RANDOM CAST

**Crooked River** - Representative Walden’s bill on the Crooked River has been introduced to the House, and some hearings have been held. On the COF website is the testimony given by Steve Forrester (City Manager, Prineville), Dan Gardner (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), and Robert Quint (Chief of Staff, Bureau of Reclamation). Please take a look to get up to speed with the position being taken by the various stakeholders. The biggest issue for fisher folk is that the bill does not provide any water release specifically for fish, and it gives the irrigators the right of first fill. Please call or write Senators Wyden and Merkely and let them know that the fish need water too. They do pay attention to contact by their constituents. For contact information, see Congressional Contacts on page 8.

**ORCFF Representative Needed** - The Oregon Council of the FFF is our representative body to the FFF. Each member club has a representative on the ORCFF board. COF needs a representative. The representative attends four meetings a year. The first meeting will be held at Sherry Steele’s house in Sisters on July 23. Most of the other meetings will be via teleconference, so there will be little travel. If you would like to get involved, please contact Lee Ann (rossleann@yahoo.com). This is a great opportunity to become more involved in our sport.

**ORCFF Grant Money Available** - The ORCFF has money to give away. The COF board may submit two applications. If you have any ideas, please let a board member know. COF will submit a proposal to support our youth fly-fishing effort.

**Tui Chub Removal** - Please see the article in the newsletter (page 3) regarding tui chub removal in East Lake. COF, Sunriver Anglers, the resort owners, ODFW and OSU Cascades have been meeting to discuss the tui chub. Next year, COF might be able to support an internship with OSU Cascades to have a student work on tui chub removal. This year, we will need all the volunteers we can get to help with this effort.

**NW Steelheaders Meeting** - The next meeting of the Deschutes Basin Chapter of the Association of NW Steelheaders will be held on July 7 at the Environmental Center of Bend. Doors open at 6:30 p.m.; meeting starts at 7:00 p.m. Don Ratliff, Senior Biologist at PGE, will provide an update on what’s happening at the Pelton-Round Butte dam complex. Oregon State Senator Fred Girod, who represents parts of Marion, Linn, and Clackamas Counties, will also speak. Dr. Girod will provide an update on what is happening in Salem that will influence the continued enjoyment of our natural resources. Salem is where the rubber meets the road for protecting our access to quality fishing. A large turnout sends the message that we are concerned about fisheries issues on this side of the Cascade.

—Lee Ann Ross, President
GENERAL MEETING
July 20 | 6:30 p.m. | Bend Senior Center, 1600 S.E. Reed Market Road, Bend

Steens Mountain Redband Trout Reserve
Christine Bates, Fish and Wildlife Biologist for the Bureau of Land Management, will present a program about the Redband Trout Reserve (RTR) located in the Steens Mountain Wilderness Area. This unique reserve was created “to conserve, protect, and enhance the Donner und Blitzen River population of redband trout and the unique ecosystem of plants, fish, and wildlife of a river system, and to provide opportunities for scientific research, environmental education, and fish and wildlife-oriented recreation and access to the extent compatible with the above purpose.” Two principal goals of the Resource Management Plan are to maintain the genetic integrity of redband trout in the RTR and to increase the distribution and abundance of redband trout in the RTR through maintenance or restoration of habitat quality and quantity.

Coming in August
Tuesday, August 16 | Aspen Hall in Shevlin Park | Serving starts at 6:30. | Arrive early to help set up.

Remember, COF will hold an annual Barbeque in August. The Tuesday barbeque will replace the usual Wednesday monthly meeting. Bring the family and enjoy the evening; the kids might want to do some fishing in the pond. There will be no program, just a warm summer evening to enjoy.

Directions: Drive west on Newport Ave. through all the traffic circles. Newport turns into Shevlin at Mt. Washington Drive. Keep going at least another mile until you get to Shevlin Park. Aspen Hall is on the right; look for parking on the Aspen Hall side or opposite.

What to Bring: Show off your cooking skills with a dish to share, either a side dish, desert, salad or appetizer. Also, bring adult beverages in moderation. The club will supply tasty barbequed delicacies, eating utensils, soft drinks, chips and condiments.

