

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

MARCH 2011

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 16, No. 3

March Meeting

BOB BERRY : WILDLIFE WOODCARVER / ARTIST



Bob will bring to the March 7 Membership Meeting a selection of his Prize Winning reproductions in different stages of construction. So, you can take several pictures of your fresh caught trophy and give the pictures to Bob. And then maybe you will release your prize to fight another day.

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MEETING NOTICE

Monday, March 7, 2011
7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School
4690 Limerick Avenue
(See map on back page)

REMINDER

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

**Barry Pechersky and
Catherine Bellows**

Thank You, Mona Morebello

SDFF Couple Fish and Cruise the Amazon

by Gordie and Louie Zimm

SDFF couple **Gordie and Louie Zimm** traveled to Brazil in November to fish and cruise on the riverboat Belle Amazon. We met the the 110 foot luxury yacht at Barcelos, a frontier port on the Rio Negro, 250 miles upriver from the Amazon port of Manaus. From there, we joined 14 other fisher-folk to motor up the Rio Negro in search of fishing adventures.

Fishing from radio equipped custom aluminum bass boats, we travelled up to 40 miles in the Rio Negro Archipelago and up small tributaries to some very remote fishing spots. The journey payed off, with catches of Tucanare (Peacock Bass) to 21 pounds and various other monstrous fish, such as Giant Trahira, Arawana and Amazon Catfish.

Not just a fishing trip, the adventure



**The proud couple with Louie's
21.3 pound Tucanare Pacu
(*Cichla temensis*),
(Barred Peacock Bass).**

included air conditioned staterooms, first class dining and a hosted bar! The yacht had all the most modern navigation equipment and was built of double planked Brazilian mahogany and finished in beautiful tropical hardwoods. Myriad wildlife such as caiman, parrots, freshwater dolphins, macaws and many wading birds were seen daily.

We supplied our own 8 weight fly-fishing gear, however, first rate spinning and casting gear was available for a small fee on the boat. The boat even supplied lures on a you lose-you pay basis.

The best flies were the floating Crease Flies as well as large streamers that imitated the local freshwater sardines.

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OUR BOARD FOR 2011

Winston Churchill, when asked by his dinner host what cut of the chicken he would prefer, responded: "The breast." A very proper lady at the dinner said: "Winston, we do not use that word." Churchill responded by saying, "What word do you use?" "White meat," she answered. The next day, Churchill sent the lady a corsage with a handwritten note that read: "Dear Madam, Please accept this corsage to wear on your white meat."

I heard it on public radio, so it must be true.

Of course, truth can be many things. An undisputable truth is that the men and woman of our Board of Directors are as good as they get. They are all fine fishermen and I would like to introduce them to you. Our members at large are **Heidi Brown, Jon Hee,**

Jon Holland, Lee McElravy and Paul Woolery. Our conservation chair is **Gary Strawn.** Our membership coordinator and fly tying leader is **Lucky Ketcham.** Our monthly programs coordinator is **Gary Farrar** and the club's monthly raffles chairmen is **Alan Thompson.** Our outings coordinator



ART REIFMAN

is our immediate past president, **Larry Sorenson.** The club treasurer is **Bruce Harris** and the board secretary is **Bob Stafford.** 2nd VP and Mentor Program coordinator is **Bob Pharoah.** Our 1st VP and Southwest Council FFF Representative is **Don Davis.** When you see them at our club meetings, thank them for their dedication to the club. As for myself, my job could not be done without them.

This month's speaker is a departure from our usual 'let's talk fishing' speaker. I am pleased to announce that our March speaker will be **Bob**

Berry, an artist and world-class wood carver. He has won the World Fish Carving Championships twice. Bob is considered the "father of fish carving" and is an avid hunter and fisherman. Many of his prize fish carvings are of fish he caught. He is a self-taught artist who attended Helix High in the early 1960's and now lives and works in El Cajon. He seldom makes public speaking appearances so don't miss this once in a lifetime opportunity.

You can help make this June's Annual Raffle and Silent Auction a success, donate something to the raffle to help us raise funds to support the club's conservation efforts. This years Annual Raffle chairmen is **Jim Tenuto.**

"One of the greatest charms of angling is that of all the sports, it affords the best opportunity to enjoy the wonders and beauty of nature." J.J. Manley

Art Reifman
February 11, 2011

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.



SD Couple Fish the Amazon

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Be sure to bring plenty of flies as the ever-present black piranha like to bite off streamer tails.

