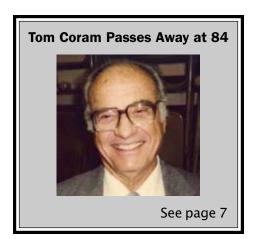
December Meeting

Swap Meet and Fly Tying

Our final meeting for the year will be our annual members swap meet and fly tying event.

Club members in good standing can bring fishing gear and personally made items to sell or trade. (No resale allowed). Don't miss it.



MEETING NOTICE

Monday, December 5, 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)
Jim Castelluzzo and
Bruce Michael
Thank You, Mona Morebello

My Escape to Rush Creek

A Day of Dry Flies and Relaxation-A Fish Tale by Lucky Ketcham October 2, 2011

very fly fisher needs to know a few special trout streams or a section of a stream where he or she can escape the hectic world around them. Sometimes you have to escape the sun, more often the wind and on occasion just the hustle and bustle of getting your "stuff" ready for day of fly fishing. A short section of Rush Creek for a mile above Grant Lake provides that "special shaded retreat" for me almost every year. I usually head to Rush Creek, Big Spring, and Sotcher Lake or to the San Joaquin when the white caps drive me off Crowlev Lake or if I cannot stand another day in bright sun on lakes or the wide open meadows of the Upper Owens. I think I must be part brown trout; I like to avoid the mid-day sun.

There are several parts to Rush Creek that anglers like to fish. Some like the stream just below the Grant Lake dam and the several miles on the east side of Hwy 395. This area has been the subject of many court battles to make LAPW maintain a water flow and restore the creek to some fraction of its former glory. The only problem with this section for me is the lack of shade and trees. It still has the wind and sun.

Riding along the north entrance of the June Lake Loop you will see car pull outs along the tall pine tree lined highway. Pick any of those parking spots and you will probably find a few stream sections to your liking. The wind can be howling with white caps on Silver Lake and in the tree tops above you, but be relatively calm on the stream as it is buffered by trees and willows. In late September or October, big brown trout move up from Grant Lake in an attempt to spawn. It is not always a game of "put and take" stocked rainbows. Sometimes you want to throw big Olive Matukas in the "inlet" of Grant Lake and in this section of Rush Creek.

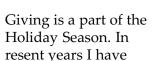
The spots that I like; look like the pictures below with Aspens, pines and willows right up to the banks. The wide dirt trails tell you how many worm, power bait and spin casters frequent these pools. The spots below the Silver Lake campground are heavily stocked with DFG rainbows and sprinkled with large Alper's Ranch trout. Fishing can be good or bad depending on the numbers of anglers and how recent the stocking. Lower sections of Rush Creek seem to hold many small brown trout and in some years brook trout. Big brown trout love to eat baby brook trout. My

continued on page 4

HAPPY HOLIDAYS

he holiday season is upon us and I want to wish everyone a joyful

Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Hanukkah. I hope that you all are able to spend time with family and friends and take part in sharing this time with one another.



tried to give more to causes that serve our San Diego community. I try to give not only out money but of my time as well. This past weekend the Airstream Club I belong to, put care packages together to sent to Marines serving in the Middle East. It feels good to do what one can to help others. During the past year many of our members have given a lot of their time helping others. The Lend-A-Rod program at Chollas Lake and Project Healing Water at the Naval



ART REIFMAN

Medical Center are just two examples. I would like to thank

everyone who has donated time helping others this past year. I would also like to suggest that you consider supporting Project Healing Waters, which offers fly-fishing to disabled servicemen and veterans through out the United States. You can go to their web

site, projecthealingwaters.org to find out how to donate. Also, if you donate through your work to the Combined Federal Campaign, you can choose to designate that some of your contribution go directly to Project Healing Waters.

I also would like to remind everyone of some of the upcoming club events and encourage you to join in. On November 26, the Saturday following Thanksgiving, we are having our last club outing of 2011, a **Day at the Bay**. Plan to meet at 6:00 AM at Tidelands Park to go fishing followed by brunch around 9:00. Hope to see you there. On December 5 we will have special **Swap Meet and Fly Tying** event at our monthly club meeting. Club members in good standing can bring fishing gear and personally made items to sell or trade. (No resale allowed). Don't miss it.

