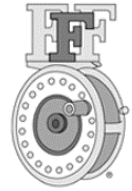




The Central Oregon FLYFISHER



www.coflyfishers.org

AN ACTIVE MEMBER CLUB OF THE FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS

Volume 25

Number 6

June 2003

JUNE OUTING

June 19-28

Logan Lake, British Columbia, Canada
Gordon Chandler gordon@coinet.com

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

June 18, 6:30PM- 8:30PM

Central Oregon Board Of Realtors
"Fishing Our Local Lakes"- Scott Cook

SCOTT COOK - "FISHING CENTRAL OREGON LAKES"

Or

"So ya wanna catch fish in a lake with a fly?"

1. Central Oregon Lakes.
2. Rainbow Trout, Brown Trout, Brook Trout, Atlantic Salmon, Kokanee, Flounder, Lake Trout, Crappie, Mountain Whitefish, Largemouth Bass, Bluegill.
3. SCOTT COOK, Fly and Field Outfitters, Bend.
4. Wednesday, June 18, 2003, 6:30 social hour, 7:00 meeting. Central Oregon Board of Realtors Building, free.
5. Be there to learn HOW TO from an expert!
6. Invite a friend.

RAMDOM CASTS JUNE 2003

While waiting in the dentist's office, I picked up a well-read copy of "In-Fisherman", June - July 2001, and found an inset titled "How long do fish live?" I was amazed to learn that the maximum age of fish in the wild, such as brook trout and brown trout, was 15 years. And lake trout live until 80 and lake sturgeon until 154 years old! This got me thinking about what a great privilege we enjoy as fly fishermen to capture for a brief period a fish or two who may live longer than we do. We pursue fishing with great seriousness and even reverence. But do we "get it"; do we understand the big picture?

To "catch the big one" is a dream of every fly fisherman, but now if I get lucky I will be a little more careful and gentle with that old fellow because he has been around for a while. That is why being a part of this fishing club is such a great opportunity to learn more and become involved with the conservation and preservation of Central Oregon's fisheries for future generations.

Many of our new and old members joined the club because they wanted to participate in conservation activities, and we are most fortunate to have Gene McMullen and Phil Havens as chairmen of our conservation committee.

Between these two fellows there is a wealth of knowledge and skill, which they are willing to share, and they eagerly invite your participation with them in many conservation activities. Give them a call or introduce yourself at the next meeting and you will be rewarded for your effort.

The main idea of this message is that we, like the fish we pursue, are here for a relative short time. What we do is important for the next generation of fly fishermen and our community. COF provides us with a community in which we can join together, share wonderful fellowship, and make a contribution that will last beyond our life times.

I hope every member takes advantage of the programs this club offers, one of which is the B.C. Canada outing June 19th through the 28th. If you only are able to make one outing this year, make it this one. You will have the chance to fish with and get to know some of your fellow members, and that will forever change your enjoyment of this club. I know that from experience, when I went for the first time and found a group of men who were generous, fun loving and welcoming unlike any other fishermen I had ever fished with. I had a great time and established friendships that I continue to cherish and enjoy. Besides, I want to meet up with some of those older fish, thank them, and wish them a great life. Your Pal, Dan

JUNE OUTING, LEIGHTON LAKE/LOGAN LAKE, BRITISH COLUMBIA

June 19 marks the start of the June outing in British Columbia. If you have any thought of going be sure to contact Gordon Chandler at gordon@coinet.com. Due to the volume of information about the trip, a web site has been developed for those interested. See the link from www.coflyfishers.org or contact Gordon. Many of the articles in this issue of the newsletter address fishing in British Columbia to give you a flavor of what can be expected on the outing.

VESTS, VESTS, C O F VESTS

Those wishing to purchase a quality, reversible Port Authority Vest with the COF "patch" on one side and "your name" on the other may again order. You have seen these green vests at the meetings. Price for vest, patch and name embroidered is \$49.98. Elaine Smalley, at Simply the Best (548-2615) in Redmond can take your order.

