JUNE 2019

PROGRAM JUNE 17

The South Fork McKenzie River:
A Stage 0 approach to floodplain enhancement

Our speakers are Johan Hogervorst and Jared Weybright

By Scott Halpert

The lower South Fork McKenzie River floodplain was historically a complex, multi-thread low-gradient depositional zone for much of the sediment, wood, and nutrients coming out of the South Fork watershed. These conditions created and maintained complex channel networks with abundant gravels, wood, and deep pools needed to support spring Chinook salmon, bull trout, Pacific lamprey, rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, western pond turtle, American beaver and many other native species. The installation of USACE-operated Cougar Dam in 1963, placement of berms and levees, removal of in-stream wood, and timber harvest from floodplain forests transformed the lower South Fork valley from a diverse floodplain with braided channels and wetland habitats to largely single-thread channel with rarely inundated floodplain terraces. These conditions have degraded both in-stream and floodplain habitats and negatively impacted native species and water quality.

In 2012, the Forest Service and McKenzie Watershed Council began planning a large-scale project to restore the physical, chemical and biological processes that maintain a healthy, diverse and resilient ecosystem within the lower 4.2 miles and 600 acres of the South Fork downstream of Army Corps of Engineers-operated Cougar Dam. Phase I was completed in 2018 over the lower 0.75 miles and 150 acres utilizing a relatively new design approach, termed

Jared Weybright leads a club tour of the South Fork project May 11.
Stage 0 that seeks to maximize floodplain connectivity. Over 85,000 cubic yards of sediment was removed from the floodplain and used to aggrade over 0.7 miles of the incised mainstem South Fork channel. Nearly 3,000 pieces of large wood were then placed throughout the floodplain. The South Fork is now flowing over 50 acres of its floodplain and creating a diverse range of habitats. Building on the success of Phase I, the USFS and MWC plan to implement Phase II in June 2019. Additional partners include ODFW and USACE.

The South Fork presentation will briefly examine historic impacts to floodplain habitats in the Pacific Northwest, describe attempts over the last 20 years to restore aquatic habitats in low gradient rivers, and detail how Stage 0 is a fundamentally different design approach. The presentation will also focus on the implementation of the Phase I project in 2018 and initial monitoring results.

**Johan Hogervorst**

Johan is the lead hydrologist for the Willamette National Forest and has over 20 years experience in restoration design, implementation and review. He is a founding member of the USFS’s Pacific Northwest Region Restoration Assistance Team and reviews and consults on restoration projects locally and throughout the region. He is also a longtime member of OWEB’s Willamette Regional Review Team.

**Jared Weybright**

Jared has worked for the McKenzie Watershed Council since 2004, coordinating a broad range of watershed restoration and outreach programs. He has designed and implemented numerous voluntary projects in partnership with private landowners, public agencies, schools, and nonprofits organizations over this time. His background is largely in fisheries and ecology. He has served as the council’s executive director since the fall of 2017.

---

**MONTHLY MEMBERS MEETING**

Please check your calendar and make sure that the monthly meeting of the McKenzie Fly Fishers is there in bold print – **Monday, June 17**, at Willie’s Restaurant, 400 Industrial Way, Springfield. Drinks and time to chat and mingle at 6 pm, dinner at 7, speakers at 8. All are welcome. Find the club at [mckenzieflyfishers.wordpress.com](http://mckenzieflyfishers.wordpress.com) and on Facebook (limited to members).
Prez Sez

By Jim Rhoten

I have fished the Metolius for many years. When I first started fishing it, they still planted thousands of hatchery fish in the river on a regular basis. It was a great place to learn to fly fish. The fish were plentiful, dumb, and would rise to almost anything that came close to matching the hatch.

Now, the Metolius is a different story. It is not common to get skunked. If you catch a few fish, you are having a great day. The Metolius is so hard to fish because the water is so clear and placid and other areas it is full of swirling currents. If you don’t get a good drift and have any drag on your fly, your chances of catching a fish are slim.

My wife, Patty, and I have been spending a week camping on the Metolius for over 20 years. We normally go for hike or bike ride in the morning, and in the afternoon I go fly fishing while Patty relaxes.