On January 9th we are having our annual **Stroud Awards Banquet** at the Admiral Baker club. It is our time to acknowledge the efforts of club members and have a special meal together. Plan on joining us to help celebrate the finish of 2011 and the start of a new year.

"Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not the fish they are after." Henry David Thoreau

May this holiday season bring you happiness and joy.

CALL FOR NOMINEES FOR THE "BILL AND EILEEN STROUD AWARD"

SDFF Members,

The Stroud Awards Banquet is set for Monday, January 9th, 2012 at the Admiral Baker Clubhouse and it is time to recognize individuals who have made a difference to the sport of fly fishing.

The "Bill and Eileen Stroud Award" is given each year to an individual who has made a major lifetime contribution to the sport of fishing and/or conservation efforts that benefit the sport of fishing. This award is open to individuals who have made a contribution to the sport of fishing outside the Club's activities. Only SDFF members may nominate candidates for the award. If you have someone you would like to nominate please fill out a Stroud Award nomination form that can be found on the Club's web site and submit it to



SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS

Annual "STROUD" Banquet



Monday January 9th 2012 6:30 to 9:00 PM Admiral Baker Clubhouse U.S. Navy Recreation Center

Come celebrate another successful year for San Diego Fly Fishers.

The price is only \$25 per person for a great buffet dinner in a beautiful and convenient setting.

Sign-up at a meeting, at Stroud's Tackle or mail check to Paul Woolery 10815 Ramsgate Dr. Santee, CA 92071 no later than December 23rd.

My Escape to Rush Creek

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Neversink River/Catskill mentors hated them for that reason.

This little video link shows you what to expect fishing below the Grant Lake Dam and the story of restoring Rush Creek to Mono Lake. You will like it. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bgNR99UVI78

The last Saturday of the SDFF September 2011 Mammoth fishing trip, I think I was on the brink of sun and heat stroke. I could not bear the thought of another day on a lake in a pontoon boat. Sitting in the bright sun, kicking in the wind and dragging a woolly bugger for small stocked trout was not giving me the relaxation that I needed. The thought of waders, safety belts, shoes, fins, life vests, oars, motors, batteries, boxes and boxes of flies, anchors, fish finders, nets, stripping baskets, sun hats, sun screen and "The Sun" made me a nervous wreck. I dropped Bob Pharoah off at Silver Lake at 11 AM and headed down the road to my sanctuary along Rush Creek.

I wanted to escape and go back to the way I fished at age 18 or 19. I was in full rebellion of the modern

fly fishing "Stuff." I wore my blue jeans and a long sleeved shirt with a single dry fly box in the shirt pocket. I had no net, no wading staff, and no safety belt. I carried my vest with extra leader and tippet but threw it on the bank with a bottle of water. I did have my good polarized sun glasses and broad billed sun hat. (I hate the sun.) If I could have found an

old pair of Converse All Star "high tops," I would have left my wading shoes at home. I remember my first pair of PF Flyer white high tops. My father made me take them back and get black high tops – saying I would never keep them clean and they would soon be the color of grass and fresh cow manure.

You will not believe me when I tell you that I caught 50 small brook trout and brown trout in three long runs or pools, in three hours of fishing. What will amaze you is how few casts I made to catch those fish. I had to move from pool to pool several times and let them rest between my casts. When I approached the stream for the first time I told myself that I was a hunter, not a caster. I was going to try to restrict my "blind casts" to the absolute minimum. Those of you that have listened to our SDFF Mentor Lectures might remember the saying that you cannot catch a fish if your fly is not in the water. That is a true statement for lakes, the ocean and bays but for a small clear trout stream you can make too many and too frequent casts. Any one that just marches up to this stream, wades out to the middle and makes five

splashy casts will be greatly disappointed.

I always talk to myself when fishing or even writing these little stories. On this trip I told myself that I would not disappoint Jim Brown and try to stay out of the stream as much as possible. Sometimes it is easier casting in the middle of a stream but if everyone waded out and walked up the streambed the main feeding areas would look like those ugly dirt trails along the river banks. I told myself that I would be the "Heron" and stand quietly along the shore looking for any signs of movement and fish activity. I would hide behind the branches of the willows and trees and take great care to make accurate casts or daps to feeding fish. My movements were slow and deliberate. I pretended I was hunting a wild turkey and avoided unnecessary steps or movement of the hands or arms. The old rule of casting only to active fish paid off. There was no "hatch" but the little fish were moving and fighting for position if you looked.