Contact Herb Blank (541-312-2568) to help set up, serve and clean up.

OUTINGS
To lead an outing, contact Yancy Lind, Outings Coordinator (yancy_lind@ml.com or 541-788-5514).

Crane Prairie Reservoir
July 14 | 10:00 a.m. | Bob Griffin

This outing is full. To place your name on the waiting list, contact Bob Griffin (bgriffin@bendcable.com).

Williamson and Wood rivers
August 11-14 | Yancy Lind (yancy_lind@ml.com)

This year will be the fourth year that I have lead a trip to the Williamson. I’ve fished the river over a dozen times since that first trip, and I am starting to understand it just a little. Unfortunately, the cold spring and high-water conditions that have plagued us locally also exist on the Williamson. The river is double its normal flow as I write this; hopefully things will calm down by August.

The Williamson is well known as a trophy trout river with only wild fish, some over 10 pounds. These fish were steelhead before being landlocked by the dam in Klamath Falls. The Wood River also has migratory populations of these trout along with resident browns.

Last year, Dan Pebbles and I netted 15 fish over 18 inches in one day while fishing from my drift boat. I’ve also fished hard all day and landed only a couple.

We will stay at the Water Wheel Campground again because it is a good location. There are some places to rent nearby if you don’t want to camp.

This trip requires a drift or pontoon boat, or something similar. It is an easy river to float with a few small rapids. An electric motor is helpful; there are some long, slow-moving sections on the Williamson.

I plan to leave Bend Thursday morning, August 11, and return Sunday afternoon, August 14. It’s about a two-hour drive from Bend. Let me know if you are interested, and I’ll give you more information. If you’ve been on this trip before, there are no changes from last year, with one exception: I’d like to arrange at least one group dinner. Pot luck anyone?

- Yancy Lind, yancy_lind@ml.com, 541-788-5514

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<th>Month</th>
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<td>Aug</td>
<td>11-14</td>
<td>Yancy Lind</td>
<td>Lower Williamson &amp; Wood rivers</td>
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<td>Malheur Carp Fishing - cancelled due to high water</td>
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<td>Lower Deschutes Steelhead, Beavertail campground</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>Bill Seitz</td>
<td>Crooked River Cleanup</td>
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OUTINGS 2011
Here’s a 27-inch fish from that day caught on the Williamson River. PHOTO: Dan Pebbles.

EDUCATION

Casting club
Meets the fourth Wednesday of every month from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the pond in front of the Orvis store.

Fall River strategies
Tuesday, July 26 | 9:00 a.m. | Fall River Fish Hatchery | Instructor: Jerry Criss and Frank Turek | $10 donation to youth education

Come learn some tips and techniques for fishing the Fall River from two of our club members, Frank Turek and Jerry Criss. Frank will let you in on a few of his secrets to success using nymphs. Jerry will cover fish stalking using dry flies. The class will walk a small section of the river and discuss how to find fish and where the fish like to hide on the Fall. After the class, students may practice on the river.

Meet at the hatchery on the Fall River, Tuesday July 26 at 9:00 a.m.

Class is limited to 10 people. Payment due by July 19. Cost is $10. Make check payable to COF and write “7/26/2011 Fall River” in the memo field. Mail check to Gary Meyer, P.O. Box 1396, Bend, OR 97709 (education@coflyfishers.org, 541-633-0934).

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Metolius River Fly-Fishing and Bamboo Rod Fair

The tenth annual Metolius River Fly Fishing and Bamboo Rod Fair will be held July 16 and 17 at Black Butte School in Camp Sherman.

COF will host a booth at this event. We have been represented every year and continue to support one of our “home waters.”

Saturday shifts will be 10:00 to 1:30 and 1:30 to 5:00. Sunday shifts will be 10 to 12:30 and 12:30 to 3:00.

We need two volunteers per shift. If you are interested in participating in this fun-filled and informative event, contact Capt Caddis (capt@bendnet.com or 389-4372).

