear and went up the tree and rescued the bird. Our home was nowhere near a water body.

While fishing the Metolius last weekend I came across an extraordinary amount of discarded tippet and leader material all of which was frozen in the mud. The attached photo captures the mess. I spent quite bit of time cleaning up all the while considering the small animals who may get tangled up in the mess that was thoughtlessly left behind.

COF member, John Howard, DVM, retired, shared with me just how deadly fishing line can be. It takes no more than 6" of a "linear foreign body" (like fishing line) to kill a dog, cat, or other similar sized creature. Especially if it's coming off a wad of line, a hook, or other anchor point. By the process that moves food along in the bowel, that can cut as effectively as any knife, it can saw through the wall of the intestine. This results in death by peritonitis. Another injury comes with a length of line becoming wrapped around an extremity. The most common site is a wrap around the neck and under a front leg or wing. Again, by constant repeated motion, it saws through the skin, resulting in unhealing deep infection.

There are multiple ways to effectively dispose of your tippet while on the water. I have found the Monomaster to be the easiest to use and it can be found on Amazon.

Clean up, pick up, when you can remove line hanging in trees and bushes. Let's all be good stewards.

- SUE COYLE  
541-668-3565, [WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG](mailto:WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG)

## WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER

Wild Women have zoom events scheduled through March and we are anticipating more gathering possibilities as we move into 2021. Our desire is to support not only long-time members but especially our new COF & Wild Women members, of which quite a few are new to the sport of fly fishing. The foundation of our group is comradery both on and off the water and education opportunities. We believe in paying it forward, which is summarized in these three points: Take someone, Teach someone, Touch someone. As we move into 2021 our desire is to include education in all our outings and gatherings and those of us with experience and fabulous flyfishing skills (you know who you are!) will share their knowledge and skills. All infused with a lot of laughter and fun!

Join us at the next Wild Women Zoom gathering, watch for your email invite and link:

- January 13th – 6:00pm – we will take a brief history tour of women in our sport, beginning in late 1300's with: A Treatise of Fysshynge wyth an Angle, by Juliana Berners. And we will have Kaitlin Barnhart, co-founder of the Mayfly Project, join us as well.
- February 24th – 6:00pm – Bugs, Bugs, and more Bugs with Liz Jones. This will be excellent, be sure not to miss!
- March 24th – 6:00pm – Get your equipment ready for spring and special guest, Sascha Clark Danylchuk, Executive Director of Keep Fish Wet.

Looking forward to seeing you either on Zoom, on the trail, or on the water!

- SUE COYLE  
541-668-3565, WILDWOMEN@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

## CONSERVATION

### Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative

I attended the first Deschutes Basin Watershed Collaborative (DBWC) meeting of the groundwater subcommittee on 12/9/20. Looks like they will be developing a process to evaluate

ground water withdrawal vs in stream flows for the Deschutes River Watershed. First meeting was 34 people of various backgrounds. Present method limits the total groundwater pumping to 200 cubic feet per second of consumed water in the basin. Some people, developers, municipal water system managers and irrigators want to increase this limit. Others want to reduce the limit due to climate change and existing impacts observed in the basin. Process now is pretty specific measuring water available on a monthly basis in the various locations in the basin. The surface water system now has high flows for summer irrigation in areas and low flows during the winter when reservoirs hold back winter runoff for use later in the year. (think of the Deschutes River above Bend) Other streams (think McKay Creek near Prineville) had all the surface water removed for irrigation and are now trying to replace surface water used for irrigation with other sources. This could provide more surface water for fish habitat on some streams. The groundwater system is impacted by wells drawing down the groundwater in some areas of the basin. I expect any changes will involve complex calculations and controversial assumptions on water use by different groups. Some streams in the basin have had improved surface flows in the recent past, using the present system. Hopefully the future will produce a more stable diverse ecosystem with adequate water provided to all users of the system.

