



Tightlines

SouthWest Council, Federation of Fly Fishers



October 2009

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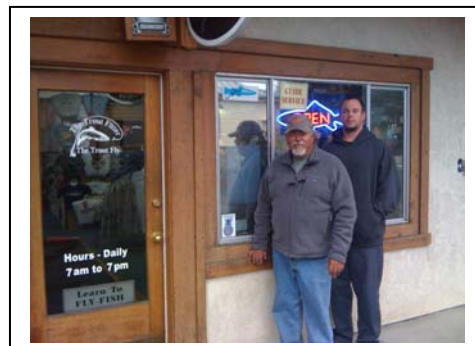
The past quarter has seen some very positive developments for the Southwest Council. A new club is in the works (details coming soon!) and three new retailers have joined the Federation. They are **The Fisherman's Spot (Van Nuys)**,



The Artful Angler (Carpenteria)



and The Trout Fly/Troutfitter (Mammoth Lakes).



SWCFFF Presidents Message



Welcome to fall! We here in Southern California have a great advantage of weather. Go hit the surf, Bishop or visit Las Vegas for fall stripers! Quite a special region!

We welcome them and urge you to support them as they support us. Please go to www.fedflyfishers.org for a full listing of the shops that participate. Bucking a national trend, our membership is growing. In fact, we added more members than any other Council. That comes from the increased outreach that our website, newsletters and clubs give to us.

By now you have heard about the 5 Rivers Raffle and I am pleased to report that our District LEADS all of National in sales. Way to go, SWCFFF!!

Starting in November and continuing into March, 2010, we are going to be a presence at fishing shows that include Marriott's, The Fly Show, Fred Hall and Bass Pro. This increased visibility will give the clubs greater exposure, especially to the cross-over market.

Showing people how simple it is to cast and tie a fly gets them interested in our sport and may enlist a possible a new member for your club.

Staffing these shows will take quite a few people but the SouthWest Council represents over 3500 anglers so I am sure some of you out there have some time to spend at a show booth. When you hear your club ask for a volunteer, please help out. And if you are not a member of a club, contact me directly for a club near you or just a chance to help out your Council.

Michael Schweit

Aqua Bonita assists Cottonwood Basin Spawning Bed Enhancement on Sept. 12



Four ABFF members (Smiths and Zellners) drove up to the Cottonwood Basin to help USFS and other volunteers create spawning beds for Paiute Cutthroat trout. These trout were transplanted in the mid 40s by a foresighted CDFG employee, who was looking for a refuge location for the trout only native to Silver King Creek in the Reno/Tahoe area. Since the North Fork Cottonwood drainage did not have any trout, there would be no issues with interbreeding. The only catch is that the drainage does not naturally create and maintain good spawning beds. Several weeks before, we arrived at packer. We placed 2-4 80 lb bags of gravel along the North Fork at each location to be enhanced. We then hiked in about 4 miles and cleared moss, washed and spread the gravel. The Cottonwoods were in their fall gold colors and a storm front moving in provided excellent clouds and diffused lighting for my photography. We even got some wintry mix to remind us fall was around the corner. Dan and I also got to see the Schulman and Patriarch Bristlecone Pine groves, the latter of which has a trail overlooking our work area in the drainage below.

Aguabonita Flyline - October 2009

Friends of the Hatchery - Press Release



The Aguabonita Flyfishers together with the Southwest Council of the Federation of Flyfishers (SWC/FFF) recently raised \$1075 for the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. The Club raffled a piece of artwork to raise the money. Tickets were sold locally as well as to SWC/FFF Fly Fishing Clubs in southern California. Additional tickets worth \$300 were also sold at the opening celebration making a total of \$1375 for the Friends of the Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery. The artwork was an elegantly framed limited edition CalTrout Wild Trout stamp print with two of its companion stamps. The print and one of the stamps was signed by the artist, Al Agnew. The print and stamps were donated by CalTrout, and Aguabonita member Gary Davis

designed the layout. The framing was done by TMS Matting & Framing. The Mt. Whitney Fish Hatchery facilities were virtually destroyed by a mountain storm and resulting mud slide in July 2008. Operated by the California Department of Fish and Game, the agency opted not to restore the hatchery due to the high cost.

