



Contents

Pg. Features

- 2 Calendar
- 5 Pres Memo
- 5 April Speaker
- 6 Val Adams
- 8 Auction Items
- 8 DFW Trout Mg.
- 9 Double Catch
- 10 Wading Safety
- 10 Haiku-Flyku
- 11 Veterans Prog.
- 11 Casual Corner
- 12 Pyramid Outing
- 15 Pilot Lahontan
- 16 Cui-ui
- 17 Excuse # 29
- 17 Popcorn Beetle
- 18 Arcade Creek
- 18 Coachman
- 19 Knotty Social
- 20 Shasta Dam
- 22 Iron Mt. Mines
- 22 Congrats.
- 23 Fly Tyers Exc.
- 24 Fly of Month
- 26 CFFU Info.

On the Road Again

By Ken Giesser



There's just something special about getting up early, hitting the road and heading out on a fishing trip. If you give into the urge and let it, Montana can pull on you like a powerful magnet. Science may claim the North and South Poles to be the earth's axis points, but as a fisherman who also believes in luck, I think it's entirely possible we're spinning on a line running right through

the heart of Montana and coming out maybe somewhere in New Zealand. The exact coordinates being somewhat difficult to determine, because in Montana it varies with each angler. Remember

[continued on page 3](#)

May 2018 Speaker - John Way

Program: Fishing Montana

By Trevor Segelke

Born and raised in the Catskill Mountains of New York, John learned to fish on the historic blue ribbon waters there. John moved to Montana to attend the University of Montana and graduated with a degree in wildlife biology. After college John had a choice to make: continue guiding and make it a career, or take a more conventional route. He has guided every season in Montana since 1996 and never looked back. He purchased The Tackle Shop in Ennis in 2011 and became immersed in the retail world. The Tackle Shop is Montana's oldest fly shop. It started in 1937.

[Continued on page 2](#)




Program: Fishing Montana - CONTINUED from Page 1.

John is the chairman of the Montana Board of Outfitters; twice appointed by the governor for that job. He is also the president of the Ennis Chamber of Commerce. The Tackle Shop was awarded the prestigious Orvis Outfitter of the Year award for 2017. John lives in Ennis year round with wife Kayla and three dogs.

They are also spending more and more time in Belize during the winter leading hosted trips.

John's fly shop and outfitter, The Tackle Shop, guides famed water such as: Big Hole River, Beaver Head River, Missouri River, Jefferson River, Ennis Lake and the Madison River. Located in Ennis, the

shop is close to Yellowstone National Park, and ideally located to easily explore the entire state.

I am excited that John has agreed to travel from Montana to share his knowledge with us. 

Editor's Note: See this presentation! John Way knows how to fish Montana and is a force in protecting its valuable wildlife resources. Stay tuned, we are booked to float the Madison River with John in September 2018. He generously donated the trip to the CFFU Annual Dinner. We are planning to feature this trip; rain, sun or snow, in the October On-the-Fly Newsletter.

Demonstration Tyer for May - Andy Penn

Join us at 6:15 to watch Andy Penn tie the Penn Special

CFFU Calendar - MAY 2018

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

MAY	EVENT	INFORMATION LINK
1	Board Meeting	Board Meeting Link
1	General Meeting	General Meeting Link
9	New Member Meeting	New Member Meeting
15	101 Class - Part 1	101 Class - PART 1
17	Tech Thursday - Shad Fishing	Tech Thursday - SHAD
22	Annual Spring Barbeque	Annual Barbeque
24	101 Class - Part 2	101 Class - PART 2
26	Casting Class & Mentor Outing	Casting Class & Mentor Outing

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - MAJOR EVENTS

May 22	Spring Barbecue - Tickets on Sale NOW!	Spring Barbeque
October 13	President's Outing	President's Outing
November 11	Annual Fundraising Dinner	Annual Dinner

On the Road Again: continued

this, if a Montana fly fisher reveals to you the “secret spot”, then be sure and jump over to the next drainage if you want to find the “real spot”. That’s the beauty of Montana, there are so many miles of magical water to fish and perfect little towns to visit, you’ll never be disappointed. They call it the Treasure State for a reason. You can explore it for a lifetime and never discover all of what it has to offer.

I was drawn to Montana back in the 1970’s after reading a booklet put out by Bud Lilly’s Trout Shop in West Yellowstone. It read like an open invitation, heralding the excitement and adventure of fly fishing in Southwestern Montana and the surrounding region. My dad’s cousin, former CFFU member Wally Giesser, had given me the booklet after fishing the area himself. He thought I might be interested and I was! I perused its pages often, feeling a strange sense of compulsion each time, never realizing the hook had already been set by the lure of the Madison and its famous Salmonfly hatch. I only knew I needed to go someday and it was Wally’s fault.

