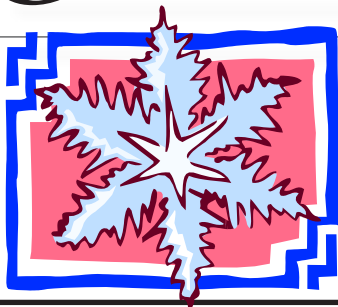


Central Oregon Flyfisher



Vol. 36, Number 1, January 2013



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RANDOM CAST

A big thanks to the 2013 Board of Directors for volunteering and continuing the growth and improvements to our fly-fishing club, which is built on the foundation established by our predecessors. We are very fortunate to have active and action-oriented members to continue to improve this great organization. I really appreciate everyone's effort and look forward to the coming year.

The Central Oregon Flyfishers Board of Directors for 2013 wish you a happy and prosperous New Year.

Eric Steele

Joe Weirzba

Cliff Price

Gary Meyer

Debbie Norton

John Tackmier

Mike Tripp

Kathleen Schroeder

Frank Turek

Karen Kreft

Bill Seitz

Howard Olson

Lee Ann Ross

President

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Membersip

Raffle / Auction

Outings / Library

Programs

Education

Kokanee Karnival

Next Cast Flyfishers

Conservation

Banquet

Director At Large & Wild Women of the Water

– Eric Steele, President

(cell 541-420-8108 or home 541-549-2072)



GENERAL MEETING

Jan 16 | 6:30 P.M. | Bend Senior Center, 1600 S.E. Reed Market Road, Bend

Deschutes River Conservancy

Kate Fitzpatrick of the Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC) will make a short presentation regarding a new effort to identify strategies for restoring winter flows to the Upper Deschutes River. The effort will involve all groups responsible for the natural resources of the river (U.S. Forest Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife), irrigation companies, and river recreation interests (Central Oregon Flyfishers and rafting groups). The DRC plans a workshop in late January 2013 to initiate the effort.

The dry side rivers of Washington State

Washington State offers many premium fishing opportunities within reach of Central Oregon. Jack Mitchell of The Evening Hatch will introduce us to rivers we should know about. The Evening Hatch has offered trips for our fund-raising efforts in recent years, and members have rated their experiences highly. More details available from: www.theeveninghatch.com.

OUTINGS

Call for 2013 outings destinations and leaders

Your outings coordinator would like to hear from you! Which outings are most desired in 2013? What destinations would you like to go to? I am also seeking members who would be willing to offer, organize, and lead COF fishing outings during the coming year. Experienced trip leaders are encouraged to again volunteer their valuable, and much appreciated, services to the club membership. Club members who have not organized and lead a fishing outing, but have the knowledge and skills to introduce others to a new fishing destination, are strongly encouraged to consider offering a new venue and become a trip leader. If you are interested in sharing your ideas or acting as a 2013 outing leader, please contact me prior to the beginning of our January general meeting. I am also the COF librarian, so you can always find me by the library cabinet at any meeting. Also, feel free to contact me by phone or email.

— John Tackmier, Outings Coordinator
(outings@coflyfishers.org or 541-549-6252)

