



June 2012

# Rogue Flyfishers

**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 the natural resources, environment, and conditions for fishing in the Rogue Valley.**

## PROGRAM

**Josh White** of the Rogue Fly Shop in Grants Pass has spent several seasons guiding in the Klamath Country and he will share with us how and where he fishes it.

**Rogue Flyfishers**  
**PO Box 4637**  
**Medford, Oregon 97504**  
**[www.rogueflyfishers.org](http://www.rogueflyfishers.org)**

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Outings	Kellie Christensen	776-4094
Roadside Cleanup	Bill Ackermann	857-6154
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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE—JUNE 2012 by Kellie Christensen**

Tonight, as I sit here in the chaos of boxes and packing materials, I contemplate the new direction my life is taking and wish again for the impossible. To wiggle my nose and have all of the packing and moving done ala "Bewitched" or cross my arms and nod my head like "I Dream of Jeannie" and have the entire process instantly completed.

If those folks over at "Star Trek" would get off their duffs and bring us the "Transporter" just imagine how simple life would be! I could be fishing the Williamson River and simply holler "Beam me up Scotty" and I would immediately be back in my home, rod in hand, smiling contently—at least until I saw those darn boxes that aren't packed yet!

Looks like I am going to have to do this the old fashioned way.....lots of sorting and boxes and newspapers and ads on Craig's List for all of the items that are not going with me.

Your president is on the move and not within the our beautiful little valley this time. I am pleased and happy to report that I have (at last) met the love of my life and am moving to Roseburg in June, soon to become a "Mrs."

This wacky world we live in is not as it was. "Commitment" doesn't mean much to some people but I am grateful to have been raised by parents who taught me that "my word is my bond" and to understand what "honoring your commitments" means.

I have enjoyed serving this wonderful club. Because of that, and what my parents taught me, I shall remain at my post and perform my duties diligently and with great pride as we continue working to achieve our many conservation goals and fundraising endeavors. I am sure that this will be good news for Mike Masters who is in line to become your next club president!

The journey from Roseburg to Medford is only 1 1/2 hours so I will be in town for the board meetings, dinner meetings and auction activities as I committed to doing some time ago. You can continue to reach me at the same phone number and the same email address.

I am so grateful for the time I have spent in the Rogue Valley and am both excited and a wee bit anxious about leaving this place that has been "home" for the past 9 years. I have waited a long time to meet this man, and it hasn't always been easy being a single woman, but I would gladly do it all again just to meet him at this time in my life.

So fellow fly fishing enthusiasts, cast a couple for me on your next outing. It will probably be awhile before I can go out for a day on the water. In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at the June dinner meeting! - Kellie



### **So Many Fish, So Little Time - June**

THE HATCH!! This is June, and that means THE HATCH is on! What a glorious feeling knowing as I write this that in a few days the Rogue and other western rivers will proudly host one of the great piscatorial presentations known to man: THE SALMONFLY HATCH. Some streams put on a double feature, with Golden Stones hatching at approximately the same time. This is the time to clean your floating line and check that your fly box is well stocked with Salmonfly and Golden Stonefly imitations, of which there are many most of which do the job. Although popular wisdom indicates that dead drift is the best presentation, it is sometimes fun to intermittently skate the fly so as to imitate a stonefly bouncing along the surface laying eggs. Another twist is to cast a floating Salmonfly imitation along the face of the dam at Lost Creek Lake or among the logs in the little cove behind Takelma boat ramp. The bugs fly upstream during this mating ritual and many continue flying right over the dam onto Lost Creek Lake where bass and trout are waiting for them.

In addition to the hatch, excellent fly fishing is being reported from Diamond Lake. Vice President Mike Masters, Librarian Curt Schlosser, and Newsletter Editor Steve Ostrander enjoyed good action there on the club outing. See Mike's report elsewhere in this Newsletter.

