

15th Anniversary NW Fly Tyer's Expo

by Al Brunell

Plans are well underway for next year's Northwest Fly Tyer's Expo. The event is scheduled for Saturday, March 22 in Eugene. In less than one month just over 300 letters of invitation will be sent to prospective fly tyers. As in past events, we are looking for 150 to 200 tyers

to accept the invitation and amaze us all with their tying skills.

The Northwest Fly Tyer's Expo has always been a premier event,

attracting not only tyers from the West coast, but also tyers from many other states in the Union.

Tyers will demonstrate their skills in four (4) 2-hour sessions beginning at 9:00 am. Come and watch tying demonstrations of all types of patterns from trout, steelhead, bass, as well as saltwater and Atlantic salmon. Admission to the event is \$5.00, \$3.00 for students and free for children under 12 when accompanied by an adult.

In addition to the tying demonstrations, there will be a silent auction and bucket raffle continuing throughout the event. Items include books, tying materials, rods, reels, fly lines, fly selections, T-shirts and many other related items. An extensive fly material sale at separate tables will also be going on

throughout the day.

The day will conclude with a banquet dinner, Council awards presentation, and oral auction. Advance registration and payment for dinners are necessary. Cost of the dinner is \$18.00 in advance (by March 15th) or \$22.00 at the door if there are any tickets available. For

reservations, call 541-738-6399 or send a check or Visa/MasterCard authorization to: Oregon Council - FFF

c/o Al Brunell

33729 SE Terra Circle
Corvallis, OR 97333

The oral auction will include a variety of items from custom fly rods; fly reels, and various tackle items, to a fine selection of fly plates featuring the finest tyers in the Northwest.

Proceeds for the entire event help fund the Oregon Council's wide array of educational and conservation projects such as our graduate scholarship in wild fish research at Oregon State University. This also assists our 22 member fly clubs with financial support on conservation and education projects.

For more information contact: Al Brunell at 541-738-6399 or e-mail Garren Wood at garren@rgbquest.com

Check out our website oregonfff.org for update information including area lodging.



Oregon Council

Conservation Project Revisited

Greg Pitts

While I am currently the FFF President, I've worn a lot of hats for the FFF over the years. Today I'm writing as a former VP for Conservation for the Oregon Council.

In July, 1991 at the Oregon Council meeting held at Lost Lake on the Santiam Pass I made a proposal to the Oregon Council that the Council should commit \$4,000 to a project in the McKenzie River drainage to benefit bull trout. The Council agreed, giving me the authority to work with other agencies to try to make the money stretch as far as possible. At that point, the Oregon Council was well ahead of the curve on bull trout, since bull trout had not yet been listed under the Endangered Species Act.

Ultimately that \$4,000 represented the seed money for a \$125,000 culvert project on Sweetwater Creek under Oregon 126 where the creek empties into Trail Bridge Reservoir. The partners in the project were the USFS (Willamette National Forest), ODFW, ODOT and EWEB (Eugene Water and Electric that had the license on the dam forming the reservoir). Each of

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President's Message

By Tony Brauner

The Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers has grown by leaps and bounds since splitting from the FFF's Northwest Council of Alaska, British Columbia, Washington and Oregon and becoming a stand alone Council in 1988. In this relatively short span of time the Oregon Council has become a recognized leader in fly fishing in the region as well as nationally. Fly fishing leaders in Oregon have stepped up to fill various Council offices and board of director positions and have established solid programs and events, a very stable funding base and a growing membership in the Federation of Fly Fishers.

The Oregon Council has had only two Presidents during these 14 years; starting with Keith Burkhart then changing to Greg Pitts and then returning to Keith Burkhart, when Greg decided to run for and was elected National President of the FFF. These two former Council Presidents, past Council officers and member of the boards of directors have devoted countless volunteer hours to guarantee success for the Oregon Council. The torch of leadership has been passed to a new President, Tony Brauner; a new Secretary, Phil Hager; and a new V P of Membership, Cathy Tronquet. The Oregon Council is very fortunate to have officers and V P's who have served the Council in the past; Mary Jo Pitts remains as Treasurer, Tom Gilg remains as VP of Conservation, Don Abing remains as VP of Education, and Keith Burkhart moves over from his role as Council President to become VP of Communication. Your new Council President has served the Council and the FFF on the National Board of Directors, secretary of the Oregon Council and club President for four years of Southern Oregon Fly Fishers. Your new Council President has made a strong commitment to native fish, clean water, suitable habitat for fish along our rivers, streams and lakes as well as actively working to recruit youth and lady fly fishers to local clubs, the Oregon Council and the FFF. Finally, the level of excellence achieved by the Oregon Council sits at the apex of accomplishment; speaking for our current Council officers, and myself we will work tirelessly to maintain this level of excellence and will attempt to raise this level where possible.

