

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

OCTOBER 2006

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 11, No. 10

## October Meeting

## Peter Piconi on Bay, Surf, and Blue Water

Peter

Piconi, a long time fixture on the San Diego Fly Fishing scene will be our October speaker. Peter will be presenting his San Diego sampler, bay, surf and blue water.



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### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, October 9th, 2006

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

### REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for this meeting

(report at 6:15 PM):

**Helen and**

**Mike Grundler**

*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

## Mule Train to Paradise

by Roger Yamasaki



Blue Lake

In the summer of 2006 I embarked on an adventure that I had long had visions of but had never had the opportunity to act upon. The adventure was five days in the backcountry of the Eastern Sierras—fishing, camping, hiking—away from the masses (which may be an overstatement as you will see later) and technological burdens that tie us to work. Our target area was Sabrina Basin approximately 3 miles west of Lake Sabrina which is about 20 miles west of Bishop, CA.

### The Band of 14

I was actually one of 14 on this trip consisting of me, Al, Bob, Joe, Greg, Mark, Rich, Bill, Stalker, Brian, Willie,

Nathan, Harrison, and Laurie. Laurie? Yes we did have one female type on this trip who kept up with all of the men and never complained—a true “trooper” in every sense of the word. And no she did not do all of the cooking and cleaning. This group made up what I called the Band of 14.

The plan was to hike into the backcountry with daypacks and have pack mules do all the hard work of transporting our equipment. In this way the hike was quite easy—3.5 miles to the actual campsite with about 1,000 feet of elevation gain.

We hired the services of Bishop Pack Outfitters located at North Lake. Any

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: OCTOBER 2006

*"Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn."*

- Benjamin Franklin

It seems this is the season for "telling," "teaching" and "involving," all of which this Club does very, very well.

First and foremost, I want to personally thank all of you who volunteered on August 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> for the Chollas Lake Young Anglers Tournament. Nine of us appeared on Friday afternoon to assist in preparation and another fourteen assisted in various capacities on Saturday. By all accounts, the Tournament was a rousing success. A number of children were still registering at 9:15 a.m., (the Tournament ended at 10:00), having seen Dave Scott's live KUSI broadcasts from the Lake. **Paul Woolery** reports an unusually large number of children showed up at the Lend-A-Rod Station on Sunday with their parents, having been enticed by Saturday's tournament. Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> marks another



**LEE McELRAVY**

National Hunting & Fishing Day at Lake Murray. We will have a booth set up from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Whether you want to tie flies, offer some casting instruction, or just "meet and greet," please join us. No one is asking for an all-day commitment. If you can join us for an hour at some point during the day, please plan on

doing so. This is a great opportunity to expand our visibility in the "outdoors" community. More importantly, the Wildlife Federation needs our support as they undertake a lead role in opposing the proposed "Marine Reserves" in the Pacific, which could potentially close large sections of those waters to recreational fishing.

We will again begin our membership renewal drive in October. At its July meeting, your Board of Directors voted to increase dues for 2007 by \$5.00 each for individual and family memberships. The fact that our dues have not gone up for

longer than any of your Board recalls (and, for some, that's a long time) or that we probably have the lowest dues of any Club in California, does not itself justify such an increase. On the other hand, our operating expenses have increased significantly over the past two years, including postage, insurance and space rent. The decision to raise dues was not taken lightly. We debated many alternatives, including adopting some of "alternative" charges levied by other clubs, such as charging extra for mailing the newsletter or charging for certain ancillary club activities, all of which would have resulted in discrimination against one group or another. In the end, it was determined that an across-the-board increase was simply the fairest go and, at this juncture, necessary.

Finally, my own "Thank You" to **Gary Strawn** for covering for me at the September meeting and a reminder to everyone that (1) nominations for the Stroud Award are now being accepted and (2) our regular October meeting will be held on **October 9<sup>th</sup>**. See you there!



### Peter Piconi

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If you don't already know Peter, you might recognize him from his frequent appearances in California Fly Fisher, including his cover shot with a San Diego Bay bone fish.

Peter is one of fly fishing's most sought after experts and has been featured on the MIGHTY 1090AM "Let's Talk Hook Up", OLN's "Reel Outdoors",

and spotlighted in fly fishing instructional video's. Piconi is also an accomplished photographer and journalist.

Publications include: *Salt Water Fly Fishing* and *South West Fly Fishing*.

Along with guiding trips on San Diego Bay, Peter instructs casting clinics, fly tying classes, surf schools, and leads trips to British Columbia, South America, Baja, Alaska, Utah, Wyoming, Montana and anywhere else fish are

biting.

Peter, a local San Diego native, is a graduate of Humboldt State University, where he earned his degree in Wildlife Management.

Please join us for an educational and entertaining evening with Peter Piconi.



