



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

washingtoncountyyflyfishers.com

Issue 295

February 2026

Meeting Location

Westbrook Club House

14255 SW 6th Street (one block east of SW Murray)

Beaverton, OR 97005

Next Meeting Date and Time: Wednesday February 4, 2026

February Speaker

Kevin Stertz – ODFW

Kevin Stertz is the District Fish Biologist for the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) in the North Willamette Watershed district, based in Clackamas, Oregon.

With over 20 years of experience at ODFW, he has held a variety of roles across the agency. These include work with the Corvallis Research Lab, serving as Project Biologist in the Warmwater and Recreational Gamefish Program (where he conducted research and management on warmwater

species), positions in the Water Quality/Quantity Program, and Assistant District Fish Biologist for the North Willamette Watershed District prior to his current role.

Kevin has hands-on experience with warmwater and recreational fisheries across Oregon, including research, management, and fieldwork on species like bass, panfish, and other popular gamefish. Throughout his career, he has contributed to statewide fisheries projects involving both native and non-native fish species.

Kevin will be speaking about significant regulation changes for 2026 as well as answering any general questions about ODFW related topics. This is your chance to be informed and provide reasonable feedback to this agency.

President's Message

February 2026

We have a lot of exciting things going on with the Club in 2026, and the next couple of months are packed with events!

Our February meeting is the annual election with the Vice President and Secretary being elected to a two-year term. We will call for nominations from the floor so if you know of anyone that might be interested, nominate them. Dave Eisenhauer will serve if elected as VP as will Chris Wilson as Secretary. But, if you are so inclined, throw your name in the hat! We will also present and vote for the budget.

Our speaker for February is Kevin Stertz of ODFW talking about regulation changes, warm water fisheries and anything else you may ask. Please be gentle!

We have a lot of events the next two months! In February we have our meeting, a breakfast on the 21 at Peppermill Pub, and an outing in development. In March we have the meeting on March 4 with Dave



Eisenhauer and Galen Flynn talking about lake fishing in BC, breakfast on the 21st, the ORCFFI Expo in Albany on the 13, 14, a Community Fishing Day at Commonwealth Pond on the 14th where you can volunteer to help expose the public to fly fishing, equipment, casting and fly tying, and an outing to Vernonia Pond in development.

We have a wonderful opportunity for the membership from Kathleen Pripke, whose husband passed leaving a drift boat she has donated to the club. The Board has decided to sell it to the membership at auction, likely at the meeting in March. It is a 14.5-foot fiber glass boat with trailer, oars and anchor. While it was built in the early 1970's, it is in good shape and probably has a number of years left to fish, even longer for someone who takes care of it. We will have it at a meeting before the auction so you can take a look. I suspect it will be a great deal for some lucky buyer.

Quick note – we are planning a Deschutes trip with Rob Crandall on July 10, 11. More to follow but save the dates.

Don't forget your dues are due if you haven't paid yet. \$30 cash or check at the next meeting. Also, we do have the life time membership for \$300 if you are so inclined.

Tight Lines,

Rick Pay, President



Washington County Fly Fishers

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

Club Calendar

- February 4 – Club Meeting – speaker ODFW – Kevin Stertz – new regulations for 2026

- 21 – Breakfast meeting – Peppermill Pub
- ? – coastal lake outing
- March
 - 4 – Club Meeting – speaker Dave Eisenhower and Galen Flynn – Lake Fishing British Columbia
 - ?? – Outing Vernonia Pond
 - 13,14 – ORCFFI Fly Tying and Fly-Fishing Expo – Albany
 - 14 – Community Fishing Day at Commonwealth Pond
 - 21 – Breakfast meeting – Peppermill Pub
- April
 - 1 – Club Meeting – Marc Williamson – Still Water
 - ?? – Outing – Lost Lake Coast
 - 18 – Breakfast meeting
- May
 - 6 – Club Meeting – Speaker - Chris Wilson – John Day River
 - 16 – Breakfast meeting
- June
 - 3 – Club Meeting – speaker Josh Linn – Equipment and flies for summer vs winter steelhead
- July
 - 1 – Club Meeting – speaker TBD
 - 10,11 – Deschutes fishing with Rob Crandall
- August
 - 8 – Club Picnic
- September
 - 2 – Club Meeting – speaker TBD
- October
 - 7 - Club Meeting – speaker Brian Bangs – US FWS – Willamette Valley Non-game Species and their interaction with game fish
- November
 - 4 – Club Meeting – speaker Jennifer La Follette – Golden Trout at June Lake
- December
 - 2 – Christmas Dinner

