



Organized in 1971, the Rogue Flyfishers seek to promote fellowship among individuals and groups to further interest in the sport, to improve angling techniques, and to educate members and the public in ways to preserve and improve natural resources, environment, and conditions for fishing in the Rogue Valley.

PROGRAM

**Here is hoping that all members
have the best holiday that is
available to them**

Merry Christmas!!

Rogue Flyfishers
PO Box 4637
Medford, Oregon 97501
www.rogueflyfishers.org

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			term
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**In partnership with
Temple Fork Outfitters**

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Steve Day

“A TIME OUT”



As Winter approaches, I hope this message finds all of you well and I extend my best wishes for the Holidays.

This last eight or nine months has been a challenge for so many folks. For those of us not seriously effected by the Pandemic or the wildfires, it still feels like we've been given “A TIME OUT” for something we had nothing to do with.

Put on restriction, locking down, placed in solitary confinement, whatever you wish to call, it's not what we live for. Too many have suffered. We are social creatures by nature, with our families, friends, acquaintances and often strangers. Many of us thrive by sharing and giving back. For many, a purpose filled life is a happy life and some of us do that through fly fishing. I for one miss it all, but it will not last forever. I anticipate it's return.

Normally I would be preparing a “Reflections” presentation for the dinner meeting this month. A look back at the wonderful moments of 2020 and chance to revisit some great times and people and even poke a little fun at a few. And yes, I do have some content. I guess I'll save that for later.

But even with all of the difficulties this year, there were many bright moments. Fishing was good if you got out there. Several of the Outings were well attended and with a little luck we can continue with those.

On the Conservation front, many positive things have recently happened. Locally, the removal of the Klamath dams took a step closer this last week when PacificCorp removed its' last objection to the proposed demolition. With FERC's anticipated approval, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation will begin the project with dam removal in 2023. Once completed, 420 miles of spawning habitat will once again be accessible to Anadromous Fishes. For more information, click here. www.klamathrenewal.org



Far up north, the proposed Pebble Mine project in the Bristol Bay area of Alaska was dealt a blow this last week when the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers rejected the Permit for the massive project by stating the project was “contrary to the public interest”. Bristol Bay is home to the largest population of Sockeye Salmon in the world.

And right here at home, major efforts are underway to restore the Bear Creek Greenway after the riparian corridor was ravaged by the storm of the Alameda Fire.

As with this and many things, progress is being made. We will again be able to do that which we enjoy in the manner we choose.

Best Wishes and Merry Christmas,



Dear RFF Member:

Thank you for your membership in 2020 and we would appreciate your renewing your membership for the coming year. All members that renew their 2021 membership by December 31, 2020 will be entered into a special raffle.

The raffle winner will be honored with a very special fly rod and reel. A second winner will be awarded flies tied by the Fly Tiers. The raffle will be held January 20, 2021.

To renew your membership go to www.rogueflyfishers.org and look to the right under Electronic Membership application or renewal and click on pay with PayPal.

Complete the form and the press submit to continue to payment, or, if you prefer, you can fill out the form below and U.S. mail the form and check to

Rogue Flyfishers, PO Box 4637, Medford, OR, 97501.

Any questions, please contact Don Dabney at drdabney49@gmail.com.

Rogue Flyfishers Membership Renewal-2021

Name: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____

Zip: _____ Email: _____

Should you not want your email address in the club directory, check here: _____

If this is a family membership, list family member's names:

Best Contact Telephone Number: _____

Monthly Newsletter - Please indicate your preference: Mailed ___ or Electronically ___

Are you a member of Fly Fishers International: Yes ___ or No ___

(Membership Dues-Circle One) Individual: \$35. Family: \$45.

