



Tightlines

SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers



November 2006

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FFFSWC Presidents Message

A couple of questions came up the other day about “What does the FFF do for me, and why should we care about the Mangrove Initiative?” These questions, especially the first have come up time and time again, so I guess we (FFF) haven’t done a very good job of explaining our purpose and goals. Let me see if I can put things into perspective. As a past President of the FFFSWC once told me, the FFF is the keeper of fly fishing’s past, present and future. Sort of like B.A.S.S., but with a more gentle take on history, conservation and education. In other words, we are the only organization that looks out for fly fishing interests exclusively, something that Cal-Trout, United Anglers and Trout Unlimited do not. This is not to say we are competing with them, quite the contrary. We

partner with these organizations and others in various causes so that fly fishermen and our concerns are not overlooked, and though we are not a lobbying organization, we still get a lot done with what little resources we have.

A few things that the FFFSWC has implemented to benefit the fly fisher include the **Fisheries Resource Volunteer Corps (FRVC)**. The FRVC was established in our Council to assist the U.S. Forest Service in electro shocking, trash clean ups, graffiti removal, etc. and serve as good will ambassadors and educators on our local streams. You may have seen them yourselves on numerous occasions, talking/educating with non-fly fishing anglers, picking up trash, conducting surveys, etc. and probably thought they worked for the U.S. Forest Service. Nope, they are our own volunteer fly fishermen and women donating time and effort to see that our local streams are not over run with trash, unlawful angling, graffiti, etc.

Trout in the Classroom

(TIC) is another program that was initially started by the FFFSWC. This program helps educate hundreds if not thousand of elementary school children throughout Southern California each year on the importance of conservation, water pollution and habitat because they are our future and will eventually become the keepers of the streams, rivers and lakes we fish today. Some Clubs such as the Wilderness Fly

Fishers have such a good program that they recently received a special award from Culver City for their efforts.

Casting: Nobody wants to be a lousy caster, sure catching fish on a fly is fun, but there is always that big one just 10 feet further out than you can cast to. If only I could get there.... Well you can if you want to thanks to the FFF. One of the most successful programs in the FFF is the Certified Casting Instructor Program. This program has trained and certified over a thousand instructors world wide, who in turn have taught thousands more at shows, club outings, public casting classes, etc. on how to cast. This program took the mystery out of fly casting, and has shown that casting is not about styles and special secret techniques privy to only a select few, and in doing so has increased the overall enjoyment of the sport for many.

Why should we care about the FFF's efforts in other areas of the country? If we only cared about our own personal waters, and didn't support anybody else's, pretty soon we would have no waters to pursue fly fishing at all. It has been said that united we stand divided we fall. When we take a stand as an organization and not individuals we can get things done easier and more effectively. Mangroves may not be your thing, but what if Hot Creek was endangered? Would it not be beneficial to have an organization dedicated to fly fishing to help convey your concerns and help fight for your rights? I believe so.

There are other things I could touch upon, but these are my favorites. In short, the FFF does do quite a lot for

the individual, it's just that most of it has been overlooked or forgotten.

Bob Middo
President, FFFSWC

Dates to Keep in Mind

February 24, 2007 Fly Tying Expo, at the Long Beach Casting club to raise funds to help pay for the New Hot Creek signs. Donated Flies are due by February 1, 2007. Contact person is Naomi Okamoto, meimei2@earthlink.net.

February 28 thru the first week of March is the Fred Hall fishing show, there should be many fly fishing booths this year. Lastly a fly fishing Show in Pasadena, March 10 and 11, 2007.

A NEW WEBSITE

Greg Stumpf First Vice President, of the Southwest Council is currently reworking the website. The site is very out of date.

The goal of the Council is to make the web site user friendly, and informative to its members.

We need photos of events, outings, fundraisers, casting classes, etc.

We also would like to include a calendar section; sort of a one-stop shopping for all that is going on within the Council. We would still list all member clubs and the FFF.

This is your website. We would like your impute as to what goes into it.

Kaweah Fly Fishers Raise \$1,200 in Twenty Minutes

September 23rd was the Kaweah Club's annual fund raising banquet. By the time 7:30 rolled around, we'd had a full day of casting and watching people

cast, tying flies and watching people tie flies, gone through the excitement of silent and live auctions and had a filling dinner. The last item prior to the speaker was the raffling off of the individual table centerpieces. At this point John Crane, the club's conservation officer asked our help in raising funds for a project that our speaker, Trapper Badovinac is involved with. This project is the Wounded Warrior Project that provides a five-day fly fishing trip on Montana's Smith River for 5 severely disabled veterans of the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Speaking for the board, John announced that the funds raised from the centerpiece raffle would go to the Wounded Warrior Project. To put us in the right frame of mind, an anonymous member challenged us to raise at least \$500 that he would match. Twenty minutes later, a total of \$1,200 had been raised. In addition, Lee Terkelsen, our speaker that evening, also donated his fee. The accompanying article describes in detail what the program is about and how other clubs can get on the bandwagon.