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Fall Event

Dioniscio "Don" Y. Abing
VP Education, ORC FFF

Oh The Joy! Our Council's first three-day fly-fishing show is finally a reality! The biggest and most difficult hurdle our show committee faced was negotiating a budget for our special fly-fishing show. A satisfactory compromise came after lengthy discussions at the November 3rd, 2002 board meeting of the Oregon Council, in Springfield, Oregon's Doubletree Inn. I want to thank Jeff Mac Lean, our show's co-chair for helping me present to our special show committee and our board of the Oregon Council of FFF, a workable show budget. Our Oregon Council's first fly-fishing show has a name and theme:

**The Oregon Council of the
Federation of Fly Fishers presents
"Fly Fishing the Northwest"**

Seaside Civic & Convention Center
Seaside, Oregon
September 26 – 28, 2003

We received twenty-two show theme ideas from eight contestants after the "name the show" contest appeared in the last issue of the Oregon Fly Fisher newsletter. I like to give a very special thank you to the following contestants for their ideas and help: **Larry D. Quinn, Roseburg, OR., Meryl A. Miasek, Corvallis, OR., Devon D. Abing, Beaverton, OR., John Edwards, Grants Pass, OR., Vera Edwards, Grants Pass, OR., Keith Burkhart, Salem, OR., Bert Hoeflich, Eugene, OR., and Kizzie M. Abing, Beaverton, OR.**

All of the contestant's show themes were typed on separate sheets of paper, and each sheet was identified with a number for each contestant. Our contestant's names and addresses were withheld from

the show committee. The show chair only knew the identities of our contestants. Each show committee member was asked to pick three themes from the twenty-two show themes. I am happy to report that one of Kizzie Abing's show themes received the most picks.

At this point in my report, I want to lay to rest for the fine readers of this great newsletter, any notions about our new fly fishing show replacing our fly tying expo. Next years fly-fishing show is NOT replacing your Oregon Council's annual spring Fly Tiers Expo. Our council's fly tying expo continues to be one extraordinary fly tying event. Our tying expo deserves the continued support from our council clubs. Our expo is and has been the model that other FFF councils have used to make their fly tying fairs successful.

The ORC FFF's **Fly Fishing the Northwest** show will feature continuous fly tying demonstrations from some of the most talented members of the Federation of Fly Fishers. Our fly-fishing show will also feature basic to advanced fly-casting instruction and demonstrations from talented Federation of Fly Fishers certified fly casting instructors. Plans also include opportunities to test for basic and master fly-casting FFF certifications. An ancient Clatsop Indian fishing ground called Quatat, viewed by Lewis & Clark in 1805 will be our fabulous fly-casting theater. The site is now a waterfront park on the Necanicum River in Seaside, Oregon. Along with our marvelous fly-casting and fly tying venues, our special show will host numerous programs, classes, seminars, and a workshop or two.

Of course, no fly-fishing show would be complete without the great support from our fly-fishing industry. Our exhibitors who are manufactures, wholesalers, distributors, retail fly shops, fish & wildlife artists, guide and travel services, and businesses related to fly fishing will be at our special affair for you to see, examine goods and services, and compare and price. You will find bargains galore. A great deal of information, material, and supplies will be available to fly fish for everything from fresh to saltwater.

You won't have the same trouble Lewis & Clark had 200 years ago finding Seaside, Oregon. The Seaside Civic & Convention Center can be reached by calling (800) 349-3303 or (503) 738-8585. You can visit the web site of the center and check the calendar of events for 2003 by logging onto www.seasideconvention.com. Your special show committee has already secured three lodging locations for you to consider using. The selections were based on a combination of proximity to the convention center, variety of amenities, housing for large families or groups, wonderful views and accommodations, and discounts to your Oregon Council.

