

On the Fly

Official Newsletter of California Fly Fishers Unlimited, a 501c(3) Non-profit - February 2019



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FLY TYING EXCHANGE

By Don Wallace

How Would You Like to Win a \$25 Gift Certificate to a Local Fly Shop?

You have probably noticed the Fly Tying Exchange table at the far side of the meeting room. Maybe you have forgotten what the exchange is all about? The purpose is to give new and experienced tiers the opportunity to show off their skills and share their favorite patterns with other club members.

Here is how the exchange works. You tie one dozen of a fly pattern that works well for you, or maybe one that you have wanted to try. By the time you get to number 12, you have probably learned the best techniques to complete this fly. Write up the recipe for the pattern (include any tricks or techniques you think will be helpful) and include it

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The Martha tied by Rob Scafe. Photo by James Simon

CFFU Calendar - February 2019

DISCLAIMER: Dates on this calendar are subject to change. Check the CFFU website for the most up-to-date event schedules. [CFFU Calendar LINK](#)

FEBRUARY	EVENT	INFORMATION LINK
5	General Meeting - Chili Cook-off	General Meeting
9-10	Yuba River Outing to UCD Research Station	Yuba Outing Info
13	FITC Egg Delivery to Schools	FITC Link
13	New Member Meeting	New Member Link
19	CFFU Fly Fishing 101 - Part 1	Fly Fishing 101 Link
21	Tech Thursday - Topic TBA	Tech Thursday Info
22-24	Fly Fishing Show - Pleasanton, CA	Fly Fishing Show
22-24	Outing - Baum Lake	Baum Lake Link
26	CFFU Fly Fishing 101 - Part 2	Fly Fishing 101 Link
27	Social - Topic: Your Favorite Fly Fishing Stuff	CFFU Social Link

February 2019 Speaker - Michelle Workman

Topic: Activities to Support Salmon Runs in the Mokelumne River

By Tim Au-Young - CFFU Programs Director

Michelle Workman grew up in Amador County, California. She spent many of her summers backpacking and fishing with her dad in the Mokelumne Wilderness and continues to enjoy the Mokelumne River with her husband and daughters.


From this love of the natural environment inspired by her father, Michelle received her Bachelor of Science in 1991 and Master of Science in 1999 in Conservation Biology from California State University, Sacramento.

Michelle is currently a Supervising Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist at East Bay Municipal Utility District's Lodi Field Office. Michelle manages a staff of nine and coordinates the long term fisheries monitoring programs, fisheries research, and habitat restoration projects in the Mokelumne River and watershed. She has 20 years of experience with EBMUD, and 5 years of experience with the US Fish and Wildlife Service working on



salmonid management and restoration projects on the Tuolumne River, Merced River and the San Joaquin River Restoration Program.

Michelle will be presenting “Activities to Support Salmon Runs in the

Mokelumne River” to highlight the actions taken by East Bay Municipal Utility District and other stakeholders that have led to the successes of the Mokelumne River salmon fishery. 

Continued: Fly Tying Exchange - By Don Wallace

with the flies. The exchange will take one of your flies to be photographed for the newsletter, and two will be kept for raffle at the annual dinner. The remaining nine flies will be distributed among the other tiers that participated that month. You might get patterns that you have wanted to try on the water or at the bench.

As an incentive to participate in the exchange, a \$25 gift certificate will be raffled off every two months to those who have participated for those months. If you enter each month you will have two chances to win when the lucky ticket is drawn.-

Everyone is encouraged to give the exchange a try. The fly recipe template

is on the website under education/fly tying. Here is a link to the Fly Tying Exchange Form.

[Fly Tying Exchange Form - Link](#)

Is it “Fly Tyer” or “Fly Tier”? What’s your opinion? Stay Tuned!

HELP!! CFFU Equipment Loaner Program

By Laurie Banks

The CFFU Board of Directors has discussed starting an equipment loaner program. We want members to be able to experience a wide range of fishing. Most club members own a 5-weight outfit, but what if they want to fish for Salmon or Pyramid Lake Lahontan? What if they want to try deep sea fishing, fishing in tiny mountain creeks for Heritage trout, or float tubing? What if members had the opportunity to check out equipment for a specific trip? They could then decide if that style of fishing suits them before making another large investment.

For this program to be successful we could use the following:

- Large rods and reels/line (8-12 weight) large nets
- Tenkara or 2-3 weight rods and reels and small nets
- Float tubes, fins, pfd’s

CFFU has 25 rods and reels that are 5 and 6 weight. These rods are used by our new members and veterans so they can see if fly fishing is a sport they want to pursue before investing in equipment. We have more than enough rods and reels to loan, but the lines are in terrible shape. They are brittle and full of cracks. If you have any new or gently used floating lines in 5 or 6 weight, we could sure use them to replace the old lines.

Not only would your donation enhance the many opportunities CFFU offers its members, but it would be a chance to clean out your garage and give a member a chance to experience a different type of fishing. If you can make a donation, drop it off at the raffle table during any General Meeting. Remember your donations are tax deductible.



Message from the CFFU President - Mary Ellen Mueller

Hi Everyone! It's that time of year again. No, not the Skwala hatch on the Yuba, but the Academy Awards! Well, heck, most of us are busy fishing and likely have no idea what movies and actors are in the spotlight for these awards. But little did you know our own CFFU has its own "Academy" awards (not really). It is my pleasure (really!) to share with you this year's award recipients. Voting took place by me at an undisclosed location and the results have been secured in an old wicker creel.

