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TO ENCOURAGE FLY FISHING
AS A METHOD OF ANGLING

MCKENZIE *Flyfishers* ESTABLISHED 1964

Our Jan. 17 program

Dry fly success all-year-round

Dry fly expert Nate Brumley joins us on Zoom

Nate Brumley is the owner of Dry Fly Innovations and author of two cutting-edge dry fly books: *Addicted to the Rise* and *Winter on a Dry Fly*. The only bugs sold at DFI are dry flies, and he’s mastered the use of them in all seasons over all bodies of fresh water.

Nate has never sunk a nymph or fished a streamer. His offering is 50-plus years of



experience fishing a dry fly exclusively. His presentations are rich in dry-fly technique that include video to connect the concepts. These lectures are some of the most sought-after events in the industry at present and his breadth of knowledge is truly phenomenal. It’s been said that one hour with Nate is like gaining 10 years of dry-fly experience. Should you have the opportunity, attend one of his presentations. It

will change the way you dry-fly fish forever.

His presentation Topic of “Advanced Dry Fly Fishing” introduces you to some awesome new dry-fly patterns, techniques on how to deliver dry flies, and strategies on how to fool big fish. It’s a show packed with remarkable fishing footage, unique insight, and concepts that you can immediately utilize at the surface of the water. Both still photos and video clips are used

to show the viewers the concepts discussed.

Nate says “some of the most exciting dry fly fishing of the year happens after the first hard frost; and this presentation will prepare you for that experience with the right gear, knowledge of the hatches, and the perfect selection of winter dry flies.”

***Our monthly meeting begins at 6:30 pm
Wednesday, Jan. 17, at Gratitude
Brewing, 540 E. 8th Ave. Doors open at
5:30 to order food and drinks, socialize
and purchase raffle tickets.***

The President's Corner

A little history to wrap up the year

Our outgoing president reflects on our club's journey through time

By Jeff DeVore

According to the references below, the McKenzie Flyfishers was founded in May 1964, and by all accounts we are celebrating our 60th year in 2024. I personally am celebrating my 20th year in the club, and at our annual meeting Jan. 17, I will be celebrating the end of my second term as your president. It was a pleasure for me to serve you back in 2007, and don't believe anything you might hear about what is said in the broom closets; it was an even greater pleasure for me to serve you in 2023.



“The McKenzie Flyfishers was organized in the winter of 1964 when a small group of local anglers responded to a small news item placed in the sports section of *The Register-Guard* at the request of Bill Nelson. This notice announced that a meeting would be held for the purpose of organizing a fly-fishing club and anyone with similar interest was invited to attend. The small group of people who responded met for several months in the basement of *The Register-Guard*. By March 1964 this group, consisting of 10 or 12 paid-in members, had drawn up a constitution and bylaws, elected officers and directors, and was projecting an active program of club activities.” — *McKenzie Flyfishers (Manual), Copyright 1977*

As described in that 1977 club manual, we started out small but the founding members were dedicated, enthusiastic and persistent. As

we start 2024, President-elect Roger Stover has the fly in the air, and a similar group consisting of 20 or more “paid-in members” is well on their way to providing us with another “active program of club activities” for the McKenzie Flyfishers, 60 years later. Side note: Our numbers in 2023 are back up to 115 members, exactly the same as when I last handed the gavel over to Mark Rauch in 2008.

“Following the May 1964 meeting, the McKenzie Flyfishers placed an ad in *The Register-Guard*. The ad informed the public that a men's fly-fishing club had formed and that the club would hold its next meeting in the *R-G* building. At the June meeting, the Founders informed the attendees that, if they joined in June or July, they would be charter members. Bill [Nelson] recalls about 15 people in attendance in June. The club decided the July meeting would be a dinner meeting ... The McKenzie Flyfishers held their first dinner meeting downstairs at the Eugene Hotel. Hotel staff prepared dinner for about 15 people. When 25 showed up, management scrambled to find tables, chairs, and food. The dinner meeting was a great success.” — *In the Beginning ... The formation of the McKenzie Flyfishers and the FFF,* by Doug Kokkeler 1995 Auction Chair

Doug Kokkeler's 1995 history lesson is another glimpse into the past, a copy of which was left in what has been called “The President's Box.” A differing account of our club's founding year can be found by going to the “Archived Newsletters” link in the “Members Only” section of our club website. It's recommended, interesting reading.

Suffice it to say, we have come a long way as a club since 1964, but the three pillars, our purposes, have remained (almost) exactly the same since the first club newsletter in May 1964: “Enjoy social contact with [others]

interested in fly fishing, promote fly fishing as a method of angling, and protect and increase fly-fishing resources.” I would add that making it hard for presidents and members alike to know exactly what happened “In the Beginning” remains one of those club mysteries that we will, hopefully, be able to shed more light on during the celebration of our 60th year.

