



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

PROGRAM

**Goodbye 2020
Looking forward to a
better 2021**

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

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			term
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE FROM STEVE DAY

"Let's Celebrate the Last Fifty Years!"



Looking back, Vern Hooker was not happy about some of the fishing regulations on the Upper Rogue River. That was fifty years ago. It was February 1971 that Vern, along with colleague, Bill Leever Sr., were inspired to make a difference and organized and created what came to be, the Rogue Flyfishers.

That inspiration led to 35 Charter Members interested in the promotion of fly fishing and conservation. The Club was born. In many ways the Club back then closely resembles the Club today. Primarily it was and is today, a group of dedicated folks that have an interest in fly fishing, fly tying, resource protection and education. People coming together with a shared interest.

The second meeting of the Club in 1971 was held at the Holiday Inn, in Medford. The featured speaker was Frank Moore of Umpqua River fame. Frank, an untiring protector of the North Umpqua River, presented the short film, Pass Creek.

The film, Pass Creek, was produced by Dick Snider and Hal Riney, advertising executives and avid fishermen, in conjunction with the North Umpqua Steamboaters. The film illustrated the potential impacts that irresponsible logging practices had on the North Umpqua watershed and specifically, Steelhead. It was a force for change.

This film was widely distributed throughout Oregon and across the country in the 1970's and was credited with positive changes in logging practices throughout the States and in particular, the Pacific Northwest. You can watch the film here in its' original format. <https://vimeo.com/50181875>.

Fifty three years post production, I found the film eerily reflective of the topics and issues still facing watersheds today but also warmly inspirational of what a small group of dedicated individuals can accomplish.

Our Club has accomplished much over the last fifty years. Many of our Club Members past and present, have been incredibly instrumental in improving our communities, our valley and the watershed around us while demonstrating good stewardship and being great ambassadors of the sport.

As most of you know, there is still much work to be done. We will continue to come together to educate and rehabilitate, as well as promote conservation, our sport and strongly support projects and causes that we believe in. And we will fish!

I wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year and I propose a toast to all of you and to those, who over the years represented us honorably and were inspired to make a difference. *"Let's Celebrate the Last Fifty Years!"* as well! Go fishing!

"I am who I am and what I am, largely as the result of someone taking me fishing"

CRANE PRAIRIE OUTING

JUNE 25th thru 27th, 2021



If you've ever wanted to fish Crane Prairie, or fished it and struggled with figuring it out, this will be a great opportunity! Crane can be tough but with a little direction with timely information, it can be a blast.

Keith Hardcastle and Steve Day are hosting this Outing and will be there to help. The Official Base Camp for this adventure will be in the Rock Creek Campground at Space 10. Rock Creek Campground is located at the south west corner of the Lake and close to some great fishing locations. There is a boat ramp in the Campground and the shoreline there is such that personal watercraft can be launched with ease. Your Hosts will be at the Lake all week and with a little luck will have things dialed in by the Outing Weekend.



Crane is famous for the large, robust Rainbows, affectionately known as "Cranebows". Brook Trout, Kokanee and Largemouth Bass call Crane home as well. Crane Prairie is a shallow lake over flooded timber with Damsels, Leeches and Chironomids dominating the food chain.

Reservations for Rock Creek Campground are now available through [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov). Quinn River Campground and Cultus Lake Campground are very close and only a short drive to Rock Creek. I would strongly recommend getting reservations as soon as possible if you plan on going.

Currently we are keeping our fingers crossed so that we can have our famous Pot Luck BBQ on Saturday evening the 26th. We'll keep you posted on that and we will follow up on fishing techniques, fly patterns and more as we get closer to the Outing.

So, come on out, fish, fellowship and enjoy. For more information contact Steve Day at icrsrd303@gmail.com or (661) 742-5835.

Reprint from our favorite story teller Otis Swisher

If I Had My Druthers

Otis D. Swisher

Pea soup green, please, and not too thick. About a foot of visibility will do very nicely, thank you.

And so, the 10th of February, 2014 drift from Takelma Park to Dodge Bridge began. After weeks of early morning fog and cold, the sun came out, the temperature rose to the high 50's, and there was a short winter break for Paul Rickerson, the oarsman, and me.

Now, I've fished dry flies successfully in yellow-muddy water conditions when the mid-day hatch was going on; but, this color was different. I'd say unusual.

While Paul prepared the boat for launching, I saw rising fish off the boat ramp. A good sign for the day, came on a far out cast when an 11-inch rainbow smacked my dry. A wild fish. Nice activity for my 3-wgt rod.

We usually are prepared to fish indicators for steelhead, but carry along the lighter tackle, already set up in case we come across rising fish. So, the first mile of river we tried the bottom dredging with the heavy nymph and small trailer.