For Best Motion Picture the award goes to: "Safe Wading at the Watt Avenue Bridge" by Mike Wigginton, Jeff Stephens and a cast of others. The daring- do of participants was beyond our wildest expectations and lessons learned were amazing. The "Academy" is grateful for this valiant effort and looks forward to the upcoming teaching video.

For Best Actor in a Leading Role the award goes to Ken Geisser for his outstanding performance in leading and lending support to one of CFFU's favorite Guides who had nearly all his possessions stolen preventing him from pursuing his livelihood. Ken was instrumental in providing significant funds and a vehicle to the Guide with no expectations of thanks. The "Academy" appreciates the fine example of Ken Geisser and the leadership and compassion he displayed.

For Best Actress in a Leading Role the award goes to "Wait, it's a tie"! The co-award winners are: Laurie Banks and Sheila Cavanaugh! Both awardees work tirelessly for the betterment of the club. Laurie is constantly in the background arm twisting, er I mean encouraging people and businesses to give their time and energy to the club, among about a million other things. Sheila is the efficiency machine at the front door keeping track of all our members, their badges, dues, phone numbers and email addresses and raffles. With almost 400 members, this would be a daunting task for anyone but Sheila...she was born for it!



Mary Ellen with a Pyramid Lake Lahontan cutthroat trout. Nice!

For Best Actor in a Supporting Role the award goes to Larry Coulter. Larry, our Sergeant-At-Arms, is the first one at every meeting and the last one to leave. Larry tirelessly sets up and takes down all the chairs and tables with a smile on his face. Those of us with weak backs thank him and others who help out.

For Best Actress in a Supporting Role the award goes to Betty Pfeifer. Betty, though painfully shy, is the first to help out with most anything. You will find her helping Bev Lorens with refreshments, bringing cookies to the Hagan Derby, providing desserts at the Banquet and just jumping in where ever needed without having to be asked. She is so quiet and tiny you may never know she is there. Thank you, Betty, for your unwavering support. (Note: this was a close one, runner up was Mel Welborn. Mel is always wherever she is needed and somehow disappears before any accolades can be given. Maybe next year Mel.)

So CFFU members, the competition was stiff this year but there is always next year. Our club has a place for you. Whether in the background providing

continued support with your membership or in a leading or supporting roll as fishmeisters, board members, or directors, our Club welcomes and needs you!



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Interview - Gary Howard

By Laurie Banks

I went to Gary Howard's house to interview him for the newsletter. A gorgeous 33-inch mounted Rainbow Trout hangs on his wall with a plaque that reads "33 inches - Sugar Creek - 2014."

Laurie: Wow, that's some fish!

Gary: I caught that a few years ago on a size 20 nymph. I couldn't believe I landed it. It was hooked in its tongue.

Laurie: Have you been chasing trout from an early age?

Gary: Since I was 8 years old I can remember backpacking for Golden Trout. We'd go over Kaiser Pass to Bear Dam then hike up Bear Creek four miles and camp there. The limit was 15 fish per day. They were small fish, sardine size, and we'd cook them for dinner every night. Today one can not camp in this area and no Golden Trout are in the Creek.

Laurie: Was your father a fly fisher?

Gary: No, we'd spin fish and troll. Dad was also a scout master for 25 years. My neighbor was a fly tyer. He taught me and his son to tie flies. They moved away, I never had a chance to fish with them. But I used a gray hackle/yellow fly on my steel telescoping fly rod with automatic fly reel to catch the Golden Trout in Bear Creek.

Laurie: You seem like you were raised to be an outdoorsman from a young age.

Gary: My family camped and fished all my life. In my middle teens I worked at a Boy Scout camp all summer. I went to college, worked at SMUD, and married Melanie. We have three children Debbie, Jeff and Craig. When our family was young, we would go to Ice House, Loon Lake and other locations until our kids were in their middle teens.

Laurie: When did you get into fly fishing?

Gary: I was the Scoutmaster for my son's troop. In about 1977 or 78 CFFU members came to the clubhouse and taught the scouts how to tie flies and they built



Gary Howard - 33 inch rainbow at Sugar Creek. WOW!

rods with them. That's how I got back into it. We took the scouts on a backpacking trip along the Tahoe Yosemite trail. It was a 176 mile hike from Emerald Bay to Tuolumne Meadows. The scouts had their rods and flies and we fished the whole way. It took us three years to complete the trail.

I got out of fly fishing for a while. Melanie and I decided to get into real estate. At one time we owned and managed 14 rental properties. After my day job I'd be doing all kinds of maintenance on the properties. It was a busy time. When I decided to retire, we sold all of the properties except one, that tenant has rented from us since 1982, and bought some oceanfront properties on Maui.

Laurie: You have been active in CFFU since you joined in 1999.

Gary: I started as the co-librarian. I have also been the programs director, outings director, president elect, president and I'm currently the youth director.

Laurie: How did you get involved with the youth program?

Gary: I had only been in the club for about 2 months and I was manning the club booth at the ISE. A man came up

and asked if anyone could help tie flies with kids. The guy who was supposed to do it backed out. They had all the materials they just needed someone to help, I thought, "I can do that". I sat in that booth every hour every day throughout the ISE. I said to myself "I'm never doing that again!" Now I organize CFFU volunteers to divide up the duties.

