



## October Speaker

### **A Patagonian Perspective: Truchas Grande y Vino Tinto**

Last March, **Jon Wurtmann** led a group of eight writers and editors down to Argentina's Patagonia region to sample the fine fishing, warm hospitality and breathtaking scenery. His group included familiar names to SDFF members, such as Dave Ames and Dave Hughes, as well as writers from Fly Fisherman, The New York Times and Outside Magazine.

Based in San Martin, the group was treated to the best of public and private waters in the region. They fished the legendary rivers such as the Chimehuin, the Malleo, the Calefu and the Quilquihue. They also discovered the incredible "boca" fishing on Lago Lolog, finding 3-6 lb trout in gin-clear water.

Jon will report on the fishing, the food and the warm hospitality of the Argentine people, despite their suffering under an economic crisis. Argentina today remains one the "must-see" destinations in the trout fisher's itinerary – and an incredible bargain to travelers.

### **REMINDER**

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

**Dan McKiman and  
Roger Clapp**

*Thank you, Mona Morebello*

### **Fly Fishing at Hubbard's Yellowstone Lodge, Montana**

by Warren Lew

**I**n July, I met my friends and fellow Club members, Jane and Dennis Ditmars at Hubbard's Yellowstone Lodge. They had fished here before, and Dennis had caught over 40 huge rainbow trout in one day on their previous trip. Many were caught on adult damselfly patterns, and I was hoping for a similar experience.

After flying up to Idaho Falls, and spending the night in Gardiner, Montana, I drove north for seventeen miles to the Lodge to meet them. Although the last 3 miles were on a gravel road, it is well maintained and I had no difficulty getting to the lodge in my rental car.

Arriving at around 10 AM, I was helped to my room in the main lodge, and immediately began assembling my fly

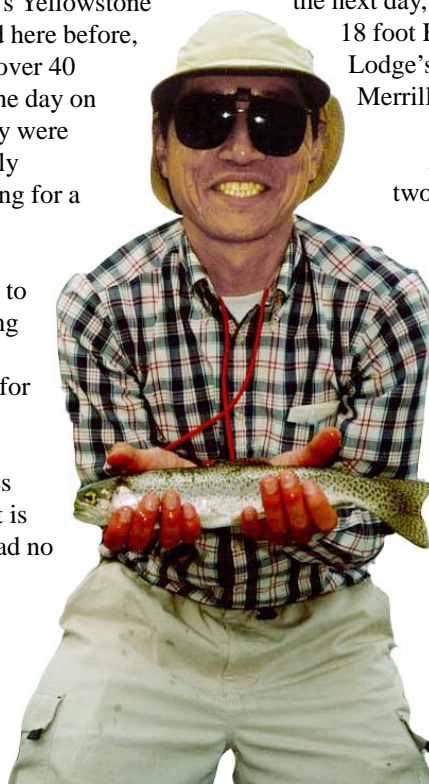
rods. Within the hour, I headed for the lake, and Chris, who would be my guide the next day, helped me get one of the 18 foot Hyde drift boats into the Lodge's 85 acre private water, Merrill Lake.

As I rowed out, I saw two float tubers and another drift boat with two fly fishers. Thinking Jane and Dennis were in the boat, I rowed toward it. As I neared the boat, I yelled, "Would you mind if I tied up to your boat?". The two in the boat kept fishing and ignored me. Hmm... I began thinking, are Dennis and Jane mad at me? As I recalled, I behaved at their house the last time I was invited for dinner.

Then I realized that these two were not Dennis and Jane, but two other

Lodge guests! Within a few minutes, I recognized Dennis out there in one of the float tubes, and rowed out to him to let him know I had made it.

He told me that the fishing wasn't



*This cutthroat was caught while drifting the Yellowstone River.*

### **MEETING NOTICE**

Monday, October 7th, 2002  
7:30 PM  
Sequoia Elementary School  
4690 Limerick Ave.  
(See map on back page)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: OCTOBER 2002

I have a confession to make. I fished with bait. There, I said it. A friend of mine invited me out on a full-day charter out of Harbor Island in the middle of August. I have never had a bait rod in my hand before and the results were predictable. Having practiced on "wind knots" by plying the art of the angle, I was

more than adept in clearing knots out of monofilament. Frankly, it takes stripping miles of this stuff before you find the offending kink or knot.

After having worked for years to get a little life in the action of my flies, I must admit that it was a bit unusual to have something at the end of your line **swim** towards the ultimate target, in this case tuna.

We boated limits for all anglers and I have a freezer full of blue fin and albacore tuna. I came within a couple of pounds of boating the biggest fish of the trip, a forty pound blue fin. There's a bit of a difference in landing an Eastern Sierra trout of brutish girth and then finding something the size of a small child at the end of 20-lb. mono.

