The Oregon Fly Fisher Winter 2008 web edition

The newsletter of the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers

Come Join the Fun at the 20th Annual Fly Tyers and Fly **Fishing Expo**

By Mary Ann Dozer, Jim Fisher, and Dwight Klemin

When: March 7& 8, 2008 Where: Linn County Expo Center, Albany, OR

The Expo committee announces the schedule of classes and events being offered at NW Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo 2008. Building on last year success of "Educational Extravagance", we are expanding our educational class offering with the addition of the Santiam Building. The Expo now has 7 dedicated classrooms, a Destination Theatre, Youth Program area, 72 tying positions, vendor booths, 2 practice casting ponds, and a fly-casting tournament sponsored by Brain O'Keefe.

Many classes from last year are being offered again and new classes have been developed to help you in your fly-fishing and tying. The web site has the full description for each class and information about the fly-casting tournament.

The future of fly-fishing of tomorrow starts with our youth today. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is partnering with the FFF to target youth education. This year's dedicated youth area is a great step towards building a solid partnership and future for fly-fishing. ODFW Anger Education Program is extensive and with the addition of Oregon's FFF Fly-fishing component, youth education will play a major role in Expo 2008.

Again this year, Expo 2008 showcases 72 tying stations. Award winning tyers, celebrity tyers and local talented tyers all contribute to make this year's event a great place to be on March 7th and 8th. It is a time to sit across from great tyers, talk and soak in tons of knowledge. Make plans now to attend and register early so you won't be left in the cold.

Visit our site at: www.nwflytyerexpo.com to learn more about the Expo and to sign up for classes.

Thanksgiving time: status Report

170 different tyers have registered to be here. (We expect 200 will be registered by end of December. There are several new faces this year, which is exciting.)

Live auction items are already being gathered:

Wasatch tools – has donated a 32 wood inlayed tying tool set in a hand carved box – we have issue 1 of 4.

Four fishing trips have been donated and have promises of more.

Four art pieces – one is from Dave Allred (sculptor), Dave has donated some great art pieces for the National Conclave in 1980's because of health had to stop. He is now back and catch up with Sherry Steele and I in Redding. CA at the Northern California show and wanted to come to the Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo and is donating a magnificent piece.

John Shewey's spey plate is in progress-the pattern Miss Jackson.

The Salmon Fly Saturday Group for Rich Youngers shop is doing another classic salmon fly plate.

The Expo Committee and Keith Burkhart are putting together a Poster plate with the help of some invited tiers who tied at the first NW Fly Tyers expo 20 year ago.

As you can see with all the classes and a casting tournament this is adding up to be a exciting show – Hope everyone can be present.

Jim Fisher - Chair

2008 Meeting Dates

January 13th
April 13th
July 13th
October 12th

Meeting to be held at Red Lion Inn on Coburg in Eugene

Newsletter publication dates
January 10
April 10
July 10
October 10

Please submit any articles to <u>flyfishingphil@yahoo.com</u> no later than 45 days prior to publication date for review.

Presidents Message

Tilda Runner, Pres. ORCFFF

"A **volunteer** is someone who serves in a community or for the benefit of natural environment primarily because they choose to do so. (definition from Wikipedia.org)

We are volunteers. Our clubs and the FFF are organizations made up of volunteers. We volunteer for the benefit of the natural environment through our conservation projects. We volunteer for service in a community through our education projects.



I am impressed with all of the work that you do. There's a Kokanee Karnival in Bend. There are salmon carcasses being tossed into countless rivers and streams throughout Oregon. School kids are learning how to tie flies around the state. Sea-run cutthroats are protected from from over-harvest on the coast. Women with breast cancer, men with cancer and veterans are taught a new lifelong skills. Barriers to fish passage have been removed from streams in Southern Oregon. All of these things have occurred because of volunteers.

