

DESCHUTES RIVER OUTING

By Gene Reinert

While some hardy souls are still dredging the depths with their big flies and two-handed rods, many more of us are looking forward to warmer weather and trout. This outing will be our first chance in 2018 to chase big reddsides in the Maupin area on the Deschutes River.

We will be camping at Harpham Flats Campground located about 4 miles south of Maupin on the BLM access road. This is a gravel road and runs south or upriver from Maupin City Park. Use caution; you may come across large rocks that have rolled onto the road. This is a primitive camp area with pit toilets but no potable water so bring your own. This camp area has both group and single camp spots. I will be arriving Thursday in order to secure sites and would like an idea of how many members plan on attending this outing.

We will be having a potluck Saturday evening. In order to have an adequate amount of the main course, I also need to know how many might be attending. Please email or phone and let me know you will be attending. Any help on this outing is very much appreciated.

On Friday evening at 7:00, we will meet at The Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop where **John Smeraglio** will put on a program on how to fish this area. He will cover both flies and techniques in order to get the most out of this fishery. John has, for the last few years, donated a wading trip on this river for our annual banquet. Those who have been guided by John recommend him highly. The Fly Shop is located on the paved road just south of the bridge crossing the river in Maupin.

John Smeraglio recommends a 5 wt. rod with floating line for dry flies. Blue Wing Olives in size 16 or 18, Igloo Cased Caddis size 20, Skawala Stone size 10, March Browns size 16. and many types of Caddis would be good choices. You may want to spend more time fishing wets and nymphs using a two-fly setup on either a 5 wt. or 6 wt. rod. A size 10 to 14 is a good choice for your first fly and 18 or 20 for your point fly. Copper Johns, Prince Nymphs, Lightning Bug, Tied Back Caddis, and Rainbow Warrior are just some of the flies used. John's program will cover the best techniques and flies can be purchased at the shop. More information can be found on the Deschutes Canyon Fly Shop web site, flyfishingdeschutes.com

This outing has been described as a wade and fish outing, but this section of the Deschutes can be floated in pontoon type boats or floated as a means to reach the west bank of the river. Your floats can begin at Nena day use area upstream of Harpham Flats and take out either at Harpham or further down river at Wapinitia campground. If you intend on floating, you **WILL** need a Boaters Pass which can be obtained online at boaterpass.com The pass will run \$2.00 per day and will be enforced by BLM. Also there is no fishing from a floating device (pontoon boat) on the Deschutes River.

Last and very importantly is the need for the fishmaster on this or any outing to receive information from members planning on attending an outing. In order for the fishmaster to provide the main course for a potluck, he or she must have some idea of how many members to provide for. In addition, if the fishmaster is planning on arriving early to an outing site to save camp space, knowing how many sites or space is needed would be important. The fishmasters have volunteered to make this or any outing more enjoyable; please help them by letting them know you will be attending. In the case of this outing I will be serving as fishmaster. Contact me at reinertgene@gmail.com, 503-341-1085.