Both floating and sinking lines worked, however, make sure that they are designed for tropical conditions.

We also had fun using surface plugs such as the Zara Spook and Rapala Skitter-Walk. When all else failed, a red and white bucktail jig with a long tail extension brought strikes.

The drier fishing season starts in September and lasts through March when the rainy season sends the fish out of range back into the flooded Amazonian forest. The Rio Negro, being an acidic, tannin stained river, has very few bugs and almost no mosquitos.

We traveled with David McCarthy of Hooked On Adventures <http://www.hookedonadventures.com/>

Truly an adventure of a lifetime, the trip to the Amazon Basin is one that should not be missed!



Our yacht, the Belle Amazon.



Picua or Cachorro, (*Acestrorhynchus falcatus*), a pickerel-like fish with a really toothy attitude!



And speaking of teeth, a Giant Trahira (*Hoplias malabaricus*).



More teeth, the Black Pirana (*Serrasalmus rhombeus*) with a weedless sardine fly.



Gordie with a Speckled Peacock Bass or Pacu (*Cichla temensis*).



Here is Louie's beautiful Aruana (*Osteoglossum bicirrhosum*), the closest thing to tarpon that one can catch in the Amazon Basin.



Butterfly Peacock Bass also called in Brazil, tucunare-acu (*Cichla ocellaris*) on Crease Fly.



Active Year Ahead on the Conservation Front

2011 promises to be another active year on the Conservation front. Thanks to your support for last years annual raffle we had more than \$3,000 to spend on our conservation and education projects. We plan to use some of the remaining funds to purchase barbed wire and fence posts to help rebuild the cattle exclusion fence around the trout spawning area of Nine Mile Creek in Casa Vieja Meadow at the South end of the Golden Trout Wilderness.

Our first trip is being planned for Saturday June 24 through 26. Some of us will go up Thursday June 23 and try to get a head start on the fence work. But, we will save some of the work and a few of the beautiful trout for those of you that have day jobs. You can come up as late as Friday evening and still join in the fun. We will meet at the Black Rock Trailhead above Kennedy Meadow, about a 5-hour drive from San Diego. The hike is about 2-miles each way. It is a well-maintained trail, but the trailhead is about 9,000 ft so acclimating the night before is important.

This is a good trip for novices as well as experienced fly fishers. At the suggestion of Lisa Sims, the Inyo National Forest, Fisheries Biologist, I am changing our focus this year. Lisa is concerned that Casa Vieja Meadow is outside of the protective Golden Trout weirs, and therefore cannot be considered genetically pure. She doesn't want us to spend our efforts and money under false pretenses. I

believe this is still a worthwhile project.

The trout are wild and beautiful, and need some protection from the grazing cattle. Many contend that all of the Golden Trout may be somewhat hybridized by DFG rainbow stocking policies over many years. There is no question that some streams in the Golden Trout Wilderness have been much more protected. I have fished almost all of them. I can't see any difference and the biologist have to take genetic samples to a laboratory to be sure. So, I choose to help these little guys for two reasons:

1. No one else is.
2. It's a nice 2-mile day hike to Casa Vieja Meadow and any other protected stream in the Golden Trout Wilderness is a tough 7-mile hike over passes exceeding 11,000 feet.
3. Oh yeah, the fishing is great and some of these guys get up to 10 inches, huge for these fish at this altitude

We are going to scale back our fence project this summer and only put up the upper half. We will let a horse club put up the lower section that they use for a corral. Then, in late summer, I want to go back up and perform a SWAMP protocol bioassessment on the stream. Bob Stafford and I are trained team leaders and many of you have worked with us on the local watersheds. It is a valuable water quality measurement and a tremendous learning experience. USFS would love to have the data. Having our samples processed by the DFG lab cost \$500 to



GARY STRAWN

\$1,000 so I hope you will all support this years Raffle as you have in the past.

Other local water and fisheries conservation and education efforts that we have supported in the past and would like to continue to support in 2011 are the steelhead display at Chula Vista Nature Center, Hubbs / Sea World's white sea bass restoration project and the Discovery Center at Grant Park on the San Diego River, where we are planning to build a small "Eileen Stroud Memorial" hatchery/nursery for native steelhead as part of the nature and educational displays.

