

2005 Northwest Fly Tyers Expo

By Mary Jo Pitts – Chair

On Saturday, March 26, 2005, the Oregon Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers will host the 17th Annual Northwest Fly Tyers Exposition in the Wheeler Pavilion at the Lane County Convention Center. This one day event will showcase the tying skills of over 150 tyers. Tyers from Oregon, Washington, Idaho, California, Connecticut, Utah, and British Columbia are traveling to Eugene to make this one of the best shows ever. Their tying skills and willingness to share their tips and tricks are what make this show an event not to be missed. Attendance at this event is expected to reach one thousand.

Many of you have attended the show in the past. The Oregon Council has several reasons to hold this event. This is the largest fund raiser for the Council, which

allows us to fund our conservation and education projects throughout the state. You can pick up a copy of our Council brochure at the Federation of Fly Fishers booth at the event, which details some of our projects.



These include funding two scholarships annually for graduate students in fish biology at Oregon State University, cooperative efforts with the ODFW on fisheries management throughout the state, supporting conservation and education efforts of our member clubs, and youth and women seminars to promote fly fishing.

In addition to fund raising, the Expo is a way to increase interest in fly fishing and tying, and allow our tyers the opportunity to show their abilities and encourage others with an interest in the sport.

But the fun doesn't stop with fly tying. Throughout the day, the Santiam Flycasters will coordinate the silent auction. The silent auction will run all day, with tables closing throughout the afternoon. The McKenzie Flyfishers will be running the material sale. Those of you who have attended in the past know that this is the place to pick up material at extraordinarily good prices. Check this out early for the best selection. The Mid-Willamette Fly Fishers will again provide a beginning fly tying station, where anyone, especially youngsters, can learn to tie a fly.

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President's Message

By Tony Brauner

The Federation of Fly Fishers, as of this June, 2005, is celebrating the 40th anniversary of its founding: congratulations to all of you in Oregon who contributed to the beginning of this fine Fly Fishing Federation of Clubs. It has to be especially gratifying to you Founding Fathers to realize that your idea has been grasped by fly fishing clubs in all 50 States and 35 Countries in the World and to see how your message of fly fishing is still a destination that many fly fishers will gravitate toward! Your current and past Council Officers and Boards of Directors continue to be in awe of what you have done and are continuing to do in the name of fly fishing. As we travel the State of Oregon, we still see that familiar faces of the Founders: Bill Nelson, Skip Hosfield, Stan Walters, Cliff Adams "getting out the fly fishing message of the FFF." We see these esteemed fly fishers still teaching and educating America's youth at sessions of Boys Scouts who are working on their fly fishing merit badges, helping youth casting sessions, fly tying events and fly fishing classes. You gentlemen are role models for all of us in the Oregon Council and we will continue to strive to bring the FFF message to the populace of Oregon, just as you have done.

The current Oregon Council officers and Board of Directors have been receiving comments and concerns expressed by fly fishers in Oregon regarding their river rights to fly fish the waters of Oregon. Many of you have said that you would like to see some resolution to this river rights problem and have the problem solved. As many of you fly fishers remember, the Oregon Council in 2003 and early '04 felt that the public interest group, Coalition for River Rights (CORR), had a plan and strategy that had some merit in attempting to resolve this river rights fiasco. The leadership of the Oregon Council learned of a change in direction that CORR has taken; thus it has been the recommendation of our Council to no longer be associated with the efforts of CORR. (see article on Oregon Council – Press Release)

As users of the rivers of the State of Oregon, we fly fishers have the right to recreate up to the high water mark on all rivers and streams of this State and we will look forward to the time when this matter is finally settled.