Since it was mid September and there were no Mayflies or Caddisflies hatching in the stream, I thought my first choice of fly should be a terrestrial. I chose a small size 14 tan parachute hopper. It was easy to see and might bring up a fish on a warm sunny day. I liked deep shade and so do the trout - so I looked for any shady areas in this large run. Under an overhanging willow branch in the tail out of this run there were two small trout working some insects. They were only 7 or 8 feet from where I was standing along the near bank. A little curved flip cast put the hopper six inches from the bank and drifting over the feeding area. One of the fish hit it on the first

continued on next page



My Escape to Rush Creek

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cast; but the fly was too big. It was a good sign to get a rise on my first and then the second cast. Another trout was working on the far side of the tail out. Two casts to that side produced another hit and miss. These were 5 to 7 inch fish, not the 3 inch fish I was casting to on the Madison. I wanted to work the tail end of the run before I tried the prime holding areas but the temptation was too great. I made a short 20 foot pile cast to the main current seam and a 15 or 16 inch brown trout rolled up to taste it. I say taste because it was another bump by a vellow brown shadow. I decided that the hopper was too large for these fish. I was disappointed; but told myself - "I know where you live." I moved back into the shadows and tied on a new smaller size 16 red Sierra Bright Dot. I lengthened the 6X tippet by two feet. I fish



hoppers on short leaders. The tapered leader and tippet was now about 12 feet and very soft. I was using my, ever faithful, 10 foot 5 wt, Temple Fork Outfitters rod. It is tough walking in tight brush but the long rod reaches out and puts flies in the middle of small streams and holes easily. It also keeps most of the fly line and leader off the water for these short drag free drifts. I waited a full 15 minutes until the fish were back into a feeding mode. I was in no hurry with no one to compete with for a fish count.

The two little trout in the shade were suckers for the red dot dry fly. All my practice in the back yard throwing short hook casts paid off. The fly and tippet ran next to the bank while the fly line was off to the right side and out of sight. The trout were so small they came in without much commotion and did not put down the fish in the middle and far side of the tail out. I had 5 quick fish with only 9 casts. It seemed like magic. The trout that I took the time to look at were brightly colored brook trout with that pretty white mark on their pelvic fins. After talking to Louie Zimm, I question the species of some of the fish I caught. I didn't look at many of them, just shaking them off for the release. I did not use a net and tried not to handle any fish. Usually Rush Creek is a brown trout stream with stocked rainbows. We speculated that the high water flows earlier in the year may have washed more brook trout down from the higher elevation. The poor little brookies will be food for the large brown trout when they move up for the fall spawning run.

I like fishing on the left hand side of a stream. I am right handed and that side of the river is best for the upstream and across casts that I love. It puts the rod tip out over the water and I get fewer hang-ups in the fly snatching trees. One or more large brown trout were holding in the main seam only 10 or 12 feet from me; but I could not see them. They were protected by a screen of well oxygenated water. Millions of tiny air bubbles turn the crystal clear water into a section of silvery gray flowing water. I always look for the "gray water" when I am on a stream and have confidence that the largest trout in run will be in that section. If there are no undercut banks, large rocks or deep shade of

bushes, the fast, well oxygenated "gray water" is the only shelter from the sun and airborne predators. Trout can hide in plain sight. I had the advantage of knowing a large trout feeds there since he rose for my hopper earlier. I made a short dapping cast and put the Sierra Bright Dot just 12 inches upstream from the suspected fish. The fly bounced on the fast surface with virtually no leader or tippet touching the water. In a split second the brown trout swirled up and took the fly. There is a joy that comes from fooling a specific fish on a dry fly that does not compare with catching one on a blind cast or on a nymph. Then there is the adrenaline rush you get from watching the bigger trout try to get away in that very shallow clear stream. Somehow it is different than fighting a fish in a deep lake. You don't have to worry about large rocks, sticks and obstacles in a lake. You don't have to talk to the fish and say "Don't go over there, don't wrap around that rock, keep away from that bush!" Fighting a 16 inch brown trout on 6X or 7X tippet in a small stream is exciting to me.

