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**MCKENZIE**  
*Flyfishers*  
ESTABLISHED 1964

TO ENCOURAGE FLY FISHING  
AS A METHOD OF ANGLING

## Our March 20 program

# It's auction time again

*Plus a fine guest speaker, boat expert Randy Dersham*

*By Roger Stover*

The month of March is known for many things: the beginning of spring, the return of Daylight Savings Time, the vernal equinox, the March Brown hatch and, for McKenzie Flyfishers, our club's annual auction. The MFF auction is our club's single most important fundraising event.

For each of the past two years our auction has netted some \$7,000-plus, and the lion's share of these funds goes directly to support the third leg of our mission, which is "to protect and increase the fishery resources." The remainder, along with our annual dues, supports various club operating costs, such as programs, the annual picnic and various other member-support expenses. When you look at it, all of our expenditures benefit us — the members of MFF — directly or indirectly. And, while membership dues are democratic, i.e., equal for all, the auction is more means-based. Those of us who are able to can provide direct financial support through our auction purchases. Others not only make purchases but also donate the items that

## CLUB CALENDAR

- **March 16** — *Munsel Lake outing*
- **March 18** — *Auction goes live*
- **March 20** — *Annual auction at Gratitude Brewing*
- **April-May** — *March Brown outings*

comprise the auction: fishing trips, special activities, hand-tied flies, and gear. I'm always amazed and impressed by the generosity we all demonstrate to support this fine club. Well done!

MFF Auction Chair Greg Williams is beavering away as I write this, taking photographs, writing and editing auction item descriptions, and loading a ton of content onto our online auction tool, Auctria. While he's doing all this he is also communicating the details of the auction as well as highlighting some of the great donations we will bid on beginning noon Monday, March 18. The program this year has several enhancements that are sure to be fun, interesting and, fingers crossed, effective fundraisers. Please see Greg's article on Page 3 of this newsletter for more.

A final word from me on the auction: You do not want to miss our club meeting at Gratitude, the evening of the auction closing, Wednesday, March 20. As it was last year, auction night will be more about camaraderie and having fun with friends than our other meetings of the year. Oh,

and did I forget to say ... raffle drawings and lots of bidding at the meeting?

Our speaker for this month's meeting is Randy Dersham, a McKenzie River guide specializing in fly fishing and wooden boats. He is also the director of Oregon's Boat. Randy is immersed in a big video project about McKenzie River boats, and he will be sharing the outline of his work and how we, the members of MFF, can be involved. Randy's segment will be fairly brief at this meeting, and we plan to have him return at a later date for a full presentation, including (hopefully) his finished project. This will work out well, leaving plenty of time for our auction activities.

Moving on to another topic, March is the month our bylaws require that we remove members who have not paid their club dues for the current year. Sadly, we are losing nine members this year. In most instances lapsed members are those who move out of the area (although a few of these members do renew) or they age out of the fly-fishing game. Some churn is to be expected and this year's is not

excessive, but I would hate to see members leave because they did not feel part of the club. With this in mind, I have an ask for all: At our club meetings please make an effort to engage with new faces, and invite anyone that is by themselves to join your table during social hour. If you're at a loss of how to start a conversation, how about, "Hey, I'm \_\_\_\_\_. Have you been fishing lately?" Easy-peasy.

MFF was well-represented at the NW Fly Tyers Expo this year. Our FFI Rep Steve Savill not only wrangled several club members to staff the registration table but also did a shift or two as a demonstration fly-tyer and instructed a fly-tying class. In addition to Steve and myself, MFF was represented by Greg Williams, Jim Rhoten, Tom Fauria, Terry Robinson, David Quanbeck, Dave Bailey, Mike Matthews, Milo Denham, Caleb Hund, Jim Dougher, Sparky Rice, Jeff Devore, Scott Halpert, John O'Connor, Gary McKenney, Al Eckerdt and Terry Willis. Thanks, guys, your work is appreciated.

OK, that's enough from me for now See you at Gratitude Brewing on March 20 for the auction night festivities. — Roger

**Welcome new members:  
Jim Cross and Will Conable**

## 2024 MFF Board and committee heads

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, Jim Rhoten, Doug Cottel, Steve Brehm  
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, Jim Rhoten, Jim, Mitchell, Bill Laing, Mike Brinkley, Dave Thomas  
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

# Bid high at our 2024 auction!

By Greg Willians

The McKenzie Flyfishers annual fundraising auction is upon us. Bidding begins at noon on Monday, March 18, and ends at 8:45 pm Wednesday night, just before the close of our regular monthly meeting. The 2024 auction will be structured the same way as the 2023 auction, with a few important changes developed using feedback from the membership. We have an auction plan that promises a fun event that is easy for our bidders, captures more of the elements of a traditional in-person auction, and helps us meet our financial goal of \$7,000 net income.

## Getting started

Handouts will arrive by email over the weekend on all the auction procedures, but here's an overview. The first thing you need to do is register for the auction on the auction website, which will be ready sometime this coming weekend. Once registered, you will be ready to start bidding at noon on Monday. One of the new features this year is Auctria's **automatic bidding** function, which will allow you to enter the maximum bid you are willing to make for the item. If you are outbid, Auctria will continue to bid for you, up to your maximum. Auctria will also notify you each time you are outbid. Time permitting, you may increase your maximum bid if you are so inclined.



