

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

SEPTEMBER 2004

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 9, No. 9

September Speaker

San Diego River Focal Point for Our Community

Note due to the Labor Day Holiday, our September meeting will be on the second Monday: September 13.

Guest Speaker at our September meeting will be **Doug Wescott**, Development Assistant for the San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF).

He will be presenting an overview of the San Diego River today, and what actions and initiatives the SDRPF is taking to enhance the River as a focal point for the community. Doug is also the Development Assistant at the San Diego Archaeological Center. He is a long time San Diego resident and an avid outdoorsman. He has even done some fly fishing with his dad, Vern. I'm sure you will find his presentation captivating.

REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for the September meeting
(report at 6:15 PM):

**Jim Castelluzzo and
Dick Mount**

Thank you, Mona Morebello


California Trout Presents

The Third Annual Southern California Celebration Dinner

*Tuesday, October 26th,
6:00 – 10:00pm in Pasadena*

This year, CalTrout and you, our supporters, have a lot to celebrate for the protection and restoration of waters near and dear to Southern California's anglers.

We will also have representatives from the San Diego Stream team displaying information on their efforts to monitor the health of our local streams.

Whether you fish for trout at Cuyamaca, bass in the local rivers or estuaries, saltwater fish on our beaches or bays, or if you are just interested in our local riparian habitats, this meeting is for you. 

CALIFORNIA TROUT



KEEPER OF THE STREAMS

CalTrout has established an office in Mammoth Lakes with a full time manager to spearhead our efforts to protect Hot Creek, the Upper Owens, East Walker, Owens Gorge and other key watersheds. We have also launched the Golden Trout Project thanks to generous public donations that are matched by Orvis and the National Fish & Wildlife Foundation. Join us to celebrate these accomplishments and more!

CalTrout's 2004 Celebration Dinner features two of the most prominent contributors and ambassadors to the world of fly fishing. To provide the proper venue for this special occasion, CalTrout has reserved the entire, critically acclaimed Twin Palms Restaurant in easy to reach Pasadena. Please mark your calendar.

Lani Waller's amazing book, *River of Dreams*, will "premiere" at this event and all guests will receive a complimentary copy. According to Dave Whitlock, who wrote the introduction

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, September 13th, 2004

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School
4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

continued on page 6

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SEPTEMBER 2004

At the risk of being somewhat repetitive, I have included a copy of a really nice thank you letter received from Heidi Gutknecht the Park Ranger at Chollas Lake Park (See next page). Heidi thanks the club for our generous donation and our members for donating their time. **Joe Bain** started this program and is now being helped by

Gary Hilbers, Paul Woolery, and Dick Mount and I am sure

others she did not mention. The funds we provide Chollas Lake are part of our annual Education and Conservation effort, which is primarily funded by the Annual Raffle. It is really great to see how our donation of cash and the time of our members truly make a difference in the lives of these children. Great job!

This month's program will feature the San Diego River Foundation, another organization whose efforts we have supported with a contribution from our Education and Conservation funds. Please plan to attend so you can see what this group is doing to improve fishing in our own back yard.

I hope you enjoyed the August meeting, which featured many of the



GEORGE GATES

talented fly tiers from our club. Thanks to **Gary Hilbers** for organizing the meeting and to **Louie Zimm** for filling in for me while I went fishing for the first time this year.

I can't believe this was my first trip of the year. But that is what a demanding work

schedule can do to your fishing. So I decided to treat myself to a couple of days at Hot Creek Ranch. It was quite a luxury and education for someone who usually fishes freestone Sierra stream where the fish eat about anything you offer. All those stories about picky trout are true. You can spend a lot of time changing your fly until you "maybe" figure out what they want. My best fish, a 14-inch rainbow required 5 fly changes and several dozen casts.

One particular pool, which I visited both

mornings, was most educational (frustrating). Some fish would only take caddis while others would only take a mayfly. The fly not only had to be the right bug, it had to be in the right stage of the bug's life or death in the case of spinners. Also, the bigger fish assumed the same lie each day and would only rise to the right fly delivered perfectly into an area of a few square inches. It is a challenge, but very rewarding if you succeed.

In reading the newsletters of several other clubs, I learned that they do annual trips to the ranch. I hope to return again next year, so if you are interested perhaps we can plan a club trip. It is truly a unique place which should be visited if you ever have the chance.

Again, our next program is the San Diego River Foundation, I hope to see you there and learn what is being done to improve fishing here at home.