Laurie: I remember years ago I helped with a group of boy scouts at Big M.

Gary: That was a great venue. It's important to have an indoor space for tying flies.

Laurie: Ah yes, there's nothing like tying outdoors in the wind.

Gary: In order to establish our own program for youth we needed supplies. I got donations to get the 25 rods and reels that today we use for new members and the veteran's program. I purchased 10 vises from Cabela's and they donated 10 more. We have taught Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Big Brothers and Big Sisters. When CFFU members quit tying, they have donated their materials to the youth program. We have plenty of capes,

[Continued on Page 6](#)

Interview with GARY HOWARD - Continued

but can always use marabou and chenille in any color. The only thing that has been hard to get are #4 barbless hooks. Not many companies make those anymore.

Laurie: You have had so many fishing experiences. Which one is your favorite?

Gary: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife needed volunteers to get DNA samples from Golden Trout. It was one of the toughest climbs I've ever taken. We started the Shepard's Pass Trail at Symmes Creek, an elevation of 5,500 feet. We climbed the hump between Symmes Creek and Shepard's Creek, 1,000 feet up then 1,000 feet down. 10 miles later we were at 12,005 feet. We camped in the Upper Kern Basin and fished 40 different locations for 10 days. CDFW wanted to verify the purity of the Golden Trout. Dave Lentz was also on that trip. We fished for the trout, measured them, took a picture and two tail fin clips for DNA. After CDFW left, Jeff, Brian, and I stayed and fished Wright's Lake Basin and took fin clips from there to send to CDFW.

Laurie: How interesting to be fishing with a purpose besides just catching.

Gary: I read the book entitled *Waters of the Golden Trout Country* by Charles McDermid. It was printed in 1946. He mentioned two flies, the Captain and the Cutthroat. We researched the flies, tied them, and caught 20 fish in a lake he described as "Mystery Lake". Here, you might be interested in reading this. (Gary handed me the book)

Laurie: Thanks for letting me borrow the book! That sounds like a great trip. Is that your favorite type of fishing?

Gary: That was back in 2004. My back can't handle backpacking anymore. Stalking a fish in the high country is my high. I love walking around a lake looking for fish cruising the shore. I'd see one and get 20 feet ahead of him, cast my fly in the water and watch him come up to take it. It just doesn't get any better than that.



Gary Howard on Crowley Lake

Laurie: You have put together several outings to the Cottonwood Basin on horseback.

Gary: Cottonwood Basin is south of Whitney. Horseshoe Meadow is the trail head for Cottonwood Basin. CDFW has collected the eggs and sperm of these Golden Trout, since the 1930's and hatched the Golden Trout in fish hatcheries. Some Rainbows were planted here so the Golden Trout aren't pure. To get there you drive and park your car at 10,000 feet, then it is 2 ½ hours by horseback or walking. There are 10 lakes in the basin. Each lake seems to have different size fish. In some lakes the Golden Trout are 4-6 inches, some lakes hold 10-14 inch and some over 18 inches. It's all sight fishing. If one were to take a float tube one could catch over 30 a day.

Laurie: What's your favorite fly?

Gary: My favorite high-country dry fly is a parachute ant. Everywhere has ants and they are blown into the water. My favorite nymph is the pheasant tail. There are so many variations of that fly. I love fishing the back country, but those days are going. I'm getting into the sunset of my high-country fishing career.

Laurie: You have some amazing memories.

Gary: Everywhere I go I take lots of pictures and video and put them on CD's or YouTube.

Laurie: You are still going strong. Didn't you and Melanie go to Kodiak Island in Alaska the last two summers?

Gary: Two years ago, the fishing was great. I hired a guide for three days and fished two days on my own. I came back with 50 pounds of Silver Salmon. Last year the fishing wasn't as good, so it became more of a photography trip.

Laurie: Thanks Gary for sharing your memories with me. Before I leave can I see what projects you are working on in your shop?

Note from Laurie: Gary always donates incredible pieces of hand-crafted art to our annual dinner. I personally own two of his works of art. We walked to his shop and there sits a huge tree stump, which he is going to turn into a table. There are also delicate stained-glass flowers laying on a nearby table. Each unique flower lights up and the stems and leaves are fashioned from copper. Gary never ceases to amaze me.



Youth Fair 2019

By Gary Howard

Each year California Fly Fishers Unlimited has a booth at the ISE Youth Fair, this is our 20th year. This year we tied over 200 hundred Woolly Bugger flies with the youth. I would like to thank the tiers that helped us this year: Rich Wilson, Tim Au-Young, Dick Angus, Rob Scafe, Ken Nordeste, John Coldiron, Andy Penn, Jeff Howard, Forrest Oldham, Mic McPherson, Christie Roberts, Michael Roberts, Tim Landrus, Sam Yee, and Lanny Garman. We all had a great time and the youth each took home a fly they tied.