For the next several months I couldn’t get Montana out of my head. I was 21 years old at the time and having trouble figuring it all out. On the one hand I had a decent paying job and on the other hand I was just 21. Not surprisingly, as the fishing season approached and my focus sharpened, it became easier to tell my boss I had somewhere to go. Soon after, I loaded up the old Ford pickup truck and lit out for Montana. It was early June of 1975 and I brought along my one and only rod, a Fenwick FF807 and a 1494 ½ Pflueger Medalist Reel. Attached was a Scientific Anglers Air Cell fly line with an extra spool of Wet Cell. Flies would end up being accumulated along the way. I was willing to travel and very eager to learn more about the sport of fly fishing. I’d already been casting for a couple of years by then, catching the occasional trout, but the catching wasn’t keeping up with the scratching for the itch I had! The road to Montana

beckoned, I went, and it’s all been forever etched in my heart and mind. I eventually came “limping” home in late August with what has turned out to be a lifelong addiction to the “drug of tug”.

Along the way I fished the Henry’s Fork, Teton, Yellowstone, Madison (from inside the park, all the way to Ennis and on down the Beartrap), the Beaverhead, Big Hole, Odell Creek, Poindexter Slough, Cliff and Wade Lakes, Yellowstone Lake and all the way up to the Flathead country of the north. I spent almost an entire summer of my life in what could be considered a self-taught apprenticeship. To a small degree I was able to experience the feeling of being a bum without actually becoming one (a true fish bum typically masters his craft like few others because it’s all he does). I wasn’t able to master anything, but came to a realization that time on the water is the greatest teacher. I’m older now and have endeavored to behave like an adult with responsibilities, but I must admit I still actively seek out any and all advice I can get from a bum on his home water . . .

It was July 1975 and for the better part of a week I’d been fishing the Madison River in the midst of a tremendous Salmonfly hatch. The fishing was great, but I was having trouble keeping up with the action. For that reason I would often find myself traipsing on over to Bud Lilly’s for advice. I’d go into his shop feeling somewhat frustrated, but after talking with him for a short while, would always leave feeling encouraged. He might offer a suggestion like, “Try to keep your backcast stop a little higher and that should help solve some of your casting problems”, or he might provide information like, “The Salmonflies have migrated upstream above Burnt Tree and are now halfway to Varney Bridge. Use a Dick’s Pillow or Sofa Pillow in that section and when they get to McAtee Bridge and above, switch to a Bird’s Stone”.

Day after day I would fish and then return to one of the fly shops in “West” or Ennis and gather more information. Unfortunately, I didn’t have an unlimited budget and wasn’t able to employ the services of a guide. The fly shop folks knew this and took care of me anyway. The Tackle Shop in Ennis had a smoker out back and upon request, the traveling fly fisher could have a couple of his trout smoked up. Creels were for sale inside the store and hooks still had working barbs. God bless local fly shops everywhere! May they always thrive and flourish!

I’m 64 years old now and this coming July, Lord willing, I’ll be taking my 16 year old grandson Matthew on a road trip to Montana. Even though we’ll be traveling together, I’m hopeful he’ll be able to create a little magic of his own while at the same time do some of the driving. I’ve been back to Montana quite a few times over the years and have never lost that familiar feeling of anticipation. This will be Matthew’s first fishing trip to the Big Sky and I know he loves small towns as much as I do. Our trip will probably go something like this . . .

Driving across Nevada is always a challenge. We’ll undoubtedly spend most of our first day equally bored and fascinated at the same time. Questions will arise. Why is it most streams in Nevada don’t empty into the ocean? Could it be Nevada at one time was an ocean? Pyramid Lake sort of feels like the ocean, doesn’t it? What if we’re actually in the Twilight Zone? Nevada!

Crossing into Idaho will bring us to within a couple of good long double hauls from West Yellowstone, but a bed in Idaho Falls for the night sounds pretty good.

[continued on page 4](#)

On the Road Again: continued



Chicken fajitas at Jalisco's will really hit the spot this evening and after a stack of sourdough pancakes at Smitty's in the morning, we'll be back on the road. It'll be an easy drive from here. We'll enjoy both the people and places along the way as much as the fabulous fishing. Montana is also referred to as Big Sky Country because the sky really does seem bigger. The vistas have a much more pronounced sweep as they stretch to the horizon. It is noticeable. At some point along the way, I'm sure I'll attempt to inject a little of my own philosophy and perspective into the mix. I'll probably go further than I really should, but for some reason Matthew seems to get it, or maybe I just hope he gets it. I don't know? Anyway, I'll begin by suggesting to him that most fly fishers like ourselves don't bother to question or even think about where our water comes from or where it's going. I'll explain, as water gathers itself and moves downstream it takes something from every single spot it touches, whether it be the physical properties of rock and forest or soil itself. As it moves along it also pulls with it some of the sweat and dreams of those who work the land. On those years when water suffers, the ranches suffer and the fish suffer. We sometimes take water for granted, but in our sport it's almost everything and we need to be good stewards of it. I'll also suggest to Matthew, when stepping into moving water a fisherman has figuratively, if not literally, entered the earth's bloodstream and should endeavor to learn about and respect the fish, biodiversity and mood of each river or end up being a disappointed intruder.

Montana has a unique heritage of offering the best trout fishing in America. It has more miles of "blue ribbon water" than anywhere else in the country. The towns, people, culture and scenery are very much a part of the experience and it's within reasonable driving distance from Sacramento. It's a wonderful destination for the traveling fly fisher and I highly recommend it. In fact, I'm always a little bit disappointed when it's time to leave and come back home. That is, until I see the wagging tail of our dog and feel the loving embrace of my understanding wife. Go there if you get the chance. The lawn can wait.