OUTINGS 2013

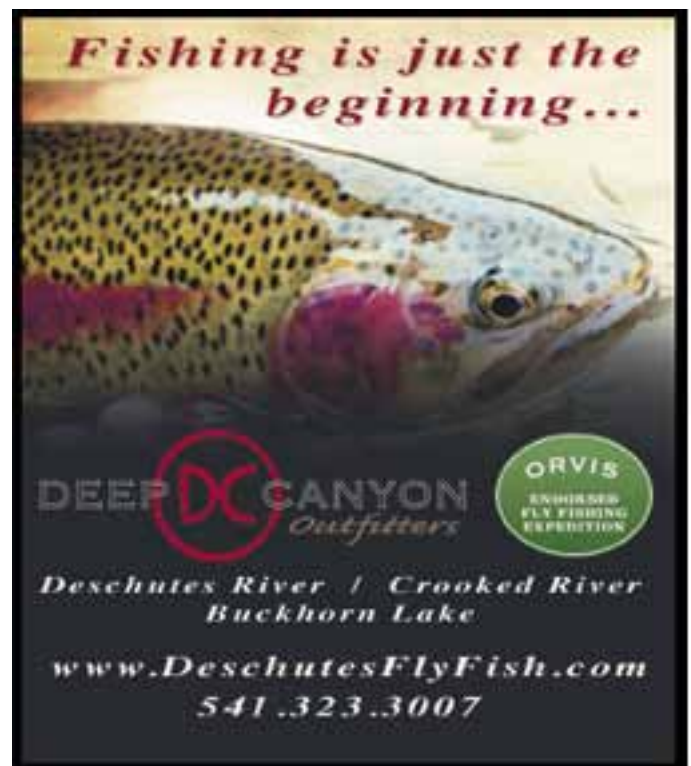
Month	Date	Leader	Destination
Jan	1	Bill Seitz	New Year's Day on the Crooked River
Feb/Mar	TBA	Yancy Lind	Middle Deschutes R. (above Bend)
Mar	TBA	Lee Ann Ross	Owyhee River
Apr	TBA	Yancy Lind	Middle Deschutes River
Apr	TBA	Bill Seitz	Crooked R. Cleanup & BBQ
Apr	TBA	John Tackmier	Metolius R. Streamside Seminar
May	TBA	Dave Semich	Davis Lake
May	TBA	Yancy Lind	Lower Deschutes River
May	TBA	Yancy Lind	Crooked R. for Beginners
Jun	21-23	Richard Yates	Blitzen River & Fish Lake
Jun	25-30	Rick Sironen	Chewaucan River & nearby waters
Jul	TBA	John Tackmier	Three Creeks Lake
Aug	TBA	Yancy Lind	Williamson River
Oct	6-9	Robert Gentry	Lower Deschutes Steelhead

New Year's Day outing

Jan 1 | Meet at Jake's Diner at 9:00 A.M. | Leader: Bill Seitz

Start the new year with the traditional New Year's Day outing to the Crooked River. Meet at Jake's Diner on the east side at 9 A.M., have breakfast with fellow COF members, and decide if the trip to the river is for you. There are always some of us crazy enough to go, regardless of weather or river flows. Be sure to get your 2013 license beforehand. Sometimes the fishing is even decent on New Year's Day.

continued on next page



For more information about the outing, flies and gear, contact Bill Seitz (conservation@coflyfishers.org). Hope to see you there!

Middle Deschutes above Bend

The middle Deschutes River from Benham Falls down to Bend is close by and can be a productive winter fishery. When I don't have a full day to chase winter steelhead or need a recovery day from skiing, this stretch of river can be a quick and rewarding place to wet a fly. Winter weather makes access difficult sometimes, but I have had good fishing for rainbows, browns, and whitefish when snow is on the ground. Flows on this section are low in winter, making wading better than in summer. Variable snow and weather conditions make it impossible to pin down a date, but if you send me an email, I'll put your name on a list to contact in Feb or Mar when it might be good to get out. This will be a short trip, access is just a few minutes from Bend, and fishing will be best from 10 A.M. to 2 P.M.

-Yancy Lind (yancy_lind@ml.com)

EDUCATION

Introduction to flyfishing (or Central Oregon manifesto)

COF is starting a new education program! Each month, just after 6 P.M. and before the general meeting, volunteers from our pool of experienced fly fishers will demonstrate techniques and help those new to fly fishing.

Loosely based on the *Curtis Creek Manifesto*, volunteers will cover the basics as they apply to fishing in Central Oregon. Subjects will include: basic knots, nymphs and dry flies, tying on droppers, arranging a fly box, where to fish, fish identification, and more. It will also be the perfect time for newcomers to ask questions, such as, "Where in the river are all the fish?, Why do I catch all those whitefish?, Why does my line break at the knot?, and How long should I make my dropper?"

Session one, before the January meeting, will cover knots: two knots you need to know (or maybe three), when to use each knot, and how to tie it. Cliff Price and Karen Kreft have volunteered to demonstrate and help anyone master the knots, and Karen Kreft has volunteered to demonstrate the mysterious knot tool.

