



Founded 1961

The Fly Dope

50 Years

Fly Dope Volume 51 Issue 9

www.fresnoflyfishers.org

September 2011

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Fifty Years and Counting

The Kings River has been the focus of the club since the club was formed in 1961. The following written by member Chuck Coleman appeared in the July 1970 edition of the Fly Dope.

The Kings River—Can It Be Rehabilitated? Part 2

In last months fly dope we talked of the Kings River and it's ills. This month some of the possible solutions will be discussed.

Over the years, as some of us have watched, the accelerating decline of this great river, many suggestions, for rehabilitation, have been offered. Some of these recommendations have seemed impractical, some have been attempted, none have shown the hoped for results.

In 1961 FFFC succeeded in an attempt to have a five mile section of the river (Garnet Dike campground upstream to Rough Creek) set aside for "fly fishing only" with a three fish limit. It was hoped that under a program of "catch and release" angling and reduced pressure the trout fishery could and would make a natural comeback. While a definite improvement has been noted, the results are less than expected. Poaching, due to lack of enforcement, has siphoned off a great number of the spawning rainbow. Lack of aquatic insect life, caused by the fantastic runs of the rough fish, has caused grave food problems. Predaceous attacks by the adult pests have depleted the yearly hatch of trout fingerling. These and other factors have had a very adverse effect on the rebuilding of this trout fishery.

Chemical treatment has been considered as a solution but has been, for the most part, rejected. With no way of blocking the runs of the undesirable fish it is felt that the trash fish would re-infest the water before the trout fishery could be re-established. The inaccessibility of much of this water would preclude the possibility of immediate restocking. With chemical treatment the existing stock of wild rainbow trout would be wiped out. Any restocking would, of necessity, be from domestic strains. It is highly doubtful that this would be desirable.

Brown trout, in limited numbers, have been present in these waters for many, many years. The inclination or ability, of this stock, to establish a significant brown trout fishery, however, has been lacking. Even before the population explosion of the trash fish the browns were few and far between. There was a persistent belief on

SPECIAL DATES TO REMEMBER

September 12
Board Meeting
Trafican's

September 17
50th Anniversary
Barbeque

September 23-25
Eastern Sierra
Outing

October 5-16
Fresno County Fair
FFFC Booth

***** SEPTEMBER 17 *****

Mark this date on your calendar.
FFFC 50th Anniversary Barbeque

the part of some of the angling fraternity, however, that the browns would be better able to withstand the pressure from the pests than would the rainbows. As a result of this belief the DFG planted several thousand brown trout fingerlings in these waters in the late fall of 1968 and early 1969. It will be at least another year, and possibly two, before any in depth evaluation of this planting can be made.

It is pretty generally conceded that the only truly effective solution would be a permanent barrier and fishway. The advantages of a properly designed barrier would be numerous. If the river was closed to fish traffic at the proper time of the year, when all but a few resident undesirables had returned to the reservoir, no chemical treatment would be necessary. This would save and utilize the existing stock of wild rainbow. The ganging up of the trash fish immediately below the barrier, during the spawning runs, would make possible a program of rough fish eradication. Since the suckers, hardheads, and squawfish usually make their run ahead of any of the game fish chemical treatment barrier on year after year would make heavy inroads on the numbers of these pests. Another valuable asset of a barrier would be the chance to evaluate the results of the exotic types of rainbow plants now being made in Pine Flat reservoir. A fish ladder and trap, built as an integral part of the structure would be invaluable as a counting, tagging and stripping station. Information that could be used throughout the industry would be easily obtainable.

Recognition of the factors inherent in this problem is not difficult. The measures necessary for correctment are also obvious. Implementation of these measures, however, will not be easy. Time, effort and a considerable amount of money will be needed before progress can be made. The situation is not hopeless however. Money, from several sources, could be made available if need can be proven and enough pressure can be brought to bear.

