

On the Fly

Official Newsletter of California Fly Fishers Unlimited, a 501c(3) Non-profit - July 2018



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Interview with Bill Ozawa



Bill Ozawa at Lake Amador with a nice rainbow. Jake Mater image.

By Laurie Banks

Laurie: I understand you had an unusual childhood.

Bill: During WW2 my family was sent to the relocation camp with one week's notice and one suitcase per person. My family (I'm the youngest and was only about 1½ at this time) lived in the stables at the Santa Anita Racetrack before being sent first to Manzanar, CA; and later to Rowher, Arkansas. After the war ended, we moved to Chicago, IL, but my father didn't like the cold, so we returned to east Los Angeles.

Laurie: Have you been fishing all your life?

Bill: Most of it! My oldest brother taught me and my other brother how to make our first fishing tackle when I was five years old. He

showed us how to bend a straight pin into a hook and tie it to sewing thread. We added a cork and attached the whole thing to a stick. With Wonder Bread doughballs as bait, we caught a lot of blue gill at Hollenbeck Park in east Los Angeles!

Laurie: What did you do for a living?

Bill: I went to USC dental school and got my degree in general dentistry and I practiced for a couple of years; then applied for the oral & maxillofacial surgery program and returned to school for a three-year residency at USC and LA County – USC Medical Center, graduating in 1970. After graduation I had a couple of associateships in Los Angeles, then opened

[Continued on page 3](#)

JULY MEETING CANCELED!

GO FISHING (and send images)

CFFU Calendar - JULY 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](#)

JULY	EVENT	INFORMATION LINK
3	General Meeting CANCELED	CANCELED
14	Parkway Clean-up	Parkway Clean-up
24	Tech Thursday (TUESDAY): Entomology & BBQ	Tech Thursday LINK
17-20	Outing: Yosemite	Outing LINK
26-29	Outing: Yosemite	Outing LINK

MARK YOUR CALENDAR - MAJOR EVENTS

October 13	President's Outing	President's Outing
November 11	Annual Fundraising Dinner	Annual Dinner

ABBREVIATED EDITION - JULY 2018

Editor's Note: Many members are on the road to fishing destinations and visiting families. The August On-the Fly Edition will feature two "Flies of the Month," a full report about the incredible Hex Hatch trip to Lake Almanor, a bug feature on Hexagenia, and much more. Be safe on the water, catch lots of fish and send pictures and stories for the members to enjoy!



HEXAGENIA ADULT - LAKE ALMANOR

Continued: Interview with Bill Ozawa

my own oral surgery practice in Mission Viejo, CA. We moved to Placerville in 1978, and I practiced here until I retired in 1998. Both of my kids had graduated from college, so it was time for some serious fishing!

Laurie: You joined CFFU in 1996 and are a 20+ year member. How did you get started in fly fishing?

Bill: I bought a Pflueger reel and fiberglass rod shortly after Elaine and I got married 53 years ago, but I never really fished with it. Around 1985, we spent two summer vacations at a dude ranch near Jackson Hole, WY, and host Roy Chambers was an avid fly fisherman. He helped me get started, catching Rocky Mountain cutthroat and whitefish. Later, my patient Charles Coleman (one of the CFFU founders) invited me to join the club. He died shortly after I joined, but he used to tell me stories about how he and Lee Wolfe tied flies with a hook, thread, and feathers – and no vise!

Laurie: Do you prefer fishing lakes or rivers?

Bill: We used to spend summers near Vail, CO, so I really liked fishing Eagle River and Gore Creek. Locally, I liked the east fork of Carson River. Now that I'm older, and a little more unsteady

on my feet, it's harder to navigate the streams, so I do more lake fishing with a float tube or a pontoon boat. One of my favorite local places is Lake Amador. While the water has changed over the last couple of years, you still have a really good chance of landing a two- to five-pound fish. They have a new stocking program where they're planting bigger fish, which are a lot of fun to catch.

Laurie: If you could only use one fly, what would it be?

Bill: Probably a Jay Fair wiggle tail in olive or black size 14-10 tied on a short shank hook. Jay's son Glen Fair is a real great guy. If you have a chance to watch him tie, do it.

Laurie: Tell me a few of your most memorable fishing stories.

Bill: I was fishing Pyramid Lake with Jake Mater. It was warm weather and we were in our float tubes by the launch ramp. We had each caught about 10 - 15 fish in a very short time when some guy tells us that we're not supposed to fish within 250 feet of the ramp. No wonder we were having such good luck – no one was fishing there!

Last year the water was really high on the Eagle River (CO), so I hired a guide to float the river. I had a big fish on a

dry fly, we were approaching a rapid at the end of the run, and we hit a wave. The boat stopped, but I didn't! I fell over the bow, and into the river – and as I came up, I grabbed on to anything I could, which ended up being one of the oars. The guide kept saying I had to let go because he couldn't row! I ended up losing my hat and glasses and twisting my back...and going home early.