*“This year we tied
over 200 hundred
Woolly Bugger flies
with the youth.”*

Gary Howard

Fly Fishing LINGO

Text and images by Ken W. Davis

REDD

Definition: a redd is a gravel nest made by various species of fishes. We encounter redds most frequently when they are made by female salmon, steelhead and trout. For example, a female salmon makes her redd (nest) with powerful beats of her tail. When she is ready to lay her eggs, one or several males rush in to fertilize the eggs. The eggs and hatching Alevin (See below) remain in the redd for up to 90 days (or more) depending on the species and water temperature.

Make sure to watch for redds when fishing and DO NOT walk on them as you might kill the eggs or developing Alevin.



Spring-run salmon on a large, shallow redd in Butte Creek. When the females dig redds, they inadvertently clean off algae from the cobble, hence the clean section.

ALEVIN

Definition: Alevin are young fish. Also called Sac Fry, and are newly hatched and attached to the yolk sac which feeds the fish for the first month of its life. Alevin are especially important to fly fishers because they are the next generation of salmon, steelhead or trout. They also represent popular fly patterns used for steelhead or trout that linger downstream of salmon redds waiting for eggs or alevin. Cannibals!



Steelhead Alevin attempting to hide in the spaces between cobble. In a waterway, this would be within the redd. Please don't walk on redds.

On the Road with George Lazar

The Parana River Delta Aboard the *Golden Dorado Cruiser*

By George Lazar



I found out about **Golden Dorado Cruiser** from Pat Pendergast at *The Fly Shop* in Redding. I've been wanting to go after Golden Dorado for quite some time and finally succeeded in crossing them off my bucket list. And I had a great time doing so.

The conditions weren't exactly ideal but quality fish were still available during the late afternoon hours. This turned out to be the best time to fish. Dorado won't bite if the weather is too hot, which it was, and they aren't active if it's windy, I am told. My guide told me that during normal conditions I can expect to have a twenty-fish day and that March is the best month because that is when Dorado are more likely to take poppers. I only averaged about four fish per day, getting skunked once, but four of my fish were in the fifteen to twenty-pound class. The Delta was at flood stage and that factored into the poor conditions that we faced.

On the positive side, I was the only client on board. When the driver came to pick me up in Buenos Aires I asked him how many more people he had to pick up. To my utter surprise, he told me that a party of five had canceled and I was the only client. I had two guides, Sergio and Frederico, and they would take turns guiding me, one in the morning and one in the evening. There was also a hostess/waitress/housekeeper/laundress named Magali and the Chef, Alan, who spoke the best English. Brush up on your Spanish if you can and it will help a lot. If you make a good cast the guide will say "Buen tiro" which translates into "Good shot." You probably already know how to say "another beer" and "where is the bathroom." If you see lightning strikes and the guide says "La Tormenta" be ready to race back to the big boat before the storm comes crashing down. I have a short video of this event if anyone is interested.

The drive from downtown Buenos Aires to the marina at Rosario took about two and a half hours, and then after loading the boat it took another one and a half hours until we boarded *The Parana Gipsy*. This is a large houseboat on pontoons powered by two inboards and a large external generator for electricity. They can accommodate nine fisherman per week and carry a crew of about ten if you include the guides. The 16-18-foot skiffs are powered by 90 HP outboards and an electric motor. They served two purposes by quickly getting us to where we wanted to go and by cooling us down when it gets hot.

The day began at 0800 with a huge breakfast that included fresh squeezed OJ, pastry, toast, a plate of ham, cheese and nuts, three different cereals, hot milk, coffee, water, a beautiful fruit salad, and the usual eggs with bacon, ham,

On the Road with George Lazar - continued



Another beauty from George Lazar

or sausage. I would leave the mother ship at about 0900 and fish until 1300 when we would return for lunch and a siesta. At about 1600 we would leave again for more fishing and return at dusk. The guides would then join me for dinner and that's when the drinking would commence. Did I mention that all alcoholic beverages are included in the price?

Dinner was always well prepared and included marvelously creative desserts with after dinner drinks. One of the walls in the salon is covered with pigeon-holed wine and champagne bottles and shelves holding good quality liquor. All you need to do was ask ... "I'd like another Aperol spritz, please." "Another glass of port, please" "Can you open a bottle of the Malbec?" Get the idea? This should make all you alcoholics out there quite happy!

If you spend much time Striper

fishing with 8wt., rods you will probably have everything you need for Dorados with the exception of the leader material. With the Dorado you'll need about three feet of #40 flourocarbon or Maxima and one to two feet of #40 braided wire. An Albright knot is a good choice to connect these, and the non-slip loop knot is a good one for attaching the fly. The braided wire should be warning enough for you not to get your fingers near this fish's mouth.

The guides want the fly placed within three feet of the shoreline and will want you to make long strips, sometimes slow and sometimes fast, depending on the guide and the water depth. Given the heavy flies, this is difficult casting for a beginner. You'll be told to cast towards cover and shaded areas as well as the mouths of canals and any backwater. As I said before, just like fishing for Stripers.

When you set the hook pretend

that you are setting the hook on a Tarpon. The big Dorado have tough mouths so you have to use some muscle when setting the hook. Point the rod at the fish and pull straight back while you perform a strip set with your line hand. Ideally you want to repeat that three times to make sure that the hook penetrates. I caught fish on my Tarpon flies but the guide's flies were the most productive. Sergio likes the red and black but the green and black and the purple and black produced results as well.