Invasive chub removal at East Lake

As part of an ongoing project to control tui chub in East Lake, ODFW and volunteers will trap and remove invasive chub this summer. We hope to begin July 6 and trap the spawning chub in nets for three to four weeks. All captured trout will be released unharmed. Each day, at least one ODFW staff person will be available; we would like two volunteers to assist.

The work is labor intensive and requires a strong back, so please keep this in mind. We will empty chub from large net traps, which requires bending and lifting pails of chub. Depending on how many chub we get and how many trips to the dump site, it could be a six-hour day. Last year we removed 18,000 pounds of chub!

continued on page 4
Many of you have expressed interest in helping with this effort, and we definitely need help! Please contact Jen Luke (Jennifer.a.Luke@state.or.us or 541-388-6281) or Michael Harrington (Michael.r.Harrington@state.or.us or 541-388-6281) if you would like to help.

**Whychus Creek macroinvertebrate monitoring**

**August 20**

The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, in partnership with the Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, will sample aquatic macroinvertebrates on Whychus Creek. Macroinvertebrate monitoring is one component of a 10-year, watershed-scale monitoring effort on Whychus Creek to assess improvements in habitat quality for re-introduced steelhead and Chinook salmon. We are seeking volunteers to participate in our 2011 macroinvertebrate sampling on August 20. If you’ve ever wanted to participate in watershed stewardship or learn more about your local watershed and stream ecosystems, this is a great opportunity to get in the creek, help collect important information about macroinvertebrate communities, and learn first-hand about these tiny aquatic organisms and their vital role in our rivers and streams. For more information please download our flyer at [http://www.restorethedeschutes.org](http://www.restorethedeschutes.org).

Please rsvp to Lauren Mork (lmork@restorethedeschutes.org or at 541-382-6103 x39).

**ODFW high lakes trout survey**

**August 23-26 | Salmon – Trout Enhancement Volunteer Project**

**Location:** Base camps at Winooee Lake and Taylor Lakes (Deschutes Basin)

**Project Objective:** Collect basic information on trout residing in these lakes (species, lengths, weights, scales for aging). We would also like to know if natural production is occurring in any of these lakes.

**Background:** Wilderness lakes have been stocked every other year with trout fingerlings. These lakes have never been sampled for fish information.

**Volunteer Responsibility:** Groups of three will hike from base camp and sample two to three lakes per day. Hikes will be one to three miles from base camp. We need volunteers to angle for trout, catch fish, and record information. Gill nets will be used to collect further samples. Interested volunteers may snorkel for juvenile trout, depending on available dry suits. Volunteers need to bring their own camping and angling gear.

**Camp and Project Orientation Site:** TBA – Meet at the ODFW (Parrell Road) office Tuesday morning to caravan, or meet at one of the base camps (Winooee or Taylor Lake).

**Dates:** August 23 to Aug 26 (Tuesday–Friday), August 23 will be a “pack in” day, and Wednesday, Thursday and part of Friday will be sampling days.

**STEP Provides:** Meals. Hip boots and dry suits may be available (depending on size). Horses will pack in food and sampling gear to Winooee.

**Contact:** Jennifer Luke, STEP Biologist (541-633-1113), to sign up for this trip.

**Project Healing Waters**

Central Oregon Project Healing Waters will be at the Bamboo Fair in Camp Sherman July 16 and 17. We could use some volunteers to help man a table for awhile. Volunteers will hand out pamphlets and answer questions. If interested, contact Brad Emery (BDEmery1@aol.com).

COPHW had successful outings to Lake in the Dunes ([http://youtu.be/CUm8dmJAae](http://youtu.be/CUm8dmJAae)) and Mecca Flats. Plans for future outings will be announced.

For more information, contact Brad Emery (541-536-5799) or visit [www.coph.org](http://www.coph.org).