Laurie: I'm beginning to see why you like lake fishing. Any last thoughts?

Bill: I love to fish. After I retired, I tried to fish one day a week. That's getting more difficult now, especially to fish all year. Places I used to really enjoy like Indian Creek and the East Fork of the Carson aren't fishing as well as they used to. The water is either too high or low, and there are more people fishing in a limited area. We have some really great people in the club who are willing to share their knowledge. I learned a lot about fishing from Dell Clark.

Laurie: Thanks Bill! I so enjoyed talking to you and hearing your stories!

Club members: Bill often posts over the listserv when he is going to fish Lake Amador. Look for his emails. I for one, can't wait to go fishing with him!!



June Speaker - Ken Hanley

By Trevor Segelke



Ken W. Davis image

Ken has been a friend to CFFU for some time. For those who already knew him it was like meeting an old friend. To the rest of us who got to visit with him, it was also like being united with an old friend.

Ken shared with us his expertise about Large Mouth Bass Fishing. From the difference of anatomy of a Bass and, how that changes the approach to targeting this fish, to some history. He shared with us information on tactics, tackle, feeding behaviors, and areas to find them. Most memorably, Ken shared his passion for our sport.

Thanks to Ken Hanley for coming to spend time with us at our June meeting.

Memo from the CFFU President - Dave Lentz

Greetings CFFU—

While we are skipping this month's gathering, there are still opportunities to participate with CFFU. We need a good showing for our next American River Clean-up on Saturday, July 14. This is a long-standing service we provide to the community, to the American River parkway, and it counts toward earning your President's Pin. Our beloved "Trashmeister", Bill Felts will keep you posted on the list serve about this valuable activity. Our Coachman Mentor, Paul Wisheropp is organizing an opportunity to teach some fly fishing basics to campers at Camp Sacramento in July and will need some CFFU folks willing to share their skills. Stay tuned to the List Serve for more on these events—you are needed to make them happen.

You won't want to miss the annual Entomology BBQ in July—learning and eating—something we CFFUers are really

Dave at Pyramid Lake!



good at. And it is fun without a doubt. And as you take advantage of all great opportunities to fish this month—and this is a great time especially for trout fishing in the high country—keep in mind that CFFU needs you to join in the fine service, fun events, and conservation efforts that we support. If you want to

know more about how you can help, let me know. We are looking for members to help the Board next year, too. I'm going to rest my Haiku-flyku this month but feel free to share yours with Newsletter team—Ken Davis and Laurie Banks. 

ENTOMOLOGY WORKSHOP - TUESDAY JULY 24TH



CFFU Members looking for still-water invertebrates near Watt Ave before the BBQ

Annual Entomology Class and Barbecue- TUESDAY, July 24th. Interested in learning more about aquatic insects? Join us for our annual entomology lab/barbecue under the Watt Avenue Bridge and discover what the fish are dining on! The Entomology class is taught by Ken Davis, an aquatic biologist, and CFFU member. It will help you identify what

aquatic insects may be residing in the American River. This will be followed by in-the-water bug collecting. The in-the-water activity will be followed by a barbecue: hamburgers, hotdogs and delicious potluck foods brought by all - appetizers, salads, or dessert. The cost is \$10 for the hamburgers/dogs and beverage.

Because we will have no General Meeting in July there is no sign-up sheet. If you would like to attend the barbecue please reply to Jeff Stephens ffjeff4@aol.com so we know how much food to buy. You can pay the \$10 at the barbeque. Don't hesitate to call Jeff (916) 838-7513 if you have any questions. Hope to see you there! 

Yuba River Outing

By Mike Wigginton



Thanks for a great outing!



Rico Quarles hooked up with his first trout on a fly rod.

On Saturday, June 2nd and Sunday, June 3rd CFFU had the opportunity to use the UC Sierra Foothills Research Station to access the Yuba River below Englebright Dam. This was originally scheduled for early March but the week before heavy rains came raising the flows and muddying the water so we were forced to postpone. The week before the June trip, the flow was a little high but the water was clear. As the trip approached the flows began to drop about a 100

cfs per day and on Saturday the flows had reached around 2000 cfs and the river looked good. Saturday's group of 27 members hooked close to 40 fish while landing around 30 on everything from streamers to dry flies. Almost everyone that attended Saturday at least got a hook up including Rico Quarles who landed his first trout on a fly rod. Saturday was some of the best fishing I've seen on the Yuba River in a long time. Sunday turned more typical for the

8 of us with the fish turning picky. Some fish were caught on stonefly nymphs (the big fish of the trip) and Fox's Poopah but most came from small dry flies that had to match the hatch as well as have a good presentation.