Over the years, I figured out that if I concentrated my fishing efforts to areas of the river with the faster current, I caught more fish. I think the reason for this is the fish that are in the current are less spooked and it is easier to get a good drift. Also, this type of water is more like the water I fish on the McKenzie. For many years we have been staying on the lower Metolius at Pioneer Ford campground. I fish around our campground, below Bridge 99, and above the fish hatchery in the gorge area.

The hatches tend to come off mid-afternoon, especially the Green Drake hatch. I will check out some of my favorite holes looking for rising fish. If I don’t find any fish coming up, I will pick a good spot and wait. It can get crowded, especially on a weekend during the Green Drake hatch. Sometimes I will nymph while I wait for the hatch to start. After the hatch ends, I will hike downstream and check out a couple of back eddies that tend to trap dead or crippled bugs, and see if any fish are rising.

My most successful method for catching fish on the Metolius is Euro-nymphing. I have a Euro-specific rod that is 10 ft. 8 in. long and a 3 weight. It has a very sensitive tip section and the butt section of a 5 weight which enables me to land a large fish. I use a specially made leader made out of mono with a bright-colored sighter attached to a tippet ring. Attached to my tippet ring is 3- to 5-ft. floral carbon tippet. I normally fish two nymphs with tungsten beads about 20 inches apart. I concentrate my efforts on the faster water, riffles, seams, and drop offs.

Take care and catch some fish,
— Jim (jerhoten@yahoo.com)

Also, please sign up and volunteer to help Jeff and Joanie DeVore at the picnic July 15.

A beautiful day on the Metolius, photos by Arlen Thomason
A standing ovation for Dave Thomas

By Al Eckerdt

Dave Thomas was formally recognized at our May membership meeting by being voted as an Honorary Member. The motion was proposed by Al Eckerdt and unanimously approved by the membership.

Below a brief summary of Dave’s history with McKenzie Flyfishers:

- 2009 - Membership chair
- 2010 - president elect
- 2011 - president and FFF rep
- 2012 - librarian
- 2012-2019 - secretary

In addition to his ongoing willingness to hold these positions, Dave has been actively involved in conservation, litigation and the club’s email/Google Group service (Dave set this up initially and has continued to manage the process since then: 2011 to 2019).

Conservation: Dave and Arlen have essentially shared the Conservation chair duties since 2013, each contributing and filling in for the other when needed. Co-Chair of Conservation for 2013-2019, recently receiving the Conservationist of the Year from FFI.

Litigation: Bruce Anderson created the Lawsuit Oversight Committee in 2014 when he became president (we had filed the lawsuit against the Army Corps of Engineers and ODFW during the previous year). He named as its members Dave, Arlen and Bob Rasmussen.


In summary: Including the formal positions of membership, president, FFI rep and library, he has been our secretary for seven years, established our Gmail and Google Group service and continued as administrator for eight years, been co-chair of Conservation for six years, been on the Lawsuit Oversight Committee for five years, and all of this concurrently.

Overall, this is an amazing list of accomplishments and Dave is very deserving of being recognized as our latest Honorary Member.

Thank you Dave from the membership for your years of hard work, commitments and results!

Family Fish Days wrapping up

- Saturday, June 15, from 10 am to 2 pm at Alton Baker Park Canoe Canal

  ODFW provides spinning gear and bait, and even cleans the fish for the participants. Volunteers assist kids of all ages (and some adults), and talk about fishing and wildlife. Some of us help untangle fishing lines. The Canoe Canal can be crowded, so not a safe place for fly fishing demos.

  To get involved in this fun and beneficial program, contact Jim Dougher at dougher@efn.org
Extravaganza on the riverbank

The McKenzie Flyfishers’ annual picnic is from 6 to 9 pm Monday, July 15, on the Willamette in Pleasant Hill.

On the third Monday in July (the 15th this year), we are firing up the grills again for another memorable McKenzie Flyfishers picnic. Plan to come out and share what is always an amazing feast with your fly-fishing friends and their families.

The quest for a perfect hamburger continues, and this year’s salmon chefs are ready for the challenge. Perhaps the best part of all is that this is a pot luck, so bring your best appetizer, side dish or dessert. Dinner begins at 7 pm. Table seating will be available both in the picnic entrance area and down by the river, so leave your camp chairs at home. Sodas, water, tea and coffee will be provided. (Bring your own adult beverages.)

