

FINNY FACTS

Archived version

FEBRUARY 2014

San Diego Fly Fishers
Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 19, No. 2

Monthly Meeting

Gordon Foster Memorial Award to David Collins

No Stroud Awardee This Year

Fly Fishing Lees Ferry

Terry Gunn will be making a presentation on fly fishing Lees Ferry, which is a tailwater fishery on the Colorado River below Lake Powell dam.

Terry is co-owner and founder of Lees Ferry Anglers Fly Shop and Guide Service and Cliff Dwellers Lodge in Marble Canyon. Terry has been a full-time fishing guide since 1983 and is an internationally recognized fly fishing expert, author, photographer, and speaker. Terry has fished around the world in both fresh and salt-water.

Please join us for our first speaker presentation for the new year.



Lee McElravy 2012 recipient presents Gordon Foster Memorial Award to 2013 awardee David Collins.

MEETING NOTICE
 Monday, February 3, 2014
 7:30 PM
 Sequoia Elementary School
 4690 Limerick Avenue
 (See map on back page)

REMINDER
 Volunteer hosts
 for this meeting
 (report at 6:15 PM)
Barry Pechersky
and Alan Reoch
Thank You from Lew Walsh

An Italian buffet, while being serenaded by a country bluegrass trio, good friends and fishing buddies--it just doesn't get any better.

The annual San Diego Fly Fishers banquet was again quite a success. With **David Collins**, web site guru, travel chairman, taking the top honor of the evening. Your editors have worked with David for many years, getting the word out on club events and announcements, and it has been a pleasure to do so.

There were no candidates for the Stroud Award this year so no award was given. Bill and Eileen, last year's awardees, were a tough act to follow. They of course have set the bar quite high.

A treat for the evening which we have not experienced for awhile was the bluegrass trio of **David Collins, Willie Randel, and Given Harrison**--Wadin' Too Deep. I guess it beats the Soggy Bottom Boys. Willie has been playing the fiddle since he was about eight years old.

"The solution to any problem—work, love, money, whatever—is to go fishing. The worse the problem, the longer the trip should be."

John Gierach

It was very special evening. The Club's annual Stroud Award Banquet was again held at Admiral Baker Clubhouse, on Monday January 13. The evening started with some excellent bluegrass music from a trio who call themselves (appropriately) **Wadin' Too Deep**, and made up of two of our own: **David Collins**, and **Willie Randel** on fiddles, who along with **Given Harrison** on guitar kept us tappin' our toes.

President **Jim Tenuto** then called for a moment of silence to honor the late, great and irreplaceable **Ned Sewell**, who for decades taught thousands to cast a fly rod, first in Balboa Park, then at Lake Murray. Ned has been capably replaced by **Lee Anderson** and his crew consisting of **Ken Armer, Shelly Wagner, Barry Pechersky, Jim Litchfield, Marv Darling, Don Smith, Ken Floyd and Frank Beaty**. We still teach casting every Sunday at the lake, it's still free, and we still furnish equipment. Join the crew now and then. It's a great way to spend a Sunday morning hearing and telling fishing stories.

Then it was out with the old board, and in with the new, including yours truly, honored to serve as President for the next

year. I hope I can live up to the standards set by my predecessors, and not mess up the Club's many projects; the volume of which is awesome, thanks to a couple dozen amazing members doing amazing things. As a modest "thank you" many of these amazing members received beautiful fly plates to hang in their caves.

And speaking of **David Collins** and awards; David was the recipient of our Club's most important and prestigious annual award, the **Gordon Foster Award**, given each year to a member who has continually given above and beyond.... In David's case he organized, built, and for years has maintained the Club's website, as well as organizing and running the Club's Member Forum. David is a stalwart and exemplary member of our Club, and very deserving of the award.

Our February program is **Terry Gunn**, who will be telling us about fishing at historic **Lee's Ferry** on the **Colorado River**. I mention it because if you've never fished the mighty Colorado, at the upstream mouth of the Grand Canyon just below the Glen Canyon Dam, please consider a trip over there some April or May



soon. As you will see at Terry's presentation, it's unlike any place you've ever fished. And you will catch fish: lots of fish.

I'll see you at the meeting February 3.



