

# FINNY FACTS

July 2022

**San Diego Fly Fishers**  
Cleaner Water, Brighter Streams, Better Fishing

Volume 45 No. 07

## Next Club Meeting

**Tuesday, July 5th, 6:30 p.m.**

*with guest speaker*

**Glenn Ueda**



***"Ghost of the Coast"***  
***Sightfishing for Corbina***

Access the Club Calendar [Sdff Calendar](#)  
Follow all the action on the Club's [Facebook page](#)  
Club Meeting [Zoom Link](#)

Renew your membership to the San Diego Fly Fishers!  
Click: [Membership](#)

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# President's Message



**Jim Castelluzzo**  
July, 2022

[president@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:president@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

## Gone Fishin'

# Speaker Program

**Tuesday, July 5th**

**Glenn Ueda, 6:30 p.m.**

*Corbina, Ghost of the Coast*

**Food and Drinks? Join us at 5:00 pm**

**[Southwestern Yacht Club](#)**

The Corbina is the West Coast version of a Redfish or Bonefish, and is similar in many ways!

## **Glenn's Background**

Glenn Ueda, our guest speaker this month, is an expert on sighting and catching Corbina in the surf. He is the holder of multiple IGFA records, and is an accomplished guide and instructor on surf fishing.

Glenn started surf fishing at a very early age under the watch of his father. At the age of five he was hurling pyramid sinkers for surf fish throughout the beaches of southern California. Many years later he read an article on fly fishing in *Sports Afield* and soon began his passion for the sport of fly fishing. He learned how to cast from a family friend who would take him to the Long Beach Casting Club. Soon Glenn fished local parks and the west fork of the San Gabriel River for many fresh water species. However, saltwater was in his veins, and as he grew older his passion turned back to the ocean.



Have a suggestion for a guest speaker?

Contact: Tim Huckaby [Speaker Programs](#)

# Happenings

## Juniors Fishing Program June 22 at SWYC



Lee demonstrates the tie.



The crew gets the kids into the swing.



Paul showing the ropes (knots).



A youngster getting on target under the watchful eye of Sherri.

### SWYC Juniors Fishing Program will continue this summer, August 3rd.

Volunteers are needed to help with fly tying and casting instruction. More details to follow in the next Indicator, or contact Bruce Harris [email](#)

Our **women's program** is in need of gently used fly tying vices and tools. If you have any gear you no longer use, please contact Brooke Sargent: [Women's Programs](#)

### Rod Building

#### Stay tuned for when classes will resume

Space will be limited to ensure quality time for each student. Dates will be announced in the *Finny Facts*. In the interim, if you are beginning your own project and would like some advice or recommendations, please free to contact [Jack Duncan](#)

Please send news, updates, reports, notes, tips, etc., to be shared on this page.

Editor: [editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

# Happenings

## Club Outing, Saturday June 24 Lake Barrett



**Kai has Pig's Point to himself.**



**Ryan and Jerry ready to launch.**



**Jennifer, Stephen and Beverley take a break  
from the action.**



**Mike had a great day on the water.**

## Club Outing, Saturday June 18th, Lake Henshaw



Many carp were sighted, but by all reports few taken, the fish being mostly skittish in the shallow water, but a good time was had by all on a beautiful Saturday morning in the backcountry, and of course Kai provided a fabulous shore lunch!

## Feature Article

### Transition

By Joel Steward

May 7, 2022

The sensation was subtle but growing. I could feel that change along the inside of my leg. Cold creeping along my skin... my waders were leaking. Leaky waders are a fact of life for fisherman. All waders eventually leak and these had been leak free for over a decade. However it was a highlight in the transition I recently made.

A couple weeks earlier and leaky waders were no part of my fishing experience as the water was bathtub warm on the Indian Ocean flats I'd been prowling for nearly two years. There my attire was to protect me from sun and coral. Now, I needed protection from cold. Cold water, cold wind, and cold rain.



The last time I held a fly rod it was rigged for bonefish. My last cast ended with a nice strong average bonefish. It was a fitting end to a time in my life I will never repeat. I spent hundreds of days catching thousands of fish on a remote and isolated island only a very few people ever get to visit this place. I know I was privileged to fish there. Now, I was delivered from Olympus and back to civilization where I must seek fish like other mortals. So, I dug out long stored waders, fleece liners, and rain gear.