This classic Don Hill wooden drift boat will be in the auction along with many guided trips and fine fly boxes

## Club meeting

Please plan to arrive at our March 20 club meeting as close to 5:30 as possible. This year, for the first time, you will be able bid for items at the meeting. In fact, you can bid anywhere you like using an **Auctria app** that can be downloaded to your phone or your tablet. We will have also have three **bidding kiosks** setup for anyone to use. On your own devices, all you need to do is enter a bid; at a kiosk, you'll need to enter both the bid amount and your bidder number. There will be members on hand to help with the bidding process. Throughout the evening, we will ask some of our donors to share a bit about their items. You'll have the opportunity to ask any questions you may have. Some of the items will be at the meeting for display, things that might build enthusiasm in general or things you may want to try on for size.

On the night of the auction there are several important times to remember.

***The first thing to do is register for the auction on the auction website. Then start bidding on Monday.***

Auction night begins at 5:30 at gratitude Brewing. We will hold the first of three raffles at 8, and at the same time about a third of our auction listings will close for bidding. The purpose here is to inject early energy and enthusiasm into

the club meeting, much like having early table closings at an in-person auction. An early closing also allows auction administrators to start evaluating auction data to be shared at the close of the event. Second, bidding for all the other listings will continue until the final close of bidding at 8:45. The auction ends at 9, after the final two raffle drawings, an overview of the

our results, and a few closing remarks. We'll need to be efficient at the end of the meeting. Gratitude Brewing has agreed to some time flexibility for our auction, but as a matter of courtesy we need to be finished and into cleanup as close to 9 as possible.

**One more thing: the Incentive Raffle**

The Incentive Raffle is entirely new this year. The prize is a discount of up to \$100 on your final auction bill. Incentive raffle tickets are awarded for participating in the auction,

including registering, bidding, donating, and winning. The more you participate, the more tickets you earn. To sweeten the deal, if we reach our goal of \$7,500 gross income by the close of bidding we will draw a second Incentive winner who will also receive a \$100 discount. Sound like fun? Be sure to join us at Gratitude Brewing next Wednesday. The more members on site, the more lively and successful the auction. Let's bid 'em up!

## Munsel Lake outing is Saturday, March 16

All McKenzie Flyfishers and their guests are welcome at our March outing to Munsel Lake north of Florence. It's happening, and the weather outlook is good. The outing will begin with an optional, no-host breakfast at the Three Rivers Casino about 7:30 am, followed by fishing at the lake and then lunch at 1 pm. Munsel can be reached off Hwy. 126 by turning north up the North Fork Siuslaw Road and then west onto Munsel Lake Road, or by driving north from Florence on Hwy. 101 and then turning east onto Munsel Lake Road just past Fred Meyer.

This is an outdoor "rain or shine" event. Those who want to fish Cleawox Lake in the morning can still participate in the lunch at Munsel, so long as you sign up before noon on

Friday, March 15.

If you have questions about the outing, call the fishmaster, Jeff DeVore, at (541) 343-3109 or (541) 505-2692 and leave a message, text at (541) 505-2692, or email [oakcrk@aol.com](mailto:oakcrk@aol.com).

If you have a vacant boat seat, or if you

need a seat on a boat, please indicate that when you sign up or contact the fishmaster. The absolute last chance to sign up (or opt out) is noon Friday, March 15.

See you out there. And don't forget to bring or buy a Lane County Parks Pass.

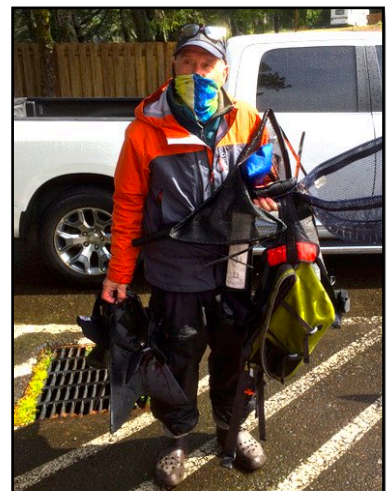
*Here are some photos from earlier outings.*



Mark Rauch



Bert Hoeflich (above) and Jim Rhoten



## 2024 OUTINGS SCHEDULE

| DATE        | LOCATION                  | FISHMASTER           |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 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.

### About our outings ...

We are off to a great start with our 2024 outings. Carolyn Mason started the year with fun, food, friends, fish, and lots of February sunshine at Cleawox Lake (see photo at right). Jeff DeVore promises the same for the Munsel Lake outing on March 16, including the Big Dog prize for the biggest fish.



There are eight scheduled outings remaining for this year — at least one every month from now to the end of September. Some are overnighters, and some are local day trips. There should be something for everyone. Outings are a great opportunity for new members to make new fishing buddies or find new waters to explore. Sign-up and enjoy.

for the listings and information. Some details of the later scheduled outings are not complete. But the dates, locations and fishmasters are there. So start planning for a year of “Making Friends and Going Fishing.”

