

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

JULY 2006

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 11, No. 7

## July Meeting

## Members Present

The July meeting will be our annual presentations by members of the San Diego Fly Fishers.

Our members are some of the most traveled fly fishers in the world (e.g. see Tom Lucas' article on fishing Tasmania on page 11).

You can look forward to presentations on first-hand experiences on fly fishing in Argentina, Chile, Croatia, and the Catskills.

Another interesting evening is awaiting you. See you there.

### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, July 10th, 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):

**Allan Perry  
and Dick Mount**

*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

## Annual Raffle a Success – Whew!!!!

By Jim Reeg

One of my major sources of gratification with the Club is the steady progress year-to-year in our efforts to contribute financially to local causes that benefit youth fishing programs and improve our local watersheds. This has been made possible, largely, by the funds generated each year from our annual Raffle. I am delighted to say that, due to a total team effort, this year's Raffle will allow us to continue that trend!

Because of the tight schedule on Raffle night, we did not have the time to give credit where credit was due, so I am going to do so now.

First and foremost I want to thank **Bill and Eileen Stroud**. If it wasn't for their generosity and effort, we simply would not have made our goal. In addition to donating the Grand Prize (the brand new Diamond Back split cane rod and matching reel), they also



**Lee Anderson (right) won the grand prize of the evening--a new Diamond Back split cane rod and matching reel.**

donated numerous other major items to both the raffle and silent auction. I also want to thank **Ed Zieralski** for promoting the Raffle in his SD Union column. It had a big impact on attendance and actually resulted in numerous new members. Secondly, I want to thank all of you who donated items and purchased gift certificates for both the Raffle and Silent Auction. You are too numerous to mention individually but we had some great donations.

We also had significant contributions from the following individuals and lodges in random order:

**continued on page 3**

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JULY 2006

*"If people concentrated on the really important things in life, there'd be a shortage of fishing poles."*—Doug Larson

Each month as I finish this *Message* and forward it to **Roger and Rose**, I wonder what in the world will be left to share in the following issue. By the time that opportunity arises, I discover that I have more than enough to fill multiple *Messages*. That speaks volumes about the extent of this Club's activities and involvement.

First and foremost, I would be remiss if I did not echo the "Thank You" extended by **Jim Reeg**, elsewhere in this issue, with regard to the success of our Annual Raffle. Personally, I think the Raffle and Silent Auction prizes were the finest we have had in years and the very positive feedback from many, many members reflects that same opinion. When you look at the long list of contributors, from both within and outside the Club, you begin to appreciate the enormity of planning and presenting this event. **Jim** is most gracious in thanking others for their contributions; please take a moment to thank him for his untiring effort!

You will note you are receiving another *Membership Roster* with this issue. Due to an electronic error, the *Roster* you received last month was not current and, recognizing the importance of the *Roster* to all of you, your Board felt it best to re-distribute the corrected version to everyone.



**LEE McELRAVY**

The International Game Fish Association has acknowledged the need for additional youth fishing activities at Chollas Lake and has made a commitment toward achieving that goal in a variety of ways. Mike Rivkin, acting on behalf of the Association and a separate private foundation, is organizing a catfish tournament for the kids at Chollas on August 26th. Although still in the planning stages, a number of organizations have already weighed-in to assist in this event and your Board of Directors has made a similar commitment on behalf of our Club. Please reserve this date and look for additional information on this tournament in the next *FINNY FACTS*. I believe our involvement will be similar to what we regularly contribute for the annual February Star/Pal Derbies and we are going to need your help, again, to ensure a successful event for these kids.

**Steve Piper**, a loyal member of our Club and President of the Golden State Flycasters, has asked me to extend the following invitation to everyone. On Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, Jason Borger, one of the "casting doubles" from "*A River Runs Through It*," will be conducting a casting clinic in Solana Beach. There will be a morning session for novices and an afternoon session for intermediate and advanced casters. The cost is \$50.00 per session and registration is limited to eight students in each session. If you are in-

terested in registering, you can contact **Steve** at In addition, Mr. Borger will be the speaker at the G.S.F. general meeting on Monday July 17<sup>th</sup> and you have all been invited to come and hear his presentation.

Finally, the program for our meeting on August 7<sup>th</sup> will be our annual Fly Tyers Night. Several of our newer members have asked if they must be an experienced tyer to contribute, and the answer is a resounding "No!" This is a great opportunity to share your patterns and your practices and watch others do the same, regardless of your level of expertise.

And I'm out of space (again). Remember, due to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July weekend, our next regular meeting is on July 10<sup>th</sup>. See you there!