View on the Lonely Drive to Montana



Memo from the President - Dave Lentz



Dave Lentz with a nice Lahontan Cutthroat

With spring fully on-board and the trout season in the Sierra now open, opportunity abounds to get out and connect with the places and waters that support trout (and fishing). Get out there!

Just back from the Club's outing at Pyramid Lake—I had a great time. A host of CFFU members were lined up on the beach and the mighty Lahontan cutthroats swam by us with some occasional cooperation to take our flies. I converted this experience to the following “haiku-flyku” (see April's On the Fly for background).

*Cloudy Water Waves
Big Trout Swim By At My Feet
Not One Took The Midge*

The best fishing is still to come!

April's Speaker - Jim Cox

By Trevor Segelke



For those that missed it, we had a very knowledgeable and passionate speaker at our April General Meeting. Jim Cox shared with CFFU, the Western River Conservancy's mission to protect outstanding river ecosystems for compatible

public use. Jim's presentation “To Protect a River, Sometimes You Have to Buy It” was quite an education. He shared some history of the Conservancy, current projects being worked on, and some insights for their future endeavors. We

also got to see some beautiful places to fish in the western states to plan some of our next fishing destinations.

I thank Jim Cox for taking the time to come down from Portland to visit us.



Interview with Val Adams

By Laurie Banks



I walk into the Farmers Insurance office and Val greets me from behind her desk. She looks so business like. I'm used to seeing her in waders, waist deep in water hauling in monster fish.

Laurie: So tell me a bit about your company. I know you're in the insurance business.

Val: I'm self-employed and have been a Farmers agent for 31 years. As an agent, I handle all kinds: auto, home, life, boats, RV's, Medicare, Covered California, workers compensation, business insurance, and always appreciate referrals too.

Laurie: You were CFFU's third female president in 2003 and 2004.

Val: The year before I was 1st vice president. I liked everyone who was on the BOD and felt we worked well together. They were looking for the next president and I thought I'd volunteer before they asked. Conservation was my weakness and I asked Bill Felts to help me out with that part.

Laurie: You are a remarkable fly fisher. Did you start fishing at an early age?

Val: My family and another were good friends and we would go fishing together at Davis Lake when it was a premier destination. My father's friend was a really good fisherman. He helped teach me how to fish, set the hook, and tie knots. He made me a better fisherman. My

father was the type that untangled lines for us but enjoyed fishing. Once I had a big black bass on my pole and my dad took it out of my hands and landed it.

Laurie: You have been a fishmeister.

Val: My first was to Belize; Ron and I are going back there next year with a group of 10. I have put together club trips to the Lower Sac River, Rogue River, Fall River, and Alaska. I've also put together group trips to Nicaragua and Christmas Island.

Laurie: What is your favorite place to fish?

Val: Alaska is fun and easy, but my favorite is the Florida Keys. It's challenging

[Continued on Page 7](#)

Interview with Val Adams - continued

and I love tarpon fishing. Fishing for trout is relaxing. Striper and ocean fishing is more intense and exciting.

Laurie: Do you out-fish your husband, Ron?

Val: Oftentimes. It's great to have a partner who shares my passion for fishing, but we are very competitive. We have to take turns being "the captain" so we don't argue. I believe in finding the right bug. If you can figure out what the fish are feeding on you can catch all day long. When I was recently fishing with Ron we weren't having much luck until I found the right fly. Finally Ron came over and said, "Do you have another one of those?" I'm not very good at matching the hatch but know which flies usually work. You probably know more about bugs than I do.

Laurie: Trust me Val, living with Ken, I know more about bugs than I ever wanted to know. What has been your experience with CFFU?

Val: Years ago I went to a meeting and didn't feel comfortable. It seemed really cliquish. I was playing volleyball and the meetings were the same night. So I had to make a choice and chose volleyball. I had a friend that became a fly fisher

and he thought he was "God's gift" so I decided I would take up the sport and get better than him. I called Jake Matter, CFFU's membership director, and he said to come to a meeting. Jerry Kilbert and Tim Au-Young were really friendly. It's one reason I started the New Member's Meeting under my presidency. It's important that new members connect with each other and get their questions answered. As board members oftentimes do not have time to talk to new members at the general meeting.

Laurie: With all the fishing experiences you've had, I bet you have a good story to share.

Val: We were at the end of a fishing trip on the Situk River in Alaska. There was a bear that was walking up and down the river, then it started following us. The tide was out and we were in about a foot of water and had fish in the boat. The bear started coming towards us, closer and closer until he finally put his paws on the motor, right behind Ron! We jumped up! The guide grabbed his baton and banged on the side of the boat and the bear moved back to the bank. There was a car parked next to ours and the guy had a gun so we stood by him until the guide got all the stuff loaded in the truck.

Laurie: You have an excellent cast. I remember years ago you told me fly fishing is a sport and to be good at any sport you have to practice.