The Oregon Council uses volunteers to do further the causes of the FFF at the state level. These volunteers come from the clubs and non-affiliated FFF members. We are in need of some of your volunteer hours. We have coming up in March the NW Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo. The Expo depends on volunteers to make it run smoothly. This year's chief volunteer is Jim Fisher, the Expo Chair. We still need volunteers to be tier hosts, education hosts, auction and raffle workers. Some clubs have already stepped up and volunteered: Santiam Fly Fishers are running the silent auction. The Stonefly Maidens and She Who Fly Fishes are at the registration desk. Mid-Willamette Fly Fishers will be teaching new fly tyers agaiin. Linn-Benton Fly Fishers and Central Coast Fly Fishers are helping to set up the facilities before the event. Southern Oregon Fly Fishers are answering all your questions at the FFF booth. Umpqua Valley Fly Fishers are hosting fly tyers. If your club hasn't been listed, contact me. All clubs who participate get a table where they can show off their club and provide information about membership. The monies raised at the Expo are available to all clubs in the Council to continue the great volunteer work that you do.

There are a couple of other opportunities to volunteer. The Council has been invited to head up the Fly Fishing Interest area at the Oregon Dental Association Conference in Portland at the beginning of April. We will need volunteers to demonstrate fly tying, to answer questions about fly fishing and to teach casting. The other opportunity is at any of the Sportsmen's Shows this Spring, especially the one in Portland in February. We are especially looking for FFF members who can give information about the FFF and fly fishing.

I appreciate all of the volunteers who make the clubs and the FFF work. I know that you will continue to do the great volunteer work that you are doing. I have just one more thing to ask. Let the Council and the national office know what you are doing. Toot your own horns, you deserve it!

NW Fly Tyers and Fly Fishing Expo

Come and experience the largest offering of fly-fishing classes in the Pacific Northwest. Classes offered include: casting, fly fishing techniques, fly fishing destinations, and fly tying. To sign up for a class go to the web site: www.nwflytyerexpo.com/. If you do not have internet access contact Dwight Klemin at: 503.390.8997



When:
March 7& 8,
2008
Where:
Linn County
Expo Center
Albany, OR

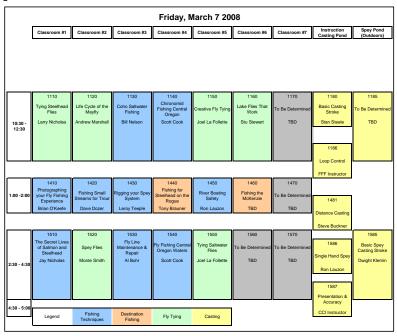
2008 NW Fly Tver Expo

Class Fees:

- \$10 for 1 hour class
- \$20 for 2 hour class

Check the Web Site for the Most Recent Class Schedule

Version 12-10-07



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Check the Web Site for the Most Recent Class Schedule Classroom #1 Classroom #2 Classroom #2 Classroom #3 Classroom #4 Classroom #5 Classroom #5 Classroom #6 Classroom #7 Class

Saturday, March 8 2008

Version 12-10-07

Good Man Gone Fishing

Many of you knew Al Brunell through Federation of Fly Fishermen events. The day before Thanksgiving, he crossed the divide to fish the other side. In truth, many others can claim a stronger bond to Al. I don't claim him as a best friend or a good fishing buddy or even a close associate. He wasn't even a member of my home club, Mid Willamette Fly Fishers. He was just a good man whom I am honored to have known.

Al Brunell was affiliated with a fly fishing club in southern Oregon. He was a state trooper down around Medford for several decades before retiring to the Corvallis area. So, it's only natural that his associations continued with that club.

I met Al in the mid 90's, when I attended my first FFF Fly tying Expo in Eugene. He was a tyer at the show and I subsequently learned that he tied for profit and had a large clientele who would accept no substitutes. I was instantly comfortable with Al. He was that kind of fellow. I don't recall what we talked about at that first meeting. I only know that as I encountered Al at each subsequent Expo, he seemed like an old friend.

A few years ago, I became aware that some of the folks I fished with were gathering after work at Al's place to tie flies and discuss flyfishing-related topics on a weekly basis. I managed to wheedle an invite to join the enterprise and showed up full of excitement at the next gathering. It was just fly tying-- but in a magical place.

