



# Tightlines

**SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers**



## January 2010

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**President:** Michael Schweit  
**First V.P.:** Greg Stumpf  
**Treasurer:** Carl Laski  
**Recording Secretary:** Melinda Burns  
**Senior Advisor:** Greg Stumpf  
**Conservation:** Bill Reeves  
**Youth:** Open  
**TIC:** Open  
**Communications:** Bennett Mintz  
**Membership:** Joe Lemire  
**Newsletter Editor:** John Rose  
**Web Master:** Melinda Burns  
**FlyTying:** Naomi Okamoto & Steve Fernandez  
**Education:** Open  
**Casting:** Joe Libeu

It is all about renewal.

The SouthWest Council is about to launch its own renewal. There have been many club meetings and discussions and finally, it will be show time! 5 shows and events in 5 weeks from Long Beach to Pasadena to Del Mar. And all of this is possible because of the cooperation of our member clubs.

Just in time for the New Year, we would like to welcome another retailer as a supporter of the SouthWest Council. Peter Piconi and his shop, SoCal Fly Fishing Outfitters in San Diego. Peter has tons of fly fishing experience in the San Diego area and has seminars and speakers of interest throughout the year. If you are reading this and are not a member of a local fly fishing club, I think you are missing out of an important aspect of our sport. Education. Most clubs have on-going casting and tying programs and when you factor in the speakers and their knowledge, it is like a college education for the price of 4 dozen flies or a fly line. Please use our website to find a club near you and pay them a visit. They will welcome you.

**Bob Middo receives Council award of excellence**

### **SWCFFF Presidents Message**



This is my favorite time of year. Tying flies in preparation for spring and summer fishing. Getting out to the park or local lake for some casting practice when it is not raining.



Bob received the award for his many years of service. A member of the Federation for eleven years; Bob has worked as Council Vice President and President. As president Bob worked to bring the Council back to the Clubs. Attendance at meetings grew and things started to turn around. We have new hot Creek signs and even put out a few newsletters, while Bob was president. Bob's efforts have not been limited to the Southwest Council. He is a Master Casting Instructor, Certified Two Handed Casting Instructor, Casting Board of Governors Emeritus. Bob can usually be found on the Pond a Long Beach Casting Club, teaching a Class or just helping someone out.

Bob started fly fishing at a young age. Like most of us, he went after tuna with iron, and threw unsightly baits at Bass from an even more unsightly boat. Bob has always returned to a fly rod as he puts it" after it's all said and done, nothing else I have ever done fishing wise compares to the history, art, science and ethics of the sport of fly fishing"



### **Request for Award Nominations**

#### **Wild Trout X**

Holiday Inn, West Yellowstone, MT

September 28-30, 2010

"Conserving Wild Trout"

[www.wildtroutsymposium.com](http://www.wildtroutsymposium.com)

The Wild Trout Symposium Organizing Committee is now accepting nominations for awards to be presented at its 10th Symposium, to be held in West

Yellowstone, MT, September 28 - 30, 2010.

The Wild Trout Symposium brings together a broad and diverse audience of governmental entities, non-profit conservation groups, media representatives, educators, anglers, fishing guides, and business interests associated with trout fisheries to exchange technical information and viewpoints on wild trout management and related public policy. Held every 3 years, each symposium has led to innovative wild trout management approaches.

The following awards will be made at Wild Trout X:

- Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal - Professional
- Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal - Non-professional
- Marty Seldon Student Scholarship Awards (two will be awarded)
- Trout Unlimited-Federation of Fly Fishers Wild Trout Stewardship Award

#### **Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal**

The Wild Trout Symposium Organizing Committee established the Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout Medal in 1984 as a continuing memorial to this distinguished naturalist, teacher, author, and an important participant in these symposia, who was the son of Aldo Leopold. Two Wild Trout medals are conferred, one to a professional and one to a nonprofessional individual, who in the eyes of their peers have made

long-time and significant contributions to the enhancement, protection, and preservation of wild trout.