For the benefit of the birders among us I must mention that The Parana River Delta, which covers about 8,400 square miles, is home to 250 species of birds: The Black Necked Swan, Red Crested Cardinal, Ringnecked and Green Kingfishers, Egrets and Herons, Bittern,

On the Road with George Lazar - continued

Storks, Night Heron, Roseate Spoonbill and White Ibis, Black Skimmers, Kites and Hawks, the ubiquitous Caracara, and the many, many song birds. I was particularly interested in watching the colonies of nesting Conures in the trees along the water. I've never heard a noisier bunch of birds.

I have to finish up by saying that after a fourteen-hour flight to Argentina you would be remiss to not visit Buenos Aires, one of the world's great cities. Why not take an extra week or two? There are many AIRBNB accommodations down there and they will help keep the cost down. I've had good luck with them for the most part.

There isn't room enough in this review to name all the great restaurants and cafes but if you need help with that I guarantee that I can help you gain weight.

Here are a few of my favorite things to do: Get up early in the morning and

visit the Recoleta Cemetery when it opens at 0700 before all the busloads of tourists get there. I never knew that a cemetery could be so much fun!

Try to go to one of the many Milongas happening every night; preferably one with live music. Google "Hoy Milonga" to find out which ones are open and where they are located. Then go watch a remarkable assortment of people, young and old, dance the tango. Buenos Aires is where it all began.

Taxis are inexpensive and the best way to travel around town if you are short on time. They are the safest way to travel at night. It is a big city, the economy isn't that great, and there are criminals. If you have more time the subway ("subte," pronounced "soubtay") is a great place to people watch. It's easy to use once you get the hang of it and will allow you to experience everyday Buenos Aires.

I like to visit El Tigre when I can. It covers the lower end of the Parana River

as it begins to empty into the Rio Plata. It's a big resort/recreation area that is best visited during the week, avoiding the weekend crowds. Take a taxi or subway to Retiro Station and hop on one of the frequent trains to the town of Tigre. It's about a 45-minute ride. Then go to the marina and take one of the beautifully varnished water taxis to one of the many restaurants or resorts located on the Delta. If you don't know where to go I suggest going to Tres Bocas and walk around until you find a restaurant called El Hornero. (Named after the national bird) When I arrived at about 11:30 I was the only person there but when I left an hour and a half later the place was jam packed. By the way, the homemade raviolis were lovely.

The 40-minute taxi ride to the airport is about \$22. Did I mention that Argentina is not expensive?



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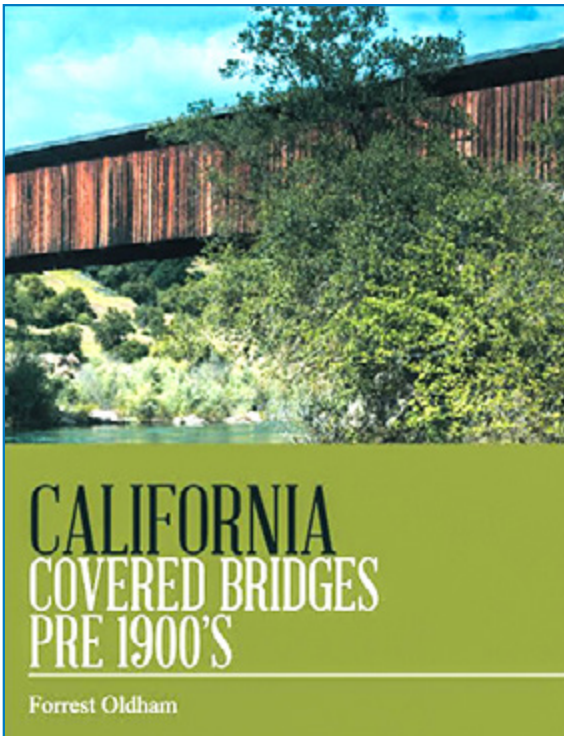
[Alaska's Bearclaw Lodge website](http://www.bearclawlodge.com)



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CONGRATULATIONS TO:

Forrest Oldham - Author



Congratulations to Forrest for getting his book on California Covered Bridges Pre-1900s published

The Book

California's first covered bridges came to be due to the gold rush and played a significant role in the state's development. Many survive to today and give us a glimpse into the past, as well as serve as focal points for local events. This book is an introduction to these bridges, their past, and other places or events to visit nearby. I hope reading this inspires many to visit and enjoy these little recognized icons of the past.

Rob Scafe - FFI Bronze Award



Congratulations to Rob Scafe for earning the FFI Bronze Award for Fly Tying.

The Award

This *Fly Fishers International* (FFI) Fly Tying Skills Awards Program is an educational program for all FFI members who care to take part. The Awards Program is managed for and on behalf of the FFI by the Fly Tying Group of the FFI. Three awards (i.e. Bronze, Silver and Gold) are offered for demonstrated skill in fly tying that require submittal of fly collections for evaluation and review. Each collection involves mastery of increasing diversity and complexity of tying methods and materials used.

In the process of this Bronze Award Program a tier will learn and use many important fly tying techniques, use a variety of materials and learn a number of effective fly patterns. Upon successful completion of the Bronze Award program tiers will receive an FFI Bronze Fly Tying Award Certificate, an FFI Bronze Award Pin, and the accomplishment will be recognized in the Fly Tying Group Newsletter and on the FFI Website.