Val: When I first started fly fishing I lived at the fly shops. I'd buy equipment and ask the guys to critique my cast. I didn't want to embarrass myself before my 1st outing with CFFU. I live by Sailor Bar so the Saturday before I spent four hours casting. When I got tired I sat and casted. I figured that was like sitting in a float tube. I had lunch at my mom's who lived off the American River then I practiced for four more hours at Watt. By Sunday my cast was reasonable.

Laurie: Have you noticed changes in the club over the years?

Val: It's friendlier and there are more activities.

Laurie: What changes would you like to see in CFFU?

Val: More outings; we should have one every week.

Laurie: Thanks Val for having your Farmers Insurance Company donate a Sage X rod blank to the 2017 Annual Dinner, and thanks for spending this morning with me for the interview.



VALERIE ADAMS
Insurance Agency
7932 Sunset Avenue, Ste G
Fair Oaks, CA 95628

Valerie Adams
Lic #0715432
Bus: (916) 961-3436 Fax: (916) 961-3497
vadamsinsurance@yahoo.com

LIFE-AUTO-HOME-COMM'L-MEDICAL

[Val Adams Website Link](#)

If you are looking for an insurance agent, consider Val. She would welcome any referrals! As some of you know any company who donates more than \$300 in merchandise to our Annual Dinner receives free advertising in our newsletter for one year.

Annual Dinner & Fundraiser - New Items

By Laurie Banks

We were all saddened to hear that California Fly Shop in San Carlos went out of business. I had the pleasure of meeting the owners Karen and Xavier Carbonnet and they sold us some wonderful items at discount prices for our Annual Dinner and Fundraiser (to be held November 11th; be sure to mark it on your calendar). Two items that will be available are a fly plate tied and signed by Andy Burk and this beautiful Patagonia women's jacket, size large.



Patagonia Women's Jacket



Andy Burk Fly Plate - Signed

In the News - Statewide Management of Trout



Public Comment Sought on Statewide Management of Trout

Posted: 09 Apr 2018 03:24 PM PDT

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) will be soliciting public comment and ideas on the statewide management of trout at a series of public meetings.

"We are seeking stakeholder feedback on the development of three important elements of our statewide trout management efforts," said Roger Bloom, CDFW Inland Fisheries Program Manager. "Our overall goal is make positive programmatic changes that will help ensure we're getting the right fish in the right place at the right time."

The three key areas for which CDFW are seeking input are:

- The revision of CDFW's Strategic Plan for Trout Management, last published in 2003
- The creation of a new Strategic Plan for Trout Hatcheries
- Simplification of inland trout angling regulations

[LINK for Additional information: GO HERE](#)

Outstanding Catch - Dave & Mary Ellen



CFFU President and V.P. Mary Ellen Mueller kept the guides busy hooking up at the same time. Doug actually landed both fish in the same net.

Please Support our Funders!



[Link to Kiene's website](#)



[Link to Larry Lee's website](#)



FLY FISHING SPECIALTIES
Wild Rivers to Blue Waters

6360 Tupelo Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621

[Link to Fly Fishing Specialties Website](#)

MORE NEXT MONTH: **How to Wade Safely!**



Retired firemen Mark Wells and Mike Wigginton oversee the demonstration about how to maintain two points of contact while blocking current for downstream wader.

By Mike Wigginton

More on this in the June issue: Until then, be safe and here is some key information from Tech Thursday's Wading Safety Class.

- Let someone know where you're going and when to expect you back.
- Know your abilities and don't exceed them; there are fish on this side of the river too.
- When wearing waders make sure they fit and always wear a wading belt.
- Think about what you're wearing/carrying i.e. PFD, whistle, knife, wading staff, etc.
- When you fall in DON'T PANIC.
- Get in safe-swim position with feet downstream; watch out for hazards.
- Keep your feet up until you know what's on the river bottom.
- Slant your body 45 degrees from current with head pointing towards where you want to go (ferry angle).
- The biggest hazards are snags, strainers and foot entrapments.

Something worth noting is that some club members have reported that they had foot entrapments that they needed help getting out of, so they are real!

Haiku - Flyku

In last month's issue of On the Fly, our president challenged us to write a "Flyku". A non-rhyming poem with three lines using a total of 17 syllables (5-7-5).

*Fish jumping in arcs
Scales reflect light like prisms
Hope they find my fly*

Submitted by Bev Lorens

*No fishing today
High water rips through river
Think I'll tie some flies*

Submitted by Laurie Banks

Another Session With Our Veteran Friends!

By Rich Kendall



We have developed a small group of vets (about 6) that are very interested and motivated to learn all about fly fishing. The problem I have is the classes and fishing will need to be done during the week. Most classes as of now are on Wednesday at 11. I can help with email notifications but cannot be onsite during the week. If you can help out please email me back.

rkendall7116@gmail.com It would be a shame for this program to go away. I really need your help for this to continue.



Casual Corner - Tim Au Young

“You know you’ve been working too much when there are cobwebs between the garage wall and your fishing vest.”

Pyramid Rocks!



