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

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CFFU DELIVERS STEELHEAD EGGS

Eyed eggs and recently hatched steelhead alevin. The eggs are delivered in the "eyed" stage to Sacramento schools. Image ©Ken W. Davis.

As part of the Fish in the Classroom Program, CFFU members volunteer to deliver salmon and steelhead eggs to dozens of classrooms, from kindergarten to high school. In November they delivered salmon eggs and on Wednesday, February 13th they delivered steelhead eggs.

Early Wednesday morning CFFU members met at the Nimbus Fish Hatchery and picked up a batch of eggs wrapped in cheesecloth. Rich Wilson provided volunteers with hot coffee, dough nuts and a map with directions to their respective schools. Volunteers had the rewarding experience of delivering the steelhead eggs to some very excited students. Thanks to the following volunteers: Paul Wisheropp, Laurie Banks, Rico Quarles, Forrest Oldham, Scott McCaliv, Bill Felts, Mary Ellen Mueller, Mike Guisti, Howard Ross, Greg Howard, Carol Tevlin, Dave Tevlin, Chris Weiland, Christie Roberts, Craig McCulloch, Terry Block and Nancy Gould.

Terry Block and Nancy Gould prepare steelhead eggs for transport to participating Sacramento schools.

CFFU Calendar - March 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

MARCH	EVENT	INFORMATION LINK
2	Fulton/El Camino Parks Department Fish Derby	
4	Board Meeting - 6:30 p.m. at East Ranch Clubhouse	Board Meeting Link
4, 6, 7	Beginning Fly Tying Class	Fly Tying Link
~~5~~	~~Swap Meet - 5:30-6:30 p.m. at Conzelmann Center~~	POSTPONED
5	General Meeting	Meeting Information
9	Casting Clinic & Mentor Outing	Clinic Information
20	Social Night - Topic: The Coachman Challenge	Social Link
21	Tech Thursday - Topic TBA	Tech Thursday Link
28, 29, 30, 31	Outing - Pyramid Lake Nevada	Pyramid Outing
31	Outing - Lower Sacramento River	Lower Sac Outing

March 2019 Speaker - Jim Cox

Topic: Fly Fishing Oregon's Wild and Scenic John Day River

Submitted by Tim Au-Young - CFFU Programs Director

We are looking forward to the March General Meeting. Jim Cox, Director of Angling and Donor Relations, Western Rivers Conservancy will be presenting "Fly Fishing Oregon's Wild and Scenic John Day River".

In 30 years plus, Jim has worked in the non-profit sector. He is a member of many conservation groups which include Trout Unlimited, Fly Fishers International, Native Fish Society, The Freshwater Trust and various fly-fishing clubs in Oregon.

"Sometimes to save a river, you have to buy it!"

Western Rivers Conservancy

FEBRUARY General Meeting Report - Michelle Workman

By Tim Au Young

If you did not have the opportunity to attend the February 5th General Meeting presentation "Activities to Support Salmon Runs in the Mokelumne River," you missed out. Michelle Workman (Supervising Fisheries and Wildlife Biologist at East Bay Mud, Lodi Office) presented a great success story of how she oversees nine support staff to maintain current information on how best to manage salmon runs in the Mokelumne River, currently, and for the future.

From the rearing of eggs, and transporting the fingerlings, to maximizing their survival upon return, all were very key and interesting aspects of what Michelle oversees daily. Her ability to answer questions satisfied the membership, even with complicated and very involved/political answers.

As the supervising person responsible for the outcomes, she also has to deal with the daily every day intricate details on how best to maintain Salmon survival with her staff. Graphs and statistics verified her efforts.

On the other hand, she has to deal with water conditions, both quantity and quality, all of which she basically does not control.

She did share the Mokelumne River successes for the last past 3-4 years have surpassed past years of steelhead and salmon runs! So maybe her efforts are making a difference! WOO WHO!