## Boulder, Cottonwood Creek, San Mateo Creek Steelhead, and More....

**W**OW! Between the raffle in June and my summer fishing adventures, a lot has been happening since my last column in this space. While I've kept the Board of Directors informed on much of this, I need to bring you up to date.

Many of you participated in last December's re-stocking of sub-catchable rainbow trout in Boulder and Cottonwood Creek, and probably recall that we were blocked from an expanded set of re-stockings in Cedar Creek and Kitchen Creek (with Troy and Long) by the Cleveland National Forest Supervisor, Tina Terrell. In a meeting with the California Department of Fish and Game, Ms. Terrell expressed the concerns of her biologists regarding predation of endangered native species by stocked trout. At Ms. Terrell's specific request, representatives of San Diego Trout, San Diego Fly Fishers, AND the San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission were excluded from this meeting that determined public fisheries policy – a meeting that DFG had earlier invited these public interest groups to attend.

In January of this year, I attended a meeting with local and other DFG officials, representatives of Trout Unlimited, and San Diego Trout to discuss programs to recover the San Mateo Creek steelhead, and to rescue threatened strains of rainbow trout in several San Diego County watersheds. Out of that meeting grew an ongoing effort to establish a 'rescue hatchery'

to supplement existing DFG production hatcheries and prevent the extirpation of trout by wildfires. Another outcome was a series of letters I wrote to Bernie Weingardt, the Supervising Ranger for USFS Region 5 (Pacific Southwest). Mr. Weingardt's responsibilities include oversight of the Cleveland, Los Padres, San Bernardino, and Angeles National Forests. I asked him to direct CNF officials to abide by Forest Service policy and the Code of Federal Regulations regarding the primacy of DFG in managing fisheries in San Diego County. I sent the first letter in April (some of you got copies at that month's general meeting) – no reply. I sent another letter by certified mail a month later, and copied our Congressional representatives – again, no reply. I sent a third letter in June and told Mr. Weingardt that in the absent his reply, I would contact my Congressman directly. Again, no reply was forthcoming from this public servant, so I sent a letter to Representative Duncan Hunter with copies of my earlier correspondence with Mr. Weingardt. Congressman Hunter's El Cajon staff promptly contacted me, and in due course I received a copy of the Forest Service response to his inquiry. The Forest Service Washington DC responded with a letter by Anne Zimmerman, the Director of Watershed, Fish, Wildlife, Air and Rare Plants. It includes an official endorsement of a US Fish and Wildlife Service policy based on a single laboratory study (Sweet 1992) that designates rainbow trout as one of several threats to the survival of the arroyo toad (a



BRUCE CAMPBELL

species that co-evolved with the arroyo toad), and recommends "[re-stricting] *fishing and other recreational activities* in AT breeding habitats when ATs are present... (late spring and early summer)." CNF officials have designated some 8000 acres of the Forest as AT habitat - it includes the Pine Creek Arm of Barrett Lake and the Cottonwood Creek inlet on Lake Morena – these areas could also be closed to bass fishing as well!

I am currently drafting a rebuttal of Ms. Zimmerman's letter, based on errors of fact with regard to Forest Service policy, and failure to acknowledge the Forest Service's obligation to abide by public law – in this case the *Data Quality Act of 2003* that requires that Federal Government agencies provide an opportunity for the public challenge science that is used in support of public policy decisions. It is my belief that the Sweet 1992 study fails two tests required by Department of the Interior policy on data quality:

- To facilitate reproducibility of analytic results by making data and methodology publicly available, and,



# The Naturalist's Nook

Bruce Campbell

Continuing with the articles I wrote for April and May, in this month's column I'll finish up the late summer and fall emerging caddis flies (Trichoptera), and conclude with some information about the continuing threats of exotic inverte-



dark brown to black in color, but the abdomen is a dirty cream to light tan. I found that a size 10, unweighted Black Strawman Nymph tied with a white ostrich herl collar in was very effective on the rainbows of Noble Creek during

I'd never seen before. I preserved the specimen as best I could in alcohol, took it home, and attempted to identify it. After failing to find a record of anything similar anywhere in Southern California, I took the specimen to the new Curator of Entomology at the San Diego Museum of Natural History, Dr. Michael Wall. A couple of days later, Mike sent me an email identifying the insect as *Hesperophylax designatus*, a limnephilid genus, along with a couple of photos of the specimen. A shredder, *Hesperophylax* feeds on leafy debris in slower water. At more than 30 mm long, this insect is

| Caddis Species       | Larva                         | Pupa                              | Adult                              |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| <i>Unidentified</i>  | # 12 Black                    | #8-10 Orange/brown                | **                                 |
| <i>Limnephilid</i>   | Strawman                      | DSP                               |                                    |
| <i>Hesperophylax</i> | #8 Simulator<br>Pheasant Tail | #8 Soft Hackle                    | #14 Tan EHC<br>#14 X-caddis (damp) |
| <i>Glossosoma</i>    | #16-20 Buckskin               | #16-18 Cream/orange<br>DSP or ESP | #18 Yellow X-caddis                |
| <i>Hydroptila</i>    | #20-22 Brassie                | #20-22 Yellow<br>Soft Hackle      | **                                 |

Table 1: Trichoptera of Late Summer to Fall

brates for creeks and rivers throughout the United States.