Although this program is aimed at beginners, it is also a good review for others who may have forgotten a detail or never learned it. Please come early to the meeting to enjoy the technical talk or to get help. It will be a great time to socialize and talk about fishing technique.

If you have questions or comments or want to volunteer to teach a technique, please contact Kathleen Schroeder (541-480-3185 or education@coflyfishers.org).

Advanced programs

Along with our new, basic education program, we will have plenty of advanced programs. Jeff Perrin of The Fly Fishers' Place in Sisters has volunteered to teach a large and generous number of classes including: Czech nymphing

continued on next page



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seminar at the Crooked in May; intermediate casting; advanced casting; Metolius fly-tying session; ten great ways to set up for nymphing; and Metolius streamside instruction.

Jeff is a great teacher, and his classes cover a lot of ground. In his casting class, for example, he teaches the Snap-T, the Belgian Loop cast, the steeple cast, wiggle cast, side mend, reach mend, and the parachute cast. Along with interesting names, these casts are great skills to have in your tool box, and they might keep your flies out of tree limbs. Keep an eye on the calendar for dates on all these upcoming opportunities.

Basics at Bend Parks and Recreation

Gordon Chandler will teach a basic fly-fishing class through Bend Parks and Rec again this spring. This hands-on class, taught with help from COF volunteers, covers equipment, knots, casting, etc., and finishes with a fishing trip to the upper Deschutes. This class is highly recommended.

Winter seminar

Remember to sign up for the winter seminar, February 9 and 10, at the Sunriver SHARC. Just print the sign-up sheet that was sent to your email address, fill it out, and send it, with a check, to Doug Vakoc. All the information is on the sheet. If you sign up by January 31, you will save ten dollars. Attendees do not have to be members of COF or SRA, everyone is welcome, and there is plenty of room, so bring your friends. (Members pay less for the seminar.) For details about the Winter Seminar, see page 9 or visit the COF website at <http://www.coflyfishers.org>.

Thank you Sherry

Sherry Steele brought vices to the December meeting and taught tying to some of our new members. For some, it was their first fly tied—ever. This is the second year Sherry has done this for COF, and she deserves our thanks for all

the work she has put in. Happily, she has agreed to do it again next year.

COF winter fly-tying series

The COF Winter Fly Tying Series will begin January 8 and will continue through March 26. We'll meet every Tuesday night at the Bend Senior Center at 6:00 P.M.

This is an opportunity to re-stock your fly box with effective, fishy flies. A guest tyer will lead each session and provide instructions to tie two flies, allowing time to tie several of each pattern.

Please let me know if you plan to attend to ensure enough materials are available. I will provide more details on the class structure and expectations of participants. Cost is \$5 per session to offset the cost of the room and materials.

—John Kreft (cell: 503-559-3811 or jckreft@gmail.com)

MEMBERSHIP

Renewal forms were mailed at the end of October. Renew your membership before January 1, 2013 for \$30. After January 1, membership renewal will be \$36.

To join, go to coflyfishers.org to print a form. Current rosters are available by request, so please contact me at the next meeting or send email to membership@coflyfishers.org with ROSTER as the subject.

—Gary Meyer, Membership Chair

Welcome New Members

Thaddeus & Jennipher Grudzien

Randall Jarvis

Joe & Bonnie Bollert

Peter & Lynn Hawkins

Joey Hawkins (Next Cast Flyfishers)



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- Real-time river & weather conditions

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LIBRARY NEWS

2012 library additions

Additions to the library in 2013 will be coming soon. Fifty-seven items were added to the library in 2012. To view a list of items in the library, visit the COF website and click Library.

– John Tackmier, librarian, outings@coflyfishers.org

CONSERVATION

At the January 2013 general meeting, the Deschutes River Conservancy will make a brief presentation regarding winter flows in the Upper Deschutes River. The following article, which appeared in the June 2011 issue of this newsletter, will provide new members with background information for the presentation. Flows reflect December 2012 levels.

