Our Jan. 18 program

Fifty Fly-Fishing Tips in 60 Minutes

Troutbitten author Dominick Swentosky will be our speaker

By Jim Rhoten

Our speaker at this month’s meeting will be Dominick Swentosky. He will be giving a Zoom presentation on “Fifty Fly-Fishing Tips in 60 Minutes.”

This is a presentation for anglers of all skill levels and interests. The photo-packed hour covers the topics of gear, efficiency, fishing dries, nymphing, streamers, fighting big fish and a lot more.

This presentation attempts to both inform anglers about how to catch more trout and inspire them to wade into a river and try something new. Ultimately, this series of tips is about how to better enjoy our time on the water.

Since 2014, Dominick has published an extensive resource of over 900 stories, commentaries, tips, podcasts and videos about trout, friends, family and the river. Dominick is also a well-known guide in Central Pennsylvania. All this can be found on his very good website, Troutbitten.com.

Troutbitten serves as an inspiration for all of us to get out there and fish more and to enjoy a life on the water. It’s a place of strong tactical information and tips that are geared towards the angler looking to take his fishing to the next level. He also encourages us to do something to enhance the wild trout and rivers we love so much.

Troutbitten is a great resource of information and an enjoyable read with top-notch photos. Do yourself a favor and explore Troutbitten.com. In my opinion, it’s the best fly-fishing website on the web. Dominick has a unique, delightful style that is very refreshing and appealing and his detail is amazing.

Don’t miss it, see you on the 18th.
From our president
Wrapping up a memorable 2022

And what a time it was!

By Tom Fauria

2022 - Another year in the books! “A time it was, and what a time it was!”

Much changed and much stayed the same. We began 2022 with lingering Covid isolation preventing in-person meetings, but we bravely emerged from our cocoons, resuming in-person meetings in April. The April meeting was surprisingly well attended. It felt like a reunion of long-lost friends filled with glee simply to see each other in person, shake hands or fist bump, telling stories of fly-fishing adventures past, present and future.

In-person meetings resumed although it required shifting the long-standing tradition of meeting the third Monday of the month to meeting third Wednesdays. MFF demonstrated remarkable adaptability making the transition. The Programs Committee in 2022, led by Al Eckert, arranged engaging presentations blending well-known fly-fishing experts with conservation topics. Fortunately, Covid risks diminished, allowing meeting attendance to gradually increase. We struggled integrating live presentations with Zoom technology, but are making progress. We now have a capable tech savvy crew as we move into the future blending in-person and Zoom meetings. This blend provides the ability to affordably bring out of area experts to our monthly programs.

Our usual January cabin fever triggered planning for the coming year. As excitement for the new season emerged, the need for gear and trips also emerged. Luckily, the club March auction filled the bill providing opportunities to refill fly boxes and schedule trips. The auction, led by Greg Williams, was again a huge success! The online format greatly simplified the auction and was a lot of fun as members bid online – many waiting until the last minute to place their hoped-for winning bid. The auction raised over $7,000 to fund club activities and enable us to donate $3,500 to Salmon Watch. The club has supported Salmon Watch since its inception in the early 1990s. Salmon Watch fits our club mission because it educates future generations about the importance of water quality, healthy fish habitat and provides many students with a first-hand introduction to nature.

Also, in 2022, Project Healing Waters launched after prolonged Covid delay. Led by Phil Johnson, club members instructed veterans in the art and science of fly tying. Best part: The vets are enthusiastic to continue in 2023.

2022 club outings launched in late winter at both Cleawox and Munsel Lakes. Spring brought outings for March browns on the McKenzie, and redbands on the Deschutes. In mid-summer, we headed to the Umpqua “Bass Hole” to attract hungry, non-selective small mouth to our offerings. In July, some 18 to 20 of us, including family members, gathered at Cinder Hill Campground on East Lake. Fish were caught and stories were told at dinner and around the campfire during the “Marshmellow roast and Whiskey Extravaganza” hosted by Stevie and Gayle Brehm. A most enjoyable evening! All were back in their trailers and tents, tucked in by 9:30 pm, well rested the next morning to cast an early line. Although smoke and fire snuffed out the Middle Fork and Gold Lake “Death to Char” Outings, much fun was...
had, and friendships renewed, on the outings in 2022.

I want to take this opportunity to thank the 2022 Bored for their guidance and support as we moved through major club transitions. We navigated resuming in-person meetings recognizing we could not please everyone but strived to arrive at a plan that was satisfactory to as many as possible. We also revised the dues renewal and membership application process to allow online application and dues payment. This makes it much easier to renew annual memberships and for new members to apply to the club while remaining consistent with the bylaws. We hope this will attract new members to the club along with meeting at Ninkasi’s Better Living Room.

The proposed 2023 slate of officers and Bored members are listed below to be voted on at our Jan. 18 meeting. I am confident that the new Bored and committee members, in the capable leadership of Jeff DeVore, will continue to move the club forward in 2023. There are many activities forthcoming: The March auction, outings, monthly programs, Liars Lunch, fly-tying classes, tackle tips, the monthly newsletter, and projects like KORC, Adopt-a-Highway, Salmon Watch, McKenzie River cleanup and the MRDC – all contribute value to members advancing fly-fishing skill and social connections. Many consequential issues will be discussed in 2023 effecting our fisheries, especially Leaburg Dam removal and the Army Corp of Engineers’ plans for regional water management. I look forward to lively, educational conversations among club members and club collaboration with stakeholders.