Junior (Under 18): \$5. Honorary Life Member: \$0

Dues Amount Enclosed: \$ _____
(Please make check payable to Rogue Flyfishers)

Rogue Flyfishers, PO Box 4637, Medford, OR, 97501
www.rogueflyfishers.org

Fishermen, Conservationists Go to Court Over Outlaw Dam

CONTACT:

Jim McCarthy, WaterWatch of Oregon, 541-708-0048, jim@waterwatch.org

Dilapidated, high-hazard Winchester Dam is harming fish, water quality, and livelihoods

Court filing available here: <https://waterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/2020.11.06-Winchester-complaint-Final.pdf>

Winchester Dam fact sheet available here: <https://waterwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/WINCHESTER-DAM-FACT-SHEET-FINAL-11-10-20.docx>

Steamboaters, WaterWatch of Oregon, and the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations filed litigation in federal court last week to end harm caused by the Winchester Water Control District's operation and maintenance of the Winchester Dam in the North Umpqua River. The allied fishing and conservation organizations allege that the District's 130-year-old dam – maintained to provide motorized flatwater boating exclusively for about 200 private landowners – causes damage to struggling salmon runs while impeding access to 160 miles of high quality habitat. The groups' challenge deals specifically with the delay, injury, or killing of protected Oregon Coast Coho salmon by the dam's outdated and poorly maintained fish ladder, by the District's repeated unpermitted dam repair activities, and by the overwhelming number of leaks through the crumbling wood, concrete, and steel structure. Earthjustice, a public interest environmental law firm, represents the groups.

The 450-foot wide, 17-foot tall dam is the second highest ranked privately-owned structure on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Statewide Fish Passage Priority List, where it is noted for impeding passage for spring Chinook, fall Chinook, summer steelhead, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific Lamprey, as well as Coho. Winchester Dam is categorized as "high hazard" by the Oregon Department of Water Resources, primarily due to likely loss of life in the case of dam failure among the people who frequent the river, parks, and boat ramps just downstream. In 2019, state officials downgraded the dam's condition to "poor," requested that the District hire an engineer to conduct the first comprehensive inspection of the structure since 1987, and address known safety issues. The people, property, and public infrastructure of the North Umpqua River below Winchester Dam are also at unacceptable risk of harm or death because the District ignored repeated requests over years to update their Emergency Action Plan as required under statute.

Winchester Dam came under greater scrutiny by fishing and conservation groups statewide after pollution from a 2018 dam repair killed numerous young salmon and steelhead and harmed the primary drinking water source for 37,700 people. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality levied a \$58,378 fine after finding that the repairs were conducted without following established best management practices, even after state and federal agencies provided information in advance on how to protect water quality and fish. Since then, the District has rejected a 2019 offer to contribute \$8,000 in engineering services to improve fish ladder function, and a 2020 offer to raise the funds necessary to remove the decaying dam at little to no direct cost to the owners.

"For over 50 years the Steamboaters have led successful efforts to protect and restore the North Umpqua's important cool water and spawning and rearing habitat for salmon and steelhead, and most of that habitat is above Winchester Dam," said Tim Goforth, Steamboaters Board President. "The more we learn about this old dam the worse it gets. The fact that every salmon and steelhead passing over this dam risks injury or death by exposed rebar, eroded concrete, or a pollution spill negates our work to protect fish habitat upstream."

"From our perspective, this isn't just about protecting Coho salmon from an irresponsible dam owner," said Glen Spain, Northwest Regional Director for PCFFA. "This is about protecting coastal fishing communities where thousands of good paying jobs, millions of pounds of annual seafood production, and a treasured way of life depends on healthy salmon runs."

"The North Umpqua River is vital to Oregon's economy and quality of life but faces serious challenges due to dams, climate change, population growth, and other impacts," said Jim McCarthy, Southern Oregon Program Director for WaterWatch. "Winchester Water Control District's fish-killing, dangerous, and obsolete dam provides no flood control, hydropower, or water supply function except to back up the river for a private waterski lake. It's long past time to end the needless harm this dam causes to invaluable natural resources."

RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripple

Thank you to John Kreft - RiverKeeperRiverKeeper flies for this flyer. Visit his website <https://www.johnkreft.com/>



The RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripple attempts to emulate this profile

And a Blue Wing Olive (BWO) version of the fly pattern.



And here are a few real Mayfly Cripples...note the profile of the wings laying flat in the water.

Lastly, a March Brown

Materials

Hook: TMC 102Y #13 – 19 or any standard dry fly hook

Thread: 8/0 brown, tan, yellow (PMD), olive dun, march brown or black

Body: Superfine dubbing to match insect

Thorax: Zelon – mayfly brown, olive brown, dun

Hackle: Hungarian partridge, mallard

The RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripple is a style of fly that can be used for any mayfly cripple. Coordinate the thread and body color.

