

Stonefly Maidens
Ladies Fly Fishing
Club Newsletter
March 2003

AN OREGON COUNCIL-FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS MEMBER CLUB

PRESIDENT & NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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VICE-PRESIDENT & PROGRAM COORDINATOR

Elections March 11, 2003

TREASURER, MEMBERSHIP & RAFFLE COORDINATOR

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MEETING INFO:

Next meeting: TUESDAY March 11, 2003

Who Song and Larry's, 4850 SW Macadam Ave, Portland, OR 97201, (503) 223-8845.

6 PM, dinner and social hour

7 PM, program

Speaker Mike Duley. Mike, of Action Outfitters, spoke to the club last year about fishing in the Caribbean. This year he will be talking about fishing the Owyhee. He is graciously going to tell us his secrets for catching good-sized brown and rainbow trout below the Owyhee Dam. Mike usually fishes the Owyhee during the week when we will be there. In fact, he usually stays at the Dam Keeper's Cabin where we will be staying.

This month's fish-a-long:

Friday-Monday, March 21-24, 2003

Owyhee River, Ontario, Oregon. This is sizing up to be a great trip. Trip host, Carmen Smith, has arranged for us to stay at the Dam Keeper's Cabin Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. The cabin is \$35 a night, split between all who are staying. The plan is to leave Thursday evening and going as far as Pendleton, then continuing on to Ontario. There we will meet with Bernie Babcock, an Owyhee River veteran, who will talk to us about the river and the flies that will catch fish. We will fish some Friday afternoon, all day Saturday and Sunday, and return home on Monday. Remember that from Portland, Ontario is at least a 6-hour drive. Be sure to come to the meeting to get all the information for the trip. Carmen will have lists of what to bring including the hot flies. This is a women only trip.

We have hats, denim shirts and T-shirts with our Stonefly logo on them for sale at the meeting. Hats are \$15.00; denim shirts are \$25.00; T-shirts are \$18.00. What better way to advertise the club?

Fly Lines

Ron Lauzon presented a good program at our last meeting and followed it up the next Saturday afternoon at Eagle Fern Park outside of Estacada. Everyone who attended was able to test out the techniques that Ron talked about. He showed how the techniques worked and provided casting assistance for those who wanted it. We didn't catch any fish but we did see a steelhead roll. I think everyone who attended learned a lot about steelhead fishing on small streams.

Dues are now due. The \$25.00 goes towards paying for speakers and sometimes guides for our fish-a-longs. Please pay your dues as soon as possible. Anyone not paid by this month will no longer receive the newsletter. So pay up and keep in touch. Membership forms will be available at the next meeting. We will be putting together a club roster for distribution to club members only for the purposes of aiding members in finding fishing partners. If you do not want your name included on the list, please let us know on the membership form.

I am really looking forward to this month's speaker and fish-a-long. We have a great opportunity to learn about and fish a river that is a little farther away than normal. This is an excellent fishery that seems to be used mostly by people from Idaho. I have fished the Owyhee in November with ice on the water. I caught a few, but found out how cold it can be when you have leaks in your waders. I have heard tales of trophy size browns and rainbows. Sounds like a great time to find some really hungry fish. The Owyhee River region is full of Oregon history. The Oregon Trail crossed the Snake River at Three Island Crossing outside of Ontario. The Shoshone Indians once claimed Southeastern Oregon as part of their territory. You might even see some petroglyphs along the river. Check out this month's article about the Cultural History of the Owyhee River Canyon.

This month's meeting is an important one to attend and pay your dues at. We will be electing a new Vice President and Program Coordinator to replace Terry Sanchez. We are looking for someone who is willing help guide the club into the future. We have some big decisions to make about the direction of the club. It is the goal of the board to write by-laws with lots of input from the membership and have them adopted by the end of the year (sooner if possible). I am hoping that the Vice President will agree to become President next year. The Vice President will be responsible for coordinating the fish-a-longs. While she does not have to attend all of them, she needs to make sure that someone will host the trip. The meeting programs have been pretty much set for this year, but the Vice President should expect to make contact with speakers beforehand to confirm that they will be coming and answer any questions the speaker may have. The officer responsibilities are not firm divisions, but rather all us share the responsibilities so hopefully nothing falls through the cracks.

By now, many of you have heard that Terry Sanchez is starting a new women's fly fishing club in Portland. I wish her good luck in her endeavors. I am supportive of any efforts to get more women involved in this great sport of fly fishing.

See you on the water and at the meeting,
Tilda

Tentative Program and Fish-a-long Schedule

Month	Program	Fish-a-long
March	Mike Duley, Owyhee River	Owyhee River, March 21-25
April	Scott Richmond, Fly Fishing the Fringes	Carp Fishing, April 12
May	Marty Sheppard, John Day River	Deschutes River, May 17
June	John Smeraglio, Salmon Fly Hatch	High Cascade Lakes, June 14
July	Sturgeon Fishing	Columbia River, July 12
August	No Meeting	John Day River, August 16
September	TBA	Deschutes River, September 13
October	Donna Teeney, Saltwater Fishing	Sea-run Cutthroats, October 18
November	TBA	Chum Salmon, TBA
December	Christmas Party	None scheduled

All speakers and fish-a-longs are subject to change without notice.

Goings on: Fly Shops and Events

The Fly Fishing Shop at Welches 503.622.4607 www.flyfishusa.com

Call or visit the web site for more info on sales and upcoming events.

