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TO ENCOURAGE FLY FISHING
AS A METHOD OF ANGLING

MCKENZIE *Flyfishers* ESTABLISHED 1964

Our Feb. 15 program

Gary Lewis on the big Cutt-Slam

*Oregon author and TV host to tell
tales of Wyoming trout fishing*

Gary Lewis is the host of *Frontier Unlimited* (a television show on Amazon Prime and elsewhere), and an award-winning magazine writer and author of 17 books. He will be introduced by Jim Mitchell.

His topic of the Cutthroat Slam tells a story of fishing for native cutts in the beautiful state of Wyoming.

The challenge is sponsored by Wyoming Game and Fish Department and to complete the challenge, anglers are required to catch and document four distinct cutthroat species. Each species evolved in a different western Wyoming drainage. He completed the prestigious Wyoming Cutt-Slam in July 2020.

He is a full-time outdoor writer since 2002, and twice past president of the Northwest Outdoor Writers Association. He is also a recipient of NOWA's Enos Bradner and Legacy awards. Lewis has penned over



***Our Monday meeting will
begin at 6:30 pm and our
program will start around
7:15. Look for a Zoom
invitation in your email.***

3,000 newspaper and magazine articles. He lives in Central Oregon with his wife of 33 years, Merrilee. They have three daughters, all accomplished hunters and anglers.

More about Gary Lewis, including his blog and how to find his TV episodes, can be found at garylewisoutdoors.com.

For a list of future club programs, find last month's newsletter at mckenzieflyfishers.wordpress.com

From our president

A new year of fresh & fishy opportunities

We continue our love for the sport and its friendships

By Carolyn Mason

I'm excited to lead our merry band of fly fishers through this new year. We all know that 2020 was a challenge due to COVID-19 shutting our in-person meetings down and Greg did a fantastic job of implementing Zoom as an alternate platform for us.

I'll be carrying on using Zoom to hold our membership and board meetings and Ted Taylor has agreed to continue hosting "Liar's Lunch" on Fridays at noon utilizing Zoom as well. Additionally, Clint (and Ted) are hosting a Zoom fly-tying course on Tuesdays.

Our club is strong and committed, continuing our love of the sport and friendships developed over many years. I hope those of you who haven't joined us due to fear (or confusion) of technology will come along soon.

Our club has a long history, 56 years to be exact; the club has been in existence longer than I have! OK, I know I'm one of the younger club members, and also the first woman to hold the office of president, but I assure you my passion for fly-fishing is as deep as anyone's. It's because of this passion



We intend to participate in ODOT's Adopt-A-Highway Program, taking on a section of the McKenzie Highway for cleanup work.

for the sport and club that I've agreed to take my turn at the helm.

My 2021 goals for the club are threefold; to ensure our club's legacy continues, to reconnect with our local conservation partners and engage in local projects we can all feel good about at the end of the day, and to get Project Healing Waters up and running, in as much as is possible.

At our February board meeting we heard from the Programs, Outings, Technology and the Membership committees; they have a lot planned for us this year as you'll see later in this newsletter. We also discussed now and later budgets; how to make ends meet each year. I sent this topic to committee and am interested in any club member who would like to have input on this process. As for new business, we reinstated the mentor program for new members and approved participating in

ODOT's Adopt-A-Highway Program. I proposed this idea after discussing it with the ODOT program manager. The board agreed to take on the responsibility for the

McKenzie Highway between MP 23 – 25 (roughly Leaburg Dam to Ike's Pizza). Once our permit is approved, we can schedule cleanups, and after two of them ODOT will install signage with our club's name on it. I hope

this will give us some positive visibility and help to keep our riverbanks free of litter.

Finally, I'll be the fishmaster (mistress?) for our first outing of the year on Saturday, Feb. 20, at Cleawox Lake. There should be plenty of eager trout to keep us occupied, so come join me. See you out there!

Outings galore on the horizon

By Clint Brumitt

Fellow club members, we have gotten a good start on the outings calendar for the year. We begin with a Feb. 20 day event at Cleawox Lake south of Florence, organized by Carolyn Mason (see below).

All outings outings will be held without the club's traditional food sharing. This will be in effect until we are all vaccinated with our COVID shots (jabs in Great Britain). Once that becomes a reality, we can plan meals and greater socialization.

On March 20, we are planning a Munsel Lake day outing, organized by Jeff DeVore.

April 3 is our tentative date for our annual March Brown outing on the lower McKenzie River. This could be extended to April 10 or 17 depending on weather and water conditions.

Looking ahead, but without dates nailed down, we are planning a May or June outing on the Deschutes River, and summer outings at East Lake, the John Day River, Crane Prairie Reservoir and Diamond Lake. In the fall, we are looking forward to Gold Lake and the North Umpqua Kalama Cup.

