



CASTING NEWS FROM LAURIE BANKS

President's Message for December

I want you to know how much I have enjoyed being your President these last two years. It has truly been an honor. I have gained so much more from my affiliation with this club than I have given. When I agreed to undertake this endeavor I was hoping to be a force for some positive additions to CFFU: to connect with local veterans, to give all novice fly fishers the skills they need to become independent, and to increase CFFU's involvement in local conservation efforts. All of these things could not have been accomplished without the support of the membership and participation by volunteers. Kudos to our outstanding Board of Directors, who shared this vision and helped meet these goals. I'm looking forward to a wonderful 2017 with Dave Lentz as our new President. We still have an opening for President-elect. I encourage any of you who are considering being on the Board of Directors to give it a try. It's a way to give back, affect positive change and have a rewarding experience. To everyone in CFFU, my heartfelt thanks for giving me the opportunity to be your President.

Laurie Banks

DECEMBER SPEAKER

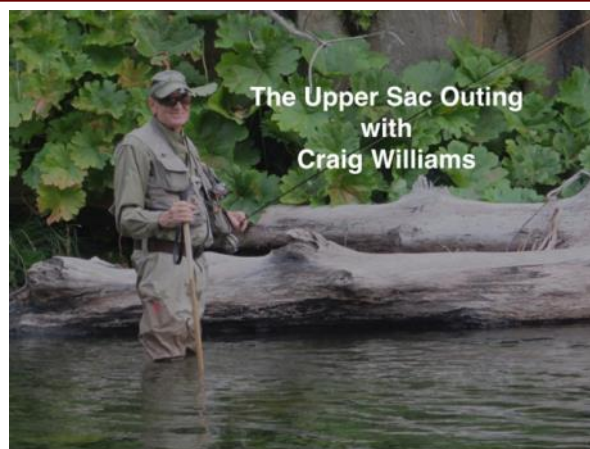
Our December meeting will feature slideshow presentations from our own members, sharing some of their personal fishing adventures from 2016.

This program is always a high point of the year for our club! You really won't want to miss it, so plan on being there and joining in on the holiday spirit this evening promises to bring

We will have presentations from...

- Sam Yee – Delta Smallmouth
- Ken Davis – Heritage Trout
- Rob Scafe – Yellowstone Park
- Ken Giesser/Craig Williams – Upper Sac Outing
- Gary Howard- Emigrant Lake

Ken Giesser
CFFU Programs Director



FLY TYING DEMO

Come see December's demo tier, John Coldiron. John will start tying at 6:15 pm so come early to watch him tie some of his magic at the vise.

STEELHEAD REPORT CARD

Don't forget to turn in your Steelhead report card. The reporting period is from January 1st– 31st. There are a couple of ways you can submit your report card. One is to go on-line and report it at:

<https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Licensing/Fishing#44521416-harvest-reporting> and then click on the 'Report Your Harvest button' and follow the instructions.

You can also mail them to: Steelhead Card, PO Box 944209, Sacramento, CA 94244.

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A special thanks to

Beth Bittner Roberts Family

For a generous donation.

TECH THURSDAY

California Fly Fishers Unlimited offers a series of programs each month on the "technical" aspects of fly fishing. The program covers fly fishing topics, ranging from beginning fly casting and introductory fly tying, to more advanced topics such as rod building, tying Atlantic Salmon patterns, and spey casting. Let Carl Lang know if there are any subjects you would like to see... or to teach! Tech Thursday's are held on the third Thursday of the month at the Northminster Church, 3235 Pope Avenue, Sacramento, CA

NAME BADGE DRAWING by Rich Wilson

Each month we will be drawing for a \$30.00 gift certificate to be redeemed at one of the 3 fly shops in our area. Each month the \$30.00 gift certificate will be from a different fly shop in rotation. To qualify for the name badge drawing a member MUST be wearing his or her CFFU engraved name badge. Each member will receive one ticket for wearing his or her engraved badge. At the end of the meeting one ticket will be drawn for the gift certificate. You must be present at the time of the drawing. New members will still be eligible to receive the 10% off any item at the LOGO table.