Like all fishing trips, this one had the key element that made it a success. The other people onboard. Thirteen of us fished a boat that normally accommodates twenty-five, and everyone on board had some connection to the two folks who chartered the boat, giving it a "one big happy family feeling."

I was fascinated by the feeding frenzy, and I don't mean by the tuna, which turned the ocean into a bubbling, seething churn as they smashed into the baitfish. I'm talking about my fellow anglers. More than once, all thirteen of us had a hookup. This was fishing for meat. Pure, simple, rather primeval. You know, that whole hunter-gatherer thing. Catch-and-release? Hardly.

While I did avoid the Technicolor yawn, I felt a bit shaky at times. Embarrassing for an old Navy man, especially one who never (and I mean **never**) got seasick while working for Uncle Sam and



**JIM TENUTO**

Elmo Zumwalt. Even made it through a typhoon with appetite intact and color in my cheeks. So I was a bit, well, confused to find myself suddenly empathetic towards all those I had shaken my head at in my youth. I will say that a hook-up on a twenty-pound albacore will do wonders for a queasy stomach.

I have probably already retired from deep-sea fishing. I'm not even much of a lake fisherman. I prefer moving water.

**A very special evening...** This year's Annual Banquet will be held **Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**, on USMS Mercy (HS-1).

This meeting is a true celebration. Fish plates are awarded to those members who have worked hard for the club during the year. We introduce and install our new officers and board of directors. We host a raffle (no cost to enter) featuring some wonderful prizes. And, we will announce the winner of the 2002 Gordon Foster Award.

Captain Larry Sorenson, USN (you know him better as the friendly Monthly Raffle guru) is the man behind this spectacular evening. We will start this meeting early, because Larry has offered the club tours of one of the most interesting ships in the US Navy. The meal will be nothing short of spectacular: steamship round of beef, baked ham, roasted turkey, vegetables, dessert and wines from Temecula Valley. The cost: \$5.00 per person.

There are, however, a few logistical issues required if you plan on attending. We need to have a list of all who are attending to the Navy by Thanksgiving. Security reasons. We will be parking our cars at a central location and

then transported by bus to the ship. The Navy requires a list of names of those who will be onboard.

So, if you're planning on attending, please do one of three things:

1. Bring your \$5.00 (or \$10.00 if a spouse/significant other will be joining you) to our October or November meeting and sign up right there.
2. Use the form printed in next month's *Finny Facts* and mail it to us along with the appropriate amount of money.
3. Download the form at our Website, [www.sandiegoflyfishers.com](http://www.sandiegoflyfishers.com), and mail it in to us.

No late additions! This is a meeting NOT to be missed.

**Bidness...** Helen Grundler has been the club's membership chair for four years. She is responsible for all the applications our club receives, adding the new member's name and particulars onto our *Finny Facts* mailing list, getting said list to Postal Annex so that the labels can be printed, getting the new member a name tag, and she even makes up the name disks that go in the pot for our monthly cash drawing.

Helen wants to retire.

If you have an interest in helping fill this critical role for our club, please see me at the next meeting, or stop by and see Helen.

**Nominating Committee...** At the October meeting we will ask for volunteers for the Nominating Committee. This is an important committee, as it is tasked with selecting our 2003 Board of Directors and club officers. If you have an interest in joining this committee please e-mail me at [tenutoj@comcast.net](mailto:tenutoj@comcast.net) or buttonhole me at the October meeting. 🐟



## Snakehead Fish, Huge Carp, and Zebra Mussels

*Being a Fisherman is Not Easy These Days*

BANNED FROM THE U.S. and probably from all sportfishing areas. It's a bad one called the "snakehead fish" for the large plate-like scales on its head, much like those on snakes. This fish is a bizarre one that grows to about 4 ft and to several hundred lbs. It has wide jaws lined with very sharp teeth; it walks around on wet grass and earth and has been

known to attack people who get too near its young or nest. It is a native of China but has been found in a lot of other places, including the U.S. It is found in Maine, Mass., Rhode Island, Maryland, and Florida. It occurs throughout Florida. It is now banned from the entire U. S.



BOB WISNER

in wait for a large one, body bent in a bow-like form, and at the right time "fire" the bow and seize the prize. They are a very good leaper, so cover your aquarium well.

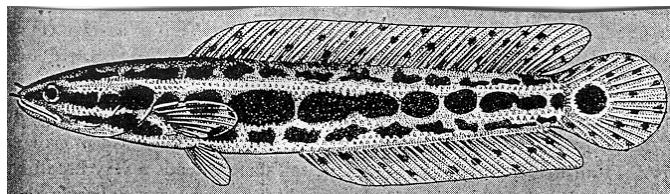
Their ability to live out of water for long periods may be due to nostrils divided into tubes directed toward their gill chambers. They can live in thick, muddy and dirty water.