If you are interested in helping on any of these projects, just let me know. Many of you try to sign up with me at the meetings. Unfortunately, it can get very confusing and I don't always get everyone's complete information. I am happy to discuss the projects any time but it really helps if you follow up by emailing your information to me at:

*Tight Lines,
Gary*



Members Fishing Reports

Bob Pharoah Fishing Lake Miramar

1-28-11 Mark Lindshield and I fished Miramar today. We were joined by Joel Dorfman, a fly fisher from South Africa, who just moved to San Diego. We launched around 10:30 AM (slept in for a change) into 58 degree water. Mark headed toward Carroll Cove while I towed Joel over to Ramona Point. We fished around Penasquitos Cove and Ramona Point without a strike. I motored across to Sorrento cove and fished up to Elliott Cove. Joel had the first action with an LDR in Escondido arm around 1 PM. I caught a 19 incher close to Elliott Cove about 1:30 PM. I caught a 16 incher inside Elliott Cove around 2 PM. I met Joel in San Diego Arm where he caught a fish that looked to be 19 or 20 incher. I was waiting for the Miramar battle cry "I need a bigger net" but Joel was able to get him into his net. I caught an 18 incher about half way into San Diego Arm. After fishing the rest of San Diego Arm, we headed toward the launch ramp to call it a day. I picked up another 19 incher just leaving San Diego Arm. All the fish were taken on Orange Wigglers. All fish were taken within 8-12 inches from the reeds and in the shade.

2-4-11 I did not fish Wednesday because of the high winds. I didn't even get out to the lake due to the high winds I had at my house. Richard Debusk went to the lake and found white caps. Second week in a row. Lets hope it is all over.

Richard Debusk, Joe Sarnecky,

Gretchen Yearous and I launched into 58 degree water at 11 AM. Two float tubers were coming in and reported ZERO strikes for the morning. I took Joe over to Ramona Point after we had trolled through Mos hole and Sorrento Cove without a strike. Joe fished down Ramona Point, completely around Escondido Arm, back along Ramona Point, Woodson Point, Directors Point and back across to the launch ramp without a strike. Gretchen also fished the South bank through Mos hole, along to Elliot Cove, across to Poway Arm, into Penasquitos Cove and back across taking out above Mos Hole. All without a strike. All this was from 11AM to 3 PM. I fished along the reeds between Sorrento Cove and Elliot Cove, across the lake fishing Ramona Point down toward Starvation Cove. I passed Joe as he was fishing back toward the launch area. I caught a 17 inch Bass right at the beginning of Starvation Cove at 3:25PM, my first strike of the day. I fished on down Escondido Arm to the Fishing platform, which was completely under water, without further action. In the little cove on the left in Escondido I finally caught two nice Rainbows on three casts. As they say location, location, location. The first was an 18 incher with the second 19 inches. No action on the next dozen casts. This was at 4:15PM. The sun was setting, the wind came up a little bit and it got real chilly so I headed back toward the launch ramp; trolling along the North bank. I caught a nice Rainbow, 20 incher, as I was about to leave Escondido Arm. By the time I got him in the net, it was getting down right cold

and I had left my jacket in the truck so I just motored back to the launch ramp. As I was packing up my gear, two boats came in with one guy in each boat. The first had fished at the South end of the buoy line all day and didn't have a strike. The second said he had fished Carroll Cove and Bernardo Bay since 1:30PM without a strike.

Gretchen talked with the Lake people and found out the lake was planted at 5AM this morning (1500 pounds) but they sure wasn't feeding today. If you can get out for a couple of three hours this weekend, you might see a little action.

2-9-11 Jerry Barstow, Joel Dorfman and I launched around 1:30 PM into 59 degree water. Jerry crossed the lake and fished down the North Shore without any luck. Joel fished down to the South end of the buoy line, then across the lake to the North end of the buoy line. He broke the ice with a 19 inch Rainbow on a Black Woolly Bugger around 2:30. I fished down the South shore through Mo's Hole, Sorrento Cove and Elliott Cove without a strike. I crossed the lake, fished Ramona Point and down into Escondido Arm arriving around 4 PM. I finally picked up an 18 inch Rainbow in the end of the Arm about 4:15. Joel joined me about 4:30 and picked up a small Bass on his Black Bugger. I caught another 18 inch Rainbow just before we had to race back to the launch ramp. My fish were on Orange Wigglers.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Yong Special - tied by Rick Takahashi - Revised 12/14/2010 by Lucky Ketcham

Hook: Dai Riki 350, Tiemco 2488, Mustad 94840 #18-26
Abdomen and thorax: Coats & Clark 8360 (Summer Brown) and CC 8020 (Cream)
Head: Black 8/0, or Tan 8/0 for the Cream version



The cream colored Yong's Special is for the maggot and the tan imitates the pupa of the Net Winged Midge. Both are heavily ridged or ribbed and cling to cobblestones in fast shallow water. LK usually ties the tan and black in size 18 and 20 to match the size of the pupae observed on the rocks, but size 26 was a great pattern on the Green River in 2010.