– Bill Seitz, Conservation chair

Water, fish, and fishing – know the flows

When fishery biologists evaluate the fish habitat in a stream or river, they consider three major components: food (abundance and diversity of aquatic macroinvertebrates), cover (abundance of boulders, spawning gravel, and wood structures), and water (seasonal temperatures, timing and amounts of flows). Biologists learn how these components interact and relate to fish populations by conducting various inventory and monitoring activities on a variety of water bodies in combination with periodic surveys of fish populations (similar to the mark and recapture and radio telemetry studies conducted on the Crooked River). The knowledge they gain from these inventory and monitoring activities help them monitor the “pulse” of the fisheries in a water body. As a fly fisher, you essentially do the same “evaluations.” By “putting your time in” on the water, your experiences gained from fishing different waters at different times with varying success hopefully makes you a better angler. Essentially, you choose a site to fish because your past experiences suggest that site has the proper combination of food, cover, and water to produce some hook ups. Every time you fish, you refine your “mental model” for site selection, proper fishing technique, and fly selection.

What can you do to sharpen your “mental model” of where, when, and how to fish? One of the easiest ways to improve your success is knowing the water flows. The rest of this article will focus on water. How much do you know about the source of water and flows on the streams and rivers you fish in central Oregon? Biologists know that timing and amount of water flows are extremely important to maintaining healthy fish populations. This should be a tip off for us. As a fly fisher, it is extremely important to

know the current and historic flows of your “home waters” and understand the source of the water for that water body. Why? Let me give you a practical example. Several years ago, I fished the Crooked River and did well (OK, not many trout, but lots of willing whitefish) and the flows were a very fishable 120 cfs (cubic feet/second). Two days later, I went again and conditions were significantly different – the flows were over 500 cfs. Fishing conditions drastically changed – fishable flows to TU (Totally Unfishable not Trout Unlimited). I made a big mistake. I assumed the flows would stay constant. I did not check the flows and did not understand how the irrigation agencies managed the flows from Prineville Reservoir. The mistake cost me time to drive the 70 miles and money for gas in addition to not being able to fish. Sometimes the flow changes are subtle (e.g., an increase from 120 cfs to 130 cfs). In all cases, changing flows will have a definite impact on fish behavior – it takes a few days for them to adjust to their new “homes.” When flows change, where you caught fish one day will likely be different the next day. Changing flows also can influence the timing and abundance of aquatic bugs (fish food) and, therefore, influence your fly selection and method of fishing. Often, major increases in a river’s flow will result in decrease water clarity and the fish’s ability to see certain fly patterns.

Knowing the source of water in a stream or river is extremely important to your understanding of flows. River flows controlled by dams are called tailwaters. The Crooked and Deschutes rivers are classic tailwater fisheries. The water collected in these reservoirs comes primarily from winter snows, rainfall, ground water, and springs. (This is a simple explanation for a complex subject because the hydrologic conditions in the Cascades are different than the Ochoco Mountains east of Bend.) The Metolius and Fall rivers are free-flowing rivers. Their flows come from springs, ground water, and runoff from snow and rain and are not controlled by dams. In Central Oregon and most western states, irrigation has a major influence on how flows in our tailwater fisheries are managed. In Central Oregon, the irrigation season starts in mid-April and ends in mid-October. During the irrigation season, flows are predictable. For example,

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the stretch of Deschutes from Wickiup Reservoir (the upper Deschutes) usually runs about 1,900 cfs. The stretch of the Deschutes below Bend and above Lake Billy Chinook (middle Deschutes) generally runs about 100 cfs.

After the irrigation season, flows are more variable with the upper section running as low as 50 to 80 cfs and occasionally higher (currently 1,146 cfs at Benham Falls) and the middle section around 500-800 cfs (currently 983 cfs below Bend). Off season flows are also influenced to a certain degree by the moisture the mountains receive the previous winter. For example, last winter the Cascades got above average snowfall and the reservoir levels were in good shape after the irrigation season. Flows in the uppers sections of the Deschutes this winter are higher because most of reservoirs are close to being full. During the off season, the irrigation companies periodically (usually monthly) recharge their client's stock ponds. To do this, the irrigation companies release water from Wickiup Reservoir and withdraw the water via canals located in Bend. Unless you closely monitor upper Deschutes flows, the wide margins between normal flows and those modified by withdrawals in Bend may make the difference between a good and bad fishing trip in the middle Deschutes.

