

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

SEPTEMBER 2009

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 14, No. 9

## IT IS TIME TO PLAN FOR FALL, 2009:

**L**eland Miyawaki. Leland is the manager of the Orvis store in Bellevue, Washington. He has been fly fishing since 1968, and is experienced in fly fishing from the state of Washington to the Caribbean. Leland fishes and guides on the Puget Sound beaches for sea-run coastal cutthroat with his surface fly exclusively – the “Miyawaki Beach Popper.”

Reserve this date: We have tentatively scheduled a surf clinic for late Sunday afternoon, September 13<sup>th</sup>. The late afternoon tides seem right and Leland has graciously agreed to demonstrate his “Beach Popper.” For those of you interested in the surf, you do not want to miss this demonstration!

### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, September 14, 2009

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)

**Bill Stock and Tom Schiff**

*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

## Bay Fishing Raffle Donation Trip

By Gretchen Yearous

**I** am sending a big thank you to **Jonathan Hee** (our raffle chair) and Peter Piconi for donating the silent auction half day bay trip. I had no buyers remorse when I got up the next morning and was looking forward to my vacation experience for the year.

We had a STARS BANGLED DAY on San Diego Bay close to the Coronado Bridge. We met at the boat launch at

O’dark hundred on a Monday morning early July on a beautiful day. We were on the water fishing for some time when we were serenaded by taps, and then by the “race horses to the gate call” which Peter said meant 8:00 a.m. Soon after, we heard the Navy Band playing the Stars and Stripes Forever on the opposite side of the bay. I took this as an omen for a great experience and it certainly was.



**Gretchen and Peter with a nice bass.**

We went out on average conditions, no great tidal moves, and caught lots of spotted bass and I caught my first croaker. I had float tubed out of Tidelands Park but never from a boat. **Warren Lew** had only fished on one surf occasion and this was his first time flyfishing on the bay. It is rewarding for me when I take guests out to Barrett and watch them hook into their first bass on the fly. This was as rewarding

watching Warren Lew land fish after fish with his first time fishing the bay. This was Warren’s dream day - one fly day. We call him the one fly man. But hey – the fly was working so why change. We used some shrimp style patterns.

The setting the hook and landing methods were different from float

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: SEPTEMBER 2009

**T**he September meeting will be on Monday, the 14<sup>th</sup> because of the Labor Day Holiday.

I hope that everyone enjoyed the August program even though it got off to a late start. Richard provided a lot of good information on Big Bear Lake and the surrounding creeks and streams.

Larry Sorensen will host this month's meeting as I will be making my annual pilgrimage to

Mammoth for a week of fishing. If you have never made this fall trip I strongly recommend contacting Bob Pharaoh for additional information.



**PAUL WOOLERY**

On Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> Larry Sorensen and our guest speaker Leland Miyawaki will be hosting a surf fishing clinic featuring Leland's patented fly the "Leland Popper". Check this issue of the Finny Facts for more information.

It's time to start thinking

about the Stroud Banquet. The banquet will be on January 4, 2010 6:30 P.M. to 9:00 P.M. The banquet will be at Admiral Baker Field. We have started putting together a list of door prizes. The grand prize this year is a beautiful R.L. Winston 8'9" 5 piece 4 wt. rod. All new members are eligible for the new member drawing to be held separately. Those members that proposed someone new will have their names in the hat for an additional drawing. Door prize tickets are included with the price of the banquet. More details to follow.

Good Fishing



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## 2009 SDFF Charters

**Announcement:** Nicholas Pratt and Gary Farrar have reserved two saltwater fly fishing charters with Paradigm Shift Charters, <https://www.paradigmshiftcharters.com/> that each have two spots available for SDFF club members. We fished with Scott Leon last year and found him to be an expert guide with excellent customer service and a terrific fishing boat. This is your chance to range offshore into the Pacific for a nominal price, have a good chance of catching big game, learn from a master saltwater fly fisherman, and meet SDFF members in action. The trips are already half full so call Nicholas at 619-232-5587 ASAP to reserve a slot if you are interested.

We have planned one offshore trip and one near-shore trip with dates with the highest probability of success, fewest competing boats on the water, and optimal tide conditions:

Wednesday September 23, 6am-1pm

- ¾ day kelp beds fly fishing for bonito and yellowtail and near-shore fly fishing for mako sharks.
- Space for 4 anglers (two slots are still available)
- All fly fishing and conventional tackle provided if needed (you can also bring your own tackle).
- Expert service from one of Southern California's leading saltwater fly fishing guides.
- Cost of \$165 per person. \$85 reserves your space. Full payment is due by end of the trip.
- Call Nicholas at 619-232-5587 or e-mail [nicholas.pratt@spamex.com](mailto:nicholas.pratt@spamex.com) to reserve your slot or with questions.