2004 Annual Banquet Set for December 7th

The Annual Banquet Committee has been hard at work to secure a location for the San Diego Fly Fishers Awards Banquet. This year's affair will be held on Tuesday, December 7th at the Clubhouse at the Admiral Baker golf course. Stay tuned for more details.

Great Opportunity Awaits

Have computer skills? Want to know your fellow clubmembers better? The position of membership chairman will be available in January 2005.

Please call Gordie Zimm for details on how you can be a valuable working member of our club.



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Chollas Lake Park, 6350 College Grove Drive, San Diego, CA 92115, (619) 527-7683

July 17, 2004

Mr. George Gates President
San Diego Fly Fishers

Dear Mr. Gates:

We at Chollas Lake Park would like to let you know how much we greatly appreciate all of the support from the San Diego Fly Fishers.

It all began a few years back, with members of the SDFF helping out at STAR/PAL's Annual Fishing Derby. They had so much fun that they decided to have a SDFF booth at the Derby every year, to help out the hundreds of kids who participate in it.

Next, the club provided a generous donation of \$500, to help build an educational fishing kiosk. This kiosk has been a big hit with both children and adults alike, and has helped to spark a greater interest in the sport of fishing.

The SDFF then generously donated old fishing equipment, and paid for more new equipment, to help supply the increased demand for the children's free Fishing Clinics. Four SDFF members Joe Bain, Gary Hilbers, Paul Woolery and Dick Mount have also been volunteering their time each week to help run the clinics on Sundays. Thanks to their extra help, it is hoped that the clinics will now be able to have expanded hours of operation, in order to reach even more kids!

All of these wonderful accomplishments truly could not have been made without your help. As Joe Bain likes to say, "Let's get kids hooked on fishing, not drugs!" Thanks to the continued support from the SDFF, we are proud to say that goal is being achieved here at Chollas Lake.

Gratefully,

Heidi Gutknecht
Park Ranger

Developed Regional Parks Division. Park and Recreation
2125 Park Boulevard. San Diego, CA 92101.4792 Tel (619) 235.1100 Fax (619) 235.1160



Some Recent Info on the Zebra Mussel

Years ago I reported on the damage being done to the East and Central shipping states by its breeding habits. The zebra snail is a hitchhiker from Europe in the holds of vessels using fresh to brackish water as ballast. It breeds almost constantly and deposits its eggs anywhere, even on each others shells; and there they grow into a lump, or ball, that if in a tube or pipe will soon plug it up, stopping all liquid flows. It has and continues to, cost civic centers' industry billions of dollars annually to keep needed pipes open. It packs into such tight masses that chemicals scarcely get through. Electromagnetic radiation is the most effective killing tool, but only when in dense masses such as clogged industrial pipes.

A promising control is a common soil bacterium, *Pseudomonas fluorescense*. So far it appears to be harmless to the live freshwater mussel species. If it proves toxic only to zebra mollusks, we're in luck. Our other problems with our much smaller pests (Whirling Disease and the New Zealand Mud Snail) could use such a lucky find. But a period of tests on fishes and native freshwater mollusks must be made to check for efficacy. Thus far, damage to local fisheries consist of eating their algal food, and in paving firm bottoms with mussels,

causing a pile-up of shells into reefs possibly of beneficial to the trout present and us fly flingers.



BOB WISNER

miles long. Today, however, at least five streams in northeastern Iowa now hold naturally reproducing brookies, and more may come on line thanks to an important restocking program by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Iowa has only 105 trout streams, and all are located in nine northeastern counties, an area of limestone bluffs and cold-water creeks. The state sits at the Far Western edge of brook trout range, and the Iowa brookie is genetically distinct from those in neighboring Minnesota and Wisconsin. So when the brook trout situation became critical, the Iowa natural Heritage Foundation stepped up to the plate, buying much of the land surrounding the headwaters of South Pine Creek. By 1996 the DNR was collecting and fertilizing native brook trout eggs to raise at their Manchester Fish Hatchery.

"Brook trout are very particular about

where they live," said DNR fisheries biologist Bill Kalishek, who oversees the reintroduction program. So the DNR sought out streams where water purity, temperature and substrate quality seemed optimum. They also selected streams without brown trout, which out-compete brookies for food and habitat. That last requirement was "difficult to do," Kalishek noted, "because there are a number of brown trout (populations) naturally reproducing in many streams."

"The next step (in the program) may be more radical," Kalishek said. "It may be we're going to go to some streams and remove the brown trout first, and then reintroduce the brook trout."

