



FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

Chronomids: What Trout Eat Presented By Bob Wolfe

Bob has been an avid fly fisherman for over fifty years and grew up fishing the Sierra Nevada's in central and northern California. After spending two tours with the U.S. Army in Viet Nam he went to work for the U.S. Forest Service in Oregon. Bob always worked in an area with great fly fishing opportunities including over 20 years in the Grants Pass area fly fishing the Rogue and Umpqua.



He retired after 36 years with the Forest Service, the last 14 years as a Law Enforcement Officer assigned to the Umatilla and Wallowa-Whitman National Forests in NE Oregon. One of the benefits of the job was an opportunity to become very familiar with the lakes and streams in the area, particularly the Blue Mountains and the Elk Horn Range. As an avid fly fisherman Bob was always looking for fishing opportunities where ever he worked. Bob found NE Oregon to be filled with fly fishing destinations and one of the best kept secrets in the country.

Bob originated and developed the Buzz Hackle fly series including the BH Buzz Hackle and Buzz Bugger patterns for both trout and steelhead. He also originated and developed the very productive Magic Midge series of chironomid patterns. As a Forest Service Officer working on several National Forests in the Northwest, He had the opportunity to test his Buzz Hackle fly patterns all over Oregon and parts of Washington and rarely found a trout that would refuse them.

Why is it important to fish chironomids? Chironomids, particularly the pupae stage, make up over 50 % of a Trout's annual diet and up to 100% in early spring in productive still waters. This presentation will help fly fishermen better understand the life cycle of chironomids and important characteristics of the pupa that need to be imitated to make proper presentations and tie productive imitations. The presentation will cover tackle, fishing techniques, presentations, and lots of helpful hints to make your time on the water more productive.



CALENDAR

Feb 9-12: Chetco River Outing - Stream Keepers: Lois & John
 Krueger
 Feb 20: Club Meeting with Bob Wolfe
 Mar 20: Club Meeting with Bill Tinniswood Annual
 Apr 17: Club Meeting - Auction
 May 15: Club Meeting - - TBD
 June 2: Annual Casting Clinic at Moore Park

OFFICERS AND BOARD

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THE KCFC MISSION STATEMENT

We, the Klamath Country Fly Casters, out of a vital interest in the sport of fly fishing, do hereby join to promote fly fishing as a method of angling, to encourage youth to learn this method of angling, and to promote and participate in meetings to educate all persons in the many aspects of fly fishing as a sport. We agree to make every effort to protect and improve fishing resources in our area by encouraging the practice of catch and release fishing of wild, native fish and by supporting fly fishing organizations in other areas in the overall quest for improvement and perpetuity of fishing resources.

The members of the board of Klamath Country Fly Casters put forth this statement:

“We invite people to become board members of the Klamath Country Fly Casters who wish to promote a healthy and harmonious sense of collegial spirit within the environmental milieu of our board. We on the board choose to care for the well-being of board members, Club members, and for our fly fishing community. We ask those who want to be board members to practice positive intervention, to work harmoniously with other board members, and be willing to promote well-being amongst fellow members of the Klamath Country Fly Casters and our community.”

COMMITTEES

Conservation: Mark Hereford	Monthly Raffle: Peg Edwards
Education Events: John Krueger	Newsletter, Budget &
IFFF Liaison: Dale B Zemke	Communications: Dale B Zemke
Fly Casting Events: John Hyde	Outings: Jim Ricks
Fly Tying Events: Ralph Carestia	Programs: Bob Kingzett
Membership: Mark Kelley	Social Events & Auction: Lois Krueger
Mentoring: Dave Biddison	

Regular KCFC meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month, September through May, at Elmer’s Restaurant, 3030 S. 6th Street, Klamath Falls. Dinner starts at 6:00 with the meeting beginning at 7:00. Board members, please be there at 5:00.

The KCFC website is: www.klamathcountryflycasters.com



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE from Carol Ann Meadows

As you've already seen, we are emphasizing "Membership Matters" quite a bit. Mark Kelley, Membership Chair, has organized the production of KCFC brochures to be placed around town, as well as postcards to send to folks who used to be members but have faded away. We have sent a gentle email reminder to members who may have just forgotten to pay their dues. Dale Zemke updates our Facebook page daily and is attracting more and more "likes" all the time. The Kruegers are making plans for a fly tying demonstration at Sportsman's Warehouse in the spring as another way to get our Club "out there." The local "Backcountry Horsemen" group invited us to join in an event in May by showing casting techniques and John Hyde is working with them to see how we could participate. This would be another great way for KCFC to be more visible in the community. Speaking of visibility, watch for the next edition of the Herald and News' "Klamath Life Magazine." Our Club will be featured! My hope is that these efforts will show folks what a dynamic, fun group we are and will attract new members.