FREE FLY DRAWING

Bring a Fly to the monthly meeting and have a chance to win. Drop the fly in the cup at Rich Wilson's desk and receive a ticket. At the end of the evening, a ticket is drawn and the winner gets all of the fly's in the cup.

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

New members are encouraged to attend one of the quarterly meetings held at the Northminster Church, 3235 Pope Avenue, Sacramento, CA. The next meeting will be February 8th at 6:30 pm. Here you can meet other new members, ask questions, receive contact information and possibly find a fishing buddy. President Laurie Banks and Membership Director Rich Wilson supervise these meetings and will help you get the most out of your club. You will also receive a certificate for 6 free flies from local fly fishing shops. Look for more info in the coming newsletters.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 5	CFFU Board meeting at 6:30 pm
December 6	CFFU General meeting at 7:00 pm (Topic, member slide shows)
December 14	Social night at Fly Fishing Specialties at 6:30 pm
December 25	Deadline for article submission to newsletter
January 2	CFFU Board meeting at 6:30 pm
January 3	CFFU General meeting at 7:00 pm (Topic: Jon Baiocchi, Dry Flies)
January 19	Tech Thursday at 6:30 pm
January 19-22	ISE at Cal Expo
January 25	Deadline for article submission to newsletter

2017 ISE SHOW INFO

CFFU will be back at the annual International Sportsmen's Exposition (ISE) event at Cal Expo in Sacramento. Dates for the upcoming show: January 19-22, 2017 (Thursday through Sunday). Come check out the latest in fly fishing equipment, hunting gear, RVs, etc., and get information from multiple guides and resort vendors vying for your patronage. ISE is CFFU's main yearly new member recruiting event, and we also raise funds for club activities by direct solicitation and a fly rod raffle. As always, we're asking for your help and participation as a volunteer to make this a successful recruiting drive. A volunteer sign-up sheet will be available at the general meeting for volunteers to help staff the CFFU booth. We are limiting volunteers to 3 people per shift this year related to quantity of 1-day passes available from ISE. Rich Wilson is the contact person for CFFU booth [e-mail: wilsonre7@yahoo.com phone (916) 364-7545]. Hope to see you there!

Rich Wilson

WHO'S WHO IN CFFU

OFFICERS NAME PHONE NUMBER/E-MAIL ADDRESS

President	Laurie Banks 2015-2016	916-972-8537/ laurie@creekman.com
President Elect	Dave Lentz 2015-2016	
Past President	Bob Effa, 2015-2016	916-443-4968/ reffa@sbcglobal.net
1 st Vice President	Beth Ison 2016	916-443-4968/bethcats@sbcglobal.net
2 nd Vice President	Craig McCulloch 2015-2016	916-456-2482/emculloch@jps.net
Secretary	Phil Shipley 2015-2016	916-383-3453/pshipley@sbcglobal.net
Treasurer	Jim Berdan, 2009 thru 2016	916-448-3125/ jberdan@aol.com

DIRECTORS NAME PHONE NUMBER/ EMAIL ADDRESS

Conservation Policy Dir.	Keith Pfeifer 2015	530-753-7920/kimmkon@pacbell.net
Conservation Programs Dir.	Bill Felts 2014-2015	916-768-0658/ befelts@yahoo.com
Membership Director	Richard Wilson, 2006 thru 2015	916-364-7545/ wilsonre7@yahoo.com
Outings Director	Rich Kendall 2015	916-277-4388/rkendall7116@gmail.com
Programs Director	Ken Giesser 2014-2015	916-685-3125/ thegiessers@yahoo.com
Public Relations Director	Jim Walker 2015	916-536-9049/jimsus7040@sbcglobal.net
Tech Services Director	Carl Lang, 2007 thru 2015	916-967-2126/ langearl@att.net

