

FINNY FACTS

October 2022

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

Volume 45 No. 10

Next Club Meeting

Monday, October 3, 6:30 p.m.

Guest Speaker

Steve Schalla



Golden Trout Wilderness

Join us!

Access the Club Calendar [SDFP Calendar](#)
Follow all the action on the Club's [Facebook page](#)
Club Meeting [Zoom Link](#)

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President's Message



Jim Castelluzzo

October, 2022

president@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Folks,

Just a quick message to say our group had a great trip to Palapas Ventana. Everyone got on the Dorados, Roosters and a variety of other species. I fought my Rooster fish of a lifetime for two hours and my guess is he would have made a few more runs. Saw color twice and was near to landing when my backing knot failed. Fish took my Sardina fly, 20 lb. leader and 100 ft of fly line.

I highly recommend this trip to all of you. Tim Hatler is a great host and offers a generous discount to our members. Contact John Ashley if your interested in next year's trip.

I'll see you all at our monthly meeting. We will be offering a mini Garage Sale Fundraiser at future meetings at SWYC to move our quality newly-donated gear.

Fish as long and hard as you can while the lights are on. Nothing better than the sound of your reel screaming with a spectacular game fish taking your fly for an E ticket ride!

Fish on!

JimCastelluzzo



The Prez recovers at Palapas La Ventana.

Speaker Program

Monday, October 3, 6:30 p.m.

Steve Schalla

Southwestern Yacht Club

2702 Qualtrough Street, San Diego, CA 92106

[Map](#)

It's the ultimate reference from flies to maps and everything in between. It's creator and curator Steve Schalla aka "Steven Ojai" will be coming in person to do a presentation for the club on October 3rd titled, "The Origin of the Golden Trout". If you saw Steve's presentation a couple years ago by Zoom during the pandemic you know this one is not to be missed.

A lot of us enjoy fly fishing due to the surroundings we find ourselves. We are outdoorsmen that love the fresh air, enjoy a strenuous hike, and take in the visual stimulation of being close to nature. You can be a birdwatcher, amateur entomologist, geology buff, naturalist, or photographer. Fly fishing gets us to areas that triggers many interests.

An area close to us in Southern California is the Golden Trout Wilderness. This area is unique to the Sierra Nevada in that it was the only area that evolved three subspecies of our State Fish, the Golden Trout. Besides being one of the most beautiful fish in the world, the Golden Trout has adapted to changing conditions for thousands of years. Like the canary within the mines, the Golden Trout has also been an indicator as to how we impact our streams and watersheds through management of our watersheds.

My program will cover a natural and cultural history of the Golden Trout Wilderness. We will look at how the Sierra Nevada mountains formed, impacts from glaciation and volcanos, fish migration, introduction of fish species, and how fish populations adapt to their watershed. From the cultural side, we will look at how timber, mining, fishery management, and water interests have impacted our Golden Trout.

Many of you are familiar with my website, www.FlyFishingtheSierra.com. It is filled with maps and other tidbits, such as fly tying tutorials. Basically, it is a repository for all the things I've been learning about this activity for the past 30 years. My goal has been to create regional maps covering all of the waters of the Sierra. These maps show fish species, fishless areas, access trails, fishing regulations, and permit needs. Also a hatch chart with a suggested fly selection. Recently, I just finished all of the regional maps, but like most things in life, it will always need some tweaking. My background is as a graduate Forester from Cal with an emphasis on Botany from UCSB. I established reforestation nurseries in Calif, Oregon, and Washington and grew close to 45 million seedlings for replantin many of our forests. I am active with Fly Fishers International and my local club, Sespe Fly Fishers.