It has been an honor to serve as president. I have enjoyed the experience immensely. Most importantly, I have enjoyed the relationships that I would not have been privileged to develop had I not served on the Bored and as president. Thank you! And now it’s time to cast a fly line.

### 2023 Board candidates and committee heads

- **President:** Jeff DeVore
- **President elect:** Open
- **Secretary:** Steven Hackett
- **Treasurer:** Walt Petty
- **Directors at-large:** Arlen Thomason, Caleb Hund, Stephen Maher, Roger Stover

### Committees of the club

- **Membership:** Tom Fauria (chair), Bala Palani
- **Conservation:** Arlen Thomason and Dave Thomas
- **House:** Jim Dougher
- **Library:** Carolyn Mason
- **Outings:** Greg Williams
- **Newsletter editor:** Ted Taylor

### Programs

- Al Eckerdt (chair), Jim Mitchell, Jim Rhoten, Bill Laing, Mike Brinkley, Dave Bailey
- Website: Stephen Maher

### Projects

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

### Education

- Roger Stover
- FFI Rep: Jeff DeVore (chair) Dave Bailey, Mike Emery
- Auction: Greg Williams
- Annual picnic: Jeff & Joanie DeVore
- Holiday party: Bill Neel
- Technology: Caleb Hund
- Listserv: Carolyn Mason
McKenzie Flyfishers

A monthly newsletter serving the southern Willamette Valley

JANUARY 2023

Catch This!
By Roger Stover
MFF Education Coordinator

MFF fly tying on Zoom has begun
In case you missed the emailed announcements, our Winter Series of Fly Tying on Zoom began Jan. 4, and will run every Wednesday (except MFF meeting nights) at 6:30 pm through February. By the time you read this we should have the schedule and materials list for the series posted to the club website, Members Only section, under Fly Tying. Steve Savill does a great job showing his techniques for tying flies that catch fish. Please join!

January Knowledge Nugget
Yours truly will make a brief presentation at our January meeting about using a fishing log. I’ve kept one since 2018, and it has proved to be well worth the little effort it takes to maintain. I’ll cover the basics, show you some record-keeping options, and then post a couple of templates on the club website that you may download to use as is, or revise to suit your personal tastes.

Getting the most from intermediate fly lines
Think you already know all the tricks? How about the Washing Line or The Hang? There’s even a very useful technique for getting the line to sink on the first cast, when it’s dry. Simon Gawesworth of Rio Products shows us how to use intermediate lines in stillwater for maximum effect. Check it out. How to Fish an Intermediate Line in a Lake

That is knot a problem
When it comes to knot-tying, there are too many YouTube videos to count. Some are excellent and include helpful background information and tips for making the knots easier to tie. Some are just plain worthless and seem to be someone trying too hard to get noticed online — and giving bad advice. I remember one in which the presenter was so enthusiastic about his knot that I had to try it. So, I sat at my kitchen counter practiced a few and then did a break test against the knot I had been using (blood knot). No comparison! The new knot broke way before the trusty blood knot, so scratch that. Nowadays, I usually just need a reminder about actually tying the knot, without all the hype. For that, I go to NetKnots. Check out this website for dozens of knot-tying tutorials. Not only does it have diagrams and animations, but also provides categories and indexes to make it easy to explore knots for specific applications. I think you’ll find this one a “bookmarkable” resource. Netknots.com – Fishing Knots
Cleawox kicks off our outings

Expect bent rods Feb. 11 followed by a free hot lunch!

By Carolyn Mason

Join me at Cleawox Lake to start the club’s outing season with a bang! The lake south of Florence will be stocked by ODFW the week before with over 3,500 rainbow trout; 200 “trophy-sized” trout are also being dumped. Plan on taking home a limit, or sharing with the Raptor Center, if you’re so inclined.

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!

I’ll have a hot lunch prepared for the weary anglers (and others who want to come visit) around 1 pm. I’m thinking about chili again. With any luck, we’ll eat and recount stories around a fire in one of the nearby shelters. Don't forget to bring your camp chair to sit in and relax.

You’ll need your 2023 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 kickboat 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 fishmaster 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 bringing a boat and do you have room for another member?
• 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?
• Do you have any questions?

Photos by Carolyn Mason are from last year’s well-attended Cleawox outing
HATS OFF! Bill Neel (above) once again hosted our annual holiday party Dec. 11 at his Copper Windmill Ranch with about 50 people coming and going during the afternoon, including several new members. Last year's party was the first post-Covid club gathering. This year we had much to celebrate, stories to tell among new and old friends, and we collected a lot of groceries for FOOD for Lane County. If you missed the photos sent out on the club listserv, here are a few on this page and the next. — Ted Taylor

Walt Petty with Mike Starr in background

Dottie Dougher and Terry Robinson

Joanie DeVore, Edie Anderson, Karen Howell

Another great year celebrated
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

Top from left is Michael T Williams, Al Eckerdt and new member Spence Reid. Top right is Tom Fauria showing a vintage gold club pin presented to him by Bill Neel at the party. At bottom are Jim Dougher, Bruce Anderson and Steve Brehm
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 Ninkasi on Wednesdays, are an excellent opportunity to meet other area anglers and share tips. Our meetings feature 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 learn local waters first-hand. Interested? Email Tom at tomfauria@gmail.com.

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