Al was a collector of Fly Fishing Art with sophisticated taste. His entire shop (a garage, converted into a fly tying chapel) was appointed with stunningly beautiful works of art. There were so many that more than half were carefully stacked in corners or set aside waiting to be put on display when space became available. I think I tied one fly that first visit. I was in awe. And, that awe never faded in the subsequent years of fly tying sessions.

It is impossible to put into words the experience of tying in Al's shop. The beauty of the art surrounding us-- the shelves full of totes packed with fly tying materials; so vast it seemed to rival Bob Borden's warehouse-- the anecdotes, tips, jokes, and banter-- and, not to be forgotten, the cookies provided by Al's wife, Letha. These things all roll up into warm memories relived while hunched over the vise on icy winter nights. Al, you will be missed by all who knew you. But, you left us richer for the knowing. And for that, we salute you.

When I think of Al, I remember the beauty with which he surrounded himself. He was a true connoisseur of art. But more than that, he was a patron of the arts. Al collected most of his works at the auctions that are ever-present at FFF events. He supported the FFF. He supported the artists who created the beauty. And, he supported the Personalities of the Fly Fishing World who tied the flies, built the rods, and told the stories that were incorporated into the art he collected. He recognized valuable contributions to our sport

and he did his part to see that they were appreciated and preserved. He set an example for the rest of us.

Al left a lasting legacy of participation, appreciation, and preservation of our avocation and the many facets of this sport. He set the path before us. We would cheapen our experience of the piscatorial pursuit if we didn't follow it. It would be wonderful if an endowment or even a recognition could be set up in Al's name to acknowledge those individuals who significantly further the appreciation of Fly Fishing Art-- either through their contributions of art or through their advocating for it. How about it, FFF?

-- Charley Renn

W.I.I.F.M.

Newsletter changes

At the October ORCFFF Board meeting, it was decided that the monies spent on the newsletter could be better used elsewhere like education and conservation. With that discussion the decision was made to reduce the number of copies mailed out to just the Oregon FFF members with 10 copies to each of the member clubs. This will have a definite savings on newsletter expenses and leave more money available for use elsewhere.

With that reduction in printing, the newsletter will be posted on the website, with a little luck, before the hard copy hits the mailboxes. Since that is part of the Board plan, it was decided that we offer the option of receiving a newsletter notification via email. If you would rather receive the email version, and reduce the use of paper and cost even further, just send an email to flyfishingphil@yahoo.com and he'll put you on the email list. (Available to anyone on the ORCFFF member club lists.)

Another option is to join the FFF and receive both the National and the Oregon Council newsletters. To join online go to: http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4498, or let our membership VP, Mary Ann Dozer, know you want the forms. (NOTE: \$15 membership, with affiliate clubs, special continues until April 15th. \$10 for 100% membership clubs until June 30th.)

What am I worth?

In the President's message, there are some good points about what volunteers accomplish, but what is your time worth? I did some checking around and here is something for you to think about when considering doing a job as a volunteer.

I found out that your time does have a value on it regarding what it would cost to have the same work done by a paid employee. The website, http://www.independentsector.org

lists the "value" of volunteers, primarily for charitable organizations, both by "national average" and state-by-state. The "value", in Oregon, is \$16.14/hour for 2006.

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With that in mind I ask that each club send me a report on the number of hours put in by club members on conservation projects for 2007. It would be nice to see what the value of all of the time spent is worth to Oregon. I'll post the report in the newsletter when I have it figured out.

If you are interested in fishing or hunting, want to help improve either, or wondering how you can help out, contact your local ODFW office and talk to one of the fish or wildlife biologists. Let them know you are interested in helping out and see what you can do. Your time is valuable, both to you and to the agency that you assist.

Phil Hager, Editor

The Value of the Clouser The Clouser Deep Minnow

Jay W. Nicholas

Winter is a great season to tie flies and dream of the season to come, so why not tie-up

ten or twelve dozen Clousers for the year to come?



Clousers from 4 - 8 cm will suit most species here in Oregon.