## Feature Article, cont.

Every time I return from a deployment I have to transition from operational mode where the mission reigns supreme to home mode where I'm a husband and Dad. From being the boss to being a partner. It was hard early on but less so after 30 years of practice. This time I had to also transition my fishing expectations. From having the opportunity to fish pristine waters full of bonefish, permit, trevally and so many other flats species that grace magazine pages several days a week to fishing a couple days month for local fish. Not a bad problem to have. I know some who only fish in amazing destinations but I love to fish and take joy in each and every fish. I may not be in paradise but I am home with my family and still get to catch fish. So, I'll stow the tropical lines and break out the cold water gear.



It was dark and cold. The wind came up the bay and ran icy fingers along my neck. Sure, everyone else thought it typical New England spring weather but for a guy who'd not seen the temperature below 78 for two years, 40 and drizzle was damn cold!

The water pressed wader and fleece into my skin as I carefully approached the structure. I knew fish were about, several had slurped or boiled as I got ready. I had line stripped off the reel and ready to cast as I eased in. Then the wet crept in and down my leg as the leaks announced their presence. Regardless I worked out a cast and sent it up into the darkness, hoping it landed in the current and not some unseen obstacle. I slowly began to retrieve the small streamer, recalling that early season stripers don't chase fast moving food. Shockingly the whole thing came together and my line was jolted with a strike! It was the fish I expected, an early season schoolie. It didn't dash off like the bonefish I'd become accustomed to but pulled down and away to then double back to make head shakes and tail flops. Soon I slid my thumb into its maw and landed my first striper in over a decade. It was easy to control my last cast but to hook and land a fish on my first cast was a very triumphant moment.

My fishing transition is underway and I've charted a course for adventure. There are lots of fish in lovely places that I plan to be in the coming months. I'm going to keep my fly rod in my sea bag and catch whatever comes my way.

Check out more of Joel's stories at: [Krazygoof](#)

# Planned Trips 2022

**July 9th, 7:00 a.m. Bayside Park, Chula Vista**

August 13 North Torrey Pines Shorepounders

July 15-17 Forks of the Kern Back-backing  
(contact Tim Huckaby)

September 1-4 Stillwater Montana unguided,  
(arrangements with Tim Huckaby)

September 4-7 Stillwater Montana guided

October 22 Lake Cuyamaca

November Shelter Island

December Otay Lakes



**Ask Kai about  
a custom mug!**



For more information contact [Kai Schumann](#)

or look for details in *The Indicator*.

Questions? Contact us at [outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

# Fly of the Month

## The Surfin Merkin



By Paul Cronin, 2008

"For fly-fishermen of the Southern California surf, spring signals the beginning of corbina season. These fish represent the most challenging sight-casting quarry in our area, and most who are bitten by the corbina bug develop nothing short of a lifelong addiction.... Corbina can certainly be caught on patterns mimicking everything from red worms to shrimp and baitfish, but their primary food source during the summer is mole crabs. For this reason, a mole-crab fly can be one of the more productive patterns in a surf fly-fisherman's box.

### Materials

HOOK: Gamakatsu SL11-3H #8 to #6.

THREAD: UTC 140 Fl, fire orange.

EYES: Black Dazl Eyes 1/8" to 5/32".

LEGS: Doug's Bugs gray-pearl Slither Legs and three to four strands of UV Krystal Flash.

BODY: Silver-gray EP Fibers.

HEAD: Six strands of Doug's Bugs hot-orange Electra Flash.

EPOXY COAT: Tuffleye, then a coat of Hard as Nails.

For tying instruction video, please click [HERE](#)



To Join the **Thursday Night Fly Tying Congress** Zoom meeting, 6:30 pm [Click Here](#)

# Casting Corner

## San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2022

**Sunday fly casting instruction** at Lake Murray with [Alan Thompson](#) at 9:00 am.

In the meantime, if someone has a question or a trip planned and needs some assistance please email me at the email address below to discuss. I am often able to provide private or semi-private instruction.