Brian McCombie
Fly Rod & Reel, March 2004, Vol 26,
No. 1, p. 14
[http://www.flyline.com/
NZ_mudsnail.htm](http://www.flyline.com/NZ_mudsnail.htm) Retrieved May 26,
2004

The New Zealand Mudsnail
Potamopyrgus antipodarum
Prepared by Ralph Cutter

California School of Flyfishing

There is a tremendous amount of pseudo-science surrounding the New Zealand mud snail. Even "authorities" are repeating untested, untried, and simply untrue information. This page has been fact-checked by some of the world's top mud snail experts.



San Diego River Park Foundation

Envision, if you will, the opportunity to hike, bike, ride or fish all the way from Mission Bay to the mountains! The **San Diego River Park Foundation (SDRPF)** plans to make that possible.



GARY STRAWN

San Diego resident and an avid outdoorsman. He has even done some fly fishing. I'm sure you will find his presentation captivating.

The SDRPF is a community-based grassroots non-profit organization, founded in 2001. Their primary mission is to work

Doug Wescott (you may recognize that last name), Development Assistant for the SDRPF will be the guest speaker at our September meeting. He will be presenting an overview of the River today, and what actions and initiatives the SDRPF is taking to enhance the experience and bring back the River as a focal point for the community, for active and passive recreation and for native habitat. Doug is the Development Assistant at both the SDRPF and the San Diego Archaeological Center. He is a long time

with and support community groups and other organizations dedicated to the San Diego River and the River Park and its wildlife, recreation, water, cultural and community values. The SDRPF supports projects which help to establish a river-long park while restoring and enhancing the River, providing greatly needed community facilities and opportunities to learn about our region's rich history, encouraging stewardship of the riparian environment, and improving the lives of those that live, work and play in the area. The SDRPF is also dedicated to



making the San Diego River a truly treasured regional asset that is valued by all members of our community. They welcome and encourage everyone who is interested to join in this effort.

The SDRPF chairs the San Diego River Coalition of groups and organizations with a common interest in the San Diego River. Together they have been instrumental in increasing awareness and influencing the direction and ordinances of the various city, County,

continued on next page



San Diego River Park


continued from previous page

State and Federal government agencies with concerns and jurisdictions along the River. You may have read recently that the City of San Diego has recently released its draft of the draft master plan for the City of San Diego portion of the River Park. The SDRPF has also purchased several pieces of important property along the San Diego River watershed, including the recent purchase of the 110 acre property known as "Eagle Peak Preserve." With stunning views overlooking the San Diego River, near Cedar Creek Falls and Mildred Falls

this property is a treasure!

As the SDRPF continues to raise citizen awareness of the River and to influence the various property owners and cognizant government agencies in the value of this natural resource, I believe there is an opportunity for us to raise awareness of the potential of the River as a recreational fishery. The SDRPF staff is very receptive to the addition of fishing as a recreational use of the River, however, I can find no reference to fishing access in the master plan. I am assured that this is

not intentional! It merely reflects the lack of public awareness of this potential.

San Diego Fly Fishers has been an active supporter of the SDRPF donating \$750 in 2003 and supporting the San Diego River Day Celebration earlier this year. I believe we can be a driving force in including fishing access as a recreational priority. **Please come to our September meeting and learn about the wonderful changes taking place on our local River.** 


New Zealand Mudsail

continued from page 4

Description: A brown to black very small (maximum size of 5 mm) mudsnail with sharply conical shell with five (rarely 6) spirals.

The small size and 5 spirals are distinguishing characteristics for layman's field identification.

Natural history: A native to New Zealand, the New Zealand mud snail (NZMS) lives in a variety of habitats ranging from estuaries and lakes to large rivers and small streams. It feeds on bottom dwelling algae (periphyton) and detritus. The mudsnail can reproduce sexually or through the process of parthenogenesis, which produced clones of the adult mudsnail. In its native waters the mud snail population is primarily kept in check by trematode (small worm) parasites that sterilize the snail or change mud snail behavior making it more likely that mudsnails are eaten by foraging waterfowl.

Around 1986 the mud snail is thought to have been imported from New Zealand into a hatchery in Idaho from which it was widely disseminated through trout stocking. This Western American strain is clonal and apparently did not bring the normally associated trematode parasites with it. Without its natural enemies, the snail is expected to increase its range very rapidly. 

Cal Trout


continued from page 1

to the book, "Lani Waller has been one of those wonderful influences that has touched my life...I suggest that you turn off your cell phone, find some quiet place without distraction and savor each sentence as if it was a real bite of gourmet food...nourishment for the heart, and soul, and mind..."