Thank you, Michelle, for a jam-packed presentation on one of Sacramento's Central Valley Rivers, the Mokelumne River, and what EBMUD is doing to preserve and successfully maintain Salmon runs currently, and for the future.

Last but not least, it was the early days that Michelle spent in the Mokelumne Wilderness with her father who instilled the passion and love for the out of doors, that Michelle continues to share with her family currently. So, it does make a difference to be out of doors and sharing this wild outside world of wilderness, water, and the environment with this generation of people for the next generation to come.

Message from the CFFU President - Mary Ellen Mueller

Opportunities!

Opportunities. That is what I have been thinking about. Giving opportunities and getting opportunities. CFFU provides so many of both. For instance, I thoroughly enjoyed greeting my first CFFU Orientation class and was so delighted with all the new folks. Such enthusiasm and energy. Of particular note was new member Pam. When asked what her reason was for joining our club she responded that her daughter was engaged to be married to a fly fisherman. She wanted to do this to develop a bond with her soon to be son-in-law! How absolutely precious. How can we not provide this woman with this most special OPPORTUNITY? How privileged we are to make this happen for her. I also met Father and Son new members, Husbands and Wives and Women wanting to experience something new and different. I loved it, and promised them that we can deliver! That's the giving of opportunity. The getting…well besides the joy of giving, each of them brings new information about places to go and fishing tips. We had a few new members who have even done some guiding! As a club our best asset is getting to learn and share with each other enriching our lives, learning new things and getting in lots and lots of fishing with some new fishing buddies. Fish on Everyone!!

Mary Ellen with a Pyramid Lake Lahontan cutthroat trout.

The February Social was reminiscent of grade school show-and-tell. About 20 members attended. It was a great mixture of old timers and new members. The potluck food was fantastic and after we stuffed ourselves, we began to share some of our favorite fly-fishing accessories. Even the old-time fishers learned something new. Who would have thought of using a shoe horn to get our sticky neoprene wading socks into our wading boots!

Fly Fishing LINGO

DEAD DRIFT

A term applied to the way that artificial flies must drift with the current to appear natural. This requires that the fly line, leader and tippet move with the fly and not cause unnatural drag or a "v" that will result in most fish refusing the fly.

MIDGE

Midge - a term properly applied to the small Dipterans (True Flies) that trout feed on. Many people call them gnats. Adult's appearance is similar to mosquitoes. Midges have two wings that lie in a flat "V" shape over the back when at rest. They are also known as "the fly fisher's curse" because of their small size and trout's affinity to feeding upon them. The term "midge" is sometimes loosely applied (and incorrectly so) when referring to small mayflies. The are commonly called Chironomids due to the family Chironomidae

DONATIONS TO CFFU LOANER PROGRAM

By Laurie Banks

I want to thank Trevor Segelke, our outings director, for contacting some of his connections and explaining our Loaner Program* to them. To support our efforts Moonshine Rod Company donated a beautiful 3-weight 7' 6" Drifter fly rod.

Daniel Galhardo founder of Tenkara USA donated 3 rods, the Iwana, Hane and Sato. We greatly appreciate their donations. For information on these companies their websites are listed below.

NOTE: The CFFU Board of Directors voted to create a Loaner Program. The purpose is to allow members to experience a wide range of fishing. Most club members own a 5-weight outfit but if they want to experience fishing that calls for special equipment (small or large rods, float tubes etc.) they could check out equipment from our Loaner Program. They could then decide if that style of fishing suits them before making another large investment.

If you have gently used items, you would like to donate please bring them to our General Meetings. See Laurie at the Raffle Table. Remember your donations are tax deductible.

MoonShine Rod Co.

DONATED: 3-weight 7' 6" Drifter fly rod.

MOONSHINE Rods Website LINK

TENKARA USA - DONATIONS TO LOANER PROGRAM

IWANA™

Tankara USA Website LINK

12ft (360cm)
Includes CASE The Iwana has become our classic all-around rod at a great value. It feels very light-weight and precise. The progressive taper, ultra-light weight, and tip action provides for great battles, even when hooking the smaller fish. Quality and strength are by no means compromised, and landing large fish is not unheard of (8lbs mentioned on a forum thread!). If you are going to streams where 12 inch trout are trophies this is the rod.