New SDFF President Jack Duncan addresses the members at the annual banquet.



Italian buffet was delicious.



Fly Plate Awardees for 2013

Annual Stroud Banquet 2014



Lee Anderson



It was quite an evening for David Collins—Gordon Foster Award, Fly plate, entertainer.



Alan Thompson



Bruce Harrison



Jon Holland



Lucky Ketcham



Gary Strawn



The Soggy Bottom Boys? No it's Wadin' Too Deep--David Collins, Given Harrison, and Willie Randel.



Jack Duncan



Bruce Michael



Barry Pechersky also received a flyplate in absentia.



Dolores Nelson, Carl Nelson, and Helen and Mike Grundler.



Conservation Efforts of Your San Diego Fly Fishers

Just a short overview of the continuing Conservation efforts of San Diego Fly Fishers made possible by your donations and participation in the Annual Raffle and Silent Auction:

1. As part of the Southern California Steelhead Recovery Project, we are teaming with Golden State Flyfishers and San Diego Coast Keepers to monitor water quality in the San Luis Rey River. Coast Keepers was surveying the River every other month through the rainy season and this Cal Trout grant allows us to do the intervening months. San Luis Rey is one of three streams in San Diego County that DF&W believes are potentially viable steelhead streams: San Mateo and Santa Margarita are the other two, but they have invasive and access issues. The project requires 6 to 9 volunteers for one Saturday morning every other month and will sample four sites if possible. Some readings are taken on site, plus samples are carefully preserved and returned to the Coast Keepers laboratory for detailed analysis. The results are available to the public via the State's "CEDEN" database.

2. Another conservation project we continue to work on is the San Diego River Watershed Monitoring Program sponsored by the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) and the San Diego River Park Foundation. We helped raise money to purchase 14 acres of critical habitat adjacent to Boulder Creek, just below Lake Cuyamaca and are currently working to restore the site and develop a small research area to be used by DF&W, the

RWQCB and regional universities in monitoring water quality and fish and wildlife populations. We purchased "state of the art" temperature and dissolved oxygen loggers to be used in that effort. In the lower watershed, we are working with the DF&W and RWQCB biologists to do creel surveys, fish population counts and fish toxicity analysis in selected ponds from Lakeside to the estuary near Mission Bay.

3. Our favorite conservation project is maintaining the cattle exclusion fence in Casa Vieja Meadow at the south end of the Golden Trout Wilderness. 2014 will be our ninth year of hard work, helping USFS sustain the Golden Trout spawning streams in this beautiful meadow.

4. In addition to the above listed volunteer efforts, as funds are available we make periodic donations to:
 The Hubbs Sea World Research Center
 The Chula Vista Living Coast Discovery Center
 The San Diego River Park Foundation
 Cal Trout's Rush Creek and Southern California Steelhead Recovery Projects
 Trout Unlimited's Golden Trout Restoration Project

5. A new project on the horizon will be to work with T.U. and DF&W to establish a "Trout in the Classroom" program at San Diego River Park Foundation's new Discovery Center, soon to be built on 14 acres of prime River bank in the heart of Mission Valley, near Qualcomm Way. If you are interested in participation



in any of these projects, please contact me at conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Clean Water Gary



**FREE CASTING
 LESSONS
 EVERY SUNDAY
 9 AM--NOON**

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

DIRECTIONS--Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That's our bunch.



Members Fishing Reports

**Lucky, Sam & Bob's Big
Adventure 2013--A Travelogue
Revised September 21, 2013**

Bird Brained Friends on the River

July 16, 2013

Every year that I run a river like the Green or the Big Horn, I learn to love the birds and animals observed along the banks. "Riparian Habitats" are some of my favorites. Some of the birds help me know when and where to fish. I love to fish in late June and early July when the caddisfly species are very active. The water temperatures are up into the 55 to 58 range and insects are hatching, adult caddisflies are laying their eggs. I think I love caddisflies over mayflies. (Mayflies and stoneflies come out when it is too cold to play.)