The river is running just under 3,000 c.f.s. in late May, which is still too high for best fly fishing. Warm weather ought to melt the snow pack and allow lower flows to prevail most of the summer, but until that happens we must remain resolute and optimistic like good fly fishers everywhere.



## Bear Creek Watershed Symposium (May 17th)



Your club volunteers did an outstanding job tying flies with about 200 kids at this annual event. That's a lot of Woolly Buggers !! Thanks to the stalwart team that showed up and gave it their best: Steve Boyarski, Paul Cook, John Corson, Rich Fiebelkorn, Steve Haskell, Dale Heath, Dave Hopfer and Jon Iverson. Here's a comment from the coordinator, Rebecca Slosberg: "It warmed my heart to walk around and see all those kids learning and interacting with you all. I know it's a long day and I really appreciate your taking the time to be part of our symposium". Good job guys !! We can always use more help--you don't necessarily need to be a good "tyer" to contribute. Let us know if you're interested in participating in future events like this.

John Ward and Ken Bonsi



## Volunteer for a River Cleanup on June 9th!

The Rogue Basin Coordinating Council (RBCC), the Seven Basins Watershed Council and the Rogue Valley Council of Governments are sponsoring a river cleanup event on June 9th, from TouVelle State Park to Fishers Ferry, just past the former site of Gold Ray Dam.

We would love it if you could join us on the river for this event. We are looking for both:

volunteers to work on the cleanup from rafts/drift boats (meeting at 8:30 at TouVelle State Park) and on land (meeting at 9:00 at the Tolo Tavern on Blackwell Rd. )

people with boats to carry volunteers and collect the debris found as we float (meeting at 8:00 at TouVelle State Park)

Lunch will be provided following the cleanup at noon.

If you have any questions or would like to volunteer please reply to this email or contact:

Sam Whitridge  
RBCC Coordinator  
541-690-8799  
[coordinator@roguebasinwatersheds.org](mailto:coordinator@roguebasinwatersheds.org)

## SOFT

The Southern Oregon Fly Tyers invite you to attend their meetings the second Tuesday of each month. The next meeting is June 12, 2012. The meetings start at 6:00 PM, at the Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park community building near Gold Hill. Bring a friend, come early so you don't miss anything, and stay late. Tyers need not be experienced, and those with all levels of skill are welcome. Each meeting a member is encouraged to demonstrate a new or different skill, from simple to difficult. For more information, call Dan Kellogg at 773-4724.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take Gold Hill Exit #40, off of I-5 and go west, toward Jacksonville, 1.3 miles, until you reach the brick entrance way to the Madrone Hill Mobile Home Park on the right. You'll pass a golf course parking lot on your left shortly after leaving the freeway. After you turn right into the mobile home park, proceed to the community building which is located about 100 yards ahead on the left. The address is 8401 Old Stage Rd. Please park your vehicle on the bare dirt in the parking lot to avoid the wooden septic covers in the grass

## Diamond Lake Outing, May 19, 2012

Have you ever had a great day of fishing? Have you ever wished for such a day of fishing? You might have wished you would have tagged along for this outing. The weather was a little brisk in the morning, a little frost on the boat docks up on the marina. Once out away from the shore and into the sun light it was that kind of day. Beautiful blue skies mixed with the backdrop of a snow capped Mt. Bailey on the west side and then the magnificent view of Mt. Thielsen to the east. A pair of eagles soared over head near the southwest end of the lake.

Curt Schlosser, Steve Ostrander, and I were the club representatives for this day of fishing and fellowship. It is a real meaningful time for me to be able to spend quality time with great people that are doing what I love to do. And that is fishing! More than catching, these moments are precious to me. To be outdoors in a vast wilderness, stripping flies through cold water, anticipating the hit, and all of that revolving being with friends, really are what makes me feel great and lucky to live in So. Oregon.

We shared a lot of smiles and laughter and information. It was a suggestion from Steve that led to my success.

