

MAY 2021

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

PROGRAM

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

Rogue Flyfishers
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Steve Day

“If you could only have three?”

Not long ago I ran into an old friend of mine while downtown shopping. The conversation soon turned to fly fishing. I've fished with this elderly Gentleman numerous times and found him to be a skilled fisherman and fly tyer and a young soul at heart. He started telling me tales of some of his fishing adventures all over the west. Most of these trips were to Stillwater destinations and he expressed some of his frustrations with things such as matching the hatch, fly selection and generally catching success at unfamiliar locations.

Fly selection became the dominate topic of our chat. What patterns to use? What size? What color? What works most of the time and so forth. After some discussion, he asked me if I could only travel with a limited number of fly patterns for Stillwater, what would I take. He then specified, *“If you could only have three?”*

After a short period of rumination, I suggested the following: Small, brown, Balanced Leeches, Ice Cream Cone (or Snocone), Chironomid patterns and Pheasant Tailed Nymphs. Soon followed by “why those?”

For starters, they are all easy to tie, they can be fished with various techniques, they represent many different food items in most Stillwaters and I have found them to be incredibly effective in many different lakes and with a wide variety of species of fish.

Let's start with the Balanced Leech. A very versatile pattern that can be fished under an indicator, dangled, stripped, jigged or bounced along the bottom. Although effective in many different colors and sizes, I have found small and brown to be consistently effective for both Trout and Char species as well as Smallmouth Bass, Largemouth Bass and Panfish.

In my opinion, the Balanced Leech is one of the most under used and under rated of all flies available to the Stillwater Fly Fisherman. In sizes 16 to 10, or in lengths from ½ inch to 1 and ½ inches, it is often deadly in the pursuit of successful days on the water. Hanging one of these patterns under a strike indicator when the wind is blowing and the chop is up, can be very rewarding. Most freshwater gamefish will eat a Balanced Leech if presented properly in the right conditions.

What do Balance Leeches represent? Maybe Leeches, maybe Minnows, maybe Dragon Fly Nymphs if crawled along the bottom? Who knows? But whatever they represent, fish of many different species, will eat them.



President's Message continued

Then there is the Ice Cream Cone or Snocone, Chironomid patterns. The origination of this fly is the rumor of some dispute however, Kelly Davison of the Kamloops Region of British Columbia brought this fly fame, during the early 1990's. The original pattern was simply tied with a white bead, red thread and a black wire. Many variations in color and sizes from size 20 to size 10, can easily be incorporated into this pattern with sizes 18 to 14 being most common.



During the late 70's, I was invited to fish a small lake in BC with a friend whose family owned a small resort lakeside. Before the trip, I was told to bring my fly fishing, outfit, with the heaviest sinking line I owned. That first morning of fishing consisted of motoring to an area of the lake along side a rocky cliff structure where we anchored in approximately 45 feet of water. Humorously the depth of the water was determined by knots tied in the anchor rope every ten feet. Fish finders were not part of the equation. Tied to the end of a short leader was a fly that by all means was a crude version of a Snocone Midge. The fly had a white glass bead and a body of heavy red thread. We attached a weight to the fly and dropped it straight down from the rod tip until it rested on the bottom. The weight and fly, was then pulled up approximately two feet and a small piece of white athletic tape was placed on the fly line near the first stripping guide. This tape became the depth indicator for the rig that was repeatable after each cast or drop of the fly. The weight was then removed from the fly and the fishing began. To say I was amazed was an understatement. We caught dozens of big, fat, Rainbows that day, without even moving the boat. The strikes at that depth were vicious. Dangling or deep water, Chironomid fishing isn't limited to midge patterns. Balanced Leeches can be effective as well.

The Snocone is not limited to just the deep water, method of fishing. Hanging these under a strike indicator in shallow water or fishing them on a floating line and long leader with various retrieve rates can also be very productive.

President's Message continued

Last but not least, the Pheasant Tail Nymph. Created in the England by Frank Sawyer in 1958. Frank was a River Keeper on the chalkstream, Avon. Frank was responsible for the health of the river and the fish within. His desire to catch fish led him to develop the genre of fly patterns called "Sunken Nymphs". The original pattern was tied without thread, using only Pheasant tail fibers and copper wire.