One of the birds that I look forward to seeing is the Dipper. It is an all gray colored bird about 4 or 5 inches tall. When I see them bouncing around on the rocks below the 'Caddis Cliff's I know the caddis hatch is on in full swing. You might remember the Dipper from the old Walt Disney Adventure Land Nature Series. It is a land bird that dives under the surface of the water to feed on aquatic insects. It "Dips" under very fast water and plays in the white water riffle sections of the rivers. It likes the early evening hours when shade and insects are drawn to the cliffs. Many species of Caddisflies dive or crawl under the water to attach their tiny eggs to rocks or branches. The Dipper tells me they are there and if the Dipper is hunting... so will the Brown Trout.

There are about 5 species of swallows on western rivers like

the Green and Big Horn. I have learned to look for the behaviors of the cliff swallows, barn swallows, swallow tailed swallows.... and bats. All of these are fly catchers. They like to catch insects like the Yellow Sallies, Tan Caddis, Midges, PMD's and Pine Moths on the wing. If I see them resting on the telephone wires I can relax and take my time. If I see them working above the willows on the river banks, I know the time is drawing near and the bugs are leaving their mid-day hiding areas. Adult caddisflies live several weeks and they hide in the shade of the bank side bushes to keep from drying up. They don't have thick skins like beetles and hoppers. In the early evening the caddis will begin to make little breeding swarms just above the water in the wind protected shade of the cliffs, undercut banks and overhanging tree branches. You start to see the robins, bushtits and black birds hopping around in the tree branches and on the rocks. When the caddis and midges are emerging over the fast rocky riffles the skimming swallows will be there ... cheering you on. Remember that fast choppy water is easier for small insects to break through the tough surface film of water. A flat pool of water is a significant barrier to many emerging insects. When I see swallows skimming the water near bridges as I drive my truck, I think about stopping. On the Green and Big Horn there are "Blanket Caddis Hatches" all the birds, bats and trout are try to snatch them out of the air. I love the mayhem.

I have grown to love and look for redwing blackbirds and robins. They love bugs and when I see them in the cattails and tules of a lake or slow eddy of a river, I

think that the damsel flies are making their way from the center of a lake to those shoreline reeds. The damsels never emerge in the center of a weedy lake, they crawl along the bottom to find stick ups. The blackbirds usually tell me when and where. It can be early in the morning or later in the evening. Ken Hanley teaches us to cast as close to the weeds as possible and let the little damsel nymph sink. Strip it out just 3 feet and then pick it up and put it back up close to the weeds. A damsel hatch might be over by 9 AM. That is when you put on the woolly buggers and fish in deeper water.

Some rivers like the Yellowstone will have White Pelicans. You know for sure that they are fish eaters. If you see them in an area of pooling water or in a lake you can be sure they are looking for the trout you want or in the little bait fish that trout want. Either way they will help you find trout. Most of my friends do not love the White Pelican, the same way we do not love the Cormorants. They eat big trout and do not practice "Catch and Release."

I like to watch the big black and white magpies. I'm not sure what they are telling me yet; but I like to watch them. They are active with the insect hatches but stay mainly in the bushes. They are big birds and probably tell me where I should try my Cicadas, Hoppers and big Pine Moths.

I always wondered if the Cicada nymphs would feed on the Pinon Pine tree roots or on the Willow Roots. This year there were so many 3/4 inch holes under the Pinon Pine trees in camp, I am certain the nymphs like pine sap and not just the clearer willow

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root sap. The big Magnificent Cicadas were found in the Pinon Pines of Mustang Ridge Camp-ground. The big Pine Moths were also flying around camp, attracted to our lights.

This year we noticed more "Night Hawks" zooming around our campsites. I noticed a few of them in past years but we had about 5 that flew rapidly through our camp sites every night. Zoom, zoom, zoom they would fly at break neck speeds just a few feet over my head. Big pine moths and other insects were attracted to the lights of the 30 ft. RV. The long drive through blacktop space made a perfect dive bomber run for the Night Hawks. They told me the Cicadas and Moth patterns would still be working the next morning. We hear stories of big brown trout being caught in the foam line along the cliffs in the lake, just north of our camp sites. Waves crash against the shoreline and trap pine moths and cicadas in a long foam line, 10 feet off the bank.

We did not see the three or four families of river otters this year. They move up and down the rivers. I love to watch them play. If the otters are living near the Cave Pool you can feel pretty confident there will be big trout in that deep eddy. That is the time to dig out the big streamers and sinking line.