FISHING THE WONDERFUL MICRO LEECH

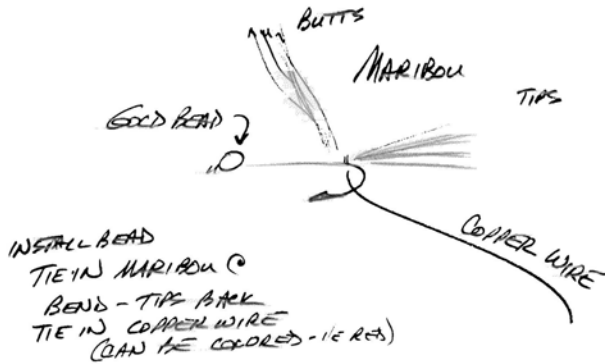
Several years ago, Bob Griffin, John Burns, Dave McNall and Doyle Goolsby of The Central Oregon Flyfishers traveled to Quesnel, British Columbia to fish the renowned Dragon Lake. Bob Griffin had spun so many tales about the lake that we just had to give it a try. Our hope was to fish the spring chironomid emergence for which Dragon is so famous. Our first stop in Quesnel was at the Caribou Fly Shop to obtain our licenses and to probe the mind of Doug Brautigan, the owner of the shop and a friend of Bob Griffin. After discussing all the chironomid patterns, he asked if we were familiar with the micro leech. "As long as the chironomid emergence is in full force, use a chironomid pattern. However when the emergence slows down, the Blackwater strain of rainbow trout, residents of Dragon Lake, start looking for their dessert. Their dessert is the micro leech". He recommended three colors - black, burgundy, and red. We searched high and low for the leeches, but found that Doug had sold all his except for a few in black. We, of course, bought all he had. What a wonderful stroke of good luck! Indeed, the trout in Dragon were anxious to taste our micro leech offerings. Thanks to Bob Griffin and Doug, we had a great introduction to Dragon Lake and the micro leech. Since then, we have all fished the micro leech in many locations. We never go anywhere without a selection in black and burgundy. They have worked everywhere we have tried them. We have not had as much luck with the red one, but we always carry a few - just in case. We also carry a supply of red bloodworms to use down amongst the aquatic plant life. The red micro leech undoubtedly imitates one of these bloodworms.

After encouragement from Ron Anderson, Vice President of COF, we decided that we should share our success with all of you.

As a side note, upon returning from B.C. we found that Dave Greaves, a local guide with Cascade Guides and Outfitters and a COF member, used the micro leech technique successfully with a broader selection of flies (pheasant tails, hare's ears, callibaetis nymphs, etc.). It works most of the time, and we include it in our arsenal regularly. This article will only address fishing the micro leech. However, the same technique can be used with many other flies.

We tie the micro leech on a Tiemco 5262 hook, size 12, in primarily black and burgundy marabou - however combinations of black/burgundy and black/dark brown marabou are effective as well. At the head of the fly use a 1/8" gold bead (this may seem large, but it really

works). Small red wire is tied in to provide the ribbing, and a moderate number of strands (the fly is intended to be thin in appearance) of black or burgundy blood quill marabou are tied in for the tail (no longer than the shank of the hook). After tying in the tail, wrap the same strands of marabou tightly around the body to the head of the fly; trim the marabou strands to create a thin, streamlined appearance to the body; wrap the ribbing forward to the head of the fly; cement the head; and then head to the water.



We were told by Doug to fish the micro leech exactly as we fish the chironomid. Use a floating line with a 15-18' leader, and place a strike indicator on your leader (preferably just above the knot where you tie in your tippet). We use a regular monofilament leader, but the last few feet of tippet are fluorocarbon. Fluorocarbon sinks faster than monofilament, and it is not nearly as visible to the fish. The distance from the strike indicator to the fly varies depending on the depth of the water and fishing conditions. We start with our micro leech approximately one foot off the aquatic plant life on the bottom of the lake. If we don't have success right away, we vary the depth of the fly in an attempt to find the feeding fish. One method is fishing close to shore and putting the fly at about half the depth of the water. We have fished the micro leech as deep as 15 feet, and as shallow as 18 inches. Here in Central Oregon, we have been successful at between 3 feet and 4 feet on most occasions. We've found that the fish

may move away from the area at the arrival of your cast, but they will return (out of curiosity I suppose) to their holding area if you are patient.