SPECS:
NOTE: Due to the telescopic nature of the rods, and the fact that we rounded the numbers to have a clean metric-to-English conversion, rod lengths may vary slightly from indicated.
Closed size: 20 1/2 inches (52cm) including 1/2” cap
Segments: 9
Handle length: 11 inches (23cm)
Weight:2.7oz (76.5grams)

HANE

10ft10in (330cm)
Includes CASE The Hane (pronounced like "huh - nay") is a super compact all-around Tenkara rod that will quickly become your favorite adventure rod. Measuring just under 15 inches when collapsed, but extending to 10ft 10in (330cm), the Hane fits nicely inside a small day pack, making this a superb Tenkara rod for backpacking, bikefishing and other adventures. Whether you are targeting trout or bass, the Hane was designed to work well in your mountain streams as well as your urban fishing outings. It's a rod that can tag along in a variety of conditions without compromising durability.

SPECS:
Weight: 3.5 oz (100 g);
Closed length: 15” (38cm)
Open lengths: 10’10” (330cm)*
Handle length:8” (20.5cm)
Segments: 12

SATO™

Triple Zoom 10’8”/ 11’10”/12’9”
The Tenkara USA Sato™ rod is named after Mr. Ernest Satow, an avid mountaineer who was the first person to make a written record of Tenkara. The Sato is a compact and lightweight Tenkara rod. At its shorter length it is perfect for tighter streams, and at its full length it will be ideal when the stream opens up again or when you find a bigger pool to cast your fly.

SPECS:
Weight: 2.6 oz (73.7 g);
Closed length: 22 3/4”(57.78cm);
Open lengths: 10’8”/ 11’10”/12’9” (330/360/390cm)*;
Handle length:10 ½”(26.7cm);
Segments: 9

Interview - Christie Roberts

By Laurie Banks

I walked into Christie Roberts' house and sat down by her fly-tying desk. She was just finishing tying four dozen midges, sizes 18 and 20, for a friend in Sturgis, South Dakota.

Laurie: Congratulations on earning your Bronze fly tying award from Fly Fishers International. From what I understand this is quite intensive. What must you do to enter this challenge?

CHRISTIE: You need to tie a total of 24 flies. They have five required patterns and three are your choice. For each pattern you submit three identical flies.

Laurie: Which flies did you choose?

CHRISTIE: Copper John, Pheasant Tail and the Spasmodium 235. I was taking a chance on that one because it wasn't a standard fly and there isn't a video to tell you how to make it. I reverse engineered it until I got it right.

Laurie: After you tie them what do you do?

CHRISTIE: You send them into an evaluator. They evaluate them and then send them to one other member of the review team. I sent mine to Jim Ferguson. Then he sent them to Al Beatty who concurred with his score. Al gave me a phone call to tell me the good news. It was exciting! Then he sent me a long evaluation over email.

Laurie: Can I see it?... Al writes, "Your flies prove to me that you have the skills to tie a great looking fly." It must feel good to hear that!

CHRISTIE: I know. I was surprised since I've only been tying about 4 years. Jim Berdan, Rob Scafe and Jeff Stephens are the other three members of our club who are bronze award recipients. It's kind of cool to be tying with the big boys. Rob really encouraged me and said I wouldn't have a problem passing. Every time Jim Berdan would see me, he'd ask if I sent my flies in to be evaluated yet.

Laurie: What was the hardest part of the bronze challenge?

Christie Roberts at the vice

CHRISTIE: Believe it or not the Woolley Bugger was. The number of wraps and gaps had to be perfectly identical on each fly. It had to be very precise. Consistency is the key; that's what the award program teaches you.

