

FINNYFACTS

Archived version

MAY 2001

San Diego Fly Fishers



Volume 6, No. 05

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

MAY SPEAKER

Tom Loe's Eastern Sierra Report

Teethmarks On My Rodtip

The title of this presentation does not paint a picture of "shadow casting" for big trout...and well it shouldn't. As the summer draws near, many of us think of warm water flyfishing, as well as cold water trips to trout country. Our May speaker will take us in a different direction in pursuit of largemouth bass and catfish...yes, catfish.

Mr. Harry Smith is the son of a flyfisherman and has spent his entire life casting for all manner of fish in the "normal" way. Some years back, in his words, he was reborn on the Oso Reservoir. He discovered that he could get many more "strikes", without handling the fish, and get all the excitement of the take.

Harry fishes two fly patterns, the bird and the black shadow. He will demonstrate the tying of these two patterns on Sunday, May 6th at Lake Murray. At the monthly meeting, Harry will take us to Oso, via video, to show us how to get the most out of flyfishing...without a hook on the fly.

Come watch Harry tie his flies on Sunday and then join us on Monday for a most interesting presentation.

REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for the
May meeting

(report at 6:15 PM):

**Buck Parker and
Patricia Case**

Thank you, Mona Morebello

The Frosty Winter Could Mean Colder Water Temps for Opening Day

The ice has come off on both Crowley and Bridgeport Reservoirs as of late March. Lake levels are normal to full for both areas. Unless things change drastically, both areas will be good during May and June unless drastic weather changes occur before opening day. Expect most lakes to be frozen above 8200 feet. A lot will depend on future weather patterns as to what will thaw and be open early this season. I expect Crowley to be slower this season at the start due to low water temps. This could change quickly if warm weather sets in the next couple of weeks. Bridgeport will mirror Crowley on the fishing; it is lower in elevation and will warm up a tad faster.

The trout have begun to move into the tributaries for the spring spawn. Please be careful if you plan on wading in areas that have spawning redds so as not to destroy or disrupt spawning fish. We anticipate excellent conditions for the spawn this year.

Most of the lower elevation creeks and rivers will be in great shape for fishing this opening day. With the below average snow pack as of this report, there will not be high run-off and we expect great early

season fishing conditions again this year. The East Walker River should be in good health after dodging a bullet in regards to an oil spill this winter. The river has received a clean bill of health after extensive efforts to clean up 3,600 gallons of heating oil that dumped into the Walker. A tanker truck tipped over and spilled the oil into the river this winter. We have been to the spill site several times since the accident and are pleased with the cleanup. Several trips to the year round fly fishing area in Nevada have shown us the river is healthy and is kicking out nice browns and bows to 20 inches. Nymphing under a strike indicator with midge or caddis larva #16-20 and a San Juan Worm #12-14, work well this time of year in the East Walker. The flows have been very low all winter but are expected to go up soon. You may access the East Walkers flow rate by clicking onto <http://sierradrifters.com> We have added a link for the Walkers website at the top of the Fish report section.

The West Walker should be a great place to hit early also. This is a freestone creek and when the snow starts to melt this is not a great place to fish. Use a golden stonefly #14-16 with a bead head dropper #14-18. A San Juan Worm combo is always a good bet here this time of year also.

The San Joaquin will not be open to vehicles until later in the season due to snow pack.

Hot Creek looks good for the opener

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, May 7, 2001

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

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Unlike Blanche Dubois from *A Streetcar Named Desire*, we do not rely on the kindness of strangers. We rely on the generosity of friends, especially when it comes to the Annual Raffle. **Jack Bentley** has helped to fill the table for the June event with two donated trips, one from Lee's

Ferry and the other from the Saltery Lodge in Alaska. He is also donating the pontoon boat that he won at last year's raffle.

