



FLYPAPER

January 2022

Looking Upstream

January 6	Board Meeting
January 20	Election of Officers and General Zoom Meeting - Phil Fisher Presenter
February 3	Board Meeting
February 20	General Zoom Meeting

Phil Fisher is our January 20th Zoom Presenter



Born and raised in the Bay Area then relocated to Oregon so he could be “closer to the fantastic fly fishing opportunities in Central Oregon”. Much of Phil’s time is now spent fishing the Cascade lakes and with fifty years of fly fishing and fly tying knowledge, there is much to glean from Phil’s experiences and presentation. He’s fly fished extensively throughout the west and internationally. He was tutored by Andre Puyans and has taught fly tying classes for years. He owns Phil’s Custom Trout Flies and he’ll be presenting:

Fly Fishing Central Oregon Stillwaters

The area along Highway 97, between California and Washington is a fly-fishing paradise. Bordered by the Cascades and the Great Basin, the scenery and diversity of Oregon’s stillwaters is incredible! Phil will lead us on a journey throughout the lakes in this area and will share many of the waters, including best times to visit, specific locations, major hatch periods and tactics for fly fishing these waters. Some of the waters featured include: Hosmer, Crane Prairie, East, Davis, Wickiup, Diamond, Klamath and Agency Lakes.



WVFF Website 4.0

by Bruce Merighi

I thought it was about time to bring the you up to speed regarding the clubs website. Yup, still not finished! But behind the scenes there have been major improvement to - wentcheevalleyflyfishers.com -

The general public can now look at our entire website (with exception of the members info. page) to see what we're all about. You can now use PayPal or credit cards (in addition to snail-mail) to pay membership dues. The sites pages for Events has a listing of all things club, for your planning pleasure. You can find old newsletters and general information about the club. The Conservation and Education pages are open for the world to see what important contributions the club has made and the Outings page has pictures of recent outings and plans a component that will list a seasons outings in one place.

As some of you are aware, there are still some challenges with the member registration/log-in process, bulk emailing members and membership applications but they are being addressed by a hired web pro, Patrik Hertzog.

In the not too distant future I hope to be telling you that the registration/log-in process is fully functional and that everyone should get on board and log-in. At that time I'll provide a guide to help you maneuver around the page. In the interim our president will be sending out an email to all members urging us to register on the website. All I can say is that there is a bright light at the end of the tunnel and I don't hear a train coming, so fingers crossed.

WVFF BOARD MEETING MINUTES DEC. 2, 2021

Full Attendance: Bob Bartlett, Steve Aguila, Bruce Phillips, John Richmond, Al Smith, Bruce Merighi, Wayne Steele. Gary Anderson and Alex Fisher.

Call to order: 6:38 PM

November 4 Board Meeting Minutes

Motion to Approve: John Second: Bruce M Vote: Approved

President's Report:

Banquet/Fundraiser:

- Survey Results:
 - 13 respondents said "Willing to attend", about 50% of responses.
 - 13x2 is way short of estimated break-even numbers and costs.

- Covid issues:
 - Unknown effects of the new Omicron variant
 - Quite likely division in members regarding vaccinations and masking, and we don't want to contribute to possible divisiveness.
- Decision: Board voted unanimously to NOT have banquet.
- Fundraiser: Board in favor of hosting an on-line fundraiser in spring of 2022.
 - Suggestions included reserving/renting room at Pybus or elsewhere to place auction items for members to view/bid on and then combine with an online auction same day.

Election of Officers:

- Have 1 candidate each so far for President and Vice President. No candidates yet for Secretary.
- Board in favor of voting via email as well as voting during January Zoom membership meeting. Will notify members via email (Alex S & Bob will write/send email).

Vice President's Report:

2022 Banquet / Fundraiser:

Steve's research and survey results used in banquet discussion described in the president's report above.

Conservation & Education Report:

1. Bruce M still seeking ideas for donation of remaining donated monies.
2. Bruce planning for a mid-April fly casting clinic, checking instructor and venue options.

Treasurer's Report:

Club Financial status: John provided the following:

1. Checking/savings account balance of apx. \$8,000 combined balance.
2. Community Foundation investment (\$7,500) balance now \$8,000 +.