Outing to Pyramid Lake

By Meloney Welborn

Hi All! The Pyramid Lake outing was hit or miss this year with the first group missing a lot because of the stupid bluebird weather. Saturday Julie caught two and Sunday the weather was more productive to fishing. The Monday/ Tuesday group had overcast, breezy days so everyone caught at least one with our President Dave Lentz catching the most with five each day. (Doug Ouellette said Dave also caught the biggest.) He and our VP Mary Ellen managed to catch two big ones at the same time!

Doug did a stellar job again and brought excellent guides, Joe and Glenn, with him. Sarah and Tawney handed out the muffins, bagels, hot coffee, drinks, and a great lunch that Doug provided. The camaraderie was fantastic. Every time the shout of "Fish on!" was heard

we'd all look to see who was hauling one in. Shouts of encouragement resounded down the line. All in all it was a great trip that we all look forward to every year.

"Stupid Bluebird Weather"



[Doug's website LINK](#)

PYRAMID LAKE GUIDE SERVICE

DOUG OUELLETTE
MASTER GUIDE
45 YEARS FLY FISHING
EXPERIENCE

dougo@calvadaflyfishing.com
www.pyramidlakeguideservice.com

775 • 722 • 2267

Outing to Pyramid Lake

King Dave Lentz on his throne waiting for the morning fish delivery.



Mary Ellen with Guide Doug Ouellette



How many CFFU'ers and guides does it take to net Mary Ellen's fish?

Outing to Pyramid Lake



*Think Julie will
be at Pyramid
next year?*

*The
Masked
Angler
Strikes
Again!*



*It's Mine!
I caught this
fish.*

FANTASTIC: The Pilot Peak Story



Ken Davis with a small Pilot Peak Lahontan Cutthroat that has the genes to grow to a 40, maybe 60 pound fish.

“Even though they were in that tiny, dinky stream on the edge of Utah for close to 100 years, they had maintained that capacity to grow into this big fish,” Peacock said. “People just went completely wild; it’s like the big boys are back.”

Mary Peacock, University of Nevada, Reno, Associate Professor of Biology

By Ken W. Davis

The discovery and the resurrection of the Pilot Peak Lahontan Cutthroat trout is truly a story that deserves your attention. I did not understand the mystical and sometimes spiritual atmosphere that some friends attributed to Pyramid Lake. With accounts of the trout reaching 60 pounds before they were extirpated from the Truckee River system I now understand the attraction to Lake Pyramid and its fascinating denizens. The Lahontan, the Nevada state fish, holds a cultural significance to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe.

Mary Peacock, University of Nevada Associate Professor of Biology, became involved with the research and recover in the early 2000s. She began working on ways to perform genetic testing to determine if the small trout discovered in the Pilot Peak streams, near the Utah border, were the original species of the Truckee River watershed.

The Peacock lab obtained samples of the Lahontan cutthroat stored in the Smithsonian, Cal Academy and the University of Michigan museums and compared the DNA to the Pilot Peak trout. It was TRUE. The small trout from a dinky stream were the Lahontan Cutthroat Trout.

Read more at links below:

[Researchers discover strain of Lahontan cutthroats](#)

[‘Monster’ Lahontan cutthroat making a comeback](#)

[Return of a giant](#)



Late nineteenth century photo of Lahontan cutthroat trout caught in Lake Tahoe. Photo courtesy of Jim Bell and Velma Comstock Eden collection.

Pyramid Lake - The Sacred & Endangered Cui-ui



Cui-ui (*Chasmistes cujus*) is a large sucker found in only one place in the world; Pyramid Lake and the lower Truckee River, all within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation. It is a long-lived fish exceeding 40+ years in age and can weigh over 7.5 pounds. The cui-ui is now protected, and hatchery programs and water allotments have succeeded in pulling this fish back from the brink of extinction. It has only survived the environmental destruction it has faced because of its longevity, allowing it to survive long periods without replenishing its populations while the allies of the cui-ui fought to get its water back.

If you catch a Cui-ui, handle with care, do not remove from the water and release immediately. They are Federally Endangered.



Ken's Excuse No 29 - Excessive Help from Guides

By Ken W. Davis



It happens everywhere, on the Madison River, on the Lower Sacramento, on the Trinity and at Pyramid Lake. One French guide on the Jefferson River, glanced back at me (I was in the back of the boat) and quipped in a broken French accent: "If you do what Laurie does, you'll catch more fish." I was! Granted, I was catching lots of Whitefish and Laurie was hitting the Browns. After I foul-hooked a large rainbow on the Madison, and had line wrapped around my feet, and the trout went under the boat, and I had to gingerly thread my Sage One under the anchor line, the guide turned his back and started laughing with Laurie. The boat was shaking with laughter! It was a party up there as he said to Laurie, "What is he doing back there? There is nothing I can do to help him." I had the last word when he had to net my 24 inch rainbow. Beware guides - I pay the tips! 🐟

Is the Beetle Really a Bug? Maybe! Not Sure Yet.

By Ken W. Davis



The Popcorn Beetle is a very popular and successful fly used in Pyramid Lake. The question has been, "What do the trout think that fly represents? We have found the bug (picture right) the last two years floating in the lake. It's a true bug identified by its probos-

cis extending back from its mouth. My research has not yet produced a true "beetle" that represents Doug Ouellette's original "Popcorn Beetle." Stay tuned, like some of the other mysteries in Pyramid, this one haunts me. Note: The Popcorn Beetle does catch fish!

