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Sunriver, OR 97707

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dedicated to the preservation and  
promotion of responsible angling in  
the high desert region of Central  
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# The Sunriver Anglers

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[www.SunriverAnglers.org](http://www.SunriverAnglers.org)  
April 14, 2022

## President's Message



## Happy Easter!

Hello Fellow Anglers!

As I am writing this, the "April showers" look a lot like snow, with about 10 inches of it on my deck! It looks too heavy to shovel (if I could find my shovel, which is somewhere under the snow), that bodes well for our water situation, I hope. Every little bit counts!

Mike and I were able to go up to Lake Billy a couple of weeks ago. On the Friday we were there, not many boats were out, but the sunny Saturday brought out the recreational boaters in droves. We even saw a few jet skiers in the 45-degree water! Fish were caught, mostly by Mike, and we were one of the very few boats fly fishing for Bull Trout- no crowds on the "Miracle Mile" either! We saw several boats jigging or trolling for kokanee having pretty good luck with gear.

As Covid restrictions are loosening, we as a club are ramping up for the season. I am getting really excited as well as busy! We have a long awaited in-person gathering at Mary McCallum Park in a few weeks as well as a Kokanee Karnival fishing event for the 5th graders from Three Rivers School that will be held at Caldera Springs. We also have a couple of other volunteer opportunities and a few club fishing outings already on the books. Hopefully by the summer we can have in person meetings (posted on Zoom as well) at the SHARC once again, and we are almost in the planning stages for the Sunriver Angler's Famous Tri-Tip picnic at the Fall River Hatchery in August or September.

Hopefully, you all are getting as excited as me and I would encourage you to come out and volunteer or help lead an outing, or join the board or just come to an event to socialize and say hello! One of the great things about the Angler's club is that almost everyone is willing to share a tip or a funny story, or a favorite fly pattern or semi-secret location to anyone willing to listen. You don't even have to fish!

So, check out the volunteer opportunities and the club events. More info will be coming to your in boxes soon.

Hope to see you all soon! rynie

### **Meeting April 21, 2022 Chasing Bull Trout on Lake Billy Chinook**

The Sunriver Anglers will welcome back Yancy Lind to their April monthly meeting to hear his presentation on chasing bull trout on Lake Billy Chinook. Yancy recently gave an enlightening and well-received presentation on fishing the Upper Klamath Basin. As most anglers know, bull trout are an endangered species and targeting them is generally prohibited. However, bull trout are thriving in Lake Billy Chinook and seasons are open on all three arms of the lake in separate periods throughout the year. Yancy plans to cover a number of facets in the pursuit of these "very challenging" fish.



One key element of Yancy's presentation will cover the life cycle of the bull trout in Lake Billy Chinook and especially how the knowledge of that cycle can be utilized to successfully find and catch the prized fish. As the apex predator bull trout grow quite

large gorging themselves on Kokanee smolt prevalent in the Lake. PGE's chinook/steelhead restoration efforts (the topic of an earlier SRA meeting) have provided an added smolt population in the lake for the bull trout. Knowing where the smolt are creates the opportunity to catch bull trout.

Another aspect of Yancy's presentation will cover access to lake and the areas of interest to find smolt and thus bull trout. An intriguing technique of his presentation employs virtual flyovers of the lake with Google Maps which cover all three arms of the lake, the Crooked, the Metolius, and the Deschutes. He will also cover the optimum conditions of water temperature, depth and light which drive smolt behavior.

Perhaps the most helpful aspect of his presentation will be his insight on the gear required to pursue bull trout. Bull trout run deep in the lake thus a motorized boat is highly recommended. Heavy tackle is also a must; use of 6-7 weight rods, 3 or 7 weight sinking line and large (3-5 inches in length) saltwater minnow patterns are the norm.

Yancy remains active in Deschutes Basin water quality and allocation issues. Currently he serves on the ODFW Restoration and Enhancement Board. His blog can be found at [www.coinformedangler.org](http://www.coinformedangler.org)

The April Sunriver Anglers Meeting will be held via Zoom on April 21, 2022 and will start at 7:00 pm. Anyone interested in participating in this meeting should contact Rynie Miyashiro at [rynieSRA@gmail.com](mailto:rynieSRA@gmail.com) for permission and login particulars.

