



# Flycasters

## APRIL SHOWERS

April Showers may bring May Flowers, but they surely didn't produce many fishes for the eight soggy souls who ventured to the fabled "Holy Waters" of the mighty Rogue River. I'm not sure what fly fishing fool dubbed the place "The Holy Waters", but It certainly sounded intriguing during the board meeting last December when we were planning our outings for this year. Having never been there, I had waited with great anticipation for a try at this famous tail water fishery. This fabled section of the Rogue River flows from the base of Lost Creek Dam downstream for about two miles, and provides easy access for the pursuit of reputedly large (Trophy Size) Rainbow Trout. It is a fly fishing only section of water, that requires the use of barbless hooks, and strict catch and release practices. I personally can not attest to how big any of the fish are that live there, but I am truly blessed in knowing that I was provided a great opportunity to practice my casting on such a world renowned section of free flowing water.

The rain (although almost constant on Friday for the drive down) let up on Saturday during casting practice, and the day was relatively pleasant— right up until dinner time, when they returned with a

vengeance. However, a fine meal of superbly charred Hot Dogs and Hamburgers provided by your president (designated host and camp cook) along with numerous pot luck accompaniments, under the awning on the trailer provided a welcome relief from the seasonal weather. The rain continued throughout the evening, which dissipated the riotous crowd and brought an end to our usual late night fireside chat and beer fest.

By Sunday morning, the rain was gone and friend Frank and I hooked up and headed toward Reedsport in pursuit of the Spring Chinook Salmon, and Striped Bass, that are currently showing in the Smith River. The rain from the previous week however had turned the Umpqua River the color of two day old coffee with cream, and it was flowing at around 11,500 cfs. We also learned that you fish for stripers at night. As high and fast as the river was running however, I would not put my boat on it during the day time; let alone in the middle of the night, and what ensued was two days of wine tasting, and we departed for home on Tuesday.

*Howard Palmer*

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The following individuals joined the Santiam Flycasters during the month of April:

***Mr. Roger Moreland***

***Mr. Justin Richey***

***Mr. Darian Hyde***

Be sure and bid them a warm welcome at the next meeting.

## **APRIL MEETING**

If you were unable to attend our club meeting in April, you missed a great time; - and some fantastic tying instruction by some of our more experienced tiers. Also, you missed out on some great buys on lots of fur, feathers, and other cool stuff. Many favorable comments were received about this format and it is probably something we should consider doing at least once a year.

## **DIAMOND LAKE LIMIT RAISED**

For those of you, who like me, eat what we catch now and then, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has increased the daily catch limit on Diamond Lake from 5 to 8 fish per day. (Only one of which may be over 20 inches) They are a little hard to get to right now, but in another month, this gem of Oregon's Cascade mountains would be a good choice for a great get-a-way.

## **BUY OF THE MONTH**

My wife and I were recently at COSTCO for lunch. While looking for something to eat, I noticed that they have a Pontoon Boat on sale for \$299. If you are new to our sport, and are in the market for one, it may be worth your time to take a look. On the other hand, I have a used one that I'll sell you for \$150.

## **CABELLA'S IS COMING**

Just in case you haven't heard, Cabella's Sporting Goods is opening a store in the Springfield Mall (just off the freeway on the east side of I-5) and just south of the Eugene Beltway. Their Grand Opening is this coming Thursday (May 5th). See you there.

## **MCKENZIE RIVER FISH COUNT**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is currently conducting a population estimate on wild trout in the McKenzie River between Hendricks's Bridge and Bellinger Boat Landing. Wild trout are currently being tagged with a Blue Tag right below the dorsal fin. There are also a handful of Orange tags out there but most tags are Blue. No adipose marked hatchery trout are being tagged. If you are fishing the McKenzie River over the next few weeks or months and catch a wild trout with a Floy Tag, ODFW would appreciate if you could record the number printed on the tag, the date it was caught, and a good description of the location where it was caught. This information will be used to better understand the patterns of fish movement in the McKenzie River. PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE THE TAG. All wild trout must be released unharmed.