COMMITTEES NAME PHONE NUMBER/ EMAIL ADDRESS

Annual BBQ	vacant	
Annual Dinner	vacant	
Audio Visual Tech	Arthur Herron, 2010 thru 2016	916-364-7545/ artygolf2000@yahoo.com
Bittner Scholarship	Bill Felts, 2010 thru 2016	916-768-0658/ befelts@yahoo.com

COMMITTEES NAME PHONE NUMBER/ EMAIL ADDRESS

Coachman Award	Paul Wisheropp	wisheropp@gmail.com
Fly Tiers Exchange	Don Wallace, 2012 thru 2016	916-422-8674/ flyfisherman241@hotmail.com
Fly Tying Demo	John Daniels, 2011 thru 2016	530-750-3511/ jedaniels@ucdavis.edu
Fish Derby	Tim Au-Young, 1999 thru 2016	916-479-1049/ auyoungt@comcast.net
Fish in the Classroom	Brandie Herron, 2010 thru 2016	916-364-7545/ brandie_w2002@yahoo.com
Howe Park Fish Derby	vacant	
Library	Christie & Michael Roberts	
List Serve Meister	Gregory Shaffer, 1999 thru 2016	530-271-5556/ shafe@gshaffer.com
Logo Sales	Glenn Yee, 2008 thru 2016	916-421-6922/ gyeey25@att.net
Mentoring	Andy Penn, 2014-2016	916-687-6799/ andypenn@frontiernet.net
NCCIFF Rep.	Jim Berdan, 2013-2016	916-448-3125/ jberdan@aol.com
New Members	Laurie Bank 2015-2016	916-709-1309/laurie@creekchick.com
Newsletter Editor	Chris Weiland 2010 thru 2016	916-691-2873/ cjweiland@comcast.net
Refreshments	Beverly Lorens 2015-2016	916-283-6773/blorens@surewest.net
SARA Rep.	John Barris, 2012 thru 2016	916-524-5634/ peercourt1@sbcglobal.net
Sergeant At Arms	Larry Coulter, 2007 thru 2016	916-689-1885/ lcoulter@frontiernet.net
Sportsmen's Expo	Richard Wilson, 2006 thru 2016	916-364-7545/ wilsonre7@yahoo.com
Web Master	Lori Wisheropp 2016	
Youth Programs	Gary Howard, 2000 thru 2016	916-383-1221/ 104herefishy@comcast.net

NOVEMBER SPEAKER

On November 1st we were treated to an outstanding program from Jeff Putnam that featured an in depth look at the modern fly line. He started off by sharing a little history of fly line development, citing the Courtland Company for bringing fly lines into the modern era and then crediting Bruce Richards of Scientific Anglers for being the single greatest innovator, ever! He then went on to talk about recent advancements in technology and the almost unbelievable amount of options available for today's angler. As a factory rep for the Rio Company, Jeff was able to reveal a little bit of the manufacturing process, but only a little. There seems to be quite a bit of secrecy involved and maybe even some voodoo! Anyway, I was fascinated to learn how lines are made, by drawing a core component dipped in liquid PVC through various size dies to produce exacting tapers.

From that point, Jeff broke from the technical and went to the practical. He talked about the importance of balancing your system and matching lines and tapers to the exact fishing situation at hand. He reminded us to always be thinking about what type of fishing we'll be doing and what size of flies we'll be using. It all makes a difference! Heavier lines with more aggressive tapers for big flies, streamers and indicators. Longer, smoother tapers for delicate presentations and smaller flies. He then talked about belly length and its function and finally about the running line. He also mentioned that double tapers are coming back and are a very good choice for "in close" fishing because they load better without a lot of line out. He explained weight forwards and lake lines, but surprisingly settled on Rio's single handed spey line as his personal favorite. He said it's the best all around roll casting line he's ever used and throws the most consistent, best loops ever!

Like anything else, practice makes perfect and I can attest that Jeff is the best caster I know, and is extremely generous with his time, talent, teaching and patience with our club. If you get a chance, thank Jeff for all he does for us!

Great Program!