**Marty Seldon Student Scholarship Award**

In order to recognize outstanding students in the field of fisheries management and biology, and to encourage their participation in Wild Trout Symposia, two students will be awarded with Marty Seldon Student Scholarships at each symposium. Each award consists of a \$500 stipend to assist student travel or other costs incurred in their attendance. Awards are open to graduate students in Fisheries Management or related field. Applicants will be judged on a combination of current graduate GPA and an essay written by the applicant. An application form can be found at the conference website.

**The Trout Unlimited-Federation of Fly Fishers Wild Trout Stewardship Award**

This award is conferred by the Wild Trout Symposium for the implementation of an outstanding fishery project or plan that makes a significant contribution to the conservation, protection, restoration, or enhancement of a cold water fishery. This award is made to a club, group, or other organization. The Symposium Awards Committee reviews all nominations and selects appropriate recipients. The physical award consists of a certificate of achievement and an honorarium of \$1,000 underwritten equally by the

Federation of Fly Fishers and Trout Unlimited.

Please visit the [conference website](#) for more information on these awards. Nominations for the Aldo Starker Leopold Wild Trout awards are due by April 1, 2010. Nominations for the Student Scholarship and Trout Stewardship awards are due by May 15, 2010.. Nominees must attend the symposium. Please send nomination letters and a brief rationale, including complete recipient contact information, to the Wild Trout X Awards Chairperson:

Jim Daley  
Coldwater Fisheries Unit Leader  
Division of Fish, Wildlife, and Marine Resources  
625 Broadway  
Albany, NY 12233-4753  
(518) 402-8959

**Helpful suggestion to Align Your Rods the Easy Way**

A Tip from Dick Meikka of the Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club  
After you assemble your fly rod, do you have to spend several minutes getting the guides lined up perfectly?  
Unless your rod has alignment dots, you probably twist each section a tad, and then sight down the rod to see if the guides are providing a perfect path for your fly line. Sometimes, if the sections are already fully pushed together, you risk distorting the guides while trying to make a small twisting adjustment. An easier way is to apply your own alignment dots to the rod sections. This is not difficult, and only has to be done once.

My method is to make two properly spaced small round holes in a short piece of plastic electricians tape using a leather punch. Then, having assembled and aligned the rod sections carefully by eye, I apply the punched tape straddling the joint on the side opposite the guides. I then apply a dab of paint or fingernail polish of contrasting color to the rod blank at each punched hole. After the paint dries, I strip off the tape and viola!...the problem is solved. If I am off a bit, I just remove the bad dots with a bit of solvent and redo the job. Usually, though, that is not necessary.

- It pays to make sure that the rod surfaces are cleaned carefully, so the paint will adhere permanently.
- I have used white and silver paint from automobile touchup pens, available at hardware or automobile part stores, but any paint that will adhere to the rod surfaces should work.
- Be sure to put the tape down firmly so there are no air gaps near the punched holes.
- Also, be aware that the tape adhesive can be attacked by solvents in the paint, so use only enough paint to do the job, or use a water-based paint that is not water sensitive after drying. A little experimentation will get you going, and you probably already have the necessary stuff at your workbench or in the garage.

## **Aquabonita Conservation Director**

### **Howard Kern Named Field & Stream *Hero of Conservation***

In the Winter 2010 issue of the Trout Unlimited magazine Trout, there was a story about our friend and conservation organizer Howard Kern.

Many of us know Howard as the organizer and coordinator for volunteer efforts for the Golden Trout Project. From Trout: “Last October, Field & Stream named Trout Unlimited volunteer Howard Kern their 2009 Hero of Conservation for his tireless volunteer work on golden trout restoration and youth outreach in California.”

### This is an Old Patch used by the SWCFFF

Things have come a long way!





## **FLYBUY, 2010**

**A Fundraiser for the SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers**

**And**  
**An Opportunity for YOU to learn and improve in your Sport!**

Join us for a day of fly tying, casting instruction and a chance to pick up some lightly used gear at a great price while helping the SWCFFF.