**Casting Skills Challenge Program:** The FFI has reintroduced a program they call the Casting Skills Challenge. It is designed for the experienced beginner caster as well as intermediate and advanced fly fishers. It is meant to be a fun way to study, practice and challenge oneself in a progressive fashion. We will be offering this program to SDFP membership in 2022. More information on the program can be found on the FFI website.

Several of our club members have been working on completing the FFI Fly Casting Challenge Program.

**Intermediate Casting Clinic:** Activity continues with clinics at Mission Bay on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays.



For questions please contact: [John Wylie](#)

# Conservation & Education

## ***Golden Trout Trip June 23 –26, 2022***

Once again this year we are planning our volunteer conservation and fishing trip into the Golden Trout Wilderness June 23-26. This is our biggest conservation effort each year. We take a dozen or two hardy volunteers on a two-mile hike into Casa Vieja Meadow where we work as USFS volunteers erecting a barbed wire and electric fence designed to keep grazing cattle away from Nine Mile Creek that runs through the meadow.



### **From Gary Strawn, SDFF Conservation**

Chad and I couldn't talk about it at our last meeting because it wasn't released, but for those that remember Russ Barabe's talk last year, invasive fish in San Mateo Creek has been a big problem for him.

*"San Diego Regional Water Board Releases Draft Total Maximum Daily Load to Restore Conditions for Steelhead in San Mateo Creek." ([read the two page article here](#))*

**If you know of a good conservation project that needs support, please share your ideas with the committee. [conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com)**

# Women's Program

**Save the Date!**

***Slay the Bay***

**Saturday, August 6th**

Fishing out of Seaforth (Rental skiffs), Coronado

9am-2pm with SDFP lunch provided after fishing!

For ladies and those who identify as ladies.

**More details to follow via The Indicator and email.**



Cherie, Beverly, Sue, Vikki, Lesley S., Jen, Leslie O., Brooke, and Kim E!

Questions or suggestions for activities and events in 2022!  
Contact Brooke Sargent: [Women's Programs](#)

# Project Healing Waters

## Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is a nationwide non-profit dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education, classes and outings. The Program has been in existence since 2006. Our San Diego Program is one of 200+ such programs in the U.S. Each Program is organized and maintained through a local fly fishing club, in our case the San Diego Fly Fishers. Our San Diego Program first started in 2009.

**WHEN:** The first and third Wednesdays of every month at 5:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Santee Historical Society Edgemoor Barn, (The White Barn),  
9200 North Magnolia Avenue, Santee.

**WHAT:** Classes on fly tying, fly casting and general fly fishing information. Some fishing outings are planned as conditions permit.

**WHO:** All disabled military, active duty or retired, are welcome to join us.

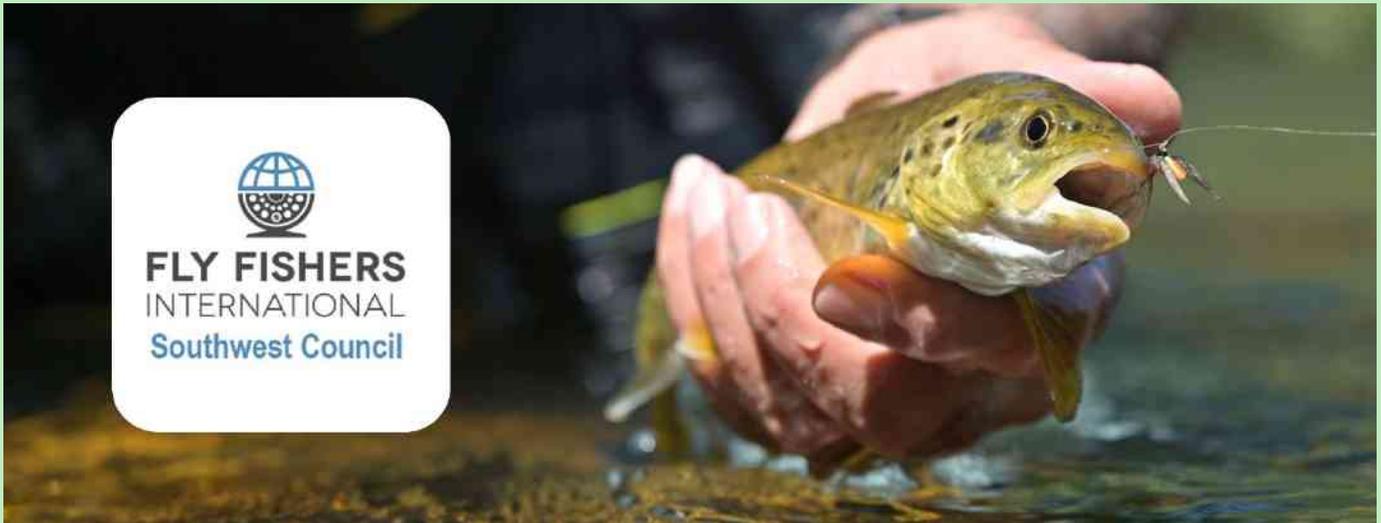
**No prior fly fishing (or any fishing) experience necessary. No charge. All fly fishing and fly tying equipment and material available free of charge.**