CONSERVATION - Update on Removal of Klamath River Dams

By Keith Pfeifer - CFFU Conservation Director

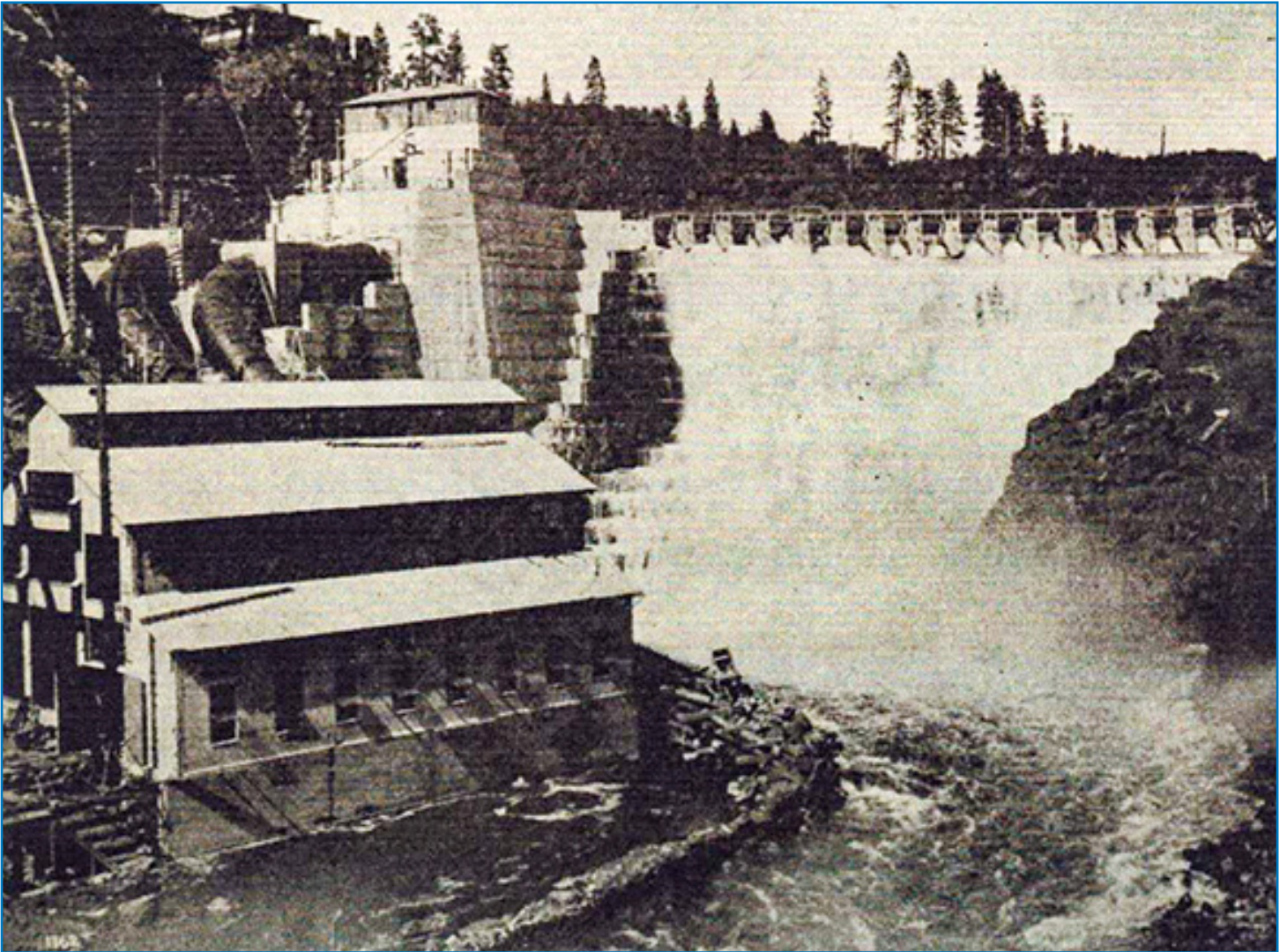


Image: Copco 1 Dam. Circa 1918

Historically, the Klamath River supported one of the largest runs of Chinook salmon and steelhead on the West Coast. However, poor water management, mining, logging, over fishing, drought and habitat alterations, resulted in severe reductions in the populations of both these prized species. Much of the blame for this impact can be placed on the blockage by four hydroelectric dams that were constructed by PacifiCorp nearly 100 years ago in upper reaches of the river in California and Oregon. These dams prevented the salmon and steelhead from reaching essential spawning areas in the headwaters of the

Klamath River. J.C. Boyle Dam is located in Oregon. Copco No. 1, Copco No. 2 and Iron Gate Dams are located northeast of Eureka, upstream from where I-5 crosses the river. After the dam constructions, the stage was set for decades of fighting between ranches, farmers, native tribes, commercial and sport fisherman, as well as environmental groups, over the rights to the river and its water.

In 2000, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FEREC) dam relicensing process was initiated for PacifiCorp's Klamath River dams. Hostilities between the various stake holders be-

gan in earnest in 2001 after the Federal government diverted essential water flows to upstream farmers, resulting in the largest salmon die-off in the history of the Western United States. In 2004, PacifiCorp submitted its application to the FEREC for a new 50-year license. FEREC ruled that the four dams would have to include new fish ladders to receive relicensing approval. With the cost of the ladders estimated at \$150 million, Berkshire Hathaway, who now owned PacifiCorp, decided to withdraw their

[Contented page 14](#)

CONSERVATION - Update on Removal of Klamath River Dams

renewal application and to begin the process of removing the dams.