### **SUNRIVER ANGLERS ANNOUNCES 2022 SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY**

The Sunriver Anglers, with the support of Pam Beezley, will again be awarding one or more Beezley Family Scholarships, in honor of Dave Beezley. One \$1,000, or two \$500 scholarships will be awarded to support deserving students who are pursuing a college degree in a natural resources or related area. Degrees from technical or vocational schools will also be considered. Preference will be for students from South Deschutes County.

**Applications will be available until Friday, May 27, 2022, on the Sunriver Anglers website, [sunriveranglers.org](http://sunriveranglers.org).**

All applications will be reviewed and approved by the Sunriver Anglers Board of Directors. Funds will disperse to the selected student or students after the Sunriver Anglers receive proof of college admission and enrollment.

The Beezley Family Scholarship is awarded in honor of Dave Beezley, an avid fly fisherman who particularly loved Steelhead fishing. Even in cold winter weather - fishing with ice on the line and wool socks in the boots! It all started on the McKenzie River with his dad and granddad when he was a little guy visiting family in Eugene every summer. Over the years, he discovered all the good spots on the Deschutes, Metolius and

McKenzie and he made frequent fishing trips to Montana, Idaho, the Olympic Peninsula, and throughout Oregon. Dave enjoyed the beauty of the rivers, the peaceful silence of the running waters, the strategy of the sport, and the exhilaration of catching a Steelhead or trout.

Dave passed away on June 15, 2016. The Beezley family is funding this scholarship to honor Dave, and his passion for the outdoors, and to support a student or students who will be pursuing a career in a natural resources area so that future generations may enjoy the beauty of the outdoors and experience the thrill of the take of a steelhead, or Redband rainbow trout.

**Link to Scholarship Application:** [Anglers Club Scholarship Application 2022-BHS.pdf](#)

### **Volunteer Opportunity**

**What:** ODFW Malheur biologists would like volunteers help to clip trout fins

**Where:** Wizard Falls Hatchery, Camp Sherman

**Dates:** May 4, 5 & 6

**Time:** 9:00 AM through 5:00 PM (show up and leave any time)

**Duties:** clipping adipose fins

**Reason:** Determine the contribution of hatchery rainbow and naturally produced redband trout in Krumbo and Beulah Reservoirs.

**# Of Volunteers needed each day:** 4

ODFW fish biologists from Hines, Kirk Handley and Dave Banks, are looking for volunteers to help clip trout fins.

They asked if any volunteers from the fishing clubs could help. They would like to clip 40,000 trout destined for Krumbo and Beulah Reservoir to determine the contribution of hatchery rainbow and naturally produced redband trout.

It's not the most glamorous work, but folks could pick Dave and Kirk's brains on their secret Malheur fishing spots! They will provide lunch and snacks too.

Lunch, snacks, beverages provided. **Contact:** Kirk Handley

Office: (541)-573-6582 ext. 26

## **Fishing the Cascade Lakes**

The Sunriver Anglers will welcome Scott Cook, owner of the Fly and Field shop in Bend to their May monthly meeting. Scott has been guiding in the area for nearly 30 years with a range that covers all Central Oregon but also extends to faraway places like Belize in Central America. Scott's topic for the Anglers will focus on fishing the Cascade Lakes especially Crane and East Lakes. However, Scott will undoubtedly be asked about his recent excursion to Belize, a bucket list item for many Anglers.

Scott runs a family-oriented operation and enjoys guiding groups to favorite locales. He will discuss the fishing seasons on the lakes which typically run from spring into October depending on water levels. As most know water management in Central Oregon is challenging and difficult to predict its impact on sport fishing. He will also discuss techniques and tactics appropriate for the point in the season as well as the lake conditions.

Some of the techniques will cover sinking line/streamer setups to dry fly with dropper configurations. He will also reveal favorite locations on the lakes which have proven productive in his experience and the ways to access these locations using various platforms such as pontoon boats. Common to many flyfishing presentations are the hatches and species of fish prevalent in the lakes and Scott intends to cover these aspects as well.