*Lee McElravy* 



**Six dozen flies tied by Eileen Stroud valued at \$185. One of the many prizes at the annual raffle/auction.**



---

## Annual Raffle

continued from page 1

**Conway Bowman** - Mako shark trip  
**Tom Loe/Sierra Drifters** – Trophy trout pond and Crowley Lake flies

**Eileen Stroud** – Six dozen beautiful hand tied trout flies

**Berry Pecharsky** – Beautiful hand made pottery

**Bill Stroud** – Fantastic hand made trout rod with case

**Pete Picone** – A San Diego Bay day trip

**Jeff Solis** – A day in the local surf

**Falcon Ledge Lodge** – Lodging and guide discount

**Rainbow Tarns Lodge** - Lodging discount

**The Evening Hatch Fly Shop** – Lodging and guide discount

**Flaming Gorge Lodge** – Lodging and guide discount

**Captain Louie Zimm** - A day on the SD Bay and a new Rod

**Art Teeter** – A 2fer in Northern California

Times are hard for all of us, but especially the companies that are trying to compete and survive in our sport. None-the-less the following

companies came through big time:

**Mel Kreiger Enterprizes** – Casting Tapes

**Ross Reels** – Merchandise discount

**Simms** – Wader discount

**Renszetti** – Merchandise discount

**Dr. Slick** – Plyers and fly tying tools

**G. Loomis** – Merchandise discount

**St Croix** – Merchandise discount

**Regal Engineering** – Merchandise discount

**Countrysport press** – First edition books

**Winston Rod** – Merchandise discount

**Bauer Reels** – Merchandise discount

**Umpqua** – A fantastic assortment of bass flies with exotic NZ wood box

**Mustad** – 6 boxes of assorted trout flies

**Jim Teeny Enterprises** – Steelhead fly line

In past years when it came to the Raffle the 20/80 rule turned into the 10/90 rule.....not the case this year. The Master of Ceremonies, Bill Stroud, did his usual magnificent job aided by **Jim Tenuto**. The entire Board and many others made significant contributions as well. Jim Tenuto, **Warren Lew** and **Paul**

**Woolery** came to the rescue early with help on vender and ticket mailings. **Lee McElravy** and **Gary Strawn** organized and handled the Silent Auction. **Jonathan Hee**, **Lucky Ketchum**, **Roger** and **Rose Yamasaki** and **David Collins** (our ever diligent web administrator) worked successfully on promoting the raffle. **George Gates**, **Louie Zimm**, **Art Reifman**, **Jack Bentley**, **Bruce Cambell** and **Al Venton** worked on gathering silent auction trips and items. **Shelly Wagoner** and **Gordie Zimm** sold tickets (they were much harder to say no to and much easier to trust with the money). My lovely and patient wife, **Sue**, put up with me working on this for months and, along with **Eileen Stroud**, organized raffle gifts on raffle night. **Maria Goldman** made sure we had the proper nutrition (mostly caffeine and sugar) and is the caretaker of unclaimed prizes. **Sam** and **Mona Morebello** did the record keeping on raffle night to keep track of the winners.

Speaking of winners, last but not least I want to thank all of you who bought tickets and participated in the silent auction. **Your generosity made all of our efforts pay off.**





## SDFF Absentee Winners List

	Gift#	Item Description	Winner
1	1	Mel Kreiger Fly Casting Video Tapes	Mark S
2	6	Simms Back Belt	Andy Castlione
3	7	Rensetti Travelers Vice	Mike Morse
4	8	Hackles/Fly Box	Frank Brainard
5	13	Vest	Larry Alameda
6	15	St Croix Avid Rod 8 1/2 ft for 4wt 4pc	Ansel Waltrous
7	16	\$25 Stroud Gift Certificate and Book	Tom Mitchel
8	18	Orvis Waders	Floyd Lee
9	19	Dry Flies/Vest Tools	Don Davis
10	23	Travel Vice w/Tools	Lynn Moon
11	24	\$50 Stroud Gift Certificate & John Gierach Book	Dennis Remiland
12	25	Net/Fingerless Gloves	Nancy Pitts
13	32	Lanyard and Book	Ken Sloan
14	33	Orvis Waders	Ken Sloan
15	38	Flying Tying Travel Bag	Jack Duncan
16	53	Orvis Stripping Basket	Floyd Lee
17	67	Lanyard and Book	Bud Olsen
18	68	Sun Glasses and Sun Gloves	Jim Murphy
19	69	Rod/Reel Case	Jason Graham

These prizes must be claimed by the August 7th general meeting. Any prizes remaining unclaimed at the end of the August meeting will be utilized by the Club at a later date for a raffle or auction. Prizes may be picked up at the July or August meeting or by making arrangements with **Jim Reeg** to pick them up prior to the August meeting.

*Here is an article about the trip that Keith Ballard and I won in the silent auction at last year's fund raiser*

*-Al Molinare*

### A Tale from Last Year's High Bidder: Harrison Ranch House Near Livingston, Montana

Last year Keith Ballard and I had high bid on the four night Spring Creek package at Dan Vermillion's Harrison Ranch House near Livingston Montana.

After committing to a plane fare (Delta, SAN-SLC-BIL) we were informed that the package airport transfer would only be honored from the closer Bozeman, a much higher air price. We had to rent a car for five days;

this turned out to be a good thing. The ranch house was not near the rivers we fished and having the car gave us more options. Transportation was involved in all four fishing days, 25 to 60 minutes to the water. Floating the Yellowstone day four the car bought us about two hours of great fishing in the afternoon as our guide would have had to allow time to shuttle us back to Harrison House then return home to

Livingston. Best of all we took a drive through Yellowstone Park before heading for home Friday.

We waded Boulder River on arrival day afternoon, no guide, pretty much skunked, Keith had a few hook-ups. Back to the ranch to meet Tandy our cook for the week (fabulous cook, I should say). She took care of us breakfast, lunch and dinner including beer, some very fine wine and good company.

