CFFU NEWSLETTER

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

Sept 2020

Intermittent Newsletter **Mary Ellen Mueller, Editor**

Congratulations!!

Our very own **Rob Scafe** received his Silver Award for Fly Tying skills from FFI this month. Rob is one of about 47 fly tiers listed on the FFI website. Well done Rob!

News from Pyramid Lake

Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe has new fee structures proposed. They invite comment on the proposed regulations. The proposals provide guidance for COVID-19 and permit fee increases of 150% (3 day passes would go from $31 to $77.50) if this passes. If you would like a copy, contact the Tribal Secretary's office at 775-574-1000. You may also send comments through October 3. Send comments to Tribal Secretary, P.O. Box 256, Nixon, NV 89424.

Note: As of this writing, there has yet to be an announcement of if, and when, the lake will be open to fishing.

Fifty-Four Years Together

An Anniversary Story by

Betty Pfeifer

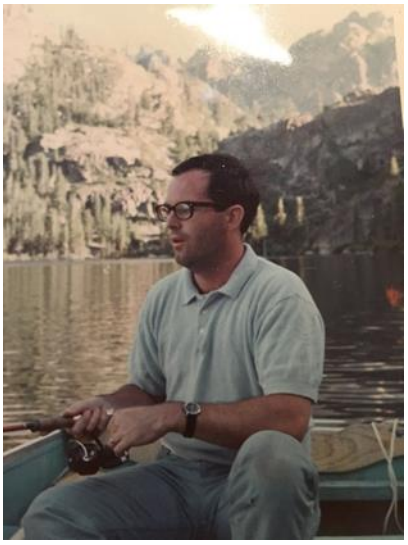
How do you celebrate your 54th wedding anniversary during the COVID-19 Pandemic?

A big celebration party was not possible, a trip to Hawaii was not possible, a backyard barbecue with friends and family was not possible, a fancy dinner at a restaurant was not possible. Mulling over all of the possibilities of a celebration I was surprised at my solution:

GO FLY FISHING!!!

After all, Keith and I spent our honeymoon in July 1966 staying at a lodge fishing and hiking in the Lakes Basin Area of the Sierras. Blissfully in love, I caught my first 13" trout on that fabulous vacation, enjoying the mountain fresh air and the sounds of rippling lake water and the roaring of fast water streams. I was hooked on Keith and fishing!!

Betty



Keith

So we decided to go to the Sierras and celebrate our 54th anniversary. We had already completed our first California Heritage Trout Challenge so we decided to catch another six native trout species for our second Heritage Trout Challenge. We would start in the southern Sierras in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Keith telephoned the closest ranger station and we learned that most of the campgrounds in the area were closed but Peppermint Creek Campground was open. No fires were allowed and we needed a permit obtained online for camp stoves. I packed our Ford Econo 250 Camper Van with five days of food and drink and off we went, headed to the southern high Sierras.

After 6 hours of driving from Davis, with the last two hours of winding, twisting Highway 190, we found the forest service road to Upper Peppermint Creek Campground. We drove another 2 to 3 miles on the dirt road to the campground when we discovered it was CLOSED. The vault toilets were pad locked, and the water was turned off. We hiked around the campground and checked out Peppermint Creek. It was beautiful, with crystal clear water and lots of pools and riffles; a trout heaven!

Since we couldn't camp in a campsite we turned around and drove back toward the main highway when we noticed an area off the dirt road with a picnic table and a fire pit! Why couldn't we dry camp there? We were in the National Forest with our permit! It was a quiet sheltered site surrounded by pine trees and a mile from Peppermint Creek and the campground. There were no other people around. No radios, no barking dogs, no noisy campers! Talk about SOCIAL DISTANCING! It was a perfected secluded campsite.

A quiet camp dinner, a glass of wine, a game of gin rummy, a crystal clear stream. What a great way to commemorate an anniversary.