**OTHER NEWS**

**Youth fly-fishing day**

On June 4, the Central Oregon Flyfishers (COF), the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild sponsored the first annual Youth Fly-Fishing Day at the Bend Pine Nursery Park and Pond. continued on page 5
Over 30 youth, from 8 to 19 years of age, attended the event. Youth were able to get fly-casting instruction; learn about fly-fishing equipment, Oregon’s sport fish, water safety, state regulations, where to fish, aquatic bugs and flies that imitate them, and tying useful knots; tie a fly; and fish for trout in the pond. Kids caught fish, and some caught fish with the fly they tied. Upon completion of the sessions, kids were given a certificate and a packet of informational handouts. Lots of COF members and friends of members volunteered their time for the youth event. Thanks to those folks and, due to their efforts, the event was a big success! We hope to see you next year.

**Prineville crappie challenge report 2011**

We had 14 attendees to this great event, and everyone had fun. Saturday night’s chili and hot dog feed was a great success. The best way to report the outing is to quote a few comments submitted by some of the participants:

“I had a wonderful time with the COF. What a fine group of folks. All that I met were kind, helpful, and generous. My thanks to Richard for sharing the cabin, and Andy for a day well spent, and Capt. for the grizzzz that caught many Crappie. Best wishes to all,” – Jerrold Martisak of Salem (New member)

“I was hoping for more crappies but that’s how it goes when fishing. But outside of that I had a great time with good company. Will be joining you again next year. – Myron Holub

“We had a great time as it was a warm beautiful day on the water with fellow COF members. We will be back later in June and again next year.” – Bill McKee

I am returning in August to try again. The 2012 Crappie Challenge is set for June 1 to 3.

Keep your FINS UP!

— Capt Caddis

**COF Fly of the Month CD**

Fish Central Oregon waters with confidence knowing that you have the flies made especially for our waters. A compact disc (CD), with pictures and tying instructions for more than 75 COF flies of the month, is now available for only $5. Contact Lee Ann Ross (rossleeann@yahoo.com).

**WILD WOMEN OF THE WATER**

**Three Creek Lake**

Join the Wild Women for a fabulous fishing trip to Three Creek Lake on July 10 and 11. This trip includes an optional overnight stay. We will camp at the lake Sunday evening in order to miss the weekend crowd and fish bright and early Monday morning. If you choose not to camp, please join us Monday morning, July 11. Although you can fish from the bank, a float tube, pontoon or small non-motorized boat is best. Row boats can be rented for a small fee at the lake. Watch your email for more details about this outing. To RSVP or for questions, contact Kristin Lambson (wildwomen@coflyfishers.org).
CONSERVATION

Gas bubble disease and the Crooked River

The last two days, several Central Oregon Flyfishers (Frank McKim, Steve Williams, Gene McMullen, John Anderson, and myself) assisted the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) with their annual population survey of redbands and whitefish on the Crooked River. As many of you know, the flows on the Crooked River below Bowman Dam have been over 1,000 cfs for most of the late winter and spring months. Many of us feared that the redband population in the Crooked River was going to be severely impacted by gas bubble disease because of the high flows. When flows exceed 600 cfs, as they have this winter and spring, the probability of gas bubble disease increases significantly. Although the ODFW electroshocking activities will continue to week's end, early capture activities indicate the redband population has been impacted. Several of the redbands captured showed severe symptoms of the disease. (See photos on page 7.)

Many of the whitefish showed signs of the disease (eroded dorsal and caudal fins). For information, I have attached Shivonne Nesbitt’s Master of Science Thesis abstract because it provides information about gas bubble disease on the Crooked River.