Even though it was hot both days it appears that everyone had a good time and everyone ate well thanks to Jeff Stephens working the BBQ and all the great side dishes. 🐟



FLY FISHING SPECIALTIES
Wild Rivers to Blue Waters

6360 Tupelo Drive, Citrus Heights, CA 95621

[Link to Fly Fishing Specialties Website](#)

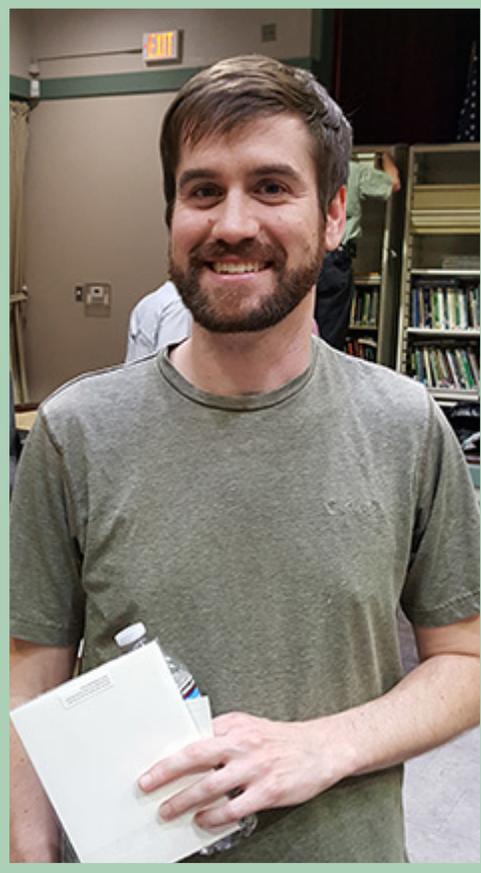
Fuller Lake Report - Rich Kendall

We had another outing to Fuller Lake on June 9th. There were 21 hearty souls who made the trek up I-80 to this High Sierra lake sitting at about 5200' in elevation. Although the water level was a bit low, we all jumped in our gear and headed out onto the water. While asking around to our members to see what was working and who was catching, it became very clear a certain grandson

of Ken Giesser's was on the fish hard. I believe by 8:30 Matt already had 15 to the net. In talking with others by the end of the day most members seemed to have caught some fish while just about everyone had some bumps throughout the day. Rainbows and German Browns were the fish caught. The average size seemed to be a bit longer this year than in the past. The wind blew in the clouds

and the cold as the day went on, so we all enjoyed a nice lunch and time to chat. There was a nice mix of new and old members. Stories were told, flies discussed and tacos eaten. Thank you to Craig McCulloch for putting on the float tube clinic and discussion. Thanks to those who trekked up to make this outing a fun experience for all. Get out on the water this summer! 

Bittner Winner



Congratulations to CFFU's 2018 Bittner Scholarship winner Peter Moniz. His project is to research and determine ways to restore and protect river habitat for juvenile salmon and trout.

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[Link to Scribner Bend Website](#)

June Social - Swinging Flies



Wednesday graced us with a beautiful night to try swinging flies on the American River. Thanks to Forrest Oldham for sharing his knowledge with us. We fished until dark (notice I said fished, not caught) then headed over to Perkos to enjoy a great meal and lively conversations.



River Tips - Try This

From Craig McCulloch:

"I have a small tip to make it easier to remove your waders. Put your sock-covered feet into plastic bags like those in the vegetable section of grocery stores before putting your feet into the waders. It makes it much easier to take the waders off."



[Tackle Shop Website Link](#)

Vintage Fly Corner - The Gray Ghost

By Rob Scafe



Here is my feeble attempt to tie the Carrie Stevens Gray Ghost. Carrie's acceleration to fame came when she netted a record 6 pound 13 ounce Brook Trout on a Rangeley region streamer and finished in 2nd place in Field and Stream's fishing contest in 1924. There has been much written about Carrie Stevens and I will make no attempt to do my write up justice. The Gray Ghost is her signature fly and propelled her to become a pre-eminent streamer fly tier by the 1930s and is credited with many patterns as the attached chart shows. For 30 years she and her guide husband, Wallace, lived in a little cottage not far from the waters, Upper Dam Pool tailrace that connects Mooselookmeguntic and the Richardson lakes in Maine. Over the years from 1920 to 1970 she tied many streamers for friends and customers including bass and saltwater patterns. Mike Valla's **The Founding Flies** has a wonderful section about Carrie. He also references many other sources to learn more about her life and the patterns she tied. Someday I hope I can tie some of her files with more skill than I have today. 



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](#)

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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 Editor-
ial Guidelines.

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Banner Image

Coastal Cutthroat Trout from Little Jones Creek, a tributary
of the Smith River. Ken W. Davis image.

Ken Davis, Editor
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