The place where the micro leech really shines is when the fish are concentrated in a small area; say cruising along a reed line or over a small patch of marl in a big weed bed. Instead of a conventional cast, which stays in the zone where the fish are located for perhaps 10% of the retrieve, the micro leech hangs in their face 100% of the time. What about the fact that the leech pattern



hangs vertically instead of horizontally as you might expect? For whatever reason, it just doesn't seem to make much difference.

We attempt to keep the fly line and leader straight as much as possible while fishing. This gives us more control, and allows us to set the hook quickly. Usually, just raising the rod tip will hook the fish. We grease our fly line and leader down to the strike indicator to maintain adequate float. There are a number of ways to retrieve the micro leech. Some are: 1) Let the leech remain very still in the water and wait for the fish to take it; 2) Let the leech remain still but every now and then give it a very subtle twitch; 3) Use a very, very, very slow hand twist retrieve until the strike indicator is within a few feet of your watercraft. In every instance watch your strike indicator closely. The fish's take can be from very, very soft to a major take down of the indicator. Some fly fishermen do not care for fishing this way with chironomids or micro leeches. They don't like to wait for something to happen. However, let us assure you that if you give this a try where chironomids are present, you will be successful.

We have now used the micro leech in many different waters in B.C., Washington, and Oregon. When everything else fails us, we go to the micro leech, and it delivers for us. When your shoulder is worn out from days of casting and stripping, this technique will allow you to rest your arm and not reduce your catch rate.

If you have further questions, don't hesitate to ask Bob Griffin, Harry Harbin, or Doyle Goolsby. We'll be pleased to try to answer any question you have.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The article above is a departure from our normal, short articles. The editor would like your comments. Do you:

1. Enjoy a longer article examining a fishing technique in detail.
2. Prefer to leave longer articles for the magazines and stick to short topics.
3. Don't care so long as the newsletter still fits neatly into the wastebasket.

PICK A PICNIC

Don't forget that the COF Picnic is scheduled for August 27, and will be in lieu of a general membership meeting. The picnic will be a week later than our normal meeting date due to a scheduling conflict for Aspen Hall at Shevlin Park. Please put this on your calendar so we don't have folks showing up on the wrong date.

Beginning at 6:30 PM, we will have entertainment and great food. COF provides all basics including hamburgers, hot dogs, soda, plates etc. for members and their families. Please plan to bring a dish (salad, dessert, chips/dip or a whatever) to share for 5-6 people. This is a great location to DINE inside or outside - bring your fly-casting gear - show off that new rod - fishing for youngsters - a lawn for games. We could use some volunteers to help set up, cook, or tear down. Set up will begin at 5:30PM. - Please call John Burns 416-1279.

STEEN'S OUTING

We are planning an outing to Steen's Mountain on July 25, 26 and 27 at the South Steen's Campground.. It will probably require a certain number of folks to go over the afternoon of the 24th to establish some campsites. We will probably have to have several groups in each campsite since the Steen's are popular at that time of the year. We will have a sign up sheet at the next general meeting with some contacts and brief explanations of where to fish, what to bring and what to expect.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Brett Hodgson, ODFW Biologist in Prineville, has placed a fish trap located on Ochoco Creek several miles above

Ochoco Reservoir. He has trapped native redbands moving up Ochoco Creek to spawn, and a number of have been kept and will be sent to Oak Springs Hatchery. These natives will be used to generate stock for the South Fork Crooked in hopes of getting native redbands back in this system. In recent years, domestic hatchery stock has been used, and unfortunately, this strain cannot survive the rugged environment. Several fall surveys on the South Fork Crooked are planned. Look on your Conservation Calendar for the dates.

ODFW has placed a screw trap in the Deschutes River above Crain Prairie reservoir. This trap is designed to capture out migrants from the Deschutes to the Reservoir. There is a need to monitor this trap on a regular basis. I have been told that there are numerous redband and brookie fry being caught in the trap and they are small, fragile and difficult to identify. ODFW will require volunteers to have a days training before doing it on their own, so we will see if a trained biologist can accompany any volunteers going for their first time.

It looks like the trap will be pulled on weekends (pulled means raised so fish can pass). As budgets get tight, more volunteers will be needed. Contact Gene McMullen.