During the late 1990s, I was a regular visitor on Noble Creek. As stream flows dropped during the May and June and the oak trees began putting on the new year's leaves, I collected a medium sized caddis larva, 12 to 15 millimeters long that I had not seen elsewhere. Later I also found this insect on Pauma Creek. It is a limnephilid (a tube case builder) that constructs a ragged case of sticks (possibly *Limnephilus* sp. - pictured). As the accompanying photo shows, the larva's head and case and are very

late May and June when slowly crawled along the bottom. In late June a #10-12 Orange & Brown Deep Sparkle Pupa was equally effective drifted under the bubble screen of a plunge pool. These two flies may not represent different stages of the same insect. I did not key out this specimen to the genus level, nor have I connected the larva to the pupa or an adult caddis (yet!).

In May of this year while retrieving the temperature loggers from the Sweetwater River, I picked up a rock along the edge of a pool and found an enormous tube-building caddis larva

only a little smaller than the famous October Caddis of Northwest rivers. A larval imitation of this Trichopteran behemoth would need to be tied on a size 4 XXX long shank hook! LaFontaine's book, *Caddisflies*, calls the adult of this genus as the Silver Stripe Sedge. The insect quite striking in appearance, having rusty tan wings with distinct key-shaped silver marking on the posterior margin. I've never seen an adult caddis in San Diego County large enough to measure up to this larva. If it is similar to *Hesperophylax* from other regions, it probably pupates from June to late August or September, perhaps emerg-

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**The Naturalists Nook**  
continued from previous page



ing at night. I'm keeping my eyes open.

A three-star trichopteran of late summer and fall is little *Glossosoma*, which Ralph Cutter calls the most important caddis in California. The most primitive of the case-building caddis, it creates only a crude dome shaped shelter of a few pieces of gravel. The insect pupates in this shelter, and chews its way out after several weeks. As the water level drops, these small clusters of pebbles are left behind as markers for the high water of spring. *Glossosoma* has several interesting habits that make it available and important to trout. First, as the larvae grow in size, they outgrow and abandon their shelters, unlike other case builders, which add to their cases as they grow. *Glossosoma* larvae release themselves to the current, and millions of little cream colored trout foods enter the drift. A #18 Buckskin Nymph has been very effective for me during June and July on Eastern Sierra streams, mostly and late afternoons and early evenings. *Glossosoma* pupates in crevices among the rocks of riffle areas. Sometime in late July through August, the pupae inflate themselves with gas, cut loose from their mooring, and start swimming with the current, often congregating in soft water below the riffles. Ralph Cutter says the emergence peaks after sunset, but I have found that a #18 Cream/Burnt Orange Deep Sparkle Pupa tied with an orange Krystal Flash rib on the underbody) is extremely effective in the first hour or two after sunrise. I fished this last July on a float trip on

the Deschutes, and for several days hammered 3-4 pound redbands. *Glossosoma* crossed ten feet of current to take off my offering. The adults return to the stream in the late afternoon and evenings to deposit their eggs. *Glossosoma* is another caddis that oviposits underwater, carrying along a shiny bubble of air. An amber-colored #18 Emergent Sparkle Pupa is effective at this time, as is an amber-colored Emergent/Cripple Caddis (the E/C Caddis is a better searching fly).

*Hydroptila* has not proved particularly useful for me here in San Diego's streams. At 4 mm, it is a tiny fly with dark brown wings and a yellow, creating major visibility issues for the dry fly. Also, the insect emerges late enough in the season that I generally don't want to stress the local trout. On streams elsewhere, I have had better success with a #20-22 Grey Hackle Yellow than with the #20 Brassie recommended by some.

Next time, I plan to summarize the mayflies (Ephemeroptera) that are present on our Southern California waters. There are more than you might suspect. I will also provide some updates on Whirling Disease and the New Zealand Mud Snail, which continue to spread and threaten our native fisheries and aquatic insects.

#### Resources

- G. La Fontaine. Caddisflies. New York: Lyons and Burford, Publ. (1981).
- M. Wall. "Personal communication". May 30 2006.
- R. Cutter. "Entomology: Glossosoma Caddisflies". Via Internet at

[flyline.com/entomology/glossosoma\\_caddisflies](http://flyline.com/entomology/glossosoma_caddisflies) (2004).