Several solid rock ledges, spanning the entire width of the river, would simplify the engineering of such a structure. Much of the materials needed (sand, gravel and rock) are already on site. Access roads on both sides of the river would alleviate the transportation problem. From a physical stand point no great problems present themselves.

Financing should also be relatively easy but it won't be. The fact remains, however, that even in the face of tight money \$8 million will be spent for recreational facilities on and around the new Don Pedro reservoir. Six million dollars is currently allotted to the area around the new lake while \$2 million will be spent along the first few miles of river below the dam. Keep in mind that this will, for the most part, be public money and compare it with the estimated \$350,000 that would be needed to rehabilitate many, many miles of prime trout streams.

The cooperation of many agencies would be necessary in the planning of such a project. Many clubs and organizations would have to join forces to get the ball rolling. The entire public, anglers, conservationists, outdoorsmen, and business would reap the harvest.

This was the original purpose for which FFFC was formed. The goal should be kept in sight by the formation of a strong committee to investigate all aspects of the problem and the solution.

CNC

Volunteers Needed at the Fresno County Fair by Mits Kozuki

The Fresno County Fair begins October 5th and ends on the 16th. Volunteers are needed to staff the FFFC booth. Parking and entrance to the fair will be free. License number and make of vehicle volunteers will be driving to the fair is needed. If you would like to work in the FFFC booth, please contact Mits Kozuki at mitskoz@gmail.com, or phone 646-3020, cell 207-2070. Thank you.

President's Message by Jeff Trafican

Fly Fishers for Conservation is now 50 years old. Over the years there have been many people who have done many things to make this organization so successful. I thought I would discuss some things that have happened and things that need to happen if our organization is to continue to be strong.

It gives me a great feeling when people are kind enough to think of our organization and make donations to our club. As we all know, these are difficult financial times. These donations allow us to continue our efforts in conservation and youth education. I would like to mention two people who have recently stepped up and helped us out.

Beth Harness had heard of our club's involvement with youth fly fishing activities. Beth, as a former educator, recognizes the importance of keeping the youth of today involved and active. With the passing of her former husband Joseph, she contacted me and expressed her interest in donating his fly fishing equipment and materials to our club. This is a generous donation that will benefit our youth activities as well as our other club programs. Thank you, Beth!

Another generous donation came from Vern Klavon. Vern was a member of Fly Fishers for Conservation in the 1970's. He learned the art of fly casting in club classes. Vern contacted Jerry Hopewell and has donated fly-tying vises, equipment, and materials. He said he felt it was a way of giving the club something in return for all the years he has enjoyed fly fishing in the backcountry. Thank you for thinking of us Vern!

Needless to say, we encourage all of our members, or non members, to donate to our club when possible. In these tough times it can make a big difference. Remember, we are a 501(c)3 tax deductible organization.

But not everyone is in a position to make this type of material donation. Another very valuable donation is the donation of your time. In a few months we will be sending out the ballot for election of our 2012 officers and board of directors. I am hoping that all of the current board members will continue their involvement, as they have done a great job of carrying the workload this year. At the same time, we are currently looking for some "new blood." If you would like to run for office next year, or get your feet wet by assisting a current member, please let me or any of the board members know. I think you will find it a rewarding experience.

Lastly, we encourage your attendance at club activities and meetings. Much planning goes into these events. Your involvement makes it all worthwhile. Remember, this is **your** club. Speaking of club activities, don't forget the 50th Anniversary BBQ at the Coke Hallowell Center on September 17th. This is going to be an event for all members of the family. It will be a relaxed evening that will allow us to socialize and celebrate 50 years of successful conservation and education through the sport of fly fishing. Hope to see you there!!

T's & C's ("Thanks" & "Congrats")

- Thanks to Paul and LaVonne Prespare for all their hard work at our July meeting and barbeque. Another great job!!!
- And another thanks to Beth Harness and Vern Klavon for their generosity.