Outings Report:

Al Smith, Bruce P, and Bob met to formulate a plan for 2022.

- Recommend that an Outings schedule be published on our website ASAP.
 - Schedule should list all known club outings.
 - Additional outings added to schedule as they are developed.
 - Will need to actively recruit members to schedule their own outings on club schedule.

Membership Report:

Membership renewals/payment:

- Existing members need to all register on new website
- Need to announce/manage PayPal and credit card options for our 2022 membership dues via website. In addition to standard check via mail.

Program Report:

The December 16 membership meeting will again be a "Fish tale sharing" program. We'll have a challenge to get volunteers to do presentations on Zoom, so may need to recruit. Also plan to have a Zoom practice session two nights before our meeting. Bob will announce and send email announcing Zoom link to practice session.

January: Since there will be no banquet, we'll have a January Zoom membership meeting on January 20. We'll have a business meeting where 2022 officers are elected in conjunction with email voting, and Gary is trying for a presenter that club is familiar with and well-liked.

Old Business:

Board Decision-Making Process: --This is a "place-holder" since I plan to continue this discussion as soon as we're back to in-person meetings

New Business: None

Adjournment Time: 7:49 pm



Governor Inslee's WA Salmon Strategy

By Dave Hecker

Lead Entity Coordinator of the Upper Columbia Salmon Recovery Board

On Dec 14th Governor Inslee released his statewide salmon strategy update alongside his 2022 budget and policy priorities for salmon. The event was hosted by the Swinomish Indian Tribal Community with several other tribes in attendance and is part of the Governor's multi-day rollout of strategic priorities. The Governor outlined new priorities and programs for riparian habitat protection and restoration statewide, and investments in water quality, streamflow, stormwater and wastewater management and infrastructure, pollution cleanup, fish passage, enforcement, and salmon recovery science, planning, and capacity.

Pertinent for the regions, there is funding for a new riparian habitat grant program for \$100,000,000 to be implemented by the Salmon Recovery Funding Board, funding for a new position to coordinate the implementation of the Governor's Statewide Salmon Strategy Update, funding to update salmon recovery plans in Puget Sound, funding to identify potential future new revenue sources, and funding to explore expanding the NE Salmon Recovery Region to coordinate efforts to reintroduce salmon above Chief Joseph and Grand Coulee Dams.

His report states that he envisions a future with healthy and resilient salmon, steelhead and trout runs that are restored to harvestable levels across the state. These healthy and resilient runs are indicators of clean and abundant water, thriving habitat and ecosystems, a stabilized climate, a growing orca population, honored tribal treaty rights, commercially and recreationally harvestable fisheries, a diverse and robust economy, engaged communities and strong cultural traditions that speak to the uniqueness of Washington.

To put us on a path to save salmon and WA way of life, the following actions are recommended:

1. Protect and restore vital salmon habitat (on governor's 2022-25 action list).
2. Invest in clean water infrastructure for salmon and people.
3. Correct fish passage barriers and restore salmon access to historical habitat.
4. Build climate resiliency
5. Align harvest, hatcheries and hydropower with salmon recovery.
6. Address predation and food web issues for salmon.
7. Enhance commitments and coordination across agencies and programs.
8. Strengthen science, monitoring and accountability.

Research locates cold-water areas crucial for fish survival

MARCY STAMPER



Photo by Marcy Stamper

Aquatic ecologist John Crandall has been walking along the Methow, Chewuch and Twisp with an elongated thermometer, taking the water temperature as he goes. Crandall isn't wandering at random. He's following color-coded maps based on thermal imagery taken with an infrared camera from

helicopter flights in 2009. The maps show all three rivers, small streams and tributaries, which are shaded from gold to hot pink, to purple, blue and black. Gold areas are the warmest, purple and blue are cold, and black is the coldest. The 2009 flight data are my map," Crandall said. On the detailed maps,

much of the mainstem river is colored yellow or orange, about 17 to 10 degrees Celsius. But there are precious little pools of indigo surrounded by purple and red, more than 10 degrees warmer. While the infrared images are a snapshot in time, most of the cold pools are still there, in the exact same spot, Crandall said. It's not uncommon for a cold-water pool to be 7 or 8 degrees Celsius, while just a short distance away, the river is 15 degrees – a crucial difference for fish, Crandall said. These extra-cold pools provide an important refuge for fish when the main river starts to ice over.

