



*"Cultivating the art of fly fishing through a spirit of fellowship and resource enhancement"*

*washingtoncountyyflyfishers.com*

Issue 271

January 2024

***Meeting Location***  
***Westbrook Club House***  
***14255 SW 6<sup>th</sup> Street (one block east of SW Murray)***

**Meeting date: Wed. January 3**

### **2024 Dues**

Your 2024 dues are due now. If you pay before February 29<sup>th</sup>, they are \$25. After that they are \$30. You can bring a check or cash to the January/February meeting and give it to Jim Sandberg, or you can send him a check at:

Jim Sandberg

835 NW Pebble Beach Way

Beaverton, OR 97006

Thanks for supporting your club!

## Agenda for the January 3 meeting

7:00-7:15	Opening remarks, Club business
7:15-8:15	Guest Presenter: <b>Mark Bachman, steelheading Sandy River</b>
8:15-8:30	Raffle and Adjourn

### Guest Presenter

**Mark Bachman**, friend, teacher, guide and fly shop owner. Mark owned the Fly Fishing Store in Welches Oregon. Mark guided the Sandy River for years, and in my estimation was the guy to go to if you wanted to hook steelhead on the Sandy. He recently authored a book titled “The Virtue of Fly Fishing”. He is a strong advocate for conversation and his iconic accomplishment was working with the removal in 1969 of Marmot Dam.

### President’s Message January 2024

On Christmas Night, I go to bed, turn to my wife and traditionally say “well, another Christmas come and gone!” I am already looking forward to next year! For the WCFF, it is “another year come and gone!” and I am looking forward to a new year of fishing! We have had a number of great experiences with the club from quality speakers to fun outings on both rivers and lakes, our annual picnic and auction, our Christmas party and some fly tying and rod building along with a class on the Sandy River. We are looking forward to 2024 with more outings and quality speakers. We are also looking at another rod building class and both beginner and intermediate fly-tying classes. We may try to arrange another on-river class of where to fish perhaps on a Willamette Valley River. If you have any ideas or requests for activities beyond fishing, please let me know.



Speaking of the Christmas party, the club Christmas dinner was the 6<sup>th</sup> of December at the club house. Over 45 people signed up and after some sickness and flooded basements we had 39 attendees. The food was great and very plentiful with a lot of leftovers that went home with members. We also had door prizes for both fishing and non- fishing participants. Almost everyone went home with something!

The January meeting will be right after the new year on January 3. Mark Bachman is the speaker. Normally we have our annual meeting in January but this year it will be at the February meeting. We still need a volunteer to take a Board position for VP. We will also have elections at the February meeting.

We are considering having a WCFF booth at the Expo in Albany in March. We need volunteers to sit in the booth, tie flies, hand out materials about the club and talk to fly fishers! If you could donate a couple of hours of your time between 9 and 5 on Friday or Saturday March 8 or 9, please let me know. The Expo is going to be terrific with an increased focus on rod building, Euro Nymphing, fly tying, classes and speakers. Many fly tyers and vendors have already signed up and they are expanding the space to make room for even more.

Get ready to go fishing in the new year and see you January 3!

Tight Lines,  
Rick Pay, President

---

### **December Outing: Class – Where to Fish The Sandy River by Rick Pay**

Nine members joined Josh Linn in early December for a day on the Sandy River learning where to bank fish for steelhead. While the day was one of heavy rain, winter steelheaders are used to that and the rain didn't dampen the spirits of the members.

The day started in Oxbow Park under a pavilion with a discussion of equipment, rod set-up, flies, river conditions and general locations of the areas we would visit

throughout the day. The cool weather and rain were well mitigated with hot coffee and donuts provided by Chuck Cooney!