See ya on the water! — *Steve Hackett*

A complete schedule with locations, maps, dates and the fish master in charge is on our website. Just click on the Events & Outings tab at the top





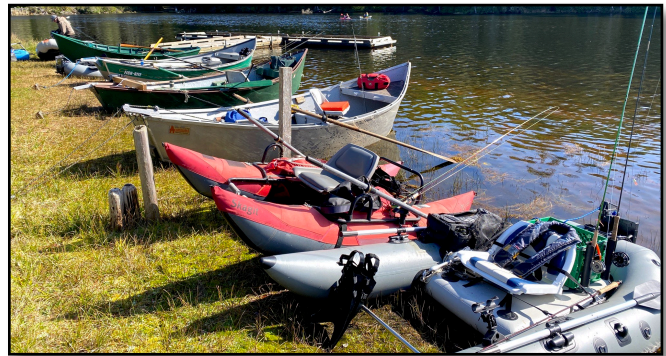
## Great turnout for a sunny Cleawox day

By Carolyn Mason

The Cleawox outing at the coast March 16 was well attended by 15 anglers and we had about 20 for lunch. I saw fish being caught, maybe not as many in past years, but I believe everyone had a tight line at some point.

“The Patient Angler” award (I just made it up) goes to our prez, Roger, for his easy manner and patience with the bankie (see top photo) who plunked his lure right over Roger’s pontoon boat. Roger pirouetted under the fishing line while holding his rod in one hand and was able to untangle himself while holding up the line and lure asking the bankie to take up the slack. Unbeknownst to Roger, bankie wasn’t paying any attention to what was happening on the water. And I have to admit I didn’t see what Roger did next with the lure. Considering I didn’t hear yelling and no shots were fired for the rude “shot over the bow,” I assume he just dropped it and paddled on. Lesser antics have led to fist (fish) fights.

I bagged up 13 plump trout to donate to the Cascade Raptor Center that week. Thanks to those of you who contributed some, or all of your catch for the birds. Thanks to all who



came to the lake and enjoyed fishing, friends, chili and sunshine.

# Creating order out of fly box mayhem

By Tom Fauria

Each winter, I survey my fly-fishing gear. When I review my fly assortment, I experience the unwelcome, but annual feeling that my fly boxes are a complete mess. Lake flies and river flies are all mixed up among seven or eight different boxes. They spent last season and over the winter in overcrowded fly boxes, in fact, some have spent years in overcrowded fly boxes. Boxes are so crowded that I cannot easily distinguish one fly from another. This is especially true with the marabou tails on woolly and slime buggers. Dry fly wings, posts, and parachutes are smooshed, smashed, deformed, not sporting the proper proportions that would attract a wily trout.

I know what needs to be done, but truthfully, I never look forward to it. In past years, I would shortcut the process by sorting flies into broad, diverse categories. This can be done quickly, but the final product is not for public viewing (which would silently convey my sloppiness). But this year is different. My mobility is limited while recovering from shoulder surgery (trapped at home without the ability to drive or use one arm). I have four to six weeks of inactivity with the full potential to go stir crazy. No better time than now for a fly box overhaul. May as well do something productive.

Opening and placing my fly boxes on the table led to indecision paralysis. Where do I start? How do I organize this untidy muddle? I admire fly fishers who have organized fly boxes neatly arranged with rows of Copper Johns, Hares' Ears, BWOs, Caddis and March Brown nymphs, emergers and duns, etc. I do not have enough of each fly type for that system. So, I decided to start filling one large container exclusively with lake flies — a row of woolly buggers, organized

by color; then slime bunkers organized by color, etc. The flip side of the container is filled with rows of terrestrials, callibaetis nymphs, emergers and duns.



I was surprised to learn that I had no clear idea of what I have and don't have. Flies were so intermixed and strewn randomly among fly boxes that I lost track. I thought I had a shortage of ants; in fact, I have an abundance of ants in multiple sizes and colors. I thought I had an abundance of posse buggers. I do not — I have two. I often purchase flies in anticipation of a trip when I actually have an ample supply but they are camouflaged by disorganization. Flies that I thought were dead, haggard and deformed quickly sprang to attention when steamed. Flies that I thought should be thrown out perked up with new life after steam.

NOTE: it takes considerable time to remove and individually hold a flock of flies over a steaming tea kettle to revive them. In a normal year, I simply would not take the time to do this — way too tedious. I estimate the whole project took somewhere between eight to 10 hours over three days to remove, re-vitalize, re-sort and replace my fly collection. They are now sorted by lake flies, dry flies, and nymphs with separate containers for bass, bonefish, the Deschutes and Fall River. I have high hopes for this new system, if only I can sustain the organization when I start fishing again.

The absolute benefit is that I know what I have and what I need. I can easily find flies — they are spaced appropriately, less crowded. I can see them. I may be less inclined to purchase new flies unnecessarily. I hope this is more than a passing New Year's resolution. But my guess is that next year I'll make new modifications when I review how my flies have once again become mixed together.

## 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).*

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