

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

MAY 2004

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 9, No. 5

May Speaker

Bob Slamal May Speaker

The speaker for our May meeting will be Bob Slamal. He will make his presentation on the Upper Green and New Fork Rivers in Wyoming.

Bob began like many of us bait fishing and then converting to the fly. He grew up fishing Deep Creek near Lake Arrowhead. He's expanded his fishing horizon to include Montana, Wyoming, across the country from Alaska to Florida, and Baja to Norway. Bob was part of the 1993 winning four man team at the Jack Hole One Fly Tournament and has been on the U.S. National Fly Fishing Team.

**Annual Raffle
June Meeting
Buy your tickets now!**

REMINDER

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

**Gerald Brasell and
Art Dilley**

Thank you, Mona Morebello

The SDDF Annual Auction Supports Many Great Conservation and Educational Projects

By Gary Strawn, Conservation Chair

Our June meeting is traditionally the big annual raffle. Many of us look forward to that meeting more than any other because there is a good chance we can score some great stuff. Thanks to the Stroud's, many equipment manufactures, guides and other fly-fishing businesses there is always an amazing assortment of valuable items raffled and auctioned off. It is an event not to be missed!

But the annual raffle is more than a great event. It is the major source of funding for all of the club's conservation and educational projects. Our membership dues pay for our operating expenses and our guest speakers. The monthly raffles are designed to break even. So it is our support of the annual raffle that determines how

many educational outreach and worthwhile environmental projects we can support.

Last year we donated:

\$1,250 to Trout Unlimited
\$1,250 to Cal Trout
\$ 750 to the San Diego River Park
Foundation
\$ 500 to Cuyamaca Lake
\$ 500 to San Diego Wildlife
\$ 500 to Chollas Lake (children's
fishing project)
\$ 250 to the Whirling Disease Foundation

This year we plan to support most of these and perhaps some new projects. But before we can do anything, we need to have a successful raffle!

Now that you know how much good comes from it, on top of all the cool stuff you can win, there should be no excuses. Volunteer to help if you can, buy all the tickets your budget will allow, and plan to be there to enjoy the fun!

MEETING NOTICE

Monday, May 3rd, 2004
7:30 PM

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

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: MAY 2004

It is good to know so many people read the Finny Facts. Several of them have made reference and comment on the club with a “nut” as its central focus. Some even ventured a guess as to whom I referred. Well folks no such luck. The “nut” you see is really a “HUT”. While technology is great, it is not perfect. It created this

problem and failed to catch it in spell check. By the way, the “HUT”, which belongs to a club several counties north of us, really looks to be quite nice from the photos I have seen.

Last months speaker, Sam Mahara, gave us a very concise overview of fishing in New Zealand. Sam has visited us before, speaking about Alaska and Argentina. He really is an encyclopedia of useful travel and fishing information. He offered several times during his program to provide information to anyone looking to make a trip to Alaska, Argentina or New Zealand. I took him up on the offer several years ago when planning a family vacation to New Zealand. His responses were quick and quite helpful. The e-mail I have for Sam is skmihara@worldnet.att.net.

Speaking of New Zealand, I hope everyone is aware of the New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS) issue. This is another Whirling Disease type crisis, only this time it is in our back yard. Gary Strawn had an excerpt of a NZMS article in last months Finny Facts. If you didn't read it you should. If you did read it, reread the section on Decontamination. Nearly all of the other club newsletters I read have had a NZMS article during the last two months. As with the early days Whirling Disease, there is some



GEORGE GATES

conflicting information, but this much is clear. The NZMS is very small and can go undetected on your boots and waders, can live out of water for weeks, can reproduce without a mate and eats everything in its path. So no food for the bugs, no bugs; no food for the fish, no fish, and you

can fill in the rest. It is believed that as with Whirling Disease, the initial infestation was from planted fish. However, fishermen contribute to the spread because the NZMS can live out of water for such long periods of time. This is such a significant issue that it was the main focus of the April 17, 2004 Outdoors article by Ed Zieralski. Safe fishing used to mean not taking water of the top of your waders, now it means carrying a bottle of bleach to wash up with when you leave the stream. Let's hope a way to control the NZMS is found soon.