Last month, I challenged the Board members to reach out to newcomers and visitors at our Club meetings. Now, I'll extend that challenge to all of us: When you see a new person at a Club meeting, go talk with them! Introduce yourself, and introduce them to another member. If you know that you have met them before but don't remember their name, ask again. Most people are pleased that you care enough to get it right. And, be sure to introduce them to our Mentoring Chair, Dave Biddison.

I am looking forward to seeing lots of you at our meeting on February 20th. Bob Wolfe, our speaker will be discussing "Chironomids: What Trout Eat." See you there!

— Carol



Youth Education Events



Hatching trout in a classroom is one of those magical activities that . . .

- facilitates learning in science and math, and
- can be the nucleus of learning activities in language arts, social studies, and fine arts at any grade level.

Caring daily for the fish as they develop from egg to fry fosters a sense of stewardship for wild things — and where wild things live. And best of all, it's fun.

On Jan 19th 8 members of the club, and Akimi King of U.S Fish and Wildlife, gathered at Elmer's Restaurant to grab a bite to eat and eye opening coffee before setting out to deliver over 3000 trout eggs to 15 classrooms in 10 City and County Schools, 2 Libraries and the YMCA Child Care Center, ranging from Tule lake, CA to Chiloquin to half way to Ashland.

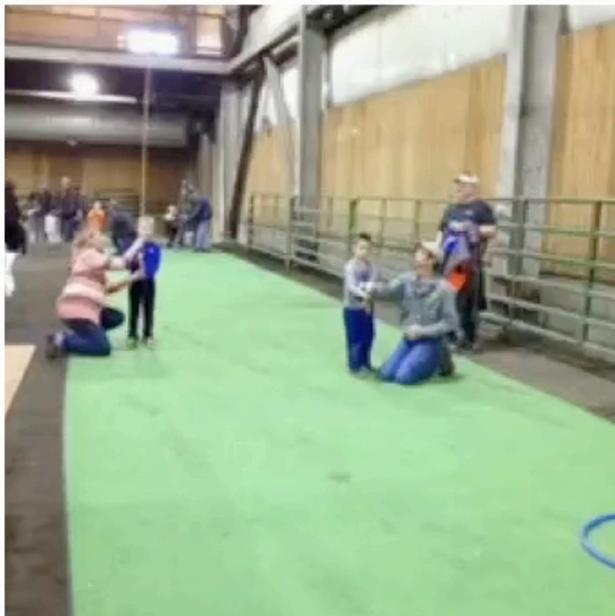
We all had a great time and the kids were excited and eager to learn about the Trout's Lifecycle. We are already looking forward to doing it again next year - please join us in this great activity with the youth of the Basin. You will find it to be very rewarding.



P.L.A.Y. OUTDOORS REPORT

As usual, this year's P.L.A.Y. Outdoors event was quite a success. From the minute the doors opened to the public, until they closed, we had children tying flies and taking their first attempts at casting a fly line. We encourage any member to volunteer for this event - you do not need to be a fly tyer as you will be taught the very simple pattern that we do with the kids and it might even ignite an interest in you for fly tying as an activity. And of course, you can do that or help at the fly-casting venue.





Why Should You Do a Club Outing?

Fly Fishing as a sport is more than just a fun way to spend an afternoon or a day, it is also a great tool to help you to become a happier, healthier individual. Here are eight ways that fly fishing is good for your health and wellbeing:

1. Full Body Strength

The protagonist in Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* battles a great marlin for 3 days. That's one strong dude. Your average angler won't be called on to strain day and night to reel in an adversary. But battling even a small fish calls engages the shoulders, back, arms, core and legs in an excruciating workout. Fishing encourages sportsmen and women to train their body so that they have the strength when the time comes for the big catch.

2. Boosts Immune System

Vitamin D helps your body regulate the absorption of calcium and phosphorus, two minerals that improve immune system function and help defend against disease. The best source of vitamin D is a day outdoors under the sun.

3. Promotes Relaxation

A beautiful day spent in a mountain stream followed by an evening of relaxation. Sounds idyllic doesn't it? Spending long hours in nature with a focused task is akin to meditation, an activity linked to lowered blood pressure and decreased anxiety.

4. Improves Cardiovascular Health

Fishing burns an average of 200 calories an hour, depending on the kind of fishing you like to do. Maybe it isn't true if you are sitting around with a cooler of beer and a king-size bag of jerky. But if you are walking around to test out different spots, recasting your line, and (fingers crossed) reeling in a fish, you'll have put your heart and lungs to work. Fly Fishing is an active sport as we all know.

