



# Tightlines

**SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers**



## August 2006

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**President:** Bob Middo  
**First V.P.** Greg Stumpf  
**Treasurer:** Jeff Sadler  
**Recording Secretary:** Phil Dixon  
**Senior Advisor:** Alex Siemers  
**Conservation:** Bill Reeves  
**Youth:** Frank Kuhn  
**TIC:** Bill Reeves  
**Communications:** Bennett Mintz  
**Membership:**  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Rose  
**Web Master:**

Fly fishing Club, was named FFF Southwest Councils newsletter editor.

Bob Middo's goals include those that will "promote better communication and participation within all clubs in the FFFSWC regarding conservation projects, education, and women and youth programs."

There are over 20 Southern California and Southern Nevada fly-fishing clubs within the Southwest Council.

**From:**  
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### *Presidents Message*

### **FFF SOUTHWEST COUNCIL NAMES NEW PRESIDENT**

Bob Middo, 47, Redondo Beach, an Industrial Hygiene Consultant, FFF Master Certified Casting Instructor and Guide has been named president of the Federation of Fly Fishers Southwest Council. Bob is a member of both the South Bay Flyfishers and the Long Beach Casting Club, and has been active with the Federation of Fly Fishers for 7 years.

Greg Stumpf, Rowland Heights, a member of the Streamborn Fly Fishing Club, was named FFF Southwest Council First Vice President; while John Rose, Apple Valley, a member of the Hi-Desert Fly Fishers Club and Streamborn

It's been so long since we have had a newsletter from the Council, I'm not quite sure where to begin. Well, let's start with a hello and introduction and go from there. Hi! I'm Bob Middo, the current President of the FFF Southwest Council. I've been fly fishing since... Boring! I'm sure nobody wants to hear about me, so let's talk about the Council instead. Since our last newsletter very little has changed in the FFF SWC. We still list 21 clubs within the Council, have around 600 FFF members, had two FFF SWC Presidents prior to my term, held a couple of fund raising activities, and unfortunately, had very little communication between the Council and the clubs. We didn't skip a beat. We're right where we left off. How do we change this static state of the Council? Well, we've got some ideas. The most

pressing issue involves better communication between the Council and the clubs. I've heard it said that the FFF is the best-kept secret in fly-fishing. Nobody seems to know what we do or stand for. Sad but true, and we need to change that. As a start, all FFF SWC Club Representatives are now receiving all e-mails, meeting minutes, EVERYTHING that I get from the FFF National Headquarters. It is hoped that this information will be shared with your club, and in return, clubs and or individuals can voice their opinions, concerns, etc. back to the Council. We also intend to visit each and every club within the Council not only to say hi, but hopefully demystify what the FFF SWC actually does for the sport of fly fishing and how it affects your club. There are other things in the works as we speak to help improve communication, but there is one thing we can't do without your help, and that is your participation. At one time, the FFF SWC was the most active Council in the FFF. We were one of the first to hold our own conclave, conduct joint conservation projects involving our clubs, initiate the Trout in the Classroom (TIC) program, the FRVC, etc. I believe we can be number one again, and from what I observed at our last meeting in Santa Monica we have a good start. Speaking of the meeting, we had 15 clubs represented and 22 attendees! Thank you all for attending. So what kind of participation are we looking for? Not much. I would like to have each club send a representative to each quarterly meeting if possible, and that each club's FFF SWC Representative are in direct contact with myself. I would also like to see all clubs participate or help in the planning of future fund raising and conservation activities, or even joint

fishing outings. I'm sure that there are a lot of good ideas and worthwhile causes out there, but the Council needs to be made aware of them. Let us know what is important to you and or your club! Speaking of fund raising events, this upcoming year we plan on having a little fund raising event (Fly Tying) to help offset the cost of replacing seven signs on Hot Creek and I think this would be an excellent way for all clubs to participate in the Council. Anyway, I'll get off my soapbox now. Stay tuned for more exciting e-mails from the FFF.

**Bob Middo**  
**President, FFFSWC**

Oh sure; What can I do?  
GREG STUMPF, FIRST V. P.

This is what I said to myself; after being asked to be the first V.P. With a little thought, I agreed to accept the position. Thinking I had nothing to offer; this would be a great chance to help out and learn. I am right! You can learn something!

First this takes a lot of a persons time; yet the time is well spent. Second, I can help out; there are things that I can do for the Southwest Council.