The next day we packed our lunches and drove up Forest Service Road 21S50 to the Clicks Creek Trailhead in the Golden Trout Wilderness. At 7,200 feet of elevation we

hiked about a mile where Clicks Creek started running next to the trail. We discovered many secluded little pools in the creek. A perfect habitat for the wily skittish Little Kern Golden Trout! I assembled my rod and tied on my go to fly, a size 18 Parachute Adams and stealthily snuck up to the pool. I gently dropped in my fly. BAM!!! He hit it, but I didn't set the hook fast enough. Oh well, Keith and I had all day to fish. I was determined to catch this golden trout.

On the next cast the fish gobbled my fly again. SET! I hooked him. Yes! He was feisty, jumping and flipping in the water. I pulled him along the grassy shore and luckily got a picture of the wiggly fish with my iPhone. Bingo! I got my 5-inch Little Kern Golden Trout recorded.

Now it was Keith's turn. It was midday and the sun was shining directly on another small pool containing two 4 to 5-inch trout. With the trout hiding under some small logs in the shade, Keith decided to quietly lob his size 18 Renegade onto the water. Almost instantly it was engulfed by a small trout rocketing out of his hiding place. Keith set the hook and lifted the wiggling fish gently on the grass for a quick picture of the 5-inch beauty. With the pressure off of catching the Little Kern Golden for the Heritage Trout Challenge, we relaxed and had a nice stream side lunch. We fished some other pools on the stream and caught and released other small fish for the rest of the afternoon. Five more Native Trout species to go. What a perfect way to celebrate an anniversary!

Betty Pfeifer

First Woman To Complete The Western Native Trout Challenge

The Western Native Trout Challenge

By Laurie Banks

Well, it's done! I finally completed the last level of the Western Native Trout Challenge! When Ken (Davis) and I first heard about the Western Native Trout Challenge, it was 16 months ago. The Western Native Trout Initiative challenges fly fishers to catch different species of trout in their native waters across the western states. There are three levels. The first level requires you to catch six different species from four states. For the second level, catch twelve species of trout in eight states. The final level requires 18 different species from all twelve western states.

Finally, a Bull Trout!

What a great challenge for a fly fisher! It sounded like fun at the time, but now that it's over I'm not sure "fun" adequately describes this experience. It's also challenging, taxing, enlightening, frightening, exhilarating, frustrating, invigorating, and incredibly rewarding.

The first two levels were relatively easy for Ken and me to complete. We finished them last summer. We had only five more species and four states to complete the 3rd and final level of the challenge. There was no question how we were going to spend our summer vacation this year. We needed the Colorado River Cutthroat, Yellowstone Cutthroat, Bull Trout, Coastal Cutthroat, and Rio Grande Cutthroat. The states we needed to fish were Utah, Colorado, Idaho, and Washington. Besides these, Ken also needs the Eagle Lake Rainbow.

We set out to complete the challenge. Thank goodness Ken loves to drive. We stopped along the route to take in the sights: Arches National Park, Red Rock Canyon, Capitol Reef National Park and more. We went through farmlands, forests, and deserts. We drove on a one-lane mountain dirt "road" with sheer drop-offs and blind curves which had me one step away from a full-fledged white-knuckle panic attack. We traveled miles towards a creek on an awful washboard road only to have our access blocked. We got caught in a lightning storm while hiking miles away from our cabin. We had to make our way through 20 feet of thick willows in grizzly country. But all that just adds to the incredible memories we take from our adventures. Along with the terrifying and frustrating events there were also magical

ones. Like finally hooking that bull trout which alluded you for 14 months, or when you get your first glimpse of a species you have never seen before. These experiences can't be matched.

Ken Fishing in Colorado

Bringing in a Rio Grande from Colorado

As I'm writing this, Ken just came in from checking the mail. He has a big Cheshire grin on his face and is holding a mailer in his hand. "It's for you from the Western Native Trout Initiative," he declares. I rip open the package and there is my medallion and my Master Caster certificate of completion. It's fist pumps, high fives and hugs. It's the culmination of 15 months of effort.

