Our April 19 program

Understanding those emergers

Rick Hafele is back, along with our auction wrap-up night

Emerging insects provide some of the most exciting and productive fly-fishing opportunities — and some of the most frustrating. You have to have the right fly and present it the right way. This program explains the ins and outs of choosing the right fly for the right emerger and how to fish them.

Rick Hafele was our speaker on Zoom in October 2021, and will be back in person. He has a master’s in aquatic entomology from OSU and a minor in fisheries biology, and has worked as a professional aquatic biologist for more than 40 years. Books to his credit include An Angler’s Guide to Aquatic Insects and Their Imitations (with Scott Roederer, Johnson Books, 1995), Western Mayfly Hatches (with Dave Hughes, Amato Pub, 2005), The Complete Book of Western Hatches (with Dave Hughes, Amato Pub, 1981), Nymph Fishing Rivers and Streams (Stackpole Books, 2006), and most recently the two volume set Tactics for Trout and Seasons for Trout (Stackpole Books, 2014) co-authored with Dave Hughes and Skip Morris. Rick currently lives in Wilsonville. Rick is also well known for instructional DVDs that include the 1983 classic Anatomy of a Trout Stream and more recently the four-volume set titled, Fly Fishing Large Western Rivers, plus Nymph Fishing Basics, Advanced Nymph Fishing and Advanced Tactics for Emergers & Dries. He also penned the Entomology column for American Angler magazine for over 30 years. Few fly fishers have Rick’s knowledge about the world in which trout live, and for many years he has been sharing that knowledge with fly fishers through books, articles, slide shows and seminars.

More info about Rick and his programs can be found at www.rickhafele.com and his photo work can be found on Instagram at: @rickhafele

Our monthly meeting begins at 6:30 pm Wednesday, April 19, at Ninkasi Brewery, 155 Blair Blvd. Come early to order food and drinks and get raffle tickets.
The President’s Corner

Charging forth this spring

March was just a warm-up for what’s coming next

By Jeff DeVore

The time jumped ahead, spring arrived and, as promised, March offered surprises. Early on, the McKenzie River Discovery Center was the perfect setting for an ODFW Angler Education Instructor training event that resulted in several newly minted, certified MFF instructors. It was an interesting program for a few of our veteran instructors, and there was a tour of what is becoming a promising location for future events and gatherings. Being certified means we have members who can now lead their own educational events with ODFW’s support, which is how we started April.

But staying with March for a moment, it was only a day later that 16 of us began commuting to Albany where we greeted the public at the Northwest Fly Tyer and Fly Fishing Expo. It snowed on Friday, but no matter where or why, it is always fun to gather with 200 of our favorite fly-tying friends.

Next up in March, our club auction was postponed so we threw together what turned out to be one of our more interesting club meetings. Starting as something that might have resembled the painting La morte di Cesare, we were instead able to weave together a very interesting “old timers history lesson” from Bill Neel and Bob Bumstead, an enlightening “knowledge nugget” from Roger Stover; while simultaneously conducting what was best described as a “road kill auction.” One lucky bidder went home with a box of tying material that should never have been opened in public. Fortunately, the meeting itself closed with another successful raffle drawing for Steve Savill’s always interesting flies.

The March meeting was just a warm-up for the real auction that now begins online on Monday, April 17, and closes after our in-person club meeting on Wednesday, April 19 at Ninkasi.

Drivers, start your bidding engines next Monday (the 17th). Auction bid items will be featured during the live meeting, then sit back and enjoy this month’s presentation by Rick Hafele and go home and bid some more.

Meanwhile, the Munsel Lake outing (see Page 8) also happened in March, as scheduled, and those who said “come for the hot dogs and fish later” had no chance to win the “Big Dog,” which was awarded to Clint Brumitt with Bob Bumstead at the net. The nay-sayers were correct about the weather, that turned from cold and dreary in the morning to bright and sunny that afternoon. Now we all have to wait to see if there will be time after the atmospheric river blows over so we can enjoy what was becoming a promising McKenzie March Brown hatch.