The Oregon Council is again looking for volunteers to serve as a VP of Conservation Projects. Mike Beagle has served the Council well and has brought a macro study on the Crooked River to the attention of the Council. Beagle has had to tender his resignation as he has taken over as a executive director of a hunting and angling organization. Likewise, Marc Williamson has had to resign his position as VP of Education and Stan Steele has stepped up to take on the dual responsibility of being VP of Development and Education. Thanks Stan! Many thanks to Mike Beagle and Marc Williamson for all that you have done in the name of the FFF – Oregon Council!! Any fly fisher interested in serving the ORC in the Conservation program should contact the Council President or any of the Council Officers or Board of Directors.

Planning is well underway for the 17th Annual Northwest Fly Tyer's Expo; Mary Jo Pitts, Chair for this year's Expo, reported that the letters to potential tiers have gone out and she has received acceptance letters from approximately 137 tiers. Those attending this year's Expo should plan on buying a banquet ticket and attending the Oregon Council's auction that will take place the evening of the Expo event. This Auction is the major fundraising event of the year for the Oregon Council; from these funds the Oregon Council is able to sponsor conservation and educational activities across Oregon. We hope to see you in Eugene for the Expo on March 26th at the Wheeler Pavilion!

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And the Cascade Family Fly Fishers will welcome you at the front door.

Admissions to the event is \$5 for adults, \$3 for students and free for children under 12 when accompanied by an adult.

The Federation of Fly Fishers booth will be located just as you enter the room. If you are not currently a member of the Federation, you can join at a reduced price the day of the event. This is where you can pick up a Council brochure, locate a member club near you, check out a few items for sale, and see the videos from past Expos. Since the first Expo, several tyers are selected each year and are recorded on video tape to commemorate that year's Expo. These tapes are available for sale. Last year's video will be available in two formats this year, VHS or DVD. And of course the pin for this year's Expo will be available for sale at this booth.

After the day's tying, we will move across the way to the Auditorium for the evening entertainment. There will be a no-host bar and snacks preceding the banquet. The Oregon Council will also have an awards presentation, including the Club of the Year, the Tyer of the Year and the Federator of the Year. Following the awards, the banquet will be

served. This year's menu will feature a traditional turkey dinner with all of the trimmings. The cost of the dinner is \$25 per person. Reservations for dinner and payment must be made in advance.

For dinner reservations call 541-689-4812 or email to flytyerseexpo2005@aol.com Mail your check or credit card number (Visa or MasterCard only) to:

Mary Jo Pitts
987 Travis Av
Eugene OR 97404.

The oral auction will take place after dinner. We are fortunate again this year to have the services of Sid Voorhees as our auctioneer and his capable staff in helping with the auction. Members of the Santiam Flycasters provide valuable help in coordinating the auction process. Items for the auction are coming in and include fly plates, rods, reels, first edition books, art prints and more. If you have a donation, mail it to the above address or call 541-689-4812 if you have questions.

We hope to see you at the Expo. Tell your friends. Bring a friend. Let's make this the best Expo ever. ■

2005 Northwest Fly Tyers Expo Silent Auction Items



2005 Spey Fly Plate featuring the
"Silver Heron"

2005 Stonefly Plates with realistic
stone fly nymphs

2004 Oregon State Fair winners
fly plates for Steelhead, Searun
Cutthroat, Atlantic Salmon
and Trout Dry and Nymphs

Sage 590-4 SLT Fly Rod

Sage 896-4 DS2 Fly Rod

Sage 590 LE Fly Rod

Dinner for 4 at Morton's Bistro
Northwest in Salem

3 days of Guided fishing on the Rogue
River with two nights lodging at
Rogue River Guest House Bed and
Breakfast in Gold Hill. The guides
will be Mark McGinnis, Steve Godshall
and Tony Brauner