Just a reminder that the “Annual Raffle” is just around the corner on June 5th. The net proceeds from the raffle are used to support conservation and education programs. We have been able to distribute about \$5,000 a year for the past few years. We hope to continue this year. Past recipients include CalTrout, TU, Chollas Lake, Whirling Disease Foundation and San Diego River Foundation to name a few. **Raffle items from members are always welcome.** Tickets are \$5 each

or 6 for \$25. So buy early and buy often. And yes, some of our members win some really cool stuff.

A special thanks to Wayne Allen for running the Belden Rau silent auction this last meeting. While you can never replace a lost friend, keeping some of their things in the extended family helps. Thanks to Belden's widow Pat for thinking of the club. Some of the proceeds are already hard at work in the Chollas Lake program, developing the next generation of fisherman.

Look forward to seeing you at the May meeting.



**IT'S TIME FOR
THE SAN
DIEGO FLY
FISHERS
ANNUAL
RAFFLE.**

**BUY MORE
TICKETS!**

**\$5 EACH OR
6 FOR \$25**



Steelhead Conservation Update



SHERRY BRAINERD

As most of you know, our club has been supporting the folks who are trying to bring steelhead back to our Southern California rivers, including San Mateo Creek in Northern San Diego County. Reprinted below is the list of accomplishments of the Southern California Steelhead Coalition for 2003. The people involved in this work are doing a great job of dealing with regulators, and working within the confines of the applicable laws. It isn't easy, but significant progress is being made thanks to hard working coalition members including San Diego Trout, Cal Trout, Trout Unlimited and others. Although the independent Coalition is only funded through June of this year, their work will continue, potentially as a working group within one of the member organizations.



Southern California Steelhead Coalition 2003 Status Report and Highlights

Agency Recovery Planning and Habitat Protection

- NOAA Fisheries Service (aka NMFS) has formally started the development of the long-awaited Steelhead Recovery Plan. A 14-member Technical Review Team, including several affiliates of Southern California Steelhead Coalition, has been appointed, with meetings underway since November 2003 to focus on technical criteria defining ESU recovery.
- Consistent with the Endangered Species Act, which calls for listing "status reviews" each five years, NOAA Fisheries will produce such a review for Southern California Steelhead. In part, due to a lawsuit members of the Coalition filed concerning deficiencies of the original steelhead listing, it is believed the NOAA Fisheries status review will clarify, and hopefully rectify, such issues. The NOAA Fisheries status review should discuss the following points.
 - NOAA Fisheries is preparing a new west coast steelhead status review, including how to address steelhead and/or rainbow trout upstream of dams;

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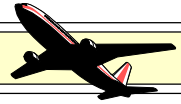
- NOAA Fisheries will publish a new southern California steelhead listing decision by April 30th, and a final decision by December 31st;
- NOAA Fisheries will propose new critical habitat for 20 west coast salmon and steelhead species (assuming these are not proposed for de-listing by the Bush administration this spring as part of the status review);
- NMFS will publish final critical habitat decisions for the 20 west coast salmon and steelhead ESUs by January 18, 2005. Hopefully this pending decision will determine that habitat above dams or other manmade barriers are included in the final decision —something this Coalition has urged for years.
- The Coalition held its annual meeting in October 2003 with both California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), as well as NOAA Fisheries, confirming past commitment to collaborate while sharing new information on agency actions.

Recovery Projects and Actions

- **Robles Diversion Dam** (Ventura River) – In what both CDFG and NOAA Fisheries call “the single best recovery action for Southern California” the fish passage and fish screening facilities are under construction. We played a very important role in negotiating the terms and conditions of the project’s Biological Opinion (revolutionary by itself in many ways compared to prior NOAA Fisheries BOs), as well as aiding in fundraising for the almost \$10 Million dollar project and continuing with public outreach during local review of the Biological Opinion in early 2003.
- **Matilija Dam Removal** (Ventura River) – Significant progress towards selecting a “preferred” dam removal alternative occurred in late 2003. This has been not easy feat, with competing interests and the novelty of the huge project providing significant progress obstacles, especially on how to manage 60+ years of sediment accumulated behind the dam.
- **State Water Board Hearing** (Santa Ynez River) — After 10 years of discussing the matter with water agencies, we participated in an administrative hearing before the State Water Resources Control Board in the matter of modifying the water rights permits held by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to provide for public trust values (namely endangered Southern Steelhead) on the Santa Ynez River. Colleagues in NOAA Fisheries have described these proceedings, the first before the Board on endangered steelhead, to be as precedent-setting as CalTrout’s work at Mono Lake in the 80s and 90s.
- **Habitat Assessments** – Research to determine the quality and quantity of steelhead habitat in the headwaters for both the Santa Maria and Santa Ynez Rivers were completed by Coalition members. In addition, field data for a more in-depth steelhead habitat and passage barriers assessment for the entire Santa Monica Mountains is underway. These studies, in combination with others completed, lay the groundwork to identify and prioritize steelhead recovery projects in a strategic way.
- **San Mateo Creek** – The steelhead limiting factor for the creek was agreed upon and the corrective action begun. Non-native predacious fish on juvenile steelhead must be eradicated from this important northern San Diego coastal stream. The initial phase of this \$800,000 project is underway.
- **FERC Relicensing** (Santa Clara River/Piru Creek) – The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s relicensing procedures are an excellent way to gain improvements to past hydropower project wrongs. Studies to determine