The Pheasant Tail Nymph has taken on many forms since the original creation over half a century ago. One thing is for certain, it has survived the test of time. It was primarily designed to imitate the many forms of small, Baetis, insects. This fly continues to produce in the many waters that are home to lake dwelling Mayflies.

Although it was originally intended to be used as a "Sunken Nymph" in moving water, it is a great pattern in Stillwaters and represents not only Mayflies but a whole host of other aquatic insects or small minnows. Fish it under an indicator, slow strip it with a long leader on a dry line or sink it and fish it deeper. Sizes 18 to 14 will suit most common situations. Sometimes that's all they want to eat.

Well, that's my three. I'm sure if you were to ask 10 other fly fishers the same question, you would likely get ten different answers. Most importantly, learn to fish your favorites and learn to fish them well. The fish might not appreciate it but you will and then, take somebody fishing.

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



Fly Tying during the Pandemic.

If you are looking for flies to tie during this pandemic, look to our website. Our fly archive has many detailed descriptions of flies to tie for fun or to build up your stock. You will find a list of materials needed and a step-by-step description of how to tie the fly. There is also a photo of each fly to use for comparison. The flies range from easy, simple to a little more difficult. All of them can be tied with some practice.

If you are new to the area or just need some inspiration, we have a section on the website that shows flies that have been successful on the Rogue River. There is a variety to choose from. Both nymphs and streamers..

To access these the Fly Tying Archive and Flies for the Rogue, go to the home page of the website. Put your cursor on the flies pulldown (indicated by the arrow). A selection list will open up. Then move your cursor to the section you would like to view and click on that. This is over simplified, but I wanted to make it clear to all levels of users.



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ents needed on DEQ?

Treatment Plant Discharge Permit John M
initiated action on the negative water qu
Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge to
action resulted in an ongoing law suit th
2020 newsletter. All newsletters are avail
Briefly, the Northwest Environmental A
(12/17) under the Federal Clean Water A
water quality. Soon after the suit was file
action while both parties investigated th
experts to study the problem and file repor

Action Alert: Comments needed on DEQ's proposed Medford Wastewater Treatment Plant Discharge Permit

John MacDiarmid

Rogue Fly Fishers initiated action on the negative water quality impacts of the Medford Wastewater Treatment Plant discharge to the Rogue River in 2012. This action resulted in an ongoing lawsuit that is discussed in the club June 2020 newsletter. All newsletters are available to read at the RFF web site. Briefly, the Northwest Environmental Advocates(NEA) sued Medford (12/17) under the Federal Clean Water Act for harming the Rogue River water quality. Soon after the suit was filed, NEA agreed to suspend legal action while both parties investigated the problem further. Both hired experts to study the problem and file reports. All results were shared. Then the two parties negotiated what level of treatment is necessary to protect the water quality. NEA was not satisfied with Medford's response so they reactivated the suit in early 2021; the Medford Federal District Court will now decide the level of treatment necessary to protect water quality in the Rogue River.

Water Quality in Oregon is managed by the state Department of Environmental Quality(DEQ). They issue discharge permits to all dischargers. Medford is operating under a permit issued in November,2011; it expired in November, 2016. DEQ is now in the process of issuing a new permit for Medford's discharge and the comment period is open until May 10. Because so many water quality experts have investigated the needs and sensitivity of the Rogue River as a part of the lawsuit discussed above, NEA is in a definitive technical position to evaluate and challenge the proposed discharge permit. They have determined the proposed permit is inadequate to protect the river. Your comments expressing your concerns for the Rogue River are necessary to try and protect the river. NEA has a letter writing campaign underway and you can participate by clicking on the following. Read the short introduction and follow the prompts. Please do your part to protect our river. https://actionnetwork.org/letters/rogue-river-medford-permit?source=direct_link&

Also, if you twitter, Patagonia is doing a twitter campaign. You can go to the following and retweet it out: https://actionnetwork.org/letters/rogue-river-medford-permit?source=direct_link&

Thank you for your support in protecting our river!



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.

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