> "Your flies prove to me that you have the skills to tie a great looking fly."
>
> Al Beatty

Laurie: I Looked on the FFI website. Only 8 of the 94 international award recipients are women. You are only the 2nd woman from California.

CHRISTIE: Huh! I didn't realize that.

Laurie: Here's another fun fact. If you go on to the silver level, you will be the only woman in the state of California to accomplish that. So, do you think you are going to give it a try?

CHRISTIE: Reading Al's evaluation of my flies gave me more confidence. I've looked at the flies you need to tie at the silver level, I've read the recipes and watched the videos. They seem more challenging, but I think I'll give it a try.

Laurie: Do you have any advice for someone just learning to tie?

CHRISTIE: Practice, practice, practice. Start over if it doesn't look right. You Tube has been very helpful.

Laurie: How did you get started tying and become so good so quickly?

CHRISTIE: My grandfather tied his own flies and I would watch him. Every day he would tie a different fly and then go fish with it. I didn't tie back then, but I put it on my bucket list. I took Jim Berdan's tying class and look up to him as my mentor. I've gotten a lot of support from the OTTERS.

Laurie: You also have your own line of

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Interview with CHRISTIE ROBERTS - continued

jewelry. Do you think some of the skills used in jewelry making transfer to fly tying?

CHRISTIE: Perhaps. I've always had good dexterity with my hands.

Laurie: Any comments about fishing with your flies?

CHRISTIE: It was great that many of you fished for the Heritage Trout Challenge with my parachute ants. Dave Lentz sent me a photo of a Golden Trout with my ant in its mouth.

Laurie: What's your favorite fly to tie?

CHRISTIE: Oh boy, there are so many. The hex nymph with the gills down the side was interesting. I had the material list but no recipe. I had to reverse engineer it and figure it out from the picture. I found a photo of the actual Hexagenia mayfly, that helped too.

Laurie: You are good at picking perfect feathers and fur. I remember you told me you lived in Alaska for years. You probably know more about fur than 90% of our club members.

CHRISTIE: I lived there for 13 years. I was a fur dealer for 4 years. I bought and sold furs and sent them out to be tanned. I also designed and made clothing for Yukon Quest and the Iditarod.

> "You are a role model for other women in our club who want to start tying their own flies."

Laurie: Besides being a frequent demonstration tyer at our monthly meetings, and quarterly contributor to the Fly of the Month in CFFU's monthly newsletter, you and your husband Michael are also the CFFU librarians and coordinate CFFU's participation in the Fulton/El Camino Parks Department Fishing Derby. What motivated you to get so involved with CFFU?

CHRISTIE: My name is service; it's who I am and what I do. CFFU is a very service-oriented club. There are lots of opportunities to share and help.

Laurie: Tell me something about you that not many people know.

CHRISTIE: I'm a Master Reiki practitioner and do therapeutic massages.

Laurie: Well, that might explain how you can tie so many flies without your hands getting tired! Thanks so much for spending time with me. You are a role model for other women in our club who want to start tying their own flies.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Christie Roberts for earning the FFI Bronze Award for Fly Tying.

Mary Ellen and Paul breaking ice...with a picnic bench and a rope!

Breaking Ice at High Hill

(Yes, we caught trout!!!)

Laurie, Mary Ellen, and Meloney in the snow.

Conservation - THE EEL RIVER: CALIFORNIA'S ICONIC STEELHEAD/SALMON STREAM

By Keith Pfeifer - CFFU Conservation Director

In the 1950's through early 1970's, the Eel River was a Northern California fly fishing mecca for steelhead and salmon. Water diversions, logging (i.e clear cutting), road building, surface mining, severe winter storms and massive flooding, invasive fish species and more recently marijuana cultivation, all lead to the eventual decline of the river's anadromous fish populations.