Next up on the list of March surprises was an emergency meeting of your Board of Directors, at which we made a unanimous decision to enter the world of Oregon politics and take a stand for “pound nets” as a promising “alternative” to the gill nets that have been used by Lower Columbia commercial fishermen and
A monthly newsletter serving the southern Willamette Valley

McKenzie Flyfishers

Delayed club auction returns
April 17-19

By Greg Williams

Our annual auction is back after a one-month delay. The online bidding starts at noon Monday, April 17, and ends at 11 pm after our club meeting April 19. Some items will be available to view at the meeting.

The online auction will be structured the same way as the 2022 event. Items will be divided into four familiar categories. Filled fly boxes are a mainstay of our auctions, and so are member-led fishing trips. We are always willing to spend a lot of money to take each another fishing. We’ll have about 30 boxes and 15 trips, about the same number as 2022.

Since the last auction, the club has benefitted from two large donations of a variety of stuff. A lot of it is useful, and a lot of it, not so much. It’s mostly flies and fly-tying materials. About a third of our boxes this year are filled with these “estate flies.” The flies are surprisingly good, professionally tied, in fact. One of the donors had worked for Umpqua Feather Merchants, and that’s where many of the flies came from. They are mostly in the smallest sizes, with many #14s, but a abundance of #16s and #18s and even some #20s.

The fly-tying materials are mostly traditional hair, fur and feathers, but there’s plenty of very good stuff, including three quality rooster necks, in grizzly, brown and ginger.

Several collections of material will be available for bid. One item is called “Fifty Shades of Dubbing,” for example, and another, called “Hop to It”, includes a dispenser box of Haretron dubbing, a bunch of rabbit strips and two excellent rabbit masks, one natural and one dyed olive.

It takes some thinking and sorting to come up with the packages, and most of them really do not total to particularly high value. So

warning (see photos, Page 9). The snow stayed right above us at 1,500 feet, and a window opened up long enough between the rain and hail for seven MFF members with six boats to give 10 high school students a chance to cast and learn a few fishing skills. Three of the boats got serious with the business of actually fishing and came in late after the rain started. They missed the hot dogs but it looked like a good time was had by all.

See you out there.

Lastly, that event at Dexter Lake on April 1 involving trophy trout and the Sheldon High School Fishing Club actually happened, against all odds and in the face of a Winter storm...
please, have a heart and bid ‘em up anyway. In addition to tying materials, you’ll also discover a large collection of hooks, a set of tools, a portable tying bench and a very nice hardwood storage box.

The final category is the usual collection of gear. There’s a Folstaff wading staff. There are two Sage duffles and a canvas Umpqua duffle. For those who fish in deep winter we have an unused pair of Hodgman insulated waders and a Northwest River Supply neoprene farmer John wetsuit. We didn’t have any rods donated this year, but there are two good ones from last year that didn’t sell. The gear category is a bit light this year, primarily because of all the fly-tying material that we have on hand.

The auction website and catalog are in preparation right now. An invitation to register for the auction will be sent out two days before the bidding starts. The online catalog will be available at the time the invitations go out, and before bidding opens. Online registration is easy, and so are the bidding and the checkout procedures. You will also have the opportunity to make a cash donation to the club. Your winning items can be paid for online or by check on delivery.

Last year the club collected a net income of $7,268. That’s a generous sum for a club of about 100 people. Let’s see if we can top that in 2023.