Sunday, March 9, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Fly Tying Program: Classic & Cutting Edge Dry Flies (Including March Browns) Mark Meriwether – Deschutes River Trout Fisherman

Sunday, March 16, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Fly Tying Program: Simple Soft Hackle Wet Flies John Jones – Local Trout Fisherman

Sunday, March 23, 1:00pm to 5:00pm

Fly Tying Program: Deschutes Nymphs Brian Silvey – Deschutes River Trout Guide

Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop – Maupin 541.395.2565

Call or visit the web site for more info. Give the shop a call to find out about their specials and classes.

River City Fly Shop – 11429 SW Scholls Ferry Rd, Beaverton 503.579.5176

Fly tying every Tuesday evening starting at 6:30pm. \$50 for 4 sessions; you can join at any time.

Central Oregon Outdoors – 1935 S. Hwy 97, Redmond 866.223.4617
www.centraloregonoutdoors.com

Call or visit their web site for more information on local fishing conditions.

BOW

Stay tuned for workshop information. New registration materials will be available soon.

Sporting Clays Workshop April 12, 2003 at Mitchell's Clay Target Sports Center, Gervais, OR

Fly Fishing April 26-27, Metolius River, Wizard Falls Hatchery, Camp Sherman, OR

Kayaking and Hiking May 3-4, Cove Palisades State Park, Culver, OR

La Pine State Park Workshop June 7 - 8, 2003

BOW weekend 2003 will be June 13 - 15 at Camp Magruder in Rockaway Beach.

If you would like to put your name on the mailing list to receive registration materials, please contact Nancy Smogor, Becoming an Outdoors-Woman Program Coordinator, at (503) 872-5264 x 5358 or check out their website at www.dfw.state.or.us/outdoor_skills/bow.html.

Cultural History of the Owyhee River Canyon (adapted from Pullen's Archaeological Survey of the Owyhee River Canyon) NATIVE AMERICANS

The Owyhee Canyon and adjacent upland areas have been utilized by man for about 12,000 years. People from the Western Plains, Plateau and Great Basin have all been present at one time or another, leaving behind traces that can be used to date and identify their cultures.

We do not have direct documentation of how American Indians lived within the Owyhee Canyon. However, studies of the Shoshone after European contact provide a model that can be applied to its prehistoric occupants.

The family would have been the primary economic unit. Cooperation was typical only when the people hunted rabbits and antelope, and fished for salmon. Other food resources were very scattered and required considerable travel.



SEASONAL ROUNDS

Winter: During the winter, American Indians would have occupied scattered camps along the Snake and Owyhee rivers. Necessary conditions for winter camps included water, wood for building shelters and for fuel, and protection from extremely cold temperatures of the uplands. The amount of available and stored foods determined the size of the village, but three families seem to have been a typical unit.

Spring: In the spring, runs of steelhead and fresh greens were eagerly awaited after a winter of dried foods. Steelhead reached the Owyhee in March, when they were taken with dip nets near low falls. Chinook salmon arrived in May and June, and were speared in shallow pools below falls.

Summer: In early summer, the people began to disperse into individual family groups and they traveled into the foothills near the river to harvest seeds. Seeds were parched and then mashed on a grinding stone, or metate, to create the ingredients for a watery gruel. Prairie areas were visited in late summer, when roots were available. Jordan and Cow Creeks near the Owyhee River supported large populations of yamp, bitterroot and camas bulbs. During this time yellow-bellied marmot and ground squirrels provided the main source of meat.



Fall: Fall saw families moving into upland areas such as South and Mahogany mountains to harvest choke cherries and service berries, and to hunt deer. Late fall was the time of movement back to the river where deer were ambushed as they moved into the canyons for winter. The Owyhee was low at this time, so it was easy to erect stone weirs for catching fall Chinook. Suckers and whitefish could be easily speared in shallow pools, while mussels were collected in exposed gravel and sand bars.

EUROPEAN EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENT

Peter Skene Ogden, who led a contingent of Hudson Bay trappers into the region in 1819, named the Owyhee River. Two Hawaiians were sent to trap on a tributary of the Snake River, where Ogden was camped. They were killed by Indians, and Ogden named the tributary for them. The Hawaii River has since been corrupted into the Owyhee River.

While trappers periodically wandered through the area, the first wholesale infusion of whites came much later. In 1864 the Army established Fort Lyon to control Indian depredations on emigrants and miners from nearby Silver City Idaho.

After the Civil War, cattlemen entered the Owyhee region, driving large herds of cattle north from California. The famed "P" Ranch of Pete French was established at the base of the Steens Mountains, and other ranchers quickly acquired holdings in the large basins and upland prairies bordering the Owyhee River.

In the late 1800's sheep were introduced into the area by Basque herders, many of whom have descendants still residing in local towns such as Jordan Valley and Arock. During this period, several ranches were developed on wide terraces within the Owyhee River Canyon.

Sheep and cattle were herded on river bottoms and nearby uplands, but an even more important activity was raising hay to help feed large herds that could no longer be entirely supported by the range. The town of Watson was established in 1890 on the lower Owyhee River to provide supplies for the ranchers. During the Depression of the 1930's, a few ranches along the lower Owyhee were abandoned but most, along with the farming community of Watson, were covered by the rising waters of Owyhee Reservoir in 1936.

Today there is little ranching activity in the reach below Rome and above Birch Creek. Remains of abandoned homesteads, old corrals, irrigation dams, and stone fences are visible along the river, testifying to settlers' perseverance and dreams.



THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES PROTECTION ACT

Prehistoric and historic properties on public domain are protected by law. Taking artifacts and damaging sites can lead to criminal prosecution. If you see violations taking place, please inform BLM personnel, or call Operation SAVE, 1-800-333-SAVE, or the Vale BLM District Office, 541-473-3144.

More information about recreation opportunities in the Owyhee River region can be found at www.or.blm.gov/Vale.