It's nice to not have them around in our lakes and streams. A big one would eat its weight in our game fishes in short order. The drought is causing us enough trouble but at least some dry lake and streambeds also hurt most predators.

If you should be fishing where these baddies occur, and hook and land one, please forget you ever heard of catch and release. Kill and eat the SOB. They're supposed to be deli-

cious -no doubt depending on how they're prepared. In fact, killing and eating them is the most highly recommended way to get rid of them.

P.S.: This fish has received so much newsprint and notoriety that it could interest unscrupulous persons to transplant it to ponds or waters nearby for food or gamefishing. But there would grave danger of escape and contamination of neighboring waters. The only known way to kill snakeheads is by heavily poisoning. It is the recommended way to get rid of them. Let's hope we never have such problems.



This fish is a monster. It lives out of water for at least three days, probably longer in rainy weather. They're mostly meat eaters- other fish, frogs, small ducks, and ground birds - everything including its own kind. They are very protective of their nest and young and if humans get too close snakeheads will attack and drive them away

They make poor aquarium pets as they eat all other fishes, including their own kind. They eat anything; small ones feed on earthworms and larvae of aquatic insects, but larger ones feed on anything including their own sizes. They've been seen to lie

MOORING HAUSERS FOR FLY LEADERS ??? It's a possibility if you believe a couple of recent news stories - and there's no reason not to believe them - So, start practicing your delivery of heavy leader and fly or lure. Huge carp - to over 100 lbs and 4 ft long are loose. They've escaped farms in Arkansas and are working up to the Great Lakes at about 40-50 miles annually and will no doubt work upstream in the Missouri and get into the Yellowstone River system. They can live in cold water streams (a lot of us have seen them in the cold Colorado River above Lee's Ferry).

Size is one thing but these guys are downright dangerous. They can leap at least 15 feet, and are known to have broken the nose of a few fishermen. Worse than that is how much they could eat. It is a plankton snacker -chomping on two to three times its weight per day. At 100 lbs -minimum, one big carp could devastate a wide area leaving no food for other planktivorous fishes that we like to get on our hooks. Such big guys could wipe out any populations there first. To avoid this, electric barriers are installed in any stream entering (or leaving) Lake Michigan. It is hoped that this will prevent such monsters from becoming established and wiping out the recreational fishing of the Great Lakes. If it doesn't, you've got probably a hundred years or so to practice heaving really heavy fly gear. I'm not going to worry about it, for at 89 years old now, at 189 I'll be too old and frail to attempt to heave such tackle.

THEY'RE STILL COMING AND STILL costing the US and Canadian port cities million to billions yearly in control and eradication attempts. I'm writing about the small to tiny stow-aways in the fresh ballast water in the ships arriving from foreign freshwater ballast loading ports - primarily European. Some time ago I wrote about the zebra mussel (ZM here after). It's a real bad one. It showed up in the ballast water taken aboard in the Black Sea and being discharged into the Great

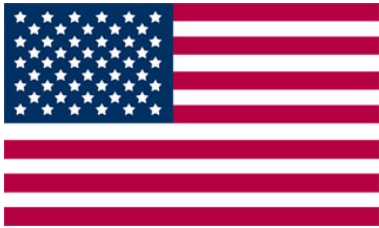
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**JACK BENTLEY**

**Any Questions?  
Call Jack Bentley at**



### **Snakehead Fish, Huge Carp, and Zebra Mussels**

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Lake Port system. It was well established before anyone realized there was a problem with it. Since' 160 + aquatic species have colonized the Great Lake port cities and now extend to Quebec City in the North to New Orleans in the south and as far west as Oklahoma.

It has cost about 5 billion dollars annually in economic losses and control efforts. The damage is that the ZM literally grow tight on top and against each other in clumps bound by strong byssal threads, and plug up pipes and drains in short order, and almost permanently; they grow to about an inch in length so they bulk up rapidly. It costs huge sums of money to either ream out the plugged pipe, replace it, or to flush them out with poison fluids - also lethal to most native life. Laws were

quickly passed to force ships to discharge freshwater ballast at sea, far from port - a long overdue law. But, it was too little too late to control this very well established mussel. Since then, two small fishes have arrived in ballast and are feeding on life forms once the sole province of young fishes of the US, fortunately not of immediate economic importance.

A major problem was discovered: I was learned that not all the ballast water could be pumped - as much as nearly 200 tons of water was beyond reach of the hose terminal. The ZM and hundreds of organisms were thriving in the "pumped-out" tanks the hose couldn't reach. The remaining water and sediment (mud) apparently was nourishing a lot of forms of life.