The second day we waded the famous dePuy Spring Creek guided by Dan Vermillion, a very nice but blustery day,



**Keith and Charlie on the Yellowstone River in April 2006**



**T**he people involved in trying to restore the trout fishing to the Upper Sweetwater River were thrilled two weeks ago. Allen Greenwood contacted all of us to tell us that Don Kent had given the go-ahead to use Hubbs Sea World Research Institute facilities to attempt spawning the surviving native coastal rainbows captured for the Chula Vista Nature Center in 1997. Those of us familiar with the spawning habits of the Sweetwater trout resisted the impulse to shout for joy, because these fish usually spawn in mid-March or early April, and had shown signs of sexual readiness during a visit to HSWRI in mid-March.

At the appointed hour, 1:30 p.m. on May 16, representatives of interested organizations gathered at HSWRI to witness and record the event. Mr. Paul Curtis of Aqua Solvers, Inc. was present as the trout biologist orchestrating the spawn, assisted by Shane Hughes of HSWRI. Besides me, John Lopez of the Chula Vista Nature Center, Allen Greenwood of San Diego Trout, and Sr. Jose Rivera, a trout biologist from Mexico, also attended the event. Notably absent were ANY natural resource managers: no repre-

## **Fish Sex!**

sentatives of the California Department of Fish and Game (who are supported partly by San Diego license fees), the Cleveland National Forest, or the Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. Draw your own conclusions.

Paul Curtis began by capturing some males and checking their readiness. All were producing milt (sperm). He then followed up by attempting to express eggs from three females. The first two females Paul sampled had completely re-absorbed their eggs. He then netted Big Mama and expressed eggs from her, perhaps as many as 2,300 eggs altogether. Regrettably, tragically, we were too late. None of the eggs were viable; all were in the process of being resorbed by Big Mama. Paul believes that this year's egg production could have been saved if DFG officials had authorized the spawn during the January meeting with the San Mateo Steelhead Recovery Group. What now? HSWRI has agreed to transfer (gratis) the tanks, chillers, and filtration systems currently being used to support the trout, as well as the



**BRUCE CAMPBELL**

spawning trays. Paul Curtis will set up the tanks in an environment where both light and water temperature can be controlled, and after a short summer rest, will begin reducing temperature and lighting to induce another spawn in six to 8 months. We have data from the stream loggers, which will enable us to mimic the temperature profile the Sweetwater trout evolved in.

What can you do? Write to Governor Swartzenegger, the Director of CA DFG (Ryan Broddrick), and DFG's Region 5 Manager, Larry Eng. Let them know how YOU feel about preserving the historic NATIVE fishery in the upper Sweetwater River.



## **Montana**

**continued from page 4**

we had to leave spawning beds alone and only caught a couple, very technical nymphing in windy conditions.

We floated the shallow Stillwater Creek, day three, with Charlie Conn in his rubber drift boat, very fun. He's a great guide and oarsman. His wry sense of humor had barbless barbs zinging around the boat as much as our

inept wind casting did. Lots of fish, browns and rainbows with a few cutthroat and whites mixed in.

Day four with Charlie on the very majestic Yellowstone River, again, many fish, mostly smaller with a few beauties in the 16" range.

We lucked out on the weather, some cold and wind but very do-able conditions over all. April 10 marginally risky

for Montana and dry flies weren't happening. A little later date would be better. The date set on the package was not made flexible for us but we enjoyed our season shake down cruise very much. The insane vistas of the Crazy Mountains alone were worth the bargain price. I'm looking forward the June 5<sup>th</sup> fundraiser to see what we can hook up this time. Any Vermillion (Sweetwater Travel) package would be a good catch.



# The Naturalist's Nook

Bruce Campbell

Last month, I promised that this month would cover the Trichoptera, or caddis flies. Because there are many caddis flies that are important to San Diego anglers, I will begin with the insects that are emerging now: late spring into early summer. While it is intimidating to follow in the footsteps of the late Gary LaFontaine or those of Rick Hafele, here goes!

The fly-fishing renaissance of the past three decades has come about in large part because of advances in our understanding of the Trichoptera, especially in relation to Western fly fishing. Day in and day out, the caddis fly is arguably the most reliable offering that a fly fisherman can present to trout here in the American West. The biology of the caddis has a great deal to do with that fact; the biology of the caddis makes it vulnerable to predation by trout in each of its stages, with few exceptions. And the

caddis has adapted to a much broader range of ecological niches than either stoneflies or mayflies. The distribution of the various families of caddis in a body of fresh water is a useful index to the quality of the habitat.

Unlike stoneflies, not all Trichoptera occur in suitable trout habitat. Trichoptera are also found throughout the Northern Hemisphere, but they live in warm still waters as well as cold running water, and some caddis live in waters where the oxygen content is below the level required by fish. Here in San Diego, Trichoptera are found ONLY in streams. Table One below shows the families and genera of caddis I have collected and identified in San Diego county.