The Eel River is one of the largest watersheds in California. The main stem flows nearly 200 miles before it empties into the Pacific Ocean at Fortuna. The drainage consists of the South Fork, North Fork, main stem, Van Duzen River and many tributaries covering over 3,600 square miles. The most significant ecosystem through which the Eel flows is the giant coastal redwood forests, which provide riverbank stabilization, a shade canopy and river habitat for the fish from fallen trees.

Historically, the Eel River was part of the Six Rivers Nation, which was the home of the Wiyot Native Americans. Originally, the river was called Wiyot, which means "abundance", in their native language. As with all tribes along the Northern California coast, the Wiyot people were sustained by salmon and the Pacific lamprey. In the 1800s when miners and trappers began visiting this area, they considered the abundant lamprey to be an "eel", leading to the current name of this river.

The early 20th century in California saw a huge boom in dam building and massive water diversions that are still present today throughout the northern coastal range (except the Smith River) and the entire Sierra Nevada mountains. In 1900, the Potter Valley Project (The Project) was started in the headwaters of the Eel River. At a point just north of Potter Valley, the upper Eel River comes

Eel River Drainage

Map courtesy of Friends of Eel River

within two miles of the headwaters of the Russian River's East Fork, separated by a narrow ridge and just 475 feet below the Eel. A mile long tunnel and a series of pipes carried Eel water to a small powerhouse that generated electricity for the town of Ukiah. Water was initially stored behind 63-foot Cape Horn Dam, but subsequently, 130-foot Scott Dam was added, forming Lake Pillsbury, a reservoir that provided year-round power generation. This project also provided a water source for the farmers and ranchers in Potter Valley, and eventually resulted in a network of canals that transformed a once dry cattle and hay valley into a diverse lush agricultural region growing wine grapes, fruits and grasses. In addition, this diverted Eel River water is the primary source of the East Fork of the Russian River that flows through Sonoma County and sustains Lake Mendocino, the primary source of drinking water for residents along the Russian River from Redwood Valley to Healdsburg.

The demand for good lumber increased dramatically after World War II. Old-growth coastal redwood trees were clear-cut, resulting in a barren landscape of roads and machinery. The soil was unstable, and sedimentation of tributaries and upper river channels was prevalent. In the lower Eel River valley and the estuary, much of the fertile land was

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levied to become pastures for cows. The river substrate was further altered when mining operations began harvesting the gravel in the floodplain. By the 1950's, this once pristine ecosystem was beginning to "unravel", resulting in a rapid decline in the fish populations.

In 1955, a strong winter storm caused flooding that severely impacted the timber along the Eel River. However, in 1964 the "storm of the century" hit Northern California, and the movement of sediment in this river system was unprecedented. The substrate structure and stratification in the lower Eel was permanently altered.

In the 1950's and 1960's there were still sufficient numbers of salmon and steelhead in the Eel to attract fisherman from the Bay Area to try their skills with flies or conventional gear. During these decades, a steelhead fishing culture arose along the Northern California coast, encompassing all the small streams (e.g. Lagunitas Creek, Marin County) and the major rivers (e.g. Russian and Smith).

Periodic drought years in the 1970's and 1980's only further exasperated the anadromous fisheries on the Eel. An unknown source planted the invasive Sacramento pike-minnow in Lake Pillsbury. Unfortunately, this fish got into the lower forks of the Eel River and once established, became a major predator of small salmon, steelhead and the Pacific lamprey, adding to their decline.

An attempt was made in the 1990's to help restore the numbers of salmon and steelhead through hatchery programs; however, the facilities were destroyed by another devastating flood. Illegal marijuana cultivation and the diversion of water in the upper Eel watershed further impacted the ability of salmon and steelhead to spawn and survive in limited water of increasing temperature. Eventually, in the 2000's coho salmon were listed as endangered and steelhead as threatened. Catch and release regulations were enacted in the lower river, and the upper watershed was closed to all fishing.