The Fly and Field shop opened in Bend in 1999 and Scott will expand its operation the week of April 18<sup>th</sup> when he opens a second shop in the Sunriver business park. The new shop will occupy an expanded location and encompass the former Sunriver Fly shop. Scott can be contacted at [scott@flyandfield.com](mailto:scott@flyandfield.com) or at 541-318-1616 which will reach either shop. He is also on Facebook and Instagram.

The Sunriver Anglers meeting will occur on Thursday May 19 at 7:00 p.m. and will be conducted remotely via Zoom. Those interested in attending can contact Rynie Miyashiro at [rynieSRA@gmail.com](mailto:rynieSRA@gmail.com) to obtain meeting access authorization.

## **Club Outing to the Williamson River, June 21-24**

Following up on the excellent presentation Yancy Lind gave the us we have organized a club trip to the Williamson River June 21 to 24. We will stay at the Water Wheel Campground where US 97 crosses the Williamson. This is an unattractive, but acceptable campground, with a great location on the river with tent and RV spaces. Their website is [www.waterwheelrvpark.com](http://www.waterwheelrvpark.com). Book soon as they do fill up. It's about a 2-hour drive from Bend.

The Williamson is known as a trophy-trout river with only wild fish, some over 10 pounds. These fish were steelhead before being landlocked by the dam in Klamath Falls. The nearby Wood River also has migratory populations of these trout along with resident browns. Like any river, you can have good days and bad days, but the good days can be spectacular.

This trip requires a drift or pontoon boat, or something similar. Not a float tube. It is an easy river to float with a few small rapids, although low water this year may make things interesting. An electric motor is helpful as there are some long, slow-moving sections. The nearby Wood River as well as upper Klamath and Agency lakes provide additional angling opportunities.

The Chiloquin boat ramp is easily found. From the Water Wheel campground, head back north on 97 and take the exit going right (east) towards Chiloquin at the Pacific Pride station. It's the road right after you see the river. After the exit, the 2nd right is a dirt road into a county park where the ramp is. We can work together to shuttle ourselves at the end of the day to pick up our vehicles.

From the ramp you can fish up to the Blue Hole (where the Sprague comes in). Many people spend all day in the quarter mile or so above the boat ramp up to the Blue Hole. You can fish up and then just turn around take out right there as well. Or, you can immediately head down river from the ramp and float to the Water Wheel. Give yourself at least 5 hours to get down to the Water Wheel. There are long slow stretches you need to get through, thus the benefit of having an electric motor. Be sure to keep to the left when you pass under the bridge over highway 97. The Water Wheel is just below the bridge.

Tackle: Both rivers have big trout so do not use anything less than a 6-weight rod; a 7 weight would not be overkill. Terrestrials like grass hoppers can be effective, especially on windy days. Some people use lake-style chromid techniques as well (these fish spend half their lives in Klamath Lake).

The most common way of landing big fish, however, is stripping back woolly bugger and leech patterns under intermediate and full sink lines. The seal bugger pattern was developed by Denny Rickards specifically for these fish. Traditional trout nymph and streamer patterns of many types also work well.

There are other lodging options if you don't want to camp. Note that Collier State Park is closed due to the fires last year. Just up the river from the Water Wheel is The Lonesome Duck, [www.lonesomeduck.com](http://www.lonesomeduck.com). This is a nice place where Yancy has stayed at as well. It's perfect if you don't want to camp and there is great fishing right in front. There is also a Sleep Inn and Suites at 34333 Hwy 97 in Chiloquin.

Denny Rickards is the local fly-fishing expert. You can call him for info and/or you can order his flies from his website. [www.flyfishingstillwaters.com](http://www.flyfishingstillwaters.com).

If you would like a guide, I can recommend Craig Schuhmann at (541) 778-1194

[www.guidedwatersflyfishing.com](http://www.guidedwatersflyfishing.com) or Brent Hublitz at Trophy Troutfitters 541-591-6221  
<http://www.trophytroutfitters.com>. I have gone with both of them and they are both excellent.

Water Levels: You can track the river at:

[http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site\\_no=11502500&PARAMeter\\_cd=00065,00060](http://waterdata.usgs.gov/or/nwis/uv/?site_no=11502500&PARAMeter_cd=00065,00060)

Here are some links to additional information.