It's not too early to secure lodging for our Fly Fishing the Northwest show. The three listed locations below are taking reservations. Please remember to mention you are associated with the Oregon Council of FFF when making your reservations.

Seaside Convention Center Inn
(show headquarters hotel)
(800) 699-5070 or (503) 738-9581
www.seasideconvention.com
or e-mail: info@seasideccinn.com

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What Has the FFF Done For Me?

Skip Hosfield

This is a question we often hear among club members when they are approached to join the Federation. I suppose it is an attitude to be expected in an age when flyfishing has expanded far beyond anything imagined by those of us who helped to found this international fraternity of fly fishers. Speaking as one who served many years in membership development at both the regional and national level, I shall try to provide a response to this question.

Anyone who was not already a fly fisherman in 1965 when the FFF was founded cannot really know the nature of the world of fly fishing at that time. I have been a fly fisherman all my life. My father was a fly fisherman and I learned it from him, as most people did then. I moved to Oregon in 1958 and I never met another local fly fisherman until the McKenzie Flyfishers was started in 1964. There were obviously lots of them around, but they didn't advertise or proselytize. Unless one had a relative or friend who was a fly fisherman, chances are there was no opportunity to learn. Prior to the founding of the McKenzie Flyfishers there was only one flyfishing club in Oregon - the Flyfishers Club of Oregon. Unless you were a member of the Portland business or professional community you had little chance to enjoy the fellowship of other fly fishermen.

Those of us who were fly fishing in 1964 were such a small part of the sport fishing world that we did

not even exist in the eyes of those who made our laws and managed our angling resources. There were no magazines devoted to fly fishing. There were very few books written about fly fishing. You had to be living in a major city in order to have access to a fly fishing shop. If you were a fly tier, you were probably self-taught from basic instructions in one of the three or four fly fishing books in print at the time. And you had to order your materials from catalog descriptions. Really accomplished fly tiers were rare and most of those were tying professionally full or part time and typically they jealously guarded their methods.

Fly rods and tackle in general had changed very little for fifty years. After the World War II fiberglass rods were being manufactured but that technology was in its infancy. The big tackle boom was in spinning rods and reels which originated in Europe. Fly fishing was such a small specialized market that it comprised a very small part of the production of the major fishing tackle manufacturers.

All this began to change in 1965. The FFF was founded for the purpose of getting fly fishing clubs linked together in common purpose to promote fly fishing as a favored method of angling and to give fly fishermen a unified voice in the management of our angling resources. Its leaders adopted Lee Wulff's maxim that, "A good game fish is too valuable to be caught only once." The FFF waged the fight to establish the principle of catch-and-release.

Another purpose of the FFF was to publish a magazine devoted entirely to fly fishing. No publisher was willing to risk a publishing venture on a market presumed to be so small. With the publication of *The Flyfisher* in 1968 we had the first magazine exclusively for fly fishing. After the FFF had shown what the potential market could become commercial fly fishing magazines began to appear.

When the McKenzie Flyfishers organized original Conclave of Fly Fishermen in 1965 they established the paradigm for all FFF conclaves which have followed. It would be based on education, information sharing and outreach which would forever shatter the shell of exclusivity which surrounded the sport in the public mind. The most famous and revered anglers in America would come to these annual gatherings and freely give their time and knowledge. The fly tying demonstrations at FFF conclaves soon attracted tiers from everywhere. Tiers which had been working in isolation for many years were soon coming into contact with one another and sharing methods and ideas. This initiated a fly tying renaissance which continues to this day.

From the nucleus of the dozen or so clubs represented at the first conclave FFF members have gone out and organized many hundreds of fly fishing clubs throughout the United States, Canada and many countries throughout the world. The growth of the FFF during the 1970's brought forth a corresponding growth in the fly tackle industry bringing an exponential increase in the availability and quality of fly fishing tackle of all

Oregon Council Awards Program Nominations Due January 10, 2003

This year the Oregon Council will be presenting several awards at our Annual Banquet after the NW Fly Tyer's Expo in Eugene, Oregon on Saturday, March 22, 2003. Each year we try to recognize deserving individuals and clubs who have made extraordinary contributions to the benefit of the Oregon Council and the Federation of Fly Fishers. Award categories are as follows:

Oregon Council "Federator of the Year" – Presented annually to an individual that has shown outstanding service to the FFF or the Oregon Council.