Ken Giesser

Programs Director



PROPOSED CFFU OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS FOR 2017

The following is the proposed slate of CFFU Officers and Directors for 2017.

OFFICERS

President- Dave Lentz
President Elect- Vacant
Past President- Laurie Banks
1st Vice-President- Mary Ellen Mueller
2nd Vice-President- Craig McCulloch
Secretary- Phil Shipley
Treasurer- Jim Berdan

DIRECTORS

Conservation Director- Keith Pfeifer
Community Service Director- Trevor Segelke
Membership Director- Rich Wilson
Outings Director- David Tevlin
Programs Director- Ken Giesser
Public Relations Director- Lanny Garman
Tech Services Director- Carl Lang

Meloney Welborn- Nominating Committee Chair

CFFU 2016 ANNUAL DINNER

The CFFU 2016 Annual Dinner and Fundraiser was held at the California Auto Museum on November 13th. Although the dinner officially started at 3:30, many members came early to browse the auto and motorcycle displays. Carl Lang welcomed all our members and guests and handed out name badges. Betty Pfeifer had an amazing spread of appetizers ready and Tim Au-Young had the no-host bar open. Although the museum is a warehouse you would never know it! Meloney Welborn coordinated the table decorations. Rich and Jim Berdan were busy selling raffle tickets under the pop-up tent. Ken Davis displayed the slide show on the big screen. The side room was filled with raffle and silent auction items. The terrific committee had transformed the warehouse area into a warm inviting room, full of holiday spirit!

We enjoyed an excellent dinner of tri-tip, chicken, roasted potatoes, salad, rolls, seasonal vegetables, cooked onsite and served by the Buckhorn staff. Coffee and cake followed for dessert. Tim Landrus and John Coldiron did a terrific job as our emcees. Justin Trick ran our live auction. Not only did many stores give us donations, but over 40 CFFU members donated items for our auction and raffles, and 114 members and guests bought tickets. Together we raised over \$11,000 for CFFU!! A huge thank you goes to all the Annual Dinner Committee members, and everyone who bought tickets and made donations!!

A huge thank you to our dinner committee for putting together such a successful event: Brandi and Arthur Herron, Sandy and Rich Wilson, Anita Scuri, Meloney Welborn, Carl Lang, Sheila Cavanaugh, Lona Banks, Dave Lentz, Jim Walker, Ken Davis, Tim Au-Young, Betty and Keith Pfeifer, Jim Berdan, Tim Landrus, Justin Trick, Julie Kaye, John Coldiron, Rob Scafe, Mary and Michael Wall, and Mike Williams.

Members who made donations: Andy Penn, Beth Ison, Betty Pfeifer, Bill Felts, Brandie Herron, Brad Stone, Bruce Bartholomew, Buff Hendrickson, Carl Lang, Christie Roberts, Craig Williams, Dave Lentz, Dave Sylstra, David Zook, Dell Clark, Don Chang, Don Moura, Don Wallace, Forrest Oldham, Gary Howard, Glenn Yee, Jake Mater, Jeff Howard, Jim Berdan, Jim Kelley, Jim Wright, Joe Bania, Julie Kaye, Keith Pfeifer, Ken Davis, Ken Giesser, Lanny Garman, Laurie Banks, Lori Wisheropp, Mary Ellen Mueller, Mary and Mike Wall, Melonie Howard, Megan Dill (John Sullivan's daughter) Nancy Yee, Nick Fitzgerald, Paul Wisheropp, Rich Kendall, Rich Trimble, Rich Wilson, Rob Scafe, Ross Boehm, Tim Au-Young, Trevor Segelke, Ty Espinosa, Val Adams and Virginia Stone.

