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TO ENCOURAGE FLY FISHING  
AS A METHOD OF ANGLING

# MCKENZIE *Fly Fishers* ESTABLISHED 1964

## *Our Feb. 21 program*

# Bull trout in the upper Willamette

*Fisheries expert Nik Zymonas will be our speaker in person*

Our club has taken a special interest in the waters of the Upper Willamette River recently both as a new and relatively uncrowded place to fish, but also as an area of ongoing biological research that has welcomed our participation as citizen scientists.

Adding to our understanding of this interesting area will be **Nik Zymonas** of ODFW’s Corvallis Research Lab.



“Sometime during a youth spent exploring the woods and waters and endeavoring to catch spectacular fish, I evidently lost my footing and got swept into a career in fish biology!” he says.

Since 2008, Nik has been the ODFW Project Leader for the Upper Willamette Bull Trout Project, which seeks to promote conservation of Bull Trout in the upper Willamette Basin through research and monitoring efforts.

## **CLUB CALENDAR**

- **Feb. 21 – Monthly meeting 6:30 pm Wednesday at Gratitude**
- **Feb. 24 – Cleawox Lake outing, see Page 5**
- **Feb. 28 – last day to pay dues to keep your membership**
- **March 16 – Munsel Lake outing, see Page 6**
- **March 18 – Auction goes live**

He says, “We monitor population abundance, assess entrainment of Bull Trout through dams and promote upstream passage efforts to increase abundance of spawning adults, conduct reintroduction efforts, assess feasibility of sites for future reintroduction efforts, and study other potential limiting factors such as pathogens and angling related mortality.”

Currently, Nik is branching out to work intensively on Oregon stream temperature research and monitoring efforts. Prior to ODFW, he worked on various desert fishes in New Mexico, Bull Trout in the lower Clark Fork drainage in Montana and Idaho (Montana State University), various salmonids in Southeast Alaska, White Sturgeon and other fishes in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River, and groundwater in Wisconsin.

*The President's Corner*

# Make friends, go fishing

*Our new president puts some good member ideas to work*

*By Roger Stover*

We've had several conversations recently about the best way to attract new members to the McKenzie Flyfishers. Why? Because having a continual influx of new members is critical to our club's health. Every year a few MFFers leave the club, usually due to ageing out of the active fishing game or from moving away. So, attracting a few new members each year not only replenishes the membership turnover but also brings in fresh candidates for taking leadership positions in the club... and gives all of us the opportunity to expand our personal network of fishing buddies. There are many ways to promote membership but, after weighing the relative costs and effectiveness of achieving what we really want, we settled on a couple simple ways to attract rather than promote club growth.

## McKenzie Flyfishers Car Stickers\*

We already have McKenzie Flyfishers hats, badges and shirts, which are great while they're being worn. But, with the new McKenzie Flyfishers cars stickers, we display our membership in a storied flyfishing club and, at the same time, raise awareness of our club to everyone that sees the sticker displayed on our car or truck window or bumper. ***The car stickers are free to all members who have paid their***



***dues for 2024, and can be picked up at our February meeting.***

## McKenzie Flyfishers business cards\*

The MFF business card concept is simple and well-established already: tell a bit about the club, create a space for the MFF member to write in their name and contact information, and make it super easy to personally invite folks we meet while giving them enough information to



McKenzie Flyfishers is a flyfishing club to encourage social interaction, flyfishing as a method of angling, and to protect and increase fishery resources.

For more on our environmental and conservation activities, membership, and meetings go to [Mckenzieflyfishers.org](http://Mckenzieflyfishers.org)

Please join us at an upcoming monthly meeting in our hometown of Eugene, OR.

follow up when they're ready. We revamped the messaging on the cards, keeping the club mission and invitation to come to a meeting, adding a few lines that describe our key activities, and direct prospective members to visit our website for more information and to learn how to join. ***The new cards will also be***

***available to pick up at our February meeting.***

What a great time to be a McKenzie Flyfisher! In addition to all the regular activities we host, in 2024 we celebrate our club's 60th anniversary. More to come on that milestone in the next few months. For now, we have a busy few weeks to look forward to. The early-year outings at Cleawox (Feb. 24) and Munsel (March 1) outings are always fun, if occasionally a bit wet. These and other outings are more prominently displayed on the club website, and you can click on "Events and Outings" on the homepage to see the current schedule. Some of the outings already have quite a bit of detail that is revealed when you click on the name of the outing. Those that do not yet have detail will be updated through the year, as

the respective outing fish masters provide the information.