After the 90-minute introduction, we headed out to visit a number of bank access points in Oxbow Park and upstream on both sides of the river. The first several were easy to find as they were in the park. Then we headed up to Dodge Park and eventually to the Wildwood area near Welches. At that point, we crossed the river and headed back down on the east side, visiting several more spots that can be very good. Through the day we saw roughly a dozen spots a few of which looked extremely fishy! The rest were still enticing and once the rivers are back in shape, should provide a fun and productive day of fishing.

Everyone was excited to see the fishing opportunities on the Sandy River from the bank. All were ready to try their luck over the next several months in hope of catching the fish of a thousand casts, without having to have a boat or knowledge of how to drift the river.



# The WCFF January 13 Outing – Fly Tying

The January outing will be fly tying January 13 at the Club house.

Winter time is when we stay inside and tie Flies. We are asking all tyers to come and show everyone how to tie your Secret flies. Tying will start at 9am to noon (half day) and at noon we will ask the tyers to donate a fly to a fly box to be given away as a door prize. Even if you don't tie come join the fun. There will be coffee and donuts and a lot of fishing stories to go with the coffee. Again, club house, Jan 13, **9 AM to noon**. I will be there and I have a new Secret fly to show you.

Chair Chuck Cooney - Outings Chair

## **Fishing Reports – by Rick Pay**

One of the advantages to signing up for fly shop mail lists is that several of them have excellent local fishing reports. Below are several ones that I find useful.

**The Fly Fishers Place** – Sisters - <https://flyfishersplace.com/category/fishing-reports/>

Jeff Perin writes this report, usually weekly. He covers most of the Central Oregon lakes as well as a number of streams such as the Metolius, middle and lower Deschutes, Crooked, Fall and others. He covers conditions, hatches currently going on and other interesting information. Jeff spends a great deal of time fishing and has a staff of guides, so reports are usually the most recent information.

**The Deschutes Angler** - <https://deschutesangler.com/blogs/fishing-report>

Amy Hazel writes this report and is an accomplished writer. The reports are worth reading simply because her writing takes you to the Deschutes and other places. She mostly covers the Deschutes but occasionally discusses other places she has fished such as Christmas Island. During the high season she writes most every

week and occasionally more often if conditions change significantly. In the slow season she takes some time off so reports are less predictable in their timing.

**Northwest Flyfishing Outfitters** - [nwffo@flyshopnw.com](mailto:nwffo@flyshopnw.com)

This fishing report is in the form of a newsletter that is usually published weekly. Besides going on at the shop, it covers local rivers such as the Santiam, Willamette, Little Luckiamute, Crooked, Deschutes, Metolius and others. Occasionally they go to faraway places such as Guatemala. I find this shop has the best variety of smaller rivers and the lakes around Mt. Hood.

As you visit fly shop web sites, look at their newsletters, blogs and fishing reports as often there is a gold mine of information.