Irrigation flows on the Crooked River below Bowman Dam typically run around 220 cfs. When irrigation stops in October, flows on the Crooked River usually drop below 70 cfs. As you would imagine, these big swings in flows really impact the fishery habitat and fishing conditions. Even though the Metolius and Fall rivers are free flowing, the flows do fluctuate due to spring snow melt, flows from springs, and localized rain events. These fluctuations can cause localized changes in fishing conditions (high flows and off color water). It pays to check the flows before you go.

Another aspect of the regional flow picture is to know who controls the water releases from the reservoirs and the legislated mandates for the operation of the reservoir. For the most part, management of flows from upper Deschutes River reservoirs is controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation, the Army Corps of Engineers and/or the local irrigation companies. For example, during the months when irrigation stops (late-October to mid-April), flows from the Crooked River can fluctuate (sometimes widely) because water levels in Prineville Reservoir above Bowman Dam are managed for water supply and flood control, not fisheries. Flows reflect snow pack and anticipated timing and amounts of spring runoff and the current storage levels in the reservoir. By law, the minimum flow from the reservoir can be no lower than 10 cfs. Flows this low, while uncommon, can really impact a fishery.

Web sites for water flow

Using the Internet, it's relatively easy to check daily flows.

www.westfly.com – Provides historic and up-to-date flows on the most popular rivers in Oregon, Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Click "Oregon," scroll to "Current Reports," and select a fishery.

www.usbr.gov/pn/hydromet/destea.html – I like the Bureau of Reclamation site for flows in the upper Deschutes above Lake Billy Chinook. Click an area to find a recent history of flows. For example, click "PRVO" to show recent flows for the Crooked River below Bowman Dam. You can also see the flow entering the Prineville Reservoir and the current storage level of the reservoir (currently 57% full). You can also check the storage capacity of Wickiup and Crane Prairie reservoirs.

waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/rt – To check flows for other water bodies in Oregon, check this USGS site.

Bookmark your favorite sites and check them routinely to see how the flows fluctuate over time. If available, I always check the flows on the river I intend to fish before I leave the house and make a mental note of what the fishing conditions were like at those levels. For example, the flows on the Crooked River have been around 72 cfs all winter. If for some reason, the flow increases to 200 cfs, it would pay to wait a few days and let the fish habitat conditions settle down a bit. Keeping a fishing journal would be a big help (do as I say, not do as I do). For example, my fishing partners and I had a great smallmouth bass float trip on the John Day last year (was it June or July 2008?) at flows around 750 cfs. You can bet that I will be watching and waiting for those flows this year; I'll just have to rely on my fishing partners for the correct month.

Bottomline

Knowing the flows, the source of water, and how those flows are managed on your "home waters" will make you a more successful angler and a better advocate for the state and federal resource agencies managing these flows for healthy fish populations. Spend some time surfing the 'net and check out the Web sites listed.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Order to remove gillnets

A huge victory occurred on December 7 for steelhead fishermen when ODFW approved Governor Kitzhaber's directive to remove gillnets from the lower main stem of the Columbia River. Washington is expected to soon rule in similar fashion.

continued on next page

Gillnets indiscriminately kill all trapped fish, including endangered salmon and wild steelhead. Other fishing techniques may continue to be used by commercial fishermen and gillnets may still be used in "safe" zones. Safe zones will be established in side channels and tributaries where hatchery fish are planted specifically for this purpose. Hatchery programs are funded from fishing license fees, the bulk of which come from sport anglers. Additional fees will be directed to the hatchery program to increase the number of fish planted in the safe zones.

Tribal fishermen are not affected by the new rules.

This effort was lead by the Coastal Conservation Association and Association of NW Steelheaders. It benefits Central Oregon Flyfishers who target steelhead on the Deschutes and John Day rivers as well as runs further up-stream in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho.

— Yancy Lind

WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER

Thank you Lee Ann

Thank you Lee Ann for hosting the annual Christmas party. Everyone enjoyed the excellent food and discussion about organizing fly boxes.