The latest form is the fishhook water flea. By hooking tails together, they form dense spiky balls of varying size that clog pipes and tangle fishing lines. The clumping renders it nearly impossible for larger organisms to use them as food because of size and nearly impossible to pick apart. Also, the fleas reproduce very rapidly; within a year of their discovery they had spread to the ends of Lake Ontario, into half a dozen of New York's Finger Lakes, and to both ends of Lake Michigan. They are competing for food (and winning) with native newly hatched fishes -some of great economic importance; its potential for harm probably is not yet fully realized.

Obviously the new laws were not working. Organisms were escaping the pumps and remaining in ballast to grow and discharge the next trip. More millions were to be spent on finding better methods of control. Filtering the ballast water was tried but it proved slow, expensive, and inefficient.

Mid-ocean, or far offshore exchange of fresh for salt is being tried, but is slow as quite fine sand is required to trap eggs and tiny young, and it clogs easily. It is now being challenged by ultra-violet light, which is faster and kills many small organisms on very brief exposure.

Presently it is known that larger forms are easily removed by filtration. Chemical disinfectants and killers (most chlorines) also kill native life. Vitamin K solutions as low as 2 ppm, kill 90 to 95% of the minute animals. Gasses (ozone and nitrogen) pumped through water are very promising; ozone reacts rapidly in the water and tends to break down and lose its effectiveness. Centrifugation is hardly worth the cost and time as small forms are too near the density of seawater and separate slowly and incompletely. Ultra violet light in proper strength is best for very small organisms.

Many methods have been tried and found only partially successful. Ozone gas bubbled through the ballast water kills bacteria and other tiny organisms that may be troublesome in adult stages. Nitrogen gas killed most organisms within three days. Both gasses bubbled out rapidly on entering seawater.

A recent finding shows much promise (at least on ZM). A research team at the New York State Museum, Albany, has found that a common soil bacterium forms a toxin that kills up to 95% of the ZM present. To attain that efficiency anything used today would also kill many other organisms.

So far, ballast organisms are not a problem on the West Coast. 🐟





**W**hat to do after work, on repeated business trips to Huntsville Alabama?

First, I found a nice fly fishing store: North Alabama Outfitters. The manager, George, put me on to some fun bream and bass fishing in a pretty stream that runs through town. But he also suggested that I drive an hour north into southern Tennessee where “there is a beautiful tail water trout fishery” below Tim’s Ford Dam on the Elk River.

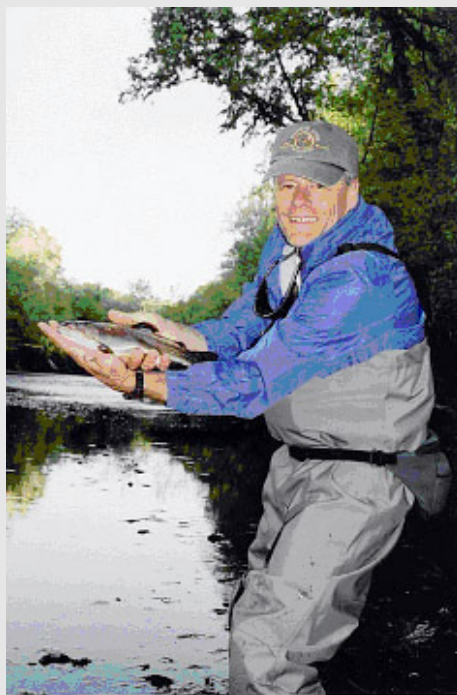
Beautiful it is! Tim’s Ford is a modern Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) dam, about five miles east of the Jack Daniels Distillery in Lynchburg, TN (another good place to visit), just off the Davy Crockett highway. It is important to call the TVA hot line 1-800-238-2264 and check the generating times and flow rates for Tim’s Ford (Dam # 50). They change daily! Tim’s Ford Dam typically generates power on random, eight hour, intervals. During those times, the tail water flow raises to levels that are un-safe for fishers. But, when the generators are shut down, the fish start rising. The Elk is a well stocked, trout fishery, but has limited holdovers. The local TU chapter is actively working with the TVA and the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency to increase oxygen levels and trout habitat. So, it should only get better.

While finding my way along the river and watching the trout watching my flies, I met a gentleman named Tim Page, President of the local TU Chapter and proprietor of Tim’s Flies and Lies. He is the local fly fishing guide. He pointed out some places and techniques that greatly improved my luck that evening, and I arranged to meet him on my next trip. I was glad I did!

Tim’s rates are \$150 for a full day. Tim said, “a full day, is a full day”, and stayed with me from 8 AM until 7 PM.