Merganser Fish Ducks are fun to watch on the rivers. They will have babies by June and you will see them in even the fastest of water. The little balls of fluff are trying desperately to keep up with mama. Sometimes I try to get as close as possible by quietly kicking over to the families in

my pontoon boat. The mother duck starts getting nervous and speaks to her brood. They either get close to her or quickly hide in the bank grasses. After I drift past, she gathers them up again. I am not used to seeing fish ducks. I never get tired of playing with them.



I have mentioned the families of beavers on these rivers. The beaver lodges are not very big on fast sections of river. If you are used to seeing meandering streams and meadow ponds you think all beaver lodges are giant piles of wood. In the fast rivers they are just small piles stuck in some depression along the bank. I have read that the entrances of beaver dens always hold big trout. That gives me the confidence to cast tight into all that wood. It is worth the risk of a good fly if I can catch a nice trout. So far it has been pretty much a myth. I have lost some good flies to beaver lodges.

I love to watch the small pairs of Falcons on some rivers. The giant red rock cliffs of the Green River have some falcon nests and the Big Horn has some recovering pairs. Last year I marveled at the synchronized flying of four falcons several hundred feet above the Big Horn River. They dove and circled in perfect unity. Two of them flew off. I watched the last pair for a few moments and then took off my glasses to find the perfect flying was an illusion of my double vision. Duh.

It takes only small things to humor and fascinate me.

What will I see tomorrow?

I don't like it when the vultures are circling overhead.

Yellowstone Cutthroats on a Fly
July 16, 2013



Yesterday evening, Bob Pharoah, Sam Gilbert and I made our annual venture fishing on the shoreline of Yellowstone Lake. It was a sunny afternoon with just a few clouds in the sky. The water was just ruffled by a light 5 mph wind — almost the way Bob likes it for fishing. We launched Sam's boat at the Grant's Village Marina and headed east along the wooded shore line. This area was hit by the big fire in 1986. Some of the bare pine trees are still standing but many of them have fallen, many have been washed ashore along the bank we love to fish for cutthroats. Every year Bob and Sam have been throwing heavy gold casting spoons to the banks with spinning rods. They use strong Fire Line to help pull the Jakes and other spoons off the old logs and also to have a line strong enough to land a big lake trout or cutthroat.

This time the Fish Gods told me that I should try my 6 weight, 9'6" Temple Fork Outfitters fly rod and a Black Blood Leech. The reel

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Lucky, Sam & Bob's Big Adventure 2013--A Travelogue

was special. It was given to me by our friend, John Beckstrand. I like it when old friends are fishing with me in spirit. The reel was actually too small for the job. It was an Orvis 3-4 wt. reel with a small diameter pickup. The reel had a 10 foot sinking head line and I thought it would be perfect for the shallow water between the log jams on the bank. I wanted to sink the leech pattern but not get it too deep. Sam and Bob were not too happy that I was planning to mess around with a damn fly rod and all that line on the floor. They were also worried about the wind catching the flying line and putting a hook into someone's head. I told them I would be careful and keep the line under control. They laughed at the idea of a fly replacing a gold Jakes with red spots. They have been playing this game with spinning rods for over 10 years.

Sam steered the boat down the coast to some of our favorite areas and we began banging the banks from about 60 or 80 feet out. The spinning rod can place a lure within inches of the bank or a tree stump. The double hauling the fly line and casting in a slight wind was a bit more difficult. I was able to make 50 foot casts on a regular basis. Everyone was surprised when I yelled hook up for the first Yellowstone Cutthroat of the trip. The strip set was solid and the 16 or 17 inch fish came along side without out much trouble. The long fly rod made it seem much bigger. We netted the fish and then found I did not have my camera. Bob had to take a picture with his phone camera. I haven't seen it yet. The big black leech hung in the corner of the mouth. It was, of course, barbless and came out very easily. Bob at