Member Pictures and Stories

New York City by Scott West

My family and I went to New York City last month on a family vacation. After three days of hitting the various tourist sites, I promised my wife and daughter a shopping excursion. What better place than 5th Avenue in New York City? For me, it was torture. The girls were in heaven. Macy's, Saks, Tiffany's, Bloomingdales, Trump Tower.....and Orvis? **Yes!!!** For me, it was a small oasis in the concrete shopping jungle.

If you could see the price tag on the fishing basket, it reads \$2500.00. Go ahead and stick your smelly fish in there!! Only in NYC.



Amanda, Andrea and Scott West in NYC



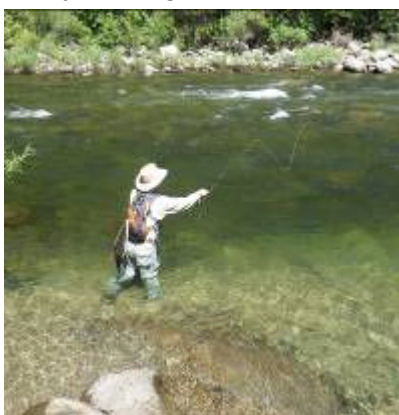
Scott found his favorite store.



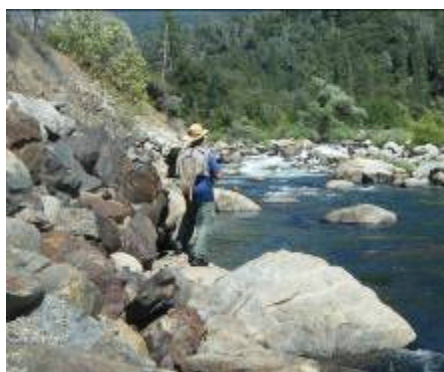
\$2500.00 Fishing Creel

Merced River—August 9 by Bill Bruce

Brian Loven and I made the long drive from Clovis to the Merced River near the town of El Portal. We spent the morning and afternoon exploring several promising sites that I had fished recently but under much different water conditions. When I had originally fished this area the flows were much higher at over 900 cfs. On the day we decided to re-visit the flows were 450 cfs (still plenty of water but much more manageable). Brian has refined his use of the *thing-a-ma-bobber* and was very successful drifting two nymphs with split shot to get them deep fast. This particular deep slot provided us both with plenty of action. After pulling in several consecutive 12" plus fish, Brian then let me give it a go where I proceeded to pull out two rainbows of my own. There were no visible hatches or rising fish all day. Bead head attractor nymphs drifted through likely holding water proved to be the ticket to success.



Brian Loven on the Merced River



Bill Bruce and the Merced River



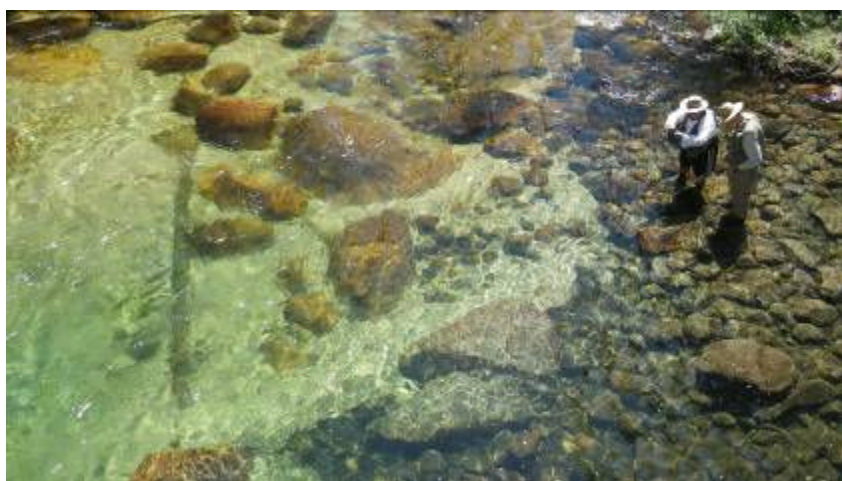
Brian Loven with a 15" wild Merced rainbow