Companies that made donations: Andrew Harris Fly Fishing, Angler's Book Supply, Azul Mexican Restaurant, Bailey Creek Lodge, Baranof Wilderness Lodge, Beartooth Fly Fishing, Berryessa Gap Winery, Blue Ribbon Fly Store, Canyon Creek Resort, Carmichael Café, Cedar Lodge, Doug Ouellette-Calvada Fly Fishing, Ernie Gulley Fly Fishing Guide Service, Far Bank Enterprises, Fly Fishing Specialties, Fly Rod and Reel Magazine, Frank Amato Publications, Jeff Putnam Fly fishing School, Kiene's, Krieger Enterprises, La Perla de Nayarit Restaurant, La Rosa Blanca, Off the Hook Fly Fishing, Pavilion Car Wash, Pizzeria Urbano, Sac State Aquatic Center, Scheels, Scribner Bend Winery, The Tackle Shop, Ted Fay Fly Shop, Tenkara USA, Turkovich Winery, Woodland Opera House and Yuba River Inn.

Laurie Banks



Auctioneer Justin Trick



SAN FRANCISCO BAY: AN ECOSYSTEM IN JEOPARDY

San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta, Suisun Bay, San Pablo Bay and their associated marshes and wetlands comprise the largest estuary on the Pacific coast of North and South America. This unique estuary evolved by the mixing of fresh and salt water to form a rich and diverse ecosystem of plants, invertebrates, fish and wildlife. Fresh water, primarily from the Sacramento and San Joaquin River drainages, has sustained this ecosystem.

Recently, the Bay Institute, a regional environmental group, published an insightful report, “The San Francisco Bay: The Freshwater-Starved Estuary”, which details the environmental decline “downstream” in the San Francisco Bay ecosystem because of what has become known as “California’s water wars” which are fought “upstream” in the inland watersheds. The reduction of fresh water reaching the Delta-Bay complex has put many fish and wildlife species at risk of extinction, degraded water quality, altered marshes and beaches and potentially impact marine mammals off the coast of California.

Historically, sufficient fresh water came from winter rains and spring snowmelt to maintain the upper estuary as a fresh water system most of the year, while creating increasingly brackish and saline habitats when moving towards the Golden Gate. These diverse aquatic environments promoted the establishment of a variety and abundance of many unique species of plants, fish and wildfowl. However, the building of countless numbers of dams and miles of diversion canals throughout the Bay’s watershed have had a tremendous impact, e.g. on average approximately a 50% reduction, on what would be “normal”, unimpaired flows. Winter and spring flows, critical to the spawning migrations of salmon and steelhead, have been reduced even more. In the past 40 years there has been so much water either stored or diverted that the Bay has experienced inflows typical of extreme drought conditions in 19 of those years.

Some of the significant environmental consequences from the reduction of fresh water into the Delta-Bay complex are briefly presented below:

Salinity

The transition from fresh water to the ocean forms a gradient of increasingly saline habitats that are critically important to fish and other species. Winter and spring inflows move the important low salinity zone “downstream” (i.e. towards the Bay). The abundance and distribution of many estuarine fish and invertebrate populations are strongly impacted with the location of this zone. When it moves “downstream”, the numbers of native species increase. Reducing inflows drastically forces the low salinity zone to move “upstream” (i.e. into the Delta), exposing larval and juvenile fish to poor water quality and habitat conditions in the Delta. This “salt water incursion” facilitates the spread of invasive, non-native species, and reduces the populations of native species. Moving this salinity gradient “upstream” also brings more saline water to fresh and brackish water marshes, affecting the wetland habitats of many Delta plants and animal species. Drinking water and water used in agriculture can also be impacted and can require additional treatment options.

Sediment

Higher river flows carry more sediment (e.g. gravel, silt, sand), which helps develop and maintain marshes and beaches in the “downstream” estuaries. The sediment also makes the waters more turbid which helps protect fish and invertebrates from predators. Historically, sand made up approximately 70% of the Sacramento’s sediment load when flows were high. With the construction of dams and water diversions, the sediment load was cut by 50% from 1957 to 2001. During this same period, sandy beaches in the Bay were reduced by over 60%, and turbidity in the upper parts of the Bay’s estuaries declined by 40%.