In 2010, PacifiCorp and a diverse group of 40 stakeholders began settlement discussions about when and how the dams would be removed. These discussions resulted in two historic documents, the Klamath Basin Restoration Agreement (KBRA) and the Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSAs). Unfortunately, these agreements failed to get the approval of the U.S. Congress and expired in 2015.

In 2016, PacifiCorp decided to transfer ownership of the dams and their removal to the Klamath River Renewal Corporation (KRRRC), thereby bypassing the need for congressional approval. The dam's removal plan is detailed in a 2,300-page document, Definite Plan for the Lower Klamath Project, with the removal process now slated to begin in 2021 at a cost of almost \$398 million. The 2018 budget for KRRRC is \$27.4 million, with funding coming from the California and Oregon Public Utilities Commission and from the California Natural Resource Agency. In addition to the dam's removal, the project includes site remediation and restoration, including previously inundated lands, as well as measures to avoid or minimize adverse downstream impacts. These removal and habitat restoration projects will be the largest in U.S. history.

Starting in 2019, there are several time deadlines for this dam removal project. By late 2019, water-quality agencies in Oregon and California will review the plan, consider the environmental permitting requirements and make a risk management assessment. The FERC process for transferring ownership will be completed by early 2020, and the final details of the project finalized by late 2020. Removal of the dams will commence between 2021 and 2022.

FEREC has also appointed a group of independent consultants to review and provide comments on the removal plan. This board has expertise in dam construction and removal, engineering, aquatic and terrestrial biology, cost estimating and risk management. KRRRC's website provides information about the various consultants, public agencies, tribes and directors for the project. Brian Johnson, Director for California Trout Unlimited, and Laura Rose Day, who was the lead consultant for the Penobscot River dam and restoration project in Maine, will serve as directors for the Klamath River Project.

Additional information about the this project can be found at the following websites:

- 1) Definite Plan for the Lower Klamath Project: [Klamath Renewal LINK](#)
- 2) Klamath dam removal and restoration: [Klamath Restoration LINK](#)
- 3) Klamath River Keeper: [Klamath River Keeper LINK](#)

Finally, I have written three previous articles for the CFFU Newsletter regarding the long history of this dam removal adventure: April 2015, Sept. 2016 and Oct. 2017. Hopefully, in a few years we will witness the return of the magnificent runs of Klamath River salmon and steelhead heading upstream to their previous historic spawning grounds.



Image Credit: KlamathRiver.org

January Fly Tying Exchange - Submitted by Don Wallace

Griffith's Gnat - Tim Au Young



Tim Au-Young tied a Griffith's Gnat on a size 20 TMC Umpqua U205 using black 8/0 Veevus thread. The abdomen is three strands of peacock herl with a small copper wire or 8/0 black thread rib. The hackle is Whiting olive saddle hackle #20.

Photos by Jim Simon

Badger Shrimp - Rob Scafe



Rob Scafe tied a Badger Shrimp on a size 6-12 single or double salmon hook using fire orange 8/0 Uni thread (black 6/0 was used in this example with a fire orange finished head). The tag is oval or flat silver tinsel. The tail is Golden pheasant red breast feather. The rear body is golden olive seal fur. The rib is very narrow oval or flat silver tinsel, or even silver wire. The middle hackle is creamy badger. The front body is black seal fur with a rib of oval or flat silver tinsel. The front hackle is creamy badger and the head is fire orange thread. This salmon fly pattern is inspired by shrimp patterns in the UK and Ireland. Over 100 years Pat Curry's Red Shrimp has "spawned" dozens of similar Irish shrimp patterns. The details of how to tie this difficult pattern may be found in the Nov/Dec issue of California Fly Fisher.

Foam Butt Elk Hair Caddis - William Conway



William Conway tied a Foam Butt Elk Hair Caddis on a Tiemco 400T hook using black 8/0 thread. The tail is black foam. The body is purple chenille. The wing is elk hair. Simple use of a 1/8" black foam strip doubled over to create a loop. Tie straight foam on the hook, leave enough to form loop above the hook point. Tie in the chenille and wrap 2/3 the way to the eye. Attach the elk hair and form a head with the cut of the leftover elk hair. I was looking for a bluegill fly when I came across this pattern which is supposed to be good for bluegills, bass and trout. First time I made this, and can't wait to try it out!

January Demo Tyer - Ty Espinosa

Photo by Jim Simon

Ty Espinosa was the demonstration tyer for January. He tied the Mallard Tail Streamer (unweighted) on a size 10, 2x shank hook using brown 6/0 thread. The tail is Mallard. The body is raccoon/hare dubbing with a rib of medium black wire. The wing is pheasant. The thorax is raccoon/hare dubbing. The head is brown thread. This fly is ideal for swinging in shallow riffles.



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Vintage Fly Corner - The Quill Gordon

Submitted by Rob Scafe



Theodore Gordon

Theodore Gordon is considered the “Father” of American Dry Fly Tying in the “Catskill” style of dry flies! In every publication, article or written word anywhere this is the consensus. Mr. Gordon was a writer who never wrote a book. He wrote articles about trout fishing that appeared in *Fishing Gazette* from 1890 and articles in *Forest and Stream* from 1903. He was also known by a pseudonym “Badger Hackle”.