Wild rainbow and cutthroat trout are active in the river at this time of year, so bring your fly rod; and even your boots or river shoes if you are serious about winning the annual prize for catching the biggest fish. If you bring your new spey rod, club casting experts will be happy to explain why all that line lands in a pile across the river. Casting instruction begins at 5 pm.

For the experienced boater, you can float down to the picnic from Pengra Boat Landing, park your boat at the picnic site, and then take out after dinner a few hundred feet down river at Jasper. You are welcome to come early to fish and stay late for a campfire by the river. Call your friends in the club and remind them to attend.

RSVP by noon Friday, July 12. Call (541) 343-3109 and leave a message, call or text (541) 505-2692, or email oakcrk@aol.com to confirm and indicate the number of additional guests you plan to bring.

We look forward to sharing a fun evening with you and your family.

— The 2019 Picnic Committee

Directions to the grand feast

The picnic is once again being held on the south side of the Willamette River just above Jasper Bridge.

You can reach the picnic by going south from Eugene on I-5 and taking the Hwy. 58 (Willamette Pass) turnoff east toward Oakridge. Turn left on the Jasper-Springfield Parkway (about five miles east of I-5 and just past the schools). Go north 2.6 miles and turn right just past where the “45 MPH” zone starts, look for sign “To Jasper Park Road” before you reach the bridge. Turn right, look for the block wall on your left, turn in, and take the third driveway on the right.

You can also reach the picnic by going east out of Eugene on Hwy. 126 to where the highway crosses Main Street in east Springfield. Continue across Main on the Bob Straub Parkway, and eventually follow the Middle Fork Willamette on Jasper-Springfield Road for about four miles to the Jasper Bridge. Cross the bridge and make the first left. Look for the block wall to your left, turn in, and find the third driveway on the right.

You can use smart phone apps as well. Search for 85816 Parklane Circle, Pleasant Hill. Call (541) 343-3109 or (541) 505-2692 if you need assistance.
Time to de-trash our dear McKenzie

The annual McKenzie River Cleanup Day is Saturday, July 6, and club members are busy signing up as boaters or snaggers on the lower river. The event is in collaboration with McKenzie River Guides and McKenzie Watershed Council. Those attending so far are Bill Laing, Mike Starr, Bob Bumstead, Mike Brinkley, Dan Robinhold, Bruce Anderson, Greg Williams, Dick Barnhart, Larry Six, Chris Hyatt and Eric Olson. More folks and boats are needed. Email bumstead@pacificu.edu.

Mark Campbell says there is (or was) a Range Rover below Armitage, so bring a big hook and a long rope. You never know what you will find and haul out of the river, or from the banks. And those who participate get free BBQ and festivities at Hendricks at the end, from 2 to 4 pm.

2019 Board & Committees

President: Jim Rhoten
President elect: Greg Williams
Secretary: Dave Thomas
Treasurer: Mark Campbell
At-large board: Bob Howell, Monte Matthews, Tom Fauria, Peggy Roga
Auction: Greg Williams (head), Peggy Roga (donations), Jim Rhoten, Steve Hackett
Website: Liz Yocom
Membership: Dick Barnhart (head), Steve Hackett (host), Peggy Roga (host)

Newsletter: Ted Taylor
Outings: Clint Brummitt
Library: Carolyn Mason
Holiday party: Tom Fauria
Annual picnic: Jeff DeVore
Conservation: Arlen Thomason
Education: Tim Knerr, Clint Brummitt
FFI rep.: Terry Willis
Lawsuit oversight: Dave Thomas, Arlen Thomason
Programs: Scott Halpert (head), Bill Laing, Dan Robinhold, Mike Starr, Mike Brinkley

2019 Outings Schedule

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Location</th>
<th>Fishmaster</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 26-28</td>
<td>East Lake, (callibaetis)</td>
<td>Phil Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 6-8</td>
<td>Umpqua (smallmouth bass)</td>
<td>Clint Brummitt</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 13-16</td>
<td>Gold Lake (brook trout)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 5-6</td>
<td>Kalama Cup with Evergreen Club (North Umpqua)</td>
<td>Board</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

One other high lakes trip is in the planning stages.

NEWS FLASH!