I know you were expecting to see the usual list of club achievements, and my gratitude for all of those responsible, but instead, a club history lesson seemed to me like a good idea heading into 2024, and our Jan. 17 annual club meeting at Gratitude Brewing will be where will acknowledge so many people for doing the work of the club in 2023. Here is an incomplete list of accomplishments as a prelude to that meeting:

A 21st century club audio-visual system, world-class fishing club newsletter, on-line member registration capability, McKenzie River Discovery Center on it’s way to greatness (and a clean highway), professional-quality club treasury reports that everyone trusts, first-rate club meeting programs, outings (and food) for everyone (from February cornbread to Gold Lake Brook Trout), club outings equipment (finally inventoried and under control), memorable picnic, Gold Lake pre-party, and

our Jan. 17 meeting will be when I acknowledge so many people for doing the work of the club in 2023.

holiday party social opportunities, house raffle that actually makes money (with a lot of great flies), on-line auction that consistently makes real money, board minutes that keep everything under control (including the president), 2023 President Elect, earlier than ever in history, 2024 President Elect, which never happens, a living club library, Project Healing Waters fly tying, cool club shirts and other bling, continued support for Salmon Watch, continued support of the Oregon Chapter FFI and Expo, pushing the cutting edge of science with McKenzie and Willamette eDNA sampling, Tackle Tips morphing into Knowledge Nuggets, safe, dependable on-line and internet communications, excellent current club website, club conservation stands on an unneeded dam and a better Columbia fishery, club representation on McKenzie and Willamette Watershed Councils and the Oregon Chapter of the American Fisheries Society (also celebrating their 60th anniversary), continued Liars Lunch on Zoom with commentary, the start of an ongoing inventory of club assets, year-over-year consistently excellent fly-tying opportunities for club members.

Thank you everyone, and see you out there.

— Jeff

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)

Elections coming up at our January meeting

By Roger Stover

I have been looking forward to my term as president of MFF ever since being elected president-elect a few months ago. I did not expect to find myself in this position when I joined the club in December 2021, just before moving to the area from the foothills of the Sierra, where my home water was the lower Yuba River. My home waters now are the McKenzie, Willamette and Row Rivers and, looking at my fishing log, I see that I have fished these rivers on 186 days in 2022 and 2023 and, the more I fish them the more I like them. All this is to say how much I appreciate the guidance and friendship of so many MFF members who have generously shared their knowledge of our local rivers with me. The best way I can express that appreciation is by raising my hand

Committee chairs are the lifeblood of the club, making all sorts of things happen as a result of their behind-the-scenes work.

to serve our great club.

The election of the 2024 Board of Directors will be at our Jan. 17 meeting at Gratitude Brewing. I am pleased to announce the following candidates comprising your slate for 2024:

President Roger Stover, President-elect Caleb Hund, Secretary Lorne Johnson, Treasurer Walt Petty, and our at-large directors will be Steve Hackett, Arlen Thomason, Mike Matthews and Terry Robinson.

Assuming this slate is elected, your 2024 board will feature continuity and experience from returning members, augmented by fresh perspectives from those new to the board. A strong board, for sure.

While not elected by the membership and not subject to defined term lengths, committee chairs are the lifeblood of the club, making all sorts of things happen as a result of their behind-the-scenes work on our behalf. **In the box below are listed our willing committee chairs for 2024, along with the board members up for election.**

2024 MFF Board and committee heads (up for approval this month)

President: Roger Stover
 President elect: Caleb Hund
 Secretary: Lorne Johnson
 Treasurer: Walt Petty
 Directors at-large: Steve Hackett, Arlen Thomason, Mike Matthews, Terry Robinson

Committees of the club

Annual picnic: Jeff & Joanie DeVore
 Auction: Greg Williams
 Conservation: Dave Thomas, Arlen Thomason
 Education: Barry Olson
 FFI Rep: Steven Savill

Holiday party: Bill Neel
 House: Jim Dougher
 Library: Carolyn Mason
 Listserv: Carolyn Mason
 Membership: Tom Fauria
 Newsletter: Ted Taylor
 Outings: Steve Hackett
 Programs: Al Eckerdt
 Technology: Caleb Hund
 Website: Stephen Maher

Projects

- Adopt-A-Highway: Carolyn Mason
- eDNA: Mike Brinkley, Dave Thomas
- KORC: Carolyn Mason
- McKenzie River Discovery Center: Bill Laing, Steve Hackett
- Project Healing Waters: Phil Johnson

