



September Speaker

CalTrout's Current Efforts and Future Plans Highlighted at Next SDFP Meeting

The September 10th meeting will be of extreme interest for all of us that are either committed to or confused by all the water and environmental issues in California. There are ongoing and hot debates over Hydroelectric Dams in the Northwest, the diversion of water to grow crops in the Central Valley, logging and forest management, overgrazing on public lands and the protection of endangered species. As a society we are torn between jobs and economics vs. conservation of habitat and animals. Future population growth in the state will put tremendous pressure on all our natural resources.

Believe it or not there is no one State or Federal Agency responsible for overseeing our most valuable resource, our water! The US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management manages 40% of fish and wildlife habitat in the State. The California Department of Fish and Game manages the fish and wildlife that live in that habitat. The US fish and Wildlife Service (within the Federal Department of Interior) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (with the Federal Department of Com-

merce) are involved with species that are endangered under the Endangered Species Act. Water rights and controls are administered by the State Water Resources Control Board and nine Regional Water Quality Control Boards. Hydropower Dams are licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC).

Water usage and quality will be the defining issue in California's future for the next one to two decades. All this makes **CalTrout's** past accomplishments since it's formation in 1971 and future commitment to the quality of our watersheds as well as the protection of Trout extremely important to the future quality of life in our State. Our September speaker will be Cal Trout's Conservation Director, **Jim Edmundson**. Jim will be here to enlighten us on CalTrout's current efforts and future plans. He will concentrate on CalTrout's efforts in the Central Valley, Eastern Sierra and Southern watersheds. The program will be highly interactive, so this is your chance to get up-to-date on all the issues. **Hopefully after this meeting you will be able to change your confusion into commitment!**

Fishing the Flaming Gorge by Jeanne Wright

The Flaming Gorge Lodge (DeLoy Adams) very generously donated a trip to the San Diego Flyfishing Club for their annual auction. The Lodge is located about 4 hours east of Salt Lake City in Dutch John. The trip included three nights lodging, and three full days of guided float fishing on the Green River (with lunch provided as well). Jenny Hawkins and I were lucky enough to be the high bidders so the trip was ours. (Thank you, Pat Case, for bailing out and letting us take this prize.) Jenny and I were at the lodge from July 21-25. Based on recommendations from several Club members, we requested Lyle Waldron as our guide. We fished a 7.5 mile stretch on the River, with the point of entry being just below the Flaming Gorge Dam. The river and surroundings are too incredibly beautiful to put into words. The largest trout we caught was a 19" Brown, and we won't mention the size of the smallest fish. We used a mayfly emerger with a copper john and a cicadia with a bead head pheasant tail. We caught Browns, Rainbows, and Jenny caught a Cutbow. I managed to catch, but not land, a Brown that Lyle swears was over 20 inches, and now have the dubious honor of being the only person he has ever guided who sobbed over not landing a fish. Jenny and I had a great time. Many thanks to the Flaming Gorge Lodge, and the SD Flyfishing Club for making this trip possible. And a special thank you to Lyle for not throwing Jenny and I off the boat for asking so many questions.

REMINDER

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

Tom Smith and

Lynn Atnip

Thank you, Mona Morebello

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, September 10th, 2001

7:30 PM

Sequoia Elementary School

4690 Limerick Ave.

(See map on back page)

Somehow over 100 people found their way to our August meeting. No small feat considering the obstacles in their path. First we got the news that **Sequoia Elementary**, home of the San Diego Fly Fishers, would be unavailable for a Proposition MM upgrade. (Can't wait to see what it is!) Second, we scrambled

around trying to find a new venue. Al Bahr? Full. Chula Vista Nature Center? Willing and able but parking and the distance were daunting. The San Diego Water Training Facility? Thank you **Jim Brown!** Our City Lakes Manager came to the rescue and managed to find us a venue. Third, we needed to communicate

to our members that the meeting had changed. We expected a bright neon label on *Finny Facts* to announce that the location had changed. Not only was the label white, a fine bit of camouflage, but some schmuck put down the wrong date for the meeting, August 7th instead of August 6th...oh, that was me? Sorry!

Thanks to the *Webmeister* **Dave Collins** those Internet savvy members had all the correct information. Word of mouth, e-mails, Stroud's Tackle, San Diego Fly Shop and the casting gurus also helped.

Which makes me wonder. If the meeting had been held in our normal location how many members and guests would have attended?

Those who made the trek saw a great program. You don't have to travel to Argentina, Alaska, Oregon, Montana or the Eastern Sierra to enjoy terrific fishing. All you need to do is climb into your car and head to the beach, dudes and dudettes. Surf and bay fishing! Radical, tubular, and really local!