## Fly Fishing in Northern Alabama and South Central Tennessee?

By Gary Strawn



*A feisty “hold over” rainbow on the Elk River, below Tim’s Ford Dam, near Lynchburg, Tennessee.*

We fished the whole time except for a little travel time and a short lunch break. He showed me several access points to the Elk River, some of which cross private land, owned by local TU members, who welcome “catch and release” fly fishers. For the most part the Elk is “dead drift” nymph fishing. I had several bites on the big foam beetle we used as an indicator, but most fish were caught on trailing, pheasant tail nymphs and San Juan worms. Tim ties his nymphs with chain bead heads and also puts a brass bead in the middle of his S.W. worms. So, I had tied some the same way. I landed more than a dozen trout, mostly browns up to 14 inches and a few of the feistiest rainbows I have ever caught. Tim helped me a lot

with mending the line to get a drag free drift, but I was way too slow reacting to the many “takes”. He assured me that I would have landed many more fish, had I been quicker to set the hook. Later in the evening, there were some “gulpers” taking size 22 cream midges on the surface, but I had been fishing for 11 hours and was running out of steam. The river, running slowly through thick hardwood forests, beneath high limestone cliffs, is spectacular. We saw wild geese, hawks, muskrats, weasels, lots of hungry trout, and only a couple of other fishermen. It was a great day!

I plan to hire Tim again, for a half day (\$100), on the nearby Duck River. That way, if Tim’s Ford is generating, I’ll have a back-up plan. If your travels take you to South Central Tennessee or Northern Alabama, and you can make time for fishing, give Tim a call:

Tim Page (931) 212-4945

[timpage@cafes.net](mailto:timpage@cafes.net). Or just drive over to Tim’s Ford and ask the local “good ol’ boys” to show you around. Either way I think you will agree with me that it is a special place. 🍷

## WANTED

A partner to share a glorious trip of fly fishing in New Zealand. This is a BIG bargain! It was the San Diego Fly Fishers program presented on September 9th.

Contact Len Rosen



## Hubbard's Yellowstone Lodge

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Hubbard's Yellowstone Lodge

anything like his previous visit, and that the fish were down deep. I was advised to use nothing less than a 3X tippet, full sinking line, and a black Wooly Bugger. Then, he pointed me to the spot to fish. Due to my stubbornness and ignorance, I kept the 4X tippet that I all ready had on and tied on an olive Wooly Bugger. These fish couldn't be that big, I thought. Well, after a few casts, a fish took my fly and

promptly me broke off!

After a brief moment, I concluded that Dennis was right, so I quickly attached a 3X fluorocarbon tippet and a small #10 Wooly Bugger I had purchased at a West Yellowstone fly shop. Within 15 minutes, I had another large fish take my fly, but soon he was off!

How could this happen? To my chagrin, I looked at the end of my line. The improved clinch knot held, but all that was left on the end of my tippet was the eye of the hook! These were large fish, but not that large! I was not pleased...

After a delicious box lunch provided by the Lodge, and

despite my earlier failures, Dennis, Jane, and I caught many 16 – 20" rainbow and brown trout that day! Just as Dennis and Jane had said, the takes were hard and these fish really put a bend in your rod! It was very exciting fishing!

The flies I was most successful with were #6 Bitch Creek flies with the orange thorax, and #6 olive and black Wooly Buggers. Dennis and Jane favorites were #6 olive and cinnamon Beadhead Flashabuggers.

Dinner was served at 6:30 PM in the main lodge, where we enjoyed pureed carrot soup, a fresh Caesar salad, roasted duck with raspberry sauce, asparagus, and tiramisu for dessert. It was delicious, and the service was excellent. It was a great ending to a wonderful day!

The next day, while Dennis and Jane fished Merrill Lake, I drifted the Yellowstone River with Lodge guide, Chris Gerano.

We put our Hyde drift boat in at McConnell Access, and I began casting along the banks, eddies, and undercuts. It wasn't long before I was catching nice rainbows and Yellowstone cutthroats! Chris, my guide, knew the river well, as he had been guiding with Hubbard's Lodge for over three years.

I had a great day catching these beautiful rainbow and Yellowstone cutthroat trout, the largest measuring 14". But, I missed just as many fish as I caught, as although I could see the fish take my fly... I would frequently set the hook too late. These Yellowstone River fish don't make a splashy take, and many times, they'll just do a quick "up and down"! If you are thinking about what's for lunch, you won't be boating many fish.

Chris' technique was to use a nine



Dennis with a nice rainbow that took his cinnamon beadhead flashabugger.





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## Hubbard's Yellowstone Lodge

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foot 3X leader, and a 5X fluorocarbon tippet. He would tie on two dry flies, such as a #12 Turk's Tarantula as the front fly, and a #14 Yellow Sally tied on the bend of the first fly. The Yellow Sally was the hot fly that day, and I caught most of my fish on this one pattern. We, also, used the gray bodied Elk Hair Caddis, Orange Stimulator, Royal Stimulator, and olive X Caddis. I liked the X Caddis, as it would bring the fish up, but it was difficult to see on the water!