OTHER NEWS

It's coming

Saturday, April 6, 2013 - Save the date for the annual COF banquet and fund raiser.



2011-2012 Kokanee Karnival Review

Kokanee Karnival and the ODFW Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program want to thank all our partners and volunteers for their help in making our 2011 - 2012 program a success. Want to know what our volunteers did? Well, they taught angler education classes and fish biology; instructed at the Fall River Hatchery, Spring Creek and Browns Creek; instructed at the spring angling clinic; delivered trout eggs to classrooms; trained new volunteers; donated funds; wrote grant applications; attended organizational meetings; and put in a lot of time and effort. But most importantly, they made a difference in a child's life.

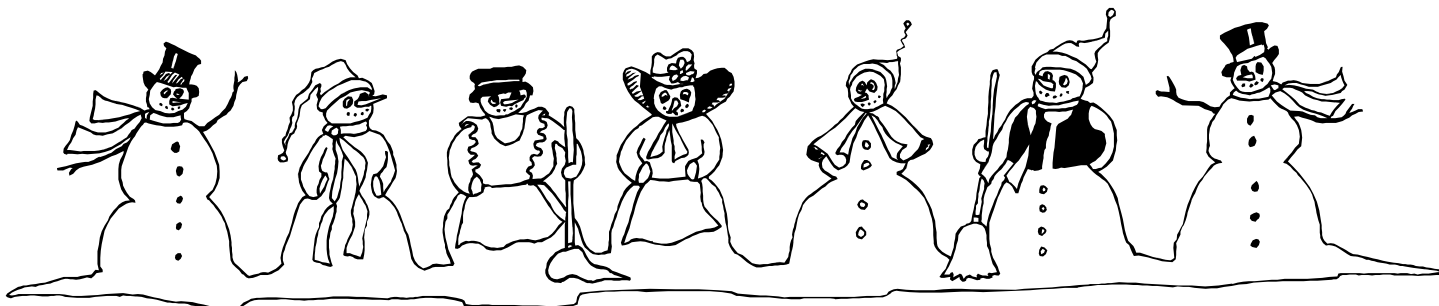
Here are the Kokanee Karnival accomplishments for 20112 - 2012:

- 25 classes (750 students) participated in Angler Education
- 49 classes (1,470 students) participated in Fish Eggs to Fry
- 36 classes (1,080 students) participated in Fish Dissection/Fish Biology Basics
- 13 classes (390 students) participated in the Comprehensive Program, which includes the fall and spring field trips

Volunteers donated at least 1,800 hours of their time to the program.

Again, thanks for all your help and we look forward to working with you in 2013.

— Frank Turek



TYERS CORNER

Here we are again, starting a NEW YEAR in 2013. We leave behind a strange year, where fishing wasn't what we had hoped for, but we were still out there throwing line. Some of us lost friends and family to that great spring creek in heaven. May they all throw that perfect cast and feel the take of a life time.

In 2013, Tyers Corner will bring you flies from my vice and, once again, from Bill Seitz and Mike Telford. And there will be some surprises throughout the year. As always, if there is a pattern or bug you would like to see, please contact one of us so we can include the recipe for all to see. This year, one area I will focus on is bringing you flies that are adaptable. These patterns are more of a style, and they can be dressed in different materials and colors to suit your needs. Experiment people! That is what makes this part of the sport a little more fun!

Starting off January is a fly that has risen from the bottom of my box as a reminder that emergers are still one of the most effective patterns, and we should never be without them. I have been fishing soft hackles almost exclusively in the past couple of years, but there are times when a good emerger makes my day more successful — as if just being out on the water isn't enough. This pattern can be tied many different ways: the wing could be CDC, the thorax peacock herl, a biot body would work, and shuck could have more sparkle — the choices are yours.

Fish this fly with floatant and get ready for great takes. Good luck and good hunting.