6 Bottles of premium wine from
Broadly Vineyards

Harris "Solitude" #2 Fly Reel with
pewter finish

Legends of Fly Tying Fly plate

Box of Rene Harrop Flies

Box of Al Brunell Salmon Flies

Box of 9 dozen trout flies
by Stan Steele

North Umpqua Steelhead Trip



Oregon Fly Fishers Pull Support for Coalition River Rights Legislative Agenda

By Tony Brauner

The Federation of Fly Fishers – Oregon has been closely watching the Oregon Legislature (at least the last two Legislative Sessions) and monitoring potential bills that effect fly fisher's river rights here in Oregon. The Oregon Council Board of Directors and Officers have long felt that the model for river rights that rightfully protect fly fisher's rights (to wade, fish and recreate up to the high water mark) is the Montana Stream Access Law. Unfortunately, the Oregon Legislature has not seen fit to solve this issue of river rights for anglers and river users and has failed to reach a final determination of which streams and rivers in Oregon qualify as navigable streams. Many Oregonians realize only a few streams out of over one thousand, have been declared navigable.

In late 2003, a grassroots river rights issue, public interest group was formed here in Oregon and took the name of Coalition for Oregon River Rights (CORR). The initial intent of this interest group seemed to be to develop a strategic plan to draft legislation similar to Montana's Stream

Access Law; such a bill that would protect the concept of being able to use the rivers and streams of Oregon up to the high water mark. Many fly fishers and others in Oregon were very encouraged to see this interest group develop and the initial Board of Directors of CORR was represented by local Oregon fly fishers.

In 2004, CORR went through major changes and a loss of most of the original board of directors and the resignation of this entity's Executive Director. In October of 2004, CORR develop their strategic plan for river rights legislation to be introduced in the 2005 Oregon Legislature. The current Oregon Council Officers and Executive Board have had an opportunity to analyze CORR's strategic plan and surprisingly found that there was no language in this plan which was approaching or near the Montana Law. The only reference to the river rights issue was a statement that river users would be able to use some of the rivers and streams of Oregon (and no clear listing of which streams were included or excluded from "some" rivers). Also, included in this CORR plan

was a concept of having river users pay a fee to use their water craft on the streams of our State.

The FFF – Oregon Council had initially supported CORR in its early inception; it is clear to the Council's leadership that the Oregon Council cannot and will not support the current strategic plan regarding a river rights bill for 2005, sponsored by CORR. The Federation of Fly Fishers – Oregon Council believes strongly that the State of Oregon has in earlier legislative and court deliberations determined that the citizens of Oregon own the bed and banks of the streams and rivers of Oregon. Our current Governor, Ted Kulongoski, clearly knows that these rights exist, as he was called upon to see that Oregon law was duly carried out in river rights cases on the McKenzie and Chetco rivers when he was acting Attorney General of Oregon some years ago. The Oregon Council of the FFF will remain steadfast in its efforts to help preserve the river rights for fly fishers and other citizens of Oregon. ■



What's in it for Me?

By Phil Hager – Secretary OCFF

You've heard all of the statements regarding volunteering and how it helps various agencies accomplish more, how it makes you feel good for what you've done and how it can help agencies work within their budgets. These are all good statements, but I'll try to give you a few more.

Over the past ten years, the volunteers from Central Oregon Flyfishers have been credited with providing enough assistance to ODF&W to offset the actual cost of 3 full time biologists for 2 weeks short of ten years. That's a pretty good return, especially when you look at the budget cuts they have suffered.

More importantly, to me at least, is the answer to the question; "What's in it for me?"

I'll answer that question with a few of my own:

1. What is it worth, to you, to go out on various streams with a local expert and learn more about where the fish are, their traveling habits, what types are there and what they feed on?

2. What is it worth, to you, to have an expert guide you into

an area that you are not familiar with, to find the answers to #1?

3. What is it worth, to you, to know the time and location of the spawning areas of the fish that live in, or visit, your "local" waters?

4. What is it worth, to you, to know that the local "officials" rely on you for input when making decisions on fishing regulations, on working on maintaining or improving local water flows and habitat or just getting reports that they can use in filing their reports?

5. What is it worth, to you, to watch an area improve in the number and size of the fish that "reside" where you have been volunteering?