M. Fabian and L. Wieland. "Digital Key to Aquatic Insects – Trichoptera". Valley City State College, via Internet:



## JACK DENNIS HERE ON DECEMBER 3RD AND 4TH

**Mark your calendars! Jack Dennis, noted fly tying expert will visit SDFE on December 3rd and 4th. He will be conducting a fly tying class on December 3rd. This is a once in a life time opportunity. Details to follow. Please mark your calendars for this wonderful opportunity!**



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# FLY OF THE MONTH

**Spitz Perch** — a Lake Crowley Fly used with success by Norbert Spitzer in 2005

This fly was inspired by Denny Rickard's Seal Bugger. Photo and notes by Lucky, Revised August 28, 2006



- Hook:** Streamer hook, 3X or 4X Long, size 10 or 12; TMC 5263, 9395; Mustad 9672, 9674; Gamakatsu S11S-4L2H
- Thread:** Red 6/0
- Head:** Red glass bead or brass bead painted red. Or just paint the thread head with red nail polish on flies with the lead underbody.
- Underbody:** Lead or lead substitute, 0.20 lead wire, 20 wraps at the front 2/3 of body (Optional to give more of a jiggling action)
- Tail:** Olive Marabou (or yellow) plus Chartreuse Krystal Flash, sparse (Lots of options here for Krystal flash. Try using gold, pearl or UV.)
- Body:** Arizona Dubblings Krystal Possum, in dark olive or light sow bug for the rear 2/3rds. Olive Ice Dubbing and a few strands of red SLF Poly dubbing in front. (You can also use red Quick Descent Dubbing behind the eye, and olive gray seal or seal imitation for the dubbing) Option - Sparsely palmer wrap a natural or olive-dyed grizzly hackle through the dubbed body.
- Cheeks:** Pearl Mylar strip, tapered to a point. (Cut with the point up)

**D**e-barb the hook and slip on a small to medium glass bead. Attach the thread behind the eye and make a few wraps to secure. Cut about an inch of 0.20 lead. Hold one end and make about 20 tight close wraps of lead around the hook shank. Trim off the ends and push the lead wraps to behind the eye. The lead should cover about 2/3 of the front hook shank and end above the hook point. Wrap the thread over the lead to look like a cocoon and coat with head cement to prevent oxidation of the lead.

Select a small to medium bunch of olive or yellow marabou. Size it so that the tail will be one hook

shank long. Hold it up to the hook and cut the butt ends so that they will merge into the lead wraps. If you cut them right there will not be a depression or a bump in the under body. Tie in the tail starting at the bend of the hook and wrapping forward to the end of the lead wraps. Trim off any of the marabou butts. Wrap back to the bend of the hook to prepare for the flash.

Select three or four strands of Chartreuse Krystal Flash about two inches long.

Tip: If you use the "folded or locked material method" the slippery flash will not pull out as easily. With the bobbin hanging at the bend of the hook, hold the long

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## Fly of the Month

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flash fibers by the ends with two hands. Push the middle of the flash against the hanging thread and pull the flash to the far side, up and over the hook shank to the near side. The flash fibers should now be trapped by the thread. Make a few wraps of thread to secure one side. Arrange and separate the fibers on the near side. Take the other front half of the flash fold it up and over the hook shank to the far side. Make two wraps to secure and separate and position those fibers. Make a few tight wraps to secure and half hitch. A small drop of super glue never hurts on a wet fly. Trim the flash to the length of the tail.

Prepare a sparse dubbing loop. Pull out about 6 inches of thread on the bobbin. Pinch the middle and make a few wraps of thread around the hook shank at the bend. Secure with a half hitch. Attach a loop dubbing tool to the thread loop. Use a good tacky dubbing wax on one side of the loop. Norb says he has grown to love SWAX dubbing wax. You want this fly to be almost translucent so that means the dubbing has to be placed thinly in the loop.

(If you want to try an intermediate to advanced trick, attach a grizzly saddle hackle to the hook before the loop and try to incorporate it into the dubbing loop rather than trying to palmer wrap it later.)

The dubbing used on this fly can be varied. For two thirds of the body you want some olive gray crinkly fur. Norb suggests Arizona Dubblings' Krystal Possum in Dark Olive or Light Sow Bug. (This is opossum mixed with crystal flash. He found it at the Trout Fly in Mammoth.) He also has used brown or olive seal or seal imitation - Angora goat). The front third of the dubbing loop is Olive Ice Dubbing, with a few strands of Red SLF Polyester. On some flies he uses Quick Descent Red Dubbing - which is fine shredded aluminum.

Now to make the sparse dubbing loop: Take a small pinch of the opossum dubbing and put it in your Velcro mixing paddles or pull on them to get the fibers close to parallel. Carefully lay about 3/4 inches of sparse dubbing fibers at right angles onto

to the sticky waxed thread close to the hook shank. Pinch out a smaller bunch of Olive Ice Dubbing, pull to make parallel strands and place about 1/4 inch section on the sticky wax. Add a few strands of Red SLF at the end and spin the dubbing tool. The fibers will spin up to a fine rope with long fibers to the sides. Use your bodkin or a small comb to separate any trapped fibers before you start. If it is too thick in places pull out some of the fibers. (If you used the grizzly hackle option, prepare by pulling down on the barbs to separate, just put the long hackle parallel to and between the two threads and on top of the dubbing before you spin the loop.)