Outings Report by Tim Lawrence

Edison Lake Outing August 19th—21st

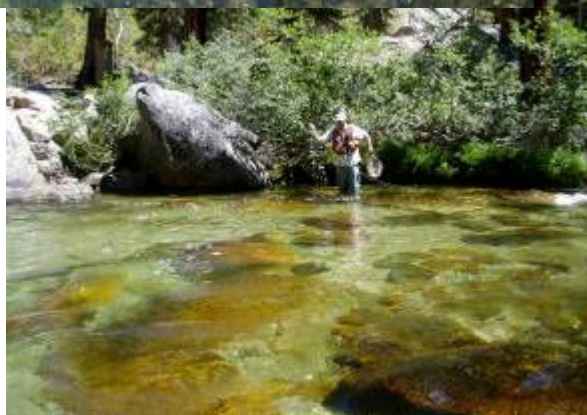
What can I say? This is one of the most fun outings of the year! The weather was perfect. Saturday was a wonderful bluebird day, not a cloud in the sky, 70's with a slight breeze, perfect. Lance Hill hiked over and fished Cold Creek and did very well. Six of us rode the ferry across to the backside of Edison Lake where Mono Creek flows into the lake. Stephen Neal, Phil Davis and I fished out of our float tubes until the wind started to pick up. Phil was able to hook up with a fish while fishing the lake. The creek, however, was fishing really well. New member Scott Piggott, Jack Leveque and Freddie Ramirez started off fishing the runs into the lake and slowly moved up stream. Scott and Freddie found a pool holding two separate pods of browns. I made my way up the creek to join them and we were hooking some nice fish. After a very late lunch, we caught the ferry back to Vermillion Resort. After returning to camp, we sat down to a gourmet meal! Scott cooked up a huge batch of hot wings, Phil did some habanero pepper and cheese stuffed sausages, Stephen cooked up some really great beans, (this can go on for a long time), Scott and Lance each had a pan of desert brownie and cookie treats to die for, and Jack brought a tri-tip to add to the mix. We ate like kings, or at least like several tired fishermen!

Thank you to those who came and shared great food and wonderful company! If you were not able to make it, we have a couple of outings to wrap up the year. Our next outing will be in the Eastern Sierra in September, and in November we'll have the Upper Kings outing that is a great chance to catch some really beautiful wild trout.

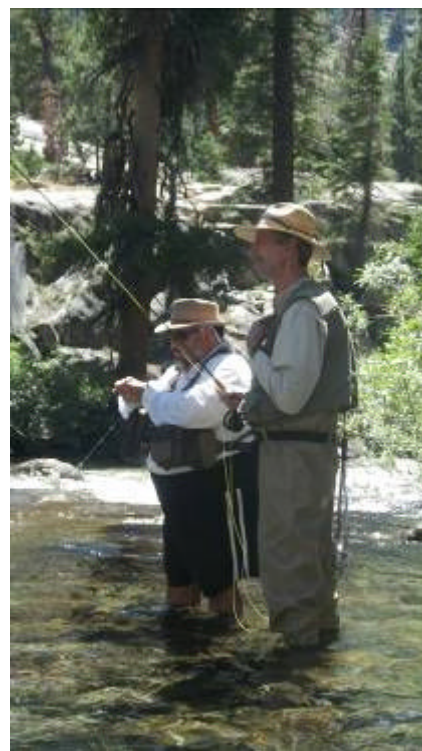


Tim Lawrence

Beautiful Scenery



Fred Ramirez



Tim Lawrence

Fred Ramirez and Scott Piggott

Meet The Members by David Grubbs

Kevin Wren

Kevin has long been one of the anchors of the regional fisheries community. He's been involved in the FFFC for nearly twenty years. Kevin currently serves as a director-at-large and he has served as outings director, social director, treasurer, and president. Kevin has received the FFFC Founders and Conservation awards.