Pollution

When fresh water flows are low, concentrations of chemical and biological contaminants can increase and can impact the health and survival of not only aquatic species, but also mammals and birds that prey on these species, and potentially humans who consume fish and shellfish from this estuary. Heavy metals, (e.g. mercury) agricultural pesticides and fertilizers, industrial pollutants (e.g. PCBs and oil refinery byproducts) are examples of potential harmful aquatic pollutants. Low flows can also promote toxic algae blooms, producing neurotoxins that can accumulate in aquatic species. The elimination of the local Dungeness crab season last year is a recent example of this phenomenon.

Fish and Wildlife Populations

Reproduction, growth and the migration of many species, from invertebrates to forage fish, to migrating salmon, are programmed to occur during the critical winter and spring months when flows are higher. The number of individuals in these populations is directly proportional to the amount of water flowing through the Delta into the Bay during these critical periods. A larger population with more diverse individuals is less vulnerable to adverse environmental changes and potential extinction, because it has more diverse genetic characteristics that will allow possible behavioral and physiological responses to changing conditions. This relationship is one of the best-documented facts about the Bay estuary. For example, replacing the longer, more natural peak flows in the San Joaquin or American Rivers with managed artificial, small pulses during a shorter period reduces the migration window for Chinook salmon, and decreases the probability that these fish will have optimal conditions on their journey to the ocean.

In addition to the fall and winter runs of Chinook salmon, other species of endangered fish in the Delta-Bay estuary include: the Delta smelt, longfin smelt, green sturgeon, Central Valley steelhead, white sturgeon, Starry flounder and the Sacramento split-tail.

As a step in the right direction, the State Water Resources Control Board has recently proposed to increase the Delta flows from the San Joaquin River and its tributaries (Tuolumne, Merced, Stanislaus) to 40% of the “normal” winter and spring flows. Last year only 10% of the San Joaquin River flows reached the Delta-Bay estuary; the remainder was either diverted or stored in reservoirs. Another scientific report released by the Water Board proposes leaving as much as 75% of the Sacramento River’s water system during the winter-spring period. These proposals will likely face strong opposition from water districts and agricultural interests.

Keith Pfeifer, Conservation Director
December 2016

FLY TIERS EXCHANGE by Don Wallace

Photo's by James Simon



Bill Conway tied a **BH Olive Midge** w/red wire rib on a Tiemco size 20 hook using olive 6/0 thread. The bead head is size 5/64. Wrap the hook with 6 wraps of .015 lead. The tail is two strands of Flashabou. The body is olive thread with a small red wire rib. Whip finish the head and try coating with nail polish to meld it all together.



Rob Scafe tied a **Scud** on a TMC 2488 or 2487 size 12-18 2X short Scud hook using 8/0 black thread. The hook is weighted with approximately 10 turns of 0.01 lead wire. The tail/antenna is Trout Ice Dubbing. The rib is small gold wire. The body/legs are ultra translucent, black Drake Dubbing, (olive & gray blend or brown & tan, or olive & brown may be used). Dub a 3 in. noodle of dubbing with a patch of Trout Ice Dubbing in the middle. The body shell is scud back gray, (black olive & tan or green may be used). Use a dubbing brush to tease out the legs under the fly.



Christie Roberts tied an **Unreal Egg** using yellow thread and a yellow glass bead "yolk" and yellow egg yarn.



Jeff Howard was the demonstration tier. He tied a **Catgut Caddis** on a 2457 size 12-16 hook, using black silk thread with a second thread of chartreuse or gold. The bead head is a tungsten bead in 1/8, 7/64, or 3/32. The abdomen is catgut in medium or small. The gills are the second thread dubbed sparsely with white mink or rabbit dubbing. The legs are Partridge feather fibers. The horns are two pheasant tail fibers. The thorax is dark brown dubbing.

FLY OF THE MONTH

Fly of the month will return next month.