this time was getting hits on his gold Jakes Lure but not good hook ups. We found later that the slick Fire Line was not well attached to the reel spool and was slipping on the hook set. Bob was missing many strikes and getting frustrated. He was more frustrating in a few moments when I hooked and landed my second trout on the fly rod. I was standing tall on the bow of the power boat and could see this giant 20 inch cutt come running at my fly. The water is only 6 to 8 feet deep near the boat and it is clear as glass. The trout grabbed my fly. I pointed the rod tip at it and pulled hard - strip setting the big size 4 hook into the corner of the mouth. The boat was still moving at a slow trolling speed of 1.6 mph. The trout had a wide body and could turn to make a strong run. The long fly rod almost doubled over like I was catching a big Corbina in the surf. I said "Look at the size of that fish!" Wow. Bob was on my side of the boat and just said: "Lucky's caught my fish." Bob always likes to catch the biggest fish of the trip. I am here to let fish run and play on the end of my fly line ... so I was not in any big hurry to get it in. I let it make the first big run and just palmed the little 3 weight fly reel. The drag was set very light. The fish could run if it wanted to as long as it was out to deep water. If it ran toward the sunken logs and tree I would have to fight harder. On one of the runs I remembered why you do not want to fish for big trout with a tiny fly reel. The fish decided to make a fast run toward the boat. I was turning the handle as fast as I could but I was losing the bend in the rod. I quickly stopped reeling and began stripping in line by hand. That is what you have to do, or you will let the fish throw the barbless hook. That is why you

buy the large arbor fly reels. Sometimes you need that line pick up speed. The fish turn and made another run away from the boat and took up all the slack. I was able to use the fly reel again. In a little while the fish came close enough for Bob to net it. We have one of those good Ghost Nets that protects the slime coat of the trout. It works well until you take the trout out and have it slip out of your hands and bounce on the carpeted bottom of the boat. It swam away with great strength, but I worry that I might have taken too much of the protective mucus coat off.



We fished from four to seven, when the wind picked up. I landed four nice cutthroat trout on the fly rod and lost the last one very close to the boat. It may have been the biggest of the trout I hooked that evening. I was able to see it clearly. The broad side and the color told me it was a good fish. I tried to pass it off to Sam or Bob but they were enjoying watching me catch fish.... and they did not want to risk the gamble — The person that catches the biggest or the most fish on an outing has to buy the ice cream cones. I played around just a little too long and the big trout wanted to swim near the boat motor. I had to put some extra pressure on the leader to keep out of the spinning prop. The fish was moving in the right direction when the tippet parted at the knot. The tippet was 3X

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strength and rated at 8.3 pounds back when it was new. (Who really knows how old my tippet is.)

Bob should have bought the ice cream he had 12 good hookups but only landed two. Sam likes to drive the boat and work the fish finder and track where we caught fish. He likes to announce when he sees pods of fish and the depths when we go over them. He also likes to threaten to make me walk the plank when my fly line catches on his line. When you are constantly picking up and casting a fly line you accidentally hit the other trolling lines occasionally. Casting from a moving boat is interesting. Also the lighter 10 foot sinking tip line is different experience for me. It did not want to shoot out 70 feet like some of my heavier lines. I had to make some adjustments. Some of our casting students might like to practice "Water Loading the Rod." To get more distance and more load on the rod I had to water load in front and water load in back before I made my final distance cast. I would strip in the line until I had about a 20 foot hang. Lift the rod and make a roll cast to get the streamer and sinking line on the surface. I made an oval cast pick up to keep the fly away from me and the boat. I then shot out about 12 feet of line of the back cast and let it hit the water for a split second. That water load helps bend the rod tip. I made a forward cast 40 feet and let it hit the water again. This time I made a strong pull on the line for the pickup and back cast. I shot another 10 feet on the back cast before the big double haul and forward shot. If I didn't step on the coils of fly line on the floor



the black leech would land 10 feet from the bank, where the big Cutthroats were hiding and looking for mayflies. More often than not, I would step on the fly line or it would catch on some object in the boat. It was a miracle that I was able to catch any fish at all. I should say that I like catching fish with the spinning rods, but I love trying to catch them with the fly rod. A light fly rod give the fish much more mechanical advantage during the fight. Big fish can make your arm and shoulder sore. Bob and Sam did not offer much support when I asked them for the Ben Gay, and shoulder treatments. Catching fish after fish, after fish can be a chore. Big fish are even more work. Poor Me, Poor Me.