Have a suggestion for a guest speaker?
Contact: Tim Huckaby [Speaker Programs](#)

Happenings

Attention Members

We received a generous donation of new fly fishing gear from a member. We are making these quality products available to you at our Monthly Meetings along the back wall, examples:

- 1- Powell 2 piece 9 ft 3 wt custom built fly rod by Dave Hendrickson with 2 piece rod case!
2. Stripping Basket Net Style - \$15 each - (20 available)
- 3- Cabelas Medium Fly Fishing Vest - \$25
4. Large fly boxes \$15 each - (20 available)
5. Small Fly Boxes - \$10 each - (20- available)
6. Waterproof dry bags - \$15 each (20 available)
- 7 .Catch Release rubber Landing nets 18 x 12 on aluminum frame - \$20 each - 20 available.
8. New Bucks Bag Float Tube - \$100.
9. Aluminum Boca Style Grip with Aluminum Pliers w case - \$20 - 20 sets available.
10. Quality Fly Fishing Back Packs with built in fly boxes- \$90 each - 20 available.
10. Numerous fly tying material - all priced as marked

Our **women's program** is in need of gently used fly tying vices and tools. If you have any gear you no longer use, please contact Brooke Sargent: [Women's Programs](#)

Rod Building

Stay tuned for when classes will resume

Space will be limited to ensure quality time for each student. Dates will be announced in the *Finny Facts*. In the interim, if you are beginning your own project and would like some advice or recommendations, please free to contact [Jack Duncan](#)

Please send news, updates, reports, notes, tips, etc., to be shared on this page.
Editor: editor@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Happenings

Saturday Fly Tie Bay Park Fish Company Saturday, September 17

Kai organized a fun and productive fly tying get together at the Bay Park Fish Company a few Saturdays ago. Great location with plenty of room and a fishing ambiance, good food too!



Mike works outside with a view of the others.



Mark with a Minnesota muskie fly, or bird!



Ray , Sherri, Kim, Kai, Tom (and others) tying one on.

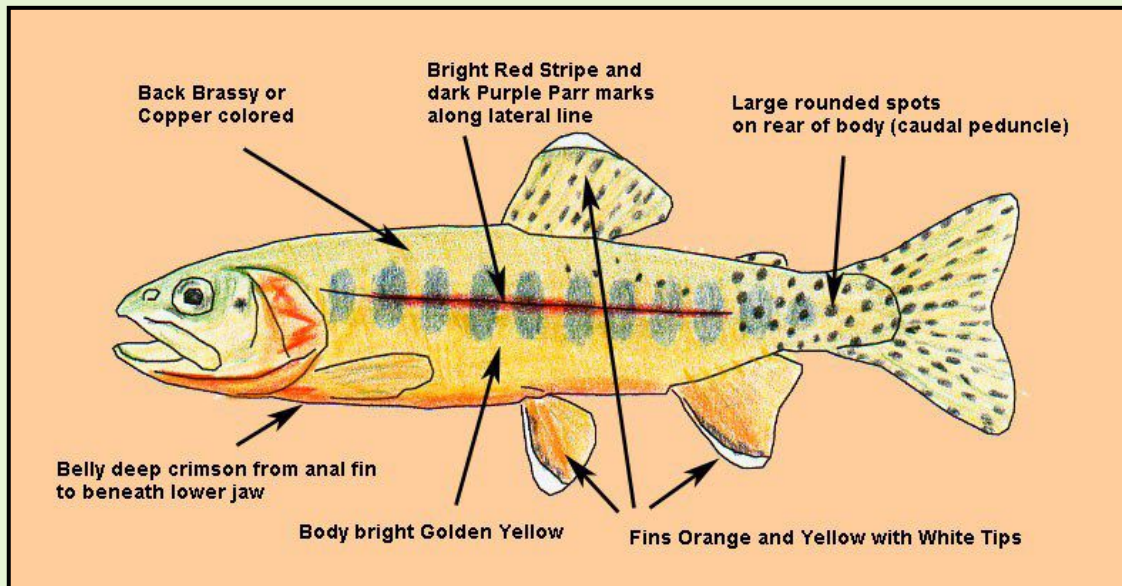
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Feature Article

Volcano Creek Golden Trout

By Steven Schalla

From [Fly Fishing the Sierra](#)



The **Volcano Creek Golden trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*)**, also referred to as Golden Creek Golden Trout, has been isolated for tens of thousands of years above impassable barriers in the southern Sierra Nevada. Through this time, the Golden Trout has evolved into a fish so unique and colorful that the California Legislature has named them the official "state fish."