If you need more info, shoot me an email. Lee Ann Ross, [rossleeann@yahoo.com](mailto:rossleeann@yahoo.com)

### **More info on the Williamson River:**

[Bass and Trout Fishing Digest: Williamson River](#)

Williamson River

South Central Oregon

Closest town: Chiloquin

Closest city: Klamath Falls

Boat Launch: County Park on the edge of town

Boat Exit: Water Wheel Campground six miles downriver on Hwy. 97

Recommended guide book: Moon Outdoors Oregon Fishing

### **Check out the Sunriver Anglers Web Page.**

We have added significant new content, as follows:

There is a page where we have loaded recordings from several of our recent meetings. Most recently, Brian Smith spoke on Fly Fishing British Columbia. Check out the video and related materials at the following link:

<https://www.sunriveranglers.org/sys/website/?pageId=18150>

We have also uploaded the Newsletter archives back to 2016. You can access these resources at the following link:

<https://www.sunriveranglers.org/sys/website/?pageId=8689>

Additionally, we have uploaded the Sunriver Anglers Fly Tying Corner archives. This page has links to articles with fishing tips and techniques and trying instructions for about 60-70 fly patterns for fishing our Central Oregon lakes and streams. Check them out here:

<https://www.sunriveranglers.org/sys/website/?pageId=18148>

We will continue updating the website to contain valuable resources for Sunriver Anglers members.

Cates Turkey – Euro Style

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***Sunriver Angler's Fly-Tying Corner***

***By: Phil Fischer***



I recently returned from fishing a high desert Eastern Oregon lake. The weather out East was markedly different from Sunriver, as spring had arrived in earnest. No frost at night, and warmer. That meant that aquatic insects would be active, and the trout would be hungry. A friend had recommended tying an old standby pattern for this trip, the Cates Turkey. I was familiar with this fly as a very good imitation for Callibaetis nymphs.

So, in advance of this trip I tied up a dozen. The first morning of our outing I pulled a Cates Turkey from my box and tied the fly on to my leader and cast to a likely spot on this small lake. Moments later, the indicator went down, and I quickly and firmly reacted to the strike, and promptly broke off a nice rainbow. It was a rookie mistake, or possibly caused by the exuberance of fishing again after a long winter. However, through the rest of that day, I softened my hook set substantially and caught numerous nice rainbows on the Cates Turkey fly pattern, including the 24-inch fatty pictured below.



The Cates Turkey is a fly that has been around for a long time. For this month's column, I adapted the pattern slightly to Euro Style. By Euro style, I mean the fly is tied in a fashion that would make it suitable for Euro Style indicator-less fishing in streams. The Original Cates Turkey pattern is a sparse tie that was designed for fishing Callibaetis nymphs in Lake Davis in the 1960's.

I made three modifications to the original pattern: the hook, the bead, and the tail and throat material. For my version of this timeless pattern, I used a Barbless competition jig hook that is paired with a Copper colored slotted tungsten bead.

The jig hook fishes inverted, and results more hook-ups in the fish's upper jaw, where the odds of landing the fish are greater. And because the hook is barbless, it enables a very quick release. The bead helps the fly get down quickly to fish in the right zone, an advantage when fishing lakes under an indicator. The final modification was to substitute Coq De Leon for the tail, from lemon wood duck. I like the coloration of Coq De Leon for Callibaetis. I also eliminated the lemon wood duck throat on the fly, as it didn't fit with the inverted nature of the jig hook. The fish didn't seem to care about these changes to the pattern, as they willingly inhaled it throughout the day.

Try this easy-to-tie pattern during summer Callibaetis time on a favorite local lake. Or fish it using euro-style nymphing techniques to imitate Pale Morning Dun nymphs or

other small mayfly nymphs on your favorite stream, like the Crooked River or Upper Deschutes.