Image courtesy of Friends of Eel River

Starting in 2010 there was some renewed optimism by local citizens, Fish and Wildlife scientists and conservation groups that the numbers of Eel River salmon and steelhead were increasing, primarily as a result of improved timber practices, water control and habitat enhancement. In 2012, California Trout (CalTrout) established the Eel River Forum, a diverse group of regulators, scientists, tribes, environmental advocates, landowners and timber and hydropower companies, to prioritize the environmental issues of this watershed and to establish a comprehensive recovery program.

The Eel River Recovery Project and the California Department of Fisheries and Wildlife conducted visual fish surveys to establish population estimates for salmon and steelhead. In the past few years, these surveys estimated as many as 50,000 adult Chinook salmon had returned to their native stream. Not since the 1950s had this number of salmon been seen in this river.

CalTrout established an "estuary to headwaters" program to improve habitat throughout the Eel River watershed. In the estuary, CalTrout, along with local ranchers and other conservation groups, restored hundreds of acres of wetland marsh habitat that was critical for the survival of juvenile salmon and steelhead. Many migration barriers, such as decommissioned railroad lines, along the main stem of the river were identified and removed. In 2014, the 12-mile long Bridge Creek drainage was reconnected to the main stem Eel for the first time in 100 years. In the headwaters above Lake Pillsbury, Humboldt State University, with funding from CalTrout, identified hundreds of miles of habitat that had been unavailable to anadromous species for over 100 years. This information was critical to the relicensing process of The Project for supporting arguments to improve fish passage into the upper watershed or for the removal of Scott Dam at Lake Pillsbury.

In April 2017, PG&G notified the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

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THE EEL RIVER: continued

(FEREC) of its intent to renew its hydropower license for The Project, which included the Scott and Cape Horn Dams, the water diversion tunnels and the powerhouse. In conjunction with the FEREC relicensing process, an Ad Hoc Committee chaired by Congressman Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael), began a dialogue to discuss potential future scenarios for The Project. Committee members represented city, county, state and federal agencies, Native American Tribes, fishing groups, PG&G and conservation groups. They were divided into the Fish Passage Working Group or the Water Supply Working Group. In August 2018, the Working Groups released a statement of two co-equal proposed goals:

(1) Improve fish passage and habit on the Eel River sufficient to support recovery of naturally reproducing, self-sustaining and harvestable native anadromous fish populations, including migratory access upstream and downstream from current dam locations.

(2) Minimize or avoid adverse impacts to water supply reliability, fisheries, water quality and recreation in the Russian River and Eel River basins.

In January 2019, a letter to the FEREC from PG&E dramatically changed the regulatory dynamics, but not the overall goals of saving the Eel River salmon and steelhead. PG&G announced that it was withdrawing from the FEREC relicensing process, as well as its efforts to sell The Project. The fact that PG&G was losing money from this Project, plus their recent bankruptcy declaration were likely the primary reasons for this sudden action. As such, under FEREC's "Orphan Project" process, PG&G will continue to own and operate The Project in accordance with all the terms, conditions, laws, rules and regulations in the current Project license until a new license is issued or The Project is decommissioned, i.e. removed. As CalTrout's Executive Director, Curtis Knight, amply stated: "Although PG&E's withdrawal does affect the process, it will not change CalTrout's continued efforts to achieve a "two-basin" (Eel and Russian) solution. CalTrout has put our resources towards building a tangible plan that would remove Scott Dam and keep the water interests in the Russian River whole". For the sake of the salmon and steelhead, let's hope that future environmental goals and actions return this iconic river to the great anadromous fishery of previous decades.

Fly Fishing 101

InstructorTim Landrus discusses equipment selection, flies, watercraft and safety in part 2 of the Fly Fishing 101 class.

Ask the Angler - Netting a Trophy Trout

By Denny Rickards
(used with permission)

When and if you are hanging onto that fish of a lifetime or any trophy trout you've been after for years, a lot of fish are broken off on the set or when you try to net them. Some key points to remember:

1). Never challenge a big fish right after the hook-set. Give them what they want, but keep the pressure on them. That means keeping pressure on them, but not enough to allow them to go where they want to go without earning it. It's a fine line, but if you try to stop them, you lose most of the time.