The generosity of the industry has waned sharply in the last few years. Very few companies are able to make outright donations to clubs, no matter how worthy the cause. What we are seeing now is the promise of a discount, usually with some string attached. But a few have waded in with outright gifts and I want to recognize them here. **Mel Krieger** sent a four-video set of casting instruction, **Glacier Gloves** sent a pair of gloves, and **Bushnell** sent a couple of pair of Bolle sunglasses.

What's needed is the generosity of our members. Consider donating something to the raffle. If you are talented at the vise tie up a couple of dozen flies. If you are a master rod maker, consider donating a rod. Gift certificates work. Buy them at Stroud's Tackle or one of your other favorite emporiums. If you are a regular at a restaurant ask them if they would donate a dinner for two. Do you have any books collecting dust on the shelf? Waders from slimmer days? Line that never made it on a reel? A reel bought with the best of intentions, but still in pristine condition? You get the idea.

Let me give you an additional idea. The past Presidents of recent memory have pooled resources to buy a significant item for the raffle.

The more donations we get, the less money we need to spend on prizes. The less money we spend on prizes the more we can donate. You get the picture.

Raffle...Part Deux. By now you should have received your raffle tickets. The tickets are priced at **\$5.00** each, **6-for-\$25.00**. You have a number of options available to you to purchase tickets. The



JIM TENUTO

first is to return the tickets we mailed to you, with a check or cash, to the club headquarters at Stroud's Tackle. You can also purchase tickets directly at Stroud's, buy them at the upcoming May meeting, or wait until the night of the raffle.

No, we're not just all about trout. In the last few years our program chairs have done a wonderful job in bringing in speakers who really have demonstrated that this fly fishing thing is truly a "big tent." Under the tent last month we enjoyed a salt-water presentation by **Frank Selby** of the His & Her Fly Shop. This month we've got **Harry Smith** and the bird pattern. I've seen the movie, and it's kind of cosmic. This is the fly-fishing equivalent of "counting coup", coaxing a strike without setting the hook. If you love the excitement of "the take", then you don't want to miss this program.

Our attendance continues to astound. Despite the fact our last meeting was held on the same evening as the NCAA Basketball championship game, we again had well over 100 people watching Frank. Amazing!

Emerson once wrote, "There is properly no history; only biography." And in essence, that's what our club history is all about. A series of short biographies, a collection of memories, and a panoply of photographs, threaded together to weave a tale of our club. Sales of the history have been...well...not brisk. It appears that many would-be readers shuffle through the pages looking for a photo of themselves, and then return the book to the shelf (if at Stroud's) or the table (if at a club meeting.) I encourage you to buy the history, not merely dogear the pages.

To paraphrase a popular commer-

cial: "A Royal Wulff...\$1.95, breathable waders...\$330, a graphite rod...\$495, San Diego Fly Fishers History...priceless."

Actually, it's \$30.

A tip of the floppy fishing hat goes to **John Kasten**. Along with his late wife, **Clare**, John was a longtime benefactor of the Zoological Society. Both were featured in the April 2001 issue of *ZooNoz*, the monthly magazine of the San Diego Zoo's Zoological Society. Recognizing John's "extraordinary support of the Zoological Society, John had been invited to accompany a Zoo delegation on a special mission." That mission was to meet and pick up one of Zoo's newest animal ambassadors, a 9-week old cheetah cub, **Karoo**. Karoo was much cuter than Mr. Kasten.

Oftentimes our knowledge of our fellow members is confined to their angling skills and passion. It's always great to hear that we have some other talents and interests, especially when we're out there in the community doing good. Great job, John!

There are a few of us who remember *Captain Video*, a science-fiction television series from the 1950s. (Hell, there's a few of us who remember building our own crystal sets and listening to *The Green Hornet* on the radio. Not me, of course, way too young for that!)

For many years our club has boasted its own version of Captain Video. **John Gauld** has done yeoman duty for over a decade. He built and continues to build an impressive video library that now includes CD-ROMs. And each month John acts as the video librarian, checking out and checking in any number of titles. (By the way, all of these rather expensive video resources are available to club members at no cost.)

