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March 2026

March 19, 2026 SFC Meeting Exploring Oregon's Outback (Fly Rod in Hand) with John Shewey



Geographically speaking, the Oregon Outback comprises Klamath, Lake, Harney, and Malheur Counties—east of the Cascade Mountains and mostly south of US Highway 20, which roughly bisects the state running east to west. Combined, these four largest Oregon counties total 34,648 square miles. To put that in perspective, Oregon's Outback is bigger than 11 states. Moreover, this vast region of the interior West is among the most sparsely populated areas in the Lower 48. Much of this region falls within the northern extent of the Great Basin, a 200,000-square-mile expanse of the interior West with no drainage to the Pacific.

The Oregon Outback is largely an arid, high-desert environment, with isolated mountain ranges incised by dramatic canyons. Water is a commodity, but where there is water in southeast Oregon, there tends to be fish, and that means plenty of opportunity for adventurous fly anglers.

John Shewey's new program is a teaser for the fun fishing to be found in a variety of beautiful waters in the Oregon Outback, particularly within the Great Basin, from well-known favorites to off-the-beaten-path fisheries. In this program, John will share insights from more than 40 years of exploring southeastern Oregon, discussing some of his favorite places, and providing details on seasons, tactics, and more.

John Shewey has been accused of being a deadbeat slacker, but he steadfastly refutes such charges and insists instead that he is a lifelong fly-fishing addict. He usually admits to being the editor-in-chief of *American Fly Fishing* magazine—unless you are mad at the magazine, in which case John is likely to deny any involvement. His 40-plus-year career as a writer and photographer has produced countless magazine articles and about 20 books. A couple of his books are pretty good. John's most recent titles are *Spey Flies: Their History and Construction*, *The Hummingbird Handbook*, *Classic Steelhead Flies*, and *Birds of the Pacific Northwest*. When not plunging into a cold river over his wader tops in pursuit of summer-run steelhead, John spends considerable time on the verge of cardiac arrest following his Weimaraners around Oregon's chukar country.



Board Meeting - By Zoom

March 16 - 6:30 pm
SFC Meeting

March 19 - 7:00 pm
Note Change in Date!

Scottish Rite Center
4090 Commercial St. SE,
Salem

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President's Corner by Beth Jappay

Well, our club's auction last month was a big success. We enjoyed great food and fantastic live jazz while we perused the nicest collections of "stuff" that I can recall in the past 10 years. I want to thank the club members that donated items to last month's auction and especially thank the volunteers that worked so hard to put everything together. Tim tells me that we raised about \$4500 for the club...money that is put towards paying our speakers, hall rental, food costs, etc. It is the biggest haul that Tim can recall.

The Friday/Saturday of March 13th and 14th is the weekend of the Albany Fly Tying/Fly fishing Expo and I encourage all of you to attend if you can. It is a great opportunity to watch highly skilled fly tyers demonstrate their favorite patterns and to check out the vendors for fly fishing gear and fly tying supplies. Of course I have to mention the fly casting learning opportunities—not only is there a course to try out the bronze/silver/gold skill development courses, but there is also a "Casting Doctor" tune up area that will be run by certified instructors, as well as private or small group lessons on single-hand and two-handed casting.



My big contribution this year is (you will never guess)...book sorting. I deliberately am making this sound boring, but it really isn't. The Oregon Council received a donation of a very extensive library that includes many dozens of books that are first edition/signed by author/limited edition/collector's edition, etc. In fact there were over 40 bankers boxes of unorganized books that I went through over a 2 month period (many thanks to







David Friesendahl who lugged all of those books up and down my stairs). I volunteered because I didn't have anything better to do, and because I kind of enjoy finding and organizing fly-fishing-book treasures such as a signed copy of Polly Rosborough's "Tying and Fishing the Fuzzy Nymph", and both the Easton and Camden's collections of fly fishing classics.

Some of the books I have found have values up to \$350. There is more great stuff than we have room to sell, so those of you who are interested in expanding your home libraries will have some great opportunities/bargains over the next 3-4 years.

Fish on the Fly!

