

The McKenzie Messenger

May 2016

MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING

Please check your calendar and make sure that the monthly meeting of the McKenzie Flyfishers is there in bold print - Monday, May 16th at Willie's Restaurant. 400 Industrial Way, Springfield. Cocktails and an opportunity to chat and mingle at 6:00. Dinner at 7:00. Speakers at 8:00.

Prez Sez . . .

One of the chapters that I really appreciated in Bill Laing's Book had to do with our own Jim Dougher. Bill acknowledged Jim's ever-willing-to-volunteer attitude as not only praiseworthy, but the lifeblood of this club and other clubs like this. The McKenzie Flyfishers thrives upon the volunteerism of members to get done all of those things that need doing to have a successful organization. For example, our club could not do outings without people to organize and host them and **Clint Brumitt** does that beautifully. We would have a difficult time communicating to our members without our newsletter. We might never attract members or prospective non-members to meeting without the exciting and informative programs that this year's program committee consisting of **Bill Laing**, **Mike Starr**, and **Dan Robinhold**. And we would not have the resources to do all of these activities with our annual volunteer managed auction and all of the gear and trips provided by club members. You will notice excellent examples of this form of activism as you read through this month's Messenger.

I have to take this opportunity to ask for more volunteerism. First, a sad bit of news. **Barry Kent**, the new member who transformed our newsletter from an often very good, member-generated publication to a wow-generating, graphically smashing paper, has found it necessary to return to Florida. Barry, if you are reading this, you have our best wishes at this new direction in your life. I hope we have the opportunity to chase fish together at some future time. You will be a hard act to follow but follow we must.

Opportunity #1 - we need a newsletter coordinator. Barry has said that he will give us the page formatting that he created for the newsletter. I do not yet have it, nor would my old, desk-top Mac accommodate it. But I will be available to a coming coordinator. I should also say that the content is generated by other volunteers. **Bill Laing** wrote the piece on up-and-coming programs. **Tim Knerr**, our new Education Chair, contributed the piece on fly-casting training. Thus, this is not an assignment that requires the creation of a newsletter from whole cloth. It is, however, an important and essential part of our club. If you would like to discuss this further to explore whether you want to pursue this, please call me ([541.556.7722](tel:541.556.7722)) or chat with any board member.

Opportunity #2 - it is time to name an auction chair for this November's auction. As with the Newsletter, it is important to say that this is not a solo show that requires tons of late-night drudgery. I chaired the auction twice, and each time was impressed that on set up day, people sought me out to ask what time we were to set up tables and display goods. Others helped on the evening of the auction per se and gathered up and moved competed tables. The cash-box crew is a well oiled machine. But we need to get space secured, new fly boxes ordered, and volunteers lined up for the on-going work of planning auction and gathering the hard ware and trips that make this a successful, annual event. Some of these tasks will be addressed by others already volunteering to participate on the committee, but the auction chair is still needed. If you would like to discuss this further to explore whether want to pursue this, please call me ([541.556.7722](tel:541.556.7722)) or chat with any board member.

Opportunity #3 - **Al Eckerdt**, Membership Chair, has a proposal for how we organize our chair assignments to help us with continuity and to make new assignments less daunting. Al's idea: recruit new chairs in mid-year - June or July - for the following year and have them begin work while the prior chair is still on-board. This would give every committee assignment a chair and a co-chair, making the work load far more manageable, and would provide an excellent transition period for the on-coming chair. Al presented this idea to the Board at the May meeting and it was well received.

Al's term is coming to its end and we are recruiting a replacement. The chair receives new member applications, obtains a Board OK for new members, manages the club roster, and takes care of name tags at meetings. If you have interest in the membership function for the club please contact me, any board member, or better yet, chat with Al at a membership meeting or call him at [541.554.2388](tel:541.554.2388). Al's email address is al_eckerdt@comcast.net.

There is one more thing to say about stepping up to a volunteer opportunity within this club. Simply, you will get to know and appreciate other members at a whole new level. The richness of this fly club is its members, Unless you have been a member for years, you generally don't get much more than a once-a-month dinner meeting to get to know other members. Volunteering changes that.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT

Monday May 16, 2016

— *This month's program is a double header* —

#1 REPORT ON THE LOWER SOUTH FORK MCKENZIE RIVER FLOODPLAIN ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.

#2 PROGRESS REPORT ON THE COUGAR DAM DOWNSTREAM FISH PASSAGE PROJECT.

Kate Meyer is a fishery biologist for the U.S. Forest Service, McKenzie District. Her topic is the Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement project. Kate has dedicated the past 10 years to the recovery of spring Chinook salmon and Bull Trout through habitat conservation and restoration.

Greg Taylor, COE fishery biologist for the Upper Willamette District. Greg will bring us up to date on the current plans, and progress in, delivering juvenile salmon safely down over Cougar Dam. Every McKenzie Flyfisher should know delivery of young downstream fish safely over high dams is a universal problem.

*"We can't fail—Everyone is watching the Cougar Dam downstream fish passage project."
Greg Taylor*

Jared Weybright, McKenzie Watershed Council — Projects Coordinator will also be in attendance. Jared is coordinating the volunteer opportunities for the South Fork Floodplain Enhancement Project and other volunteer Watershed Council project opportunities.

The McKenzie Flyfishers have more than a passing interest in the restoration and preservation of the McKenzie River Native Spring Chinook. Come learn about these two important projects. Both are critical to the recovery of our endangered Native Spring Chinook Salmon.

Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project

OVERVIEW

The McKenzie Watershed Council and Willamette National Forest, in collaboration with many other partners, will soon be launching a large-scale habitat enhancement project on 4.5 miles of the lower South Fork McKenzie River.