NEW OWNERSHIP ON SOUTH FORK CROOKED

New owners have recently purchased a 3.5 mile stretch of the South fork Crooked River about 55 miles SE of Prineville. These owners plan to rebuild the perimeter fence around the property to exclude cattle, and will not be doing any grazing of the riparian or upland areas. Their objective is to return the land to as near a natural state as possible.

It appears that central Oregon Flyfishers may be able to work with these new owners in helping them reach their objectives. Just what our part will be will be brought forward in future newsletters and Conservation signups at the general meeting.

ANOTHER'S VIEWS ON BOBBERS



It's late May, and this fly "flopper" sits at a B.C. Forest Service camp table at a Fir lined lake waiting out yet another period of heavy wind.

Two weeks ago, friends fished with 1/2 " of snow in their boats. B.C. lakes are 2 to 3 weeks ahead this year. We should have the addition of "sedge" (caddis to

those of you in the lower 48) fishing during our Leighton outing in June that normally would not be available until July. The "rain shadow lakes" of B.C. are much like ours, just more of them with larger fish. Hope to see you there.

I'm reading Chapter #3 of Lewis Johnson's "The Chronic Fly Fisher - Fly-fishing the Central Interior of B.C.". The strike indicator is the fly fisher's visual contact with a sunken fly, and can be a valuable tool to fish chironomids, leaches etc. at a specific depth. Also valuable for a single "presentation" into a "pocket of water" that one hopes a fish will return to having just been alarmed by the arriving fly.

Lewis Johnson says, "Strike Indicators are available in an assortment of materials. These range from putty that rolls up and sticks to the leader, to something as simple as a piece of macramé yarn dressed with flotant," (in my opinion yarn is only best for streams) "or a small bobber called a corkie to attach to the leader." It seems to me that a corkie is a BOBBER. I am therefore using a BOBBER when using a corkie style float. A corkie BOBBS at the take.

Even the "on sale" corkie at \$.07 that has two colors, red/yellow, will BOBB when pulled. The red shows up during the day with the yellow being more visible at dusk. If you are expecting red, and yellow looks back at you, you have thrown a knot and need to examine your leader. Use the smallest BOBBER that you can see -- easiest to cast and most sensitive to the take.

Toothpick pegged corkies are used by most stillwater fishermen. Long leaders require BOBBER release prior to landing unless your arm can extend another 5 to 15 feet. A section of rubber band pulled through can allow sliding. Some people use a fixed knot plus a small bead "bobber-stopper". Pulling the toothpick still seems to work best with the long leaders.

In a new addition to Fly-fishing Rule One "Once you have the lifetime supply, a better product arrives", on Philip Rowley's Flycraftangling.com (members), a free site, he discusses such a new product. Quick Release Indicator ("corkie" looking bobber) with a hollow stopper with leader threaded through, jams a loop of leader and detaches from the fixed position when pulled due to a taper on the stopper. - Bob Griffin

FISHING SAWMILL LAKE - 2002

In early May 2002, I received a call from Dave McNall inviting me to go fishing on Sawmill Lake near Oliver,

British Columbia. Dave explained that by leaving at 4:00AM we could be fishing by late that afternoon. I had heard from friends in B.C. that the lake fishes well right after ice off. The fish were big and plentiful triploids. I was enthusiastic and accepted. We decided to go in Dave's pickup towing his tent trailer, and to bring our kick boats and plenty of chironomids for a week's stay. Dave said he would be getting weather reports from Omak, Washington, about 40 miles South.

I spent a delightful evening with the McNall family before departing about 5:00AM. Arriving mid-afternoon and buying our licenses in Oliver, we situated the trailer, inflated our boats, and went fishing. It was chillier than expected since the reports from Omak seemed to have nothing to do with Oliver, but we managed to catch a 5 or 6 nice fish.

The first night it fell to about 30 degrees, and I realized that Dave's tent didn't have heat, lights or running water. I got very little sleep in the bag that I brought, but we were up and at 'em by 10:00AM after breakfast and too much coffee. There were 6 or 8 B.C. fishermen, all using chironomids, and catching 8 to 10 fish for each one that we managed to catch. When we came in for lunch (and especially to get rid of the coffee) we had each hooked about 10 fish between 2 and 5 pounds. That night around the campfire we found out that the B.C. fishermen were using 15-foot leaders. It took until the second day to get a few samples of their successful flies, the ones they used to catch 25 to 50 fish per day with no exaggeration.