“Christmas Ornaments”

by
Tim Au-Young

8 souls, Mary Ellen, Phil, Rich, Meloney, Shiela, Wally and President, Laurie, with Bob B as Assistant, braved the chirpy evening air at this Tech Thursday. Tim Au-Young shared how to tie noted George Cook’s, North Western Steelheader’s signature Alaskabou style steelhead pattern, this one, called the ‘Showgirl’, a hot pick and deep purple marabou fly, with flash.

Sharing a soft hackle technique of wrapping the marabou, willowy whips of marabou barbules went every which way during the wrapping and cutting of the material. Once, the flash was added and the second color of marabou added, then the schlappen was added to finish off the fly, verrrry nicely. Crowding the head was mentioned as one of fly tyers biggest mistakes, and thread control was also noted for good fly tying technique. Written instructions were not given for this part of the lesson, but instructions for inserting the fly in to the ornament was provided.

The a waited moment had arrived as everyone was eager to insert their highly prized fly in to the ornament. The split shot was instructed on where to go in 2 separate places along the #12 mono with due care as to not upset the setting of the fly in the bulb. Once this was done, the mono cut, the ribbon was placed to set off the finished ornament, and the last thing to discuss was the signature on the bottom of the bulb in gold paint.

Tim shared that he puts the name of the fly, the year tied, and his initials. Because the ornaments are given away as gifts to family and friends, people receiving them may not know the name of the fly, remember when it was given to them, or who it was given to them by, hence, the name, the year, and his initials.

Once the gold paint has dried, Tim recommends cleaning the glass bulbs with windex to make it sparkle, sparkle, sparkle, and magic! One has a hand made crafted ornament able to be given away as a token of friendship and/or love. When was the last time either you made something for someone, or received something hand made from someone? Either way, it is good to give.

Tim has done this for CFFU for some years, and the gift that keeps on giving is the gift that you share for others to share. The November Tech Thursday is an opportune time to do this exercise as it gives people time to practice and tie for the holidays.

As Tim says, “Happy trails to you, until, we meet again....“. He bets most people reading this will know who sang, and said this.....



Wally shows off his finished ornament.

Tim and the group at the November meeting.



UPCOMING OUTINGS

FOR DETAILS ON A PARTICULAR OUTING, PLEASE CONTACT THE FISHMEISTER OR ASST. FISHMEISTER

December 9-11

Pyramid Lake, NV

Fishmeister: John Daniels

Asst. Fishmeister: open

PYRAMID LAKE OUTING 2016

Are you a fair weather fly fisher? Then this is NOT your type of outing, so stop reading now, Pyramid is not for you. For all you REAL fly fishers, we will be heading back to Pyramid this fall in search of big Cutthroats. Pyramid Lake in Nevada is about as unique a place to fish as you will ever find. Nestled in a desert valley northeast of Reno and fed by the Truckee River, Pyramid is the home of the Lahontan Cutthroat. During the late fall the fish are not schooled up as they are in the spring, but they are still cruising the flats looking for food, and typically this is when the big fish are around. The weather is usually overcast and the wind will often come up, so the fish are a little less wary than they are earlier in the year. The latest strains appear to be doing quite well, with many fish over 20 pounds taken in the spring. It is getting so a 10 pound fish will barely raise an eyebrow among the dedicated Pyramid fishers.

The outing will be December 9-11, 2016, although some go up earlier, and some stay later. Some stay in Sparks or Reno, others at the lake (crosbylodge.net). This year I will not be meeting folks at the store, having been left waiting for a bunch of no-shows one time too many. If you are going up, contact me directly for an idea of where to fish, and where to find the rest of us. There is a lot of coastline to fish and almost all of it will produce, but we will start out on the northwest side where we can spread out a lot of people. Assume we will start at Pelican beach north of Sutcliffe Saturday morning, and move on from there depending on where the fish are and the wind. Plans change with the weather, so I cannot guarantee that we will be at Pelican in the morning if some other beach is producing. Bring radios, a map, and if you plan on driving on the beaches, a 4WD is a MUST (and you can still get stuck, so watch it). Cruising the beaches with an FRS walkie talkie tuned to the club frequency/code (10-4) is your best way of finding folks, because there will be members from Monument Rock to Lone Tree, and many points in between. Cell phones do not always function at Pyramid, so having a radio is a must and expect no sympathy from the fishmeister if you show up without one.