John has asked me to find a replacement. We need a new Captain Video and John has more than earned a long-deserved rest. If you are interested in volunteering, please see me at the May meeting or e-mail me. 🐟



My apologies for the empty column the past three months. The first “empty” was due to failure to read the calendar; the next two were due to a severe cold that wouldn’t go away. It’s tough to create or type behind a flood of runny eyes and nose. I hope the following efforts will make up for the missing “From the desk of,” wherein I offer thoughts and data on cloning of humans and on fish engineering. Enjoy, please?



BOB WISNER

But too little thought was given to what would happen to an affected environment and established population. Introduction of GMOs has led to destruction of native fauna — witness the fight concerning the red legged frog and planted trout in the high altitude Sierra waters. We simply do not have enough information, nor do we know enough about it yet. However, the day is near when you can place your order for the type of fish you want — large, rapid growth, great fighter ability, an affinity for dry flies — whatever.

Good luck.

GENETIC ENGINEERING IS OK — BUT DON’T RUSH IT.

GMOs (Genetic Modified Organisms) have been around a lot of years, but are often in disfavor because many peoples of all color are fearful of effects on humans and animals. And, thus far, there are few or reliable guideposts for their use and almost no laws to govern those usage.

But that doesn’t deter fishery biologists from their attempts to engineer size, growth rates, etc., to benefit commercial growers, and possibly sport fishing. It all sounds good and at times has proven to be of great benefit. But, it too often has been used without adequate thought and looks down the road for possible effects on the environment and lives of fellow creatures.

This is happening at Auburn University, Alabama. Here, male blue and female channel catfishes have been bred for “best characters” of both species and for disease resistance. And, something new has been added — the DNA from species like carp and salmon and intended to improve large size, healthier and faster growing individuals. This has long been done for food crops (a big fight on treated corn is now in progress). It has also been done on fishes — often with great success.

TO CLONE OR NOT TO CLONE HUMANS, THAT IS:

This is a new and nagging question facing many scientific groups. It will happen someday, perhaps soon. Our government frowns on it, but there’s no law against private groups attempting the cloning of humans or any vertebrate animal; a lot of scientists are not in favor of attempting it, so far. A Congressional subcommittee has been called to review the information accumulated thus far; the picture is grim and dim in regard to ethics, safety and results in cloning. For instance, it is recorded that it took 277 stillborn, miscarried or dead sheep to make the first successful clone — Dolly — in 1997. Experts say that the efficiency hasn’t improved much in the four years.

Scientists have now cloned cows, goats, pigs and mice, but say that they see problems in all these animals. They estimate that before a human is successfully cloned, “You’ll have 999 miscarriages and deliveries of very malformed children.” Moral and ethical questions aside, to do such experiments on humans

would be brutal and should lead to arrest. On the basis of ethical items alone, mainly, do people have the right to take such risks with their fellow men? It is believed that one or more private groups have set up a secret human cloning venture in the U.S. Claims of 50,000 members, large sums of money, and at least 50 women on line to bear these cloned babies at a fee of \$200,000 a baby for services.

I’ve found no record of malformation or unusual sizes of embryos, but probably no records exist or such data are rigidly suppressed. It is reliably reported that there are many miscarriages of cloned animals. Those born alive often show defects, such as overweight, lung problems, poor circulation, kidney problems, brain abnormalities, and very few grow to healthy adulthood. So much for attempts on humans; in fact, forget it.

Consider the possible (probable) deformities and variations in colors of our lovely trouts. They go mad, but possibly not all bad. Size of fish could range from small to gigantic. If it lived long enough it could reach a size where it would be forced to merely lie on a stream bed and intercept whatever food came into its mouth. If it swallowed your fly, a variable hawser of a leader would be needed to control it (assuming the beast could move and that you wanted to land it). A stream full of them would drive a dedicated fly flinger to collecting videos of former days. Most likely, volunteers would drag out and dispose of such monstrosities.