You can't tame glare with cheap sunglasses

The insidious nature of glare



[Capt Andrew Derr](#) ~ Costa Del Mar Fantail in Realtree Camo with Blue Mirror 580P Lenses

By Henry Clement

Polarized lenses can enhance visual acuity, color contrast, and comfort, blocking 100% of harmful UVA and UVB light.

[You can't tame glare with cheap sunglasses - Fly Life Magazine](#)

Texting while driving is dangerous, and so is glare. Unlike texting, glare is unavoidable and can affect any driver, regardless of their vehicle. It reflects off the road, car hoods, other vehicles, glass buildings, dashboards, and sand at the beach, particularly off the water's surface. At its mildest, glare can be annoying, but when the angle of reflection is just right, it can become blinding and even deadly—whether you're driving a car or piloting a boat.



What Won't Help?

Ordinary tinted sunglasses only reduce the amount of ambient light that reaches the eye, which is known as light transmittance. Regular, store-bought tinted sunglasses are unable to block glare. Only polarized lenses can effectively reduce glare. It's worth noting that there are varying levels of effectiveness among polarized glasses—be cautious of those that are very inexpensive.

How Does Glare Work and How Do Polarizing Lenses Function?

When light reflects off a surface, its light waves travel in multiple directions: some move horizontally, while others travel vertically. Typically, light waves are absorbed and/or reflected randomly. However, when light hits a highly reflective surface, such as water, snow, vehicles, or buildings, at a specific angle, some light becomes “polarized.”

What does that mean?

It means that vertical light waves are absorbed while horizontal light waves bounce off the surface. This can cause glare that interferes with your vision by striking your eyes intensely. Only polarized lenses can eliminate this glare. What, then, are polarized lenses? Polarized lenses are laminated with tiny vertical stripes that allow only vertically angled light to enter

the wearer's eyes. They eliminate glare because horizontal light waves cannot pass through the vertical filter. Sunglasses and camera lenses are often polarized to reduce glare from surfaces.

How do polarized lenses work?

When light bounces off a surface, it tends to be strongest in a horizontal, vertical, or diagonal orientation—this is known as polarization. Polarized lenses contain millions of parallel rows of tiny iodine crystals or dichroic dyes, which are so small they cannot be seen with the naked eye. Similar to venetian blinds, the horizontal rows of iodine crystals in the polarized lens block horizontal polarized light waves while allowing only non-polarized vertical light waves to reach the eye. Polarization can block up to 50% of the light passing through a lens.

As a result, the person looking through the lens can still see clearly in most cases, but with reduced brightness and glare. This leads to clearer vision without glare, as only a polarized lens can block it.

Types of Polarized Glasses and Lenses:

Buyer Beware: Lenses can be polarized to varying degrees and in different ways. The cheapest polarized sunglasses typically have only a thin film applied to one side of the lens. Higher-quality polarized lenses have film laminated between two layers of lens material, making them more resistant to scratches and wear. The denser the film, the more effective the polarization.



Telling the Difference

Generally speaking, polarized sunglasses do not look markedly different from regular sunglasses. While denser films may appear darker, the color of the lens does not determine the level of polarization. For instance, a very dark pair of sunglasses with a light film will not block more glare than a lighter pair with a denser film. Polarized lenses can come in various colors, including gray, brown, and green, each offering advantages in different sunlight conditions.