I tend to think of Clousers as superior flies to fish for Chinook salmon, but I know anglers here in Oregon who fish a variety of this fly for Silvers, Blueback, Browns, Bull trout, Bass, Black Rockfish, Lingcod, and Albacore. The Clouser is an extremely versatile fly that can be tied in a wide range of sizes and colors to suit the feeding preferences of many fish species. Plenty of books and Internet sites describe how Bob Clouser began working with lead barbell eyes in 1984 to develop this fly species. An article in the *FFF Flyfisher* (Spring 2007, page 42) nicely describes a pink version of the Clouser. Only very basic fly-tying skills are needed to create a Clouser, but every tyer can add a dash of finesse and develop a signature-style in this fly.

First, a little story that illustrates why I think this fly deserves your attention. My dear friend Ed, who rarely prepares for a fishing trip, was being hosted on the Salmonberry River not so long ago. The Salmonberry River represents a pilgrimage for wild winter steelhead: a place where one should wade slowly and speak reverently about the art of fly-rod steelheading.

Creeping up to a rocky vantage point, my buddy and his host sure-enough spotted a big heavy buck steelhead laying in a run. Ed's host, beaming with pride and generosity, offered Ed an articulated leech to show the fish. Good fly choice for cold winter water. But *no*. Not *my* buddy. Ed politely glanced at the fly in his host's hand, then turned to examine the fleece patch on his vest. This wool fly patch, you should know, provides a home for every odd fly Ed has fished, pulled out of a tree, or found in the dirt over the last decade. After a short deliberation, he smiled and selected a faded, chewed-on, chartreuse Clouser. *This ought to work*. Think about it. A chartreuse and white, salmon-size fly swinging through the ice clear Salmonberry. Ed's host, mortified, never-the-less managed to keep a straight face.

Naturally, the fly did work; the fish moved deliberately to inhale a fly that did not belong on the Salmonberry – not in March, *not ever*. Just goes to show how much we know about steelhead.

Clouser Basics: Hooks

A size 2 hook will provide a good foundation to polish your Clouser tying skills. Freshwater hooks should be bronze (so they will rust into oblivion), saltwater hooks should be stainless or tinned (so they will last for more than a few casts). Use ring eye hooks if possible.

Thread – I use white or chartreuse 140 Denier Ultra Thread. Avoid thread that is too fine (it takes a zillion wraps to cover the head) or too thick (bulky heads). Clouser heads can be tied in any color you find pleasing.

Eye Placement – Tie-in the barbell behind the eye about 1/3 of the hook shank-length. About 1 cm should be just about right. If the barbells are too close to the hook eye, you will have a tough time tying in the belly and back.

Flash –Flash is not essential, but I use it. Krystal Flash and Flashabou work very well. The standard is to extend the flash a little longer than the back and belly of the fly. The

flash on low-water Clousers should be thin and short. Tie your fly with the flash very long, then cut it about an inch behind the hair after the head is finished.

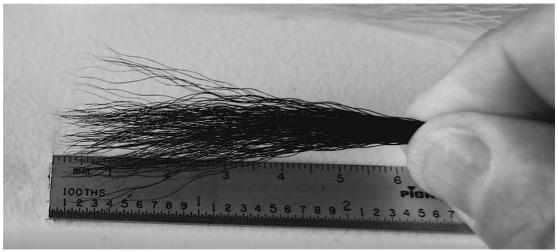
Cement – The best way to anchor barbells is to wrap your thread around the base of the eyes after making a dozen figure-eight wraps over the top. This technique works. Use your favorite cement, whatever it is. An epoxy head is a very nice touch, but is not essential.

Materials for Bellies and Backs – Start with Bucktail. Buy good ones. Look for hair that doesn't have many broken tips, hair that is not too wispy or crinkly. The *belly* of the Clouser is the white or lighter hair that will be on the underside of the fly as it swims; the *back* is the darker hair that rides up as the fly swims.

Stacking hair – try to stack the hair using a very large stacker. If you don't stack your hair, even-up the tips a little by pulling out the longest and shortest hair from the bundle you have cut. After you have tied with Bucktail, move on and experiment with synthetics and other natural hairs.