Callebaetis Mayfly Observations

July 18, 2013

Yellowstone Lake supports a healthy population of *Callebaetis* spp. mayflies. Once again in early July - at least July 14 thru 18th the mayflies are emerging along the shallow wood strewn banks of the lake, just south of the Grant's Village Marina. Thousands and thousands of empty shucks floating on the water in the wind foam lines tell me the annual hatch is on. It must be a morning hatch. We are down in the sand and gravel flats south of the sewage treatment plant. The water

is about 8 feet deep and I am observing little grey tan sail boats on the water. They float on the surface for 10 to 20 seconds and then just fly off. These are the duns, little virgins taking off to find a place to mature and molt again into the sexually mature stage - called "Spinners."

The big power boat acts like a wind screen for the adults and they like to hover and land in the shade of the canvas boat canopy. I can get a good look at them. I like the way they fly. They are fairly big mayflies yet they hover and bounce in a delicate dance. They have two long tails that are spread out to provide stability in flight. They bounce in the air in short 3 inch patterns and at the same moment move 6 to 7 inches forward. In the wind the bounce is smaller and it looks like the flies are just jettling the 6 inches and then letting the wind bring them back to the hovering spot.

The cloud of bugs is a layer about 6 feet off the water and the individuals are relatively evenly spaced. They are about a foot apart unless they are coupled in a mating "love lock." I pointed out several pairs to Bob in order that he could see how they mate mid-air and keep flying. There is no hiding in the bushes for this species of insect. In Entomology we study the sexual organs to tell the different species of similar insects like mayflies. Each species has a different design for the male and female holding organs and sexual organs. A mayfly that looks almost exactly like another cannot cross breed

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because their sexual organs do not match. We call it Lock and Key – sexual separation.

This day the swarming mayflies are both the virgin duns and sexually mature spinners. Some are emerging and some are laying eggs.

I captured a few adults to take a closer look at the wings. Most mayflies you can easily tell the duns from the sexually mature stage because the wings are clear on the spinners. The wings are opaque or marked on the duns. (Dun means gray.) The Callebaetis mayflies are distinctive because they have dark bar markings on the lead edge of the primary wing in both the dun and the spinner stage. You have to look for the opaque coloring on the duns to tell the difference. Also if the females have their abdomen filled with eggs — that should give you a clue. The sexually mature mayflies have no stomach or intestines. They are purely an egg transport system. They have only reproductive organs inside that abdomen.

One observation we make on these morning fishing trips is that the Cutthroat trout do not seem to want to take our lures or black leeches trolled through this mayfly emerging area. The trout must key in on the emerging nymphs. The other observation is that we almost never see a rising fish. All this water and you never see the ring of the rise or even a dimple of a sipping fish. We read that the fish do not have to feed on the surface. There are so many nymphs in the water, the trout get all they need by just cruising around taking the swimming nymphs as they rise to the surface. I have had fish take a dry fly

off the breakwater seawall at Bay Bridge Campground. Bob would like to try fishing nymphs under and indicator in the style that was successful for Cutthroat trout at Pyramid Lake. Fishing with big lures or big flies seems to be a waste of time during a heavy mayfly hatch at this time and in this location.

The heavy mayfly hatches are not in all locations on this giant lake. We have found them in various shallow bays and protected areas. When we see shorelines with collected windblown wood and big trees, we look for Callebaetis. Across the lake there is a remote camping area. That bay has great mayfly hatches.

I think that every serious fly fisher should learn the locations of every sewage treatment plant on their favorite rivers or lakes. That extra nutrient load can be a curse or a blessing. On many rivers the locations just below the local sewer plants will have more caddisflies, midges, scuds and leeches than other parts of a clean cold river. The sewage effluent is fertilizer for the fish farm. I even like the discharge waters from trout hatcheries. I have noticed that I will see more yellow PMD mayflies and light caddisflies below a sewage plant than above them. The Grant's Village Sewage Plant is no exception. We have grown to love fishing in that location. For me to enjoy fly fishing, I have to anticipate catching a fish. Favorite locations, experiences, memories, insect hatches and just gut feelings help me to anticipate catching fish. Getting in tune with the timing of the insect hatches should be one of your goals in fly fishing. Sitting in a boat or walking on the shoreline in the hot sun, midday might be going

through the motions of fishing, but it is not really fishing with the anticipation of catching something. Fish when and where the bugs are active and you might find the fish.