Our day ended around 5 PM at Yankee Jim Access, after drifting over ten miles of this beautiful river.

If you are in Montana, to fish in Yellowstone National Park or the Madison just outside of the Park, try the fishing at



*Dennis's wife, Jane, caught many browns like this one.*



Merrill Lake or drifting the Yellowstone River. Jane, Dennis, and I had a wonderful time, and you will not be disappointed.

--Warren Lew 🍷

(above) "I love Bitch Creek flies."

(right) The Merrill Lake browns are big!



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## FROM THE CONSERVATION CHAIR

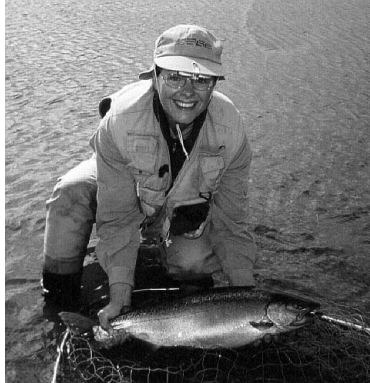
This is the time of year that is really fun for your conservation chair. I get to put checks in the mail to worthy organizations that promote fishing conservation and education. It is always a great feeling to be able to give money to folks that work hard all year to help preserve our sport.

But, before I get to the part about where those checks are going, let me back up a bit. This also is the time of year that I feel honored to be part of an organization that cares enough to support conservation. You, the members of the San Diego Fly Fishers, did a wonderful job of making our annual raffle a success. As you know, the raffle is a lot of fun, but it is also the way that we fund club conservation activities and donations. So, thank you for your support!

Once again, this year, we have focused our donations on organizations primarily doing work within California and the local San Diego area. Our largest donation, \$1,500, was to Trout Unlimited (TU). For many years, folks thought of TU as an "East

Coast" organization. However, times have changed. TU now has chapters and state offices throughout the Western U.S., and they are actively engaged in protecting

watersheds from Montana to California. TU has done an excellent job of working with the Southern California Steelhead Coalition, and we are encouraging them to use our donation to continue their conservation work in California.



**SHERRY BRAINERD**

Two California based groups, California Trout, and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), each received \$500. Califor-

nia Trout continues to do excellent conservation work. They tenaciously defend everything our trout and steelhead need, from in-stream water flows, to native vegetation on the banks of our rivers. The DFG donation will be done in the form of equipment purchase to assist with their activities in San Diego County. We will be buying needed items for local use by DFG in their work on San Diego stream and fish restoration projects.

Those of you that regularly fish San Diego area lakes will be pleased to know that

both Jim Brown at the San Diego City Lakes Program, and Hugh Marx at Lake Cuyamaca, will have \$500 donations to add to their resources. Because of these folks, you can fish year round in San Diego County, and you can cast a fly to everything from bluegill to steelhead. In addition, both Cuyamaca and San Diego have programs to teach adults and kids how to fish.

Finally, last, but certainly not least, we made two donations supporting fishing education. First, the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC) received \$500 to support their on-going trout education exhibit. If you haven't been to the Center, take some time to grab the family and go! Barbara Moore and the folks at CVNC do a fantastic job of explaining the plants and animals that make up the watersheds in San Diego. Second, Chollas Lake, the official "kids only" fishing lake in San Diego, will be getting a \$500 donation to assist in the creation of a new interpretive bulletin board and information kiosk at the lake.

So, now you know why my job can be a lot of fun. And, you also know why you can thank yourself and your fellow club members for doing great work for conservation in San Diego and California! 🍷

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## International Women Flyfishers Festival to Be Held in San Diego

The International Women Flyfishers Festival will be held October 30 through November 2 this year at the San Diego Marriot Hotel in the Golden Triangle area of La Jolla.

Our own **Gretchen Yearous** and **Kim Jones** have volunteered to be points of contact for fresh water fishing info while Conway Bowman and Richard Piconi are assisting on the saltwater scene.

Judy Muller of ABC News will be the keynote speaker. Sister Carol Anne Corley

will present info on getting young folks into our sport. Pudge Kleinhoff from Alaska, Marla Blair, Liz Watson, Gretchen Beatty, Dianne Bristol, Fanny Krieger, Yvonne Graham, and our own Allan Greenwood will be some of the luminaries presenting programs at the festival.

Flytieing seminars and FFF Casting Instructor Certification sessions will be held.

There will be a Saturday night dinner with

flyfishing gear auction.