Date – February 20, 2010, Saturday 9-4

Place – Long Beach Casting Club

Cost – 10.00 includes BBQ burgers and dogs

RSVP – for the casting, leader class and food – January 30, 2010

818.7573474 or

[secretary@southwestcouncilfff.org](mailto:secretary@southwestcouncilfff.org)

### **GARAGE SALE**

We need your members to donate items to be sold in a fishing garage sale. These can be rods, reels, lines, clothing, vests or accessories. We are going to lay it all out on a table or a tarp and take the best offer we can get. Anything not sold will be donated to **Project Healing Waters, Mammoth High School Fly Fishing Club or as needed by the SWC member clubs.** Let's get items that are in working order and have a value of at

least \$10. This not a swap meet – it is a HUGE YARD SALE. This is a great opportunity to get rid of extras, duplicates and unwanted gifts. Give any items to your SWCFFF representative or contact us directly.

### **CASTING**

Want to be a better caster at the end of the day? Take a quick lesson and receive pointers from Certified Federation Instructors. For the nominal fee of \$1.00 per minute (15 minutes minimum), you will have your casting analyzed by one of our great instructors. Single handed, Spey, double-haul - whatever you need, we can provide. Lessons will be available from 11am until 3 pm.

Advance reservations are necessary so that we will have enough instructors on hand. Please RSVP by January 30 of your interest and approximate time. We will take care of the rest.

### **FLY TYING**

You may not be aware of this, but the SWC clubs have some of the most prominent and innovative tyers around. Many will be here for demonstrations of their techniques. And some of their special flies will be available for purchase. There will also be an auction for the really special one-of-a-kind flies by these tiers and clubs have donated flies for purchase.

In a related class, Mas Okui (Hot Creek Guru) will be teaching how to tie his freshwater leaders. The class is 30.00 which goes to purchase the leader kit with enough material to create bunches of leaders t make the manufactured ones blush in shame. Limited to the first 20 people.

## **SF man pleads guilty to poaching steelhead**

The Associated Press

Posted: 01/26/2010 05:18:16 PM PST

Updated: 01/26/2010 05:18:17 PM PST

SAN FRANCISCO—A San Francisco man is facing possible prison time after pleading guilty to federal charges of poaching steelhead trout by blocking a stream. Prosecutors say Luke Brugnara pleaded guilty Tuesday to two counts of violating the Endangered Species Act, as well as two counts of making false statements to game wardens. In pleading guilty, the 46-year-old Brugnara admitted to blocking the stream by closing off a dam on property he owns in Gilroy. Closing the dam trapped steelhead trout returning from the ocean. Steelhead have been listed as a threatened species in the area since 1997. Prosecutors say Brugnara is facing five years in prison and fines for each false statement charge, as well as six months and fines for each count of violating the Endangered Species Act. He's scheduled to be sentenced May 5.

**Federation of Fly Fishers presented an engraved pewter mug to Jim Brem, president of the KFF's**



At the August meeting of the Kaweah Fly Fishers, Michael Schweit, president of the Southwest Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers presented an engraved pewter mug to Jim Brem, president of the KFF's. It was given to honor Mickey Powell for his many years of service and contributions to the fly fishing industry.

Mickey Powell passed away on March 3rd, 2009, after a long fight with cancer.

Mickey was the proprietor of Buzz's Fly Shop until his retirement in 1998. He was a founding member of the Kaweah Fly Fishers, active in the Federation of Fly Fishers on a national level, and an integral part of the foundation of the Golden Trout Wilderness. He devoted much of his later years to the running of the Trout in the Classroom in Tulare and Kings Counties and has touched the lives of thousands of school children over the years.

At the Annual Fall Festival of the Kaweah Fly Fishers, this pewter mug was given to Mickey's wife, Rosalie Powell. In a thank you note she said, "It will sit in honor in Mick's office, perhaps with flowers from his garden within. Mick would have been pleased."