Anyhow, the original enthusiasm seems to be waning, and so far cloning of any fish is a chancy thing composed of egg-sperm mixtures and chemical treatments, and sit back and wait. If a cloning attempt is unsuccessful, some funny-looking baby fishes would have a short life. To achieve “good” trout, or any other fish, a cleaner water and brighter streams will get us better fish with much less effort and disappointment, as our club slogan has long intimated. Too bad mammals can’t do it that way. 🐟



FLY OF THE MONTH

THE MCGINTY

Hook:	TMC 3761 or any heavy wire hook 1X long, sizes 14 to 10
Thread:	Black or yellow 8/0 or 6/0
Tail:	Barred teal flank over red hackle fibers
Body:	One strand each of medium black and yellow chenille
Hackle:	Brown or furnace
Wings:	Sections of white tipped mallard secondary quills - one left and one right



1. Wrap the shank of the hook with thread. Tie on a few fibers of red hackle feathers at the bend of the hook and then tie a few fibers of barred teal flank or mallard flank on top of the red fibers forming a sparse tail which should be the full length of the hook.
2. Tie in a length of yellow and a length of black chenille in front of the tail. Allow enough chenille so you can wrap it on top of the hook shank up to just behind the eye. Be sure to allow enough room for the hackle and the wings plus the head.
3. Wrap both pieces of chenille forward at the same time in close turns. Tie off the chenille and clip the excess.
4. Attach the hackle in front of the body. You can tie it on by the tip section or the but section, whichever is easier for you. Make about three turns of hackle in front of the body wet fly style.
5. Select a matching pair of white tipped mallard secondary quills. Cut a section from the same part of each quill. Be sure to get some of the white tip of the feather in your sections. The wings should be no wider than the gap of the hook. They can be narrower. Tie the wing sections on top of the shank just in front of the hackle.
6. Form a neat tapered thread head. Whip finish and apply head cement.

The wings on The McGinty can be tied cocked down or up. Both styles are acceptable.

The McGinty does not represent anything in particular except maybe a bee. Originally it was tied as a trout fly. The fly was popular when wet flies were the patterns of choice. It is now mostly used as a pan fish pattern. It is a good fly to use when fishing for blue gill. It will also still catch trout. If your fishing for blue gill cast it out and don't retrieve it, just twitch it a bit. The McGinty must represent something; something blue gill like.

Tom Smith



continued from page 1

unless we get a real hot spell for a week or so soon. It should be running clear and with moderate flows. Nymphing with a San Juan Worm and either mayfly or caddis bead heads will get plenty of action if you can find a place to fish. Look for some surface action late morning, especially if it is cloudy.

One of my personal favorites for the opener is fishing the Upper Owens River upstream of Benton Crossing. There will be good numbers of spawning Kamloops rainbows here and I enjoy pulling #6-10 olive or brown streamers with a moderate sink tip along the undercut banks. Hopefully a miracle will occur and the catch and kill bait fishers that hammer the area below the Benton Crossing Bridge will see the light and allow these fish to live for continued enhancement of this once great section of river. Again, please be careful when wading or handling the fish in this area.

McGee Creek is another spot that will have fine opening day action. The section near the lake is quite a hoof on foot, but should be well worth the effort if you get some water to yourself. Roe patterns fished under a small indicator will get takes. This is a great place to catch big fish in a small creek with light gear. The Kamloops will be on the spawn here also, remember...Love em' and leave em'

We have had several drastic swings in the weather since our prior report. Just a short time ago we broke out the shorts and summer attire. This week we have had a return to the winter pattern of Alaska storms complete with significant snowfall in the upper elevations and cold, lower than normal daytime temperatures. As I am writing this report, it is snowing at the 4000-foot elevation. If you are planning a visit to the Eastern Sierra, please bring

layered type clothing and foul weather gear. Throw in a pair of shorts and light shirts to top off the gear bag. We can have the entire spectrum of weather this time of year and you should be prepared for it.