Where are the Baby Cutthroat Trout?

July 18, 2013

I sit here reflecting on fishing the wooded shoreline of Yellowstone Lake for the past six years. We have been throwing the same gold metal lures to the sunken trees and Cutthroat Trout every year at the same time, July 14 to July 30. We catch the big trout after they have made their spawning runs up the Yellowstone River. The big breeders must return to the rotting wood to feed on the Callebaetis Mayflies, the Scuds and Leeches that live in that shallow water. Every year we have enjoyed the take, the tug and the fight these big trout provide. This year the trout seem larger than they have ever been. I have caught 8 or 9 and Bob has caught 10 or 12. Almost all of them have been between 18 and 21 inches long and thick bodied. That is great if you are a fly fisherman or a light spin rod fanatic. But..... Where are the smaller trout?

Bob made the remark that our pet resident fish are getting bigger every year but there are fewer of them. This is a catch and release lake for the endangered Yellowstone Cutthroats. Many of the fish we are catching behind the same logs and on the same points are no doubt fish we have caught before. They are getting bigger every year. I would have to look at my fishing notes to see what the catch numbers were in the past. Yesterday we fished 6 hours to catch 5 fish. That seems

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FLY FISHING FILM TOUR

Buy tickets @\$20 each at www.flyfilmtour.com or call Tracey Diaz at CalTrout, 415-392-8887 x103

All proceeds from these shows go to CalTrout:

- PASADENA Wed., February 5
- SAN DIEGO **Thurs., February 6**
- SACRAMENTO Wed., February 26
- EAST BAY (Orinda) **Thurs., March 6**
- PALO ALTO Thurs., March 13
- MARIN (Larkspur) **Tues., March 18**
- REDDING Fall 2014

www.flyfilmtour.com

CalTrout & So Cal Fly Fishing Outfitters sponsor F3T San Diego

Thursday, February 6, 2014 @ 7:00 pm

The Corky McMillin Event Center at Liberty Station,
2875 Dewey Road, San Diego, CA

What Else:

A pre-film event will take place at So Cal Fly Fishing Outfitters from 3:00 – 6:30 pm. Event will include product promotions, fly tiers, BBQ/drinks, and a presentation by CalTrout's Fly Fishing Ambassador, Mike E. Wier, at 5:00 pm. For event details, contact So Cal Fly Fishing Outfitters @

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a little slower than usual. Bob and Sam have been fishing this shore line for many more years than I have and can see the difference.

The problem, you may know is that the giant Lake Trout were introduced to Yellowstone Lake illegally 20 years ago. They have thrived in the clean cold lake by eating small Cutthroat Trout. The numbers of cutthroats running up the rivers to spawn dropped so drastically that the Park has taken steps to try to remove Lake Trout. There are several commercial gill netters operating every summer to capture the big trout. Hundreds of thousands of pounds of trout are removed every year and the Cutthroats have made some recovery.

I should be glad when I catch the

small 5 and 6 inch cutthroats in the rivers. They are the hope of the future. The rivers are the nursery for baby trout. They are safer there. I pray for them when they grow large enough to venture out into the giant Yellowstone Lake. A 24 inch Lake Trout can eat a 12 inch cutthroat trout.

I remember, my fishery biologist friend, Louie Zimm telling me that fish of the same size like to travel together. They swim at the same speed and make the same effort in body movement when traveling. I hope that the illusion that the trout in our favorite fishing spot are the same size is just that they are traveling buddies. I will be glad when I start catching 12 and 14 inch trout in this area again.

The fishing regulations in

Yellowstone require that you kill and remove any Lake Trout and that you release unharmed any Cutthroat Trout. We try to do our part. Part of the time spent fishing will be with down riggers to catch the large Lake Trout. They like to be down about 40 feet at this time of year. I'll do my best to catch and kill those dirty bastards, especially those really big mean ones. It is a tough job but someone has to do it.