Water looked good. Flow was up slightly, and the 2-day rain seemed to have "freshened" the water. But, none of the old standby places produced for us.

Then, at "Vince's Hole", named for my long-time fisher friend, rising fish began to show themselves. Let me digress to explain why it's called Vince's Hole. Years ago, I fished river Left from the boat after putting Vince out to wade river Right. There we were, he wading with a dense background of rank riparian behind him which limited his casts to 35-40 feet. But, what success he had in those 40 feet...4 steelhead.

And, there I was in the boat opposite him, fishing the Left half of the river. And, for every steelhead he caught, I matched his output. Now, isn't that a good enough reason to call this "Vince's Spot?"

Today, years later, I went to my #14 O's blue dun and my first Cutthroat of 13-inches was on and another five fish followed suit.

There is a second spot less than 100-yards downstream where Cutthroat hang in the slower water just a few feet out from the bank. The Cutts were active again today, one with six porpoise-like jumps; 3 to 4 feet, side-to-side jumps, and a foot or so out of the water.

Another half-mile below this spot you can see the Bald Eagle nest, river Right. The river has changed in the last few years. A huge cottonwood is the point of attack for the river flow. In the slower water a fish rose. Way out. So, strip, strip, strip, strip, strip, strip, to get out 45 feet of line, and on the second drift down the "feeding lane" the #14 blue dun became the object of a huge head and six-inches of fish body behind it. Turned out to be 16-inches of the most beautiful trout of the Rogue System, a Cutthroat.

It didn't end there. Catfish is a well-known spot to fish and we like it near a rock complex. I'd tell you where this complex is but it is one of three so I'll let you find it for yourself. While I was catching wild fish of 11-inches and greater on my blue dun, Paul took his first steelhead of 2014. A bright fish, with a big gut, it was obviously a winter fish of 28-inches; beautiful to look at though not as strong nor as active as winter fish are supposed to be.

Nevertheless, this was a great day in February to be on the river. And, I can close my eyes and can see the color of the water. If I have my druthers, I'll take split-pea soup green, thank you.

Remembering Bill Rittenhouse

The Rogue Flyfishers lost an incredible member and friend when Bill Rittenhouse passed away on December 10. Though his health prevented him from being active in the club in recent years, during the late 1990s and 2000s, Bill was one of the club's most energetic and influential members. He did an extensive amount of work to organize and summarize the club's records, inventory and organized the club's equipment, develop a manual to guide the operation of the club, and plan and promote club activities. Bill served as the club's President for two terms from 2001 to 2003. He also enjoyed publishing the newsletter, teaching in the schools about conservation, tying flies, and spending time fishing the local lakes, ponds, and rivers.



In recognition of his service, Bill was honored as the Outstanding Club Member of the Year in 2000. In 2004, Bill was bestowed the highest honor the Rogue Flyfishers can give a member—the Dick Ruff Award—an award given out only when warranted to a member that makes exceptional contributions, over a period of years, to the club and the programs and resources we value.



In addition to all that Bill did for the club, Bill was one of the nicest and most generous people you could meet. He was a pleasure to be with and a great friend to many in the club. Bill will be missed!

Just in case you didn't hear about it!

For the first time in more than a generation, The Chinook salmon spawn in the upper Columbia River!

Colville Tribe from the Arrow Lakes and SanPoil. "I don't know that I have the right words to even explain the happiness and the healing." That is what was quoted in the article I read after some friends that live there sent me the info and we had a discussion about it. A Cousin that lives off the Columbia said he is excited to see that the Salmon are spawning!

In 2019, around 60 salmon were released above the Grand Coulee and Chief Joseph dams in a cultural event. In 2014 scientists had hopes of a plan to examine habitat, fish passage and survival of the Salmon to bring them back to their natural spawning beds.

Biologists released 100 fish 35 miles up the Sanpoil River in August to see how well they survived. Each fish was outfitted with a PIT tag, a type of passive tracking device. Biologists checked on the hatchery-bred fish throughout the summer and in October started noticing that the fish were spreading out and spawning.

This is a step toward full reintroduction of the migratory fish and another watershed moment for the region. Salmon have been blocked from returning to spawning beds in the upper Columbia River for a long long time and with the high rate of survival and the amount of spawning there are hopes for the Salmon to return in the Upper Columbia!!

Coastal Winter-Steelhead Outing, January 30 and 31

Though the Coronavirus has put most of the club's activities on hold for the time being, we will try to hold outings as best we can and in a responsible manner. On January 30 and 31, we are planning an outing to the coast to fish for winter steelhead. In January, while the upper Rogue is in a lull between the summer and winter steelhead runs, the fishing for winter steelhead is in full swing in the streams along the coast. Plus, there is a good variety of options for fly anglers, from drifting flies through pockets in small creeks to swinging flies through broad runs on large rivers.