## Casa Vieja Meadow and Golden Trout Wilderness

I don't want anyone to think that all of our Club conservation efforts are going into the California Golden Trout Project. I promise to talk about other projects next month, but the Golden Trout Wilderness is only accessible four months out of the year due to the high altitude and long winters. So, this summer, we have been concentrating our efforts there.

We will be going back up to Casa Vieja Meadow on Sept 19, 20 and 21, to drop the exclusion fence before winter. It is a fun trip that requires a two mile hike (each way) and about an hours work, but the rest of the time is open for fishing and enjoying the scenery. Please email me at [if you would](#)

like to come with us. We will camp near the trailhead, at a Forest Service campground with easy access, so this is a good opportunity to bring spouses or friends. The fishing is easy for beginners or they can stay busy just enjoying the scenery. This year we also donated money to



**Mulkey Riparian Recovery**

help build another cattle exclusion fence in the Golden Trout Wilderness. For several years, Lisa Sims, Inyo National Forest Fisheries Biologist, has been trying to get a fence built in Mulkey Meadow. The fence was designed with the help of the cattle rancher to prevent cattle from drifting down the meadows too early in the season. Cattle were traveling down stream during the evening hours and trampling the stream banks. Then they had to be driven back up to the large meadow each morning, doing even more damage. Cattle will be allowed to go in the area later in the season after the plants along the stream banks have been allowed to get better established and resist trampling.

The more vigorously established vegetation will also contribute to better fish habitat by providing shade and overhanging vegetation, which allows terrestrial insects to enter the water as food for the fish. Lisa had a



**GARY STRAWN**

budget of \$4,700, just enough to buy fence posts and barbed wire, and pay for the mules to pack it all into the meadow. Working with Lisa and the T.U. Golden Trout Coordinator, Howard Kern, SDFF donated \$500, which allowed them to build a better fence, using all metal T-posts and a wedge lock / easy take down clip system. This will allow the wire to be easily dropped for hikers to pass and also to prevent damage from heavy winter snows.

The attached photos show T.U. and other golden trout volunteers building the fence, and the rapid growth of the riparian habitat when the cattle are kept out of the stream.



**Mulkey Fence Party**



**Cows on the fence line**





## Bay Fishing

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**Warren with spotted bass.**

tubing but not difficult to manage, especially when we had lots of repetitious practice catching fish after fish after fish after fish. Just as Peter got out the words on my second cast, “be ready because sometimes something sizeable comes along and grabs the fly and runs off with it”, it happened to me and I wasn’t ready. That’s the one you wanted to see. I gasped when I saw Peter reach for the leader and pull the spotted bass up to the boat. He saw the look on my face and said, “Yeah, I know. You can’t do that trout fishing. We can do this with 10 lb

fluorocarbon.” Peter put a 250 grain shooting head with intermediate running line on my 6 wt. rod and Warren used a 6 weight with 200 grain shooting head system – one of Peter’s Sage rods. The 200 grain cast more like a floating line but the 250 would shoot out there 80 feet. I had some fun with that. I cast full sinking lines waist deep in a doughnut shape float tube which doesn’t always look beautiful so casting from a boat was so much more fluid and soooooo much higher off the water which made me look good.

Peter is a skilled captain, gets fish (kept us on fish all morning), enthusiastic, and has a nice boat which makes the experience feel like a luxury. We had a surprise guest: I was thrilled when I saw the black lab jump into the boat with us. We hardly knew she was there until I dropped a piece of muffin on the floor. Super dog. Great fishing, good company, magnificent views, live music and no seasickness. What a great city we vacation in. Thanks Peter.

### **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.**

## **- Wild Trout Symposium -**

**T**he tenth international Wild Trout Symposium will be held September 27th-30th, **2010** at the Holiday Inn in West Yellowstone, Montana, USA, adjacent to the west entrance to Yellowstone National Park. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Bureau of Land Management, the USDA Forest Service, the Trout and Salmon Foundation, other agencies, the Federation of Fly Fishers, and Trout Unlimited are cosponsors of this event. Originated in 1974, this symposium offers exposure to the latest information on status, science, technology, philosophy, and preservation of cold-water wild salmonid, in an international forum for professional wild trout biologists and fishery advocates.