The board wants to encourage more club-sponsored outings, so the club will now cover the fishmaster’s costs for group meals, gas, site fees, boat shuttles, etc. Talk to Clint Brummitt about details.
Love is in the air

By Carolyn Mason

Six of us gathered early at the Warm Springs boat ramp to begin a recent four-day fly-fishing trip down the Deschutes River for the “salmon fly hatch.” Sparky Rice, joined by Eric and Jeff Olson, Walt Meyer, Peg Roga and I set off with Ethan Nickel Outfitters for a fully guided trip.

We paired up and selected a different guide each day, all of us fishing with someone new. The first day Peggy and I joined Matt Ramsey, while Walt and Sparky floated with Ethan, and Eric and Jeff paired up with Ty Holloway. Two other guides, Kyle and Gary, served as our “bag boat” operators and camp hosts.

The weather report called for rain daily, but we only suffered with it on the first day. The guides were heard saying they’d never seen it rain like that before; a real monsoon. We huddled in the drift boats for an hour and a half at the end of the day pushing for camp while the boats were filling up fast. As we approached camp it finally stopped, and we were delighted with a double rainbow; a sure sign of good things to come.

I personally came on the trip to get to know new friends and to meet a few of the Deschutes River redside trout I’ve heard so much about. I wasn’t disappointed in the least; the first fish I came across was a junior football-sized redside. While Matt was off with Peg, I felt a take in the soft water. Thinking I’d caught a “dink” I started to strip it in when all of a sudden my reel began to sing. You all know that feeling of excitement, the moment of fear and then relief when you finally get the fish into sight and finally to hand. Just in the nick of time, Matt arrived to help “land” the fish and take a picture to prove I wasn’t a liar. We all had a great day with our guides and caught many nice trout, whitefish and a quite a few steelhead smolt.

The flies of choice for all the guides consisted of hopper/dropper rigs with a Chubby Chernobyl and a nymph, or a standard dry set up of either a Clark’s Stonefly or Norm Woods Special. These setups were deadly effective for every situation. One guide, Matt Ramsey, carried a few Tenkara rods set up for all occasions, including Euro nymphing. This technique was effective for lunkers in deep pools.

The real stars of the show were the bugs and the fish, both of which were plentiful. We saw quite a few salmonflies and golden stoneflies. At one camp, salmonflies were so thick we had to keep the tents closed. We also found that you can throw them at each other and they stick like Velcro! There was much neck-fllicking and swatting going on as we got used to them clinging on us. We all caught a few really big rainbows and/or redsides which made for great lunches and camp stories later.

After a full day of wading along skinny rock ledges, stumbling through rock gardens and being dropped off on boulders in the middle of the river, we were all glad to see camp each night. Our hosts had hors d’oeuvres waiting along with our drinks, and our tents pitched. Frankly, there’s no better way to do this trip, in my opinion. Each meal was amazing; just ask Walt who managed to polish off the 16-oz. ribeye! The food and camaraderie was great as we shared the day’s stories and talked about the world. Walt won the guide’s award for best tangled hopper dropper rig and earned the title, “The Man with a Hollow Leg.” I took a “Magic Carpet Ride,” while Peg dubbed herself a “Bad Hooker.” Jeff was given the super-hero name of “Tic Man.” Sparky and Eric were wise men whose experience allowed them to avoid such humiliation. I’m humbled to have been in such good company.

Red-winged blackbirds, western tanagers, swallows and osprey were overhead all the time. Wild horses were seen grazing the reservation. But the most epic wildlife viewing was on the morning of day three. We heard rocks skittering down the far side of the river and spotted a herd of big horn lambs running and jumping around on the rock slide. Their older siblings played at rearing and head butting while the adults just looked on in amusement. It was a fine way to start a great day.

As you guessed, there were fish and more fish caught over the three and a half days. I’ve included a few pictures of our trophies that were all sent back to get fatter and spawn. I truly hope you all get a chance to fish this amazing hatch on the Deschutes if you haven’t already!

If you would like to go on this amazing trip next year, please contact Sparky Rice at (541) 954-4077.
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. Interested? Just curious? Contact Dick Barnhart, (541) 501-1774.

Have stories and photos for the newsletter? Email Ted Taylor at juliated@comcast.net

Deschutes club outing pix

Cold and rain did not dampen the enthusiasm, nor the fishing success, for our club outing on the Deschutes in mid-May, led by Greg Williams. Here are some photos of the memorable outing.

Our club’s Life Members

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