Jeff Solis and Pete Piccone



JIM TENUTO

rocked the house with a great program. Informative and humorous.

Our dynamic duo.

C.T. "Ted" Reinert and **Tom Lucas** had a magical experience at Torrey Pines beach.

No, they weren't modeling Speedos, they were fly fishing in the surf. Ted brought five

species to hand including halibut, corbina, and a legal mullet. Tom landed seven halibut and had two other fish on the line. Both will tell you that this spectacular day came after many frustrating days in the salt. These guys paid their dues. And nice things happen to nice people. Good on you, mates!

It beats carpal tunnel syndrome. *U.S. News & World Report* carried an interesting snippet in a recent issue. It seems that fly-fishing can be harmful to your health. While I don't think the Surgeon General will be asking G.L. Loomis and Orvis to put warning labels on their rods and reels anytime soon, it appears that some of brothers and sisters of the angle suffer maladies brought about by fly fishing.

Based on a survey of 131 fly fishers, here's the roster of injuries: 59% complained of lower back pain ("...probably from standing on uneven streambeds and carrying heavy gear...") and "a quarter suffered hand, wrist and shoulder soreness from the repetitive motion of casting."

Heavy gear? How heavy can a few boxes of flies and some tippet material be? How much lead do you really need to carry?

In order to cure these maladies the medicos recommended stretching before heading out to the stream and using good equipment with proper casting technique. Sound advice.

But if I'm going to suffer these physical ailments then I want to come by them honorably. I'd love to fish so much and so often that I had to worry about a sore casting shoulder! It beats driving a mouse and a keypad and ending up with carpal tunnel syndrome.

What? Already? The answer is yes. The prompting question: **Who wants to serve on the Nomination Committee for the 2002 Officers and Board of Directors?**

In October we will be asking for volunteers to fill a very important committee for our club. The nominating committee's task is to select the officers and members of the club's board of directors.

Nothing happens by accident. The monthly programs don't happen by accident. The monthly raffle doesn't happen by accident. The annual raffle and silent auction doesn't happen by accident. Support for our fly tying congress, rod building classes and casting clinics doesn't happen by accident.

So think about nominating yourself for the nominating committee. And if you have a desire to serve on the board or act as an officer for the club please let a current officer or board member know. Like the Marines, we're looking for a few good men and women!



NORANDA, the Canadian mining giant that attempted to build gold mines near our National Parks and famous trout streams, is now getting most of its gold and other precious metals from discarded personal computers (PC's) and other no longer wanted or useful electronic gear sold in markets of the world. Such out of date instruments produce a much higher dollar value per ton than do the same elements mined from the earth.

A lot of stream fishermen will smile at that news, and a lot of trout and other fishes will smile as pollution sites will be greatly reduced in number; NORANDA also smiles as it reaps about 400 million Canadian dollars (60 million US) from the recycled items. Its take will increase greatly within the next five years, especially if changes in PCs and monitor screens keep increasing, especially the LCD types.

In fact, as the earth increasingly begrudges its minerals, particularly gold, NORANDA is processing whatever it can get- photo silver from Eastman Kodak, old dial phones from Germany after the fall of the Berlin wall, and Mexican coins and others replaced by countries suffering deregulation.

Don't we wish it was that easy to clean up the leaking mines and sediment ponds and dumps and restore orange-acid streams left from abandoned surface mines.

DANGER ON THE SEA FLOOR:

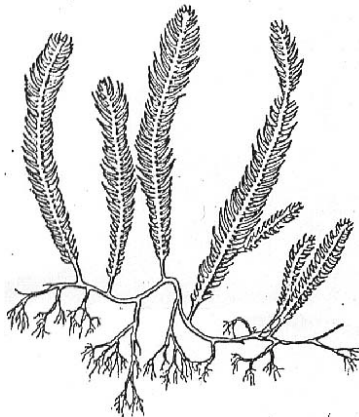
Caulerpa taxifolia, a killer algae, clones itself, grows an inch a day, and overpowers other algae on the seafloor. It is safe for human swimmers but kills fish that eat it. It is common in the Mediterranean Sea, although apparently from South Australia. Some scientists believe it has adapted to cooler waters. So, Southern California must be on the lookout for a dark green slender, rather fuzzy growth that looks something like the photo



BOB WISNER

below. BUT if you see it, or think you have, **DON'T TRY TO MOVE IT.** Just mark the spot, come ashore and call an algologist.

Why only an algologist? Because the plant has only male parts composed of a single tube-like cell that can grow to 9 feet in length. If a small piece breaks off and lands on bottom it spawns a new plant(s), each a genetic clone of the original, and helps spread the algae.



Caulerpa taxifolia

as the lab tanks are far above the sea and don't drain into the sea. Argument is now rather useless as the killer algae is now found in France, Italy, Croatia and Tunisia. It could live off southern California. A test planting was made but none survived.