continued on next page





JACK BENTLEY

**Any Questions?
Call Jack Bentley at**

Green River Trip Ready to Go

The Green River, Utah trip is full and a great trip is anticipated. For those who are going, **be at the airport at 6:00 AM**, Monday May 10th. I will have your ticket.

Depart: Southwest Airlines Flt#548 @ 7:50 AM (May 10th)

Return: Southwest Airlines Flt#1295 @ 5:15 PM (May 15th).

We will arrive in San Diego at 4:50 PM local time.

Phone# for Flaming Gorge Lodge: 1-435-889-3773.

Call me for any last minute space available.

Southern California Steelhead Coalition

continued from previous page

project adverse impacts to a six mile reach of Piru Creek, as well as to identify possible corrective actions, are now underway.

- **Ahmanson Ranch Acquisition** (Malibu Creek) – We were called upon to make the “closing argument” before the Wildlife Conservation Board to the purchased of 1,000s of acres of un-spoiled/key headwaters habitat in the Malibu Creek watershed.
- **Project Technical Assistance** – We assisted Coalition members working steelhead projects at San Juan Creek, Solstice Creek, Arroyo Sequit, Topanga Creek and Malibu Creek during 2003.

Representing the SCSC Interests

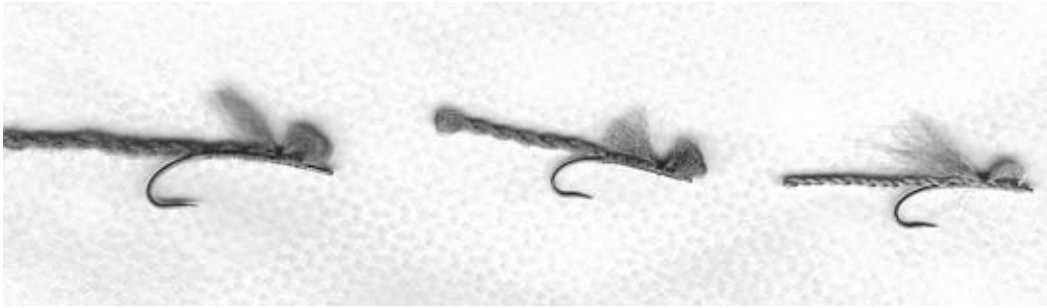
- We attended and kept our colleagues informed on the **Citizens Advisory to the California Legislature on Salmon and Steelhead** on our key issues and progress.
- We served on the state/federal **California Coastal Salmon Restoration Project** committee to review salmon and steelhead restoration grant proposals, including the review of 300 projects, and submitting recommendation to the CDFG Director for his approval.
- We worked with the news media and served as sources for more than 20 favorable steelhead-related TV productions and articles and editorials that were published in newspapers across the region, including several articles that were picked up by Associated Press and appeared throughout California.
- We continued to upgrade the SCSC’s web site and responded to several hundred web page inquiries.
- California Trout provided over \$58,000 of in-kind contributions to the Coalition during 2003.
- California Trout was unsuccessful in securing a favorable recommendation from the proposal review committee for a grant to sustain support of Coalition activities beyond June 2004.



FLY OF THE MONTH

Lucky Ketchum tied and gave me this very simple damsel nymph pattern, which he got from observing Ken Hanley's demonstration at the Fly Fishing Show at Ontario. Besides the hook and the thread it has only one other material. I hope you will tie it and try it.