The second day Dave used a brown chironomid and I used a grey one from the flies we were given, plus we both used the correct length of leader, and we did really well. In B.C., a single person can use two rods at once in a boat, but only one fly per rod. I saw the B.C. fishermen often catching two fish at once, and I couldn't wait to get the second rod in use. Picture the fun we had, hooking two fish from 2 to 5 pounds at once from a kick boat. What a blast!

That night it got down to about 30 degrees, but with two extra bags from Dave and a wool cap I slept better. The next day we had sleet and hail, but that didn't deter us from great fishing. Another group from COF arrived and tied up flies for everyone from the samples. Bob Griffin put out a fantastic charcoaled butterfly leg of lamb. Late that night we heard strange noises. We didn't think too much of it until we heard some loud crashing. To our amazement our flashlights showed a couple of black bears rummaging about the campsite

attracted to the aroma of our dinner. They knocked over the broiler and were enjoying the leftover juices. We shouted and banged pots and pans from inside the tent camper and ran them off. However three of them returned an hour later for a repeat performance. Dave told me he didn't sleep at all knowing that the tent offered no protection if the bears searched further for food. After straightening up camp, more great meals,

and fishing, we left out nothing else to attract bears. Although we suffered through rain, sleet, hail and snow, none of it ruined our enjoyment of the food, fishing and camaraderie. The morning that Dave and I departed had beautiful sunshine, so we fished until noon and arrived in Bend very late. What a fabulous trip, and I'm certainly looking forward to doing it again. - Steve Sheldon

CONSERVATION CALENDAR - JUNE 2003

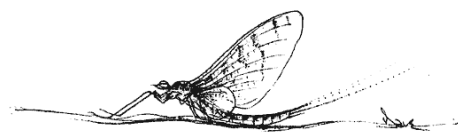
	DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	CONTACT
J U N	June 5, 6	Electro fish Crooked River Below Bowman Dam	Gene McMullen
	June 9-13	Steelhead Inventory, South Fork John Day River - <u>CAMPING</u>	Tommie Speik
	June 12, 13	Snorkel Lower Crooked River	Gene McMullen
	June 25-27	Electro fish Deep Creek & Tributaries Trapper Creek Weir Building and Bull Trout Relocations	Gene McMullen Gene McMullen
J U L		Tumalo Creek, Sampling of Redbands Above Falls	Gene McMullen
		Sampling of Trapper Creek and Basin Lakes for Brook Trout	Gene McMullen
A U G		Tumalo Creek, Sampling of Redbands Above Falls	Gene McMullen
		Sampling of Trapper Creek and Basin Lakes for Brook Trout	Gene McMullen
S E P T	Sept. 11, 12	Gill Net Ochoco Reservoir	Gene McMullen
	Sept. 15-19	Bull Trout Spawning Surveys, N. Fork Malheur & Headwaters, Stay at Crane Prairie Guard Station, Malheur N.F. - <u>CAMPING</u>	Tommie Speik
	Sept. 15	Deschutes Basin Bull Trout Spawning Surveys	Gene McMullen
	Sept. 18, 19	Rotenone Walton Lake (Bullhead Eradication)	Gene McMullen
	Sept. 24, 25	Electro Fish South Fork Crooked River	Gene McMullen
		Tumalo Creek, Sampling of Redbands Above Falls	Gene McMullen
		Trapper Creek Brook Trout Removal to Protect Bull Trout	Gene McMullen
	Sampling of Trapper Creek and Basin Lakes for Brook Trout	Gene McMullen	
O C T	October 1, 2	Gill Net Haystack Reservoir	Gene McMullen
	October 2, 3	Gill Net Prineville Reservoir	Gene McMullen
	October 15	Deschutes Basin Bull Trout Spawning Surveys	Gene McMullen
		Bull Trout Spawning Surveys, N. Fork Malheur & Headwaters, Stay at Crane Prairie Guard Station, Malheur N.F. - <u>CAMPING</u>	Tommie Speik

- Notes: 1. Electro shocking will first be attempted by angling and only then will electro shocking be done.
 2. Gill net surveys are non-lethal to trout in most instances and are done to determine the ratio of wild to hatchery trout and numbers of non-trout species.