Remember we want this fly sparse and translucent, this will require not too much dubbing and more open wraps than you may be used to. Wrap the dubbing loop forward pulling the long fibers back after each wrap. If you planned it right the red dubbing should end just behind the bead. Secure with a few wraps of thread and trim off the tag end of the loop.

Cut and trim two sections of Mylar tape about 1/4 inch long for the cheeks. Cut and taper one end of the Mylar, with the point up. Attach the Mylar on each side behind the glass bead and make a few secure wraps. Secure the cheeks to the side of the body with a small drop of Goop or Dave's Flexament. Whip finish behind the bead head and add a small drop of head cement or super glue.

The next step is to take your bodkin or needle and pick out any trapped fibers. Try to pull up or down on the long fibers to make this fly have a flat vertical fish shape. Use your scissor tips to trim out some fibers if it is too full. It should be about as sparse as Tom Loe's Punk Perch. Hold it up to the light and you should be able to see the 1/16 inch body around the hook shank.

Norb says "I have tied a lot of these without the ice dub and red fibers and they seemed to work okay. I'm not sure that the additional detail is effective, but it looks nice. I fish the thing primarily with an intermediate, clear Camouflage fly line and I think even additional weight would be helpful. Finally based

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## Fly of the Month

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on my last Crowley trip last year and the success I enjoyed on the Owens with a Yellow Hornberg, I'm not sure that an appropriately sized Hornberg would not be just as effective. The red head seems to be important. I tie an Olive Woolly Bugger that has been really effective on Lake Miramar using a copper bead painted red."

John Beckstrand asked me if I could take some better pictures of the Spitz Perch. These two photos were taken in natural sunlight and I picked out the long fibers a little more. Note the Mylar Flash gill plate is made from that semi clear bluish Mylar, not the silver and gold Mylar strips..

Note there are six or seven strands of pearl chartreuse Krystal flash on the topside of the olive marabou tail.

The loop dubbed body of fine Arizona Dubbing Company's Krystal Opossum. The dubbing is very fine but does not clump. The front 1/16 inch of the Krystal Dubbing has some very fine flash. Norb sometimes uses Ice Dubbing just behind the red. He told me that this particular fly has a little too much red in it than his normal pattern. In the photo on the previous page I took some of the red out with Photoshop.



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## Fly Fishing Books at the Library

Robert G. Miller

These new titles are available at the San Diego County library courtesy of your fly fishing club. Order on line, by phone, at your branch or books by mail at any of the above resources. For those in the city library system, we ordered books for you last year. Check your city branch.

|   |               |
|---|---------------|
| FIFTY PLACES TO FISH BEFORE YOU DIE         | 799.124 SAN   |
| FRESHWATER FISHING TIPS                     | 799.11 FRE    |
| INNOVATIVE FLIES AND TECHNIQUES             | 688.79124 BEA |
| NO HATCH TO MATCH                           | 799.124 DST   |
| THE MASTERS ON THE NYMPH                    | 799.1757 MAS  |
| PATENT PATTERNS                             | 688.79124 PAT |
| HAIR HACKLE TYING TECHNIQUES & FLY PATTERNS | 688.79124 MAC |
| CREATIVE FLIES                              | 688.79124 WIL |
| FLY FISHING WOMEN                           | 799.124 KIE   |
| WISDOM OF THE GUIDES                        | 799.124       |
| LEFTY'S FAVORITE FLY-FISHING HOLED          | 799.12 KRE    |
| AT THE GRAVE OF THE UNKNOWN FISHERMAN       | 799.124 GIE   |
| FLY-FISHING IS SPOKEN HERE                  | 799.124       |
| DYEING AND BLEACHING                        | 799.124 FLY   |
| BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO FLY-FISHING             | 799.124CAS    |
| MAYFLIES "TOP TO BOTTOM"                    | 688.79124 STA |





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## Conservation Corner

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- Whenever the Department disseminates information, that information will be developed under strict scientific standards that ensure its quality and integrity, using the best available science and supporting studies....

“Strict scientific standards” require peer review, valid methods for obtaining information, and replication of results. Sweet (1992) conducted a laboratory test to determine whether hatchery trout would eat ATs, AT eggs, or AT larvae. Extrapolating results from an aquarium filled with naïve subjects, where alternative sources of food are not available, is a questionable approach. A better approach would have been to sample the stomach contents of wild trout in their natural habitat. Many such studies have been done, which show that the rainbow trout’s natural diet is overwhelmingly insect-based, with amphibians (no toads) accounting for less than ½ of 1 percent of food items. Sweet’s (1992) study was reported directly to the USFWS and never published in peer-reviewed journals. Not surprisingly, it has never been repeated, casting doubt on the reliability of the laboratory results. I intend to formally challenge the Sweet study with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

### Other news.

1. The Nestle Corporation has laid siege to Northern California’s McCloud River, native home to the most widely stocked rainbow trout on the planet. Nestle intends to build a water bottling plant that will draw some 1,600 acre feet of water annually (1,250 gallons of spring water per minute) from Squaw Valley Creek.