FURLED DAMSEL BY KEN HANLEY



Hook: Tiemco 200R size 12 to 8
Thread: Olive (color of yarn used for fly)
Body-Thorax and Wing: Antron Yarn - Olive or color of natural

1. Cut a strip of yarn from the spool about 5 inches long. Place one end of the yarn in the vice and twist it counter clockwise into a tight rope. After about 20 turns or so the yarn will naturally twist or furl back onto itself. Take it out of the vice and set it aside,
2. Place the de-barbed hook in the vice and wrap a layer of thread down the hook shank from just behind the eye to the bend of the hook. The thread wrap should stop just above the hook point.
3. Take the twisted yarn and place it on top of the hook. Tie it on at the hook bend with about a hook shank and a half protruding beyond the bend of the hook. Then spiral wrap the thread back to the eye of the hook. Make several turns of thread at this point. Make a half hitch to hold the yarn in place. Comb out the excess yarn at this point. This combed out yarn will be used to make the thorax and the wing. Wrap the thread back about 3/16 - 1/4 inch. Keeping the yarn on top of the hook pull it back to the thread. Pinch the yarn behind this tie in point and push it forward forming a small bump which becomes the thorax. Make 5 or 6 turns of thread behind the thorax and whip finish at this point. Pull back the balance of the yarn and trim just above the hook point.

Thank you Lefty



Call for Help for San Diego River Day

The San Diego River Park Foundation is asking the San Diego Fly Fishers to help with their first annual San Diego River Day, Saturday, May 22, 2004. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with fishing related activities at Mast Park in Santee should contact Gary Strawn, days: evenings: Or see Gary at the next meeting.

We can help make the San Diego River a healthy, beautiful, clean and safe asset to our communities.

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Cutoff date for **June FINNY FACTS** articles---Friday May 14th

Send articles to:
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,
5415 Lodi Place
San Diego, CA 92117
858-274-2712.

You can E-mail at Thanks!!

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

Gordie Zimm

LIFE MEMBERS

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

HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

Winners of the:

GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service to the flyfishing community

- 1991-Ned Sewell
- 1992-Bob Camp
- 1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud
- 1994-Ed Velton
- 1995-Bob Wisner
- 1996-Gary Hilbers
- 1997-Jack Bentley
- 1998-Gordie Zimm
- 1999-Gretchen Yearous
- 2000-Tom Smith
- 2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
- 2002-Larry Sorensen
- 2003-Jim Tenuto



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2004 OFFICERS**

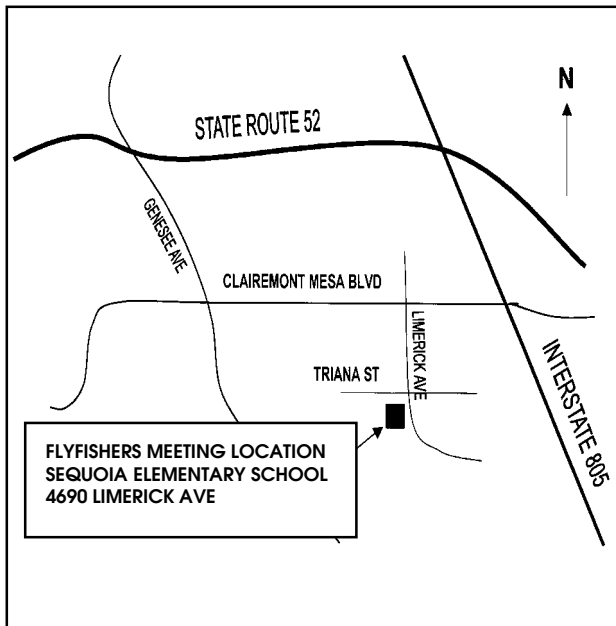
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 Bob Wisner
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 John Beckstrand and
 Howard Knop
Web Page- David Collins
www.sandiegoflyfishers.com
Women's Education
Focus-
 Gretchen Yearous

Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. (We no longer meet at the Lake Murray Water Training Facility at Lake Murray). The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to the lake. Instead of turning into Kiowa, keep going on Lake Murray Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go down three blocks and the recreation center will be on your right. It is on the corner of Lake Adlon and Lake Badin.



San Diego Flyfishers Headquarters
 Stroud Tackle



**San Diego
Fly Fishers**

SINCE 1962

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