2). When the trout begins to yield and come towards you, he's not done, but merely allowing himself to give till it realizes what is going on. At that point, a big trout will usually bolt in another direction and you need to yield at that point or again, you lose.

Stillwater specialist Denny Rickards netting a trophy trout.

3). Once the fish starts to float near the surface or is moving slowly from side to side, get ready to net, always head first, never bringing the net up from behind. That trout of a lifetime has one gear and it's forward, they don't back up when trying to gain their freedom.

Always expect a big trout to bolt when he sees you or an object entering the water. Their actions are instinctive and expect them to test you. Do it right and there will be someone there to take your picture before you release that special trout.

Please Support our Sponsors

Alaska's Bearclaw Lodge website

Val Adams Website Link

Tech Thursday - Captain Andy Guibord

By Jeff Stephens

Tech Thursday for February featured Captain Andy Guibord who talked about fishing our local waters. We called the class "Pick the Guide's Brain". A lot of great questions were asked and answered. Again, it was well attended with 28 members present. I think everyone got their fishing questions answered. Andy also demonstrated some fly tying tips.

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Kiene's EST. 1984 Fly Fishing

Link to Kiene's website

L3 Rods
www.L3rods.com
Custom Fishing Rods, Supplies and Classes
Larry L. Lee
5645 St. Claire Way
Citrus Heights, CA 95621
web: www.L3rods.com
email: L3rods@gmail.com
Cell/Text: (916) 601-7853

Link to Larry Lee's website

Vintage Fly Corner - The Irresistible

Submitted by Christie Roberts

The Irresistible is a standard dry-fly pattern since the early 1930's created by Joe Messenger, Sr. originally called "Night Hoverer" or a "Grey Drake." Thus imitating a female egg-laden Drake fly. In the 1940's a fisherman from Canada ordered more flies and said "The trout up here in Canada find this to be …Irresistible" and ordered more. Joe, Sr. hence made the name change and it stuck.

This deer-hair drake pattern is unusual because of the color deviation of the deer hair used for the body in a technique that separates the lateral line of belly and upper body of the fly—white on belly and dun on top. This technique was a basic difference that made this fly stand out from any other spun deer-hair flies. The claret hackle and deer hair wings makes it easier to see on the water. Use this fly in fast flat turbulent or big water.

Joe, Sr. began tying flies while in the service in WWI. Later he began to "fish by day and draw [bugs] and tie flies at night." Simple as it may sound, this is a challenging fly to tie. The directions in article were hard to follow and the video was more clearly shown how to accomplish the body technique.

This fly has been used all over the world to catch fish for nearly 90 years and found to be "irresistible."

Materials	
Hook:	TMC 5262 or Mustad 7957B, size 8-16
Thread:	8/0 or UTC 70 and size A rod winding thread white
Tail:	white tail deer hair neck (I used compendium deer hair)
Body:	white and dun deer belly hair
Wings:	white tail deer hair neck (same hair as tail)
Legs:	claret "wine" colored hackle (custom made) (I used a dark red hackle)

SOURCE: *Information taken from You Tube video of Joe Messenger Jr., from* ***Trout and Feather*** *an interview and a magazine article ("Simply Irresistible" by Joe Messenger,* ***American Angler****, May-June 1991 pp 54-57, 63).*