## **PROJECT HEALING WATERS REVISITED**

During the FFF Expo in Albany, I was approached by the President of the Vietnam Veterans of America chapter located in Sweet Home. He invited me to their monthly breakfast meeting to speak about Project Healing Waters. They are very interested in sponsoring a local chapter and have asked that we co-sponsor it with them. They have been given a small pond near Sweet Home that they will stock with fish, and a 52' floating dock has been donated for installation on the pond. They need approximately \$1200 to install the dock and are actively working to have the pond open by this summer. Although the group will not be totally dedicated to fly fishing, it will, none the less, be of the utmost importance to our wounded veterans, and one that is very dear to my heart. It is definitely worthy of our assistance and support. The following article, written by Paul Johnson (one of our members) tells why. (*Watch for more info in future issues*)

## Healing Waters

*I waded out into knee-high water at one of my favorite spots on the Deschutes. Awkwardly I made my first cast and let the dry fly settle on the surface of the water just upstream of the current seam, and watched it drift as I mended my line. Then suddenly the fly disappeared in a subtle sip as a Redside rainbow sucked down my fly. A second later, unprepared for the take so soon, I clumsily set the hook and the fish was still on. Heart racing and reel screaming, I struggled to get my footing as I followed the large trout downstream, working him to the side into the slow current. I landed him, hands shaking, and released him back to the wild. There I was, back on the Deschutes. Fish on. All is right with the world. I had to keep reminding myself that I'm back, I'm home, I survived the war; I made it. Bittersweet considering that two of the guys in my unit did not make it back.*

*It was only months before that we were getting on that C-17 transport flying out of Baghdad down to Kuwait. It had been a tough year. It wasn't really the combat that was tough; I only saw a little bit myself. It was the being gone so long, away from normal life, being in the military and having to survive in a combat operating environment. Maybe it was the constant threat; the 'heavy' feeling of war in a foreign country where you can't trust anyone, surrounded by tons of people who want to kill you. Sure, they tried to kill me a few times, but that didn't really phase me. There were the many artillery rocket attacks, including one that landed less than ninety yards from me. There was the time I was on a patrol and got shot at, rounds whizzing by my head. Then there was the losing our guys to an EFP attack on a convoy route. That one hit us all hard. Maybe it was just the combined effect of it all. Whatever it was, when you are over there, all you want is to be normal again and to enjoy the things of home, the things of peace. That's why it was so important to get home to my family and to do things that I did before I left. To get my life back.*

*And that is why it was so good that I was back on my favorite waters, hooking into fish and enjoying the wild scenery. I felt normal again. Being alive and not walking among the dead. Doing anything normal again is an important step in 'coming back' from a war. But there is nothing like the great outdoors, and sports like fly fishing, to help with getting the focus back on life and not on fighting a war. I also credit my faith, family, and friends for helping me adjust to life back in the world. But many other guys are not so lucky, and have had a tough time of it coming back from a war. That's why I'm glad there are organizations out there like Project Healing Waters, a non-profit organization that exists to help provide this experience for disabled war veterans of all ages. Its mission is to "assist in the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active duty military personnel and veterans through fly fishing and fly tying education and outings". If you want to help other veterans out, you can help by volunteering your time, resources, etc. You can find out more about Project Healing Waters from their web site: [www.projecthealingwaters.org](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org), and they have local chapters in Salem and Bend.*

*Thanks,*

*Paul Johnston*

## CASTING WORKSHOPS TO CONTINUE

This month our casting workshops will continue with a **"Basic Casting Stroke Clinic"**. Rod Hubitz and Marcus Talemedge will conduct the clinic beginning at 6:15 PM on May 12th prior to our meeting. Don't hesitate to join Ron and Marcus to brush-up your basic skills and improve the basic mechanics of your casting stroke. Remember, a golfer hits the practice range often. As Flycasters, we tend to forget the need to practice our basic skills. As someone who is involved in both golf and fly fishing, I can assure you that how good we want to be, will be in direct proportion to the amount of time we spend practicing.

## CASTING Continued:

### Dwight's Casting Tip of the Month

When the wind blows, you can move closer to the fish without spooking your quarry. This limits the time your fly and fly line is in the air. Less time in the air means less time the wind can affect your presentation.

Last month Dwight provided us with a session in some techniques for mending our casts before the fly hits the water. The important thing to remember is that you can move the bottom leg of your loops after you have formed the loop. This movement can be to the right by reaching the rod to the right with the palm up; a move to the left by reaching the rod left with palm down; a move straight up by reaching the rod up to a shelf and finally down by moving the rod down to the water level. All these moves can help you present your fly with a drag free fly or can add drag if needed. These moves can also make an obstacle challenge a fun challenge.

## MAY MEETING PRESENTATION

Our featured speaker for May (following our casting workshop) will be Mr. George Hadley who will be discussing the what's and wherefores of fishing for Small Mouth Bass on the John Day River. George's presentations are always informative and this one is quite timely, as we have a two day float scheduled on the John Day River in June.