March 13th & 14th, 2026 9am-5pm
Linn County Expo Center Albany, Oregon



-  150 Fly Tying Demonstrations
-  Casting Classes & Demonstrations
-  Fly Tying & Fly Fishing Classes
-  Silent Auction & Bucket Raffles Daily
-  Banquet & Live Auction Friday Evening
-  Youth Education Program



Expo 2026 Show Fly Pin
RiverKeeper Soft Hackle Cripple

www.orcffi.org



Looking Ahead to the NW Expo

Thank you to all who volunteered their time to help with the Silent Auction tables during the Expo. If you don't recall the time you signed up for, contact Leroy Shepherd, by text or call (503) 550-6610 or by email to lshepherd7999@gmail.com.

Welcome New Member in February
Christopher Ely, Fair Oaks, California

Silverton Reservoir Outing Report by Ricky Love



Nine Santiam Flycasters ventured out to Silverton Reservoir on February 13 in hopes of catching some of the 500-trophy fish ODFW planted. Two separate groups at the reservoir confirmed ODFW did plant it that week although the specific day varied. Nevertheless, fishing was very slow and only two fish were brought to the net. The water temps were in the lows 40s which attributed to the slow action. Bank fishermen were even struggling to catch any fish. The sun tried to peek out from the clouds a few times but never was able to come out clearly and warm the water.



My son, Keegan, netted a nice 17-inch rainbow early on using a bruised leech (size 10) on a type 3 sinking line and Brian Hoag netted a rainbow in the early afternoon also using a bruised leech. I had three fish on but could not get any of them to the net. I was using a black micro leech with an orange bead on an intermediate sinking line. Leroy Shepherd also had a fish on but lost it before the net. He was using a partridge and orange.

If ODFW plants this reservoir and the weather is pleasant, it is worth fishing there. Hopefully, mother nature and the fish will cooperate next time.



Metolius River Outing March 21

Weather permitting, we will fish the Metolius River on March 21. There are a few options for lodging including campgrounds. If you plan to camp, be prepared for cold weather and possible snow. In the past the club has stayed at Smiling River Campground but that is closed until May. Camping is available at Camp Sherman, Pine Rest Campground, Allen Springs Campground, and Bridge 99.

To get there, drive east on Highway 22 to the Metolius/Camp Sherman turnoff to the left, which is near Black Butte Ranch. Camp Sherman is just ahead. Pine Rest Campground is a mile and a half from Camp Sherman. The Metolius is about a 2- hour drive from Salem to Camp Sherman depending on the weather. You can also find lodging in Sisters – a 17-mile drive from the Metolius. Lastly, you can make a day trip out of it.

The Metolius is legendary for being a tough fishery but the key to success is getting your flies down to the bottom of the river. It is a fly fishing only river – no bait. Euro nymphing or fishing traditional nymphing techniques with weighted flies are your best option for success. There could be some dry fly action mid-day. A Euro Rod or traditional rod in 4-6 weight is needed and it is a wading river. Be sure to bring a wading stick.

Fishing is supposed to be good this time of year. Here is a link to Fly Fisher's Place, a fly shop in Sisters that provides the latest fishing reports. <https://flyfishersplace.com/category/fishingreports/>.

The river is closed to fishing above Allingham Bridge, including Camp Sherman, until late May. The Metolius flows south to north. The trip sponsor will determine a good link up place and time prior to the outing. You can wade fish in the river from most campground locations. At Pine Rest Campground, there is a trail along most of the river on the east bank with various access points from the road. You can also park at Wizard Springs hatchery and access the trail on both sides for the river.

The club will not provide a meal for this outing, so ensure you bring plenty of food and water. The outing sponsor is yet to be determined, watch your email for updates.



It's Time to Renew Your Santiam Flycasters Membership!



If you haven't done so already or are a life member, this is an excellent time to renew your SFC membership for 2026. Memberships renew annually on January 1. Dues for 2026 remain the same low fee of \$30 for individuals and \$35 for families. Use the form on the back of this newsletter to renew your membership, or download the membership form from the Santiam Flycasters website (www.santiamflycasters.com). You can drop off the signed membership renewal form and payment at the March 19 Meeting or mail to: Santiam Flycasters, P.O. Box 691, Salem, OR 97308.