Squaw Valley Creek is a primary tributary of the McCloud, and important spawning habitat on a watershed where considerable spawning habitat is already degraded. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on this project has been released and is available on-line at:

The Draft EIR contains significant errors of fact and omission, not the least of which is that the **100 year** contract given Nestle by the McCloud Community Services Board fails to acknowledge the adverse effects of climate change on the aquifer over the next 50 years. It also fails to address some issues, including:

- Impacts on rainbow trout in Squaw Valley creek and other McCloud tributaries.
- Contingencies for overdraw or water shortages.

Additional information about this water grab is available on-line from

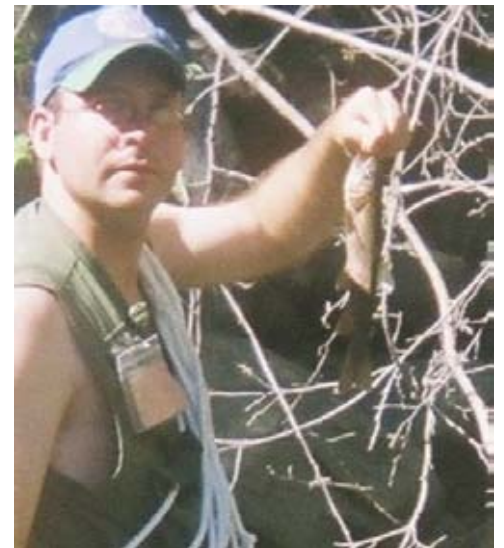
The 45 day period for public comment expires September 12, 2006, after the September general meeting, but before you get this. I hope you took advantage of the draft letter I distributed at the meeting, and faxed it to the Siskiyou County Planning Department, as well as the State Water Resources Control Board.

2. National Hunting and Fishing Day will be observed on September 23, 2006 at Lake Murray. The Club will man a booth there again this year, although our booth will be situated together with the other organizations.

A strong presence at this event is more important this year than ever, as we and other outdoor recreation groups face mounting restrictions on our ability to fish and hunt on public lands waters, and increasing closures of public lands and waters by agency fiat. The Club recently renewed its membership with the San Diego Fish and Wildlife Federation, and we are making common cause with them on the issue of access to public lands and waters.

3. In late May, San Diego Trout attempted to spawn the Sweetwater fish that were temporarily housed at Hubbs Sea World Research Institute. As I reported, that attempt was unsuccessful. Since that attempt, 4 more of these fish have died. And now there are just two fish left, and DFG still hasn’t taken action. And we pay HOW MUCH for a fishing license?

4. Club member Scott Shenk recently sent me the results of several recent trips into San Diego watersheds. Scott grew up in Julian and says that he



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## Conservation Corner

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fished these streams many times starting as a boy. Scott reports finding several groups of 10 to 15, two inch fingerlings in several pools in the upper reaches of a creek that the Forest Service prevented us from stocking. Scott reported that on a trip after the Cedar Fire, he had only seen one adult trout. Apparently there were at least two fish; these fingerlings were the result of natural production, not stocking.

Scott also made the trek down Mendenhall Valley into the Barker Valley area on the West Fork of the San Luis Rey River last month. He reports the trout there are doing well, and provided pictures to prove it. Nice fish, Scott!.

5. Finally, Michael Wall, the San Diego Natural History Museum's new Entomology Curator (and a fly fisherman) will be conducting a class October 10 and 13 on sampling and identifying local aquatic insects. The classroom session is October 10 from 6:30 to 9 p.m., with the field session on October 13 from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost is \$59 for Museum members; \$69 for the rest of us. Register online at

## Mule Train

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idea on how many pack mules it would take to supply 14 people for 5 days? How about 10 mules. My first impression of pack mules was that they are definitely not burros or donkeys. These animals are HUGE and can carry up to 300 pounds of goods. And they were worth every penny we spent on them. Our equipment list



went something like this: two Coleman stoves, three lanterns, two gallons of fuel, 14 foldable chairs, five coolers with food, boxes of drygoods, boxes of cookware, utensils, dishes, cups, etc, two large screen tents, two folding tables, AND tents, Thermarests, sleeping bags, personal clothing, and fly fishing equipment for 14 people. Oh and one shovel for the latrine.

### A Bit of History

Two members of the Band of 14, Al and Bob, have a connection, though distant, to the Bishop Pack Outfitters. Turns out that Al and Bob's mother had a cousin that was married to the original owner of the Bishop Pack Outfitters by the name of Schober. Al and John Schober were pioneers to the area and named many of the lakes in the Sabrina Basin including the Schober Lakes.