Liars Lunch meetings are held each Friday from noon to 1 pm, and attendance has been steadily growing. These are hosted by Ted Taylor on Zoom. Every Thursday Ted sends out the announcement with the log-in link, so it is easy for any member to “drop by” and stay for as long as they like. Completely unstructured, you never know where the conversations may lead, but I can tell you they are always fun and interesting regardless of topic. Sometimes, it’s even about fishing! If you haven’t joined, or if it’s been a while, check it out.

The big club event that is coming up fast is our annual auction, which opens March 18 with bidding closing at 11 pm March 20 after our club meeting. The McKenzie Flyfishers auction is a big deal, because the lion’s share of the club’s

operations and activities expenses are funded by the auction and membership dues. In this year’s auction, members can bid on fishing trips and other special activities, member-tied flies, and high quality fishing gear, all donated by club members. As of this writing we have more than 30 dozen boxes of top-notch flies, more than a dozen special fishing trips, a pontoon boat, a drift boat, and even a day with champion skeet shooter/ MFF member, and there’s more being added daily. I’ll close this month’s message by saying “thank you” to all who invest your time and talent to making our club what it is. I hope to see you at our February meeting at Gratitude Brewing Co. and on Zoom.

**The big club event coming up is our annual auction with bidding beginning March 18**

*\*Kudos to Bob Howell for suggesting we print up car stickers, and to Al Eckerdt for his contribution of “Make friends. Go fishing.” tagline of our updated business cards.*

<p><b>2024 MFF Board and committee heads</b></p>	<p>House: Jim Dougher                  Library: Carolyn Mason                  Listserv: Carolyn Mason                  Membership: Tom Fauria                  Newsletter: Ted Taylor                  Outings: Steve Hackett                  Programs: Al Eckerdt, Jim Rhoten, Jim, Mitchell, Bill Laing, Mike Brinkley, Dave Thomas                  Technology: Caleb Hund                  Website: Stephen Maher</p>
<p>President: Roger Stover                  President elect: Caleb Hund                  Secretary: Lorne Johnson                  Treasurer: Walt Petty                  Directors at-large: Steve Hackett, Arlen Thomason, Mike Matthews, Terry Robinson</p> <p><b>Committees of the club</b></p> <p>Annual picnic: Jeff &amp; Joanie DeVore                  Auction: Greg Williams, Jim Rhoten, Doug Cottel, Steve Brehm                  Conservation: Dave Thomas, Arlen Thomason                  Education: Barry Olson                  FFI Rep: Steven Savill                  Holiday party: Bill Neel</p>	<p><b>Projects</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adopt-A-Highway: Carolyn Mason</li> <li>• eDNA: Mike Brinkley, Dave Thomas</li> <li>• KORC: Carolyn Mason</li> <li>• McKenzie River Discovery Center: Bill Laing, Steve Hackett</li> <li>• Project Healing Waters: Phil Johnson</li> </ul>

# Awards presented at our annual meeting

With so many active members doing so much for our club each year, both visibly and behind the scenes, it's not easy to figure out who should get special recognition. Here are this past year's awards for excellence as presented by our 2023 president, **Jeff DeVore**, at our annual meeting Jan. 24. Jeff himself was given a fine Hardy fly reel in appreciation of his outstanding service as club president — for the second time.

## Traditional Awards

- Fly Fisher of the Year — **Caleb Hund**, for leadership and energy in bringing our club's technology into the 21st century.