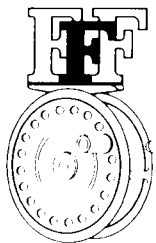
This is a chance for us to meet some great folks from all over the world who share our passion for flyfishing!

If any of the women members of the club would like to volunteer to help, please step up!

Check out their website at [www.intlwomenflyfishers.com](http://www.intlwomenflyfishers.com) or call or e-mail Pat Magnuson at







Contact: Bob Wiltshire

## **Federation of Fly Fishers Issues Emergency Angler Warning**

**T**he Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) is warning all anglers and water users about the risks of transporting **New Zealand Mud Snails**. “We are calling on all anglers to immediately take action to insure that they do not spread New Zealand Mud Snails” says Verne Lehmberg, FFF Conservation Vice President. “New Zealand Mud Snails are rapidly being spread to waters across the west and each of us must insure that we are not part of the problem.”

Since their discovery in Idaho’s Snake River, New Zealand Mud Snails have spread to surrounding areas where they have flourished. These small brown snails measure no more than 1/8 inch. An individual snail is no problem but New Zealand Mud Snails easily reach densities that cause significant problems. Snail numbers as high as 750,000 per square yard have been recorded in some areas. At these levels the snails consume most available food leaving little for native snails and aquatic insects to feed on. This leads to a reduction or elimination of these creatures, which can result in a significant impact on fish populations.

Anglers easily overlook the small snails which can be found clinging to waders, boats, tackle and other fishing accessories. The snails have the ability to close off their shell opening allowing them to live for significant lengths of time without being in water. Anglers unknowingly transfer the snails to new waters when they are lodged in their equipment. It is likely that transport by anglers is the most

significant cause of mud snail spread.

“In recent weeks the snails have been discovered in the Colorado River at Lee’s Ferry, and in Montana’s Beaverhead and Upper Missouri Rivers” reports Lehmberg. “All of these are popular angling destinations and there is compelling evidence that these introductions are angler caused. The FFF knows that anglers are interested in protecting our waters, not hurting them, and the only reason snails are spread is because people don’t know about them.”

*Locally the mud snails have been found in the Lower Owens River in the Eastern Sierras. Guides are recommending that if you are going to fish the Lower Owens River, to fish this place last on your schedule to mitigate possible transportation of the mud snails to other fisheries.*

The FFF is asking every angler and water user to take a few simple precautions to help control the spread of NZMS.

1. Thoroughly clean and rinse your equipment before you leave a fishing site.
2. Completely dry all equipment before using again.
3. Hot temperatures kill NZMS - 113 degrees for 60 seconds will kill 100%.
4. Never release fish or any other living creature into any water it did not originate in.

The Federation of Fly Fishers, a non-profit membership organization, conducts a variety of programs designed to help counter the threat of invasive species. For more information contact the FFF at 406-585-7592 or [www.fedflyfishers.org](http://www.fedflyfishers.org).

### **New Zealand Mud Snail - Fact Sheet**

**Scientific Name:** *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*

Originally found only in New Zealand, the New Zealand Mud Snail (NZMS) was first transported to England in 1859. By 1899 it had reached mainland Europe and the 1920’s found it throughout all of England. In 1987 NZMS were discovered in Idaho’s Snake River. In 1997 surveys showed the snail had spread to all of the major waters in Yellowstone National Park. In recent years it has been found throughout the Columbia River drainage, in many Montana waters and in several California streams.

NZMS have the capability for clonal asexual reproduction. In this type of reproduction a single snail can reproduce with no mate. Thus, a single snail is all that is required to establish a new population.

NZMS reproduce very rapidly. A single snail produces up to 38 live snails twice a year. Each of these reaches reproductive age very quickly and it is possible that a single individual could be responsible for a population of 3,700,000 in two years.

NZMS impact the environment through sheer numbers. Densities of more than 800,000 per square meter have been recorded in several areas. These huge numbers of snail eat much of the available food in the stream. A recent study from Montana State University showed that

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## Emergency Angler Warning

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NZMS can consume up to 50% of the production in a stream.

The impact of NZMS feeding on available food is seen in several ways. The most immediate impact is on populations of native snails that can quickly be pushed out. In fact, in Pole Cat Creek in Grand Teton National Park a unique native snail found only in the creek is facing extinction because of competition from NZMS.

Many organisms besides snails are impacted by NZMS. Many aquatic insects can be impacted as well. Invertebrate studies show marked declines in midge

and mayfly populations.


Loss of native snails and other aquatic invertebrates becomes a loss of food to various fish. NZMS provide little if any nutrition to fish that eat them. In fact, a significant percentage of the snails that are eaten pass through the fish alive.

NZMS have no natural enemies in North America. In New Zealand a tiny parasite controls snail numbers, giving hope that future biological control might be possible.