Portions of the Kern River drainage, where golden trout evolved, were spared the glacial action which eliminated fish life from higher elevation waters throughout the Sierra Nevada to the north. Although rainbow trout reentered the Kern River drainage following the retreat of glaciers some 10,000 years ago, the presence of waterfalls prevented these fish from mixing with golden trout.

All the native trout in the Kern drainage can be referred to as "golden trout." They are closely related and are classified as a subspecies of their distant relative, the rainbow trout, *Oncorhynchus mykiss*.

Those in the South Fork Kern River and Golden Trout Creek (*Oncorhynchus mykiss aguabonita*) often are referred to as "true goldens." They are the most brilliantly colored, have the least number of black spots and have been transplanted to many other lakes and streams of the Sierra Nevada and elsewhere. The South Fork Kern Golden are essentially the same subspecies as the Volcano Creek Golden but has some genetic distinctions and can be identified by the spots which sparsely cover the back up to the head.

Feature Article, cont.

Genetic purity of the Golden Trout has been greatly reduced by the planting program of the DFG from Cottonwood Lakes. Over 300 lakes and 700 miles of streams have been planted by this program since 1913. It was discovered in the 1980's that the Golden Trout Brood stock within the lakes were actually Golden-Rainbow hybrids that had become contaminated by the presence of rainbows within the hatchery. Genetic testing has found that the Volcano Creek Golden Trout in most of Golden Trout Creek and its tributaries are pure strains.

The South Fork Kern Golden Trout were also threatened by the introductions of rainbows and browns within their habitat. The rainbows would hybridize with the Golden Trout while the Browns would compete for habitat and prey upon the smaller Golden Trout. Barriers to fish migration were built in the 1970's at Ramshaw Meadows, Templeton, and Schaeffer. These barriers were damaged and in poor repair by the mid-90's that Brown Trout were, once again, found above the Schaeffer Barrier. Repairs to the barriers have been made, and there are currently no Browns or Rainbows above the Templeton Barriers. Genetic testing of the South Fork Kern Golden Trout above the Templeton Barrier have indicated a pure strain.



Coloration Theories:

It is commonly believed the Golden Trout developed their bright red and yellow colors in response to their natural environment. The substrate of many of their native streams have granitic stones stained in light yellow and reddish hues of volcanic origin. Some speculate the Golden Trout adapted to this background color.

Another theory is that ultraviolet light may have had an influence. It seems likely that fish in the shallow, exposed, high elevation streams where Golden Trout evolved would be more vulnerable to this solar light source than those in more shaded waters at lower elevations. Usually, Golden Trout found in the former situation are more brilliantly colored.

Another reasonable explanation for their bright coloration has to do with genetics. Because of their short growing season, Golden Trout in high elevation habitats spawn as early as snow-melt conditions allow. The very cold temperatures during early egg development could deactivate certain enzymes. These enzymes would digest the color pigments of material in the trout's diet. If not metabolized, these red and yellow pigments could become deposited in the skin of the trout.

Meadow habitats, with greater amounts of vegetation close to the water (and available in the food chain), usually produce more brilliantly colored Golden Trout. A combination of those influences are probably responsible for the bright coloration of Golden Trout.

Distinguishing Characteristics:

The Volcano Creek Golden Trout can be distinguished by its bright golden body. The back has a brassy or copper coloration. A bright red stripe goes through the center of the body with dark purple parr marks along the lateral line. The belly is usually a deep crimson and the pelvic, anal, and dorsal fins are orange and yellow with white tips.

Planned Trips 2022

Saturday, October 22, 7:00 am
Lake Cuyamaca

November Shelter Island

December Otay Lakes



**Ask Kai about
a custom mug!**



For more information contact [Kai Schumann](#)

or look for details in *The Indicator*.

Questions? Contact us at outings@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Fly of the Month

Matuka



The old school Wednesday Bunch used to frequent **Lake Cuyamaca**, and one of their favorites was the olive matuka, a variation of which is shown here. If you don't have the time or resources, an olive woolly buggler (size 6-10), prince nymph or copper john (size 10-14) will usually do the trick.