The only known predator undamaged by the killer is a voracious sea slug that sucks the body juices from the algae; it lives in the Caribbean Sea. Fish suffer from the algae because it feeds on their plant food.

GREAT WATER _ GREAT FISH: The Worldwide guide to fly fishing. By John Ross. A book review.

This is a coffee table type of book that is far more than that. It is a book on "where to" rather than "how to". It discusses fishing in 24 countries, 1,000 locations and areas from Africa to Wales in 158, 10x12 inch pages, and gives travel tips to and notes on the fishing when you get there; the color illustrations coax you to go.

The travel tips sections are a must reading. They describe what you need to fly fish in a country or area, and the necessary accouterments to insure a pleasant visit even if you didn't bring fly gear. Ross lists 21 booking agencies he considers the best and at book's end lists 200 lesser ones. He ends with a long list of suggested further reading, which if you read all of all items listed you'd have had a long and pleasant life. Ross ends his introduction with. "Unlike other fishing books this guide is not meant to be read, it is meant to be used."

Preparation is stressed - from basic permits to passports. He stresses pretrip learning about the intended country - the people, local history, religion, geographical features, and the flora and fauna. Learning a few commonly used phrases of their language will be of great aid in establishing friends. He says, "there is more to fishing than fishing." His tips on availability of tackle and flies are of great value and will help you enjoy your trip. You will feel at home with many of the flies he suggests for various countries, as many of them are old friends on oft-fished home streams.

continued on next page



Great Water_Great Fish

continued from page 3

Another pleasing point is the less than \$10.00 price. Author Ross also presents the following admirable code of ethics for International Fly Fishers:

“Flyfishers worldwide share a common bond. In the main, we are all dedicated to enhancing the quality of the waters where we fish, the health of the quarry for which we fish, and the knowledge and skill of ourselves and our colleagues. Further, we share these common values:

We do not litter or pollute the waters we fish, nor do we enter private lands to fish unless first securing permission from the owner.

We honor the customs and traditions of the countries where we fish and resist impos-

ing mores appropriate on our home waters.

We respect the rights of other anglers. We will not fish another's pool unless invited to do so, and upon such invitation will endeavor to preserve as much of the hosts solitude as we would wish for ourselves.

We honor the species we seek by educating ourselves about their life cycles, habits and diets. We refrain from placing additional stress on fish populations pressured by spawning cycle, vagaries of water flow and temperature, commercial angling, disease, pollution or other adversity.

We practice and advocate catch and release angling, where not prohibited by law. We take no more fish than those required for an occasional meal. Cameras,

not creels, capture our trophies.

We obey the letter and spirit of all laws governing our quarry and the waters we fish.

We honor all those - guides and ghillies, captains and boatmen, and riverkeepers and wardens - whose dedicated services enhance our fishing experiences.

We actively support legislation that protects and improves game fisheries, and we oppose that which will negatively impact such fisheries.

We seek opportunities to introduce young people to our sport knowing that, without succeeding generations of fly fishers, gains in the quality of water and fish populations will be lost.” 🌿

FLY FISHING QUIZ

1. A tailing loop is caused by a

- A) Convex path of the rod tip
- B) Concave path of the rod tip
- C) Straight line path of the rod tip
- D) None of the above

2. The primary purpose of the double haul is to

- A) Increase distance
- B) Reduce slack line
- C) Make a delicate presentation
- D) Increase line speed

3. The original greenheart spey rods were sometimes 18 to 20 feet long. Typical spey rods used today are _____ feet long

- A) 5 to 8
- B) 8 to 11
- C) 11 to 14
- D) 14 to 17

4. The reach cast is helpful in presenting a drag free drift of the fly. When executing a reach cast, it is important to

- A) Eliminate slack line
- B) Increase your casting stroke
- C) Slip line
- D) Increase line speed

5. What technique could be used to set the hook immediately after a slack line cast, such as the pile or puddle cast?

- A) Water strike
- B) Slip strike
- C) Strip strike
- D) Butt strike

6. Maximum pressure will be exerted on a fish when the rod is positioned at a _____ angle to the fish and minimum pressure is exerted on a fish when the rod is moved to a _____ angle.

Parting Shot

Circulating on the internet: “Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will go out and buy expensive fishing equipment, stupid-looking clothes, a sport utility vehicle, travel 1,000 miles to the ‘hottest’ fishing spot, and stand waist deep in cold water just so he can outsmart a fish. (Average cost per fish: \$395.68.)”