We have been very fortunate to purchase a used show booth, with a great picture. I am currently working on getting together a complete show package; table, chairs, poster board displays, etc.

The board has approved a layout for the new graphics. We believe the logo and wording will best convey the Southwest Council and the National organization. I hope to have this work completed by early spring.

Many of you know this is when all the shows come to town. I hope the new booth will be in use a lot! We need to be

out in force to let the fly- fishing community and general public know we are here. This will be a great tool to increase much needed membership, and inform the public. My hope is that the affiliate clubs can use the booth at local events, farmers markets, community celebrations etc.

We need to increase our exposure. The booth is one way. The Internet is another way to do this.

I have a Webmaster ready to create a new website. What can you do? We need input and photos from all clubs. This includes photos of events, conservation, trout in the classroom etc. This is your website, let us know what you would like in it.

### **Hello and Good Bye By Alex Siemers**

First off a hardy Hello that has been long overdue. I won't bother to bore with all the reasons that it has been so long since you last got a council newsletter. I figure it is always better to focus on the positive and let us just rejoice in the fact that our council newsletter is back.

An overview of what has happened since the last printing of *Tight Lines* is in order. I believe that the last newsletter that was sent out was back somewhere in 2003. In January '03 Charlie Mitchell became President of the Southwest Council (SWC) and I became Vice-President and a National Director of the FFF. In August of that year Charlie, myself and Phil Dixon, the other National Director for SWC, attended the FFF national conclave and the annual Board of Directors meetings. What an experience that was. It was at that meeting that the board of directors made a critical decision to restructure the

national board and bring itself more in alignment with other similar non-profit organizations. The resulting design of the board of directors for the FFF will be able to bring our organization to new heights.

Let me focus on what has happened in our council though. In that spring of 2003 the council was approached to co-host a fly fishing fair. After months of planning and organizing the fair was held in November 2003 and went well. Over 1400 people attended the two-day show and the council raised a few thousand dollars for the coffers. The same Fair was held in the fall of 2004 with slightly lower results. With an unforeseen move to a new location and an increase in expenses the council board decided to make that the last of the big shows for us to be involved with. You'll be hearing announcements on a new event soon so keep your eyes open for it.

Just after the fair in November '03 Charlie got a job offer from out of state and he resigned from presidency of the council. So, for the last two and a half years I have been president. It has been a privilege to serve the more than 600 individual members and all of the affiliated clubs that make up the Southwest Council. And I would like to say 'thank you' to everyone who has helped in any way over the last couple of years.

There are a few people that deserve to be highlighted for their efforts and you deserve to know what they have done for the FFF, the council and you.

I will start with Frank Kuhn, an El Monte high school teacher who has worked countless hours to help the students at Arroyo High School form a youth fly fishing club. He has taught them to be fly fishers. But, more

importantly he has taught them to be good stewards of fly-fishing. To practice Catch and Release, and leave a piece of water better than they found it by always having a trash bag in their vest and do a litter pick-up on every outing. Through their own fund raising efforts as well as donations from SWC and others, the students from the Arroyo Fly Fishers have gone on several trips to the Lower Owens River where they got to learn tips and techniques from some of the local guides in the Bishop area. Thanks to Frank for helping to develop some fly fishers of the future.

When it comes to teaching there is nobody who has done more to teach the art of fly-casting than Joe Libeu. Joe is on the FFF Casting Certification Board of Governors and is a Master Casting instructor. He has spent countless hours and driven to clubs all over the council to help people work on becoming Certified Casting Instructors (CCI). The credentials of CCI have become the accepted standard that fly fishers look for when they want to get lessons from a casting instructor. Joe along with the Long Beach Casting Club has developed a mentoring program to develop CCI's that has become the envy of the country. Joe was awarded the councils Award of Excellence in 2005. Thanks to Joe for helping to straighten our cast.

My hat is off to the guy who has been wearing two hats, Bill Reeves. Bill has been the SWC Conservation Director for several years. In doing so, Bill has kept the council informed as to issues that could affect the waters that we love to fish on, both locally and nationally. Bill has traveled to Sacramento several times to be our voice to the Department of Fish and Game. And, he has even gone to Washington D.C. to lobby Congress for wild-rivers

legislation. The other hat that Bill wears is that of President of the

Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC). Wearing Forest Service uniforms members of the FRVC patrol streams of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. This gives a uniformed presence. Members make contact with fishermen and other forest visitors educating them regarding fishing regulations, trash and pollution. The FRVC also performs stream clean-up projects, does graffiti clean-up with a water blaster and assists the DFG with electro-shocking stream surveys. Bill is being awarded this year's Award of Excellence from the SWC. Bill thanks for helping us have waters to fish today and tomorrow.