Link to [tying instructions](#)

Materials

Hook:	TMC 5263, sizes 6-8
Thread:	Danville Olive 6/0
Body:	Olive Krystal Chenille
Wing:	4 Grizzly Dark Olive Hen Hackles
Hackle:	Olive Henback Hackle
Ribbing:	Brassie Olive Ultrawire
Cheeks:	Ringneck Pheasant "Church Window" feathers
Throat:	Red Super Hair

To Join the **Thursday Night Fly Tying Congress** Zoom meeting, 6:30 pm [Click Here](#)

Casting Corner

San Diego Fly Fishers Casting Program 2022

Sunday fly casting instruction at Lake Murray with [Alan Thompson](#) at 9:00 am.

In the meantime, if someone has a question or a trip planned and needs some assistance please email me at the email address below to discuss. I am often able to provide private or semi-private instruction.

Casting Skills Challenge Program: The FFI has reintroduced a program they call the Casting Skills Challenge. It is designed for the experienced beginner caster as well as intermediate and advanced fly fishers. It is meant to be a fun way to study, practice and challenge oneself in a progressive fashion. We will be offering this program to SDFP membership in 2022. More information on the program can be found on the FFI website.

Several of our club members have been working on completing the FFI Fly Casting Challenge Program.

Intermediate Casting Clinic: Activity continues with clinics at Mission Bay on the 1st and 3rd Sundays.



For questions please contact: [John Wylie](#)

Conservation & Education

Planning for the October Fence drop at Casa Vieja Meadow is planned for October 7.

Sherry will be filling in for Gary in the camp/work/fish activity.



If you know of a good conservation project that needs support, please share your ideas with the committee. conservation@sandiegoflyfishers.com

Women's Program



Stay tuned for upcoming events!

Questions or suggestions? Contact Brooke [Women's Programs](#)

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing is a nationwide non-profit dedicated to the physical and emotional rehabilitation of disabled active military service personnel and disabled veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education, classes and outings. The Program has been in existence since 2006. Our San Diego Program is one of 200+ such programs in the U.S. Each Program is organized and maintained through a local fly fishing club. Our San Diego program is actively supported by the San Diego Fly Fishers.

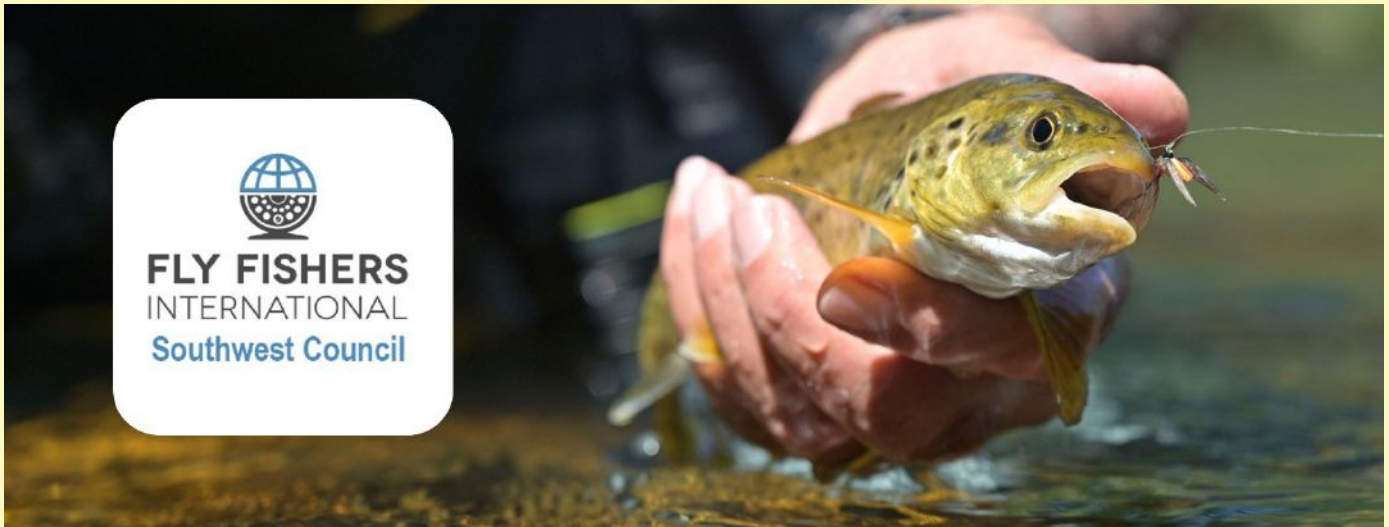
We currently have eleven SDFV Volunteers and thirteen PHW Veteran Participant. Our summer programs are currently meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. at Santee Lakes in Santee. This is a fee lake, but if you wish to join us, simply advise the gate guard you are with PHW and entrance is free. All disabled military, active duty or retired, are welcome to join us as a Veteran Participant. If you are a member of SDFV, an experienced fly fisher, and want to join us as a Volunteer, we would love to have you. For our Veteran participants, no prior fly fishing (or any fishing) experience is necessary. There is no charge for this program and all fly fishing and fly tying equipment and material are available free of charge.