SIERRA DRIFTERS



TOM LOE

Fishing has been very good to excellent in most areas mentioned in this report. The flows in the Lower Owens River have been stable at 84cfs. This is as low as I have ever seen the river. Pleasant Valley Reservoir has also been at extremely low levels for the last several weeks and this has staged

the conditions for some fantastic fishing. Without question, these have been extraordinary circumstances for this drainage. Major repair work is being conducted on the aqueduct by the L.A.D.W.P. We have not been given a specific date that the flows will increase.

Lower Owens River: Good-excellent

Low flows= good fishing. At 84cfs, the fish are stacked up in the deeper pools and bends and are an easy target if you have the proper gear. There has been some good dry fly activity in the mid-day hours using blue winged olive mayfly imitations #18. Look for the best surface action to occur on overcast days, or low light situations. Otherwise we have been having excellent results yanking olive baitfish imitations #8-12 with a moderate sinking tip line. Nymphing with olive larva patterns #14-18 will also get plenty of action. Flashback pheasant tails, Prince Nymphs, RS-2's, Disco Midges, have all spanked some fish in the wild trout section. You will find a dry/dropper combo will work in most areas; a small indicator with a #4-6 split shot should do the trick in the deeper holes. Spend the extra coin and purchase some fluorocarbon tippet material. This stuff is worth the \$. Have some 5x and 6x handy when fishing this area. The fish are "podding up" so if you fool one, there is a good chance another

will be in the area. Crowds have been heavy on the weekends and holidays in the wild trout section. I suggest midweeks.

Bob Fontana from Encinitas, Ca., with help from his long time fishing buddy Bob Acker of El Cajon, Ca., nailed over 80 browns and rainbows along with this gorgeous rainbow while drifting with us for two days in April.

You may check out the photos by viewing our website at <http://sierradrifters.com> Click on fish report please.

Pleasant Valley Reservoir: Smoking!!!

If you are planning a trip here soon do not pass this up. The bows are pre-spawn and are choking the river leading into the lake. You will not miss. I have heard of anglers stripping crickets with a sink tip and catching fish. Please! Please! At least use a streamer. The reservoir proper is increasing from a record low level. You will find the action excellent in all areas here. Tubers using most anything near the inlet will get takes. The water temp is around 47 degrees. There is a mayfly hatch mid-day that warrants some looking at also. Please exercise proper catch and release methods here. You will encounter other anglers, this is a popular spot. The reservoir level has been at an all time low, but is rising daily.

The Gorge: Very good

A great time of year to fish this area. Use the flies in your box that do not work anywhere else. You know what I mean, the ones with the rust stains on the hook holders. They will get fish here. Any decent presentation for a drift and the browns here will cooperate. The middle section has been good and has the best access. Caddis #14-18, Parachute Adams #16-18 are good choices. Use a small Stimulator #16 and hang a bead head anything #16-18 off the bend of the dry with 6x tippet. Have fun!

Hope to fish with you all this season. Best fishes.

Be the fly...Tom Loe,
Sierra Drifters Guide Service
760-935-4250 🍷



San Diego Fly Fishers Annual Raffle Coming June 4th!

Tickets on sale now. \$5.00 each or 6 for \$25. Buy your tickets at Stroud Tackle or at the next Sdff meeting.

New Mexico Ranch Looking For a Few Good Instructors

Brush Ranch Offers Fly Fishing Opportunity for the Young

In our quest to expose children from the ages of 6 through 15 to the sport of Fly Fishing, we search each year for 2 qualified instructors to share their enthusiasm and skill with young people who may not have an opportunity otherwise to participate in the sport. The minimum age for instructors is 19.

Must have strong teaching skills in the art of fly fishing. Working in ponds as well as 1.5 miles of the Pecos River. Must be able to teach fly tying, at least 6 patterns both wet and dry. Stream ecology also stressed.