## **Volunteer Help Wanted!**

We wish we could offer this with pay. Or at least with dollar denominated currency. As volunteers, we are rewarded with the performance of a good job and furthering interest in our sport. Your Council is running at full tilt and enjoying the changes that are coming about because of their involvement. But we want to do more. And have no fear. Lack of experience is not a deterrent as we all learn as we go

and help each other. Here are some areas where we need some help –

**TROUT IN THE CLASSROOM (TIC)**

This is one of the best ways to engage youth. Raising fish in a classroom, learning about the environment that surrounds them and then releasing them to the wild. Some clubs have active TIC programs and other do not. We need someone to coordinate this exchange of information. Your time involvement would consist mostly of e-mails, occasional phone calls and a quarterly report to the Council.

**FUNDRAISING**

Most successful clubs have this covered as they have raffles on a monthly basis. Fortunately for us, we are not in that position. We need someone to contact retailers and club members to obtain items and/or commitments for one or two events per year. Your involvement would consist of e-mails and phone calls. We can supply you with names and numbers.

**VICE-PRESIDENT**

Greg was kind enough to step up to this position to give Michael assistance and advice when needed. But he has already served as president and the SWC needs new blood and ideas. In planning for the future, we need someone who wants to participate in the growth of this Council. We get lots of people telling us what we can do and how to do it. We need someone who wants to act and place their imprint on the Council.

If you are interesting in any of the positions or think of some way that you

can offer us your help in any capacity, please contact Michael Schweit at [president@southwestcouncilfff.org](mailto:president@southwestcouncilfff.org) or 818.7573474.

**Fly Fishing Shows**

In the upcoming months the Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers will be participating in various different Fly Fishing Shows. The SWCFFF will have a booth in each of these shows. In this booth we will be promoting our council but more *importantly* we will be promoting each and every club that is a member of Southwest Council. In order to make this a successful venue for building club memberships and awareness of the clubs, we need your help with staffing the booths. All you have to do as a volunteer is share your love of fly fishing and your enthusiasm for our sport, the rest will come easy. The booth will provide, membership brochures for all our clubs and photos of all the activities that our clubs have to offer. We hope you will be able to find time in your busy schedule to volunteer at any of these shows and meet new fly fishing friends at the same time.

Here is a list of the shows and dates. If you are interested in volunteering for any of these shows, please contact me by phone or email. I want to thank you in advance for your continued support of the Southwest Council Federation of Fly Fishers.

| Event                     | Date       | Time         |
|---------------------------|------------|--------------|
| Bass Pro                  | Feb 27 -28 | 9am - 8pm    |
| Long Beach Fred Hall Show | Mar 3 -7   | 2pm - 9:30pm |
| Del Mar Fred Hall Show    | Mar 24 -28 | 1pm - 8:30pm |
| Pasadena Fly Fishing Show | Mar 13 -14 | 9am 4:30 pm  |



©2009 Photo courtesy of Christina Kaufman.

## SAVE THE DATE!

For the third One Surf Fly Beach Classic

**SATURDAY, MAY 1st | 6AM BEACH CHECK-IN**

To be held at:

**SANTA CLAUS LANE, Carpinteria**



Hosted by **The Artful Angler**

3817 Santa Claus Lane | Carpinteria, CA 93013 | 805.566.5900

100% of OSF Raffle proceeds to benefit:



**Matilija Coalition**

Monitoring annual trends in abundance and distribution of steelhead above and below Matilija Dam, Ventura, California.



A young child with blonde hair, wearing a blue hat and a pink jacket, is holding a small fish. The child is looking down at the fish with a gentle expression. The background is a soft-focus outdoor scene with green foliage and a bright light source, possibly the sun, creating a warm atmosphere.

**FEDERATION OF FLYFISHERS  
ANNUAL FLY FISHING FAIR**

**And Conclave**

**WEST YELLOWSTONE, MONTANA**

**AUGUST 24-28, 2010**

**EXHIBITS**

**FLY FISHING EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

**FLY TYING DEMOS and CLASSES**

**YOUTH FLY FISHING PROGRAM**

**WOMENS FLY FISHING PROGRAM**

**FLY CASTING DEMOS and CLASSES**

**OVER 75 WORKSHOPS—SOME ARE ON WATER**

**BAMBOO ROD BUILDING DEMOS and CLASSES**

**RAFFLES AND AUCTION**

**For more information - [www.federationconclave.org](http://www.federationconclave.org)**