### **Materials List: Cates Turkey – Euro Style**

Hook: Firehole 516 Jig Hook, Size 14-18

Thread: Veevus 16/0, Black

Bead: 2.0mm Copper Slotted Tungsten

Tail: Whiting Coq De Leon Rooster Saddle, Pardo

Abdomen: Natural Turkey Tail

Rib: Copper Wire, Small

Thorax: Peacock Tail Feather Barb

Tying instructions and steps are being published in video form, and can be found on the Sunriver Anglers Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/SunriverAnglers/>, or at the following YouTube URL: <https://youtu.be/PxbuSalCs7E>

Experiment with this pattern during the Callibaetis Hatch. If you have questions or would like additional information about the Cates Turkey – Euro Style pattern, please don't hesitate to email me. Or if you have suggestions on future patterns to feature in this column, I welcome your input. I can be reached at [Philfischer@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Philfischer@sbcglobal.net).

### **Kids Fishing Event – May 26 Request from Rynie**

Just a quick update to let you know that ODF&W will stock the Caldera Pond for the Kokanee Karnival special event just for our Three Rivers School STEM students. It will be a much smaller event than the KKFD, but we will still need a lot of help, especially at the pond and with casting! Please contact me if you have any questions and if you are available to help.

I will meet with Frank Turek who has been head of the KK for COF to find out how he thinks we can run our event. We will probably split the kids into two groups, but I worry that everyone will just go back to the pond.

So, Jim and John, if you have some thoughts on how many kids could fish at one time? KK has some games and of course casting will have to be taught prior to fishing. One of the board members from Caldera is hoping we can introduce the concepts of barbless hooks and fly fishing to the kids or at least use bobbers and wooly buggers instead of bait. Another thing I would like to hear some input - feasible or not???

Anyway- Thursday, May 26th is the date, time

## **SR Anglers New Educational Tool**

SRA published the following YouTube page for Sunriver Anglers.

[Sunriver Anglers - YouTube](#)

Anglers are encouraged people to subscribe to this page so they can stay caught up on the videos we will publish periodically.

And if you want to be amongst the first to be notified of new content, please subscribe to this YouTube page. You will receive a notification when new content is available.

## **Oregon Water Report**

# **WATER DELIVERY UPDATE**

## **Pilot Butte Canal Delivery Notice** *(Services north end of Bend, Redmond & Terrebonne)*

Beginning today, April 11, flows in the Pilot Butte Canal will be dropping as necessary repairs need to be done to a section of the main canal. It will take 2 to 3 days for flows to return to 50%. Thank you for your patience as we make the needed repairs.

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## **DROUGHT UPDATE**

The region is still recovering from multiple years of drought. Under such severe drought conditions, experts believe it may take

consecutive years with above-average precipitation to emerge from this drought.

- Natural springs are showing declines compared to historical norms, and reservoirs are all at record lows.
- Reservoirs are at the lowest on record and dropping.
- We currently have much less snow than we had the past two years at this time. The amount of snow water equivalent currently measured at all our locations is significantly lower than what was measured at this time last year.
- The extended weather forecast for Central Oregon projects above-average temperatures, below-average precipitation, and very low soil moisture levels.

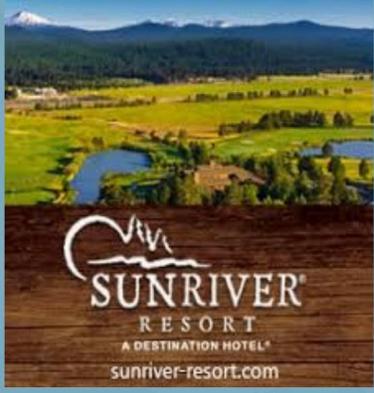
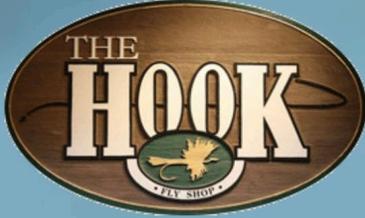
COID is expecting a water year like 2021; however, it is impossible to predict live flow and how it translates to reductions or deliveries. As drought conditions continue, please prepare for a water reduction (curtailment) to 65% in mid to late July.

The Oregon Water Resources Department maintains a drought website that provides the status of current water conditions and state drought declarations, as well as information on what you can do to use water wisely.

[Visit the drought website.](#)

[Show Me the Report](#)

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