Of the four major insect orders that interest trout and trout fishermen, the most evolutionarily advanced is the caddis fly. Indeed, some evolutionary entomologists think that butterflies evolved from a butterfly-like member of the Trichoptera. Caddis flies are holometabolous (four developmental stages – egg; larva; pupa; adult). This four stage metamorphosis differs from both stoneflies and mayflies, which have only three stages (egg-nymph-adult). The adult is the winged, egg-

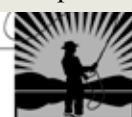
laying stage. Unlike the mayfly imago, adult caddis flies have functional mouth parts and digestive systems – they are able to ingest water, greatly extending their life span. As a result, caddis emergences are often less intense and more prolonged than either Plecoptera or Ephemeroptera, because even a late emerging caddis fly will probably find a suitable mate. The prolongation of the emergence period means that trout have more opportunity to refine their prey image and become more selective.

Caddis flies have two pairs of wings of approximately equal length and form. Unlike the membranous wings of stoneflies, the wings of the caddis are covered with hundreds of fine hairs. The scientific name for the order, Trichoptera, comes from the Greek *tricos*, meaning hair, and *pteron*, meaning wing. These hairs serve two functions for the insect, both of which influence trout predation behavior. First, the hairs help the caddis break through the surface tension, which means that emerging caddis escape the surface very quickly. Trout chase the rising insect toward the surface, pushing a column of water ahead of them. This produces a splashy, noisy rise called the “pyramid rise form” by

Order	Trichoptera (Caddisflies)			
Families	Rhyacophilidae	Hydropsychidae	Lepidostomatidae	Helicopsychidae
Genus	<i>Rhyacophila</i>	<i>Hydropsyche</i> <i>Oecetis</i>	<i>Polycentropus</i> <i>Glossosoma</i>	
Families	Hydroptilidae	Limnephilidae		
Genus	<i>Hydroptila</i>	<i>Unidentified</i>		

Table 1: Trichoptera of San Diego County

continued on next page



**The Naturalists Nook**  
continued from previous page

LaFontaine and other writers. The hairs also make re-entering the water easy for the adult egg-layer, so a damp or drowned imitation can remain effective. Second, the hairs enable the egg-laying adult to retain a sizeable air bubble and prolong its stay under water. The bubble is highly reflective is a potent attraction trigger, increasing the insect's vulnerability to trout. I have seen trout move as much as 6 feet out of their feeding lane to take nymphs and wet fly imitations that incorporate this reflective characteristic.

Trichopteran larvae somewhat resemble butterfly caterpillars—their abdomen is soft and segmented, with anal hooks on the terminal segment. The head of the larva is well-defined and sclerotized; the larva may have a few sclerotized plates (tergites) in the thoracic area. The legs of larval caddis are well defined, ending in a single tarsal claw, similar to Plecoptera. Trichoptera are most easily identified from the features of the larval form.

Caddis flies occupy two main ecological niches: free-living caddis, and case-building caddis (trout will eat case-

builders, rocks, twigs and all). Case-builders can be further broken down into purse makers (silken cases and shelters) and tube-case makers that add sticks, pebbles, or sand grains to the outside of the interior silk tube. Tube cases are flow-through, and these caddis have well-developed external gills that enable them to tolerate habitats with low dissolved oxygen. Caddis flies make their living in one of four ways. Some are predators, and some are herbivorous. Herbivorous caddis flies are specialized as collector, scrapers, and shredders.

Only one family of caddis is exclusively free living: these are the Rhycaphilidae. The most widely distributed and most important genus to trout fishermen is *Rhycaphila*, aka the Green Rock Worm, shown in Figure 1. Most Rhycaphilids are predatory. Because they lack well developed external gills, they roam the bottom and crevices of highly oxygenated white water and riffle areas looking for tasty morsels smaller than themselves. To prevent being swept away in the current, Green Rock Worms anchor a silk lifeline which they grasp with well-developed anal hooks. This ability to make silk evolved into the net spinning and case building behavior of all other

Trichopterans, and is one reason that *Rhycaphila* is considered the most primitive caddis fly. *Rhycaphila* are the ONLY free-living caddis I've found in San Diego. Gary LaFontaine rated *Rhycaphila* as a "3-star" insect because it becomes available to trout as larvae, when swept away in the current; as pupae, rising to the surface to break free of the pupal shuck, and as adults returning to lay eggs.

Net spinners are collectors that build "temporary" silk shelters on the sides and undersides of rocks, extending the end of the shelter to form a fine-meshed silken net. Net spinners are common in gentler currents and slower moving sections of streams that carry high particulate loads. The net either span the gaps between underwater objects, or "self-inflates" in the current. The larva crawls out on to the net to graze on its harvest, whether animal or plant matter. When the larva reaches its final instar, it builds a pupal case inside its rough silken shelter. *Hydropsyche* is a typical net-spinner, often called the Spotted Sedge. As shown in Figure 2, *Hydropsyche* has well developed external gills, including gills on its terminal segment. It is abundant in San Diego's spring creek-like streams, emerging from July through October. Hydropsychids are

Species	Larva	Pupa	Adult
<i>Rhycaphila</i>	Green Rock Worm #12	#14 Green/brown DSP	Green Elk Hair
	Zug Bug #12 - 14	#14 G/b Emergent SP	Caddis (EHC) #12-14
<i>Hydropsyche</i>	#14 GR Hares Ear	#14 Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail	#14 Tan EHC #14 X-caddis (damp)
<i>Oecetis</i>			
<i>Polycentropus</i>	**	#14 Tan/brown DSP #14 Tan/brown ESP	Tan/Yellow X-caddis #12 -14

Table 2 San Diego County Caddis Imitations  
\*\*Imitation not worked out (yet!)

continued on next page





***The Naturalists Nook***  
**continued from previous page**

also abundant in tailwater fisheries throughout the Western United States. Like the rhycaphilids, hydropsychids are three star insects. As larvae, they become available to trout when they rappel on silken threads to “better” locations; as pupae rising to the surface and breaking free of the pupal shuck, and as adults returning to lay eggs. I’ve had pretty good success using a #14 Soft Hackle Pheasant Tail (SHPT) during the *Hydropsyche* emergence. A few weeks ago, I caught and released two 14 inch rainbows on a local creek, one on the SHPT fished in the film, and the other on a #14 Tan/yellow X-caddis.