Oregon Council "Club of the Year" – Presented annually to the affiliated club that has shown outstanding efforts on conservation projects, education projects, legislative or regulatory issues, or a combination of the above.

Oregon Council "Fly Tyer of the Year" – Awarded annually to an

individual who has shown excellence in the art of fly tying and/or to the teaching of the art of fly tying over an extended period of time.

Nominations for the above awards are being accepted through January 10, 2003. Nominations should be sent to Awards Chair, Keith Burkhart at 2120 Robins Lane SE #101, Salem, OR 97306 or by email to valfly@integraonline.com

The Oregon Council also presents the **"Polly Rosoborough Lifetime Achievement Award"**. This award may be presented annually to an individual who has shown unusual devotion and has made outstanding contributions to the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers, its members clubs, individual members and fly-fishing in general. The criteria is as follows: Must be an Oregon member in good standing of the FFF. A minimum of 10 years service is required. The

nominee should meet one or more of the following:

- *Has promoted the sport of fly fishing and enhanced the knowledge and ability of other fly fishers.*
- *Has devoted energy to youth education activities to help the next generation of fly fishers.*
- *Has made significant contributions to the preservation and enhancement of fishery resources.*
- *Has shown unusual devotion to the Oregon Council and through outstanding contributions has benefited the Oregon Council as an organization.*

To preserve the integrity of this award, it is recommended that it be awarded judiciously and infrequently, but is not intended that the frequency stipulation deprive a truly deserving individual. Nominations for this award should be made to Council President Tony Brauner, 1455 NE Carla Way, Grants Pass, OR 97526 and requires a two-thirds majority vote of the Oregon Council Board of Directors.

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description. This growth has been paralleled in the publishing industry which now churns out more magazines, books and videos than anyone could have imagined forty years ago.

Anyone engaged in fly fishing today has benefitted in many ways from what the FFF has done and continues to do. The availability of high quality and relatively inexpensive equipment in an astonishing range of choice would not be possible without the growth in the sport which the FFF has fostered. Your fly fishing club would most probably not exist if not

for the FFF. The proliferation of fly fishing shows are mostly the result of FFF activity to promote the sport and extend knowledge. Anyone who has attended the NW Fly Tyer's Expo has the FFF to thank for the experience.

If you fish in Oregon you can thank the FFF for the fact that efforts to eliminate all regulations restricting certain waters to fly fishing were defeated by the Oregon Council, FFF. If you enjoy the improved fishing on catch and release waters you owe it to the FFF. The fact the fly fishing is now taken quite seriously by the ODFW is the result of efforts by members of the Oregon Council.

In conclusion, when asked by someone what the FFF does for him, turn the question around and ask what he is prepared to do to continue the work of those who have gone before him and who created the improved climate for the sport he enjoys today. The very least one should do is to join the organization and thereby help to build the strong membership base which will enable the FFF to remain a strong force in conserving, restoring and educating through flyfishing.



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Best Western Ocean View Resort

(800) 234-8439 or (503) 738-3334
www.oceanviewresort.com or
e-mail: sales@oceanviewresort.com

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ext 501, www.gearhartresort.com