DIFFERENT POLARIZED LENS OPTIONS

Polarized lenses are available in a wide range of types, materials, coatings, and designs, including options like polarized varifocal lenses and polarized high-index lenses.

Advantages of Polarized Lenses

Reducing glare can alleviate eye strain for drivers during long hours on the road. Polarizing filters on camera lenses also allow fishermen better visibility under the water's surface, helping them spot fish and other objects. Photographers also benefit, as polarizing filters enhance image contrast and enable a wider variety of visual effects. Beyond just blocking blinding glare, polarized lenses improve contrast, visual comfort, and overall acuity.

Limitations of Polarized Lenses

Due to the polarizing stripes that reduce the amount of light entering the eye, these lenses should not be used at night or in situations requiring clear lenses. Additionally, polarized lenses can distort the appearance of liquid crystal displays (LCDs), making specific screens on cell phones, clocks, and other devices difficult to read. For this reason, pilots should avoid using polarized glasses, as they can hinder the visibility of flight instruments and reduce the clarity of other aircraft in the sky.

ChromaPop⁺



Trending at a dock near you. Smith Optics' Chroma Pop polarized glasses.

Choosing lens color

Green: Good for general-purpose use, offers even color perception, dims glare while brightening shadows, and provides good contrast for low-light conditions.

Brown/Copper: Good for variable everyday conditions, enhances contrast, and contains a red element to improve depth perception. These are the “go-to” colors for most flats fishermen.

Yellow/Amber: These lenses provide greater clarity in fog, haze, and other low-light conditions and filter out blue light from computer screens and other electronic devices, which can cause eye fatigue and headaches. Low-light flats fishing is a good time to wear these lenses.

Blue/Purple: Trendy and aesthetically pleasing, reduces glare, helps define contours, and enhances color perception.

Gray/Black: This tint is good for general-purpose use, reduces eye fatigue, provides true color perception, minimizes glare, especially off water, and is the darkest with the highest available light reduction. It is popular for bluewater fishing.

Pink/Red improves visual depth, reduces eye strain, provides good road visibility, and offers the greatest amount of contrast.

Green and Gray/Black offer the most field condition benefits, but for sheer simplicity, Amber/Brown works just fine for fishing on sunny and partly cloudy days—conditions most anglers are likely to experience. That includes contrast and depth perception. Both combinations usually come with prescription options. Some colors/tints are not prescription available. Be sure to inquire about that.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Olive Willy

Provided courtesy of Clark-Skamania Flyfishers

Tier Chuck Holstein
Category Wet Fly/ Nymph
Hook #12 TMC 5212
Thread Red or olive
Tail Pheasant rump after shaft
 feather
Body Medium chenille - olive Hackle
 Pheasant rump



Head Miyuki 8/0 red glass bead with silver-lined hole

Tying The fluffy webbing from the after shaft of a pheasant rump feather can Instructions also be used for the tail.

Tying Notes About 1995 Swede (Allen Peterson) decided that Swede's Fly Shop in Woodinville, Washington needed a signature fly. He told one of his ders to invent one, and the Olive Willy was born. When Swede moved his fly shop to Spokane, Washington in 2003 he naturally brought the fly, along with a few thousand others, with him. Swede caught thirty-seven rainbows in 21 /2 hours in one of our quality lakes in central Washington using the Olive Willy and a fast sink line.

Washington County Flyfishers

President
Rick Pay
503-626-7225

Vice President
David Eisenhauer
503-649-3804

Secretary
Chris Wilson
971-330-9393

Treasurer
John Gillingham
503-646-2492

Newsletter Editor
Bob Pryor
503-941-5306

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Outings Chair
Mark Bray

OR Council IFFF Representative
Rick Pay
503-626-7225

Membership Chair
Open

Joel Smith, Raffle Chair
971-708-2238

Program Chair
Open

Galen Flinn, Website Manager
503-702-9603