Mr. Waller is generously donating two individual trips to Silver Hilton Lodge (each valued at more than \$4,000) for steelhead fishing in British Columbia where he will personally guide the winning bidders.

Val Atkinson will display his highly acclaimed angling photographs, including images of our golden trout restoration work and from his recent trip to the Golden Trout Wilderness in the High Sierra. Mr. Atkinson will donate three of his photographs to the event's auction.

Don't miss this special occasion!

For questions and information, please feel free to contact Will Trefry - Event Chairman
or [Bonnie Nealan](#) - CalTrout Development Manager 



FLY OF THE MONTH

CRYSTAL TRUDE

Hook:	Tiemco 5262 - Size #14 , #12 and #10
Thread:	Black 6/0
Tag:	Flat gold tinsel (optional)
Tail:	Golden Pheasant Tippets
Body:	Black Crystal Chenille
Wing:	White Calf Tail (Tied Trude)
Hackle:	Brown or Furnace - dry fly quality



1. De-barb the hook and wrap a layer of thread from behind the hook eye to the bend of the hook. Tie on the tail - it should extend the length of the shank beyond the bend of the hook.

2. Tie in the body material at the base of the tail. Then take the thread to the 1/3 point behind the hook eye. Wrap the body material in close wraps to the where you left the thread. Tie off and trim the excess.

3. Select a bunch of calf tail fibers from the base of the tail. Select a good full bunch. Manipulate the fibers with your fingers to even up the tips. Calf tail fibers do not stack well in a hair stacker. After preparing the calf tail material measure it for length. The tie-in point is 2 eye widths behind the hook eye, and the wing is to extend back to a point approximately half the distance between the bend of the hook and the end of the tail.

4. After measuring the wing, cut it to the proper length and start the tie in at the point which is 2 eyes widths behind the eye. Holding firmly to the material with the thumb and forefinger of your left hand tie it in. DO NOT RELEASE THE MATE-

RIAL UNTIL YOU HAVE WRAPPED IT DOWN SECURILY BACK TO THE FRONT OF THE BODY.

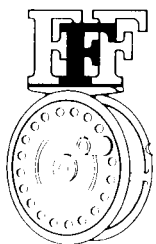
5. Select 2 neck hackles or a good quality saddle hackle of the correct size. Move the thread forward to the tie-in point just behind the eye. Now wrap the hackle forward in close wraps up to the point where you left the thread. If you selected 2 neck hackles you should wrap them both forward at the same time. Tie off and remove the excess.

6. Make a neat thread head, whip finish and examine the fly removing any renegade fibers with your scissors. Apply head cement.

This pattern is a modification of the Rio Grande Trude. I do not tie in the tag and doubt the fish really care. This can be a very productive fly. It can be fished either wet or dry. I would tie it in sizes 14 through 10. It is not difficult to tie. If you have problems with this pattern or any other pattern I suggest you attend our Thursday evening Tying Congress. Someone will be happy to assist you, and we will be glad to see you.

Good tying, Tom Smith





The Biggest Bass Never Caught

Recently, the wife and I had the opportunity to take a fishing trip down the Wisconsin River. We'd been doing ok, a few here, a few there, your basic river fishing morning, until it happened. We noticed a Pinion tree that seemed to have been struck by lightning near its base leaving it half in the water and its trunk on the sandy shore. I noticed at the shore just under the trunk of the tree the fanning tail of what appeared to be a very large bass. Immediately, I told my wife if you want to catch a big one, cast your fly on the shore along the tree and slowly pull it into the water and that bass will nab it, be careful you don't want to spook it. So she did. Repeat-

edly, with no luck. "Try a different fly," I said. She did over and over—nothing, the bass was just sitting there. Now being the expert I am, I said "Let me have a go at it". Over and over I tried—nothing. That fish was driving us both nuts—couldn't get it to bite on anything. Out of nowhere a midsize grey squirrel appeared on the base of the tree trunk, it had noticed a Pinion nut on one of the branches of the tree about two feet above the water. With its hind legs grasping the trunk of the tree, it leaned forward with its front paws to grab the nut, as soon as its front paws touched that nut the biggest bass I have ever seen in my lifetime blew up, jumped completely out of the

water and engulfed that squirrel. Comparatively it looked like a full grown Musky nabbing a May fly. We both fell to our seats looking at each other with our jaws on the floor of the boat thinking, what the #\$\$^ was that! We had never seen a bass so large and capable of doing such a deed. My wife and I both agreed that was the most amazing thing we'd ever seen! Or so we thought. We had been sitting there talking about the enormous size and the astonishing feat of that fish when all of a sudden that same bass came out of the water and placed another Pinion nut on that branch.