- A) 45 degree, 90 degree
- B) 90 degree, 45 degree

7. The drift move in the casting stroke should:

- A) Increase with short casts
- B) Increase the size of the casting stroke
- C) Always be in the forward direction
- D) Always be in the forward or upward direction

8. As you increase distance in a standard roll cast:

- A) Increase the length of line on the water in front of you
- B) Use a double haul
- C) Rotate the rod tip to your off shoulder
- D) Increase the loop or belly of line behind you

Answers: 1. (B); 2. (D); 3. (D); 4. (C), 5. (C), 6. (A), 7. (B), 8. (D)

(by Liz Watson of the Northwest Women Flyfishers)



FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

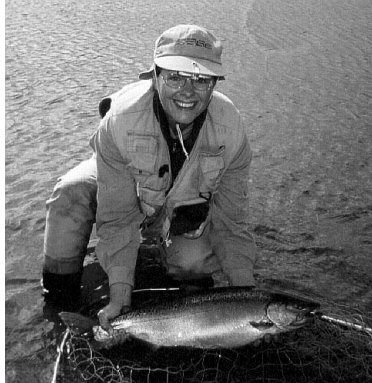
For those of you wondering if hands-on progress would ever emerge from meetings and politics, work finally has begun on the initial stages of the San Mateo Creek steelhead restoration project!

On Saturday, August 11th, San Diego Fly Fishers volunteers joined Allen Greenwood of San Diego Trout, Mike Pottorff of the San Diego County Fish and Wildlife Advisory Commission, and biologist Linda Pardy of the California Regional Water Quality Control Board for an introduction to the steelhead and stickleback rearing program. During the meeting at Hubbs Sea World Research Center, staff member Wayne Jacobs introduced volunteers to the equipment and techniques that will be used to raise native steelhead and stickleback. The ultimate goal of the project is to release the native fish into a restored San Mateo Creek.

San Diego Fly Fishers volunteers who took time out of their weekend schedule to attend the meeting included: Ken Armer, Sherry Brainerd, Floyd Lee, Jeff Levatter, Steve McGowen, Marty Reed, Ned Sewell, Jim VanKirk,

and Gordie Zimm.

The volunteers will be working at the Hubbs research facility adjacent to the power plant in Carlsbad. Within the next month, two freshwater fish rearing tanks will be set up. One tank will hold steelhead fry, and the other will be for stickleback. During daily 30-60 minute shifts, volunteers will monitor the tanks' water quality, and they will feed the fish. Assuming enough folks sign up to help, each volunteer will need to visit the tanks only once a month.



SHERRY BRAINERD

Don't worry if you missed this initial



meeting, and you still would like to volunteer. We will be having introductory training sessions during the next few months, and new volunteers are welcome. If you want to add your name, e-mail address and phone number to the volunteer list, contact Allen Greenwood at



Trout Unlimited Needs Your Help

Goal is To Re-Establish Habitat For Southern California Steelhead, Formerly Thought To Be Extinct!

If you are able to help with the following project, please e-mail Audrey Williams as early as possible, so that we may continue with planning.

San Mateo Creek Cleanup Camping Trip September 8 & 9

The South Coast Chapter of Trout Unlimited has planned a work project on the San Mateo Creek in the Cleveland National Forest for September 8 and 9. This will be a camping trip into the forest, but day workers are welcome. The work will be supervised by the National Forest Service. Our basic goals will be restoration and improvement of the habitat for the native Southern California Steelhead. The project includes removal of non-native tadpoles, bullfrog, fish and plants, with the possibility of culvert cleaning, bank stabilization and other stream work.

We will camp at Bluejay Campsite. The site has water and vault toilets.

We are limited to twenty participants, so we need confirmation of your intent to participate. We will reserve spaces for the first 20 to sign up and then start a backup list. While you will need to supply your own camping equipment, there is no cost for this event. 🌿



FLY OF THE MONTH

ONE FEATHER DAMSEL

Hook: Tiemco 200r Size #8 - #12
Thread: 6/0 Olive
Tail: Olive Chickabou Feather
Body: The Same Chickabou Feather
Ribbing: Olive Tying Thread
Eyes: Bead Chain Eyes - Black Or Dark Mono Eyes
Head: Olive Dubbing



1. Tie on the thread just behind the hook eye and advance it forward to the point where it hangs even with the barb of the hook. This means that on this hook the thread wrap will end part way into the bend of the hook.
2. Select an olive chickabou feather and stroke the feather to bring the fibers under control. Measure the tail, about 1/2 the shank length, and tie on the feather on top of the hook with the tip end protruding over and beyond the bend of the hook.
3. Spiral wrap the thread forward to the eye of the hook as if you were wrapping a ribbing. As you are wrapping forward you are tying down the feathering on top of the hook shank. The thread will push the feather in front of it. The end result is the body and the ribbing. Do not cut off the excess feather.
4. Tie on the eyes just behind the hook eye. Apply a small amount of dubbing to the thread and figure eight the dubbed thread around the eyes. Leave the thread hanging behind the eyes.
5. Pull the excess feather back over the eyes as you would a wing casing and tie it down. Whip finish behind the eyes and trim the excess.