- President's Award — **Ted Taylor**, for newsletter excellence and Liars Lunch originality.

- President's Award — **Jim Dougher**, for House leadership, Club Raffle originality, and timeless advice.

- Boatman of the Year — **Bill Neel**, for Gold Lake boating skill and navigation excellence

- Gold Lake Fly Fisher of the Year — **Steve Brehm**, for landing the three biggest brook trout (combined) for our annual fish fry.



## “Original” Awards

- Fireman of the Year — **Steve Hackett**, for Board Secretary excellence and tireless, positive volunteer attitude.

- Fly Tyer of the Year — **Steve Savill**, for fly tying skill, patience and generosity

- President Whisperer (aka Past President) — **Tom Fauria**, for increasing membership and encouraging improvements to club Membership processes
- Central Intelligence (Library/ listserve) — **Carolyn Mason**, for making a living library available to all, and protecting the gateway to other club treasures.

## Extra Gifts

- Here Fishy Fishy (President Elect/Education) — **Roger Stover**

- Special Service (Auction/ Outings) — **Greg Williams**

- Financial Intelligence (Treasurer) — **Walt Petty**



## 2024 OUTINGS SCHEDULE

*These outings are still in the planning stages and are subject to changes such as planting schedules, bug hatches and unforeseen closures. Overseeing our outings are Steve Hackett and Greg Williams, who appreciate suggestions and especially volunteers to be fishmasters. February is a good time to start making reservations for campsites.*

DATE	LOCATION	FISHMASTER
Feb. 19	Presidents Day	(for club presidents)
Feb. 24	Cleawox Classic	Carolyn Mason
March 16	Munsel Lake Mash	Jeff DeVore
April/May	March Brown Madness	Jim Rhoten
May 3-5	Crooked River	Stevie Brehm
June 28-30	Blitzen River	Greg Williams
July 17	Club picnic	Jeff & Joanie DeVore
July 19-21	Umpqua bass (Big K Ranch)	Steve Hackett
Aug. 23-24	North Fork Willamette	Al Eckerdt
Sept. 6-7	Gold Lake (Death to Char)	Board of Directors
Sept. 14-16	Upper Willamette	Greg Williams

Outside of our regular outings, club members are encouraged to **get together to fish** anytime, anyplace. Invite new members along, share locations, boats, campsites, skills, flies and fish tales.

## Fourth annual Cleawox Classic will be Feb. 24

Carolyn’s Cleawox Chili & Cornbread Classic will be Saturday, Feb. 24 beginning at 9 am or whenever you get there. Chili and cornbread will be served at 1 pm.

We will be fishing at this scenic coastal lake for stocked trout with fellow club members. Don’t forget your Oregon State Parks pass (\$5 at the machine). Don’t forget to renew your ODFW fishing license, also.

The lake is being stocked twice before the outing so we should have plenty of trout for

catching. If you don't want to keep a limit of trout for dinner you can donate them to the Cascade Raptor Center. Carolyn will bring a cooler to collect and deliver them in. Cleawox is best accessed via watercraft but there is limited bank/dock access. See Carolyn’s Zoom presentation on the MFF website for full details about parking, tactics and more.

Reply to Fishmistress

Carolyn Mason via email, text or call to let her know you’re coming. She wants to have enough chili and cornbread to feed the hungry masses.



# Annual Munsel Mash is Saturday, March 16

By Jeff DeVore

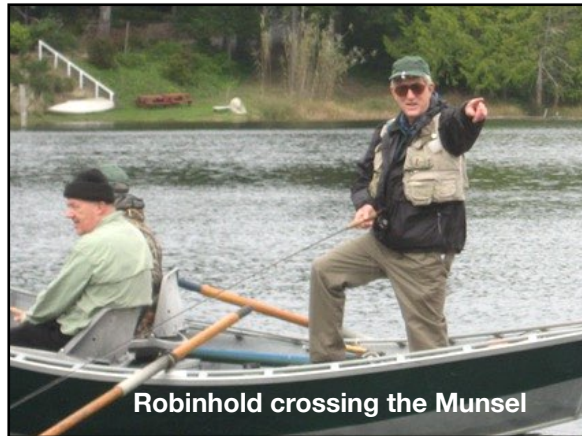
All McKenzie Flyfishers and their guests are once again invited to our annual rain-or-shine outing to Munsel Lake on the coast Saturday, March 16.