And a big thanks to the guys who have done the thankless jobs. Phil Dixon our secretary. Jeff Sadler our treasurer. And Bob Middo our vice president.

Great things are on the horizon for the FFF and our council as well. It is with great pride that I turn over the helm to Bob Middo, our new president. So, this is the good bye part. I don't really have any profound parting words to enlighten you with. I will say again that it has been a pleasure and a privilege to serve you. Cast Out and Teach Someone,  
Alex Siemers

### **SWC FEDERATION OF FLY FISHERS' HIGHEST HONOR TO BILL REEVES**

Bill Reeves, Rancho Cucamonga, was presented the Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers' highest honor, the Award of Excellence. Reeves, a retired Smith Food store manager, was cited for his outstanding contributions to the fly-fishing

organization on both a national and local basis.

Reeves serves as executive vice president in charge of conservation work in the Southwest Council; and president of the Fishers Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC).

The FRVC was established in 1994 as an arm of the Federation of Fly Fishers to work with the United States Forest Service. "Wearing Forest Service uniforms, members patrol streams of the Angeles and San Bernardino National Forests. This gives a uniformed presence. Members make contact with fishermen and other forest visitors educating them regarding fishing regulations, trash and pollution," said Bob Midddo, Southwest Council FFF president.

Reeves is past-president and life member of the Deep Creek Fly Fishers.

### **THE DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT THE FRVC DOES MAKE A DIFFERENCE**

This year the FRVC had a mixed success.

The FRVC Annual Meeting was will attended by about 50 enthusiastic members. A lot of ideas we brought up to improve the FRVC. We talked about brochures, pagers, and a phone tree. We worked three shows this year, the Bob Marriott's show, The Fly Fishing Show at Ontario and the Fred Hall Show with the help of about 22 members. This year Bob Marriott donated the proceeds of the silent auction at his show this November to the FRVC

We where able to train 25 new members this spring

This summer at the Federation of Fly Fishers I made a presentation to introduce the FRVC to the whole nation. This was a start I hope I planted a seed there.

The FRVC Participated with other volunteer groups in the San Bernardino Fish Fest, which was a success again this year.

The FRVC had its annual Bar B Q in September this year. We had a large turnout with more good food than we could eat. I felt so embarrassed that I left the franks in my refrigerator but brought the buns.

The FRVC in the Los Padres is started and going.

I am very proud of what is happing in the Angeles forest. The West Fork of the San Gabriel River Patrols are so well covered that some of the people want to start patrolling on the Piru River and some want to start a new patrol an the North Fork of the San Gabriel River. It looks like that will happen early next year. In the areas that where closed because of the fires and flood and washout roads it seams that we got out of the habit of patrolling these streams. Most of these steams are on the mend and the public is coming out in force. So please contact your Stream Coordinator and make some dates to patrol this next year. We need YOU to make a difference.

Next year I feel that we will bigger than ever. We have plans to get started on our own Steam Project and the help the Natures Conservatory with their Stream Project.

**CONSERVATION REPORT FOR  
THE CLUBS IN THE SOUTHWEST  
COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION  
OF FLYFISHERS**

1. Aqua Bonita Fly fishers  
Their work was done in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Gill net removal at Chicken Lake: June 3-4 1 member. Work a weekend at Monache Wildlife area: June 18-19 7 members. Casa Vieja fence repair: June 24-26 3 members. Headcut repair maintenance at Olivas Pasture: July 16 and 17 1 member Modified SCI stream bank monitoring at Little Whitney area: August 8-13 2 members. Templeton Barrier/Strawberry Monitoring: September 9-14 2 members. Monache Wildlife Area-work party: October 1-2 5 members. For a total of 57 man days of hard work.
2. Deep Creek Fly Fishers  
Their work included Bear Creek clean up one day 12 members. Golden trout Project 4 members 3 days. Upper Owens River Cleanup one day 3 members. Trout in the classroom 70 some schools about 2500 kids and 300 half days by members. \$100 to the Golden Trout Project. \$100 to Cal Trout. For a total of \$ 200 and 174 man days.
3. Downey Fly Fishers  
They sponsor Trout in The Classroom in 6 schools about 800 kids and the Downey Wilderness Park's Kids Fishing Day. Work with the local Boy Scouts to help them earn their merit badges. Spent \$620 on a new chiller for TIC.
4. Kaweah Flyfishers  
In the calendar year 2005, the Kaweah Flyfishers sponsored 31 Trout in the Classroom classes

comprising of 896 students. The club spent \$167.41 in operation expenses. We had 23 members volunteers provide 384 hours of direct support of the program. These 23 members drove a total of 2746 miles in their personal vehicles to provide this support.