Wounded Warrior Project

Trapper Badovinac has taught hundreds of people the joys of fly fishing on the famed Smith River in Montana over the past nine years. Now he has taken on a new challenge: Teaching severely wounded veterans how to fly fish. He needs lots of help in this endeavor. The program must cover the cost of transportation, meals and lodging to and from the river, and just simple things like food for 5 days on the river. Donations are needed to continue to give back to those who have given so much. They may be sent to Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517,

Topeka, KS 66675-8517. Mark your donation as for Soldier Fund/Smith River Montana. You can also donate easily with a credit card by going online to www.woundedwarriorproject.org.

Trapper's new experience began in May 2005 when he and other guides took four severely disabled Veterans and one of the medical staff from Walter Reed Army Hospital on a 5-day 60-mile float fishing trip down the Smith River. He said: "I've taught hundreds of people to fly fish but these young men were so very appreciative and so very great to be with, that I cannot find words to adequately express just how honored I felt to spend those five days with them. I watched them fall and get back up. I saw men acting like men. They set up their own tent every night and helped with all the camp chores. We showed them a good time but didn't baby them, and we all ended the week better off than when we began."

These brave young men were all severely injured while fighting the war in Iraq and Afghanistan. None had ever fly fished before, but they quickly learned, and were catching trout before the end of the first day. It was a learning experience for both the staff and these disabled Vets. One Wounded Warrior, Derek Hurt, lost his leg when an IED blew up the Humvee he was patrolling in. He was later hired by the outfitter, Mike Geary, and joined the staff for several other floats."

Over eighteen thousand young men and women have returned as Wounded Warriors. Many have lost extremities. Many have lost sight and hearing. Most have multiple wounds. They are receiving the best medical care this country has to offer. But most will

continue to need care for the rest of their lives.

As a part of their rehabilitation, they need programs that will help them build confidence. Trapper and Lewis and Clark Expeditions stand ready to help them learn and gain confidence. Sending them on a once in a lifetime experience with a seasoned professional offers a great opportunity to give back in a meaningful way.

The Wounded Warrior Project is a stand-alone non-profit entity, but it is also affiliated with Disabled Sports USA, the non-profit organization that provides opportunities for severely disabled veterans to participate in all kinds of outdoor sports including (but not limited to): Outrigger Canoeing; Golf; Water-Skiing; Cycling; Kayaking/Adventure Sports; Rock Climbing; Alpine & Nordic Skiing and Snowboarding. DS/USA is a member of the U.S. Olympic Committee, and it conducts training camps and competitions to prepare athletes for the Paralympic Games.

The Disabled Sports USA motto is: **"I can do this, I can do anything!"**

HOT CREEK:

Changes at a blue ribbon stream

Greg Stumpf First Vice President



If you have fished Hot Creek this year you have seen the changes. An increase in geothermal activity caused the Forest Service to close part of the stream. The activity has increased throughout the summer. Time will tell what will happen to the stream. Although this is interesting to know, I am writing about other changes.



The Southwest Council has started to replace the angler information signs. These signs have been in place since the early 90's. The signs have served fly fishers well over the years. Providing information on regulations, advice on releasing fish, and preserving the fragile fishery. The harsh climate, and a few woodpeckers have taken their toll.

The decision to replace the signs started long before I came aboard. Bob Middo wished to clear all old business at the summer Council meeting. E-mails went out, and at the meeting we were given a cost that the council could deal with and the project was approved. The new signs were ordered. Great! who is going to install them, what about the Forest Service, and can we maintain them?

So I jumped in with both feet. I contacted the Forest Service. I thought this would be our largest hurdle. Was I ever wrong, the Forest service has been a big help throughout the project. I received the permit to remove the old signs and the ground rules to place the new signs in a few days.

Now everything was in place. I could remove the old signs and bring them back for the fundraiser in February. This took place the last week in September, with the help of Streamborn Fly Fishing Club. Some of the signs will be on display at the Southwest Councils Fly Tying Expo and Auction At Long Beach Casting Club. On February 24, 2007, the signs will be placed on E-Bay a short time later, with one sign going to the FFF fly fishing museum in Montana.



The Council is currently working with Mammoth High School Fly Fishing Club to take ownership of the signs. The Club would take care of maintenance of the signs; in return the Council will provide the Club with a Chiller for a Trout in the Classroom program. Seems like a win, win deal. The Council gets

the signs maintained and we educate future fly fishers at the same time.

I wish to thank all the members of the Council, Inyo National Forest, and Streamborn Fly Fishing Club for their hard work, insight and photos. This project would not be possible without the cooperation of us all. Although this project is not complete, I am looking into a project at Rush Creek, to have it posted for NZMS as it has been listed as a positive water. The future of this water is in peril as a Brown Trout fishery. The posting would be a first step to get special Regulations in place during the spawning season.

New Club to Join FFF

My name is John Rose, I am currently the president of the HI-Desert Fly Fishers. We are currently going through the process of becoming an affiliate club with FFF.

The HI-Desert Fly Fishers are located in Apple Valley, California. The membership now consists of approximately 27 members, but we are always looking for new people.

FFF members who live in the general area of Victorville, Hesperia, Apple Valley, Lucerne areas, or for that matter any where else, are welcome to come to any of our meetings. The meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at the Apple Valley Fire Station, at Yucca Loma Blvd and Apple Valley Road.

The meetings start at approximately 6:30 PM and usually last a couple of hours. The meeting usually consists of either a guest speaker, fly fishing and tying videos, PowerPoint presentations and/or discussions regarding fly fishing trips and/or locations in the high desert area.