Project Background

Historically, the lower South Fork was a dispositional zone for sediment, wood, and nutrients coming out of the watershed. Floods frequently inundated the wide floodplain depositing nutrient rich sediment and maintaining a complex channel network with abundant gravels, wood and deep pools — habitat needed to support spring Chinook salmon, bull trout, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, and many other native species. This alluvial fan unique to the relatively constrained valleys of the upper and middle McKenzie River, was once a biologic hotspot and is no longer functioning as such.

Due to the presence of Cougar Dam, levees, and rip-rap, combined with historic wood removal, current conditions are limiting fish production.

Proposed Enhancement Activities

We propose to remove levees and rip-rap, add large wood and sediment, and reconnect historic side channels and floodplain to improve ecological function and biological productivity for ESA—Threatened and other native species.

Want to learn how to catch Smallmouth Bass?

Our June Program is Umpqua River: Bedrock Bass — Our presenter is David Paul Williams author and acknowledged "master of smallies on the fly" You'll learn about the fish, where they live and how to trick the big dogs. Mark this on your calendar— You won't want to miss this informative and entertaining program.

NEWS FROM THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

FLY CASTING CLINIC – July 17th

Can you can hit that spot on the far side of the river and deal with the cross currents that are in front of you? Make a commitment to improve your fly fishing skills this year. Sign up for the McKenzie Flyfisher fly casing clinic and learn from one of the best in the northwest. IFFF master certified instructor Dwight Klemin will lead the McKenzie's in a 5 hour casting clinic that will help to improve your casting form, distance, accuracy, and presentation. Register now and get in the class for the fantastic price of \$10.00. Don't delay as signup costs during the final week of registration will be \$20.00.

More details will be forth coming in the weeks to follow.

To register for the class email education committee chairman Tim Knerr at: tim.knerr@yahoo.com

OUTINGS REPORT by Mark Rauch

Now is the time to make plans to attend the May 20-22 Metolius River outing. We will fish the upper Metolius downstream of Camp Sherman between the Allingham Bridge and the 99 Bridge. There is good access to 7 or so river miles of fishing in this area. We will set up outing camp central at Allen Springs Camp Ground, about 5 miles north of Camp

Sherman. The Club is sponsoring part of the Saturday evening dinner, and the Sunday breakfast. Camping sites are on first come first serve basis.

The Metolius “springs” to life along the north foot of Black Butte. Snow melt and rainwater that percolates through the porous lava rock formations emerges in several large springs that create the river. Other springs and tributaries join the Metolius as it makes its way north, then south east to Lake Billy Chinook. Lake Billy Chinook also gathers the Deschutes and the Crooked Rivers behind Round Butte Dam.

The temperature of the translucent water of the Metolius is in the mid 40’s year round. Generally the flow varies very little. Aquatic insect life thrives in this river. The stocking of hatchery fish in the Metolius was discontinued in 1995. Rainbow Trout and Bull Trout flourish in the this river. Also Brown Trout and White Fish are present. The regulations call for barbless hook, catch and release.

Club member **Gary McKenney** has probably fished the Metolius as much as any member. He has shared his two page “Metolius Notes” with me. Participants will get this pdf file from me before the outing. Here are a few key thoughts: (much more in full notes)

- Observe, observe, observe before fishing. Hatch? Rises?
- Stay out of the water unless absolutely necessary
- The fish are plentiful and wary in this cold crystal clear water
- Match the hatch is important for emergers and dries.
- Long 12’ 6X tippet

Outing Food: The Saturday evening dinner is a partial pot luck at 6pm. I will be serving a main dish casserole of tortellini, chicken, pepperoni in alfredo sauce. I suggest you bring a desert or salad to share. Sunday at 8 am I will serve scrambled eggs, bacon and tortillas. It’s best if you bring your own utensils, dishware and glasses. Lunches and snacks are on your own. Don’t forget your camp chair. I will bring some firewood, throw some in if you can.

Getting There: Take Hwy 126 East from Eugene/Springfield. Just past Suttle Lake turn left onto SW Suttle-Sherman Road and on to Camp Sherman, then north on Forest Road 14 to Allen Springs CG, about 5 miles north of Camp Sherman. If you want to visit the source of the Metolius on the way in, continue on 126 and watch for signs to Metolius source and Camp Sherman (FR 14), about 82 miles from Eugene.

If you are joining the outing, contact: **Mark Rauch** marauch@comcast.net , [541 345 0732](tel:5413450732), or [541 729 3856](tel:5417293856). A sign up sheet will also be available at the May 16 Club Meeting.

Remember that we have future outings in the planning.

- End of June - Town Run Steelhead with Gary McKinney
- July - Crane Prairie Reservoir
- August - Smallmouth bass on the Umpqua River
- Gold Lake "Death to Char" and Kalama Cup/North Umpqua in September

INVITATION TO JOIN

You do not have to be an expert fly fisher to join the McKenzie Flyfishers. Our monthly meetings are an excellent opportunity to meet other area anglers, to have the best of regional experts on subjects dear to the hearts of fly fishers, and our outings and classes are wonderful ways to hone skills and lead local waters first-hand. Guests and curious fly fishers are welcome at membership meetings.

Interested? Just curious? Call **Al Eckerdt**, our Membership Chair at [541-554-2388](tel:541-554-2388).

BOARD

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At-Large Clint Brumitt

President Elect Sparky Rice

At-Large Carolyn Mason

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COMMITTEES

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Membership Al Eckerdt and Ebon Dobson

Newsletter Editor TBA

Outings Clint Brumitt

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Programs Dan Robinhold, Sr., Bill Lang, and Mike Starr