**Please RSVP to our San Diego Program Lead, [Lee McElravy](#)**

We are happy to address any questions you may have to help you get started.

Please look at our Club's PHW Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/PHWFF.SDFF/>

SWCFFI



Direct link the [SWCFFI](#) web page!

### Who or What is the Southwest Council?

**The Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International** represents all of Southern California and Nevada. Fly Fishers International is a 54 year old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through Conservation, Restoration and Education. Fly Fishers International and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on an national and regional level.

The **SDFF** is affiliated with the **Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International**

[John Wylie](#), Representative

For more information or to join FFI visit: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

# Membership

## PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**Ready to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers?  
Please support your club by planning to renew for 2022!**

[Renew online](#)

**We are all about fishing and having fun!**

**Don't miss out! Join or renew!**

You can renew your membership on-line through the SDFF website, or you can renew in person at our monthly programs; or you can download an application on our website and mail a check to

**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS  
C/O Stroud Tackle  
1457 Morena Blvd  
San Diego, CA 92110**



Questions? [Alan Thompson](#)

Or Renew at the next Monthly SDFF Meeting

SDFF has four membership levels

Individual.....\$40

Family.....\$50

Individual Military.....FREE (Active Duty Only)

**Past Due Members: Alan will be  
"contacting" you soon to help you  
with the renewal process!**

Renewing your membership (or your family's) is simple.

Click here to [Join](#) then follow the instructions.

# Volunteers Needed

San Diego Fly Fishers is a service organization.  
So please ask yourself...

*"What service can I provide to my Club"?*

## Service Opportunities

### Fishing Outings

This is a chance to help run a fishing outing for Club members. We are seeking volunteers to organize a day of fishing on our local waters. It's fun and easy. Pick your favorite water and contact

[Kai Schumann](#) and we will help you get started.

- ◆ Pick a local lake
- ◆ Pick a location for the bay
- ◆ Pick a location for the surf

The whole idea is to involve more members in creating fishing events and get us on the water monthly.

### Fundraising

- ◆ **We need 2 or 3 more volunteers to help serve on the committee**, please consider helping out. No volunteers, no fundraiser!

Greeters are needed at our Monthly meetings! We are planning to have 2 or 3 greeters at each event to help new people into our Club. It's a great way to serve the Club and meet new Fly-fishers. Please contact [Jim Castelluzzo](#)

### Project Healing Waters

- ◆ Help with this important program that serves Veterans in need.
- ◆ If you know of a Veteran in need Please let us know!
- ◆ Contact: [Lee McElravy](#) to learn how you can contribute.

### Women's Program

- ◆ Please contact Brooke Sargent [Women's Programs](#) for information and way to get involved.

# Fishing!



**Bluegill big enough to suck down size 6 woolly buggers!**



**Jennifer's slab of a crappie from Barrett!**



**Stephen with a grip on one!**



**Kevin hoists a hog!**



**Even a blind editor finds a bass!**

**Please send us a picture from your trip! [Sandiegoflyfishers.com](http://Sandiegoflyfishers.com)**

# Guides and Resources

**San Diego Fly Fishers does not endorse nor recommend any particular Guide or Business.**

This Information is intended to provide the reader with known providers of services related to fly fishing in our local area and in California. This is not intended to be a complete list of available services.