Production – Tie three or four dozen of a single-size Clouser at a time. First tie on the barbells, cement the thread, and let 'em dry for a day. Repetition will yield more consistent proportions and improve the overall appearance of the finished fly.

Tying in the Belly and Back – Cut the belly and back material to size first, instead of tying-in the material and then trimming excess hair. Pre-cutting material reduces the time it takes to tie each fly. Tie the belly in first, turn the hook over, and tie in the back to finish the fly.



Measuring your Bucktail will produce more consistent fly proportions.

Favorite Colors

A chartreuse and white Clouser is my first choice for Chinook, but I fish a wide range of sizes and colors, because there are circumstances where different colors will be more effective. Clear water and spooky fish call for more subtle colors and smaller flies. Here are some effective color combinations.

Note: Colors are listed from the back to the belly.

• Chartreuse/White

- Purple/White
- Blue/White
- Orange/White
- Pink/White

My first-ever Clouser was a mess. It only vaguely resembled a Clouser. But in the middle of the afternoon, in a gentle rain shower, I hooked-up with a chrome bright Chinook salmon. There it was – the slow, powerful head-shake that means it's a fair hook-up.

In the finest tradition of solo salmon fishing, I pulled the bow anchor with the rod clamped between my legs, pointing toward the salmon. Then I turned around to pull the stern anchor and put the rod between my legs again, still pointing downstream toward the salmon. If you have never tried this little trick, be prepared for some fun. The Chinook arced through the air, chest-high, gleaming impossibly silver in the afternoon light. Out of nowhere a seal-head appeared. Trust me, there was a seal body attached to the cute little head. That got my attention. *Uh-oh*. Two seal-heads surfaced and submerged within ten yards of my salmon. Yes, I had begun to think of the great fish as *my salmon*. A little presumptuous. Our Chinook took-off downriver then, with all three of us in pursuit. I figured the game was up.

Ever had a full fly line and 300 yards of backing out? That was the first and only time I have. It took forever to reel all that line onto the spool again, hoping that the salmon and I were still connected. Know what? That fish had pulled into the shallows, her back out of water, and I slid my first Clouser-caught Chinook ashore.

Thrilled beyond imagination, I rowed upriver past another fly-fisher in the pool, and we introduced ourselves. Bill was chatty. What fly did you use? *Clouser*, I replied. What color? I spilled all the details: *Polar-White belly, Hot Pink sides, and a Kingfisher Blue back*.

Next morning Bill and I were out on the water again and he hooked-up. Seconds after landing his salmon, Bill was on his cell phone. A gentle breeze carried his voice over the water. He didn't know that I could hear every word. *Yeah*, Bill here. *Yeah*, the fish are in. *Yeah*, you won't believe it. No competition. No wind. Get up here right now man. Tonight. Tomorrow morning. Just get up here. Clouser. *Yeah*, it's a special pattern I tie – Polar White belly, Hot Pink sides, Kingfisher Blue back. *Yeah man*, it's happening right now, you'd better get up here.

Really.



This is what the Clouser is all about – and this is a classic Clouser bite, in the upper jaw, about 1/3 of the way between the snout and the corner of the mouth.

Hooked on Fishing for Kids

By Mary Ann Dozer





Dwight demonstrates the roll cast.

The kids get a chance to learn the clinch knot with Dwight and Lou.



Mike observes as the girls go wild tying wooly buggers.

It seems in Oregon you're never too young or too old to pick up a fishing rod and head out to the nearest lake, river or stream. With the help of numerous volunteers, a grant from the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, and educational material from the Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, the kids at the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis had a chance to learn how to fish and go fishing!

Hooked on Fishing is a new program at the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis that enables young people to learn all aspects of fishing. Classes were held in August and October. Topics covered included learning abut where fish live, what they eat, and how to tie knots. The kids had an opportunity to learn how to cast and tie flies to prepare them for the culminating fly fishing field trip. Over 30 kids and 10 parents joined in for a day of fishing at Leaburg Lake and Walter Wirth Lake.

It was a joy watching the faces light up, young and old, with every new skill learned. The volunteers got a chance to share their passion with the kids. And most importantly the kids had the opportunity to enjoy nature and the relaxation of outdoor pursuits.