Please Support our Sponsors

SCRIBNER BEND VINEYARDS

Link to Scribner Bend Website

MARCH Fly of the Month - Balanced Pyramid Lake Tui Chub

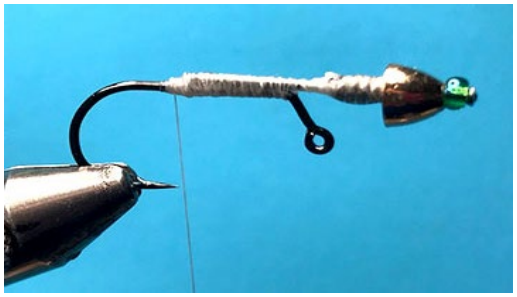
Submitted by Christie Roberts

Background: The Tui Chubs are the dominant fish of Pyramid Lake in number and biomass. They are the main prey species for Lahontan cutthroat trout and their annual recruitment is an important indicator of the overall ecosystem health of the lake. They tend to be dusky olive, brown, or brassy on the back and white to silver on the belly. The younger the fish, the more silvery the body color. ***(From Pyramid Lake Fisheries)***

Materials	
Hook:	S555 Jig hook (90-degree bend) Or S500 BN (60 degree bend) Size 6-14
Thread:	White GSP 50
Head:	#10/11 seed bead Tungsten Cone head (small or medium) Dressmakers Pin (size 17—1 1/16" (27mm) .030 lead or non-lead wire
Tail:	Olive marabou -2 strands flashabou
Abdomen:	Pearl UV Ice Dub
Body:	Olive marabou - Pearl UV Krystal Flash
Thorax:	Pearl UV Ice Dub - Olive Brown UV Ice Dub

You Tube Tying Video - LINK

Balanced Pyramid Lake Tui Chub

STEP	IMAGE	TYING INSTRUCTIONS
1.		**Photo 1:** **Step 1:** Smash barb on hook. Cut dressmakers pin to about 3/4" long (depending on size of hook) smaller if using a smaller hook size. Place seed bead then cone head on dressmakers head pin (this creates the "balanced" head pin). **Tip:** file sharp cut end of pin to avoid cutting thread while tying fly. **Step 2:** Tie on "balanced" head pin on top of hook leaving approx. ½" extending beyond eye of hook. (Approx. ½ hook shank length) **Step 3**: Use lead wire (or non-lead) on balance pin 6 turns. Jam into cone head to stabilize it. Wrap thread several times through lead wire. Use "zap a gap" or head cement over threads and lead wire covered with thread. Let dry.
2.		**Photo 2:** Take thread to back of hook and place a small amount of marabou (1/2 of tail) the length of total hook shank and head pin. Add 2 strands of flashabou doubled over into tail section. Trim flashabou to the end of marabou tail. Add other ½ of marabou tail on top of hook same length as first section. **Tip:** Sparse is better. Use small portions for the better minnow appearance.

Balanced Pyramid Lake Tui Chub - continued

STEP	IMAGE	TYING INSTRUCTIONS
3.		**Photo3:** Abdomen: Dub on Pearl Ice Dub from about a 2-inch noodle. Wrap forward.
4.		**Photo 4:** Add a small amount of Olive marabou on top of hook. Add 2 strands of Krystal Flash folded over. Trim out to end of tail section. Rotate hook and place a small amount of marabou on bottom of hook covering hook point to bend in hook. Rotate vise to upside position.
5.		**Photo 5:** Create a dubbing loop: Wax thread. Use Pearl Ice Dub. Spin well and brush out. Teasing fibers to back as you spin noodle onto hook up to hook eye. Tie off dubbing loop.
6.		**Photo 6:** Create another dubbing loop. Wax thread. Place Pearl Ice Dub in noodle about 1" to 1 ½" then place Olive Brown Ice Dub under Pearl in same dubbing noodle to make color differentiation for Thorax/head. Tie off dubbing loop. Whip finish 3 to 4 turns two times. Seat thread well.

Balanced Pyramid Lake Tui Chub - continued		
STEP	**IMAGE**	**TYING INSTRUCTIONS**
7.		**Photo 7:** Tip: Before whip finish place small amount of "Zap a Gap" on thread and make 3-4 turns behind cone before whip finishing is completed behind cone head.
8.		**Photo 8:** The finished fly.

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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 to reject any article or image that does not meet the Editorial Guidelines.

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Banner Image

Adult Skwala stonefly complete with egg ball. Photo by Ken W. Davis.

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