Check out Doug Ouellette's Original Popcorn Beetle pattern and story, link below:

[Original Popcorn Beetle LINK](#)

Arcade Creek Clean-up

By Bill Felts



I want to thank the following intrepid CFFU participants in the Saturday, April 14th clean-up of Arcade Creek in Del Paso Park. They are: Bruce Bartholomew, Nick Ciani, Jim Walker, Tad Gantenbein, Russ Heckley, George Lazar, Mic McPherson, Joe Puglisi, R.J. Dlugopolski, Rico Quarles, Trevor Segelke, Dick Angus, Bob Steger, Richard Stinson, and Ken Giesser. Thanks to all of you. I estimated we cleared the area of about 80 pounds (36.287 kg) of trash. Good job gang!

Social – Coachman



The April Social focused on the Coachman Challenge. Coachman Director Paul Wisheropp checks Louis's knots.

Knotty Social at East Ranch Clubhouse



Members working hard to learn which wine is their favorite.



Members working hard to learn new knots at the February Social. Thanks to Michael Roberts, Chuck Honeycutt and Mike Williams for sharing their knot knowledge.

CFFU Conservation - Shasta Dam

By Keith Pfeifer, Conservation Director



In the February 2016 CFFU Newsletter, my conservation article, “The Dam, The Fish, The People”, presented information about a proposal to raise Shasta Dam by 18.5 feet. I decided to revisit this topic because Congress and the current Administration have recently reversed the decision of the previous Administration, which was to not raise the dam.

This new development from the federal government is the only aspect of this controversial project that has changed since my original essay. The potential environmental and cultural risks still outweigh the primary goal, which is to provide more water for the Westlands Water District of the Central Valley and the metropolitan areas of Southern California.

Even more recently, i.e. April 20, 2018, the California Water Commission released their updated plans for allocating nearly \$2.6 billion in bond funds under Proposition 1, which was approved by

the California voters in 2014. There are at least eight reservoir projects under consideration, including the Sites (non-dam) reservoir near Maxwell, and the Temperance Flat (dam) reservoir on the San Joaquin River. The Commission will make a final decision on money allocations in July 2018. The Shasta Dam project is not eligible for Proposition 1 funding, but could be affected with the authorization to build other reservoirs on rivers that impact the flow of water through the Delta.

THE DAM, THE FISH, THE PEOPLE

The Dam holds water from three northern California rivers, the Sacramento, the McCloud and the Pit. Shasta Dam was constructed in the 1930s through the 1940s. As with many dams constructed on California’s rivers during the early to mid-20th century, the primary reasons for Shasta Dam were to provide a source of hydroelectric power, flood control, drinking water and probably most importantly, a water storage system for

agriculture in the Sacramento and San Joaquin Valleys. Subsequently, Shasta Lake (i.e. reservoir) became a popular recreation destination for fishing, boating and other water sports.

The Fish is the iconic, winter-run Chinook salmon, which had migrated for eons up the Sacramento, McCloud and the Pit Rivers. Their decedents still attempt to swim to the home waters to spawn; however, Keswick Dam, an after-bay below Shasta, obstructs their journey. The fish are trapped and moved to the Livingston Stone National Fish Hatchery at the base of Shasta Dam. After the artificial spawning and the completion of the egg/alevin developmental stages, the fry are released back into the Sacramento River to begin their long, arduous migration to the ocean. This unique winter-run has been designated as “endangered”, under the federal Endangered Species Act. Even after the Shasta Dam

[continued on page 21](#)

Shasta Dam - continued

was completed, nearly 100,000 fish returned from the ocean during the 1960s. However, since that decade the numbers have steadily declined, and in 2006, the number of returning salmon dropped below 3,000.

The People are the Winnemem Wintu, also known as the “salmon people”. Their ancestors lived in California thousands of years ago with one band building their villages along the McCloud River. They were the “middle river” or “middle water” people. The cold, pure water of the McCloud River supported three runs of Chinook salmon, as well as steelhead. The salmon was more than food for the Winnemem. This fish was, and still is, a significant part of their culture and spirituality. They were revered for their annual journey back to the Lower Fall, or “Nurum-wit-ti-dek-kit”; the “falls where the salmon turn back”. In the pool below the falls, the salmon were easily harvested, and the meat was dried as a primary source of protein. Some of the thousands of eggs deposited in the spawning beds and the eventual decaying carcasses provided nourishment for other fish, birds and mammals. Many of the nutrients from these salmon eventually found their way into the terrestrial ecosystem of the McCloud drainage.

The Winnemem tribe, with their tribal chieftain and spiritual leader, Caleen Sisk, still believe that the salmon can be brought back to the McCloud watershed. A pure genetic strain of the McCloud salmon still exists in several river systems in New Zealand, including the Rakaia River. Years ago, salmon eggs from the Baird Hatchery on the McCloud River were transported along with redband rainbow trout eggs to New Zealand. Someday the Minnemem plan to bring Rakaia salmon back to the McCloud, with the help of the New Zealand Department of Fish and Game and the Maori people who hosted members of the Minnemem Wintu in 2010. This plan would include a new hatchery on the McCloud River and a channel connecting

the Sacramento River from below the dams to lower Shasta Lake. This state of the art project is currently being negotiated with the Bureau of Reclamation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association and other federal and California agencies.