6. What is it worth, to you, to provide assistance that allows more time for the people working at a hatchery to do their jobs better and more completely?

When you think about the knowledge that you can gain, the relationships you develop, the respect you receive and the potential effects you can have on future decisions this becomes an extremely valuable effort.

Another thought to consider is cost factor. If you were to hire someone to take you out to one of these areas, and provide you the same information and education, what would the cost factor be? Could you afford that on a regular basis?

I can honestly say that, by doing several hundred hours and over 1000 miles a year the past several years, I have learned a great deal more about waters throughout Central Oregon than I could have on my own. Over the past 8 years, my knowledge on "local waters" became more than most would think possible and would probably have taken me a lifetime to "learn". The main reason for this is the number of times I have said that I was going fishing somewhere and was told that, when a survey was done on that water, the fish were found in greatest numbers "in this area", what types were there, what insects were found to be most prevalent and what the feeding locations and habits were.

Most of us that are into fly-fishing are conservationists. Most of us are environmentalists. Most of us are basic entomologists.

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Most of us are basic fish biologists. Finally, most of us want to learn more. Volunteering is an "outdoor classroom" where all of these areas are covered along with map reading skills, public relations, educational sharing opportunities and too many more to list.

Most of us don't see ourselves as "experts" at much of anything, except maybe our jobs, so we don't tend to share a lot of our "expertise" with others. When you spend time with the "experts", and gain knowledge about the

fish and fisheries, many will see you as a resource they can call on for more information. This puts you in the position of being able to overcome some of the communications problems that exist between the various groups fishing today. (Bait vs. lure vs. fly. We all want the fishing to continue.)

Take the time today to stop by your local ODF&W office and meet the biologists. Stop by the local USFS, the State Dept. of Forestry or BLM office and meet the people there. All of them have

tasks on their schedules that need to be completed, but have limited resources for getting them done. You may not be greeted as the great savior but, with a little time and effort, you will become a valuable asset to the agencies and be repaid with knowledge that is priceless.

Besides that, the mileage is tax deductible. Hope to see you on the water helping to improve the sport of fishing. ■

2005 Educational Seminars

The Board of Directors of the Oregon Council has voted at its fall meeting to have the Council conduct three educational seminars in 2005. The first of these events, will be a Youth Casting seminar that will be held on Saturday, April 9th for young fly fishers between the ages of 12 and 18. This Youth event will be held in Eugene at Alton Baker Park and will have FFF Certified Casting Instructors provide casting instruction on single hand fly rod as well as two hand, spey fly rod casting and casting games. The cost of this Youth session is

five dollars and Council brochures are available to sign up for this event as well as finding out about this seminar through the Oregon Council's website . This year, the Oregon Council will again be offering two women's fly fishing seminars at the Roaring Springs Trout Camp near Scio, Oregon. These seminars will provide instruction to the first 15 women that sign up for each session and again this year the Santiam Fly Casters club of Salem will partner with the Oregon Council in hosting this event. These two women's fly

fishing seminars will be held on April 16th and April 30th for a cost of \$75 and will include fishing in three private ponds that are on the site of this event. These two fly fishing seminars will focus on the basics of fly fishing and special emphasis on casting. Once again, there will be FFF Certified Casting Instructors who will help the participants improve their casting skills. To those lady fly fishers wishing to attend these seminars, they need to check the Council website or obtain a Council brochure or contact any officer of the Oregon Council. ■



The North Santiam Spey Casters are on the Move

By Dwight Klemin – President

➔ MISSION STATEMENT ➔

Promote Spey Casting through education as an effective, efficient and enjoyable method of fly fishing

Enhance and expand the art and science of Spey Casting

Promote Federation of Fly Fisher's Code of Ethics

The North Santiam Spey Caster's club started in the spring of 2004. The embryo idea was to have a practical group of people meeting, on regular bases to hone casting skills. Spey casting is the rediscovered form of pursuing salmon and steelhead. Keith Burkhart contacted the Federation of Fly Fisher and the NSSC became the first Charter Club in the Association dedicated to spey casting and fishing. Word of mouth and forum posting spread the news of this unique club. People from Canada, the West coast states and Texas became members. Six months of existence and a total of 48 charter

members are enrolled. The roster is rich with talented individuals working together for a great cause.