Please RSVP to our San Diego Program Lead, [Lee McElravy](#) We are happy to address any questions you may have to help you get started.

Please look at our Club's PHW Facebook page. <https://www.facebook.com/PHWFF.SDFV/>

SWCFFI



Direct link the [SWCFFI](#) web page!

Who or What is the Southwest Council?

The Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International represents all of Southern California and Nevada. Fly Fishers International is a 54 year old international non-profit organization dedicated to the betterment of the sport of fly fishing through Conservation, Restoration and Education. Fly Fishers International and its Councils are the only organized advocate for fly fishers on an national and regional level.

The **SDFF** is affiliated with the **Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International**

[John Wylie](#), Representative

For more information or to join FFI visit: <https://flyfishersinternational.org/>

Membership

PLEASE REMEMBER TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

**Ready to renew your membership with San Diego Fly Fishers?
Please support your club by planning to renew for 2023!**

[Renew online](#)

We are all about fishing and having fun!

Don't miss out! Join or renew!

You can renew your membership on-line through the SDFF website, or you can renew in person at our monthly programs; or you can download an application on our website and mail a check to

**SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS
C/O Stroud Tackle
1457 Morena Blvd
San Diego, CA 92110**

Questions? [Alan Thompson](#)

Or Renew at the next Monthly SDFF Meeting

SDFF has four membership levels

Individual.....\$40

Family.....\$50

Individual Military.....FREE (Active Duty Only)

Renewing your membership (or your family's) is simple.

Click here to [Join](#) then follow the instructions.

Volunteers Needed

San Diego Fly Fishers is a service organization.
So please ask yourself...

"What service can I provide to my Club"?

Service Opportunities

Fishing Outings

This is a chance to help run a fishing outing for Club members. We are seeking volunteers to organize a day of fishing on our local waters. It's fun and easy. Pick your favorite water and contact

[Kai Schumann](#) and we will help you get started.

- ◆ Pick a local lake
- ◆ Pick a location for the bay
- ◆ Pick a location for the surf

The whole idea is to involve more members in creating fishing events and get us on the water monthly.

Fundraising

- ◆ **We need 2 or 3 more volunteers to help serve on the committee**, please consider helping out. No volunteers, no fundraiser!

Greeters are needed at our Monthly meetings! We are planning to have 2 or 3 greeters at each event to help new people into our Club. It's a great way to serve the Club and meet new Fly-fishers. Please contact [Jim Castelluzzo](#)

Project Healing Waters

- ◆ Help with this important program that serves Veterans in need.
- ◆ If you know of a Veteran in need Please let us know!
- ◆ Contact: [Lee McElravy](#) to learn how you can contribute.

Women's Program

- ◆ Please contact Brooke Sargent [Women's Programs](#) for information and way to get involved.

Fishing!



Jennifer with a nice bull at La Ventana!



Wendell's rare tiger trout!