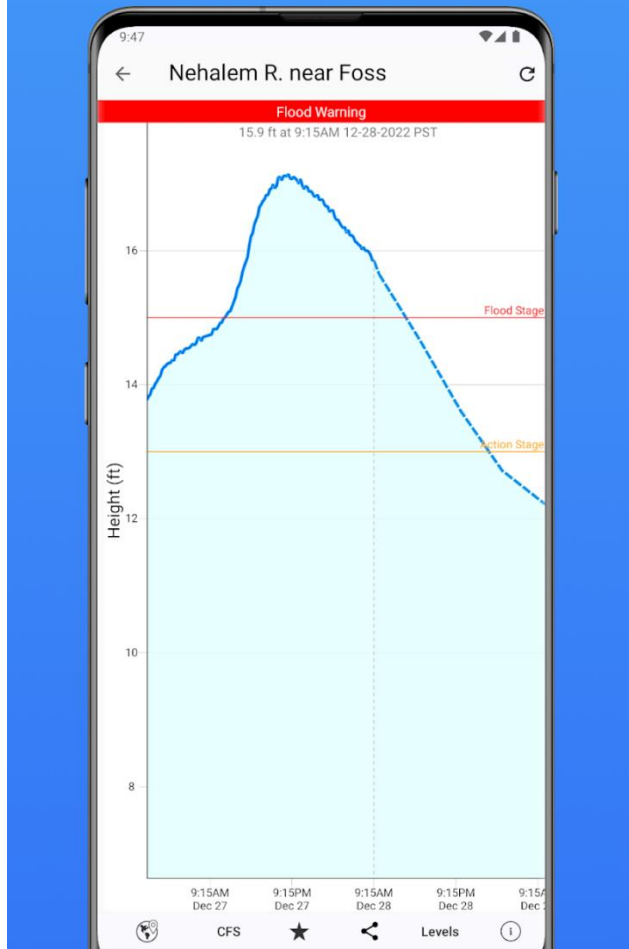
---

## **River Levels – by Rick Pay**

River levels are important to monitor to help improve your fishing success, especially in the winter. River levels can change pretty dramatically during a very short period of time due to our winter rains and melting snow. There are several websites/apps you can monitor to see what your favorite river is doing.

One that I particularly like is Rivercast. This is a free app that monitors river flows both current and forecast for rivers all over the United States. You can flag favorite rivers to get to them more easily. Graphs show current and immediate past river levels along with future predictions. An easy to use and very useful application!

## Custom Graphs, Many w/ Forecasts!



Another useful site is USGS - actually this site is [waterdata.usgs.gov](https://waterdata.usgs.gov). Once Oregon is selected there are dots on the various rivers. Graphs show immediate past and present river levels. It also shows a lot of other information such as dissolved oxygen and water temperature, as well as turbidity. It also has USGS maps of the river basin. A very useful site if a bit cluttered. I also find it a bit hard to get to a particular river. But once you have it and put it in your favorites, there is a lot of useful information.

There are several other options such as River Levels that have a cost to download although low, such as \$.99 or \$2.99. But for free, either Rivercast or USGS will



provide the basic information you need to monitor the levels of the river you would like to fish.

## Fly of the Month

### **BWO Mayfly Cripple by John Kreft**

Here is the fly pattern sheet for the BWO Mayfly Cripple.



©RiverKeeper Flies

#### **Materials**

##### **Hook:**

Daiichi 1100 or 1180 #16 – 22

**Thread:** 8/0 olive dun



**Tail:**

Zelon – mayfly brown

**Body:**

Superfine dubbing – gray/olive

**Wing:**

EP Trigger Point Fibers – light or medium dun

**Hackle:**

Light or medium dun

**Directions:**

1. Attach thread to hook behind hook eye and wind backwards about halfway.
2. Tie in Zelon and hold upwards and on top of hook while continuing to wrap thread just past hook bend.
3. Add dubbing to thread and wind forward until 2/3 point.
4. Tie in wing material, allowing materials to extend over hook eye. Wrap tightly as materials are slick. Cut rear section and leave small tuft.
5. Tie in hackle. Place 3 wraps behind wing and lift wing material up and place 2 wraps in front. Tie off hackle and cut excess.
6. Whip finish.
7. Trim tail 2/3 body length.
8. To trim wing, pull wing back and trim at end of body.
9. Trim hackle bottom even with hook point to allow low profile in water.

Learn more about Blue Wing Olives in my post – [Blue Wing Olives](#).

## **Washington County Flyfishers**

**President**  
Rick Pay  
503-626-7225

**Vice President**  
Open

**Secretary**  
Galen Flinn  
503-702-9603

**Treasurer**  
John Gillingham  
503-646-2492

**Newsletter Editor**  
Bob Pryor  
503-941-5306

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**Outings Chair**  
Chuck Cooney  
503-784-5947

**OR Council IFFF Representative**  
Jim Crislip  
503-396-1935

**Jim Sandberg, Membership Chair**  
503-690-8865

**Ron Reinebach, Raffle Chair**  
503-896-7956

**Marc Williamson, Entertainment Chair**  
503-473-5382

**Galen Flinn, Website Manager**  
503-702-9603