- TOM SHUMAN  
MADRASFISH@GMAIL.COM

### Surface Water Withdrawl System

The \$110 million Surface Water Withdrawl (SWW) system allows for the collection of downstream migrating smolts from Lake Billy Chinook to the Deschutes River near Warm Springs. The following table shows the number of fish caught at the SWW facility in 2018,

A video of the system can be found by [CLICKING HERE](#)

## SURFACE WATER WITHDRAWAL 2018

SMOLTS	TOTAL NUMBER
CHINOOK	22,821
STEELHEAD	8,888

SOCKEYE	47,392
BULL TROUT	607
KOKANEE	84,258
RAINBOW TROUT	36
WHITE FISH	12
DACE	7
CHISELMOUTH	7

BROWN TROUT	195
SMALLMOUTH BASS	49
BLUEGILL	273
BLACK CRAPPIE	2
BULLHEAD	75
STICKELBACK	129
GRAND TOTAL	164,751

I have divided the fish collected into three groups. The first group is salmon and steelhead smolts. The number of salmon and steelhead should increase with stream restoration projects and hatchery releases in the future. All salmon and steelhead need to migrate out to the Deschutes River to complete their ocean portion of their life cycle. The large number of smolts are a good source of food for the many fish eating birds that use the lake (Ospreys, Eagles and Cormorants). These fish eating birds are an accepted part of the eco-system. No attempts are made to reduce their numbers. If we are fortunate some of the fish taken may include other species than the salmon and steelhead smolts.

The second group is cold water lake dwelling fish. Note the large number of Kokanee that did migrate out of the lake to the Deschutes River. It is thought some of these Kokanee may rear in the Columbia River and not migrate out to the Ocean. The sockeye that return are a combination of the adult kokanee and sockeye smolts transferred thru the SWW.

The third group is warm water lake dwelling fish. The small number of these fish is due to their desire to live their entire life inside the lake. The small area of the SWW only attracts a few of the total warm

water fish in the lake. In addition to these fish, PGE employees have found two large sturgeon in the trap in the past few years.

During downstream migration of smolts in the spring the SWW collects about 14,000 smolts pre day. When the transfer truck was operating in daylight times, the fish eating birds collected to feast on the smolts at the release point. This un-natural predation of smolts is not desired. PGE employees are now releasing smolts at night and are building a protected pond to better protect the migrating smolts at the release point. These changes should eventually produce more adult fish returning to the upper Deschutes River.

- TOM SHUMAN  
MADRASFISH@GMAIL.COM

## BOARD BITS

A REVIEW OF THE COF BOD VIRTUAL MEETING  
12/10/2020

Rugged Thread, a local outdoor equipment repair company, sent Tim a letter, asking how to make their presence known to COE. They can fix waders. Mary will send out an email to members.

A discussion ensued about electing Mary, our webmaster, to the BOD. Our By-Laws say our limit is 16 board members, including the elected officers. There is room for Mary. She was voted in as a director.

Shall we continue our membership in FFI (Fly Fishers International)? Membership is \$500/year. Our club gets their liability insurance through FFI. It is a huge savings and more than pays for the membership. We will continue our membership in FFI.

Wild Apricot, our web provider, has been renewed.

57 members voted on our previously sent By-Laws amendment (changes membership levels). The amendment passed. 4 members questioned the cost, even though that was not part of the amendment. The amendment was accepted.

Education – we would like to continue online classes, but we need a volunteer to fill the Education Director position. MaryAnn would like to continue online casting classes. Tom would like to do a bass presentation. Perhaps we could get an online entomology class. What about an OSU/Cascades talk?



Bob is still storing our auction items. Perhaps we could hold a dinner/picnic/auction this summer depending on Covid...

Membership – Bob – We have 375 members plus 10 shops... 78 new members this year, 15 in the last 30 days, 95 renewals.

Programs – Art – Brian O’Keefe will speak in Dec. Art will check into recording the program.

Outings – Tim will check with Eric White about a Jan 1 outing to the Crooked River....no breakfast.

Wild Women of the Water – Sue – the holiday ZOOM party was fun! A June outing to East Lake is being planned. Sue will write an article on the problems of discarded fishing line. Celebrating Women in Flyfishing was a fantastic ZOOM women’s convention this last month. MaryAnn Dozer was a major organizer. Women attended from all over the US..... even a few internationals! Major kudos to MaryAnn! Sue’s 2021 byline will be “Take, Teach, Touch”...take a new friend flyfishing, teach a new fly fisher, touch a new fly fisher with the wonders of flyfishing!