In the early 2000s, the Bureau of Reclamation started planning for the enlargement of the Shasta Dam, primarily to increase water supplies for agriculture and urban development. To date, this agency has not completed the required feasibility study required for this project. In July 2015, Senators Feinstein and Boxer introduced the “California Drought Relief Bill”. Part of this legislation authorized \$600 million for Federal water storage projects, e.g. enlarging Shasta Dam, and several California storage projects, e.g. the Sites Project near Maxwell. This bill did not get through the United States Congress. Recently (Jan. 21, 2016) Senators Feinstein and Boxer introduced another “drought relief bill” titled “The California Long-term Provisions for Water Supply and Short-term Provisions for Emergency Drought Relief Act”. The language for promoting the enlargement of Shasta Dam is identical to their 2015 bill. The most likely scenario for Shasta Dam is to increase the height by 18.5 feet. This would expand Shasta Lake by 13% and flood another one and a half miles of both the McCloud and the Upper Sacramento Rivers. The Minnemem Wintu are unequivocally against any such actions because once again their sacred ceremonial grounds along the Lower McCloud would be destroyed. These sacred sites are vital to the Tribe’s identity as a people. Caleen Sisk stated: “ Shasta Dam has been a weapon of mass destruction against the Winnemem Wintu” and “the Dam raise is a form of cultural genocide”. Other groups are also opposed to raising the height of Shasta Dam, including Cal Trout, the California Sportfishing Protective Alliance and the California Water Impact Network, among others. In addition, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a report concluding that

a higher dam would actually harm the salmon fishery. Finally, the Bureau of Reclamation’s own data show the project would not benefit the Sacramento River salmon. Most opponents to the Shasta Dam project believe that the primary beneficiaries of increasing the storage capacity of Shasta Lake are the agricultural/water interests in the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. Support for this argument is supported by the fact that the Westlands Water District, one of the largest buyers, users and sellers of Northern California water, has purchased 3,000 acres of land along the Lower McCloud River.

One question seems to be missing from the discussions on whether or not to increase the maximum volume of Shasta Lake.....Will there ever be another year with enough rain and snow to fill the Lake to even its current capacity?



Editor's Note - Iron Mountain Mines & Winter Run Salmon

By Ken W. Davis



Old Mine # 8 - Iron Mountain Mines. ©1992 Ken W. Davis

As you drive through Redding, carefully look northwest. You'll see a large scar on the mountain. That scar is the Iron Mountain Mines (IMM), now a SuperFund site.

It's a long story, but back in the 90's, I had carte blanche for entry into the mine. In fact, at one time, Ted Arman the eccentric owner, wanted me to restore the hillside in the picture on the left. No thank you! What you see there is Acid Mine Drainage (ADC) that is created by rain percolating through fractured rock into historic mine shafts and mixing with oxygen and a rare bacteria.

Acid Mine Drainage is the general name of a toxic soup of minerals depending on the mineral composition at the location. The acid mine drainage from IMM was among the most acid and metal-laden water anywhere on Earth. Prior to the cleanup, the heavily worked mines on Iron Mountain discharged, on average, 650 pounds of copper, 1,800 pounds of zinc, and 10,000 pounds of iron per day. All that polluted water drained into Spring Creek, a tributary of the Sacramento River prior to the construction of the Shasta Dam. Of course, after the constructions the creek flows into Keswick Reservoir.

Dating back to 1899, there have been countless fish kills in the river below Iron Mountain. On at least three separate occasions in the 1950s and '60s, the mine waste killed hundreds of thousands of adult salmon and devastated the fishery.

According to the USEPA, site investigations and cleanup are ongoing.



Please Support Donors



[Link to Scribner Bend Website](#)

Congratulations

Congratulations to Jeff Stephens who is now a Board member of the Northern California Council of Fly Fishers International.

Fly Tyers Exchange - Submitted by Don Wallace

Photos by James Simon

Pheasant Tail Variant



Christie Roberts tied a Pheasant Tail Variant on a size 12-14 hook using rust thread. The tail is pheasant rooster hackle. The rib is small silver wire over an abdomen of wrapped pheasant tail. The hackle is rooster hackle. The head is rust thread.