We have two major and powerful ideas to incorporate into our outings:

- We may have a special event just for euro nymphing. Jim Rhoten said he would do a little teaching and then folks could apply it to the stream. The class and fishing can be at separate times and/or locations or it can be done in a single day.

- With our newer members survey for preference, we could have half day outing to learn local waters or techniques. (Might have to wait until we are all vaccinated for COVID to use boats), but a powerful thought to adapt. Old farts taking newer farts fishing.

The Cleawox caper

Our first club outing is a day trip **Saturday, Feb. 20**, to Cleawox Lake in Honeyman State Park south of Florence. We plan to put in around 9 am and fish until whenever.

The lake is scheduled to be stocked with trout the week of Feb. 8, so fishing should be good. This lake has little to no bank access, so pontoons, float tubes, kayaks, drift boats, canoes and prams are the order of the day. There are two fishing platforms but they are usually occupied by "lead flingers," so be wary.

The boat ramp is crude but very manageable with parking above or at the south lot. An Oregon State Park permit is required for day use. You can purchase

one at the south parking lot if you don't already have a pass.

I've found trolling a black wooly bugger on an intermediate line in my pontoon the most effective. I've seen others do well while stripping streamers. Occasionally a hatch will produce risers, so be prepared for that if you want to cast small dries. Other recommended flies include: Pumpkin Head, Simi Seal Leech and Carey Specials.

Please contact me if you plan to attend, and let me know if you have a boat or floating device. whether you have an open seat to offer, and what time you plan to arrive if not 9 am.

Once I get a list together, more info will be sent.

— *Carolyn Mason*

Perdigon scores at Whitehorse

*Colorful little nymphs look
mighty tasty to resides*

By Tom Fauria

I first fished the Deschutes River in 1988 on an Oregon Trout auction trip. We floated from Trout Creek to Nina Creek, camping in the Whitehorse area. The trip was led by Cal Cole, an Oregon Trout board member. Cal was well-respected for his fly-fishing skill and superb knowledge of the Deschutes. We camped three nights in the lower Whitehorse area. Those on the trip spent three days stalking Deschutes River

Redsides. As a rookie, I caught few fish. Cal was kind enough to introduce me to a few runs and pocket water. On several occasions, Cal commented that the best fishing on the river was in the Whitehorse area and the best fishing within Whitehorse was the camp water, 20 yards from my tent. On several occasions he referred to our camp water with candid fondness.

Since that 1988 trip, I have fished that Deschutes almost every year once, sometimes twice during summer and fall. Standard Deschutes flies include stoneflies, of course, as well as PMDs and elk hair caddis. I also recall in my early years, Bloody Marys were an effective nymph, then Copper John's became popular. After the Lake Billy Chinook tower became operational, fish quality and catching seemed to slack off. During these years, I fish the usual complement of Deschutes flies attributing fewer fish to a range of environmental causes, including poor fly choices and age weakened skills on my part.

On our way to the Deschutes two seasons ago, we stopped by the Deschutes Angler in Maupin. Amy Hazel, an owner of the shop, introduced us to a fly we had never heard of:



Euro Nymph Perdigos. Amy was so convincing that we all left the store with a markedly higher balance on our credit cards and renewed high hopes.

After floating for 5 hours and setting up camp, we embarked upon the evening's fishing adventure. We learned that Amy knows her stuff: Perdigos were effective, even fished under an indicator. PMDs and elk hair caddis held their own during the appropriate daylight hours, but in the absence of a hatch, Perdigos were our unquestioned favorite.

In August, my son Mark and I returned to our favorite camp spot in lower Whitehorse. We were well armed with standard Deschutes flies as well as a complement of yellow, green, blue, brown, and purplish Perdigos. In recent years, we experienced that many of the holding spots for trout had shifted. So, after lunch in the heat of the day, I thought I would drift a Perdigon through Cal's favorite seam, just a few feet away from where we enjoyed lunch. As I started working my way up-river, I hooked two nice trout in the seam. As I looked down river, I noticed my son experimenting with a spey rod. Father and son enjoying a cherished pastime together: It doesn't get better than that!