If there is one thing I carry away from this experience, it is how valuable these native trout are. I loved admiring their differences, noticing what makes them unique from all other species.

Before this experience I never understood why fisheries biologists would poison a creek and replant with the native trout, but now I do. Preserving the distinctive identity of these unique species is important. I appreciate the work done by the WNTI and other groups to erect fish barriers to keep non-native fish from hybridizing with native. It is so valuable to have these protected pockets where fish can survive in their native habitat.

A barrier to keep native and non-native trout separate.

Even though I am proud of this accomplishment, I couldn't/wouldn't have done it without my enthusiastic fishing buddy Ken. The other people who have helped me comprise a list too long to mention and I would undoubtedly leave someone out. Suffice it to say it's all the CFFU club members who have been instrumental in my growth as a fly fisher. I have gained so much knowledge and encouragement from my 10 years as a member of this amazing club.

Consider taking the Western Native Trout Challenge. You won't regret it. It's a great way to spend your summer vacation. If anyone is considering the challenge, be sure to contact me; I'd be happy to help. If we can ever get back to normal, Ken and I would be happy to share information at a monthly Social.

In two weeks we are off to Eagle Lake so Ken can get his final fish for the Challenge. Then it's time to start preparing a new bucket list…..any ideas?

laurie@creekchick.com

Fishing News

Julie Kaye caught this beauty in the Eagle River, Avon Colorado in August.

Dick Angus caught this wild rainbow (one of many) on the Little Truckee. He has been fishing it two days a week using both nymph and dry flies. This fish was caught on a size 20 red zebra midge dropper off a hopper. Dick has this creek dialed in!

Tom Woodruff spent a day fishing the Klamath River on August 5 with guide Jim Bansemer. He caught one salmon and 4 sea run cutthroats. All on size 8-10 assassin. And all were 20" plus.

And just to make us all drool (well me for sure!), he spent the next month in Wyoming. Tom "Waderman" Woodruff has had an incredible time fishing in Wyoming. On

September 5, Tom caught this beautiful 21" brown on the New Fork River near Pinedale, WY. This river flows to the Green River. He caught it on a size 12 foam ant!

On Tom's 75th birthday he caught this beautiful fine spotted cutthroat on the Snake River in the Tetons National Park near Jackson using a large foam Waterwalker fly. Just to make his birthday extra special he was able to land over 35 to the boat! All on that fly.

On his way to the Snake River, waders on and bear spray ready, he took a minute to take in the stunning scenery. On this short day he caught several cutthroats in the 16-18" category!

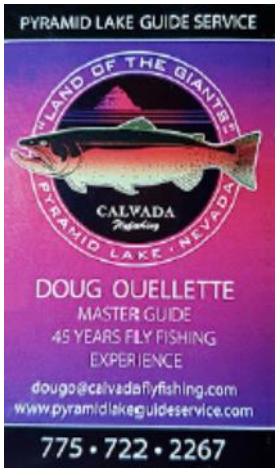
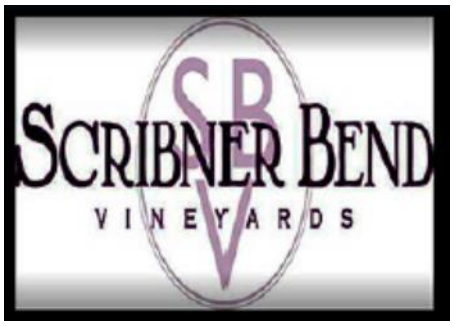
He was also in the South Fork of the Snake River near Swan Valley and had a "5 moose" day along with about a dozen rainbows all on nymphs (16-28" range)!

Tom ended his trip just after a beautiful snowfall which cleared the air of drifting smoke from California. He and his wife Diane took a hike to enjoy the beautiful snow-capped Tetons.

Brad and Virgina Stone once again showed us how it's done on the Madison!!

David Andrada was on the Madison River and caught this nice Brown on a hopper pattern.

CLACKA
LEADHUNTER

Please Support Our Generous Sponsors

Tenkara USA®