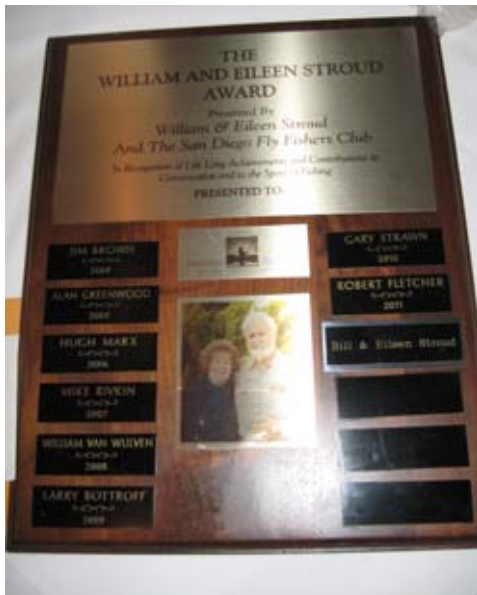
Support programs that protect native fish and their habitats. The Dramas Unfold Before your Eyes.

Stop the Pebble Mine to protect Bristol Bay and that Alaskan Salmon Fishery – is one to watch and support.

TO BE CONTINUED.....



Recipients of the
Stroud Award
 2004-Jim Brown
 2005-Allen Greenwood
 2006- Hugh Marx
 2007- Mike Rivkin
 2008- Bill Van Wulven
 2009- Larry Bottroff
 2010- Gary Strawn
 2011- Bob Fletcher
 2012- Bill and Eileen Stroud
 2013-(No Award)



Cutoff date for **March FINNY FACTS** articles---**Friday February 14th.**

Send articles to:
 Rose and Roger Yamasaki,

Thanks!!

Send change of address information, sign up for electronic version of newsletter, or Club membership renewal to:

Paul Woolery

EILEEN STROUD CONSERVATION FUND



Donations are gratefully
 accepted
 Make checks payable to Eileen
 Stroud Conservation Fund

Mail to:
 Stroud Conservation Fund
 1457 Morena Blvd
 San Diego, CA 92110

All funds collected in Eileen's name will be donated to fresh water fish conservation or research programs in San Diego County.

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For unselfish and outstanding service
 to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2004-Joe Bain
1992-Bob Camp	2005-Jim Reeg
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2006-John Kasten
1994-Ed Velton	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1995-Bob Wisner	2008-Louie Zimm
1996-Gary Hilbers	2009-Warren Lew
1997-Jack Bentley	2010- Paul Woolery
1998-Gordie Zimm	2011-Gary Strawn
1999-Gretchen Yearous	2012-Lee McElravy
2000-Tom Smith	2013-David Collins
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki	
2002-Larry Sorensen	
2003-Jim Tenuto	

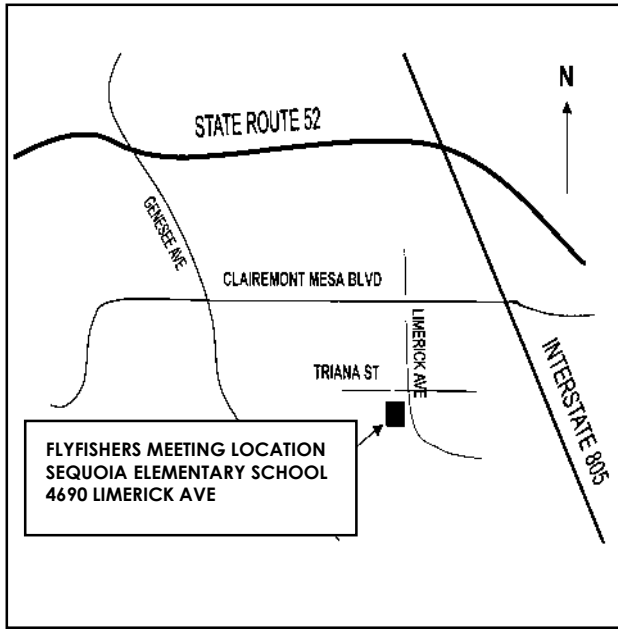


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San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to the lake. Instead of turning into Kiowa, keep going on Lake Murray Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go down three blocks and the recreation center will be on your right. It is on the corner of Lake Adlon and Lake Badin.



**San Diego Flyfishers
 10601-G Tierrasanta Blvd. #327
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