As of last count, Steve and I both scored more than a dozen fish landed and Curt was just a little behind us. Many of the fish were over 15" and a couple measured 17". We encountered several fish that just didn't want any part of seeing the inside of a boat and we also released many others. There were lots of comments from the Powerbait throwers as it sure looked like we were out fishing them with the movements of our flies.

Further details might cost you a raffle or a beverage of our choice.

Keep smiling and come home safe.

Mike Masters



## CASTING CLASS

We have an upcoming casting class that is being taught by David Wang. The class will be covering single hand roll casts. We will meet at TouVelle park June 16th at 9:00 am. The training will continue until lunch. All skill levels are welcome.

# On The Fly

June 2012

“Fly tying is a school from which we never graduate”

## PATTERN OF THE MONTH – Thunder Creek Minnow

Hook: Daiichi 1750, Mustad 9674, 4x long streamer, straight eye.  
Thread: 6-0 white.  
Body: Silver or pearlescent Mylar.  
Under wing: Pearlescent Crystal Flash.  
Belly: White bucktail.  
Wing: Olive bucktail.  
Gills: Tying thread.  
Eyes: Stick-on.



### Tying Instruction

Step 1: Mash the barb and mount the hook in the vise.

Step 2: Start the thread behind the eye and lay down a smooth thread layer to the front 1/4 of the hook shank. Tie in the body material just behind the hook eye and wind it rearward covering the shank to the hook bend. Reverse direction and wind the body material forward to the original tie-in point. Tie off and trim the excess.

Step 3: Select a few strands of the Crystal Flash, stagger cut to varied lengths, and tie them in at the 1/4 point down the hook shank. The longest strand should be no more than 1 1/2 the shank length. Trim the excess.

Step 4: Select a small clump of olive bucktail, clean out the short fibers, and stack to even the tips. Grasp the clump with the tips facing forward over the hook eye and measure for 1 1/2 times the shank length. Tie in on top of the shank just behind the eye, trim butt at the 1/4 shank position, and cover the butts evenly with tying thread.

Step 5: Prepare a second clump of white bucktail in the same manner. Measure and tie in on the underside of the hook. Trim the butts at the same point and cover with thread.

Step 6: Fold the olive wing back over the top of the shank and secure at the 1/4 position with firm thread wraps. Excessive thread tension will cause unwanted flairing. Use your thumb nail to spread the bucktail fibers to evenly cover the top half of the fly.

Step 7: Fold the white belly hair back under the shank, secure at the same position, and spread the fibers evenly around the bottom half of the hook.

Step 8: Use a red permanent marker to color the tying thread. Build a slim red collar to suggest gills. Whip finish and cement.

Step 9: Apply small stick-on eyes to the sides of the bullet head. Apply epoxy or similar finish of the entire head of the fly. To give your streamer the distinct parr markings, mottle and stripe the olive wing.

The Thunder Creek Minnow series was created by Keith Fulsher of Wisconsin in the early sixties. He was not satisfied with the minnow patterns of his day, and was looking for a simple, sparse, slender design that better imitated the larger head and eyes of the naturals he observed. The pattern was named after Thunder Creek, Wisconsin where the prototypes were tested and perfected.

Thunder Creek Minnows feature a prominent head formed by pulling or reversing the wing and belly materials over the hook shank and tying in place. There are unlimited numbers of materials that can be substituted for bucktail. Hair, such as calf tail, squirrel, kid goat, polar bear. Synthetics abound, with new products being introduced monthly it seems. Even marabou works well and gives good animation.

Body material is optional but adds the glow through the belly and wing materials suggesting the translucent nature of small baitfish. Holographic and braided Mylar are excellent choices to create this affect. The narrow thread collar gives the hint of the gill slit. The bulging eyes are a prominent feature on most superior baitfish patterns.