1. Start the heavy Summer Brown thread at the mid portion of the shank and wrap thread forward towards the eye of the hook allowing space for tying off head.
2. Wrap thread back towards the bend of the hook the entire length of the hook.
3. Wrap thread forward to thorax with-in two or three wraps of the end of thorax.
4. Half-hitch or whip finish.
5. Attach black tying thread and form head. The thorax end of the head should be slightly larger in diameter than thorax. Whip finish and cement.

Special note by Rick Takahashi: *I've not seen another pattern that works as well as this one does. I also tie it in a cream and tan color for the Juan. I've used it on many of the rivers I fish with outstanding results. Look up Andy Kim's website for how he rigs up his flies.*

Lucky Notes that the Coats and Clark color numbers have changed since the original recipe. Summer Brown #54A is now Summer Brown 8360. It no longer is available in the heavy Button/Upholstery thread which I think is necessary to produce the distinct segmentation on the midge pupa. Jo Ann's Fabrics in Lemon Grove has the color in the thicknesses of Dual Duty and Quilting. I bought some of the Quilting since it looked slightly heavier.

The C&C Cream #18 color is now CC #8020. It is available in the heavy button and dual duty weights. The thinner Dual Duty thread would be appropriate for the small 22 to 26 versions.

I find the Guttermann CA 02776; color 525 is about the right tan color and thread thickness for the size 18 and 20 pupae. This thread is made in Germany and can be found on a display to the right of the Coats and Clark. The long thin spools are 30 meters of 100% polyester for about \$2.80.

Coats and Clark Chona Brown #8960 is available in the button thread, but it looks a little too dark. I am going to try attaching with a light tan thin thread next to it. That should make the segmentation very distinct and lighten the overall color.

continued on next page



Fly of the Month

continued from previous page

Other options - I tied some of the size 26 Yong's Specials using Uni-Tan 6/0 or 8/0. The color is correct but you have to spin the bobbin to make a round hard rib that can be seen by the fish. I have told the story of fishing the Big Horn River on the Bay of Pigs riffle with my Yong's Special. When we ran out of the Coats and Clark heavy thread bodied versions, I tied some size 18's with Tan Uni. Without the defined ridges of the heavy thread the fly did not work as well. The trout eyesight and their ability to reject a fly in fast clear water amazed me.

The directions above by Rick Takahashi are probably good, but when I am tying dozens of this pattern I would attach the black thread behind the eye and then attach the tag end of 6" of the heavy tan thread at the mid shank. Bring the black thread to the eye, half hitch it to get it out of the way and for the rotary vise function. Put that bobbin into the bobbin rest. Now pull on the tan thread and twist it to tighten, Make two or three wraps forward build an underbody and then make touching wraps all the way to the bend.

Twist to tighten the thread again and make touching turns to the space you left behind the hook eye. Secure it with wraps of black thread and trim excess tan thread. Flatten the black thread by hanging the bobbin over your bodkin needle and allowing it to turn.

Make a distinct black head and whip finish. If the tan thread I am using is not heavy enough to make visible ridges I might space that last layer of thread wraps up the body.

If the thread is really thin I might wrap some thread on top of itself to make a visible ridge. I want the body shape of the pupa to more of an oval or sesame seed shape than a worm.

The cream colored maggot can be slightly thinner. Use a tan or brown thread for the head of the maggot.

Some people tie this pattern in various other colors like green or red; but I don't think those colors match the Net Winged Midge life cycle stages. Green might = caddis



DAVID COLLINS

Got any great photos of recent fishing adventures or club events you want to share? Why not post them on the Sdff website to help showcase our members' activities.

Post Fishing Pictures on Sdff Website

Check out pictures others have submitted in the past. Just go to <http://www.sandiegoflyfishers.com>, click on the "Utilities" tab then click the "Photo Gallery" link at the upper left. We've revamped the gallery with a slicker way of organizing and viewing your photos.

