



# CFFU NEWSLETTER

“Dedicated to Education,  
Conservation and the Art of Fly  
Fishing.” Established 1962

April-May 2020

## Monthly Newsletter

Mary Ellen Mueller, Editor

### Rumors

**Hello! Word around the water cooler** is that there is considerable interest in an “offroad” fishing group. According to Andy Penn, “Looks like we might have something going with the new ‘Reelin and Wheeling’ HOV group. There are a number of members who have HOVs and are interested in traveling via these to remote sites for fishing. If you are interested, contact Andy Penn for more details and get on the “list”. Andy’s email is [andypenn@frontier.net](mailto:andypenn@frontier.net).

Note there is another “off road group” ( BTW, looking for a more interesting group name) that uses their **two feet** to hike to back country fishing sites. Paul Wisheropp has taken many of us to some beautiful sites. You have to work for it but it is worth it!

Another rumor with legs is revitalizing the fly tiers exchange. Both Tim Au-Young and Don Wallace are looking for a head count for folks who are interested. Basically, besides honing your skills, the idea is to tie a dozen flies, give them and the recipe to Don and he will give you back 9 flies tied by other members. One of your flies is given to Jim Simon who will

photograph it and it will then be featured in the monthly newsletter. What about the other flies? They are donated to the annual dinner or raffles. If you submit flies you are entered into a quarterly drawing for a prize.

Also circulating are ideas for having a **video Tech Thursday** possibly tying shad flies and answering questions via Zoom. Still in the brainstorming phase, but I hope it works out!

### CFFU Activities

Most of our formal activities are still on COVID hiatus but we are still planning outings for the future, hoping the lockdown might be over or relaxed. As for some Trout Openers, Inyo, Mono, Alpine and Sierra Counties have postponed their openers until May 31. Check with the CDFW website for the latest info.

Paul Wisheropp has sent emails out about the **Yosemite** camping fishing trip. He has secured some camp sites on the following dates: **August** 16-19; **August** 23-26; and **September** 7-10. This trip fills up fast. so contact Paul if you are interested.

Some feelers are out looking into Fuller Lake, Independence Lake and Wrights Lake. If these trips materialize you will likely hear about them via CFFU group email.

**Christie Roberts** just tied for first place in the tying contest on the fly fishing Woman's Facebook page. There were about 20 entries for a nymph pattern. She tied the "Psycho Prince Nymph". Congratulations Christie!

### **Entomology Course**

Richard Hill was kind enough to let us know about a free course that is an Introduction to Insects. The link below is the first in a series. Thank you Richard.

<https://youtu.be/nlnN617Orlk>

### **Knot Tying Website**

Beverly Thomas suggested a knot tying website that she has found helpful. The link is <https://www.animatedknots.com/non-slip-mono-knot>

### **Cautionary Tale from Laurie Banks**

During this lockdown I have had plenty of time to plan our upcoming 2020 fishing trips. Ken and I are hoping to finish the 3<sup>rd</sup> and final level of the Western Native Trout Challenge by September. As I am reminiscing about last summer's adventures, I think back on our most memorable day...

Since Mary Ellen was asking for stories for the newsletter, I thought I'd share – even though it's pretty embarrassing and many of you have heard this before...

### **Don't Forget to Pinch Down Those Barbs - A Cautionary Tale**

By Laurie Banks

Last summer Ken and I were pursuing the Western Native Trout Challenge. We had already caught the species we needed in Alaska, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Nevada, and Idaho. Next, we drove to Butte, Montana to visit relatives. We stopped by a nearby pond that was included on the WNTC map. It was typical Montana weather, what started as a beautiful day rapidly changed and it began to rain. I had just changed my rig to a size 12 Green Weenie with a size 14 midge under an indicator. In less than a minute after casting, the indicator dove. It was a big fish, around 18 inches and fat. I landed him. Ken was across the pond, so I had to photograph it by myself. (For the WNTC documentation you must have a photograph showing the identifiable markings on the fish.)

I set my net down on the grass, to take the picture. With the net flattened the fish was able to roll out and slide back into the water. As it started to escape, I attempted to grab it, but only managed to hook my fingertip on the dropper midge. The fish headed for the center of the pond with the green weenie still in its mouth embedding the midge deep under my fingernail. It felt like a bee sting! Unable to steady the line with nippers, I bit the tippet with my teeth to free myself from the frantic fish. I got the fish back, got my photo and released the fish. Ken came over saw my finger and I asked him to remove the hook.



I've been nailed before by hooks at least a dozen times; in my lip, head, back, arm and hand and all were easily removed. But I found out that sensitive fingertips are a different story. Ken was going to use the reliable push down the eye and wrap tippet around the bend trick, but that didn't happen. The second he touched the hook eye the pain was incredible. Those densely packed nerve endings were on fire! I'm guessing I either didn't push down the barb all the way or just totally forgot to. That hook was lodged in tight.

We approach our fishing as a true team, and we don't leave a waterway until we each have our fish. Ken hadn't caught his Westslope yet, so I insisted we stay. After all, my finger only hurt if I bumped it. We fished for two more hours in the cold rain until darkness made us quit. I wanted to get my finger numbed before the hook was removed. The med clinics in Whitehall and Butte were all closed so we had no choice but to go to the emergency room in Butte. The doctor numbed my finger, gave me a tetanus shot and I was on my way.



By the way, we stopped back at the pond on our way to Wyoming and Ken caught a beauty. It wasn't until a few months later that I got a letter from the hospital in Butte. The cost for my visit? A whopping \$2,244! Luckily, my insurance covered all of it but \$195. Lesson learned. I will never ever forget to pinch down those barbs!

**“Remember when you asked that small business to support your fundraiser? It's time to support them. They are the heart of a town.”**

## What Are You Doing To Survive the Lockdown?

I asked our members to let me know how they are coping with the COVID-19 lockdown. Here are some responses:

### Mel Welborn



Hi Mary Ellen! This is my life: Everyday I hear an alarm so I don't wake up at noon. I make a list of all the things I should do, toss it aside and do things I love; walk the dogs, make breakfast, work in the garden and the never-ending backyard work, write, read and talk to family and friends. My granddaughter comes by almost everyday and we've experimented with extreme cooking. Some is edible. This pandemic is terrible but my life is pretty happy. Meloney

### Julie Kaye

Hi Mary Ellen. Per your request, here's what I do every morning (and have for over a year). I groom and assist in training harness race horses at Cal Expo. Three babies aged 2-3 years old. They don't care about COVID-19, only carrots!



### Andy Penn

Lock down with my family on Penn Ranch has not been bad. We slaughtered an Angus beef, harvested a couple of Wild Turkeys and Bass from our pond and planted a large garden. The only stock-up item bought was a large sack of flour, for our pizza oven!



### Jim Simon

Mary Ellen, My neighbor has a visiting hummingbird in her lipstick sage in front of her house, and I love taking hummer photos so I captured this one Friday.



**Mary Ellen Mueller**

I decided to include my coping strategies too. It is clear most of you are faring WAY BETTER than I.

**The Early Days**



**No TP, NO Problem!**

**Day 15**



**Discussing the merits of Fetch**



**versus Fishing.**

Day 500



**What's worse than finding a worm in your apple?**

**Finding half a worm!**

**Please Support Our Generous Sponsors:**

Note that fly shops are still providing services, such as Kiene's which will respond to mail order and phone orders. They will place your orders at the front door for pick-up. All our sponsors need our business in these hard times.

**Don't Care.**



**Whyyyy???**

**Stealth Photography by Winona Phillips**