I have found two different types of Long Horned Sedge, or Lepidostomatidae, here in San Diego County’s streams. I have collected *Oecetis* in Pine Valley Creek, and *Polycentropus* in Pauma Creek. Since the adults of both are of similar size and coloration, I use the same imitations for each. *Oecetis* and *Polycentropus* are predatory. They construct saddle-shaped or tubular silken shelters; when a prey animal

brushes against the alarm threads around the entrance to the shelter, the larva rushes to attack it. The Long Horned Sedge is a two-star fly by LaFontaine’s yardstick – as a larva, it is secure in its silken case, and is unavailable to trout as a food item. Both the Deep Sparkle Pupa and the Emergent Sparkle Pupa are effective, as is the Tan/yellow X-caddis. In my experience, the Long-Horned Sedge is effective locally for more up to two months, usually from early May through July.

Table Two shows the imitations I have used successfully, for the species discussed in this article. Next month, I’ll take up the remaining families of Trichoptera: the Helicopsychidae, the Hydroptilidae, and the Limnephilidae. These typically emerge from mid-summer through the fall months.

**Resources**

G. La Fontaine. Caddisflies. New York: Lyons and Burford, Publ. (1981).  
R. Hafele and D. Hughes. Complete Book of Western Hatches. Portland, OR: Frank Amato Publications. (1981).  
Photos from Troutnut.com (Internet)



**Figure 1 Rhycaphila larva**



**Figure 2 Hydropsyche larva**



***In Memoriam***

**Robert F. Rubel Jr.**

**August 12, 1922 to June 1, 2006**

Robert F. Rubel, Jr. passed peacefully with dignity and grace with his loving family at his side on June 1, 2006 at the age of 83 in San Diego. Born in Chicago, IL on August 12, 1922, he moved to Los Angeles in 1932, attended Beverly Hills High School then UC Berkley, where he played soccer and studied engineering. Joining the Air Force in 1941, he served his country with distinction through 1946, attaining the rank of major.

His many hobbies included woodworking, metal sculpting, and recently watercolor painting. But his true passion was fishing. A successful deep-sea sport fisherman, he ultimately became a skilled flyfisherman, where he felt close to nature while spending time with his beloved comrades of the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Cuyamaca and the High Sierra lakes.





## BARRETT ISN'T ALWAYS ABOUT THE CATCHING

by Gretchen Yearous

The night before Barrett, everyone I know reminisces about the myths each of us has lived – the early years in the mid to late 90's when we caught tens of bass per day. Sleep is fitful. Lucky, Wayne Allen, Bob McKay and myself met at the gate for the 7:00 a.m. caravan feeling smug. I got a coveted reservation for the second week end of the opening month. I had hopes that this would be a good early year catching experience.

The air was damp and cool and the atmosphere was something from the mind of an imaginative author – fog covered the landscape hiding the sun from man and fish. I was pleased to see it and felt this setting encouraged the sense of adventure. Before we jumped back into our vehicles to join the caravan through the gates, Wayne warned me that he has been known to crack a joke or two. Well, Wayne, bring it on!

The sun found us by the time we beached the boat to fish the tree grove at the end of the Hauser arm. We towed 3 u-boats behind our boat that moved like a pregnant elephant. It got hot and we lost as many flies as fish were caught. We each boasted a few nice bluegill and a few small bass between us. Wasn't exactly a giddy experience so we moved on in search of the bass. Pea green water convinced us that maybe the bass were off shore at the drop offs in deeper, hopefully cleaner water.

The bass were still scarce by 2 p.m. and Wayne and I were enjoying a rest at the boat watching Lucky and Bob go opposite directions getting nothing

more than hot and tired. We were delighted with a rest while appreciating what a beautiful day we had. My part of the city had been overcast for weeks and the smiling sunshine and bright blue sky was a gift. We got ready to tow off when Bob started the boat, then put the engine in reverse. The boat moved a foot and then the motor stalled. Bob checked everything and repeated the routine with the same ending. Bob has owned a large ski boat so we trusted his skills in checking out all the possible motor problems. He checked the gas and the gear setting. He even chocked it and it fired up loyally, put it in reverse and then it died. This went on for a scary few minutes. Nobody spoke of the dreaded impossibility of us tubing back to the dock if the boat was out of gas or worse, a "dead motor

God bless Wayne who spoke, "Is the anchor in the boat?" Lucky being the anchor master looked at the three of us and then looked up the hill and said, "Nope." We watched Lucky tug on the rope saying he had lodged the anchor over a shrub limb. The moment quickly switched from laughter to looks of horror. The cement block anchor was crashing down the hillside heading for the boat and the tethered float tubes. I didn't know whether to duck or jump in the water. We finally got out of the cove and again, the motor labors and stops. We hear Bob say, "Oops". Not a good sound. One of the tether ropes had wrapped around the motor.