Owned and operated by the Rice family since 1956, Brush Ranch Camps offers quality camping experiences to young people and families from all across the country, all around the world. We offer a non-competitive program designed around the arts, outdoor experiences and sports. Brush Ranch is a co-ed, residential camp surrounded by the pristine Pecos Wilderness and the Santa Fe National Forest. The Main Camp consists of 300 acres of privately owned land in the Pecos Canyon

Fly Tiers Wanted!

November's meeting will be the Fly Tier's round table. If you enjoy fly tying and have a special fly you want to share with the Club, please let me know if you would like to participate. You do not need to be an expert. We want participants of all skill levels. We also want a variety of types of flies; trout, bass, saltwater, dries (except the Elk Hare Caddis), wets, nymphs, midges and worms.

If you don't tie flies, plan on attending to see how it is done and maybe catch the bug! 🐛

of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, 37 miles east of the historic city of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Brush Ranch is heavily wooded at an elevation of 7600' with 1.5 miles of the Pecos River running through the property.

The typical camp employment contract runs from June 10th through August 11th with opportunities on either end to increase the number of days worked. Base pay ranges from \$130-\$300 per week plus room and board, plus a travel allowance. Additional monies are paid for certifications, degrees and experience.

A staff packet may be requested by calling our office at the number listed below. Alternatively, an application may be downloaded from the staff section of our website at www.brushranchcamps.com or you may apply directly online (signature required). Applications may be faxed to Brush Ranch at 505-757-8822. Our mailing address is included below if you prefer to post your application. Four references are required to complete the candidate's application. The reference forms will be sent to each candidate by our office once the application is received. It is the applicant's responsibility to distribute the reference forms. Once our office receives the application and completed

Sdff History Book Sales

Some people are not buying history books because they are waiting for the 2nd Edition. As a result, sales on the 1st Edition are slow. There will be a 2nd Edition but not until 2002. At the same time we put out the 2nd Edition we will put out the change pages and new pages at the meetings. People who have the 1st Edition can then substitute change pages and add new pages to update their books. That was the reason for going to the 3 ring binder format; to make the history book a "living" document. So there isn't any reason not to buy your history book now. Lots of people said they wanted a history book. We've got a history book but it needs your support to continue. 🐛

references we will communicate with the applicant by phone or email to arrange an interview.

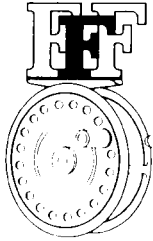
For New Staff Applicants for Summer 2001. Each month beginning in December, we will have a drawing from all the completed applications (which includes returned reference letters) received that month. The winner of the drawing will receive a \$50 gift certificate to REI, so we encourage you to apply now!

Mailing Address
Brush Ranch Camps
P.O. Box 5759
Santa Fe NM 87502

Other Contact Information
Phone: 505-757-8821
Fax: 505-757-8822
Email: jobs@brushranchcamps.com
Website: www.brushranchcamps.com

Scott Rice
Co-Director
Brush Ranch Camps
recruit@brushranchcamps.com 🐛





From the FFF Clubwire News

Submitted by Greg Voss is President of the North Coast Fly Fishers in Cleveland, Ohio and VP of Membership for the Great Lakes Council

THE LIGHTER SIDE OF BELIEF, PRESENTATION, AND THE STEALTH FLY FISHERMAN

Separating from the pack of mediocrity to seek a higher calling and become a good fly fisher obsesses many. It is not really clear at what stage in life that he receives his calling. Fly fishers have a life cycle much like a caddis fly — larva, pupa, and adult. The difference being that new people introduced to the sport simply just show up out of nowhere, take on an identity like the free living larva, and enter the “polyester” phase.

POLYESTER STAGE

During this time the new polyester fly fisher (larva) seems to buy a lot of useless fly fishing items (mostly made out of polyester) because they think these will help them catch more fish. New polyester fly fishers are not very good at wading, knot tying, casting, or fishing at all for that matter. They seem to make all of the wrong decisions, but remarkably, the survivors possess the belief that they will eventually swim (or float) to the top as adult. Early on, some polyester fly fishers distinguish themselves on the stream because they have been known to carry an oversized tarpon net and are frequently found asking better fishermen for their flies that are catching all of the big browns. But, for whatever reason, the gifted ones seem to press on to the more promising “stealth” stage of the cycle.