Bruce Ivy, from Independence, organized The Friends of the Hatchery, whose mission is to restore the grounds, provide an educational venue, and preserve this historic facility. Through extensive volunteer support and donations they have been able to reopen these beautiful grounds to visitors. The official re-opening celebration was held on 30 May and was attended by 300-400 supporters. Members of the Aguabonita Flyfishers, including President Jim Hoover, past President Don Bowling and his wife Karen, Gary Davis and his wife Karen, and Fred Freiberg and his wife Linda attended the event and presented the donation to Bruce Ivy. The SWC/FFF was represented by President Michael Schweit.

At This Month's Meeting Downey Fly fishers

In the spring of 2005, retired Navy Captain Ed Nicholson of Port Tobacco, MD, got the idea to teach the skills of fly fishing to the wounded from Afghanistan and Iraq at Walter Reed Army Medical Center with injured or amputated arms and hands to help them recover from their injuries. With the help of some Federation of Fly Fishers members and members of the National Capitol Chapter of Trout Unlimited, Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing (PHWFF) was born.

Since then, that small cadre of fly fishers and a dozen or so wounded warriors in Washington, DC has grown to a program reaching active duty service men and women and veterans from World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and all the conflicts between, as well as those from the present War on Global Terrorism in military and Department of Veterans Affairs medical facilities across the country. Any patient in a military or VA hospital is eligible to participate in Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing. We now have more than 70 PHWFF programs nationwide and a program in Canada. Some former participants are returning as volunteers to help others.

While fly fishing was recognized as a valuable recreational activity, the skills learned or relearned were found to be valuable in the rehabilitation of both the physical and emotional injuries or disabilities of these men and women. The motions of fly casting and the necessities of walking over rough terrain and wading in streams developed the injured muscles and the sense of balance. Fly tying proved to be especially effective in developing the fine motor skills of those with wounded arms and hands, artificial arms, spinal injuries affecting the nerves of the hand and arms, and eye injuries. All of these helped the wounded and injured develop confidence in their ability to do things they thought were lost. In addition to the physical benefits, the camaraderie and psychological benefits can be remarkable.

In addition to teaching fly casting and fly tying, we have added rod building classes in some areas. We sponsor local fishing outings as well as national destination trips. What makes PHWFF

unique is that we are there for the long term, week after week, month after month; we are developing relationships. Everything is provided to the military personnel at no cost, so fundraising is an important part of what we do.

There are many ways that interested persons can help. Cash donations are gladly accepted and can be made via the national website. Equipment can be purchased through several companies via our national website which will result in a donation to PHWFF. Donations of new or used equipment, materials used for fly fishing or fly tying or rod building can be used. We are a 501(c)(3) nonprofit and donations are tax deductible. And, of course, Volunteers are always needed!

If you have any questions or would like to help, please call me at

714-731-6044 or email to

Katzhogan@cox.net.

Carole Katz

National Trustee

Southwest Regional Coordinator

Program Lead, PHWFF @ Long

Beach VAMC

Project Healing Waters

Project Healing Waters Carole Katz, National Trustee

Certainly you have heard the expression that “There’s fishing and there’s catching.” We went on a fishing trip with 8 disabled veterans the first few days of October. We knew the fishing would be challenging because the water flows in the Lower Owens were high, but coordinating such a trip is complicated and everyone wanted to give it a try anyway.

The town of Bishop really went all out to welcome the veterans. Chief of Police

Kathleen Sheehan escorted the VA van all the way to Bishop from Independence – with lights flashing. As you can imagine, the vets were really surprised. There were 2,000 yellow ribbons on anything vertical lining Rt. 395 that had been put up by the Mom's Club in honor of our nation's veterans. When the van arrived at the hotel, they learned that the Chamber of Commerce had put together welcome packets for each of them. Diandra Jay, reporter for Long Beach Telegram Press, traveled with us as part of an article she has been developing for several months.