2024 OUTINGS SCHEDULE

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

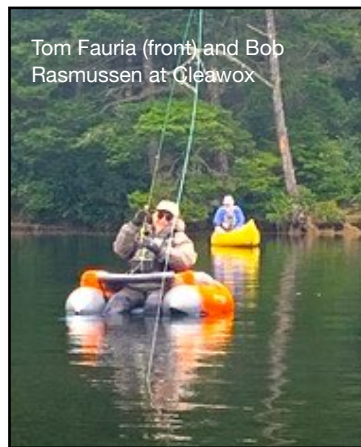
DATE	LOCATION	FISHMASTER
Feb. 19	Presidents Day	(for club presidents)
Feb. 24	Cleawox Classic	Carolyn Mason
March ?	Munsel Lake	Jeff DeVore
April/May	March Brown Madness	Jim Rhoten
May 3-5	Crooked River	Stevie Brehm
June 28-30	Blitzen River	Greg Williams
July 15?	Club picnic	Jeff & Joanie DeVore
July 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 outing will be Feb. 24

By Carolyn Mason

Join me at Cleawox Lake south of Florence from 9 am to 1 pm Saturday, Feb. 24, to start the club’s outing season off with a bang! The lake will be stocked twice before the outing by ODFW with over 5,000 rainbow trout and an additional 221 “trophy sized” trout. Plan on taking home a limit, sharing with the Raptor Center, or releasing them to the lake. The outing is planned for after Free



Tom Fauria (front) and Bob Rasmussen at Cleawox

Fishing Weekend (Feb. 17-18) to avoid the masses.

Bring your boat, float tube, kayak, or fling flies from the shore or nearby dock.

This early in the season, fish tend to school near the boat ramp hole and adjacent east side. Trolling and stripping seem to work best, but a leech or nymph under an indicator will get the job done, too. I recommend any fly that catches fish such as a wooly bugger (black or olive), Hale Bopp, and Bumstead’s favorite, a sparse orange seal bugger. If I’m going to use an indicator, I’ll put on a balanced leech or a zebra midge or other nondescript nymph.

But hey, I don't have much patience to watch a

bobber so you'll likely find me using the "kick and strip" method!

Our lunch for the day will be chili and cornbread with all the fixin's. Plan to get your bowl filled around 1 pm. I'm hoping to get the lodge and patio (with attached restrooms) again which has some picnic tables and covered area in case of rain. Don't forget to **bring a camp chair** to sit in and relax.

You'll need your 2024 angling license and an Oregon State Park pass for day use/parking (\$5). A machine to purchase said pass is located in the parking lot to the west of the day use/boat ramp area. If you want to launch a kick-boat you can do so from the east parking lot or the northwest

parking area (if open) but you'll have to walk it down to the lake. The boat launch is always a safe and easy bet.

Please RSVP to your Fish Master, Carolyn, or sign up after buying me a beer at the January club meeting. In addition to the fact that you're coming, I'll need to know these things: Are you bring a boat and do you have room for another member, or are you partnered up with another member (if so, who), would you like a seat in another member's boat, will you be joining us for lunch, and do you have any questions?

Check out my recorded Zoom meeting from last year for additional information on the outing.

Fly-tying classes to begin in person Jan. 16

Club fly-tying classes in person haven't happened since before the Covid shutdown, but they are back starting Tuesday, Jan. 16, at Bill Neel's Copper Windmill Ranch, the same space we had our holiday party.

Organizer Clint Brumitt says 22 club members are signed up to tie and eight of them have volunteered to teach a class during the 10 weeks of classes.

"We will have at least four new tyers or tyers that are returning to the vise," says Clint, "and they feel like new tyers. I am sure they will find many of us who are experienced willing to assist as they progress."

Clint says the secret to tying is to practice, then practice some more. And finally practice until you can do what you want to do at the vise. He says a friend of his in the Rogue club stated many years ago that, "Fly tying is the school

from which you NEVER graduate. You just keep learning new things."

The participants have agreed to meet twice on Tuesdays. Some folks are working and cannot make afternoon sessions, and other folks whose eyes are not as good as they used to be prefer to drive in daylight. The solution is to have two sessions per Tuesday, from 3 to 5 pm, and from 6 to 8 pm. Set up and clean up groups will be assigned.

"If we begin on Jan. 16 and go for 10 weeks, we will end on March 19," says Clint. "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."

Clint plans to get recipes from the teachers, let fly shops know the materials, and provide teaching videos in advance of the classes. No video technology will be available as we had in our previous in-person classes at Lane Transit Center.

Contact Clint at cbrumitt@comcast.net for more information.



Seal buggers

Holiday party pix

The annual MFF holiday party this year was held Sunday afternoon, Dec. 10, at the Copper Windmill Ranch outside of Eugene.

The event packed Bill Neel's BBQ house and the big turnout enjoyed the ample food and refreshments. The drop-in event also generated 110 pounds of donations for FOOD for Lane County.

Here are a few photos from the afternoon.. — *TJT*



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.

Hatchery Fish

*They died for our sins
those trout we just ate,
birthed in plastic trays
raised in concrete tubs
released into a wilderness
they couldn't understand*

*It's almost as if
they were willing victims
to my child's home-tied
royal coachman
their welcome pass out of chaos*

— *Bob Bumstead*



McKenzie Flyfishers

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