Also, Al and Bob's grandfather lived in

Bishop and worked on the construction of the Bishop Creek Lodge (he built the rock chimney which still stands today).

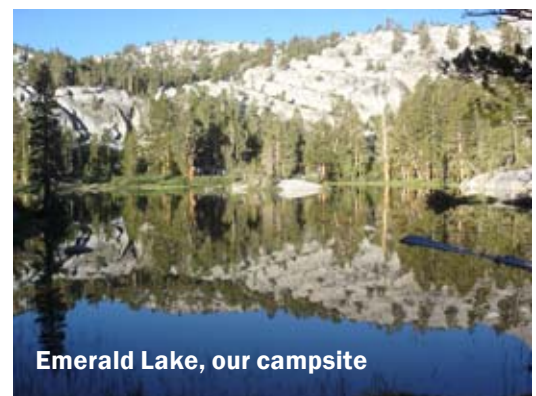
### The Hike

The hike into the Sabrina basin and our campsite at Emerald Lakes was as hard or as easy as you would want to make it. It was a well marked trail all the way. We took off well in advance of the mules and could go easy and still meet the mule train at a designated spot. It's amazing how little distance you need to go before you drop the crowds. The band of 14 was the second group of the season taken in by Bishop Pack Outfitters. As you probably have read, the Eastern Sierra snowpack this year was quite heavy so it was not until the second week of July that the mules were able to get into the backcountry. There still was some snow but mostly at the outer reaches of the basin.

The backcountry is filled with unbelievable beauty. Words cannot describe.

### This is Camping?

Well I guess you have figured out by now that this was not going to be any ordinary pack in trip. This is more like car camping without the car, without the crowds, without the noise, etc. Our tour, I mean trip, organizers, Al



Emerald Lake, our campsite

continued on next page





## Mule Train

continued from page 1

and Bob (they are brothers by the way), had a menu that my single brother Rich would comment saying that he doesn't even eat this well at home. For breakfast: orange juice, milk, coffee, omeletts to order with ham, cheese, onions, tomatoes, sausage, pancakes; for lunch: sandwiches of ham, beef, turkey, salami, and every granola, fruit and health bar known to man; for dinner: beef stew, spaghetti, beef stroganoff, fresh salad with lettuce, bell peppers, romano tomatoes. Joe commented that this was the first pack trip he ever took where he gained weight.

We set up camp at Emerald Lakes which is about 3.5 miles from the trailhead at Lake Sabrina. From this location we could take day hikes to other streams and lakes in the basin. This worked out quite well. Temperatures were in the mid-70's during the day and mid-40's during the night. And we did not see a single cloud the entire week we were there.

### Fishing-The Bite is On

Oh yeah, we did do a little fishing too. And in this case it was a lot of catching. Literally every spot we fished, we



caught fish. Not to say that they were lunkers, but it was a whole lot of fun catching brookies and rainbows on dry flies, wet flies, streamers and nymphs.

It gave me a lot of practice on casting and catching trout on dry flies, which in the past I have not done much of. Unfortunately no golden trout were caught in this area. They are in a different area and at a higher altitude. We fished on the streams and at the inlets and outlets of the lakes. No tubing really necessary; as a matter of fact no getting wet was really necessary. You could fish from the bank and do just fine.

A funny little side story: On the way back from Dingleberry Lake, I borrowed Rick's rod since it was already set up with a dry fly—a Royal Wulff—that was quite beaten up from all of the fish caught on it. I used it on one of the streams flowing out of Emerald Lake. Anyway on one section of the stream I saw a fish duck under an undercut bank. I tossed the fly upstream and felt a bite. No catch but it confirmed my assessment of the fish being there. Another cast got hung up on some rocks. A hard tug and the wonder fly was gone. Oh well it served us well. I tied on a little nymph and went back to casting. This time no rock but a fish. I pulled the fish out of the water and what was in its mouth but the dry fly I had lost just minutes before. What are the odds?

### Mosquitos-The Bite is On...Us

The only major drawback to the entire trip was the proliferation of mosquitos. The mosquitos were everywhere. The pack guides said before our trip that the area we were going to "was a little buggy". A little buggy? What an understatement! I thought the bugs were going to carry me away. Repellant and a mosquito headnet were an absolute

must. I am sure I got more mosquito bites than trout bites.

### Nighttime Entertainment

So what do you do at night in the wilderness where you can't build any campfires? You play cards by the light



of a lantern and you do satellite spotting.

Al got the schedules from heavensabove.com for satellites that would be traversing the night sky over our campsite each night. I was normally sacked out by nightfall but on the last night I did some satellite spotting amongst all of the stars.