To fish Pyramid, you need a heavier rig than usual. The typical setup is an 8 weight with a shooting head. This could be either a traditional running line & head combination (floating or sinking running line with 30' Type 3 & Type 6 heads), or an integrated line with a 200 grain head (around 5-6 ips sink rate), and 8-10# monofilament or fluorocarbon for leaders. You can get away with a lighter rig, but if the wind comes up, and it often does, you will have problems. Flies needed are Woolly Buggers and Woolly Worms in size 4-8, typically HEAVILY hackled, in black, olive, brown, chartreuse, white, purple, yellow, blue,...these are cutthroats after all, so almost anything can and will work. Pyramid Beetles and Tadpoles in white/chartreuse and black/chartreuse are also a good idea. Indicator fishing can also be effective, so you may also want to bring a 6 weight and a selection of flies (#12-10 nymphs and chironomids work well), split shot, and a good bobber...I mean strike indicator. You will need waders and boots and enough clothes to cover every eventuality, because the conditions at Pyramid can range from shirt-sleeve weather to sleet and snow. You will also need a fishing permit, which you can either buy online or at Crosby's. Ladders are optional and unnecessary I would argue, and float tubers must have their liability waivers and life insurance up to date. Attendees will be responsible for their own lodging, food, and debts at the casinos.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the next general meeting.

John Daniels

PYRAMID LAKE TRIP

Ken Giesser and his grandson Matthew Barlow are all smiles during a recent fishing trip to Pyramid Lake, Nevada, where Matthew landed his first Lahontan, a beautiful 6 pounder, while Ken managed to take a respectable 8½ pounder.



OTTER'S ACTIVITIES

The OTTER'S (OLD TIMERS TYING, EATING and RECREATIONAL SOCIETY) generally meets weekly for lunch, fly tying and fishing. Everyone is welcome at CFFU OTTERS events. Even "working" folks who may have a day off. An e-mail is sent on the CFFU listserv before each activity; please respond if you will be attending and then just show up.

Check the listserv for upcoming OTTERS events.

PHOTO CREDIT

THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION OF PHOTOGRAPHS FOR THE NEWSLETTER:

Laurie Banks Arthur Herron Craig Williams

CALIFORNIA FLY FISHERS UNLIMITED

CFFU is a non-profit community organization serving Sacramento and statewide. Since its inception in 1962, the club's objective has been to promote increased awareness and participation in the art of fly fishing, particularly among families. CFFU also promotes the enhancement and preservation of resources through conservation efforts and in-school programs. Club activities and membership participation include monthly fly fishing programs where special guest speakers provide information on angling around the world. The club also has at least one club outing a month on the water, technical fly fishing clinics and classes, and conservation projects.

Meetings are held at 7:00PM on the first Tuesday of the month at Conzelmann Community Center, 2201 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA.

Individual annual dues are \$30 per member, \$45 per family, renewed in January of each year and prorated after June 30th for those joining later, and a \$10 initiation fee. Board of Directors meetings are held on the Monday preceding the regular first Tuesday meeting at East Ranch Clubhouse, 150 East Ranch Road, Sacramento, CA 95725

ON THE FLY is the official monthly newsletter of the California Fly Fishers Unlimited, P.O. Box 162997, Sacramento, CA 95816. No claim is made by the organization as to the accuracy or veracity of any information within this publication. Apologies are made in advance for all errors and offenses as none are intended. No warranties are made by CFFU on any products or services discussed in this newsletter. Submission of articles and news items is welcomed and encouraged. Preferred format is in an e-mail attachment in plain text sent to cjweiland@comcast.net. Pictures will only be returned upon request. **Absolute Deadline for submissions - 25th OF THE MONTH**



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P.O. BOX 162997
SACRAMENTO, CA. 95816

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