2026 Club Annual Auction Report

The Santiam Flycasters Annual Auction on February 12 was very successful with almost sixty members attending the auction and enjoying the variety of auctions, entertainment, and delicious food. The club netted \$4,381.77 from generous members on the evening from the spaghetti feed donations, silent auction, bucket auction, and live auction.

Thank you to the auction committee for all the hard work preparing for this event. Big thanks also go to Steve "Mort" Morton for a delicious spaghetti feed, Bill Cruscial and his band "Red side Trio" for the great music, and for those members that donated great items to the auction. Special thanks go out to Mitch Smith (Two Rivers Fly Shop in Albany), Kurt Willis (Santiam Drift and Fly Company/Club member), and Warren Griffin (member) for their very generous donations.

The club does this auction every other year and we look forward to another successful auction in 2028.



Be Prepared - New This Year - Waterway Access Permit

Received this reminder from a fellow Santiam Flycasters' member

New requirement this year for Oregon waterways . You can buy it when you buy the Oregon fishing license. \$20 per year or \$35 for two years.

<https://myodfw.com/articles/waterway-access-and-aquatic-invasive-species-permits>

Non-motorized boats regardless of length (kayaks, canoes, drift boats, stand-up paddleboards and rafts) need a Waterway Access Permit. Funds are used for waterway access improvements such as boat ramps and restrooms and for aquatic invasive species prevention efforts.

Another nice \$\$ surprise is a permit for fishing from the beaches or jetty's in Oregon.

I would expect since the access permit is new this year that they will be very aggressive in checking everyone at the boat ramps now.

Chef Mort's Corner: Bamboo Bestie



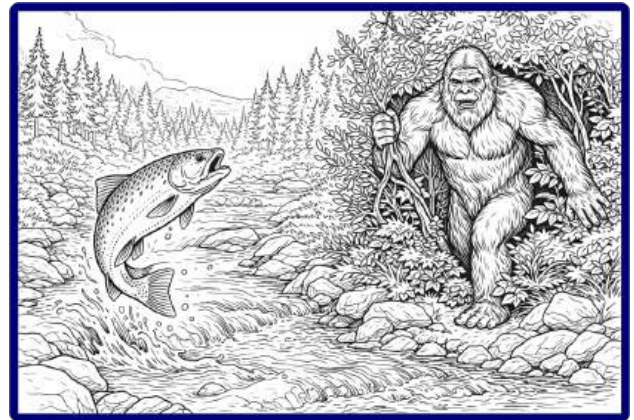
A good friend is like a classic bamboo fly rod. It's been around. It's learned how to bend and not break. Okay, so what if it has a few bumps, a couple of dents and scratches? Isn't that to be expected? After all, look at all the tough miles you've been through together.

You probably found your best friend, like your first bamboo rod, in the most unlikely of places, perhaps at a coffee shop or a club meeting or maybe he just grew up next door. My best friend bid at a school auction on a "Gourmet Lunch and Steelhead Trip up a Secret Creek". Friends, wives, and acquaintances had attempted for years to introduce the Toad and me, but you know how that goes. Time conspires tirelessly against the best of our intentions.

Well, anyway, like the classic bamboo rod, my new friend Toad and I happily ended up together fishing for steelhead and enjoying Clif bars for lunch, literally up the secret creek without a paddle. As far as for catching steelhead, nada. Our skunking went off without a hitch. With maybe one exception, as it turned out, we did unbelievably have a paddle . . . and an inflatable canoe. We also had a lot of other extra gear my son Kyle and I had not anticipated. Here is a short version of the Toad's day-trip pack list. Inflatable canoe, paddles, multiple personal floatation devices for us, and his case and a half of cold beer. Plus, his fancy Italian espresso machine and frother, thirteen fly rods and assorted reels, and enough fishing small wares to stock a fly shop.

At one point, my son and I, who normally pack light, were waiting for this city slicker to catch up again when the bushes across the river began to quake. Surely we were about to witness our first glimpse of the rare emergence of Sasquatch! With a terrible grunt and rattle, out pops the Toad replete with an enormous backpack dragging a wheelbarrow full of nefarious fly rod equipage.