Kaweah Fly-fish members, along with the Fresno Flyfishers For Conservation (FFFC) participated in planning and funding the preliminary preparation of an environmental restoration project of the Big Meadow area in the Dinkey Creek area that resulted from a combination of road construction over three decades ago and cattle grazing. To date the club has made a \$5,000 contribution to the project and members of the club have dedicated numerous hours and several hundreds of miles to the effort.

Again in association with members of the FFFC, the Kaweah Flyfishers has been an active participant in the Public Advisory Group (PAG) to the Lower Kings River Fisheries Management Program (FMP) of the Kings River Water Association/Kings River Water Conservation District. The FMP, as well as the PAG were a development of a suit brought against the Kings River Management of a major fish die-off a number of years earlier in the Kings River below Pine Flat Dam. Kaweah Flyfisher donated \$3,000 the Golden Trout Project. 3 members have participated the GTP weekend activities. The club also sponsored three monofilament line-recycling centers in the Visalia, Porterville-Fresno area. Berkeley operates the program to recover and recycle monofilament into fish

propagation structures. A total of \$8,167.41 and 48 days at least.

#### 5. Santa Barbara Flyfishers

- Golden Trout Project 4 people helped with Monache Wildlife Area and electro shocking the South Fork of the Kern below Schaffer Barrier. Two trips June and October for a total of 16 days.
- Cottonwood/Tres Plumas Drainage in the White Mountains. 3 people to monitor grazing recovery and general report of the area of recreational activity and effects. Late August.
- Tamarisk removal on the Middle Santa Ynez in the Los Prietos Area & people late October.
- Fall Cleanup of the Middle Santa Ynez. 20 people picking up litter in the riverbed before the first rains and flushes. Early November.
- \$1,000 Golden Trout Project and \$1,000 to United Anglers for their continued efforts representing our concerns in the MLPA process. For a total of 39 man-days and 2,000.

#### 6. Sespe Fly fishers

\$1,000 for Trout in the Classroom and \$500 contribution to Cal Trout.

#### 7. Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps

Worked on 9 wild trout streams with about 140 volunteer members did more than 4,000 volunteer hours, removed over 4 tons of trash, broke up illegal fire rings, had thousands of public contacts with the fishing public on fishing regulations and fire

safety, remove untold amounts of graffiti with water blaster and sand blaster and paint. Participated in the Super Canyon Clean up in the San Gabriel River and the Cleanup on San Antonio Creek. Electro shocking with DFG many times. Did a fish rescue of Lower Lytle Creek after the water company dewatered it, saved over 800 trout and Speckled Dace. Did tree planting on San Antonio Creek on trees we raised from cuttings. Participated in the Jenks Lake Fish Fest for about 130 kids that are orphaned or wards of the court, we give them a day of fishing; we got the rods ready for use and we got their fish buddies for them. The FRVC is spending about \$700 for tee shirts for the fish. We are a stakeholder on the San Gabriel River Master Plan, the West Fork Working Group.

### WILDERNESS FLY FISHERS HONORED

On Friday May 12<sup>th</sup>, the Wilderness Fly Fishers Club was honored by the Culver City Education Fund at an award banquet held in the Grand Ballroom of the Raddison Hotel in Culver City.

There were approximately 500 parents, teachers, and business people in attendance. Representing our club was Jim Solomon and Jim Drummond who accepted the award on behalf of all the Wilderness Club members.

Each year the Culver City Education Fund organization honors volunteers and businesses. Every Culver City School from K to Adult nominates one individual volunteer and one Business Company or person to receive a "Shooting Star Award".

This year the El Marino Language School chose, as their business volunteer of the year, the Wilderness Fly Fishers for the long time relationship with the Trout in the Classroom program. The Wilderness Fly Fishers received beautiful citations from the Los Angeles County, State Assembly, State Senate, and the Culver City Education Fund presented us with a very nice acrylic "Shooting Star" sculpture. These awards were displayed at our May meeting and the Board of Directors of the WFF will decide on their disposition. Wouldn't be great if we had a clubhouse to display them? Oh well! We can dream can't we? The WFF sincerely thanks the parents, students, teachers and Principal of the El Marino Language School plus the members of the Culver City Education Fund for honoring us.