I happen to fish probably 85% of the time in still water so I'm partial to still water patterns such as the Damsel Nymph patterns. This is a very simple pattern, which was developed by Gretchen Beatty. Gretchen is a commercial tier and co-owns B-T Fly-Fishing Products with her husband Al Beatty.

The "Angora Damsel" which was a Fly of the Month some months ago is my all time favorite damsel pattern. I have had many good days fishing the "Angora Damsel." If you haven't tried it you should.

The Fly of the Month section of Finny Facts is in need of some new ideas. Maybe you would like to have your "favorite fly" featured. I would like to help you put it together. Talk to me about it.

Tom Smith



the Angler's Manifesto

*PETA has targeted fishing.
Don't agonize, organize.*

By Richard Louv
author of *"Fly-Fishing for Sharks: An Angler's Journey Across
America"* (Simon & Schuster)

One of the first assaults on fishing took place two years ago, when Dawn Carr and Gill the Fish, her piscatorial partner, visited dozens of schools around the country.

"Only one school let us in," reported Carr, anti-fishing campaign coordinator for People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. Undeterred, she and Gill, the 6-foot-tall, costumed fish mascot, stationed themselves just beyond school property. There, they passed out literature and told kids about the evils of fishing.

In March, 2000, declaring fishing "the final frontier of animal rights," PETA sent out a news release announcing plans to dump sedatives into Texas' Lake Palestine. The goal: ruin a fishing tournament scheduled for April 1. Several gullible newspapers ran stories about the threat, missing the fact that the release included such names as April Phule and Jo Kizonu. No joke.

Meanwhile, PETA's overseas counterparts have adopted methods now being considered by American activists: throwing rocks into popular fishing waters and sending scuba divers to spook the fish. Protests in England and Germany have already produced fishing bans on a number of lakes and streams.

Instinctively, most anglers dismiss such tactics as silly. "Don't rise to the bait," they say, "don't give these people the attention they crave." But as PETA — well-financed, with a membership of 700,000 — thrusts its aggressive campaign into schools, as it discolours the public image of all anglers, as it attracts media attention anyway, we no longer have the luxury of turning away — not only because of PETA, but because of greater

threats: pollution, watershed destruction, and the slipping popularity of fishing among the young.

It's time for an angler's manifesto.

• **Preserve angling; save fish.**

Next time someone attacks fishing, ask: If fishing were outlawed tomorrow, what would be the fate of our watersheds? Who watches the lakes and streams, the hidden branches of lost canyons and forgotten slopes, more closely than anglers? Who *knows* those waters better?

"A persistent error of many of my (anti-angling) students is to claim that they do not 'intervene' in nature," says Michael LaChat, professor of ethics at Methodist Theological School of Delaware, writing in *Salmon-Steelheader*. "But their shoes, cars, houses, pets, children and even their vegetarian preferences directly and indirectly cause the death of animals.... By omission or commission, we are predators as well as conservers."

Anglers have a symbiotic relationship with fish; we share incentives to be their stewards. Many of us give thousands of hours in volunteer work to streams and watershed restoration. Americans who fish contribute billions of dollars directly or through angling fees and fishing gear excise taxes to support hatcheries, stocking programs, and habitat restoration.

• **Fish (probably) do not feel pain.**

Anti-anglers insist that fish feel a pain parallel to our own. However, neurological evidence shows that fish do not have brain structures comparable with the human neocortex.

Therefore, fish are unlikely to consciously experience pain stimuli. What fish do have are "wonderfully developed systems for avoiding or escaping from threats that are outside the limits of their typical habitats, and thereby create physiological stress," says zoologist John G. Nickum, chair of the American Fisheries Society's committee on the

use of fish in research.

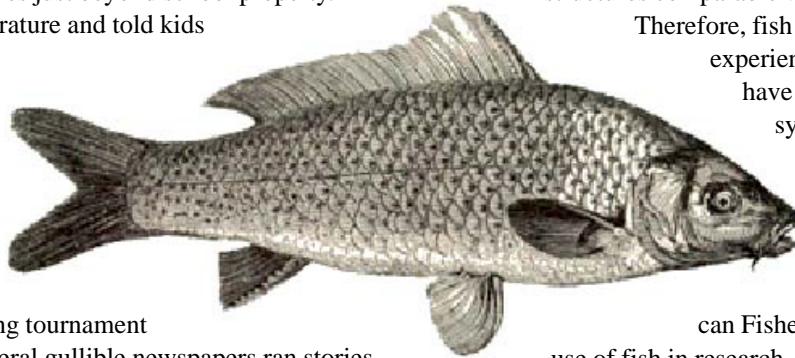
Even if what fish feel can be called pain, the sensation likely stops short of what humans consider suffering. As California fisheries biologist Brian Curtis wrote many years ago, the brain of the fish "fails to provide a home for the conscious association of ideas, and therefore robs pain of an imagination to work on."