Finally made our 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> stop and Bob caught our biggest bass – 1 ½ pounds. I told him it wasn't intentional that the picture of him and his "big" bass placed him too far away to see much of the fish. I didn't know how to work his digital camera, honest.

Our last stop was relaxing as it was closer to the docks and we felt safe that we could get the boat to the dock without many more mishaps. Lucky and I got into some of the huge foot long crappie. The huge bluegill were a little more elusive but each time we caught one, we thought we had a bass because the fight was honorable. Wayne and I noted that we were being watched by 3 large buzzards lounging about 20 feet from us close to water's edge. It had a strangely chilling effect. I have fished that lake for 12 years and never saw much wildlife. The lake manager said that last year he would see a bobcat come down from the dam and fish the edges of the lake very early morning.

Barrett is an adventure – just getting there in the dark of pre-dawn. Kim and I have our story on that one. It is an experiment in finding what fly patterns and colors work during any given year. Barrett is enjoying the company of friends and having that next new first time something happens. Barrett is being grateful for Wayne's brain saving us from what could have been a frustrating experience of 4 adults in a disabled boat. Of course, it must have frustrated the buzzards when we got underway. We were starting to look like immobile prey and I hear it is the smallest person who looks most promising to predators. Hopefully, I could have convinced them that the smartest tastes better – that would be WAYNE.

We tried a lot of flies between us and a brim fly pattern that Tom Smith showed us a few years ago was a dynamite fly that caught lots of bluegill and Bob's larger bass. I caught a couple more bass on a skinny black marabou tail with peacock hurl body and a brownish palmered hackle with

continued on page 12



---

# FLY OF THE MONTH

**EP Smelt Clouser** on size 2/0 hooks, 4  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches to 5  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

May 31, 2006, notes by Lucky Ketcham (short version)

**Hook:** Mustad 3407 2/0 or 1/0

**Thread:** Danville white flat waxed nylon, 210 denier or 3/0

**Eyes:** Large heavy dumb bell eyes, Eye Balz or similar.  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz.

**Belly:** White Enrico Puglisi original fibers

**Top wing:** Orange/Brown Silky EP or an older brand - Fish Hair, then 6 strands of pearl Krystal Flash, then about 10 strands of copper Krystal flash - tied in with a fold to make about 20 total fibers.

**Weed guard:** Three inches of 30-pound hard mono, like Mason's.



**A**ttach the thread behind the eye and make a thread base. Make two bumps of thread about  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch behind the eye. Place the large dumb bell eyes on top of the thread saddle and attach with figure 8 wraps. Add some super glue to the thread wraps. Allow to dry. Select about a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch bundle of white standard EP fibers about 3  $\frac{1}{2}$  inches long. Wrap the thread to  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch from the eye. Trim the bundle at an angle and attach behind the eye forming the bottom of the tapered head. To make the belly look fuller, do not wrap the fibers behind the eyes as you would a standard Clouser.

Turn the fly over to tie in the wing or dorsal part of the fly. Select a thin bundle of orange/brown Silky or regular EP fibers, about half the amount used for the belly. Cut the bundle at 5 inches. Attach by the butt end behind the hook eye. Select and cut about 6 eight-inch strands of Pearl Krystal Flash. Attach

the pearl flash with the folded material locking method. Select 10 strands of copper Krystal flash about 8 inches long, with the same method.

Mission bay is a good place to use a stiff weed guard because of all the floating eelgrass. There are several types. Select three inches of 30-pound stiff mono, like Mason's Hard Mono. Fold in the middle; use your pliers if necessary to make a tight bend. Position your thread behind the hook eye. If the hook is still inverted, position the fold of the mono just under and behind the eye with the stiff guards on each side of hook at about a 60-degree angle, or at least just in front of the point of the hook. Secure with six or seven tight wraps. Whip finish, trim off the thread and add two or three coats of head cement. Look at the fly for proportion and symmetry of the flash. Trim the belly shorter and tapering into the longer top wing.





**O'Dells Lake**

**G**'day mates! I've just returned from two weeks in Australia where I was there to see my middle daughter, Robyn, graduate from university as a Dr. of Chiropractic. Whilst there I flew to Melbourne and then Launceston in Tasmania, to check out the scenery and see if I couldn't

Indeed, Phil is an exceptional athlete, having represented his state and Australia in international cricket in the 1980's. These two were more like squabbling brothers than uncle and nephew; neither gave the other any quarter and whoops of joy when a trout was landed by one were met with jovial jeers from the other. These two guys are great mates and outstanding fly fishers. I noted that Abes throws a beautiful line and Beak was a truly artful "polaroider" of fish....more about that, later.