Kevin grew up in Fresno and graduated from Fresno State with a BS in Agricultural Business. He's been involved in agricultural irrigation since college working for an engineering firm, designing and selling irrigation systems.

His late father-in-law Don Manfredo, was an avid fly fisher and early member of FFFC. When Kevin and family returned to Fresno after several years out of the area he asked if Don would show him how to cast. He did. Don put a Winston bamboo rod in his hand their first trip to the Lower Kings. Kevin's been hooked ever since. Most of his fishing is local but he's been fortunate to do an annual northern California trip the last few years.

He believes water is too important a resource to be wasted or hoarded by any faction of the population and that it's important for the FFFC to be engaged in water issues, especially ones that impact fishing directly or indirectly. Kevin practices what he preaches. He's been active in Kings River Fisheries Management and in fact he's a former chair of the Public Advisory Group, Lower Kings River Fisheries Management Program.


With wife Suzy and sons Andrew and Charles, he enjoys the outdoors.




Kevin Wren with a nice fish

Two-Month Calendar

September 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 FFF National Conclave Continues	2 →	3 Conclave Ends
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12 Board Meeting Trafican's 7 pm  Full Moon	13	14	15	16	17 50th Anniversary Picnic
18	19	20	21	22	23 Eastern Sierra Outing →	24
25 Eastern Sierra Outing concludes	26	27 New Moon	28	29	30	

October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3 Board Meeting Carrows 7 pm	4	5 Fresno County Fair Starts (FFFC Booth) →	6	7	8
9 →	10	11 Fresno County Fair continues →	12  Full Moon	13	14	15
16 Fresno County Fair Ends	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 New Moon	27 General Meeting Sportsmen's Club	28	29
30	31					

50th Anniversary Barbeque and Celebration by Stephen Neal

On September 17th, we are going to celebrate the founding of our club, the Fly Fishers for Conservation, at the Coke Hallowell Center for River Studies.

The celebration will include River Center tours, casting competitions, fishing games for kids, tri-tip barbeque, home brewed, hand pumped Anniversary Ale made by David Grubbs, and a bucket raffle for three anniversary fly rods.

The event will start at 4:30 p.m. with snacks, beer, tours and games. Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. followed by the anniversary rod bucket raffle.

This is a club event; all the planning, setup, cooking, staffing and clean up is being done by club members. The San Joaquin River Parkway and Trust is providing the celebration site.

Location: Coke Hallowell House

Dinner: tri-tip, beans, rice pilaf, salad, bread, anniversary ale and anniversary cake

Cost: \$12.00 per adult and \$5.00 for children under 12

Raffle Tickets: \$5.00 per ticket or 5 for \$20.00. (Rods: 7' 5" 5 wt bamboo rod made by Wayne Thompson; Elkhorn 10' 7 wt, and an Elkhorn 9' 5 wt, all with 50th Anniversary Club logo)

Registration and raffle tickets: contact Scott West at mandydad@sbcglobal.net or (559) 299-2845. Reservations close September 10, 2011. Flyer on page 19.

Festival of Fly Fishing—Reno, Nevada by Dave Ford

Reprinted from the Fly Fishers of Davis newsletter with permission of the author

Mark your calendars for the weekend of **October 7-9, 2011!** This year, the Northern California Council is staging a full-blown conclave! The event will be held at the Nugget Hotel and Casino in Sparks, Nevada. It looks to be a fine venue, and the timing couldn't be better, fishing wise! That's prime time in the Sierra, and there are plenty of great waters nearby to fish—Pyramid Lake in Nevada, the Truckee River in both California and Nevada, the Little Truckee, Davis and Frenchmen's lakes to name only a few.