My son yelled across the creek, " We thought you were a grizzly bear!" Toad wasn't a bear, but probably just as tenacious when provoked. Since he was armed to the teeth with fishing gear, we were fairly certain that all manner of beastly danger had been banished to the next county for fear of an encounter with a fiercen Toad the Terrible!



Our friendship grew from that day on. You had to have a sense of humor to tell the Chef you loved Clif bars! Over the ensuing years, our love of the outdoors, fly fishing, good beer and whiskey around campfires, and the comradery of shared friends further enriched the friendship.

I'll admit to being initially skeptical of any club that would have me as a member, but this is one club I thank my lucky stars to have had the time to join. Whether we fish the farm pond down the road or venture deep into British Columbia, Toad always has my back. With humor and grace, we have witnessed each other face the perils and obstacles life inevitably throws at all of us. The Toad is always buoyant with optimism and a general sense of adventure, even if the going gets rough, and I guess we know it will. Toad and I can always trust one another, just like those old bamboo rods hanging in the rafters of our lives, ready for the next great adventure! Tight lines, Mr. Toad! Your friend always, The Mort

The following cocktail recipe dawned on me one rainy afternoon on the Bulkley. Toad and I first witness a Jetboil in action in a cold October rain. The smell of fresh coffee streamside! Ringo and Matt were hunkered down in the rain enjoying a hot beverage. They offered us a cup of Joe and the rest is history. The Jetboil was on my Santa list that Christmas! Thanks Ringo!

On another occasion, Toad and I were enjoying a little nip amongst a small group of anglers streamside. One gentleman declined a sip and asked cautiously, "How long does it take to develop a taste for that stuff any way?" Toad looked at me and announced, "About two minutes."

I hope you enjoy this medicinal beverage soon!



SNAKE BITE KIT/ desperate beverage for desperate times. Apply liberally.

Tools needed:

- One Jetboil and fuel with French Press adapter (optional)
- Fresh winter river steelhead water (optional)
- Two mugs
- A rainy winter steelhead stream
- One truck tailgate

Ingredients:

- 16 ounces NW river water
- 1 ounce of press ground coffee
- 16 ounces steaming French pressed coffee (Made with or without a Jetboil)

Add liberally:

- 3 shots Fireball cinnamon whiskey (aka nondairy creamer)
- A general lashing of cream as needed
- Marshmallows, chocolate shavings, cinnamon sticks, and a taxi cab are optional! Forgot yours? Just ask the Toad.

Mix and enjoy sitting on your tailgate with the NW winter rain falling down! Please fish and drink responsibly so we can all come back next week!



Support our local Fly Shop
located at 204 1st Ave. W.
in Albany, Oregon.

Check out the shop at

<https://www.tworiversflyshop.biz/>

2026 Schedule of Outings-Santiam Flycasters

Here is the list of fly fishing outings our club has planned for 2026. The list includes opportunities to catch trout in streams and still waters, as well as opportunities for steelhead, chum salmon, small mouth bass, and Jetty fishing.

Most waters are best fished from a floating device (float tube, pontoon boat, or other boat). In the newsletter article for the outing, we will say if there are opportunities for bank access at that location. If you do not yet own a floating device but want to participate in the outing, let us know and we should be able to have someone lend you a device for the outing.

Obviously, when we are on or around the water, there is an element of risk. Please be aware of the disclaimer also in this newsletter. Also, please use a personal flotation device (PFD).

Hope to see you on many outings this year!

- January 17, Pizza Pie and Tie – Fly Tying Event
- February 13, Silverton Reservoir (Friday)
- March 21, Metolius River
- April 18, Haystack Reservoir
- April 20-25 Blue Den Lake (Oregon Fishing Club Opportunity)
- May 1, South Twin Lake
- May 15, Olalla Creek Reservoir (Friday)
- May 20, Deschutes River – Warm Springs to Trout Creek (Wednesday)
- May 30, Chickahominy Reservoir
- June 6, Crane Prairie Reservoir
- June 13, North Santiam River
- June 27, East Lake
- July 16, Three Creek Lake (Thursday)
- July 31, McKenzie River (Friday)
- August 8, Willamette River (Keizer to Wheatland)
- September 12, Walton Lake
- September 19, Hosmer Lake
- September 26, North Santiam River
- October 3, Crooked River
- October 10, Willamette River (Marshall Island to Harrisburg)
- October 17, Deschutes River
- October 24, McKenzie River
- November 14, Detroit Lake