Conservation – Tom – Tom attended the last Deschutes Watershed Coalition meeting. He will write about it in the newsletter

Kokanee Karnival – Frank – no school, no KK!

- KARI SCHOESSLER  
SCHOESSLER.KARIVAN@GMAIL.COM

## MEMBERSHIP

### Welcome to Our New Members

Dennis Alimena - Doylestown, PA

Katherine Burns - Shingletown, CA

Judith Hickson - Bend

Darren Hoffman - Hillsboro

Jane Mergy - Bend

Marc Mergy - Bend

Rick Pay - Portland

Colton Robertson

Keaton Robertson

Russell Robertson

**Sarah Robertson**

**John Skeete - Prineville**

**Andrew Smith - Bend**

As of December 13, 2020, Central Oregon Flyfishers counts a total membership of 375 which comprise Individual 186, Family 132, Out of Area Individual 27, Out of Area Family 8, Honorary Life Members 16 and Youth/Next Cast 6.

- ROBERT SHIMANE  
MEMBERSHIP@COFLYFISHERS.ORG

## COF CLASSIFIEDS

**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.**



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](mailto:classifieds@coflyfishers.org) before the middle of each month.

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# TLF SOFT-HACKLE DRY

**W**hat a year it was, and now we begin anew!! Hope you are all well and your families are hanging it there, like mine.

A note before I ramble on. I want to thank John Kreft for his work on the “Tyers Corner”, his flies are works of art like most that postings on these pages. He is leaving to devote more time to his web-site, “River Keeper Flies” which is one of the best out there, and his beloved “MET”, so take a look you might learn something.

About 2007 this is the Soft-Hackle that started me down the path of the soft-hackle dry patterns I tie and fish today.. The BWO is the first Soft-hackle pattern I tied as a dry fly; curved light wire hook, nice long tails, yellow or gold thread for rib, (NO wire please, this is a dry fly), a touch of ice-dub in the thorax and a light dun hackle.

The Fall River trout had no idea, they just took this fly at will, when there was nothing else going on. A true story, I caught the same Brown Trout in the same place 3 times in 10 days. How do I know it was same because it had a torn jaw where someone must have used a barbed hook.

## Materials

**Hook:** Light wire curved hook #18 to #12

**Thread:** Light Dun or grey 14/0

**Tails:** 3 to 5 fibers of Coq-de-leon, as long as the body.

**Body:** Danville stretch floss, brown

**Thorax:** Ice-dub shrimp/pink

**Hackle:** Light-dun hen cape, used the stuff near the base of the feather

## Tying Instructions

1. Start the thread just behind the eye and wrap back, while on the way back tie in the tails, body material and rib material. Stop just at the end of the bend, on the down slope. This will keep the body part as light as possible. (Remember there is no dry fly hackle in this pattern that came later on its evolution).
2. With the tails in place, wrap the body forward stopping 1/3 the length of the hook from the hook eye, wrap the ribbing thread forward in even turns and tie off at the body stopping point.
3. Now dub a small thorax stop before the eye, leaving space for tying in the hackle.
4. Now size the hackle to reach the bend of the hook and tie it in and with 2 wraps of hackle, tie it off with a nice clean head.

“Good Luck, Fun Tying and Good Hunting”

- JERRY CRISS

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## JANUARY 2020 UPSTREAM EVENTS

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
January 7	ZOOM Flytying @ 5:00	Sherry Steele, steelefly@msn.com
January 13	History of Women in the Sport of Fly Fishing & The Mayfly Project	Sue Coyle, wildwomen@coflyfishers.org
January 14	COF Zoom Board Meeting @ 6:00	
January 14	ZOOM Flytying @ 5:00	Sherry Steele, steelefly@msn.com
January 20	COF monthly ZOOM meeting @ 7PM	
January 21	ZOOM Flytying @ 5:00	Sherry Steele, steelefly@msn.com
January 28	ZOOM Flytying @ 5:00	Sherry Steele, steelefly@msn.com

## In the Future

DATE	ACTIVITY	CONTACT
February 24	WWW Bugs & Fly Patterns	Sue Coyle
March 24	WWW Getting Equipment Ready for Fishing Season	Sue Coyle



Central Oregon Flyfishers  
PO Box 1126  
Bend, Oregon 97709