Badger Matuka

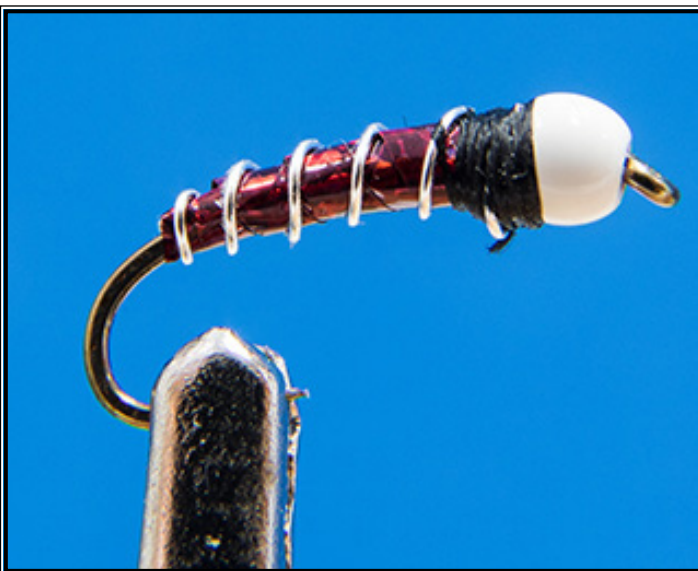


Rob Scafe tied a Badger Matuka on size 2-10 Mustad 9575 hook (this one is on a size 6), using 6/0 brown thread. The hook is wrapped with ribbon weight from behind the eye to just short of the bend and back. The body is cream wool yarn with a little red wool die behind the head. The rib is fine oval gold tinsel tied over the wing of two badger feathers tied Matuka style (some patterns call for 4 feathers. Make sure to pick quality feathers). Note: Tie the wing as per conventional streamers, then wind the ribbing forward over body and through the fibers to bind the wing to the body. When winding the ribbing, make the first turn to the body, not the bare hook. This will prevent twisting.

April Demo Tyer

Bob Bettati

Albino Wino



Bob Bettati was the demonstration tier this month. He tied an Albino Wino on Daiichi 1760 size 12 hook using black thread. The head is a white bead. The body is cranberry holographic tinsel with a silver copper rib.


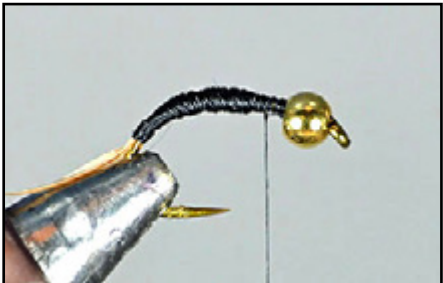
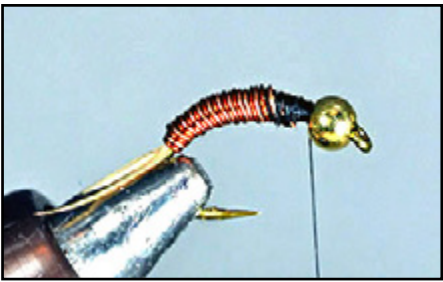

Bill Conway won the April \$25 gift certificate. The next certificate will be awarded in June.

Fly of the Month - Jumbo John





By Bob Bettati

Developed by John Barr as a steel-head fly that imitates a medium sized stone fly for use on the Pacific Coast and Great Lakes regions, the "Jumbo John" is a large version of the "Copper John". The jumbo can be tied in a variety of color combinations, suited to any environment.

Materials	
Hook:	Tiemco 2457 size 6 or 8
Bead:	Bead; 5/32 gold
Thread:	6/0 black
Body:	Brown and copper wire
Wing Case:	Thin Skin with a strip of flat Mylar over the top of the Thin Skin
Thorax:	Peacock ice dub
Rubber Legs:	Sili Legs
Legs:	Hen hackle- 2 turns
Tail	Biot

Jumbo John		
STEP	IMAGE	TYING INSTRUCTIONS
1.		Step 1: Crush the barb, add a brass bead, start the thread and wrap back to a point down the bend of the hook.
2.		Step 2: Tie in a biot on each side of the hook and build a tapered body with the thread.
3.		Step 3: Tie in the copper wires (brown and copper together) Wrap the pair forward and tie off behind the bead.
4.		Step 4: Tie in the Mylar back first, then the Thin Skin and dub the thorax.

Jumbo John - continued

STEP	IMAGE	TYING INSTRUCTIONS
5.		<p>Step 5: Tie in the legs (Madam X style) and use a small amount of dubbing at the tie-in point of the legs</p>
6		<p>Step 6: Fold back the legs and tie in a hen hackle with 2 turns.</p>
7.		<p>Step 7: Now bring the Thin Skin across the thorax and tie off behind the bead. Then pull the Mylar back over the Thin Skin and tie off.</p>
8.		<p>Step 8: Trim the legs (shorter in front). Apply Epoxy or Liquid Fusion (or a similar product) to the Thin Skin.</p>

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.: Program Presentation

8:00 p.m.: Club Information

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](#)

Newsletter Editorial Staff

Editor: Ken W. Davis

ken@creekman.com

Assistant Editor: Laurie Banks

laurie@creekchick.com

Newsletter Submissions

All submissions, images and other material are due by the 25th of the month. The Newsletter Editor reserves the right to reject any article or image that does not meet the Editorial Guidelines.

Copyright Notice

All images in this newsletter are copyrighted and cannot be used without permission of the photographer.

Banner Image

Spring Run Chinook in Butte Creek near Chico - Ken Davis image

Ken Davis, Editor
California Fly Fishers Unlimited
on the Fly Newsletter
2443 Fair Oaks Blvd. # 209
Sacramento, Ca 95825