Since weather and river conditions are unpredictable along the coast during the winter, and the situation with the Coronavirus is evolving rapidly, people interested in attending the outing should email me at tmdrhaight@infostructure.net to get on the list. As we get close to the date of the outing, I will make decision about when and where we will go and send out information to the people that have signed up.

David Haight, Outings Chair

Trout Fishing Costa Rica

Kirk Kowalke

This story started with Carol and my retirements and a decision to visit Costa Rica for a month long exploratory trip of the country. We tried to see as much of the country as possible from east coast to west and the mountains inland. One stop on our journey included a few stays at a high elevation resort called the Trogan Lodge in an area of San Gerardo de Dota. The intended purpose was to try to see a resplendent quetzal in the wild. And this is probably one of the best places to go. While researching the lodge they told me about the trout ponds they have there and the delicious trout meals they serve. The Rio Savagre flows down off a 10,000 foot Volcano and at 7000 feet elevation it still gets cool and the river runs cool and clear. At some point someone decide to pack rainbow trout in the river and they seem to have taken to it. Of course I included a 5 and a 7wt.rod in my luggage and an assortment of flies, salt and fresh water.

The drive from San Jose to Trogan lodge is about 100 K and takes about 3hours or more depending. The final 20 K dropping down the mountain to our lodging was a little hair raising as the road is narrow and very winding. I thoroughly enjoyed it, Carol not so much. When we arrived and got checked into our cabin up the hill, we proceeded to look over our surroundings. I can't begin to describe the beauty all around us . Of course I had to see the trout ponds and was not disappointed to see hundreds of large rainbows being raised in numerous ponds on the property. I was getting excited to see the river which adjoins the property and figure how I was going to fish it.

First off was a guided hike to look for a quetzal. We joined a group of about 20 people and an enjoyable guide and hiked up stream and came to a spot where the guide pointed out a tree with a 2 inch diameter hole and said a nest was inside, but after an hour of watching nothing showed. We returned to the lodge and decided to return later ourselves and look. After a delicious trout dinner Carol and I returned and were rewarded by a female on the nest looking out at us. We watched for a while took some photos and were just leaving when in a tree appears the male. We couldn't believe our luck as we witnessed one of nature's most colorful and rare birds. Don't know if life could be any better, but when we returned to our room and found the bed turned back and hot water bottles at our feet it was close to Nirvana.

Next day was my time to try for a CR rainbow trout and after asking permission was told to go for it I proceeded to the Rio Savagre and wet waded up the small river stopping at all the pocket water to nymph for trout. It only required a short line cast and a high stick to reach into the pocket water as boulders were thick. I was into fish quickly and although they were small it was a blast wading up river picking them up. It didn't matter what nymph I offered, they were ready takers. At some point it started to rain hard and I held up under a tree that shaded me quite well. After the rain passed I continued on and caught more 3 to 5 in. trout. I returned to our cabin fully satisfied after a wonderful day at The Trogan lodge fishing for wild rainbows.

Dear RFF Member:

It is time to renew your RFF Membership for 2021. In order to be listed in the official club directory, dues must be paid by March 31, 2021. Our new club directories will be available the end of April, 2021.

To renew your membership go to rogueflyfishers.org and look to the right, under Electronic Membership application or renewal, and click on pay with PayPal. Complete the form and then press Submit to continue to payment. Or, if you prefer, please print and fill out the form below and US mail the form and a check to: Rogue Flyfishers, PO Box 4637, Medford, Oregon 97501.

If you have any questions please contact the RFF Membership Chairman Don Dabney, Email address: drdabney49@gmail.com.

We look forward to another successful year for the Rogue Flyfishers and thank you for your continued support.
Sincerely,

Your RFF Board of Directors

Rogue Flyfishers Membership Renewal - 2021

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip _____

Email Address: _____

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

If this is a family membership, list family member's names, and email if different:

Best Contact Number: _____

Monthly Newsletter - *please indicate your preference by circling one:* Mailed Electronically

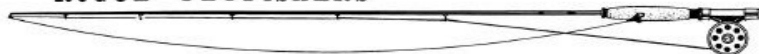
Are you a member of the **Fly Fishers International?** (circle one): Yes No

(Circle one) Individual: \$35 Family: \$45 Junior (under 18): \$5 Honorary Life Member \$0

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

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

ROGUE FLYFISHERS



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

Support Your Local Fly Fishing Resources

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

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

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

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

Renew in December for the following year.

Name: _____. If a family membership,

List Family Member's Names _____

Address _____

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

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

(2nd best) **Number** _____

E-mail Address: _____

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

Member Federation of Fly Fishers? Yes ____ No ____

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

Amount enclosed _____. Mail completed form and payment to:

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