As for the more radical conviction shared by some animal rights advocates, that fish are "experiencing subjects" with belief systems of their own, that position is even less provable.

• **Good fishing is an ethical act.**

Animal rights activists don't own the franchise on morality. Long before PETA arrived on the stream, anglers were arguing about ethics. Today, we debate fishing moratoria on heavily-fished waters and no-wading zones to protect spawning areas. Catch-and-release is commonly practiced. (Based on the assump-

continued on next page



the Anglers Manifesto

continued from previous page

tion that fish feel pain as humans do, PETA calls it “catch-and-torture.”) Some bass tournament anglers now champion “paper weigh-ins,” eliminating the need to keep fish in live wells. These discussions, among anglers, are fierce and evolving.

Other anglers believe that catching and eating is the most ethical kind of fishing. As to that, PETA maintains that fishing is unnecessary because vegetarianism is a reasonable option. Being a vegetarian is an honorable choice, but it’s not the only one. Is our culture’s increasing emotional and intellectual detachment from the source of our food honorable? All Americans — including vegetarians who eat fish — should be aware that fish are not born plastic-wrapped, that they once lived and that their sacrifice nourishes us. Nothing teaches that ethic, particularly to the young, as effectively as fishing for your dinner.

• What we seek, when we fish, is not trivial.

PETA claims that sportfishing is trivial. Angling’s contribution to the economy isn’t trivial — \$108 billion nationally, according to the American Sportfishing Association’s most recent annual figures. More importantly, the ritual of fishing connects many of us to something larger than ourselves. Yes, fishing is fun. But it also binds the generations, and it offers healing.

“I almost hate to say *fishing*. I’d rather call it water treatment,” says Margot Page, a fly-fisher who serves on the board of Casting for Recovery, a program for breast cancer patients. She points out that fishing programs for troubled kids and the mentally ill are enormously effective. We go to the water, she says, for “solace, for understanding, for cleansing, for rebirth.” If that sounds vaguely religious, so be it.

“PETA is trying to force their religion on us,” says Sugar Ferris, founder of Bass’n Gal, a women’s fishing association. “And that’s not right.”

• Future generations deserve the right to fish.

Our most important goal should be to preserve fishing for our grandchildren. Despite recent growth, the upswing in fishing has flattened. Sales of fishing licenses now lag behind population growth — particularly among young people. Yet, never before have children been in more need of direct experience with nature. One sixth-grader says the reason he prefers to play indoors is because “that’s where all the electrical outlets are.”

If we allow PETA, environmental degradation, or any other force to prevent kids from fishing, we only accelerate that process — hurting children today and degrading future care for the environment.

Yes, fishing is messy — even morally messy — but so is nature. No child can truly know or value the outdoors if the natural world remains under glass, seen only through binocular lens, television screen or computer monitor. To begin to fathom the paradoxes of wildlife, the beauty and horror of nature, the

sweetness of life and the necessity of death, children must get their hands dirty and their feet wet. There is no other way. And no better instruction than fishing.

• Anglers of the world, unite.

What can we do? Quit fighting with other anglers. That would be a start. Too often, America’s fishing cultures tend to view each other with disdain, if at all. During my research for “*Fly-Fishing for Sharks: An American Journey*,” one well-known steelhead fly-fisher of the Northwest refused to be interviewed because he didn’t want his words appearing in any book that included bass tournament fishers. If the enemies of fishing wanted to divide and conquer anglers, they couldn’t do a better job than anglers have done to themselves.

But what if America’s 44 million sportfishers joined forces? Our ranks would comprise one of the nation’s most powerful environmental lobbies — perhaps the largest — championing the protection of nature and the preservation of fishing.

Unlikely? Stranger things have happened. Conservative Ray Scott, father of the bass tournament culture, and liberal Robert Kennedy, Jr., a founder of Riverkeeper, which helped save the Hudson River, have joined forces to fight the Coast Guard’s nasty habit of dumping toxic batteries in good water.

In the worlds of fishing, cross-cultural campaigns — though still rare — work. In November, voters in Virginia and North Dakota quietly and overwhelmingly voted to make hunting and fishing constitutionally protected rights. They weren’t joking. They weren’t wishing the threat would go away. They were writing their own manifesto.