If you have some pics to post, just send 'em to sdflyfish@sandiegoflyfishers.com. It would really help if you have a little story to go along with your group of

pics and/or stories about individual pics within a group. (Not required ... but helpful). Also, if you are computer savvy enough to limit your pics to no wider/higher than 600x600 pixels, it'll really help save time preparing them for placement in our website gallery. (Again, not a requirement, but really helpful)

We've had some great Days at the Beach/Bay lately. Let's get some pics of activities like this up on our site to show the world what we're doin' !!



Bob Berry, World Class Woodcarver / Artist



Bob lives happily with his wife Kimberly, in El Cajon, CA. He continues to work in his studio, teach classes on fish carving, publish instructional books, lectures and has made several television appearances.

Bob Berry was born in California and is an avid sportsman and conservationist. At the age of 12, he spent a \$10 bill he received for his birthday on a mail-order taxidermy course, turning his hobby into a career after graduating high school.

A self-taught artist with no formal training, Bob has had successful careers in taxidermy, bronze wildlife sculpture, and now enjoys unparalleled success as the leading fish carver in the world, having won an unprecedented three World Champion titles.

He is the most influential carver in

his field. His efforts launched fish carving from a side division at taxidermy shows to the stand alone art form it is today. Bob set the standard for fish carving in the 1980s, sweeping every major category at the World Fish Carving Championships in 1985. Today the WFCC attracts carvers from thirty-three countries on five continents.

With his technical expertise, knowledge of wildlife anatomy and extensive background in commercial and museum taxidermy, Bob is called upon to judge national competitions, is an instructor and has written dozens of articles for national trade publications.

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by **Three Time World Champion Fish Carver**



www.bobberryfishcarvings.com



Recipients of the
Stroud Award

2004-Jim Brown
2005-Allen Greenwood
2006- Hugh Marx
2007- Mike Rivkin
2008- Bill Van Wulven
2009- Larry Bottroff
2010- Gary Strawn



EILEEN STROUD CONSERVATION FUND



Donations are gratefully accepted
Make checks payable to Eileen Stroud Conservation Fund

Mail to:
Stroud Conservation Fund
1457 Morena Blvd
San Diego, CA 92110

All funds collected in Eileen's name will be donated to fresh water fish conservation or research programs in San Diego County.

Cutoff date for **April FINNY FACTS**
articles---Friday March 11th.

Send articles to:
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,

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

Lucky Ketcham

LIFE MEMBERS

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

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Recipients of the:

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For unselfish and outstanding service
to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
1992-Bob Camp	2002-Larry Sorensen
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2003-Jim Tenuto
1994-Ed Velton	2004-Joe Bain
1995-Bob Wisner	2005-Jim Reeg
1996-Gary Hilbers	2006-John Kasten
1997-Jack Bentley	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1998-Gordie Zimm	2008-Louie Zimm
1999-Gretchen Yearous	2009-Warren Lew
2000-Tom Smith	2010- Paul Woolery



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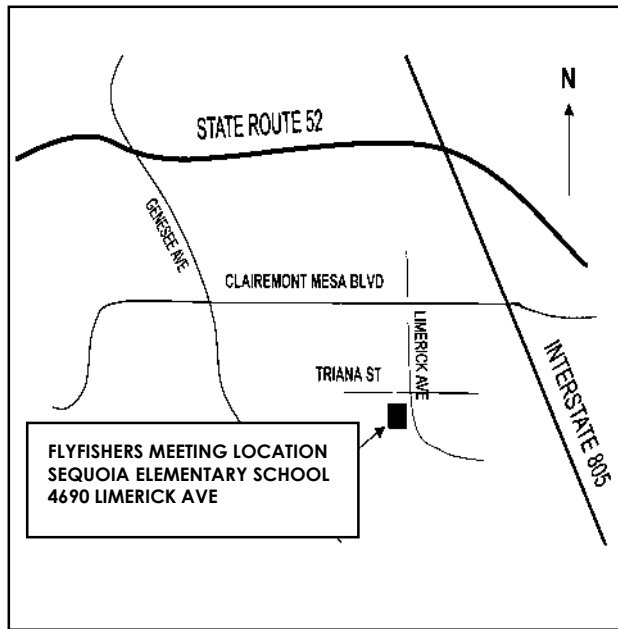
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Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near 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
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**San Diego
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