Over the last decade, the ODFW has documented a precipitous decline in the Crooked River redband trout population, prompting this study to address potential factors contributing to the decline. There are two main goals to this project: (1) identify potential factors contributing to the reduction of the redband trout population in the Crooked River fishery and (2) provide management recommendations to all of the agencies responsible for managing the Crooked River that might effect a change in the redband trout population trend. This thesis had three objectives: (1) evaluate the movement patterns of redband trout and mountain whitefish in the Crooked River below Bowman Dam, (2) monitor total dissolved gas levels (TDG) in the Crooked River to evaluate the incidence of supersaturated water and gas bubble disease in redband trout and mountain whitefish and (3) implement a more comprehensive population estimate survey to document both redband trout and mountain whitefish population densities. Prior to this study, limited data existed on the distribution and movement patterns of redband trout and mountain whitefish in the Crooked River below Bowman Dam. Based on the results from the two-year telemetry study, redband trout and mountain whitefish population exhibit a resident life history strategy and stay in the Wild and Scenic Section of the Crooked River below Bowman Dam. Two potential explanations for the observed population decline continued on page 7
were plausible: the decline was actually a decline, or the fish moved to other sections of the Crooked River downstream of Bowman Dam. The telemetry study showed that redband trout and mountain whitefish stay within this section of river, thereby providing evidence against the explanation that the observed population decline was a result of movement of fish to other sections of river. The total dissolved gas study demonstrated that gas saturation levels become elevated enough to cause gas bubble disease in the Crooked River below Bowman Dam. The gas saturation in the Crooked River is equivalent or higher than levels shown to produce gas bubble disease (GBD) in fishes. When flows exceed 600 cfs, the total dissolved gas saturation exceeds the maximum Oregon Department of Environmental Quality mandated level of 110% gas saturation in the Crooked River. Flows in excess of 600 cfs are common during spring runoff events below Bowman Dam. From 1989-2009, flows exceeded 600 cfs in 13 of the 21 years and 1000 cfs in 10 of the 21 years. The past population effects of high flows and supersaturated waters on redband trout and mountain whitefish are difficult to quantify, but based on the hydrograph and the saturation curve, the years when gas bubble disease might have been present in fish can be predicted. Given the strong linear relationship between TDG and stream average daily discharge ($r^2 = 0.93$), discharge itself can be used as a predictive tool for assessing TDG levels in the river. Based on the flow data from the USBOR gauging station and the gas saturation curve for the wild and scenic section of the Crooked River generated here, gas bubble disease was probably present in fish in 1993, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2004. The redband trout population continued on page 8
density has varied considerably from year to year, with a peak observed in 1994 and the lowest point observed in 2006. A large increase in the number of redband trout per km occurred between 1993 and 1994, indicating that the density of fish can increase substantially in one year. The decline in redband trout density from 1994 to 2006 appears to be more gradual than the increase in density observed from 1993 to 1994. Since 2006, the redband trout population density appears to be increasing based on qualitative patterns. One interesting finding was that in 2007, the mountain whitefish density was estimated to be seven times greater than the redband trout population, in 2008 it was estimated to be four times greater, but in 2009, the mountain whitefish density was only marginally higher than the redband trout population. In the three years of this study, there appears to be a shift in the relative abundance of redband trout and mountain whitefish directly below Bowman Dam. The reduction in the mountain whitefish population density from 2007 to 2008 was not expected based on angler accounts of the increase in mountain whitefish population densities.

– Bill Seitz, Conservation chair

CONGRESSIONAL CONTACTS

Senator Jeff Merkley
Online letters to: http://merkley.senate.gov/contact/
Central Oregon Office: The Honorable Jeff Merkley, 131 NW Hawthorne Ave., Suite 208, Bend, OR, 97701. Phone: 541-318-1298

Senator Ron Wyden
Online letters to: http://wyden.senate.gov/
Central Oregon Office: The Honorable Ron Wyden, The Jamison Building, 131 NW Hawthorne Ave., Suite 107, Bend, OR 97701. Phone: 541-330-9142

Congressman Greg Walden (Second District of Oregon)
Online letters to: http://walden.house.gov/
Central Oregon Office: The Honorable Greg Walden, 1051 NW Bond St., Suite 400, Bend, OR 97701. Phone: 541-389-4408 Fax: 541-389-4452

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE - Overhead rod rack for motor home or camper; from Bass Pro Shops; paid $35; will sell for $25. Call for details. Steve Sheldon; 541-593-1546.