Focusing on the needs of working-level wild trout professionals and fishery conservationists, the Wild Trout Symposium provides a valuable opportunity for information exchange and will equip participants to better conserve and restore these magnificent resources.

Holiday Inn, Sunspree Resort and Conference Center - West Yellowstone, Montana  
Welcome Reception: Monday evening September 27, 2010  
Conference Dates: Tuesday Sept. 28 through Thursday September 30, 2010 <http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com>

Questions: WT-X Chairman, Dirk Miller, [dirk.miller@wgf.state.wy.us](mailto:dirk.miller@wgf.state.wy.us), (307)777-4556



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# FLY OF THE MONTH

**Humpy** DESIGNED BY: Jack Horner

**Hook:** 900 BL  
**Thread:** Various  
**Over body:** Elk or moose  
**Under body:** Thread, Various colors  
**Wing:** White calf (for royal humpies)  
**Hackle:** Ginger, brown, or grizzly  
**Tail:** Elk or moose



**R**andall Kaufmann says it all in his *Tying Dry Flies*, "arguably the greatest surface fly ever devised". Some people use it as a stonefly, others as a caddis, and still others use it to imitate any of a dozen emerging insects. Whatever people might think it looks like, the trout obviously consider it food. The humpy takes fish world wide; from British Columbian steelhead to New Zealand browns to Truckee River rainbows. It belongs in every fly fishers box. I always tie my humpies in the "royal" style with a split post of calf body hair as a wing. This white post keeps the fly visible against deep shadows and the tight silhouette stands out in the glare. This post must cock forward at a 45° angle. Much more of an angle and the fly falls on its face, less of an angle and the humpy sits on its haunches. It can be a bit of a hassle to bend the post after it gets chewed, but hey, it did get chewed didn't it!

**AK Best's Recipe for Head Cement** - never buy head cement again.

Go to Home Depot or local hardware store and buy a **one quart can of clear lacquer** and **one pint of lacquer thinner**. Add some clear lacquer into an empty bottle of head cement. Thin to the consistency of store bought maple syrup.

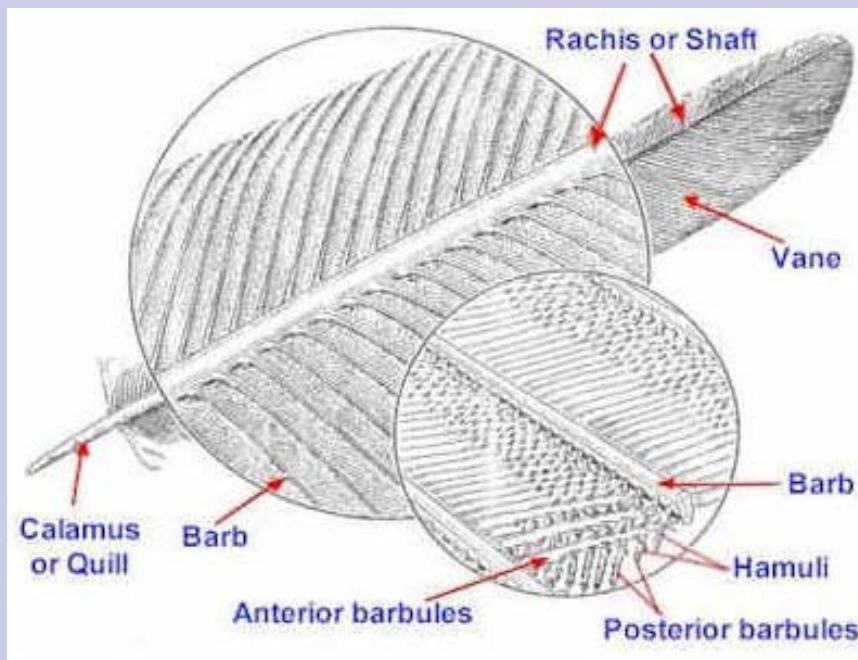


# Feathers

Feathers are one of the most prominent features of a bird's anatomy, and they are unique to birds. Every bird has feathers and everything that has feathers is a bird. Feathers perform a number of functions for a bird: 1) They provide insulation, this is very important in a warm blooded animal (body temperature of most birds is maintained at around 40C); 2) Feathers allow for flight; 3) Feathers control what a bird looks like by supplying the bird with colors. Colors in birds are used for camouflage and sexual display (consider the tail feathers of a peacock).