UNINTENTIONAL CURVES

by Gary A. Borger *From the Loop*
Fall 1997

One way to make a curve cast is to roll the wrist inward or outward at the end of the casting stroke so that the rod tip describes a "J" pathway (straight for the first part of the stroke and then hooked at the end). It's an effective and easily learned casting method. However, many casters unintentionally make curve casts on both the back stroke and forward stroke, robbing the cast of energy and directing it along a path not desired by the caster. This unintentional curving results from

turning the wrist and/or arm outward on the back stroke and then inward on the forward stroke. The line curves to the angler's left (for a right-handed caster) on both back stroke and forward stroke.

Not only does this casting error reduce casting efficiency (and often tosses the fly into a tree situated well off to the angler's side), but it can be dangerous as well. Just try throwing shot with this tactic, or a big tarpon fly, or an epoxy minnow for pike, or a bass popper. Not fun when that big imitation digs a deep furrow across the back of your neck or imbeds itself firmly in your scalp. A sloppy arm can be cured by having

the student stand with the casting arm next to a wall and running through the casting motion in pantomime with the arm moving parallel to the wall. While a smoothly finished wall is ideal, a rough brick wall works great because it only takes one casting stroke (and a bunch of medical and legal bills) to cure the bad habit....

If the student twists the wrist only (a highly unusual situation) then have the student cast and watch his/her wrist—not the rod, not the line, not you—the WRIST. Have them say, "straight back" (such vocalization aids in the learning process). Very quickly a student can learn to control the movement of the hand and arm and correct the unintentional curves.



FREE CASTING LESSONS EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM--NOON

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available.

Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--

Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive.

Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.

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www.stroudtackle.com
Proprietors
Eileen & Bill Stroud

Cutoff date for **October FINNY FACTS** articles---**Friday September 17th**

Send articles to:
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,
5415 Lodi Place
San Diego, CA 92117
858-274-2712.

Send change of address information, signup for electronic version of newsletter, or Club membership renewal to:

Gordie Zimm

LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill and Eileen Stroud, Bernie Hammes, Hugh Turner, Nancy Pitts, Bob Wisner, Ken Armer, Glen Paul, Betty Coram, Ned Sewell, John Kasten, Leo Bergevin, George Beach, Bob Camp, Marvin Darling, Gene Jerzewski, Oz Osborn, Robbie Robinson, John Gauld

HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

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to the flyfishing community

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1992-Bob Camp
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud
1994-Ed Velton
1995-Bob Wisner
1996-Gary Hilbers
1997-Jack Bentley
1998-Gordie Zimm
1999-Gretchen Yearous
2000-Tom Smith
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
2002-Larry Sorensen
2003-Jim Tenuto



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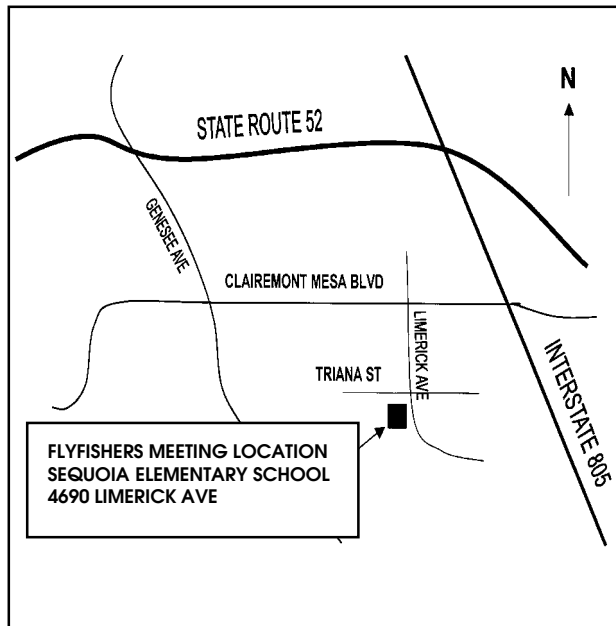
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www.sandiegoflyfishers.com
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Meeting Place for Workshops
 San Carlos Recreation Center near
 Lake Murray. (We no longer meet
 at the Lake Murray Water Training
 Facility at Lake Murray). The address
 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 recrea-
 tion center will be on your right. It
 is on the corner of Lake Adlon and
 Lake Badin.



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