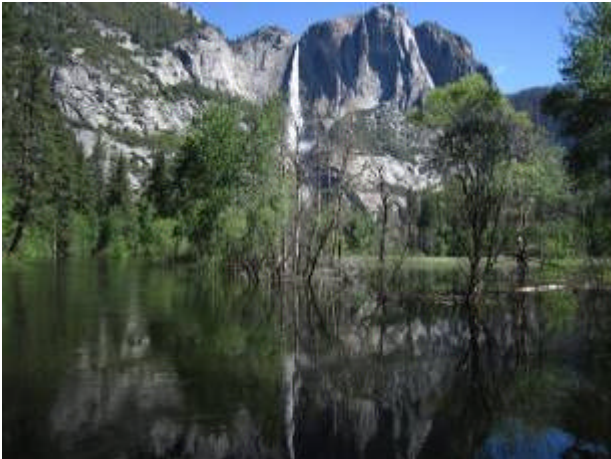
There are discounted rates for those wishing to stay at the Nugget, and plenty of other accommodations in the area.

The Conclave will consist of continuous casting and fly-tying demonstrations on Friday and Saturday (where you can watch top California tiers tie), take classes and catch lectures on various aspects of fly fishing. A strong turnout of fly-fishing manufacturers and retailers exhibiting the newest fly-fishing gear is expected.

There is a Friday night cocktail get-together, and Saturday is the main event, with tying and casting continuing, plus the dinner and a big raffle in the evening. On Sunday there will be on-stream/lake classes for all levels of fly fishers.

"No angler watches nature in a passive way. He enters into its very existence."— John Bailey

Watersongs



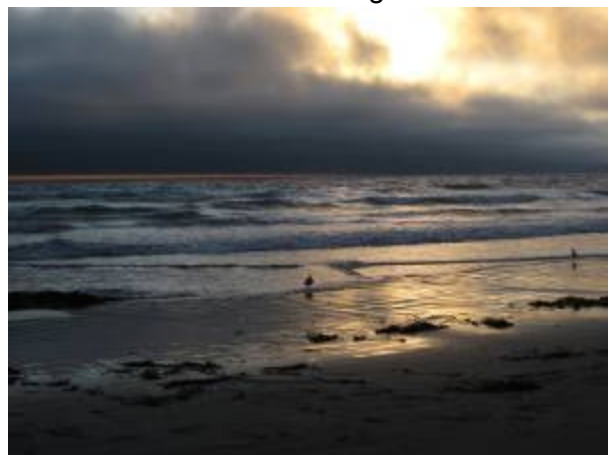
2011's late spring and early summer in central California has been a high water season. Our mild, for us, spring and early summer slowed down the high Sierra Nevada snow melt, causing our rivers and streams to run high and turbulent for a longer period. For fishermen that has meant fewer fishable waters, but it has been a time of stunning and magnificent water flows. Just because the water was not fishable didn't mean I wasn't drawn to the water. I made several trips to Yosemite and the central coast to immerse myself in the flow of the water and to listen to the music it makes.

Being born and raised in the central San Joaquin Valley makes us desert people. Like the Navajo Indian children whom I observed during my many Arizona sojourns, we gravitate to water just like the Navaho children ran to watch the flash floods fill the dry washes and canyons when the summer monsoons boomed across the canyon lands. When those same first summer rains hit, I watched Tucson's office workers leave their cubicles to stand in the street and let the falling rain refresh them, to be touched by the waters of life. We are pulled to flowing water; it's as if our very pores wish to be bathed in the essence of this watery effervescence of life.