## Feather Structure



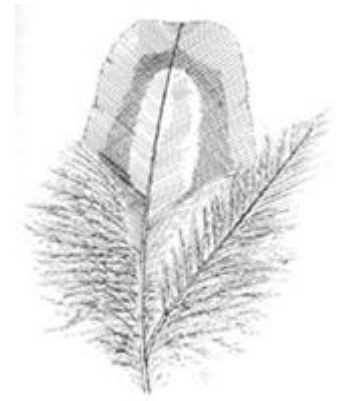
Feathers have a basic form of a hollow, central shaft called a **rachis** and a number of smaller side branches. The side branches are called **barbs** and are linked together by a set of **barbules** and their "hooklets" sometimes called '**Hamuli**' (this is perhaps best understood by seeing the diagram). The base of the feather - where there are no side branches - is called the **calamus or quill**.



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## Types of Feathers

**Contour feathers** give the bird its characteristic smooth round shape. They also give the bird its visual coloring and provide a first level of defense against physical objects, sunlight, wind and rain. They are very important



**Down feathers** are smaller and lack the barbules and their accompanying hooklets so they are not zipped together and do not look as neat. In fact they are soft and fluffy. They provide most of the insulation and are so good at this that mankind for many years collected down feathers from various birds to put into sleeping bags and jackets to help keep us warm.



**Semiplumes** are half-way between a contour feather and a down feather. These occur between the contour feathers and help to supply insulation and a certain amount of form as well.



**Filoplumes** are very small and have only a very few barbs at their tips. They are believed to have a sensory function, helping birds keep their feathers in order



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# How Hoffman Saddle Hackle is Graded



**1. The approximate number of usable tying feathers is counted for both sides of the pelt.** (Example: a 45 count on the left side and a 50 count on the right side, equals a total count of 95 usable tying feathers.)



**2. The average feather length is then measured.** ( Example in the drawing above shows a pelt with an average length of 8 inches.)



**3. The tying sizes of the feathers are determined. Most saddles have two predominant sizes.** ( i.e.14 -16, 16-18 )

**4. The total number of flies per pelt is calculated.** (Example: An 8 inch feather that is a Size 14\* will hackle four flies; 95 usable feathers multiplied by four flies equals 380 flies. \* It is important to note that as the hackle decreases in size, a given length will tie more flies. )

**5. The saddle pelts are then placed in their appropriate grade based on the minimum number of flies each pelt will tie.**

Grade #3 saddles will tie a minimum of 250 flies

Grade#2 saddles will tie a minimum of 450 flies

Grade #1 saddles will tie a minimum of 750 flies. A Signature saddle will tie a minimum of 1,000 flies. Half saddle pelts will tie approximately 1/2 of these quantities.





Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**  
 2004-Jim Brown  
 2005-Allen Greenwood  
 2006- Hugh Marx  
 2007- Mike Rivkin  
 2008- Bill Van Wulven



## 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 **October FINNY FACTS**  
 articles---Friday September 18th.

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 Thanks!!

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

Lucky Ketcham

### LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill Stroud, Eileen Stroud (in memoriam), 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, Doug Joseph, Gary Hilbers

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood, Mike Rivkin, Bill Van Wulven

### Recipients of the: GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service  
 to the flyfishing community

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



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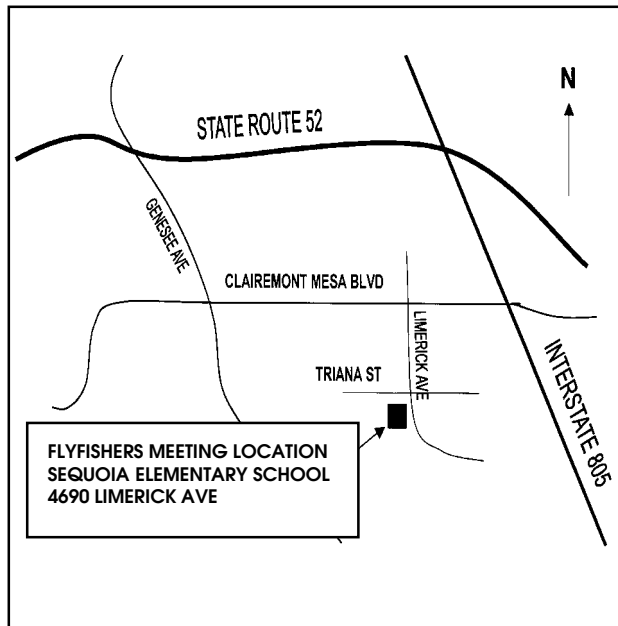
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 Kim Jones,

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.



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