UPSTREAM EVENTS - JUNE 2003

	DATE	EVENT/LOCATION	CONTACT
J U N	June 5	COF Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Environmental Center	Dan Driskill
	June 18	Membership Meeting, Central Oregon Board of Realtors, Scott Cook, "Fishing Our Local Lakes"	Dan Driskill
	June 19-28	COF British Columbia Outing	Gordon Chandler
J U L	July 3	COF Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Environmental Center	Dan Driskill
	July 16	Membership Meeting, Central Oregon Board of Realtors, Fly-casting Videos	Dan Driskill
	July 25-27	Blitzen & Steen's Mountain Outing	Gene McMullen
	July 25	Articles Due for News Letter	Harry Harbin
A U G	August 7	COF Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Environmental Center	Dan Driskill
	August 25	Articles Due for News Letter	Harry Harbin
	August 27	COF Annual Picnic in Lieu of Membership Meeting, Shevlin Park	John Burns
	August 28	East Lake Outing	Phil Hager, Earl Rettig
S E P T	Sept 3	Editors Birthday	Harry Harbin
	Sept 4	COF Board Meeting, 7:00PM, Environmental Center	Dan Driskill
	Sept 10	Middle Deschutes Outing	Tom Philiben
	Sept 17	Membership Meeting, Central Oregon Board of Realtors	Dan Driskill
	Sept 23-26	Kokanee Karnival Streamside	Phil Hager
	Sept 25	Articles Due for News Letter	Harry Harbin
Sept 26-28	Federation of Fly Fishers Fishing Enclave, Seaside Oregon	Phil Hager, Earl Rettig	
O C T	October 4	COF Board Retreat and Meeting	Dan Driskill
	October 15	Membership Meeting, Central Oregon Board of Realtors, Doyle Goolsby, "Basic Entomology for Fly Fishers"	Dan Driskill
	October 18	Metolius River Outing	Ron Anderson, Harry Harbin
	October 25	Articles Due for News Letter	Harry Harbin
	October 27	COF Budget Committee Meeting	Neal Buxton
N O V	November 6	COF Board Meeting, 7:00PM Environmental Center	Dan Driskill
	November 19	Membership Meeting and Election of Officers, Central Oregon Board of Realtors, Larry Timchak, Supervisor, Ochoco National Forest	Dan Driskill
	November 25	Articles Due for News Letter	Harry Harbin
D E C	December 2,9,16	Tuesday Night Fly Tying, Bend Trap Club	Harry Harbin
	December 4	COF Board Meeting and New Board Member Orientation, 7:00PM, Environmental Center	Dan Driskill
	December 19	Kokanee Karnival Steering Committee Meeting	Phil Hager
	December 17	Membership Meeting, Central Oregon Board of Realtors, COF Fly-tying Demonstration	Dan Driskill
	December 22	Articles Due for News Letter	Harry Harbin

"Success is Maintaining Your Enthusiasm Between Failures" - Contributed by Steve Sheldon



JOIN THE CENTRAL OREGON FLYFISHERS

Mail this completed application and check to:
THE CENTRAL OREGON FLYFISHERS • P.O. BOX 1126, BEND, OREGON 97709
and receive Club Logo Patch, Decal and Monthly Newsletter

FULL NAME (S): _____
member and partner

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: H: _____ W: _____ Occupation: _____

E-MAIL: _____

New 2003 Family or Single- \$36 Renewal by 12/31-\$30 Renewal After 12/31- \$36 Associate Member \$12.50

(Associate Membership Available Outside of Crook, Deschutes and Jefferson Counties.)

Former Member Address Change Only Check if You Do NOT Wish to Receive The Newsletter On the Web
But Want the Print Version Instead

Please check Interests: Acquire More Knowledge Find Fishing Partner Volunteer For Projects

Improve Fishing Techniques Social Functions List Other Interests on Back

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ DATE: _____

The Central Oregon Flyfishers
PO Box 1126
Bend, Oregon 97709