This is truly a versatile streamer pattern. Learn the concept then change the size, material and color to imitate any baitfish in your favorite rivers or Stillwater.

### Tying Tips

Keep materials sparse for a realistic profile. Vary the length of each Crystal Flash strand for a shimmering appearance throughout the fly. Keep the wing clump and belly clump separated until they are pulled back over the shank. This can be accomplished by wetting the tips or adding some dubbing wax to the hair tips. Coloring the thread with a marker eliminates the need to switch threads. Using super glue is a good bet for durability instead of head cement. This is an easy tie, fish well and match any forage base.

So tie some up, give them a test flight, and let me know how you do.

Tie One On,

Dan Kellogg, (you can contact me at: [flyguy@eznorthwest.com](mailto:flyguy@eznorthwest.com))  
[www.tyerstoolshop.com](http://www.tyerstoolshop.com)



**Our favorite story teller, Otis Swisher, is temporarily out of commission.**  
Here are a couple of stories the we have not used until now. I'm Sure you will enjoy them.

## **Fly-fishing: A Developed Skill**

Mend Your Ways

By Otis D. Swisher

"Mend your ways." Did your mother ever say that to you in your growing-up days? I'm sure she didn't have fly-fishing in mind when she said it; but, it is so appropriate for us as we fish. And, remember, your mother is always right. So, let's pursue one of the most important skills to be developed by fly-fishers.

A "mend" by whatever name, is the lifting of the line and a repositioning it on the surface of the stream.

Its purpose, is most often to take a "bow" out of the line in order to permit the fly to drift naturally. It is used for all types of flies from top-water dries, to skaters like Bombers, to sub-surface wet flies and streamers, to heavy lead-weighted nymphs fished below indicators.

No matter where you fish a stream, its surface is seldom one placid, glass-like, slick surface. On any one cast, the line lying on the surface is under constant tensions which want to put a "bow" in the line. If allowed to do so, the fly will be pushed or pulled or tugged to do an un-natural movement.

We get into a habit of casting and immediately mending, whether it is needed or not. I suggest that first we should look at what the water is doing to the line BEFORE we mend. Study the effect. Act accordingly.

Upstream or downstream mend? Let the bow of the line determine. Big or small mend? Let the drift decide for you.

Now, as to the "How to" of the mend. There are so many kinds, you'll have to sit and write about those I don't have space for.

My personal favorite is the one I refer to as the "around the clock". Lower the rod tip. Then a large, or small circle, clock- or counter-clock wise. The amount of power applied will determine the amount of line lifted and re-positioned.

When indicating after an up-stream cast, let the indicator start down toward you a few feet, THEN do the mend. A slow lift of the rod tip brings the line up off the surface, THEN do the "clock face" lift and mend. Once the indicator has passed you, another slow lift of the rod tip and another "around the clock" will re-position the line and extend your drift naturally.

Another mend: see the July RFF Newsletter for the excellent description of how to do the "reach mend" as shared by John MacDiarmid. Now, dear reader, how about you? Take up my challenge. Sit down and write up how you do the "stack mend", or one which is your favorite. Send it by email to our Editor Steve Ostrander at [ost247@charter.net](mailto:ost247@charter.net)

There are other "mends" not mentioned here. Write for those of us who wonder about them. We'd like to develop our skills. Help us do so. We'll be grateful to you for taking the time.

## **Trouting: a River Experience**

By Otis D. Swisher

I enjoy fly fishing the Rogue River for trout. And, it may not be exactly 100% true that "A steelhead is a fish of a thousand casts"; but, let me compare that "Old Adage" with my trouting experience of November 11, 2008.

From 10:50 to 12:30, I made 80 casts and landed 7 trout.  $80 \div 7 = 11.4$  casts per fish landed.

From 12:30 to 13:20 during a hatch with fish feeding on the surface, I made 65 casts and landed 30 fish.  $65 \div 30 = 2.16$  casts per fish landed.