### Postscript

In conclusion I would have to say that this was much more than just a fishing trip. On the last day I fished only a couple of hours and decided to just hike around. It was a great opportunity to test out my Garmin GPS unit. For the entire week I saw only four people who were not part of the Band of 14. We saw maybe a half-dozen more on the trail back. Imagine having an entire stream or an entire lake all to yourself. Well it's back to reality for now. I'm looking to go back up next year, even if it's just an overnigher.



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## Trick-or-Treat...San Diego Fly Fishers?



**The Trick :** Finding 24 NEW volunteers to sign up at our October meeting to be meeting hosts for 2007. New members especially, this is a terrific job. You only have to work 47 minutes at one meeting, Wow! This job requires that you come a few minutes early (6:30 PM) to help set-up chairs, name tags, and audio-visual equipment and stay after a few minutes to help put things away.



**The Treat :** Giving back to SDFF in return for the wonderful benefits of club membership, such as field trips, prizes, classes, clinics, speakers, newsletters, and conservation opportunities.



**Warning :** Check your calendar before the October meeting and be prepared to sign-up.

No need to know what you will be doing in 2007. If you cannot attend your scheduled meeting, call and trade with other hosts.

A schedule together with directions on how to set-up and breakdown will appear in a future *Finny Facts*.

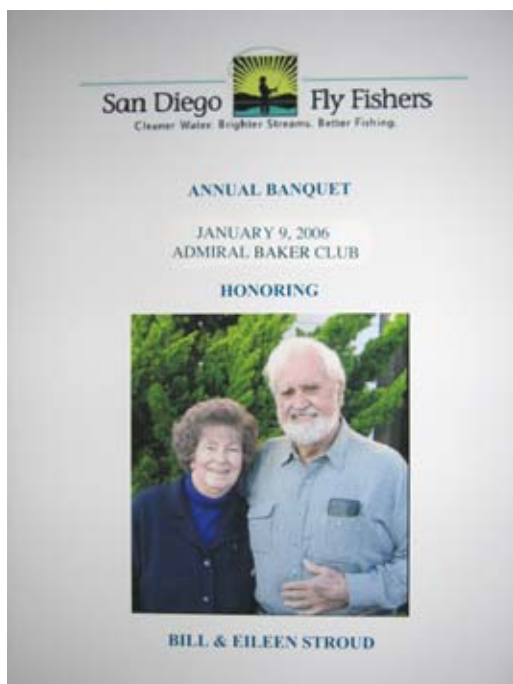
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articles---Friday October 13th.

Send articles to:  
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You can E-mail at [finnyfacts@gmail.com](mailto:finnyfacts@gmail.com) Thanks!!

Send change of address information,signup for  
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For unselfish and outstanding service  
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| 1992-Bob Camp             | 2000-Tom Smith             |
| 1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud | 2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki |
| 1994-Ed Velton            | 2002-Larry Sorensen        |
| 1995-Bob Wisner           | 2003-Jim Tenuto            |
| 1996-Gary Hilbers         | 2004-Joe Bain              |
| 1997-Jack Bentley         | 2005-Jim Reeg              |
| 1998-Gordie Zimm          |                            |



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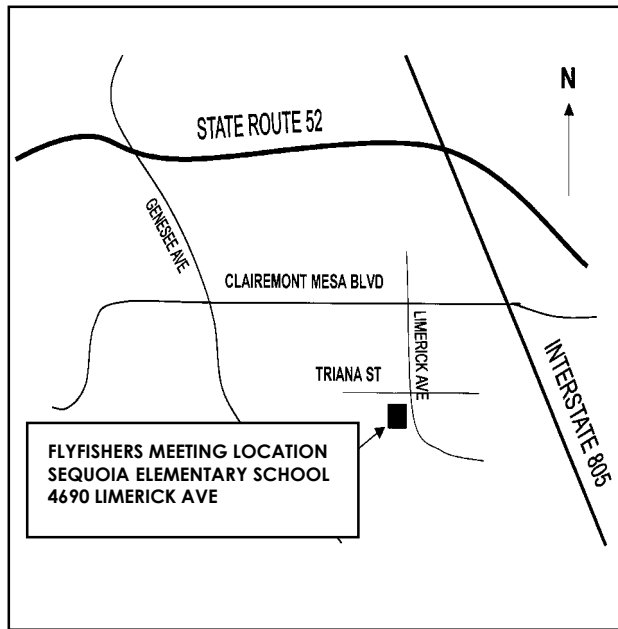
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 Rose & Roger Yamasaki  
 5415 Lodi Place, San Diego  
 92117, 858-274-2712  
 E-mail:  
 finnyfacts@gmail.com  
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Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. (We no longer meet at the Lake Murray Water Training Facility at Lake Murray). The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to the lake. Instead of turning into Kiowa, keep going on Lake Murray Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go down three blocks and the recreation center will be on your right. It is on the corner of Lake Adlon and Lake Badin.



San Diego Flyfishers Headquarters  
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 1457 Morena Blvd.  
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