As always, we will be offering you the opportunity to win some fabulous prizes with the purchase of your door prize tickets, and don't forget your name badge for an extra FREE ticket. I'm sure that Ken will have some great prizes for your fly fishing and tying needs.

## FLY OF THE MONTH

West Fly is indicating that the fly of choice for the Metolius this month should be the *Blue Winged Olive*. Now, that may be well and good for them woosy traditionalists, but real fly fishermen working the Metolius will target them big Bull Trout. And Bull Trout are looking for something of substance—like large (and small) fishes. The Clouser Minnow will provide a tempting target for these robust members of the char family. Besides, they are fun to tie.



**HOOK:** 200R, sizes 2-10

**THREAD:** White

**EYES:** Nickel or tungsten, painted dark red with black pupils. Leave room in front of the eyes for the head.

**WING:** From top to bottom: white bucktail on top, chartreuse bucktail beneath. Tie in some blue Krystal Flash. The wing extends from the head. It should be about one-and-a-half times the hook length. The top portions of the wing go over the eyes (tie it down in front and in back of the eyes); the bottom portion passes under the eyes and is tied only in front. Wrap a long, tapered head in front of the eyes.

## Up Coming Events

**This Month: MAY 2011**

### **Board Meeting**

**When:** Monday, May 9 @ 7:00 pm  
**Where:** Rock-N-Roger Restaurant  
3135 Commercial SE

### **General Meeting**

**Presenter - Mr. George Hadley—  
Speaking on Small Mouth Bass fishing  
on the John Day River**

### **Casting Workshop beginning at 6:15 PM**

**When:** Thurs, May 12th @ 7:00pm  
**Where:** Pringle Community Building Lawn

**Outing: \_Saturday, May 14th—Metolius  
River— Over Night at Smiling River  
Campground.**

**Next Month: JUNE 2011**

### **Board Meeting**

**When:** Monday, June 6 @ 7:00 pm  
**Where:** Rock-N-Roger Restaurant  
3135 Commercial SE

### **General Meeting**

**Presenter: Mr. Dick Sagara on sink line  
fishing for streams and lakes**  
**When:** Thursday, June 9 @ 7:00pm  
**Where:** Pringle Community Building

**Outing: \_ Saturday and Sunday June  
18,19 John Day River Float (Over night)  
(Limited to the first 16 people)**

## **Santiam Flycasters Newsletter**

is published monthly by the  
Santiam Flycasters

### **Mission Statement**

It is the mission of the Santiam Flycasters to promote the sport of fly fishing for all interested individuals of all generations now and into the future by fellowship, education, conservation practices, promoting research, guardian-ship of proper regulations and support, affiliation and cooperation with other like minded organizations.

### **Officers**

#### **Howard Palmer**

President / Newsletter Editor

#### **Dwight Klemin**

Vice President

#### **Ken Karnosh**

Secretary

#### **Tim Johnson**

Treasurer

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#### **Michael Miller**

Librarian

#### **Richard Newell**

Concessions

#### **Bob Gabler**

FFF Representative

#### **Craig Knoll**

#### **Ron Henderson**

#### **Don Meyer**

#### **Jerry Gibb**

#### **Cal Hudspeth**

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Member of the



**2011 Membership Application**

The Santiam Flycasters, P.O. Box 691, Salem, OR 97308  
[www.santiamflycasters.com](http://www.santiamflycasters.com)

Type of Membership (circle one) Regular \$25 Family \$30

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Family Members: \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an FFF Member? (circle one) Yes No

*You must sign this release each year when you renew to participate in club activities.*

*\*Note: Dues are from January 1st to December 31st. There is a 50% reduction after July 1st.*

**Liability Release and Hold Harmless Agreement**

As a condition of membership or of participation in any activity encouraged or publicized by the Santiam Flycasters, I voluntarily assume all risks of my participation. In acknowledgment that I am doing so entirely upon my own initiative, risk and responsibility I do hereby for myself, heirs, executors, and administrators agree to remise, fully release, hold harmless, and forever discharge the Santiam Flycasters, all its officers, board members and volunteers, acting officially or otherwise, from any and all claims, demands, actions or causes of actions, on account of my death or on account of any injury to me or my property that may occur from any cause whatsoever while participating in any such Santiam Flycasters activity.

I acknowledge that I have carefully read this hold harmless and release agreement, and fully understand that it is a release of liability. I further acknowledge that I am waving any rights that I may have to bring legal action to assert a claim against the Santiam Flycasters for its negligence.

I have read the above statement and agree to its terms as a condition of my membership in the Santiam Flycasters.

X \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Print Name Date

X \_\_\_\_\_ Signature  
Print Name Date