Directions:

1. Start thread on hook and advance to barb.
2. Dub slim tapered body forward to a position 2 eye lengths back from eye.
3. Tie in zelon on top of hook at thorax area. Tie in securely with 5 wraps as zelon is slick. Trim about 1/3 length of body.
4. Prepare a soft hackle feather by pulling off the excess fluff. Feather length should be to the hook point, or slightly longer.
5. Tie the feather in by the tips just behind the eye of the hook.
6. After securing the feather on the hook with the shiny side forward, hold the shaft and bend towards eye of hook. This begins to break the shaft. Hold the shaft up, moisten fingers and squeeze or “fold” the barbules so they are perpendicular to the shaft. This action forces the barbs backwards and prevents over-wrapping of barbs.
7. Wrap the feather forward with a wrap in front of a wrap. Over hackle the fly – a typical soft hackle uses 1 1/2 turns of hackle. Use 2 or 3 turns of hackle to complete the fly (larger flies may need 3 to 4 turns).
8. Tie off the thick shaft on the side to fill in the space and create a small head. Trim stem.
9. Sweep hackles backward and add a few thread wraps to make small head.
10. Whip finish.

Notes

The RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripple is a style of fly that can be used for any mayfly cripple. Coordinate the thread and body color.

Materials

Hook: Alec Jackson Soft Hackle, TMC 102Y, or any standard dry fly hook

Thread: 8/0 brown, tan, yellow (PMD), olive dun, march brown or black

Body: Superfine dubbing to match insect

Thorax: Zelon – mayfly brown, olive brown, dun

Hackle: Hungarian partridge, mallard

The challenge in making an effective fly is to find the appropriate hackle for the fly. The challenge in making an effective fly is to find the appropriate hackle for the fly. Early in the fly development, I used Hungarian partridge almost exclusively. Since then, I've experimented with chukar, duck (mallard, green teal), jackdaw, starling, golden plover, or any other upland game bird. Most recently, I've settled on the shoulder feathers from mallard wings for PMDs and Green Drake RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripples to match the dun colored wing of the natural. (See my post Preparing Hackle for Soft Hackle Flies)

Fishing the fly

Traditional soft hackles are usually swung as a wet fly. I use it as a “dry fly/cripple” and try to fish it with a dead drift.

Get the fly wet and apply Frogs Fanny on it.

so the fly sits in the film.

It looks like a cripple at this point. When brushing on the Frogs Fanny, push the hackle back to get the hackle to stand up. Also apply Frogs Fanny to the body. If it sinks, put on more Frogs Fanny

Comparable hooks – I created a post entitled Comparable Fly Fishing Hooks where I discussed using Daiichi hooks instead of TMC 102y for this fly. Don't get me wrong, I like the Tiemco hook, but wanted to find a Daiichi hook I could use and Alec Jackson hooks are made by Daiichi.

Tiemco 102y size 15 = Alec Jackson Soft Hackle size 11

Tiemco 102y size 17 = Alec Jackson Soft Hackle size 13

Tiemco 102y size 19 = Alec Jackson Soft Hackle size 15.

(Note: both of the hooks listed above come only in odd sizes, not the even size you may be used to.)

I looked at the Alec Jackson North Country hook which is a slightly heavier hook, so I settled on the 1X fine wire Alec Jackson Soft Hackle hook.

You can certainly use a dry fly hook, but if you do, I'd recommend a 1X short. A Daiichi 1310 or Dai Riki 305 would fit the bill. Using a 1X short hook will give you a wider hook gape.

I hope it helps.

RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripple

Chili Feed Cancelled, but Other Outings Planned for 2021

The Rogue Flyfishers and Southern Oregon Fly Fishers traditionally celebrate the New Year with a chili feed at the Holy Water on New Year's Day. With the surge in COVID cases and the resulting restrictions, we will not be holding the event this year. While it is disappointing to have to call off the chili feed, we want to keep our members safe and comply with the rules.

We are still planning to hold outings in 2021 as conditions and regulations allow. We are hoping to have an outing to the coast to fish for winter steelhead on January 30 and 31. I will have more information about this in the January newsletter. Hopefully, with the promise of vaccines on the way, we will be able to resume more clubs activities in the coming months. In the meantime, I hope everyone stays well and enjoys the holidays.