From 13:45 to 15:20, I made 67 casts and landed 21 fish.  $67 \div 21 = 3.19$  casts per fish landed.

Summarizing: that's 212 casts to land 58 fish. And,  $212 \div 58 = 3.65$  casts per fish landed.

In my mind, I'd say that is the basis for a new "Adage": "That's why I call it catching and not fishing."

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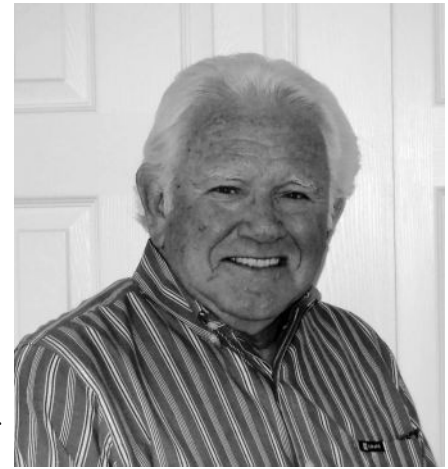
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**Call today and mention your affiliation with The Rogue Flyfishers for a member discount.**



**Palmer Creek Planting**



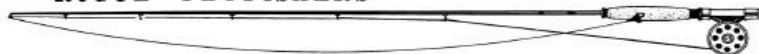
The above photo shows participants John Ward, Robert Parker, Bill Ackermann, Dennis Remick, and Edmond Daniel

Years ago many Upper Applegate tributary streams such as Palmer Creek offered excellent spawning habitat to steelhead. Cold, crystal clear water built stairs from multicolor boulders, cobble and smaller stones, a cascade of riffles and pools. Over time, high seasonal flows aggraded the riffles, filling the pools with stones so the creek only flowed below the rocks. Fish passage stopped and miles of suitable streams were barren until Ian Reid, USFS Fish Biologist, saw an opportunity last summer to restore access. A new channel bottom was compacted. Meanders were built, stabilized by large conifer logs embedded deep into the banks. In 2012 five RFF members joined volunteers from Medford Boy Scout Troop 5, and Middle Rogue Steelheaders to help plant riparian vegetation along 500-feet of newly constructed Palmer Creek channel. Four hundred container grown alder, black cottonwood, big leaf maple were planted ear the stream, with Ponderosa pine and black oak planted higher up slope. Many varieties of shrubs were planted among the trees to add root structure and reduce erosion. Over the years the vegetation will shade the stream and stabilize the steep stony slopes. The created meanders will slow the waters, and rootwads on the embedded logs will help retain gravel and add hiding cover for juvenile steelhead.

The image to the right shows Boy Scout Troop 5, Medford, planting the steep stony planting site on the lower reach of Palmer Creek in the project area. Sorry, no names for the troop leaders nor for the boys.



## ROGUE FLYFISHERS



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

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Gary Anderson Custom Rods	1976 Footh Creek Road, Gold Hill	541-582-4318
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Rogue Fly Shop	310 NW Morgan Lane, Grants Pass	541-476-0552
The Flyway Shop	9349 Hwy. 97 South, Klamath Falls	541-884-3825

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### 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. There is also a \$10 new member processing fee.) **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** \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

**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 ☐  
Are you **retired?** Yes ☐ No ☐ Are you interested in, or want help in (check all as appropriate): **Casting** ☐ **Fly tying** ☐ **Fishing Techniques** ☐ **Water Knowledge** ☐ **Conservation Activities** ☐ **Fishing Partner** ☐ **Organizing Social Activity and Group Outings** ☐ **Do you have a drift boat?** Yes ☐ No ☐ **lake boat?** Yes ☐ No ☐ other interests?

Prefer using the **Online Newsletter** ☐ (quickest receipt and saves the club money for other activities and uses, or by **US Mail** ☐?  
Amount enclosed \_\_\_\_\_. Mail completed form and payment to:

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