### 2023 OUTINGS SCHEDULE

Several of these outings are still in the planning stages and are subject to drought, smoke and fire, bug hatches, pandemics, earthquakes, foreign and domestic threats and other factors. Overseeing our outings is Greg Williams, gregoryw@comcast.net who appreciates suggestions and especially volunteers to be fishmasters.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>FISHERMASTER</th>
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<tr>
<td>April to June</td>
<td>McKenzie (March browns)</td>
<td>Bill Laing/Jim Rhoten</td>
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<td>May 20+</td>
<td>Deschutes River</td>
<td>Greg Williams</td>
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<td>June 22-24</td>
<td>Crane Prairie</td>
<td>Tom Fauria/Phil Johnson</td>
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<td>July</td>
<td>North Fork of Middle Fork</td>
<td>Al Eckerdt</td>
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<td>July 17</td>
<td>Club picnic</td>
<td>Jeff &amp; Joanie DeVore</td>
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<td>July 20-22</td>
<td>Umpqua bass</td>
<td>Steve Hackett</td>
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<td>Sept./Oct.</td>
<td>Upper Middle Fork</td>
<td>Greg Williams</td>
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<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Gold Lake (Death to Char)</td>
<td>Board of Directors</td>
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Possible additional outing locations are Diamond Lake and various forks of our local rivers. 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.
Jim Williams: an exceptional fellow remembered

Lifetime club member James L. (Jim) Williams, 77, died peacefully at his home along the McKenzie River March 30 surrounded by his family after a valiant battle with Parkinson’s. A celebration of life is planned for 2 pm Saturday, June 10 at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 777 Coburg Road. He is survived by Bonnie, his wife of 53 years, two daughters, Deborah and Michelle, and five grandchildren.

“Jim was one of the nicest men I have ever encountered,” says Bob Bumstead. “He always had a good word for everyone and carefully listened to all he met. We could not do better than to model our lives after Jim's.”

Jim served two terms as MFF president and served on the board multiple years. He managed two sold-out Mason Williams concerts in 1982 at the Hult Center to support conservation, and managed additional Mason Williams concerts around the country. He was actively involved in preventing EWEB from damming the North Fork of the Middle Fork of the Willamette River, he was a strong advocate for changing club bylaws to admit women as members, he lead the effort to design and construct Harvest Lane Boat Launch, he hosted the first meeting in the 1990s that resulted in the formation of Salmon Watch, and he served four years as president of Oregon Trout.

He retired after managing the UO Bookstore for 36 years. He grew the store from one retail outlet to eight and adapted to changes in the industry, changing the name from The UO Bookstore to The Duck Store. Jim coached his daughters’ softball teams to multiple championships, did mountaineering, hiking and long-distance bicycling. He ran multiple road races, including completing the Boston Marathon in 2002. Jim and Bonnie purchased a 20-foot Potter sailboat and taught themselves to enjoy sailing at Siltcoos Lake.

“Jim was a fine fisherman and a great individual,” says Mark Campbell. “The year I joined the club I remember Jim seeing youth in me and wanted to make sure I was involved. He invited me to join the board my first year of the club. I was honored to serve with him while he was club president.”

“I will never forget a board meeting or two behind his house along our club namesake, an amazing setting,” says Barry Olson. “Fond
memories of a quiet giant for me. Rest in peace Jim!”

“The world is a lesser place with his loss,” says Bob Rasmussen. “Condolences to his family and friends.”

“Jim was such a fun, funny, wise fellow, and a joy to fish with,” says Gail Campbell.

“I am really sorry to see Jim go,” says John O’Connor. “One of the biggest impacts of the Covid plague was the lack of contact with people we know and have worked with. Jim will be missed by many.”

Jim was born in McMinville in 1946 and grew up in Taft where he played baseball in high school and was Thespian of the Year. He earned his BS from UO in 1968 and served in the Army, including a one-year tour in Vietnam. Soon after, he was hired at the UO Bookstore and ended up making it his career.

“I prefer to see him once again casting his favorite Renegades and ‘Inch Longs in Green’ to trophy trout in pristine heavenly waters,” says Tom Fauria. — TJT

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**Catch This!**

*By Roger Stover  
MFF Education Coordinator*

With focus on our annual auction at our April meeting, we will take a break from knowledge nugget/tackle tip presentations. But Education marches on!

**Six foolproof tips to catch fewer and smaller trout**

What the, what?! Well, it never hurts to learn how to do better by learning how not to be worse. This brief, humorous article does a pretty good job of showing us how to achieve the promise of its headline.