SFC Outing Disclaimer

Santiam Flycasters does not represent that any of these trips are suitable for any of its members. Each stream, river and lake present its own unique hazards and dangers. Each member must evaluate the suitability of his or her own physical condition, equipment and skills before participating in any of these trips. Each member that chooses to go on any of these trips personally assumes all risks of injury and damage while participating

From the Archives April 2014
March 2026 Fly of the Month
Screaming Banshee
Trout Pattern: Skating Caddis
by Jim Ferguson



Hook: TMC 2487 #14 -20
Thread: UNI 8/0 , color to match dubbing
Forward Wing: Natural yearling elk hair
Abdomen: Small Opal Mirage Tinsel
Thorax: Superfine dubbing to match hatch
Wing: Natural deer hair
Shellback: Elk hair butt ends pulled up & forward to split wing

This pattern is one developed by Charlie Craven and is written up in the Oct-Nov-Dec 2013 Fly Fisherman magazine. His article goes through how he developed the pattern as well as providing step by step directions. What seems significant for this fly is how it resembles another pattern called the "Bat Wing" when viewed from the front or side. This is a waking fly adapted to a trout sized pattern. You can also fish it as an emerger in the normal manner. I used bleached yearling elk hair for the forward directed wing. This makes the fly easier to see on the water.

TYING DIRECTIONS



Fig. 1

1. Secure the hook in the vise. Wrap a thread base starting just behind the eye of the hook. Wrap the base down past the half way and then take the thread back to a position about 1 eye length (or slightly more) behind the eye. See figure #1.



Fig. 2

2. Clean and stack a clump of yearling elk hair. You want the wing to extend about one shank length beyond the tie in position behind the eye of the hook. Tie in the elk hair on top of the shank with several tight thread wraps. See figure #2.



Fig. 3

3. Clip off half of the elk hair butts and bind down the remaining butts back into the bend of the hook. See figure #3. Try to keep the thread wraps smooth and bring the thread back to the position above the hook point.



Fig. 4

4. Tie in the opal Mirage Tinsel and wrap it back down the hook shank to the bend and then forward to the starting point. Tie off and cut off the waste tinsel. See figure #4. You might want to coat the tinsel with a thin layer of cement or a UV setting epoxy coating.



Fig. 5

5. Dub a thorax using a very thin layer built into an egg shape overlapping the front edge of the tinsel body. See figure #5.



Fig. 6

6. Select, clean, and stack a clump of deer hair. Pre-cut the butts so the hair selection is one shank length long. Place the butt ends on top of the shank in front of the dubbing. Place two wraps of thread over the but ends of the deer hair. Pull down on the thread to get the hair to flair. See figure #6 & #7. My wing is a little longer than one shank length.



Fig. 7



Fig. 8

7. Carefully use your scissors or a dubbing needle and your fingers to divide the deer hair into two equal halves. Lift the butts of the elk hair up and over the hook shank and between the divided wings. See figure #8.

8. Make a couple more turns of thread to secure the butt ends of the elk hair directly on top of the deer hair tie in position. Pull down on the thread to flair the elk butts. Lift the butts of the elk hair and trim them even with the deer butts. See figure #9 and #10.



Fig. 9



Fig. 10



Fig. 11

9. Carefully lift the forward wing slightly and advance the tying thread to the front under the wing. Build a small thread dam behind the hook eye to prop up the wing. Whip finish your fly. See figures #11, #12, and #13 for top, side, and bottom views.



Fig. 12



Fig. 13

Interested in Improving Your Casting?

Teaching by certified casting instructors is available on Saturdays

Wallace Marine Park in West Salem

Spey Casting -- 9 am at the gravel bar near the walking bridge.

Single hand -- 10:30 am also at the same location

For more information, contact Beth at

EJappay@comcast.net