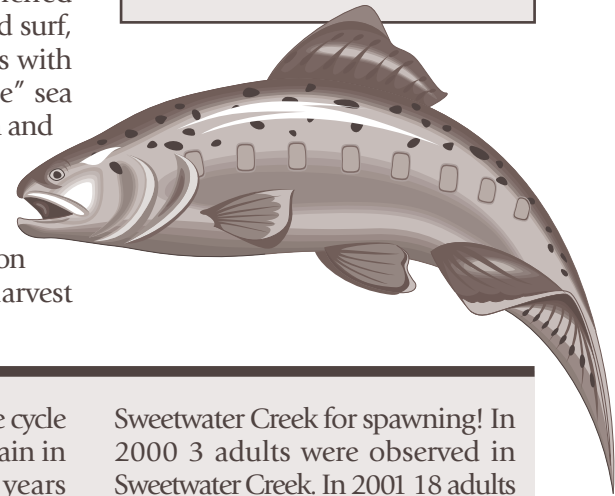
Other lodging arrangements can be located by contacting the Seaside Chamber of Commerce. You may call (800) 444-6740 or (503) 738-6391, and/or log on their web site www.seasidechamber.com or e-mail: info@seasidechamber.com. By reserving your lodging early, you can budget for your lodging requirements, and avoid raising funds at the last minute, and hoping to find a place to stay for our council's show.

Raising funds – your council hopes to raise funds from this special event. Your council hopes to raise money for its scholarship program, underwriting and funding more grants, and improving education

through fly-fishing. Hopeful funds will also go towards funding conservation projects, and improvements in communications with our council clubs. The promise of three days of silent auctions, bucket raffles, and balloon raffles (for those that insist on instant gratification), and our show's oral auction/banquet on September 27th, 2003 will provide our council the needed funds with your benevolent support.

Plan now to experience a truly unique and wonderful fly fishing affair involving sun drenched seashores, seductive sand and surf, a saltwater estuary and rivers with salmon and "catch & release" sea run cutthroat trout, surf perch and star ray flounder, and many other pleasant surprises for the explorer in you. In a future article, I will provide information about a couple of bonus harvest opportunities.

All Oregon Council clubs are reminded to explore our Federation of Fly Fishers web site www.fedflyfishers.org for the latest information on the vastly improved educational tools and opportunities available to our clubs. Susan Halblom, our Federation Vice President for Education continues to work hard securing and organizing educational opportunities for all Federators. After visiting your Federation's education web site, please share your thoughts with Susan by sending her an e-mail message to davidhalblom-bugtyer@worldnet.att.net.



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those entities were able to credit the Oregon Council, FFF money for various matching fund programs each entity administered.

The culvert was built in the summer of 1992. The culvert design would open up 4 miles of prime spawning and rearing habitat for bull trout that had been cut off for 30 years from the McKenzie due to design flaws which prohibited passage. In anticipation of the culvert being placed, bull trout fry began being introduced into Sweetwater Creek in the early spring of 1992. Only a few hundred fry could be made available for this re-introduction, so survivability was always a concern for the project. The creek was to be seeded for a total of 5 years. After that time the natural process had to take over.

The normal bull trout life cycle would require the fry to remain in Sweetwater Creek for 4-5 years before they would migrate down stream to the McKenzie (actually Trail Bridge Reservoir) for growth and maturation to spawning capable adults. This maturation process can take a year or two. For our project to be considered a legitimate success for the bull trout, we were going to have to wait until adults returned and spawned to naturally continue the process we started.

A few weeks ago I visited with Dave Bickford who was one of my contacts with the Willamette National Forest in 1991-1993 when these projects were occurring under my watch. I was extremely pleased and I'm happy to report that adult bull trout are once again utilizing

Sweetwater Creek for spawning! In 2000 3 adults were observed in Sweetwater Creek. In 2001 18 adults had returned and redds were located and identified. We have every expectation that the culvert and re-seeding of Sweetwater Creek has been a real success.

The Oregon Council, FFF should be extremely proud of this fine project that was accomplished through the effort and resources of the Council. If you wish to take a look at the interpretive sign (which was designed by the FFF's Thom Porterfield of Bend), the sign is still in pristine condition after 10 years in place. It is located in the boat launch at Trail Bridge Reservoir, directly across the reservoir from where Sweetwater Creek empties into the reservoir.