As we both worked our way up-river, I was standing on the edge of a huge reversal we call "Two Drunks Hole" (separate story about the name). The reversal is formed by a huge boulder causing water to drop approximately 2 to 3 feet immediately below the boulder followed by a substantial breaking wave. Describing the water as FAST in this spot would be an understatement. I wondered how any fish could sustain in such boisterous water. Nonetheless, I was there - so I flipped the Perdigon up-river just outside the seam: Bingo! Indicator suddenly slashing down river and underwater — the angry rainbow ripping line off my reel. As I got over the surprise, I looked at my reel, now deep into backing. This fish was hell-bent downriver in big current. There was no stopping it! Moments later (seemed longer), the fish slowed. I was able to

reclaim some line, although still in the backing. After a brief rest, the fish reenergized began tearing more line off the reel. I never saw this fish, but I figured it was substantial. After several runs, I was still in the backing and I noticed Mark was about 100 yards downstream from me. The fish was tiring and headed for boulders near the shore, which would have created an even-greater problem. As I tried to keep it away from slower water, I realized that the line was close enough that Mark could possibly reach it. I yelled to him to grab the line and release the fish, which he did. He looked up and yelled, "It was hooked behind the dorsal fin," which explains the incredible deep runs into my backing. I never saw the fish; I have no clue as to its size. I suspect it was smaller than I would like it to have been. Mark guessed it was between 15 -18 inches. It felt like it was 20-plus. Regardless of size, the memory will stay with me for many years. I will also remember that Cal was right! The best

The time together with my son was the best part of the adventure in this magnificent desert canyon.

water on the river is right in the camp. I forgot to mention that this entire episode was observed under the watchful eye of a bald eagle perched high in a snag on the reservation side. Supervision at its finest! Thanks Cal.

On this adventure, both my son and I released more than our fair share of Deschutes rainbows. It was a fine experience! However, the time together with my son was the best part of the adventure in a magnificent desert canyon

formed by volcanic flows, sculpted by a blue-ribbon trout stream. In conversations before and after flyfishing, we shared candid, heartfelt stories of parenting and being parented that were

meaningful and healing for both of us. Although we return from outdoor adventures with stories of negotiating fierce white-water rapids and piscatorial hyperbole, there are far more meaningful benefits from flyfishing than catching fish.

2021 board and committees

- President:** Carolyn Mason
- President elect:** Tom Fauria
- Secretary:** Bob Howell
- Treasurer:** Mark Campbell
- At-large board:** Dick Barnhart, Jim Mitchell, Dave Thomas, Phil Johnson
- Annual picnic:** Jeff & Joanie DeVore
- Auction:** (chair open) Jim Rhoten, Dick Barnhart
- Conservation:** Arlen Thomason
- Education:** Tim Knerr, Clint Brumitt
- FFI rep.:** Terry Willis
- Holiday party:** Tom Fauria
- House raffle:** Tom Fauria

- Library:** Carolyn Mason
- Membership:** Dick Barnhart (head), Steve Hackett (host)
- Newsletter:** Ted Taylor
- Outings:** Clint Brumitt
- Project Healing Waters:** Phil Barnhart
- Library:** Carolyn Mason
- Programs:** Al Eckerdt (head), Mike Brinkley, Jim Mitchell, Jim Rhoten, Bill Laing (emeritus), Mike Starr, (emeritus)
- Technology:** Greg Williams, Liz Yocum, Jeremy Sanders (website, Facebook, Research & Development, "The Vault," YouTube Channel, Auctria, Zoom)

A history of dedicated presidents ...

- | | | |
|----------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1964-65 Bill Nelson | 1984 Jim Williams | 2003 Dick Irish |
| 1966 Riley Woodford | 1985 Glen Love | 2004 Bob Bumstead |
| 1967 Dave Carlson | 1986 Cliff Adams | 2005 Bob Poppen |
| 1968 Gib Kingsbury | 1987 Jim Dougher | 2006 Tim Knerr |
| 1969 Bill Laing | 1988 Don Truax | 2007 Jeff DeVore |
| 1970 Mike Starr | 1989 Mark Atterbery | 2008 Mark Rauch |
| 1971 Bill Neel | 1990 Paul Moore | 2009-10 Bob Rasmussen |
| 1972 Jim Korth | 1991 Ken Jackson | 2011 Dave Thomas |
| 1973 Bob Bumstead | 1992 Greg Pitts | 2012 Ted Ledgard |
| 1974 Jeff Lake | 1993 Jim Boyd | 2013 Mike Brinkley |
| 1975 John Sihler | 1994 Hal Legard | 2014 Bruce Anderson |
| 1976 Skip Hosfield | 1995 Daryl Jamison | 2015 Jim Williams |
| 1977 John Shepard | 1996 Bob Rasmussen | 2016 John O'Connor |
| 1978 Monte Rounds | 1997 Doug Kokkeler | 2017 Sparky Rice |
| 1979 Pete Patricelli | 1998 Bob Cooper | 2018 Al Eckerdt |
| 1980 Kim Short | 1999 Barry Olsen | 2019 Jim Rhoten |
| 1981 Stan Walters | 2000 Monte Matthews | 2020 Greg Williams |
| 1982 Greg Knecht | 2001 Dan White | 2021 Carolyn Mason |
| 1983 Stan Walters | 2002 Walt Petty | |

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

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