The long term vision at the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis is to offer a variety of outdoor programs for school age youth across Corvallis. Providing a variety of outdoor activities such as fishing creates an opportunity to get kids participating in a life long hobby that they will share with their families.

If you would like to conduct a similar event at your local Boys & Girls Club, or volunteer at the Boys & Girls Club of Corvallis please contact Mary Ann Dozer at mdozer@bgcccorvallis.org.

Thank you to the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers for the Grant. Special thanks to Chris Willard & Darlene Sprecher of ODFW and Dwight Klemin VP Education Oregon FFF for their leadership in making the program a success.

Most importantly thank you to the volunteers: Mike Crickmer, Dave Dozer, Marilyn Girdler, Karen Hans, Roger Koeinging, Ryon McHuron, Charlie Renn, Richard Thomas, and Lou Verdugo. Without your time and passion this program would not have been possible.

Special Alert

I recently received notice that Eurasian Milfoil has been identified in East Lake, Central Oregon.

If you are fishing East Lake make sure that all plant debris is removed from any flotation before leaving the lake area so it is not transported to other waters.

For more information you can go to:

www.ecy.wa.gov/PROGRAMS/WQ/plants/weeds/milfoil.html

At the bottom of the info page you can click on a choice for more technical info.

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The ORCFFF Board of Directors consists

VP of Membership, Mary Ann Dozer VP of Conservation, Phil Hager

VP of Communications, Phil Hager Salmon/Steelhead Chair Tony Brauner

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NOTE:

100% membership clubs can appoint a club rep to the Board of Directors.
Affiliate clubs can nominate a rep and ask for Board approval of that rep. All club reps must be members of the FFF.

Oregon Council Clubs

Angler's Club of Portland

PO Box 9235 Portland, OR 97207

*Blue Mountain Fly Casters

43470 Hackamore Trail Pendleton, OR 97801 http://bluemtnflycasters.org

Cascade Family Fly Fishers

PO Box 5384 Eugene, OR 97405 www.cascadefamilyflyfishers. com

Central Coast Fly Fishers

935 SW Skyline Terrace Waldport, OR 97394

Central Oregon Flyfishers

PO Box 1126 Bend, OR 97701 www.coflyfishers.org

Clackamas Fly Fishers

21330 Weidler Circle Fairview, OR 97024 www.clackamasflyfishers.org

Klamath County Fly Casters

PO Box 324 Klamath Falls ,OR 97601

*Knot-Me-Leaders

2120 Robins Lane #20 Salem, OR 97302

Linn-Benton Family Fly Fishers

1524 S. Main Lebanon, OR 97355

Lower Umpqua Fly

Casters

PO Box 521 Reedsport, OR 97467 www.lower-umpquaflycasters.org

McKenzie Fly Fishers

PO Box 10865
Eugene, OR 97440
www.mckenzieflyfishers.org

Mid-Willamette Fly

Fishers

PO Box 22 Corvallis, OR 97330 www.ovra.com/mwff

*North Santiam Spey

Casters

1077 Nona Ave. NW Salem, OR 97302

Northwest Fly Fishers

PO Box 656 Troutdale, OR 97060 www.nwflyfishers.org

Rainland Fly Casters

PO Box 1045
Astoria, OR 97103
www.rainlandflycasters.homes
tead.com

Rogue Fly Fishers

PO Box 4637 Medford, OR 97501 http://rogueflyfishers.org

Santiam Fly Casters

PO Box 691 Salem, OR 97308 www.santiamflycasters.com

*She Who Fly Fishes

511 Union St. The Dalles, OR 97058

Southern Oregon Fly

Fishers

PO Box 1144 Grants Pass, OR 97528 www.soff.org

Stonefly Maidens

PO Box 82142 Portland, OR 97282 www.stoneflymaidens.org

Umpqua Valley Fly Fishers

435 Jackson St Roseburg, OR 97470 www.uvff.org

*Washington County

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11429 SW Scholls Ferry Rd. Beaverton, OR 97008 www.wcflyfishers-ore.org

*Denotes 100% FFF membership