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**Slidable dry dropper setup**

I don’t fish with guides very often but, when I do, I notice they spend an awful lot of time tying and retying dry dropper rigs to put the dropper in the right zone. I’m way too lazy for that. There is a way to adjust that depth much faster, allowing you to keep your flies in the water longer and, hopefully, get a few more hookups. During the summer months I often keep a “boat rod” set up with this method for my passenger to use when the mood strikes. Speaking of strikes, the photo is of Al Eckerdt with a nice Redside he caught using this very boat rod last July. Check out the “how-to” here: Slidable Dry Dropper
Another memorable day at Munsel Lake

Our annual Munsel Lake outing March 18 had about 15 members participating despite the cold morning and a bit of wind. The weather kept changing as the day progressed, but the 5,000 trout that ODFW supposedly stocked earlier in the week were either still at the hatchery, got dumped in a different lake, or were not very hungry.

“Fish were caught,” says Tom Fauria, “though I think it would be fair to say the fish were not terrible active. Nonetheless, awards were presented — the Big Dog! Stories were shared of grabs that got away. Lunch was again superb! Socializing with friends even better while enjoying hot dogs, chili, chips and beverages. Kudos to Jeff DeVore for putting together another memorable day at Munsel!”

Gail Campbell says Phil Johnson had some success in the morning with his Pumpkin Head flies, and “generously shared those with fellow fishers leading to a more productive afternoon.” She added that Joanie DeVore’s “brownies are killer” and “it is always great to blow a diet on such a great experience.”

Clint Brummitt fished with Bob Bumstead and only landed one fish before lunch, unexpectedly while trolling between anchor spots. After lunch, Clint says, “We quickly found that the fish responded to the trolled fly and totally rejected the cast and strip fly no matter what form of retrieve we used. We had pretty good action with at least eight solid hook ups.”

The fly that seemed to work for Clint and Bob’s boat was a TSW (That Sucker Works), so named by Phil Johnson. “It has caught fish at East Lake, Diamond, Munsel and Cleawox to date,” says Clint who promises to have a write-up and recipe in a future newsletter.

— TJT
Dexter Lake experiment is a success

For the first time, our club invited the Sheldon High school Fishing Club to join us at Dexter April 1 to introduce the students to fly fishing. The event was inspired by news a while back that UO star quarterback Justin Herbert (2019) was once president of the Sheldon club.

Despite snow in the hills and predictions for some of the worst weather of the year, about 10 enthusiastic students showed up along with teachers and parents. We weren’t sure how many would show up since this was spring break and many of the Sheldon kids had been off to Arizona for baseball camp.

Seven of our club members with six boats braved the rain and wind to provide casting lessons followed by instruction on the lake in fishing techniques. A collection of rods and reels were provided by ODFW.

Jeff DeVore, who organized the event, provided a much appreciated hot dog lunch for all who attended. Some of us came home with mustard on our chins.

Dexter Lake is actually a reservoir which functions as a re-regulating basin for Lookout Point Lake upstream on the Middle Fork of the Willamette — and it has fish of all kinds: pan fish, bass, trout and migrating steelhead and salmon. Dexter was supposed to get a big planting of 6,000 “trophy” trout, but if so, they may have scattered around the 1,025-acre lake, or it was an ODFW April Fool’s joke. Only one fish was temporarily inconvenienced by time in a net.

— TJT
March Brown outing update

Everything is set to go for our annual March Brown outing, says Bill Laing. “Boaters are confirmed, non-boaters have been assigned, and boaters and passengers have been paired.” If you have signed up but have not yet been notified, call or text Bill at (541) 729-4857 or email wmlaing@aol.com.

“We are keeping an eye on the weather and river conditions,” he says. “Record snowpack and rainfall have delayed spring fishing and hopefully the March Brown hatch will be an April Brown hatch.”

Boaters are reminded to contact their assigned passengers to select a date and time, and which reach of the river to float. If boaters are interested in assignments and contact information for all participants, let Bill know. “You may want to group up for a combined trip,” he says. “Have a great day on the river.”

The attached photo is of one of Bill’s favorite multi-purpose MB emerged/cripple/dry patterns.

2023 MFF Board 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
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

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
IN VITATION 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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