I met Abes and Beak in Deloraine, about 45mins. S.W. of Launceston and was surprised to learn that state's first rail line connected the two towns in 1871. Also, the local Inn (now a

up into the world heritage wilderness area, Tasmania's premier trout waters, took about one hour and what a change it was! We rose only 4,000 ft. in elevation but went from dry, rolling grass and timberland to wet, windy, snowy conditions that in many places closely resembled the tundra regions of Alaska..... treeless, marshy areas with mosses and grasses very tight to the ground. Anyway, after getting to Great Lake, we arrived at Beak's cabin and proceeded to get better acquainted over beers, sausage, smoked oysters, cheeses and crackers. Hey, these guys really know how to do it tough....no spam sandwiches here! Incidentally, for those of you thinking of fishing Tasmania, please be aware that "northerners" drink only Boag's

## Flyfishing Tasmania's World Heritage Wilderness

by Tom Lucas

squeeze in a day of fly fishing. Some of you may know that I can count the number of brown trout I've caught on one hand and so the prospect of entering a brown trout-rich environment was an opportunity not to be missed.

I initially made contact with several Tassie guides via the internet and practically had a cardiac arrest after learning the going rate was \$650/day! Via a contact in a N.S.W. fly fishing club, I finally found Adrian Hope, secretary of the Northwest Tassie Fly Fishers Club, based in Burnie, northern Tasmania. Adrian, otherwise known as "Abes" and his irreverent uncle, Phil Blizzard, a.k.a. "Beak" were exceptional hosts.



**A nice 4 lb brown trout**

B&B) was built in 1830. En route to Deloraine, I was passed by a **lot** of Targa Tasmania (2000 km race around Tasmania) race cars of every make and model imaginable....total eye candy for any gear head! The drive

beer and "southerners" only Cascade. Both are exceptional beers (= beat the socks off Bud, Miller or Coors) but where the north/south crossover point is, nobody knows!

Well, we didn't waste too much time and the guys took me to the S.W. corner of Great Lake to fish for wild browns.

Weather was cold with rain and snow flurries but I bagged two nice ones; one of which nudged 4 lbs. We tried another shallow lake, the name of which escapes me, with no success but I

was practically tripping over cute Bennett's wallabies (= small kangaroos) and I almost stepped on a wombat (= marsupial bull dozer). We cut our losses and retired to the cabin

**continued on page 12**





## Tasmania

continued from page 10

to feast on more beer and a dinner of wild duck and assorted vegetables. Dessert was a terrific plum pudding with King Island cream on top.....King Is. is in Bass Strait above Tasmania and is legendary for its' dairy products.....yum, yum, I'm a believer! Beak then took some time out to feed some of the native birds and a family of possums on his verandah (= patio), both regular and cute visitors.



Beak and Abes

**Weekend trip for August moves to week days. The Kern River Lake Isabella trip will take place on Aug. 8 thru 11. David Collins is making available three beds and three more available in my son's trailer. Both places are in South Lake near Lake Isabella. A maintenance fee of ten dollars a night is the lodging cost. Guide service is available in Kernville.**

**For more information call Dick Mount at or**

Next morning (day #2) started out a trifle chilly; the windscreen wiper blades were stuck to the windscreen of Abes' truck! Cold water and some heavy-duty defrost heater action saw us speeding down the road with Abes squinting through a narrow clear spot next to his wiper blades. We went about 45 kms. I'd guess and parked the truck in the middle of nowhere! We had a 50 min. hike into O'Dell's Lake and later, Lake Flora where I got a solid lesson in prime polaroiding for brown trout by both Beak and Abes. Like N.Z. fly fishing, most trout in the wilderness area are stalked in shallow water by sight. The 'brothers' scored three nice fish apiece but I went fishless. Day #2 turned out the opposite



Possum visitor

of day #1 in that we had beautiful weather and blue sky but snow and ice on the ground.....another reason why experienced hikers/fishermen carry UHF radios with them. The silence up there was truly amazing and even more amazing was my uncanny ability to find a multitude of sink holes and cut banks where I repeatedly fell over and into water.....once, up to my armpits. I was saved from a very cold bath then only because I was wearing gore-tex from head to foot!! Beak and Abes nearly died laughing.....and so did I.

At the end of the day and about 15kms. of walking, I was thoroughly pooped and so we adjourned to a nearby pub for...you guessed it...more beers! I had to get back to Launceston that night so Abes and Beak drove me back to the cabin where I packed and left while they re-rigged, drank beer and contemplated a little night fishing for very large rainbow trout. These guys sure are 'hard chargers' and I can honestly say I've never met more gracious hosts nor skilled fly fishermen. Thanks guys.....great trip!



## Barrett

continued from page 9

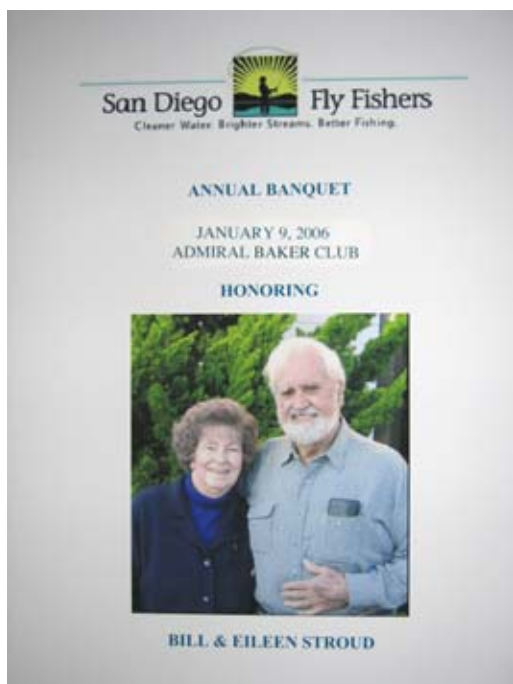
brass bead size 10. I tried some larger and heavier flies but they just collected so much green stuff and weeds on them that I gave up. I knew the fish wouldn't be attracted to flies that were pulling weeds. My Clousers weren't working at all. Lucky tried one of the Becks Super Slider Bugger and caught a large bluegill and a small bass. Has been a tough year for bass in general. The water was high April 28<sup>th</sup> and there was a large shoreline area for the bass to hide. The one benefit that