As fishermen and desert dwellers the force of water pulls at our souls with extraordinary force, and most of us answer the call. I sure do. I walked the banks of the Merced River and Tenaya creek, stood in the watery mist of Bridalveil, Yosemite and Vernal falls. Dogwood flowers hung over the waters, meadow grass became seasonal lake bottoms and trees became temporary islands in the midst of the waters downward journey to the sea. I soaked it all in and when my daughter and grandsons came to town, I brought them to the mountains to walk the same path again. I needed to share with them the power and renewal of the flowing waters.

But I did not go for the sights and smells only; I was pulled to the music as well. Water sings, and its songs change with the seasons and throughout the hours of dark and light. In the spring its song is youth, boisterous, exuberant, playful and mindless in its pursuit of freedom as it rushes head long downstream in its race to the open sea. It reaches its peak song in midday as the sun's warmth releases it from its frozen confinement, then its voice is given its full breadth and volume. At night its tone is subdued and hushed, but heard in its under tone is the power that it still holds. The song calms in the height of summer, it almost becomes lazy, but hidden in the seeming calm is this deep drum of hidden energy, ready to explode like a high mountain summer thunder storm. In the fall it bubbles and bubbles, it is almost a warble of contentment before the hush of winter where the song is more a whisper of gentle sleep and rest before the coming spring crescendo.

I followed the waters and the song to the ocean and found that the creeks had pushed the sand out before them cutting deep channels into the beach as they rushed to join



Continued page 10

their water with the Pacific. New off-shore water buckets were formed and new feeding grounds for sand and striped perch were created. I plan on going back in September to try my luck in landing a few. I walked the shore in the early morning light and in the gloaming of sunset. Like millions before me I became a beach-comber and followed the waves in and out looking for treasures that the waves had left behind. As I walked like I did beside the Merced River, I listened to the water's songs and was renewed by the crash of the waves and the songs of the water. I took with me its music that filled my soul and refreshed my sprit. I left behind only foot prints in the sand, and they disappeared with the rising of the tide.

The winter of 2010 and 2011 was wet and the snow pack deep. Our rivers ran high, turbulent and deep. The water gives life to our thirsty land and in its youthful ignorance it took lives as well. Many people were drawn to the water and some did not heed all her songs and they paid a price for not knowing how to listen. They heard only the siren's call of sweetness, playfulness and laughter, but not the warning songs of danger, despair and sorrow. Water sings these songs as well. As the poets say, there are no roses without thorns. Water gives and takes all while singing her songs and we truly need to hear all of what she really sings, not only what we want to hear.

Read Stephen's writings on his blog at <http://backofbeyondneal.blogspot.com>

"Many go fishing all their lives without knowing that it is not fish they are after."—Henry David Thoreau

Donate to FFFC

Fly Fishers for Conservation is a 501(c)3 tax-exempt non-profit organization. This means you can use your contribution as a tax deduction. The club only gets revenue from membership dues and the annual fundraiser dinner. We try to contribute to conservation issues in the area and to our youth with our Trout in the Classroom program, the No Child Left Inside program and by holding a Youth Fly-Fishing Academy annually. The club is always in need of funds. Please consider donating. You may send a check to Fly Fishers for Conservation at 100 E. Sierra, PMB 3310, Fresno, CA 93710. Your donations will be greatly appreciated and they will help the club fulfill its obligations.

Our Mission

Fly Fishers for Conservation (FFFC) was organized in 1961 by a group of devoted fly fishers deeply concerned with the preservation of trout and all game fish, their environment, and the quality of fishing. Our club has maintained two goals since that time:

To foster and promote the sport of angling with artificial flies.

To protect, conserve and increase our angling resources.