Trout in the Classroom has been a wonderful program for our club and many thanks go to the many men and women who have devoted their time to this program.

### **98<sup>th</sup> ACA National Tournament!** – by Mark Lipe

The 98<sup>th</sup> American Casting Association (ACA) National Tournament will take place at Long Beach, CA July 31 – August 5, 2006. The Long Beach Casting Club originated in 1925 has a rich history with tournament casting and has hosted this annual event in 1947, 1954, 1961, 1971, 1978, 1984, and 2000. This year will be our 8<sup>th</sup> time hosting this prestigious 12-event tournament. The distance events will be at El Dorado Regional Park in Long Beach on August 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. The accuracy events will commence at the Long Beach Casting Club facility on August 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>. Casters will come from all over the United

States and Canada to compete for trophies, medals, and prize money in distance and accuracy events.

Competition corresponds to divisions' relative to age and / or gender. For specific rules, schedule of events, and registration information, please log onto to [americancastingassoc.org](http://americancastingassoc.org) and/or [longbeachcastingclub.org](http://longbeachcastingclub.org).

After a full day of practice on Monday, July 31<sup>st</sup>, we will initiate the tournament with our Official Opening Ceremonies beginning at 5:00 p.m. at our Clubhouse, which is located at Recreation Park near 7th Street, and Federation Drive.

Thereafter, a social with complimentary appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages will be served with an opportunity to buy raffle tickets, place bids on silent auction items, and to purchase tournament merchandise.

This year's tournament offers something special, in that we have two International Casting Sport Federation (ICSF) events scheduled on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The Skish Fly Accuracy and the Spinning Arenberg Plug Accuracy will be cast on grass and will follow ICSF rules and equipment guidelines. We hope to have a few guests from across the pond that will cast the events as well as some of our ACA casters who have international experience. These games will also be showcased early September at the 2006 ICSF World Championships in Ireland.

A 5 wt. combination accuracy and distance demonstration event is also scheduled for Saturday, August 5<sup>th</sup>.

This five-minute combination game consists of false casting to eight targets ranging from 20 to 80 feet. One of your eight final casts requires a curve type cast at the second target, which is located directly behind and touching the first "obstacle" target. The objective is to land the fly in the target without

touching the “obstacle” target. Another cast will be at the farthest “bonus” target, which is 60 - 80 feet away. After the accuracy portion of the game is completed, the event continues as you cast for distance with recording of your best two distance casts. The equipment requires a 5 WF floating line with no rod restrictions except it may not exceed 9’1”.

The Long Beach Casting Club is one of twenty-two clubs associated with the ACA. We encourage you to compete and enjoy the challenge and camaraderie associated with tournament casting. It’s a great opportunity to build casting skills, make new acquaintances, build friendships and witness some of the best casters in North America. If tournament casting is not your cup of tea, come visit the casters’ as they demonstrate their skills with soaring lines, tight loops, and accurate fly and plug landings.

### **Downey Fly Fishers** **Guest Speakers**

The Downey Fly Fishers is pleased to announce the schedule of guest speakers for the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2006. Members of the SWCFFF clubs are always welcome to attend our general meeting as our special guest. If you are interested in attending a general meeting to see any of these guest speakers, please contact Carl Laski at (714) 995-4219. We will be happy to add you to our guest list and provide directions to the meeting.

#### **Schedule Of Guest Speakers**

- Aug. 8, 2006, 7:00 PM, John Donovan  
– Katmai Lodge, Alaska
- Sept. 12, 2006, 7:00PM, Jeff Solis-  
Magdalena Bay, Baja  
Calif.

- Oct. 10, 2006, 7:00 PM Conway  
bowman- Mako Shark on  
a Fly Rod!
- Nov. 14, 2006, 7:00 PM, Bob Sheedy  
– Still Water Forage,  
Canada
- Dec. 2006 TBA Christmas Potluck,  
Mark Momberg –  
Nushagak Rainbow  
Camp, Alaska

Downey Fly Fishers also sent me a letter written by some 3<sup>rd</sup> graders regarding their Trout in the Class Room program. I thought it was so nice I am including the letter as they wrote it! Please feel free to enlarge it so you can read it better.