I also get joy from not using a net on stream fish. After a short fight I like to bring the fish up to the downstream side of my leg and let it rest for a few seconds. The water at the side of a stream is slower than the mid section and your leg reduces the flow even more. The trout thinks it is behind a big rock and relaxes. I hold it up against my leg and turn it upside down and I gently shake out the barbless hook. Most of the time I do not need the sharp jawed hemostats that ruin my flies. Usually the trout just remain still and the release process goes without incident. Sometimes the fish wakes up and tries to escape. Sometimes I will break off a fish

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My Escape to Rush Creek

continued from page 5

when I hold the light leader. Really big trout are brought to a grassy or soft mud shoreline and I let them swim onto shore. Most little fish do not need to be turned over to remove the hook and are released without any handling. I hate fish slime on my hand and I think most nets remove the protective mucus on the trout causing fungal infections later. I like the new smooth rubber/silicon nets that the guides use; but I do not want to carry one. Maybe I can talk Bob Pharoah or Wayne Allen into following me around and net my fish for me. You need a net for steep banked rivers like the Upper Owens. You can't wade and you can't lift a fish on light tippet.

I like this spot on the left side of the stream. I could reach almost every trout holding area in the 75 foot long run and even cast downstream to the riffle below the tail out. I caught a few more small trout in main foam line before I made some long 30 foot casts to the head of the pool. I missed a few trout in the little eddy on the right. I was amazed at how quickly the fish were put down and dashed for cover of the bushes when I switched from dapping just a long leader to casting the heavy fly line. Those small trout do not like any shadows or overhead movement. I had to move up stream to a new pool and run to catch more fish.

Almost immediately, I lost my Sierra Bright Dot to branch higher than I could reach. I hate when that happens. I have, honestly, cut down trees to retrieve a favorite fly. I carried only one small fly box today and luckily I had a similar "red tailed mosquito." I don't know why red accents in flies attract trout. Mosquitoes are true flies and do not have tails; but adding a few bright red hackle fibers at the end of the abdomen balances the fly on the water and on the tongue of the trout. We both love all things red. Lee McElravy reported that he and Larry Sorensen had good luck using

small size 20 Sierra Bright Dots on some streams this trip - "but they had to be red."

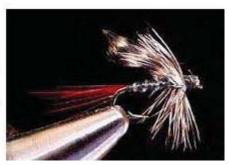
The little trout liked the mosquito on the upstream tail out, run and riffle. I took my time and used the same hunter tactics. No larger trout wanted to play. I moved down stream to a big bend in the river with lots of complicated eddies, rocks and seams. It was fun to make long casts and try to mend the fly line to prevent drag in sections that had cross currents and back eddies. It is comforting to fish pools that you have fished for several years. They are familiar to you. I have a very good visual memory and I love to recall specific spots where I lost or caught fish. It helps to know that the biggest fish in the pool hold just 6 inches off that triangular rock or in that run of silver/gray water.

Enjoying trout fishing is about confidence and expectation. It is good to have some familiar "home waters" and a "sanctuary."

Lucky







Red Tailed Mosquitoes can be light with dark ribbing or dark muskrat with light thread ribbing. I usually use white and black moose hair for my bodies. Wings can be hen or thin grizzly hackle tips. Size 16 & 18 are good but a larger size 14 is a good attractor. There are many species of mosquitoes, some are large with legs that look like grizzly hackle and some are small and dark bodied like an Adams.





In Memoriam Thomas Harry Coram

From Betty Coram, former SDFF President

Thank you for your friendships and thoughtfulness to Tom and me. I need to share with you the loss of my beloved husband of nearly 24 years.

Tom was born in Yankton, South Dakota on September 21, 1927 and he passed away at our home in San Diego on October 12, 2011.

Throughout his hospitalization he kept insisting he wanted to go home. In keeping with his wishes he was brought home to the house that he loved for hospice care during the last phase of his life.

Thomas Harry Coram died at home on October 12, 2011 from heart failure. He was 84. He grew up in San Diego. Between WW II and the Korean War he served in the Army. He obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from San Diego State University in 1952.