— Jerry Criss (541-536-3581 or tlfly44@msn.com)

Blue Wing Olive (BWO) Emerger



1. Lock in the thread at mid shank and add the shuck and flash. Continue wrapping down the shank, stopping half way down the back of the bend.
2. If a long tag of flash remains, bend it back along the hook shank and tie it in where you stopped. If not, tie in another bit of flash for the rib.
3. Dub the thread and move it forward just behind the eye of hook. Wrap the rib forward and tie it off where the body ends.
4. Take a short piece of wing material and tie it in with the longer section facing over the hook eye. Dub and wrap in the thorax over the short end of the wing, going away from the eye (about 1/8-inch of thorax will do). Leave a short section of the wing facing to the rear.
5. Bend the wing over the thorax and tie it down where you stopped the thread and thorax. This point will also be the finishing point of the fly. Clip the wing to a length that is double that of the underwing.

Thread: dun, 8/0 to 14/0

Hook: #16 to #22 Partridge Klinkhamer

Shuck: 6 to 8 strands white poly with 1 or 2 strands of pearl Krystal flash

Body: Superfine dubbing, olive

Rib: same Krystal flash that is in the shuck

Thorax: Superfine dubbing a darker olive than the body

Wing: light dun poly



Sunriver Anglers and Central Oregon Fly Fishers Present

Winter Seminar 2013

Stillwater Fishing in Western Waters

With Brian Chan and Phil Rowley



Feb 9-10 2013 at SHARC in Sunriver, OR

SRA and COF jointly host the 2 day Winter Seminar at the beautiful new SHARC facility in Sunriver on Feb 9 and 10, 2013 (weekend). We are delighted to have Brian Chan and Phil Rowley present their Stillwater Seminar covering such topics as: lake biology/entomology, fishing chironomids, floating line tactics, knots, tips for catching trophy trout, sinking line tactics, fly tying, and damsel/leech techniques.

Seminar cost for both days including lunch, drinks, snack: SRA/COF members \$75 before Feb 1, Non-members \$85 before Feb 1; \$85/\$95 respectively after Feb 1.

Name _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Amt Enclosed _____ Need Map? ____ Need Accommodation Info? ____

Lunch Sandwich Preference Turkey ____ Roast Beef ____ Ham ____ Vegetarian ____

Make Checks to Sunriver Anglers, Send to Sunriver Anglers PO Box 4273 Sunriver OR 97707
Questions Doug@Vakoc.com 541 598-2048 or Kathleens.S.Shroeder@gmail.com 541-480-3185

Central Oregon Flyfishers Upstream Events 2013

Date	Time	Activity	Location	Contact
JANUARY				
Jan 1	9:00 am	OUTING - Crooked R.	Jake's Diner	Bill Seitz (conservation@coflyfishers.org)
Jan 3	6:30 pm	monthly board mtg.	Environmental Center	Eric Steele (president@coflyfishers.org)
Jan 8, 15, 22, 29	6:00 pm	EDUCATION - Fly tying	Bend Senior Center	John Kreft (jckreft@gmail.com)
Jan 16		general meeting	Bend Senior Center	
IN THE FUTURE				
Feb 5, 12, 19, 26		EDUCATION	Winter fly-tying series continues	
Feb 9 & 10		EDUCATION	Winter Seminar at SHARC	See page 9.
NON-CLUB ACTIVITIES & FYI				
Northwest Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Expo, March 8 & 9, 2013. Linn County Expo Center, Albany, Oregon				
North Idaho Fly Fishing Expo 2013, March 22 & 23, 2013. See page 7.				

2013 COF Board Members: Eric Steele PRESIDENT Vacant VICE PRESIDENT Joe Weirzba TREASURER Cliff Price SECRETARY Mike Tripp Programs
Howard Olson Banquet John Tackmier Outings/Library Karen Kreft Next Cast Flyfishers Lee Ann Ross Wild Women of the Water/Director at Large Gary Meyer
Membership Bill Seitz Conservation Debbie Norton Raffle Kathy Schroeder Education Frank Turek Kokanee Karnival

Membership application available from: <http://www.coflyfishers.org>

For advertising information, call Mike Shadrach at 541-678-5717.



Central Oregon Flyfishers

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For advertising information, call Mike Shadrach (541-678-5717).

NEWSLETTER - Terri Grimm