We were escorted to dinner by a fire engine in the lead and another fire truck at the end of our procession. After posing for photos on the fire truck, we ate a delicious tri-tip barbecue prepared by the Chief of Police herself, with a great deal of help from many others including retired fireman Floyd Redmond, an Inyo County Supervisor, a local physician, the president of the Mom's Club, the former owner of Arcularius Ranch, and many others. Everyone was given a golden trout pin, and the Elks Club donated the use of their park for a fine meal prepared by some very generous people.

Friday morning, we went fishing. Two individuals with mobility issues went with guide Pat Jaeger in his boat on Intake Two and had a very productive day. Because of the very high flows in the Lower Owens, the rest of us went to Benton Crossing. Not everyone caught fish, but there was a lot of instruction. As we were eating a great lunch delivered to us by Floyd, the wind came up, so we decided to go to the Gorge for the afternoon. The staff at the power plant drove some lucky members of our

group into the gorge beyond the gate, and pointed out a few favorite fishing spots. The power plant was releasing 600 cfs and the fishing was challenging. The dense vegetation and high water were very different than what we had experienced in the morning, so it was a good learning experience.

Dinner that night was at Whiskey Creek Restaurant. The restaurant gave us a generous discount and the privacy of the banquet room was pleasant. During dinner, the Manager of the Pauite Casino gave the vets a selection of beautiful flies tied by a Pauite.

On Saturday, a few of the vets wanted to see the Fall Color Antique Car Show in town, so they stayed behind in the morning to enjoy the 250 cars and Mountain Light Gallery. Two different individuals were in Pat's boat on Intake Two and again caught fish, including some nice browns. Some others went into Bishop Creek Canyon and tried fishing in several locations. With an elevation gain of 6000 feet at South Lake, the temperature difference was remarkable: 28 degrees and really windy at the top, and 83 in Bishop. The aspens, cottonwoods and chamisa had begun their beautiful fall color display which made for a gorgeous setting. Floyd brought another delicious lunch to the hotel, after which the vets left for home.

Floyd Redmon was a huge help with the arrangements in Bishop, and the town of Bishop really made the vets feel appreciated. Already, the folks in Bishop are asking when our next trip will be scheduled because they have even more grand plans for next time.

Although challenging, most of the vets caught fish. We were able to experience several different fishing areas, with very different conditions. The fall color was beautiful, the hospitality was amazing, and the added attraction of the antique car show was interesting, particularly for those of us who got stuck in the procession out of town on Saturday. Although not the greatest catching trip, it was another great fishing trip.

San Diego Fly Fishers help out with Golden Trout Wilderness



Lea, Jerry, Gary, Warren and Ralph



Lea playing in the rain.

The past several years I have written about our Clubs conservation projects in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Each fall a group of SDFF volunteers has hiked in

to Casa Vieja Meadow to drop the barbed wire fence used to keep grazing cattle out of the golden trout spawning habitat.

This year Lisa Sims, Inyo National Forest Fisheries Biologist, asked us if we could also put the fence up before the cattle are brought in for summer grazing. Five SDFF volunteers: Lea Rudee, Warren Lew, Jerry Bower, Ralph Niger and I, drove up to the Black Rock trail head on Sunday June 28. Rob Hutsel of the San Diego River Park Foundation joined us to learn about what we were doing and enjoy the scenery. After setting up camp we enjoyed a pot luck dinner and good red wine and a roaring camp fire. Monday morning early after the obligatory Spam and bagel breakfast we made the 2 mile hike down to the meadow.

As Lisa predicted, a USFS wilderness crew had been working on the trails nearby and had put up part of the fence to corral their horses. So we only had to raise half of the fence. We finished that by 10:30 and spent some time repairing the barbed wire and replacing loose or missing staples and pins. By noon a small shower had passed and we were fishing Nine Mile Creek that flows through the meadow. As expected, there were lots of anxious and beautiful golden trout. I caught a few on a size 14 elk hair caddis but they really went after a size 16 black ant. I know Jerry did well with his "go to" royal coachman. These little fish aren't too picky and they will jump clear out of the water to take a dry fly before it touches the surface. The largest fish caught that day was about 8 inches with most 5 to 7 inches. I don't know if any one kept an accurate count but if you fish the deeper pools for very long you start pulling the fly away from the

smaller guys because you get tired of unhooking them. We had all had our fill of fishing and started the hike out by 3 PM. It is a good trail, but a two mile uphill climb at nearly 9,000 ft meant it was best for us sea level folks to take our time.