David Haight, Outings Chair

FFI Oregon Clubs,

No Fly Tying Expo this year got me thinking about how to give us something to hang on to.

I am having Zoom tying classes starting DEC 3rd and going every Thursday evening skipping Xmas and new year's until the end of April. Feel free to invite all your club members to join the classes. Have them send me an email and I will add them to my distribution list.

Sherry 541-420-5532 (email: steelefly@msn.com)

Sherry Steele lives in Sisters, Oregon. Sherry has been fly-fishing and tying for 19 years and has been a demonstration tyer and instructor at many fly-fishing and tying events throughout the western states.

She is past president (11 yrs.) of the Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International and is the Chairperson for the NW Fly Fishing & Fly Tying Expo <http://www.nwflytyerexpo.com/> in Albany, OR in March 2022.

In 2009 Sherry started The Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild, FFI Charter Club. The club, ties all types of fly patterns for fresh water and whose charter is to teach fly tying and donate framed flies to non-profit conservation minded organizations for their fundraisers. Membership to the guild club is free for 2020. All the 20 winter classes are also free.

Sherry Steele is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Thursday Dec 3rd 2020 5:00PM -7:00PM

The first fly will be the Riverkeeper Soft Hackle Cripple.

Welcome to Winter “ZoomTying” class Dec 3rd 2020 5:00PM-7:00PM presented by Central Oregon Fly Tyers Guild (COFTG) an FFI Charter Club in the Oregon Council of Fly Fishers International.

The first class will be introduction to winter zoom tying classes and the setup. We will be tying soft hackle flies fished dry. We encourage you to tie along as the pattern will be tied several times using different materials to represent several bugs.

Instructor: Sherry Steele

Sherry Steele lives in Sisters, Oregon. Sherry has been fly-fishing and tying for 19 years and has been a demonstration tyer and instructor at many fly-fishing and tying events throughout the western states.

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Sherry Steele is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting. Thursday Dec 3rd 2020 5:00PM -7:00PM

Topic: Sherry Steele's Personal Meeting Room

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7648402522?pwd=QUFzdTIDZ2hqaU92TWExdjFQWFFHQT09>

Meeting ID: 764 840 2522

Passcode: 11112020

One tap mobile

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+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 764 840 2522

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kdjb6QcWXH>



JACKSON/JOSEPHINE COUNTIES, OREGON
P.O. BOX 4637
MEDFORD, OR 97501

Support Your Local Fly Fishing Resources

The Ashland Fly Shop	399 E. Main Street at Third, Ashland	541-488-6454
Field & Stream	293 Rossanley Drive Medford	541-930-3254
The Fishin' Hole	21873 Hwy 62, Shady Cove	541-878-4000
Rogue Fly Shop	941 SE 6th St, Grants Pass	541-476-0552
Rogue Valley Anglers	218 E. Main St., Medford	541-973-2988
Sportsman's Warehouse	1710 Delta Waters Road Medford	541-732-3700

Jim Ulm, Rogue River Steelhead and Trout Guide, (541) 973-6250 jimulm9@msn.com

Rogue Fly Fishers membership **Application** and membership **Renewal Form**

Applying ___ or renewing ___ as (check one): **Individual** ___ (\$35.00), **Family** ___ (\$45.00), or **Junior** ___ (under 18, \$5.00) Member.
*(Note: New members joining Rogue Fly Fishers before June 30th pay a full year dues; **new** members joining after June 30th pay half dues.*
Dues accompany your application. With membership, you will receive a member's patch, membership directory, name badge, and letter of further information and welcome. Monthly dinner meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month with a social Wet Fly from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. followed by dinner with raffle, announcements and club business, and program until approximately 9:00 p.m.

Renew in December for the following year.

Name: _____ . If a family membership,

List Family Member's Names _____

Address _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip code** _____

Best Contact Telephone Numbers: Area Code _____ **Number** _____

(2nd best) **Number** _____

E-mail Address: _____

If you do not want your e-mail address in the membership directory, check here ___

Member Federation of Fly Fishers? Yes ___ No ___

Prefer using the **Online Newsletter** ___ or by **US Mail** ___?

Amount enclosed _____. Mail completed form and payment to:

Rogue Fly Fishers, PO Box 4637, Medford, Oregon 97501