STEALTH STAGE

In the stealth stage (similar to the pupa) of

the fly fisher cycle, the emphasis turns to becoming much more streamlined and lightweight. It is a higher plain where one has unloaded most of the polyester stuff (larva casings) to the disadvantaged. The stealth fly fisher has invested in at least six designer rods and reels, an SUV, and is buying every book and magazine ever written on the subject. Buy now he has purchased at least two fly tying vises, one pair of gortex waders, a designer vest and is much more quieter and camouflaged on the stream, as the word stealth implies.

He has discovered fluorocarbon tippets to help conceal his presentation errors, and like a tree standing in water, his presence remains largely unknown to the trout, and also to his wife because he is on the stream an hour before dawn and returns after dark. Even after investing large amounts of money on stealth gear, he still manages to find ways to blow his cover with loud conversation, stumbling, and sloshing on the stream and when he returns home to the bedroom. The stealth fly fisher has learned other ways to exercise his skills by learning how to conceal most of his bank card charges on the latest state-of-the-art equipment purchases.

The stealth fly fisher does catch some fish, but foul hooks an equal amount of them and usually brags of the large creel that never really existed. The stealth fly fisher at times can be seen following good fly fishermen on the stream and they are still known to “sponge flies” off of them.

GOOD STAGE

It is not really clear how the modern fly fisher passes from the stealth stage to the good fly fisher stage (adult) in the life cycle. He may have either received a good bump on the head (probably from his wife) or simply ran out of money and had to catch enough trout to survive. Whatever the reason, we do know that at least 5% of all stealth fly fishers do attain the higher plain sometime in the cycle, and at least 50% of these are still even married.

Good fly fishers attain the higher calling mainly because they just kept believing and stayed committed to the on-stream experience over all of the other distracting resources, toys, and hype that were part of the polyester and stealth phases. Their selection of fly gear is more discriminating and they catch more and bigger fish than their polyester and stealth counterparts, because they spend most of their time on the streams, learning, watching and fishing. They have become good trout bums because they continued to believe through the whole process of emerging as an adult. Talk to any of them, and they will tell you that they are completely convinced that being successful is all about commitment to a good presentation of the fly.

They will never admit to ever having to pass through the polyester and stealth stages like the rest of us. 🦈



ARE YOU LOOKING IN THE WRONG PLACE?

Have you ever heard the story about the drunk who was crawling around on the sidewalk at night under a streetlight? When approached, he claimed he was looking for his car keys. When asked why he was looking in that particular spot, instead of the area around his car, he replied, "Because the light is better here."

I am reminded of that story every time I see fishermen congregating in the easiest approach to a stream or body of water. It doesn't seem to matter whether or not it is a great place to fish, it is just too convenient to bother going to any trouble to make it memorable. Maybe you run your life that way, but the odds are you're not getting the most from your fishing.

I don't believe that fish like the hassle that goes along with a lot of fishermen crowding the same area, and neither do I. The small inexperienced fish may stick around, since the big aren't there, but even the young ones wise up at some point and that is usually before they are large enough to bend a rod. Yes, I know fishermen, and so do you, who religiously drive the paved road to the best parking area that displays the easiest path to the water. Granted, some of those fishermen do make the effort to walk up or down stream, but usually just far enough to avoid the bulk of the crowd. Most just don't seem to bother at all.

I didn't use to bother and I didn't catch many fish and I didn't have a very good time. I blamed the flow rate, the weather, the lack of conservation, and on and on. You know the drill. But one day I figured it out. I had to go where the fish were, not just to catch the fish, but because trout only live in beautiful places and I wanted to fish the beautiful places.