5. Teaches Self-Reliance

In our service-oriented economy we rely on others to perform all kinds of functions in our daily lives. Fishing puts you out in the wilderness and calls on you to master a variety of different skills. The more involved you get in the sport the more you'll learn: casting, rigging tackle, fly tying, rod building, tackle maintenance and simply exploring topo maps for locations to explore.



Impromptu trouble shooting fishing gear in the wild will spill over into your normal life. If you can fix your rod with just your ingenuity, what else can you do on your own?

6. Bestows Patience

In our world of over-stimulation and instant gratification, fishing puts your patience to practice. Unless you are extraordinarily lucky, you don't just cast your line in and "FISH ON!". Some days (and some trips) you go home empty-handed. But persisting makes you a more patient person, accepting of defeat, but unwilling to quit.

M.J. Ryan, the author of "The Power of Patience," explains that learning patience benefits health. Impatience causes stress, weakening your immune system and raising your blood pressure. Patience, meanwhile, makes you calmer and more content.

7. Enjoy The Great Outdoors

Fishing inspires a closer connection with nature and all the creatures in it. Fly Fishers are tuned in to the harmonious ecosystems in environments. They know all about the different fish that live in the water, the insects they eat, and their predators. The exposure to fresh air, sun, and being on the water has numerous health benefits.

8. Improves Balance

As anyone who has ever reeled in a fish while wading in a rocky stream can tell you, fishing requires some acrobatic maneuvers. Balance requires core strength and benefits flexibility, both of which help offset back pain.

No one would pretend that fishing could replace regular trips to the gym, taking walks or eating healthy, but its mental and physical benefits are a great start to becoming a healthier, happier you. Experience for yourself all the amazing benefits of fly fishing by getting together with other club members and get out and about!

A good way to do that is to organize a Club Outing. All that is needed is for you to contact Jim Ricks, our Outings Chair, at **541-205-3274** or **mtnestinor@gmail.com** and he will help you organize it. The club has a very in depth guide to organizing an outing that will be provided to you. But the reality is it is simply setting a date and a location for a fishing trip and then make it known to the members of the club and encourage them to join in. Putting it more simply, going fishing with others - nothing more complicated or simpler than that.

It is also a great way to get to know other members of the club and to incorporate new members. This should be one of the primary reasons for a club's existence. Outings, Socializing, and Knowledge Sharing. So, pick a spot and a date and get with Jim Ricks. You will not regret it, and you will be Healthier and Happier for it! As will the others!



Scheduled Club Outings:

Date(s)	Location	Stream Keeper(s)
Feb 9 th thru 12 th	Chetco River Inn, OR	Lois & John Krueger

Fishing on the Chetco River near Brookings
Due to limited availability of accommodations, this outing participation is capped at 12 Anglers.

Note: All 12 spots have been filled as of the publishing date of this newsletter.

We need more outings to be scheduled as it is obvious that there is a demand for them as this one filled before we could even get a notice out. If you plan it they will come!

Fishing with Club Members:

If you decide to go fishing and would like some company, take some club members fishing with you. Contact Jim Ricks at 541-205-3274 or mtnestinor@gmail.com and give about 4 days' notice of the fishing event to provide time to get the word out. Leave Jim your telephone number or email so that others can contact you about going fishing with you. Jim will then see that the word of the event gets out in a club-wide email to announce your invitation to go fishing, and he will tell those interested to contact you directly.



This Year's Club Special Raffle:

Win 10 - Count Them! - 10 Rod Days on Hyde Lake
For the 2018 Fishing Season
A \$1,500.00 Value for the Price of a \$5.00 Ticket!

These Rod Days can be any combination - 1 Angler for 10 days, 2 Anglers for 5 Days, 10 Anglers for 1 Day or any combination of Anglers and Days that totals 10 Rod Days!

Hyde Lake, located 15 miles from the main house at Yamsi Ranch, is 300 acres and home of hard fighting, line stripping, knuckle busting Rainbow Trout reaching upwards of 33". The lake is stocked every spring with 7"-10" trout and the abundance of leaches, damsels, may flies, and other aquatic life help them to almost double their size in the first year.

Tickets are \$5.00 each and the winning ticket will be drawn at the May 15th 2018 Club Meeting. The winner does not need to be present to win.