During his career in the electrical field Tom worked for the City of San Diego and various electrical firms before joining Berg Electric from which he retired. He designed and implemented the prefab shop for Berg.

Some of Tom's accomplishments were teaching apprentices at the Community Colleges and at Berg. After retirement he was an Arbitrator for the San Diego County Bar Association and the Better business Bureau, Mediator for the City of San diego and the San Diego Mediation Center. He was a participant at the Clairemont Senior Center and an avid fly fisher.

Tom was active in the Boy Scouts as a youth and then as a Leader. He was active in the St. Rita's church as his children were growing up.

He is survived by his brtother, Frank of Anacortes, Washington; his seven children; Gail, Steven, Susan, and Teresa of San Diego, David of Temecula, Karin of Davenport, Iowa and Nabci of Nampa, Idaho. Their mother, Joan predeceased him in 1983. He leaves behind his wife of nearly 24 years, Betty Jackson Coram, 28 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. Any donations in his memory are requested to be made to any environmental protection agency, especially to protect fish.

Betty

Members Fishing Reports

Friday Oct. 28-Tidelands

Robert Pharoah rpharoah@cox.net

Lee Anderson, Barry Pechersky and I fished Tidelands early this morning. Lee launched around 6:45 AM and headed for the bouy line. Barry and I launched about 10 minutes later. Water temp 64 degrees.

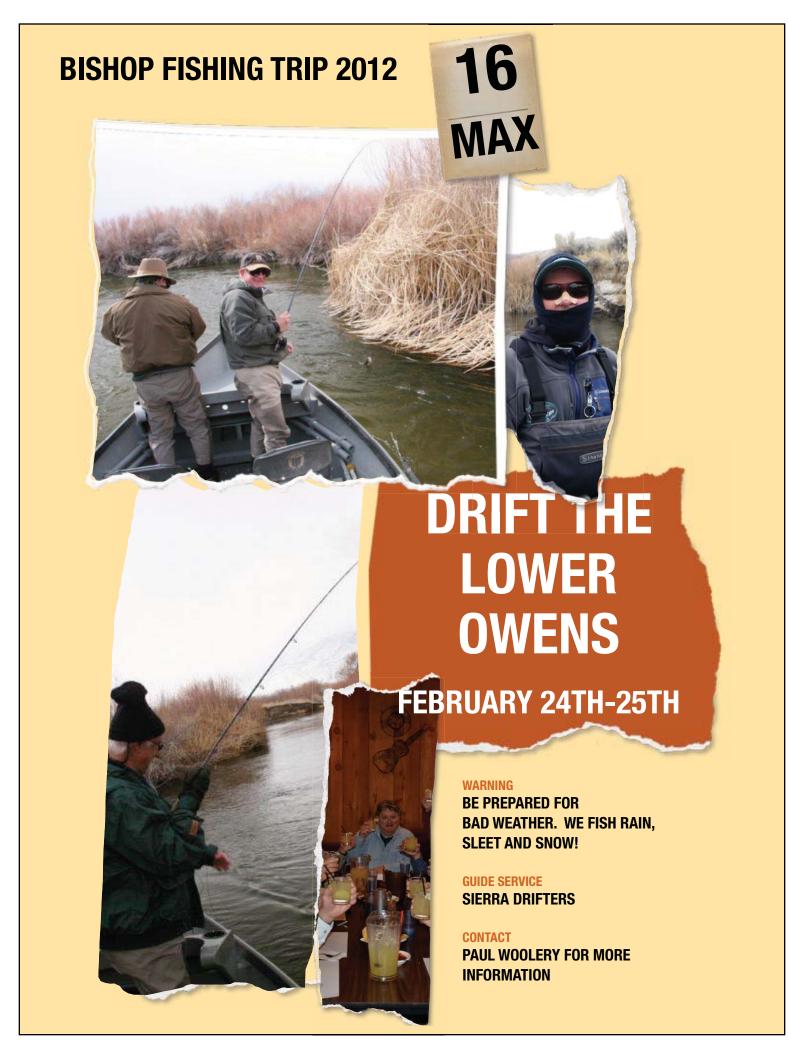
When we were about 20 yards from shore, we ran into fish feeding on the surface. We had fish boiling all around us and only had to cast toward them to hook up. This surface feeding lasted for about 10 minutes but fish continued to hit our flies all morning. Lee stopped fishing at 9:30 and reported he had "caught more fish than he could count". He had caught 2 Corbina, 1 small Halibut and the rest were Spotted Bay Bass.