Mel caught an exceptional sunrise at Glorietta Bay.



Richard with a Crowley rainbow.



Farewell to Jerry, off to Arizona!

Please send us a picture from your trip! Sandiegoflyfishers.com

Guides and Resources

San Diego Fly Fishers does not endorse nor recommend any particular Guide or Business.

This Information is intended to provide the reader with known providers of services related to fly fishing in our local area and in California. This is not intended to be a complete list of available services.

Guides

Eastern Sierra:

[Sierra Drifters](#)

[Sierra Troutdoorsman](#)

[Pat Jaeger Fly Fishing](#)

[Kern River Fly Shop](#)

[Wild Fly Anglers](#)

Northern California:

[Acosta Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead)

[Fine and Far Fly Fishing](#) (Steelhead/Spey Trips)

[Baiocchi's Troutfitters](#)

San Diego Bay/Surf/Lakes:

[Conway Bowman](#)

[Alex Cady @ Fly Stop](#)

Fly Fishing Equipment:

[STROUD TACKLE](#)

[THE FLY STOP](#)

[Flies by Favorite](#)

River Flows and Reports

[Dreamflows](#)

[USGS Flows](#)

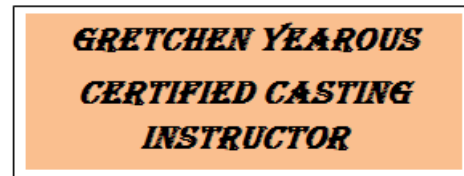
[California Data Exchange](#)

[Lower Owens River](#)



Guy Jeans, Kern River Fly Shop

Thanks for supporting San Diego Fly Fishers



We need your help getting rid of Carp at Lake Cuyamaca!



CARP ANGLERS WANTED:
CONVENTIONAL ROD AND REEL, SPEAR OR BOW:
Kill a Carp and FISH FOR FREE! Or, TENT CAMP FOR FREE!
PROOF REQUIRED!

LAKE CUYAMACA NEEDS YOUR HELP! **KILL A CARP!**

Board of Directors

San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2022

James Castelluzzo	President
Vice President	vacant
Andrea Rae	Treasurer
Mel Ochs	Secretary
Alan Thompson	Membership Sunday Fly Casting
Bruce Harris	At large
Mark Hedderson	Editor Finny Facts / Indicator
Tim Huckaby	Speaker Programs Fundraising/At large
Brooke Sargent	Women's Programs
Kai Schumann	Outings Coordinator
Gary Strawn	Conservation
John Wylie	Casting Program Instruction SWC-FFI Liaison
	Committee Chairpersons
Jack Duncan	Rod Building
Lucky Ketcham	Fly Tying Congress
Lee McElravy	Project Healing Waters
	Web Master
David Collins	Internet Resources Admin

The Indicator

Emailed twice a month
with updates and break-
ing news!
Make sure you are on the
list to stay informed.

Follow SDFF adventures
and news our FACEBOOK
page. Post your own
adventures and
pictures.

[San Diego Fly Fishers](#)

The Board meets at 6:30 PM on the last Monday of each month at the San Diego River Park Foundation Office on Pacific Hwy. (Currently held on Zoom.)

For Directions to all Club Meetings, Clinics and Fly tying classes visit our website at:
[Activities Maps](#)



Tailing Loops

The Editor, Fishing with His Pal Ed!



Here's a picture of me with my first Gallo! My partner Ed didn't catch one.



Hey! My first dorado. That's Ed in the background, untangling his line.



That's Ed, watching the captain help me land another fish!



A green jack that I caught while Ed was snagged on a buoy.



Another dorado for me, and boy, it's a nice one!



Here is Ed, catching his first dorado! Nice one!



Hey Ed, check this baby out!



Well, yeah Ed, that's a nice one too. Like your dorado shirt bro!



Ultimately, fishing is not about catching, but seeing your friend have a good time!

Editor's note: Ed did in fact catch several fish, including a huge dorado, but I seem to have misplaced those pictures, and really Ed is the kind of guy that celebrates his friend's success over his own.