Current membership has one Casting Board of Governors, one Master Instructor, six Certified Instructors, two Two-handed CI and four THCI candidates. The NSSC is proud to have a brother and sister age 14 as members. Their contribution is a major step in involving the next generation of spey casters. Also, the club has contributed 15 new FFF members. The club has adopted the "NSSC" Spey Fly designed and tied by club member Jim Ferguson.

The North Santiam Spey Casters meet once a month for a formal gathering to cast, evaluate spey equipment, discuss issues and trade a few secrets. The club sponsored a mini-clinic in November for people interested in learning more about spey casting and fishing. A total of 56 men and women participated in this great event. Currently, the club is in the process of adopting a portion of the Santiam River System and a Marion county park for clean up. The club is planning

to conduct more mini-clinics for the novice caster in the Portland, Willamette Valley, Medford and Central Oregon areas.

The NSSC presented Al Buhr with the "Feather-In-Your-Cap" award, a framed "NSSC" Spey Fly, for his untiring work for the FFF and the Two-Handed CI Certification Program. There will only be 10 official "NSSC" Spey Flies tied and presented to "Feather-In-Your-Cap" recipients.

The NSSC uses the computer, e-mail and web page to connect with its members. Notification is a keystroke away. Instant news regarding activities, meetings, and special events connects the membership.

The growth of spey casting (two-handed) justifies the existence of the NSSC club. A voice is established in the fly-fishing community: the North Santiam Spey Casters. ■

WEB PAGE:

northsantiamspeycasters.org

E-MAIL:

dgklemin@msn.com



A flyfisher's Connection to Salmon and a Man who Chased Them

By Hank Hosfield

The warm glow of Indian summer is gone. The sun is but a faint yellow circle upon a slate gray horizon that hangs a low, heavy ceiling over the fading hillside colors of northwestern Oregon. Fall salmon are surging up the coastal rivers in their indefatigable quest to spread their epic life force across their natal waters for generations to come.

Chasing them with a fly rod is an annual ritual for me. The fortuitous conflux of perfectly drifted fly pattern and aggressive salmon explode into chaotic battles that test every fiber of tackle and resolve. Pulling with all my might on a stout nine-weight rod against these silver torpedoes gives me a bedrock appreciation of what it truly means to never give up. Hip-deep in chilly current, wading-shoe cleats bracing for purchase against the shifting and slippery river rock, fighting for every reel-turn of fly line, I feel connected to something ancient and authentic. At the same time it rejuvenates me, it breaks me down into my base elements to reveal fundamental truths about myself, my mortality, and my natural place in the universe.

Life, death, struggle, the beginning and the end; it's all here. And it's beautiful.

I'd like to be fishing today. But the rain that has pushed the rivers out of shape has made the day better fit for tying flies than fishing them. Since I passed my fortieth winter I have grown to enjoy my hours at the tying bench as much as time on the water. It offers



a different sort of contemplation. Putting hook in vise and dressing it with colored thread, fur and feathers, whether to approximate one of the time-tested patterns of the masters, or to break away from tradition to create something of totally original symmetry, I find it hard not to think about the fish it will catch in the new seasons to come on my favorite waters.

My lifetime collection of tying materials fills a rainbow stack of clear boxes. Much of the best quality stuff came from my father, who first taught me to tie flies. But the stuff I'm using to tie my salmon patterns today came from my father's late best friend, George. Like my father, George grew up in Akron, graduated from an Ivy league college, then migrated to



the Pacific Northwest, where he enjoyed fly fishing on many of the region's most famous salmon and steelhead rivers.