Richard Louv is the author of “Fly-Fishing for Sharks: An Angler’s Journey Across America” (Fireside/Simon & Schuster), a book about the cultures of fishing. This essay was first published in The Denver Post and The Oregonian. Louv is a columnist for The San Diego Union-Tribune. To read more about the book, see <http://www.flyfishingforsharks.com>

Available now in paperback

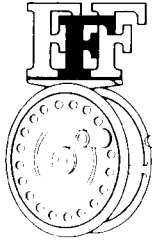
“I am blown away...The best book of armchair angling to hit the shelves in years.”

– Michael Levy,
The Buffalo News

“(The) Studs Terkel of fishing. Makes me proud to be an American.”

– Christopher Camuto,
Gray’s Sporting Journal





From the FFF Clubwire News

Submitted by Rosemary Weise of the Northwest Women Flyfishers

CASTING ABOUT

Okay, so you are thinking (or fantasizing) about buying a new reel, and the flyfishing magazines and catalogs are loudly touting the newest thing: the Large Arbor reel. What's a large arbor reel? Well, the arbor is the center post of the reel. With the standard reel, one turn equals one spool revolution. The amount of line picked up depends on the amount of line out, i.e., how full the reel is. If you are close to the arbor—near the backing—the reel picks up a small amount of line with each turn, so you have to wind like crazy to reel in a fish charging toward you. If only the last few feet of line are out, the reel retrieves at a faster clip.

Saltwater fishers eager to land the big, fast running tuna and bonefish caused reel makers to come up with large diameter, strong drag systems. The reel diameter was increased to hold the same amount of backing and line, but also to make retrieving line faster. Could this concept be adapted to freshwater fishing? But, of course. Freshwater anglers, though, did not need the same amount of backing for streams and rivers as their saltwater counterparts (Really, now, how often do you get to your backing?), and they did not want the weight of those big reels.

The Loop reel company responded by coming up with the first large diameter reel with a large center post, or arbor. Many others followed, and now there is a wide range of offerings. The manufacturers

took the basic reel and increased the size of the diameter and center post. This reduced the amount of backing space available, so some makers increased the width to make up for some of the loss. Then to decrease the weight, holes were drilled in the spools and frames to lighten the load.

The greatest advantage of the large arbor reel is the speed of retrieve. Generally, you can retrieve 3 to 4 times more line with one crank. Other advantages are faster pick-up and more consistent drag pressure as well as faster strip out of line. Also, the line is stored in larger coils on the reel, so there is less line curling as more line comes off the reel and you get close to the backing.

So, if you are thinking about a large arbor reel, there are a few things to keep in mind: The key factor is the diameter of the reel, not the arbor size. The general rule is that the larger the diameter, the faster the retrieve. BUT, if a large arbor reel does not have either a large diameter or wider spool, there is no advantage except for weight reduction. A standard-size reel with a large arbor does nothing for you except reduce the backing capacity, and maybe that of the line. Also, if a spool is more than 1 1/8" wide, it is difficult to wind line onto the spool evenly during a fast retrieval (like with a fish on the line). The line will pile up on one side, and then fall down onto the empty side of the spool in loose coils. As more line is

retrieved, it tightens under the loosely wound coils. When the fish takes off again, the line stops or jerks and the fish may break off.

Large arbor reels are like any better mousetrap. They cost considerably more, but are a good innovation—something to seriously consider buying if a new reel is in your future. Do, however, test several before buying one. Your favorite fly shop will let you do that, and help you decide if one is for you.

Tight lines

FLY CASTING AT LAKE MURRAY

The fishing season is in full swing. Now would be a good time to learn to flycast or just improve your skills. Join the San Diego Fly Fishers every Sunday morning from 9 AM until noon.

(See map on back page for location).



Welcome To The Numbers Game. Today's Contestant Is You.

I am not sure why we promote and play this game. Could it be our competitive nature, possibly the lack of understanding and knowledge of what possible harm we are doing, or could it just be greed? With more and more people learning about fly fishing and becoming successful at it, more players are becoming involved in the game. How many times have you told or been told of what a great day fishing was had? "We fished chironomids all day and caught thirty fish all over five pounds!" What do you say when you come off the lake without catching a fish? What a terrible day you had? All of us are guilty of playing the numbers game and many of us are so caught up in playing the game that we lose sight of what harm we are doing to this valuable resource.

Most of us have seen others or have ourselves been sitting on the honey hole all day long continuing to catch and release a

lot of fish. Catching a lot of fish in one area could mean that a fish is being caught more than once. "Once a fish has been hooked it will not feed again for 24 hours" is un-true. Just this past weekend 2 fly fishermen who had fish break them off caught the fish again a short time later with the fly they lost still in the fish's mouth. Considering that a fish caught and released has somewhere between a 5 to 10% chance of dying if handled properly, 40% if not handled properly, how many times do you think you can catch and release it before it dies? This past weekend about a dozen dead fish were seen in one area at the bottom of the lake. This was probably caused by the numbers game, improper handling and releasing of the fish, and the amount of pressure this lake saw in the last month.