Crandall's initial goal is to identify and map all the cold-water patches, so people are aware of them and can take steps to ensure they don't become degraded. The cold water occurs on private, state and federal land. Ultimately, Crandall would like to see projects that enhance the cold areas to provide more benefits to fish.

There are various strategies for protecting these cold springs and pools. Placing a log structure in the river could make the cold water deeper and isolate it so it doesn't get diluted by warmer parts of the river. That would also create a protected space for fish to hide, Crandall said. Another approach would be for the county to flag these cold-water patches on building permits and site plans. "It's a logical step in land-use planning," Crandall said. "It's a respectful thing to do for the land." He'd also like to see cold-water refugia accorded formal protection by the state regulations that protect other critical areas.

Finding the cold spots

Most of us go about our days oblivious to these extra-cold spots. One of the most reliable sources of cold water is easily visible from the Tawlks-Foster Suspension Bridge in Mazama, a popular year-round destination on the trail system. From the bridge, looking upstream toward Mazama, it's easy to spot Suspension Creek on the left, a small tributary that flows into the Methow River.

In late summer and fall, the mainstem of the upper Methow River is so low that parts of it look like dry cobbles. But there's still water flowing below the rocks. When the water level comes back up, it can mix with the cold groundwater from Suspension Creek, Crandall said. Good water quality is also important to humans for drinking, irrigation, and cooling off in the summer. Warming affects the pH of water, which in turn affects the crops watered with it.

Threats to cold water

Scientists have been keeping detailed, consistent year-round records of water temperature in the Methow for only about a decade. Many things threaten cold water, including development, the clearing of riparian vegetation, and the effects of climate change, Crandall said. Not surprisingly, hot weather warms the water and, when river levels are low, the water warms even faster. Shade can protect it from warming further, but it won't actually cool it off.

Other sources of warming are increased sediment in rivers and streams and the loss of floodplains. Wildfires can affect water temperature by reducing shade and increasing sediment, Crandall said. Although models of the changing climate project significant warming by 2040, some streams have already reached those temperatures, Crandall said.

The Chewuch is warmer than the Methow because its headwaters are at a lower elevation. The Twisp River is especially cold, making it key habitat for bull trout. All three rivers are already warmer than they should be, and they don't meet the state's water-quality criteria for native fish, Crandall said. Data he's collected from 2013 to 2019 shows that temperature impairment in the Methow watershed is already widespread.

Vital for fish

Cold water is a matter of life and death for already endangered salmonids and bull trout in the Methow Valley. Fish are ectotherms, meaning they're at the mercy of water

temperature. Water temperature and volume determine when fish hatch, migrate, swim to the ocean and spawn. When water is too warm, the fish's metabolism increases, so they burn more calories and need to eat more. It affects reproduction and makes them more susceptible to disease, Crandall said. Spring Chinook are especially vulnerable, because they spawn during the warmest part of the year and have to search for cold water to lay their eggs. Because steelhead spawn in the spring when the water is really cold, they have more flexibility. Although some fish are less productive when the water is too warm, bull trout can't survive without cold water, Crandall said.

Water temperature is also crucial for when fish eggs hatch, since they need a certain number of days with water temperature above freezing.

As a result of hungry lions and dam mortality only a few hundred spring Chinook make it back to the Methow to spawn. That's why enhancing the cold water here could have a significant impact on their survival, he said.

The cold-water mapping project is funded by a \$40,000 grant from the Public Utility District Tributary Fund of the Douglas and Chelan county PUDs. The primary project partners are the Methow Salmon Recovery and Bonneville Environmental Foundation.



GETTING HIGHER AT ROCKY FORD



Catching the BIG ONE



"Hang on, Bernard! You've got him! ... Give him slack!"



YEAH TOM



STEVE'S ICICLE STYLE

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