As I admire the fine French tinsel, flawless English hooks, and premium hackles that I cherry picked from the remnants my father collected from George's estate, it is obvious that George had a passion for the sport and a keen appreciation for beauty and quality. I can't imagine that these things wouldn't have given him great satisfaction, which stands in direct contradiction to the sobering truth that George secretly drank himself to death and was fairly miserable.

I don't know why. It's been several years since George's ashes were spread over his favorite Washington stream. Yet still I look at his old stuff and wonder how something that gave him so much pleasure could not redeem him? It is a mystery because fly-fishing is intrinsically optimistic. It is hopeful and life affirming.

I miss George, his crooked smile and sardonic wit. I think of him often as I tie salmon patterns with his old materials, and when I retrace his steps along streams like the Kalama, I marvel at the life force of salmon and continue to wonder and fail to reconcile how it couldn't sustain him. ■

Calendar of Events – 2005

March 26	17 th Annual NW Fly Tyer's Expo Wheeler Pavilion – Lane County Convention Center – Eugene
April 9	Youth Casting Seminar – Alto Bake Park – Eugene
April 16	Women's Seminar – Roaring Springs Trout Camp – Scio
April 17	Oregon Council Spring Meeting – Red Lion Eugene
April 30	Women's Seminar – Roaring Springs Trout Camp – Scio
May 1	Deadline for Oregon Flyfisher submissions
July 17	Oregon Council Summer Meeting – Red Lion Eugene
August 1	Deadline for Oregon Flyfisher submissions
August 5	Deadline for entries in the Oregon State Fair Fly Tying Competition
August 8-13	FFF Conclave – Livingston, Montana
August 27	Fly Tying Demonstration – Oregon State Fair
October 9	Oregon Council Fall Meeting – Red Lion Eugene
November 1	Deadline for Oregon Flyfisher submissions



New Charter Clubs Formed

By Tony Brauner

In 2004, the Oregon Council saw the addition of two new FFF Charter clubs and one existing club change its status to become a charter club.

The Knot Me Leaders club of Salem is a fly fishing club who's members are all FFF life members living in Oregon and. They began as an affiliated club and in late 2004, club leaders decided to change directions and finalized the process to become a charter FFF club.

The two brand new FFF Charter Clubs (all members must be members of the Federation of Fly Fishers) are the North Santiam Spey Casters of Salem and the Umpqua Valley Fly Fishers of Roseburg and Douglas County.

The Umpqua Valley club has held five club meetings and has voted to become a FFF Charter, family oriented fly fishing club. The members of the Umpqua Valley club have been very vocal about wanting a club which would meet monthly and provide programs and activities for its members to improve their skills of fly fishing, casting, knot tying and fly tying etc. This newly formed club has produced its first newsletter thanks to Carol LaBranche and has printed an Umpqua Valley Fly Fisher's annual calendar which features flies tied by local tiers. Tom Donahue spearheaded the production of the calendar which has excellent photos and will be a great fundraiser for the club. The Umpqua Valley

club has elected a slate of new interim officers and they are: Dave Dennis - President, Carol LaBranche - Secretary, Kim DeVries - Treasurer, Tony Fischer, Alex Nielsen, John Van Cott (Board Members). These six fly fishers are to be commended for volunteering to provide the leadership to help this newly formed club become an FFF Charter Club. The Oregon Council has been assisting both of these new clubs in the process of getting started and suggests that any group of fly fishers in Oregon that would like to form a new club contact the FFF - Oregon Council. Every effort will be made to assist you in this endeavor. ■



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
27330 NE Weldler Cr.
Fairview, OR 97024

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 Santiam Spey Casters**
1077 Nona Ave. NW
Salem, OR 97302

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**
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Beaverton, OR 97008

* FFF Charter Clubs

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NORTHWEST FLY TYER'S EXPO

March 26, 2005



Wheeler Pavilion

Lane County Convention Center, Eugene

Visit Us Online 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

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