These tickets can be sold to anyone, member or non-member of the Club. So, get friends to go in on this with you whether a club member or not. Sell tickets to family and friends. It is a terrific opportunity to win a package that has a retail value of \$1,500.00. A rare chance to win an awesome fishing opportunity. See Peg Edwards or any Board Member



INDISPENSABLE FLIES, by Ralph Carestia

Yamsi Ranch Scud



Scuds, crustaceans known as **Amphipods**, are on a trout's menu year-round—especially in many tail-waters, spring creeks, and still-waters. A scud is essentially a freshwater shrimp. Trout love them because scuds are usually plentiful, easy to catch, and they have high nutritional value. Scuds all have a basic shape with prominent legs and a curved shell back and are usually about size 12 - 16. The trout takes can be quite subtle, so be ready to set the hook lightly at the slightest hesitation.

The Yamsi Ranch Scud was developed to match the color and size of the scuds found in the Williamson River at Yamsi Ranch. The color is a blend of Spirit River – UV2 olive dubbing with a Spirit River light grey dubbing. The back uses Swiss Straw to provide a perfect olive grey color, it also becomes incredibly juicy when it gets wet. I typically weight my scuds as I find they get down to the fishes level faster when in lakes and rivers.

Try this pattern in areas where the lake bottom is of a lighter color. This pattern can also be tied in different shades of olives and amber as scuds are known to take on the coloration of its surroundings so using materials that match the colors you find in your favorite fisheries should produce well for you



Materials:

HOOK:	Heavy wire, humped design, sizes 10 to 16 (a Dai-Riki 135 or TMC 2457)
BEAD:	Tungsten Gold Bead
THREAD:	6/0 in a Olive/Grey color to match the body
WEIGHT:	.015 Lead-Free Wire
TAIL:	Hare's Mask Dubbing died to match the body color
RIB:	BR -Gold wire
BODY:	Spirit River – UV2 dubbing (olive and grey blended)
BACK:	Swiss Straw – Color to match the body

Instructions:

1. Select an appropriate sized gold tungsten bead and place on a TMC 2457 hook (size 1/8 bead on #12 hook). Wrap 10-15 turns of .015 lead-free wire around the shank behind the bead. Break off the ends and shove the lead into the back of the bead to center it and hold it in place.



2. Start your thread behind the lead free wire tapering your thread so the lead free wire doesn't move on the hook. Wrap the base back past the bend of the hook.



3. Now use crossing wraps over the lead wire and finish off by building up thread behind the lead so it can't slide back on the hook. Tie a small bunch of rabbit guard hair fibers from the Hare's Mask with the guard hairs in to form a tail about the length of the hook.



4. Tie in a piece of gold wire so the tip is where the lead wrap ends and tie in the wire to the bend of the hook. Tie the wire in on the underside of the hook.



5. Cut a Strip of the Swiss straw about $\frac{1}{2}$ the hook gape. Wrap forward and back over the Swiss Straw to the bend of the hook, taking care to keep the Straw on top of the shank.



- Twists a good amount of UV blended dubbing onto the thread and then wrap the dubbing forward to the eye just behind the bead. * Note: use more dubbing than you normally would for other patterns as the dubbing will be pulled down to represent legs later on and will present a meatier meal.



- Clip the dubbing on top of the fly. Pull the Swiss Straw forward over the body, letting it flatten out a bit as you do. Tie the Swiss Straw down behind the bead with a couple firm wraps of thread.



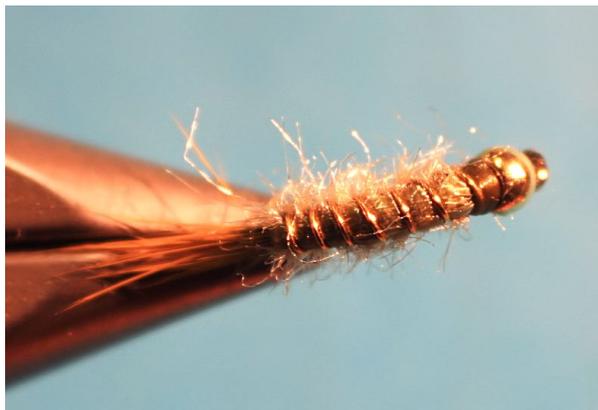
8. Spiral wrap the mono forward over the Swiss Straw to the hook eye with about 6-8 evenly spaced turns. Using a twisting motion while placing tension on your thread will break the wire free without leaving a tag end.



9. Now pull firmly on the tag end of the Swiss straw at the eye of the hook and clip with scissors just behind the bead. The remaining Swill straw should disappear under your thread. Now build up a head and whip finish.



10. Trim the legs of the fly just above the hook point to form a flat bottom.



Top View



Bottom View