I do not feel it is enough to practice catch and release, we need to know when it is

time to come off the lake after catching some fish or at least when to stop using what is presently working and try a totally different pattern and/or technique.

There is more to fishing than catching fish. How about the relaxing time spent by yourself or with friends on your favorite piece of water? How about the enjoyment you get being outdoors relaxing without the phone calls, TV, working around the house or in the yard. If your family is with you, how about the quality of time you spend with them, bringing them great memories as well?

We all need to stop and rethink what a great day of fishing really is. 🐟

(by John Jailett of the Penticton Flyfishers of Penticton, BC., for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)

It's Time To Pay A Visit

I heard a complaint the other day that all the good places to fish and hunt are behind locked gates. The complaint was the difficulty in making reservations at crowded parks and campgrounds. This brought to mind a time when I was young and my dad would sidetrack us to the property owner's house. I took for granted all the places we use to go. We stopped to see the property owner, because we had to "pay a visit." Sometimes we would fix a gate, or deliver "goodies," or just have to wait a half-day to fish, because we were fixing someone else's pump.

As a parent now, in my dad's shoes, while raising my son and daughter, we would stop again to "pay a visit." I remember the same groans from my children, as my dad once heard from me when we delayed our activity. My son and daughter have homes and families now and understand as I do,

the value in "paying a visit." Texas is locked at the gate, everywhere, it seems. But, there are still great places to go if the owners trust and respect you.

My dad always left a place a little better than we found it. It was never a bother for the rancher to show us his trash dump, as we brought in a big bag of trash at the end of the day. What a pain it was then. Now, it's a legacy my son and daughter will pass on to my grandchildren. I have a granddaughter on the way, and you can bet that she will someday learn from her parents the fine art of how to "pay a visit." When the key under the rock by the gate gets moved, she will get a call, on the new location of the key. 🐟

(by Clay Gill of the Alamo Flyfishers of San Antonio, Texas for the FFF ClubWire Email NewsWire)

Tips from the Tier's Corner

If you're using breast or flank feathers for an upright wing with a hackle as well, tie in the mallard or breast feathers in the normal manner. Pull up, divide the wing, and apply a little head cement to their full length. Let it dry, and then wrap your hackle behind and in front of the wing.

Now, strip the cement off the wings by pinching them with your thumb and fingernail and pulling up. The head cement will come off easily because of the natural oils in the feather. This method will prevent any fibers of the wing being caught up during the wrapping of the hackle. 🐟

(by Bill Starr of the Osprey Flyfishers of BC)





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You can E-mail at
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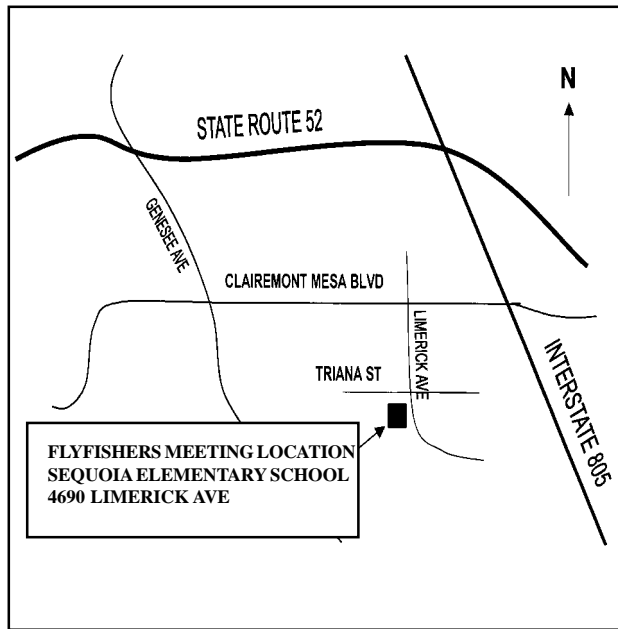
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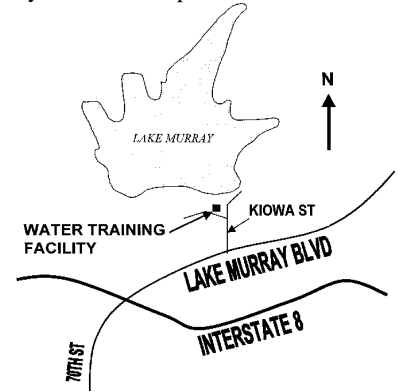
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