Oregon Council Clubs

Angler's Club of Portland
P.O. Box 9235
Portland, OR 97207

Blue Mountain Flycasters
1847 Westgate
Pendleton, OR 97801

Cascade Family Flyfishers
P.O. Box 5384
Eugene, OR 97405

Central Oregon Flyfishers
P.O. Box 1126
Bend, OR 97701

Clackamas Flyfishers
P.O. Box 268
West Linn, OR 97068

Columbia Gorge Flyfishers
220 Methodist Rd.
Hood River, OR 97031

Klamath Country Flycasters
P.O. Box 324
Klamath Falls, OR 97601

Knot-Me-Leaders
153 Alice Ave. S
Salem, OR 97302

Linn Benton Family Flyfishers
1524 S. Main
Lebanon, OR 97355

Lower Umpqua Flycasters
P.O. Box 521
Reedsport, OR 97467

McKenzie Flyfishers
P.O. Box 10865
Eugene, OR 97440

Mid-Willamette Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 22
Corvallis, OR 97330

North Coast Jr. Flycasters
92513 G Road
Astoria, OR 97103

Northwest Flyfishers
P.O. Box 656
Troutdale, OR 97060

Rainland Flycasters
P.O. Box 1045
Astoria, OR 97103

Rogue Flyfishers
P.O. Box 4637
Medford, OR 97501

Santiam Flycasters
P.O. Box 691
Salem, OR 97308

Southern Oregon Fly Fishers
P.O. Box 1144
Grants Pass, OR 97456

Steamboaters
P.O. Box 176
Idlewild Park, OR 97447

Stone Fly Maidens
14145 SE Sieban Parkway
Clackamas, OR 97105

Sunriver Anglers
P.O. Box 4273
Sunriver, OR 97707

Washington County Fly Fishers
11429 SW Scholls Ferry Rd.
Beaverton, OR 97008

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3415 NW Canterbury Circle
Corvallis, OR 97330
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Calendar of Events – 2003

January 19	Oregon Council's Winter Meeting in Eugene, OR
February 1	Articles due for March issue of Oregon Fly Fisher
February 5-9	Pacific Northwest Sportsmen's Show in Portland, OR
February 15	Oregon Council Executive Board & Vice Presidents retreat in Waldport, OR
February 22	Lower Umpqua Fly Fishing Expo in Reedsport, OR
March 15	Western Rocky Mountain Event in Coeur d' Alene, ID
March 22	15th Annual Northwest Fly Tyer's Expo in Eugene, OR
April 5	Santiam Flycasters Fly Fishing Fair in Salem, OR
April 5	Tracy Flyfishers Tying Expo – Tracy, CA
April 13	Oregon Council's Spring Meeting in Eugene, OR
May 1	Articles due for June issue of Oregon Fly Fisher
June 14-15	Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife free fishing weekend
June 29	Oregon Council's Summer Meeting in Eugene, OR
July 25	Articles due for September issue of Oregon Fly Fisher
August 4-9	Federation of Fisher's International Conclave in Idaho Falls, ID
Sept. 14	Oregon Council Executive Board Conference Call
Sept. 20	Washington Council Casting Tournament in Port Orchard, WA
Sept. 26-28	"Flyfishing the Northwest" Show in Seaside, OR
Sept. 26-28	NCCFFF Conclave – Kings Beach, CA
Oct. 12	Oregon Council's Fall meeting in Eugene, OR
Nov. 1	Articles due for January edition of Oregon Fly Fisher

Please visit our new website at www.oregonfff.org

Please take a moment to review your name and address as shown on the outside of this newsletter. The council has recently completed the new address database from information provided by the club rosters and the national FFF office database. If any errors have been made, or there are any changes that you wish made, please let me know. It was our intent to only mail one copy of the newsletter to each household address. If this is not satisfactory, please let me know.

As revised club rosters are available, please forward them to me so that I can keep the database current. My email address is: pittsmj@aol.com. Hardcopies can be mailed to 987 Travis Ave., Eugene, OR 97404. Mary Jo Pitts, Treasurer and Database Manager.

The Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers

2120 Robins Lane S.E. #101
Salem, Oregon 97306

Request for Club Membership Rosters

The Council Database Manager, Mary Jo Pitts, is requesting that all of the Council affiliated clubs send here a current club roster as of December 31, 2002 for use in updating the database for mailing of the Oregon Flyfisher. This is the only use of these rosters and they are not shared with anyone else. Mary Jo can accept the rosters in Microsoft Word, Access, Excel or hard copies. Please send the rosters to her at 987 Travis, Eugene, OR 97404. You can contact her at 541-689-4812 or at pittsmj@aol.com.

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