It took some work, but it was that pleasurable sort of work that doesn't seem to go

against the beauty of the thing. I had to find and then learn to read those highly detailed maps that show every gradient and logging road. You might as well know that it takes a little mileage before you really get to understanding them. Nature seems to like to put new and different things in the way immediately after the surveyors have moved through the area. It also takes some time to discipline yourself to what kind of equipment really produces on a per ounce basis, because you'll be toting it more than a few yards from the car.

So what do you gain from all of this? Did I really locate more fish? Are they worth all of this effort? Well, that's where the theory sort of falls apart for many of my friends, but for others it is just the beginning to an all new dimension of fishing. No, I don't always locate more fish. I always seem to locate as many as those fishing the convenient locations, but not necessarily more. Are the fish I catch worth all of that effort? You bet they are. It's worth the effort to me even if I don't find fish, not that I would keep hiking to a fish-less location. I'm not that dumb, but I'll make the initial effort any time.

You see there is more to gain from fishing than fish. You surely know that if you have any experience as a fisherman. If not, you'll either learn soon enough or give up the method. The real gain is in the hope that is aroused merely by the idea of going fishing at all and then, in addition, by that general lift in spirits that the hope carries with it. The gain is also found in reflecting on the deep contributions that remote, natural settings and undisturbed silence offer. But you'll find that the gain is proportionate to, and even enhanced by, the amount of effort that you put forth to make it happen. It is truly an equation. The culmination of planning, outfitting, risk taking, and just taking action is adventure enough, but the rush that comes

with reveling in the actual outcome, no matter what it is, is what makes the real and lasting memories. Good memories can really multiply the benefits of fly fishing. Take a moment right now, to think if you have any really memorable experiences that involve fishing at a public access. I said "memorable" experience.

Now, I have some bad fishing trips, but it was never due to the number of fish caught. I just don't think that way. I don't measure fishing trips by the number of fish caught, just as I don't measure life by the number of people I have bested. You've heard it before; "To enjoy life you must enjoy the trip and not the arrival at the destination." It's the same with fishing. A few fish at the destination doesn't hurt, but it's the trip that counts.

So don't make it too convenient, or you will miss the whole point. 🎣

(by Gerald Hinds of the North Arkansas Fly Fishers for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)

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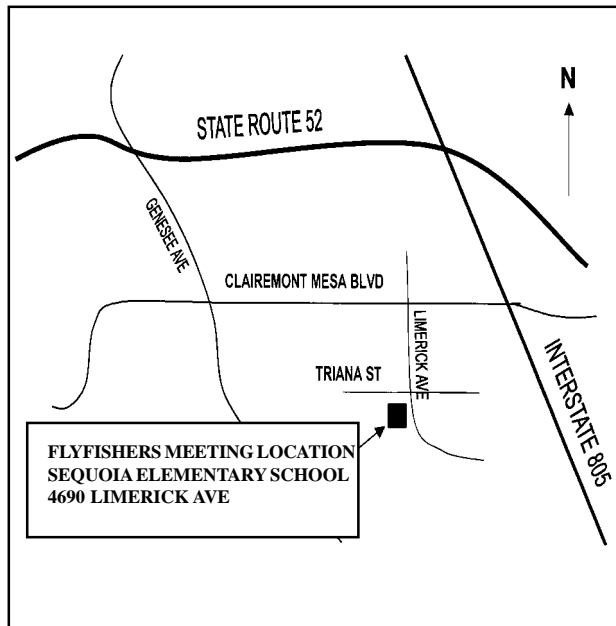
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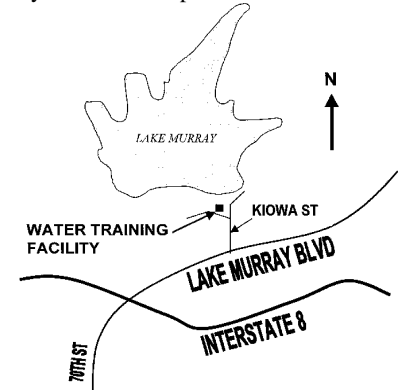


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