NZMS invasions can only be controlled by preventing the spread of the snail. Once

they are established there is no known way to eradicate them. All of the methods of transport have not been identified but it is almost certain that water recreationists are the primary vector of spread.

New discoveries of NZMS are occurring rapidly as biologists and others become trained in looking for them. They are probably found in far more waters than currently identified.

More information on NZMS can be obtained from the Federation of Fly Fishers at 406-222-9369. 

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## An 8 Handicap Fly Fisher

**E**nsconced in my recliner watching the U.S. Open (Golf), it occurred to me that there are great similarities to the art of fly fishing. Think about it, unlike golf and fly fishing our most popular sports are team oriented to pit man against man (or woman) whom by any deception attempt to grind their opponents into the landscape.

Fly fishing and golf do not have equally intelligent opponents only the water and the land.

Fly fishing and golf offer no way to achieve perfection (I guess a score of 18 would be perfect.) Even the most accomplished pro-golfers can find something wrong with sub-par rounds, as do fly fishers well beyond their limit of fish. i.e. broken clubs and rod tips.

Fly fishing and golf involve the study of land terrain one above and one below the

water line, variations in wind as well as the rattling of nerves when anticipating the next shot or casting to a rising fish. Duffing a 7 iron or "lining" a tailing bonefish produces equal frustration and similar verbal outpouring. Again, perfection is elusive and ultimately unattainable.

Fly fishers and golfers, however, have random glimpses of glory, which similarly keep bringing them back to the links or streams wishing to experience that feeling one more time! That perfect 80' double haul or a crisp 3 iron which actually goes where aimed, same thing huh?

Golfers and fly fishers do not have to keep score to have a great day. One shot or one presentation, what's the difference?

Most of our 90+ rounds and fishless days have something to at least reflect upon with a smile at days end.

Golf and fly fishing have gurus who demand perfection from you as teachers but when executing their own efforts fall well short of par themselves. i.e. watching Flip through all those tailing loops on ESPN and Phil Mickelson recently 4 putting from 12 feet!

Fly fishers and golfers are offered a myriad of overpriced gear, which ad men guarantee to improve your luck. Each year manufacturers produce the more perfect club shaft or rod blank which you certainly must purchase before their supply runs out!

Speaking of luck (and be honest) it is really not a factor in either sport. Other than the occasional carom off a tree or foul hooking a trophy fish, enjoyment is achieved by the entire package of effort, anticipation, execution and reward.

(by Roger Maler, President of the Mid-South Fly Fishers in Memphis, Tennessee)



## FLY CASTING AT LAKE MURRAY

Trout season is here! Summer warm water fishing 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.

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You can E-mail at Thanks!!

**Send change of address information or  
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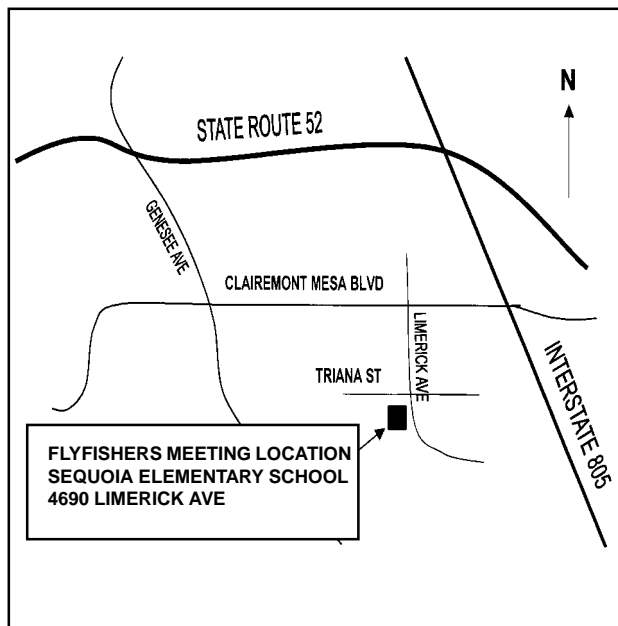
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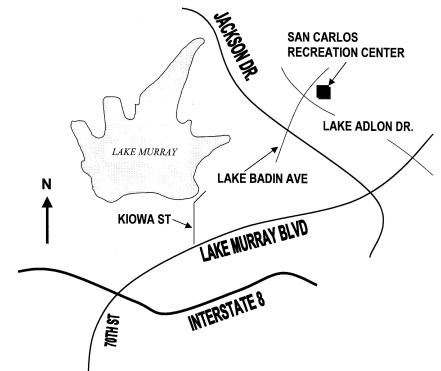


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San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. (We no longer meet at the Lake Murray Water Training Facility at Lake Murray). The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to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



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