Barry and I quit fishing about 10:15 with Barry catching 18. He had 1 lizard fish, 2 Mackerel and 15 Spotted Bay Bass. He was fishing two flies for the first time and had 4 doubles.

I ended the day with 45 hookups, 40 landed and 6 doubles. Mine were all Spotted Bay Bass with the exception of 1 Croaker. I caught mine on a Brown/White Clouser minnow and Kim's Z-Worm. It was exciting casting to all the "boiling" fish.









Ho-Ho-Ho...

North Pole greetings to everyone who volunteered to be a 2012 SDFF Meeting Host or Substitute. Your name will be put on Santa's "A List!"

A 2012 schedule of Hosts, Subs and "How to Set-up details" Will appear in the January Finny Facts.

Merry...Merry...Merry

Mona Morebello (Head Elf)



FFF (SWC) CERTIFIED INSTRUCTOR SEMINAR IN SAN DIEGO

Saturday, December 10, 2011

ave you ever wanted to take your casting and teaching skills up to the next level? Tim Lawson will explain the process and preparation required for the Federation of Flyfishers CI (Certified Instructor) and MCI (Master Certified Instructor) tests. Tim has been a Certified Instructor since 2006 and a Master since 2009. The session will include a thorough examination of the CI test materials along with practical demonstrations of what is expected from the examiners. You will discover that becoming a good instructor is a step beyond learning to cast well. Tim will discuss communication and learning techniques and share some of the tricks he has learned to help students make breakthroughs with their casting. This is an important class for anyone who is considering becoming an FFF certified instructor. Tim will be joined by another certified instructor who will be on hand to demonstrate casts and give tips to anyone who wants to improve their casting.

PLACE: La Colonia Park 715 Valley Avenue Solana Beach, CA 92075

Exit I-5 west on Via de la Valle. Right at first stop light on Valley Ave. Bear right at stop light staying on Valley Ave. Park and community center buildings and parking lot are on left about 0.3 miles from stop light.

TIME: 10 - noon. Should there be interest, there will be some outside casting afterwards. CONTACT: Steve Piper

Michael Schweit

Conway Bowman on the Sportsmans Channel

ne of the most well recognized franchises in outdoors television is about to get a facelift. Perennial host John Barrett is passing the torch to the next generation of fly fishermen and who better to carry that flame than **Conway Bowman**...a man who has been known to land 200 pound make sharks from a paddleboard! Although he is often recognized for these pioneering efforts to catch make sharks off the Southern California coast, deep down Conway is a man who simply likes to catch fish, and the fly rod just happens to be his weapon of choice. Join Conway as he circles the globes in search of the stories, legends and, of course, big fish that come together to make some of the world's best fly fishing destinations. Check him out on the Sportsmans Channel.

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



Cutoff date for **January** FINNY FACTS articles---**Friday December 16th**.

Send articles to: Rose and Roger Yamasaki,

You can E-mail at Thanks!!

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

Paul Woolery membership@sandiegoflyfishers.com

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.

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

HONORARY MEMBERS

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

Recipients of the:

GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

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

SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS 2011 OFFICERS

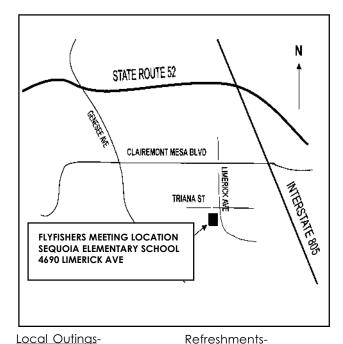
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Programs-Gary Farrar Raffles-Alan Thompson Jim Tenuto (annual) Maria Goldman
Rod BuildingJack Duncan
IravelDavid Collins
Video & LibraryBill Stock
Web PageDavid Collins
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com

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 10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd. #327 San Diego, CA 92124

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