One of the few fish caught on the Chewaucan River during the June outing.
PHOTO: Bill Robinson
TYERS CORNER

I think spring and summer have arrived. The sun is out for real, with no sign of rain or snow or anything other than the golden rays we have been longing for. Most of the Cascade lakes are now open, with some snow in the campgrounds. It has been tough fishing, except for the private ponds where fish are being caught almost at will.

The outing to Diamond Lake was a success, with some good fish caught and some good times as well. A pattern that eluded me as I dug through my fly boxes was a good dragonfly nymph. I later found out from a reliable source that the fish were keying in on them. I have found through some research and testing over the last couple of years that the K-mart Special works as a dragonfly nymph. It has the parts, especially the legs, that duplicate those of the natural very well, and if you search out patterns you will see what I mean. However, it is missing some key features: eyes; a flat, wide abdomen; and the wing case. In water that is clear and with fishing pressure heavy, these features become more important to making a successful pattern. So enjoy this month’s pattern. Good Luck and good hunting.

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

The Vader Dragon

Thread: black or olive, 8/0
Eyes: small, black plastic, mono or bead chain
Hook: #16 to #14, 3x long to 4x long streamer
Tail: pheasant tail, six to eight fibers
Body: foam to widen body at the rear of the fly with light olive to dark olive brown dubbing on top of the foam
Shell Back: butt ends of the pheasant tail fibers from the tail
Rib: silver or copper wire, fine
Thorax: same dubbing as the body or peacock herl
Wing Case: light brown or gold raffia, colored with brown art pen when finished
Legs: partridge fibers, six to eight per side

1. Tie in the eyes at the head, leaving space behind the eye of the hook.
2. Wrap the thread to the hook bend and tie in foam strips on both sides and about half way up the hook shank, adding layers to get the desired width. The body should be about twice the thorax.
3. With a minimum of wraps, tie in a very short tail.
4. Tie in the ribbing material and dub the body forward, covering all the foam. A rough dubbed body works just fine.
5. Bring the butt ends of the tail material over the top of the dubbed body and tie off where the foam ends.
6. Bring the ribbing wire forward in even wraps and tie it off where the body stops.
7. Tie in the raffia, laying it over the back of the body to keep it out of way.
8. When done, tie in a V-shaped section of partridge on top of the hook shank with the fibers facing the rear of the fly. The fibers should be long enough to reach the end of the body.
9. Wrap a thick thorax and then bring the raffia over top and secure behind the eyes with a couple of wraps. Take the raffia over the eyes and finish by tying it down behind the hook eye. Coat the raffia with a little head cement to help hold the pen color and give the shell back a little shine.

Is Your Email Address Up to Date?

Recently, we have received quite a few bounce-back messages whenever we send email to all members. Don’t miss out on important COF news. If your email address has changed, please send your new address to membership@coflyfishers.org.

Report Volunteer Hours

ODFW and other groups use the number of volunteer hours to help them get grants for our area. So it’s important to report your hours. To report hours, contact Eric Steele (vicepresident@coflyfishers.org).
Central Oregon Flyfishers Upstream Events 2011

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<td>Jul 7</td>
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<td>Environmental Center</td>
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<td>Camp Sherman</td>
<td>Capt Caddis (<a href="mailto:capt@bendnet.com">capt@bendnet.com</a>)</td>
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<td>Jul 26</td>
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<td>CLASS - Fall River Strategies</td>
<td>Fall River fish hatchery</td>
<td>Gary Meyer (<a href="mailto:education@coflyfishers.org">education@coflyfishers.org</a>)</td>
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IN THE FUTURE
August 11-14, Outing to Williamson & Wood rivers, Yancy Lind (yancy_lind@ml.com)
Aug 16, Annual COF barbeque
August 23-26, ODFW high lakes trout survey, Jennifer Luke (541-633-1113)

NON-CLUB ACTIVITIES & FYI
July 27, Bend Casting Club, meet at Orvis store


Membership application available from: http://www.coflyfishers.org
For advertising information, call Mike Shadrach at 541-678-5717.

Central Oregon Flyfishers
PO Box 1126 Bend, Oregon 97709

An active member club

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

NEWSLETTER - Terri Grimm Editor & Designer