Munsel Lake can be reached off Hwy. 126 by turning up the North Fork Siuslaw Road and then left onto Munsel Lake Road, or by driving north from Florence on Hwy. 101 and then east onto Munsel Lake Road. Munsel is about 62 miles from Eugene and about 90 minutes via Hwy. 126 and North Fork Road.

In the past, many of you have gone straight to the lake in order to limit out (five trout) before lunch is served at 1 pm; however, your Munsel experience can also begin with an no-host breakfast at the Three Rivers Casino at 7:30 am where you can obtain the sustenance and caffeine needed to get your flotation device on the water, often for the first time in over a year. The casino is just west of the intersection of Hwy. 126 and the North Fork Road. The casino coffee shop serves breakfast. There is a lot of room for boat trailers in the parking lot.

According to the rumored-to-be-reliable 2024 ODFW stocking schedule, 3,000 “legals” and 150 “trophy” rainbow trout will be stocked in Munsel Lake during the week of March 11-

15, which promises plenty of new fish and maybe a few holdovers. For coastal lake tips and fishing advice, check out the informative “Cleawox Classic” newsletter articles, and the information in the club website “Events & Outings” page. The Cleawox fish come from the same hatchery as for Munsel.



Contact the fish master (me) before noon on Friday, March 15, if you plan to attend the traditional lunch of hot dogs, beans and maybe brownies at the Munsel boat landing at 1 pm March 16. A signup sheet will also be available at our regular club meeting at Gratitude Brewing. Those of you who would rather try your luck (again) at Cleawox Lake on March 16 in the morning can still participate in the Munsel lunch, so long as you sign up before noon on Friday, March 15.

If you have questions about the outing, call me at (541) 343-3109 or (541) 505-2692 and leave a message, text (541) 505-2692, or email [oakcrk@aol.com](mailto:oakcrk@aol.com). If you have a vacant boat seat, or if you need a boat seat, please indicate that. The absolute last chance to sign up (or opt out) is noon on Friday, March 15.

The Lane County Parks Pass for a day is \$5 or an annual \$40 (\$20 for age 62 and older). Purchase online at [www.lanecounty.org/parks](http://www.lanecounty.org/parks) or at Bi-Mart, Cabelas, and REI.

# Fly-tying classes are now up and running

Club fly-tying classes in person are back in full swing and began Tuesday, Jan. 16, at Bill Neel's Copper Windmill Ranch.

Organizer Clint Brumitt says 22 club members had signed up to tie and eight of them have volunteered to teach a class during the 10 weeks of classes, scheduled to end March 19.

"That should allow us to tie flies for the Cleawox and Munsel outings in addition to other flies and skills we want to focus on," says Clint. Here are some photos from the first session.



## Our club's Life Members

- Jim Boyd
- Bob Bumstead
- Jim Dougher
- Skip Hosfield
- Bill Laing
- Hal Legard
- Glen Love (deceased)
- Frank Moore (deceased)
- Bill Neel
- Peter Patricelli
- Bob Rasmussen
- Mike Starr
- Dave Thomas
- Jim Williams (deceased)

## INVITATION TO JOIN

*You do not have to be an expert fly fisher to join the McKenzie Flyfishers. Our monthly meetings, now in person at Gratitude Brewery on third Wednesdays, are an excellent opportunity to meet other area anglers and share tips. Our meetings feature the best of regional and national experts on subjects dear to the hearts of fly fishers. And our outings and classes are wonderful ways to hone skills and learn local waters first-hand. Interested? Email Tom at [tomfauria@gmail.com](mailto:tomfauria@gmail.com).*

## *McKenzie Flyfishers*

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