flyfishers have is that we have a larger selection of fly sizes so that if the bass aren't hitting, we have something small enough to get bluegill. I heard the guys using their 6 inch reapers and plastic worms weren't getting their brag numbers. Kim and I caught 9 bass each last summer plus oodles of bluegill of various sizes but this year, the bass were more elusive. I think it is too expensive for the quality of the fishery. But the price of friendship?



Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**

2004-Jim Brown  
2005-Allen Greenwood



## STROUD TACKLE

*Complete Fly Shop*



### ● Cortland

- Loomis
- Orvis
- Sage
- St. Croix
- Hardy
- Redington
- Fly Tying Materials

### *San Diego Fly Fishers Headquarters*



1457 Morena Blvd  
San Diego, CA 92110  
(619) 276-4822  
[www.stroudtackle.com](http://www.stroudtackle.com)  
Proprietors  
Eileen & Bill Stroud

### LIFE MEMBERS

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

### HONORARY MEMBERS

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

Recipients of the:

### **GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

For unselfish and outstanding service  
to the flyfishing community

- |                           |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1991-Ned Sewell           | 1999-Gretchen Yearous      |
| 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          |                            |

Cutoff date for **August FINNY FACTS**  
articles---Friday July 14th.

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

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

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

Lucky Ketcham  
3510 Gayle Street  
San Diego, CA 92115



**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS**  
**2006 OFFICERS**

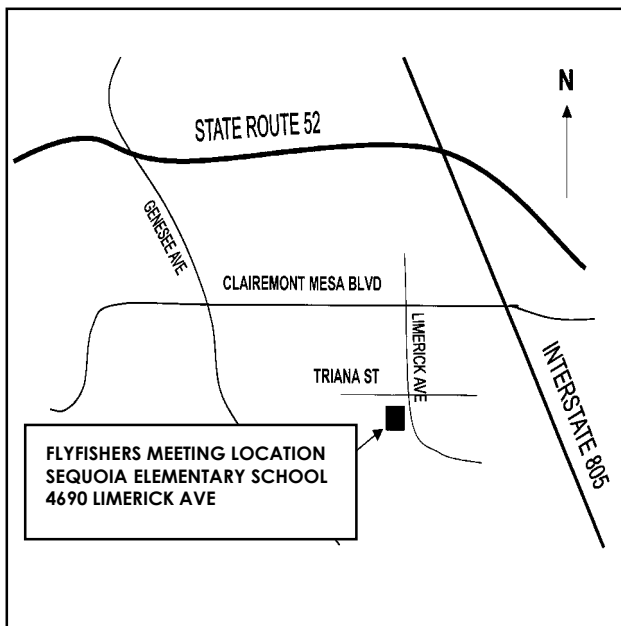
President- Lee McElravy  
1st VP- Gary Strawn  
2nd VP- Jonathan Hee  
Treasurer- Warren Lew  
Secretary- Paul Woolery

**DIRECTORS**

Bruce Campbell  
 Don Davis  
 Larry Dirksen  
 George Gates  
 Maria Goldman  
 Lucky Ketcham  
 Jim Reeg  
 Al Venton  
 Shelly Wagner  
 Louie Zimm

**COMMITTEE  
 CHAIRPERSONS**

Conservation-  
 Bruce Campbell  
FFF Southwest Council-  
 Ron Meler  
Fly Casting Clinic- Ned  
 Sewell and John Kasten  
Fly Tying Clinic-  
 Tom Smith  
 Lucky Ketcham  
Membership-  
 Lucky Ketcham  
Monthly Weekend Outings-  
 Dick Mount



Newsletter CoEditors-  
 Rose & Roger Yamasaki  
 5415 Lodi Place, San Diego  
 92117, 858-274-2712  
 E-mail:  
 finnyfacts@gmail.com  
Programs- George Gates  
Raffles-  
Refreshments-  
 Maria Goldman

Rod Building- Tom Smith  
Trips-  
 Jack Bentley,  
Video & Library-  
 John Beckstrand and  
 Howard Knop  
Web Page- David Collins  
 www.sandiegoflyfishers.com  
SDFF E-mail tree-  
 Kim Jones,

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  
 Stroud Tackle  
 1457 Morena Blvd.  
 San Diego, CA 92110  
 619-276-4822

1457 Morena Boulevard  
 San Diego, California 92110  
 www.sandiegoflyfishers.com  
 619.276.4822



**San Diego  
 Fly Fishers**

*Official Chapter of  
 Federation of Fly Fishers*

**SINCE 1962**

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
**SAN DIEGO, CA**  
**PERMIT NO. 40**