Warren and Ralph left Monday evening for Bishop Creek. The rest of us spent the night and then fished Fish Creek and the South Fork of the Kern on our way home Tuesday. Fish Creek is a little larger than Nine Mile Creek and holds slightly larger more hybridized golden trout. It is a short walk from the road.

We fished it for an hour and each caught a few. Heading on down Sherman Pass road, we stopped at the South Fork of the Kern near Kennedy Meadow. Last fall the fishing was very slow but this time a saw lots of nice browns. They were actively feeding on beautiful blue damsels but I had left my damsel flies at home. I caught one on a black ant. It looks like Lea, Jerry, Gary, Warren and Ralph and Lea playing in the rain.

KAWEAH FLYFISHERS

The Kings River Conservation District is holding its annual fish population survey on the Kings River during the weeks of November 9 and 16. They will be surveying 8 sites this year. Each site takes a full day to complete. This is a labor intensive survey that requires 20 - 25 people per day to complete. I am currently in need of volunteers to help with the survey. The survey is a multi-pass electro fishing survey. All fish collected will be identified, weighed, and measured. The data is used to track trends in fish species abundance. This is a great way to learn about the fish

inhabiting the Kings River.

The survey dates are Nov. 9-10, 12-13, 16-19. We will meet at the KRCD office located at 4886 E. Jensen Ave in Fresno at 8am each morning. If it is easier for you, you can meet us at the survey site at about 9am. I've attached maps of the survey sites and dates. If you need more detailed directions, please contact me. You will need to bring waders and wading boots if you have them. If not, I have loaners available. You'll also need to bring a lunch and plenty to drink. It may or may not be cold so be prepared for cold and wet weather.

If this sounds like something you'd be interested in or you have a few questions about the survey, please contact me by phone or by e-mail. If you are interested in participating, please contact me so that I can include you on my roster.

Thank you, and hope to see you out there,

Louie M. Long Jr.

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www.krcd.org <<http://www.krcd.org/>>

**Mono tube report for the
SOUTHWEST COUNCIL
FEDERATION OF FLY
FISHERS**

October 10, 2009

The council installed an additional 15 tubes in the Eastern Sierra this year.

4 installed at Lee Vining Creek at the request of Inyo National Forest.

2 installed at Gull Lake, both boat ramps

8 installed Upper Owens River

1 installed at Virginia lakes

Total tubes installed by SWCFFF in the Eastern Sierra are now 35. The tubes have been well received by the public. We have experienced one damaged tube at the Owens River. The largest issue is removal of the line and trash in the tubes. We will continue to seek partners for the program and hope to work more closely with the Forest service. The current goal is to install tubes at Rock Creek Drainage, Bishop Creek Drainage, Lower Owens River, Crowley Lake, and Toiyabe National Forest. The Council has Materials for an additional 13 tubes and decals for a few more.

We will make a change to both decals. First asking not to place trash in the tube, and add "Federation of Fly Fishers" to the Federation logo.

Line can now be mailed to Pure Fishing at Berkley. The line is recycled into spools and other type of containers. We are looking at a formula to replace a two pound package into yards of Monofilament, how many miles as to how many pounds might be more impressive to those that provide Grants.

The goal of the program is to establish the FFF as a National resource for the removal and recycling of used monofilament from a point of use. I do not have

numbers as to birds and other wildlife saved by the current program. I do know that the effects of monofilament that is discarded on the ground today will exceed my life time seven fold.

If your club or groups are interested in this program please contact me at: 1949 293 5570 Cell#

gregstumpf@roadrunner.com

I should have more time to dedicate to the program after the first of the Year.

Greg Stumpf