Mr. Gordon spent his youth in Pennsylvania up to about 14 (born in 1854). He lived in New York City for a number of years until a financial disaster of which not much is known. He then went to the banks of the Neversink River, living almost hermit like, fishing and tying trout flies.

Mr. Gordon gained his tying skills by studying *The American Angler’s Book* (1864) by Thaddeus Norris and he imported English flies modifying them to

use on the American streams in the Catskills such as the Neversink, and the Beaverkill Rivers and Willowemoc Creek. He corresponded with British tiers Fredrick M. Halford and G.E.M. Skues to perfect his skills. Eventually this led Mr. Gordon to tying his own flies.

The Quill Gordon is his signature fly. He is also credited with the Gordon and the Ginger Gordon and has been credited with other dry flies and a wet fly known as the Bumblepuppy.

Mr. Gordon was very fond of stripped peacock quills saying they made excellent segmented bodies for his dry flies. He liked to tie in different colors from various species of peacock.

There is an excellent write-up on Mr. Gordon in Mike Valla’s book *The Founding Flies* (2013) that has been my inspiration to tie vintage flies and presenting them in our CFFU monthly newsletter “On The Fly.”



The Dressing:

Hook:	#12 -16 Mustad 94840 or equivalent
Thread:	Black 8/0
Tail:	Dun
Wing:	Wood-duck flank
Body:	Stripped peacock eye quill
Hackle:	Dun

FEBRUARY Fly of the Month - MARCH BROWN





Text and Images by Jim Berdan

(Soft Hackle) Variant





Although soft hackle flies don't precisely imitate mayflies, trout will take them when feeding on mayflies. Soft hackle flies swim with the hackle opening and closing suggesting an insect with its legs, antennae, and wings. Like most flies we use today, this fly has its origins in England and Scotland. Flies similar to the March Brown are the Partridge and Orange, Partridge and Green, and the Partridge and Yellow. Traditionally, these flies are tied with a silk thread body, dubbed thorax and partridge hackle tied sparse, one or two turns. Here I've tied the fly substituting a quill body for a silk body.

Materials	
Hook:	TMC 3761 or Similar, Size 12-16.
Thread:	Black Danville Flymaster, 70 Denier
Tail:	Partridge Hackle
Body:	Grizzly Hackle Quill
Thorax:	Brown Hare's Ear Plus
Hackle:	Natural Partridge

March Brown (Soft Hackle) Variant

STEP	IMAGE	TYING INSTRUCTIONS
1.		Photo 1: Pinch the barb and mount the hook in the vise. Start the thread just behind the eye. Wrap back to a point half way between the hook point and the barb as shown. Now tie in four to six partridge hackle fibers for the tail.
2.		Photo 2: Strip the fibers from a grizzly hackle exposing the quill as shown. Depending on the age of the hackle feather, you may want to place the quill between two layers of a moistened paper towel for 10 to 15 minutes to soften the quill, this helps prevent it from splitting or breaking as it is wrapped to form the body.
3.		Photo 3: Tie in the quill by the tip end at the base of the tail and wrap the thread forward to about the 1/3rd point behind the hook eye.
4.		Photo 4: With touching turns, wrap the quill forward to the 1/3rd point, tie off and remove the butt end of the quill. Although I didn't do this here, you may want to apply a thin coating of UV resin to the quill body to extend the life of the fly.

March Brown Variant

STEP	IMAGE	TYING INSTRUCTIONS
5.		<p>Photo 5: Dub a short thorax as shown.</p>
6.		<p>Photo 6: Prepare the partridge hackle with the concave side of the feather facing the hook shank and stripping the fibers from one side of the feather as shown.</p>
7.		<p>Photo 7: Wrap the hackle, one or two turns, tie off, remove the excess, form a small head, whip finish, and apply head cement.</p>
8.		<p>Photo 8: The finished fly. Give it a try.</p>

[Link to Fly Fishing Specialties Website](#)



FLY FISHING SPECIALTIES
Wild Rivers to Blue Waters

6360 Tupelo Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621

CFFU Club Meetings

First Tuesday of each month.

Richard Conzelmann Community Center ([PDF Map Link](#))
2201 Cottage Way, Sac., CA 95825

General Meeting Schedule:

6:15 P.M.: Fly Tying Demo
7:00 P.M.: Club Information
7:20 P.M.: Program Presentation

CFFU Membership

New Member: Individual: \$40.00

New Member: Family: \$55.00
(Includes spouse and children under 18 years old.)

New Member: Junior: \$25.00 (Under 18 years old)

New Membership Dues:

(Includes \$10 initiation fee.)
After September 1, annual fees are pro-rated through
December 31.

JOIN CFFU: Membership Form: ([PDF Link](#))

CFFU RENEW Membership Online: ([PDF Link](#))

CFFU Board of Directors

Please visit the CFFU Website for information about the
Officers, Directors and Club Committee Leaders

[LINK to CFFU Leaders](#)

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Newsletter Submissions

All submissions, images and other material are due by the
25th of the month. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right
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ial Guidelines.

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Riffle Sculpin. Photo by Ken W. Davis.

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