## Guides

Eastern Sierra:

[Sierra Drifters](#)

[Sierra Troutdoorsman](#)

[Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing](#)

[Kern River Fly Shop](#)

[Wild Fly Anglers](#)

## Northern California:

[Acosta Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead)

[Fine and Far Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead/Spey Trips)

[Baiocchi's Troutfitters](#)

## San Diego Bay/Surf/Lakes:

[Conway Bowman](#)

[Alex Cady @ Fly Stop](#)

## Fly Fishing Equipment:

[STROUD TACKLE](#)

[THE FLY STOP](#)

[Flies by Favorite](#)

## River Flows and Reports

[Dreamflows](#)

[USGS Flows](#)

[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)



Sam Vasily Guides the way.

# Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



**GRETCHEN YEAROUS  
CERTIFIED CASTING  
INSTRUCTOR**

**We need your help getting rid of Carp at Lake Cuyamaca!**



**CARP ANGLERS WANTED:**  
CONVENTIONAL ROD AND REEL, SPEAR OR BOW:  
Kill a Carp and FISH FOR FREE! Or, TENT CAMP FOR FREE!  
PROOF REQUIRED!

**LAKE CUYAMACA NEEDS YOUR HELP! KILL A CARP!**

# Board of Directors

## San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2022

James Castelluzzo	<a href="#">President</a>
Vice President	vacant
Andrea Rae	<a href="#">Treasurer</a>
Mel Ochs	<a href="#">Secretary</a>
Alan Thompson	<a href="#">Membership</a> <a href="#">Sunday Fly Casting</a>
Bruce Harris	At large
Mark Hedderson	<a href="#">Editor Finny Facts / Indicator</a>
Tim Huckaby	<a href="#">Speaker Programs</a> <a href="#">Fundraising/At large</a>
Brooke Sargent	<a href="#">Women's Programs</a>
Kai Schumann	<a href="#">Outings Coordinator</a>
Gary Strawn	<a href="#">Conservation</a>
John Wylie	<a href="#">Casting Program Instruction</a> <a href="#">SWC-FFI Liaison</a>
	<b>Committee Chairpersons</b>
Jack Duncan	<a href="#">Rod Building</a>
Lucky Ketcham	<a href="#">Fly Tying Congress</a>
Lee McElravy	<a href="#">Project Healing Waters</a>
	<b>Web Master</b>
David Collins	<a href="#">Internet Resources Admin</a>

## The Indicator

Emailed twice a month  
with updates and break-  
ing news!  
Make sure you are on the  
list to stay informed.

Follow SDFF adventures  
and news our FACEBOOK  
page. Post your own  
adventures and  
pictures.

[San Diego Fly Fishers](#)

The Board meets at 6:30 PM on the last Monday of each month at the San Diego River Park Foundation Office on Pacific Hwy. (Currently held on Zoom.)

For Directions to all Club Meetings, Clinics and Fly tying classes visit our website at:  
[Activities Maps](#)



## Tailing Loops



**Not a recommended method for tuna or wahoo.**

The editor demonstrates how to troll (foolishly) with a fly rod from a 30-year-old kayak that did not come with any cutting edge frills or modifications; no peddles, no rudder, no bait tank, or depth gauge, or fish finder, or, obviously, rod holder. So Rick over at Stroud's is thinking "Great! Sooner or later a solid fish is going to rip that gear overboard (possibly taking a few toes in the process) and Mark will come limping into the shop ready to drop some cash on some new stuff!" Hey, for a good fish story, maybe a Predator 6-weight and a Behemoth Reel, and a spool of Rio intermediate sinking line might be worth it.

But anyway, I only do this when I'm moving from one area to another and want to find out if anything is cruising about or following my wake. I have caught a few small mackerel and an equally small bonito, and here's the thing: If a big fish grabs my fly as it's dragging behind me, the rod will naturally bend right back to my left arm, which is at the ready. All I have to do is release my grip on the paddle and... wait a minute, a potentially problematic situation could arise: If I lose my rod, I can still paddle, but I can't fish; if I lose my paddle but hang onto my rod, I can still fish, maybe for a very long time. Another of life's dilemmas to ponder.