Rackelhanen Caddis Pattern

Photos by Jerry Hopewell



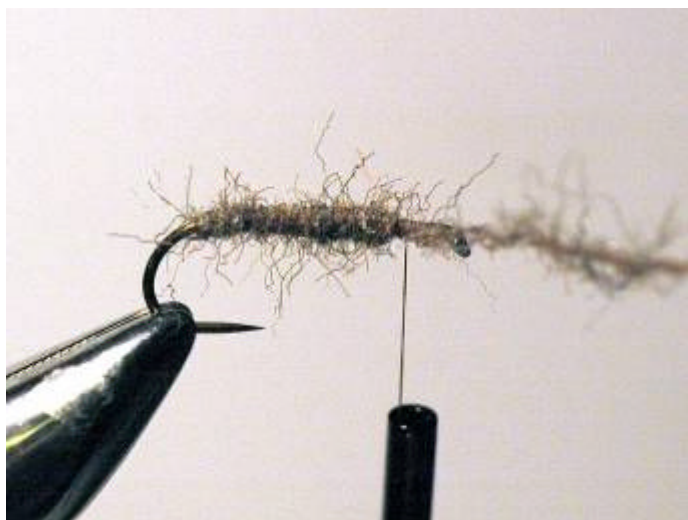
Here is a fly pattern developed in Sweden around 1967. The best thing about this pattern is that it catches trout and costs next to nothing to tie. It is made 100% from poly yarn. As we know, poly yarn does not absorb water. False cast the water out and you are ready to go. You can purchase five yards of poly yarn under \$2.00. Fish this as you would any caddis pattern.

Hook: Size 10 to size 18 dry fly hooks.

Thread: 8/0 to match the color of poly yarn used.

Body: Poly yarn in colors: white, light yellow, golden yellow, light orange, green, red, grey, light grey, purple, light pink, black, chartreuse, medium brown are the colors available. Mix and make different shades.

Cut 1/8 inch pieces and blend the material. Touch dub tacky waxed thread and use a dubbing loop to hold it together



Wrap a tapered body and leave enough room for the wing and head of the fly.

Continued page 12



Tie the wing material on the far side of the fly.

Now tie the wing material on the near side of the fly.



Wrap a collar of the same dubbed body material.

Trim the wings to the desired shape.



The underside view.



The topside view.



FFFC Membership Application

Print, complete and mail this application and come join us

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____
STATE: _____
ZIP: _____
PHONE: _____
EMAIL: _____

PLEASE MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: FFFC (Fly Fishers For Conservation)

Annual membership fees:

Family Membership \$36.00

Senior Membership (65 + yrs) \$24.00

Mail completed application and fees to: **Fly Fishers for Conservation,
100 E. Sierra Avenue, PMB 3310
Fresno, CA 93710-3615**

Day 5 – Monday September 22, 2008

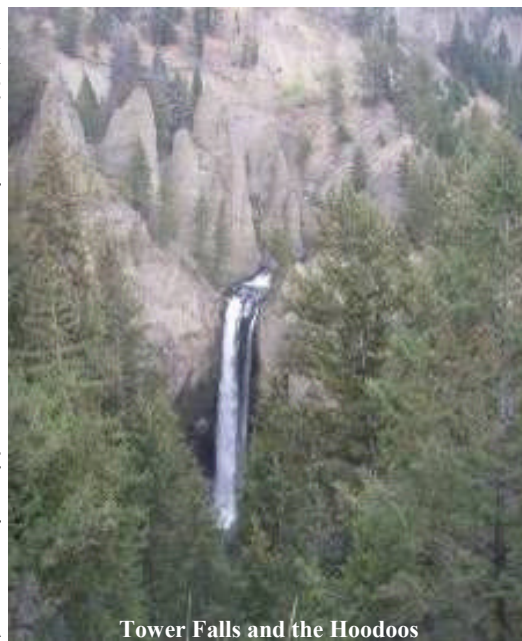
A Day of Rest

The morning broke cold and very threatening. Every indication was that snow was on its way. After three days of fishing six hours per day and the threat of snow, we were ready for a break, not to mention a shower.

When I had come to Yellowstone with my family in 2007 the cabins at Roosevelt Junction had been open. There were shower facilities at Roosevelt and I had promised the guys that we would be able to use them if we wanted. But as we drove past the Junction on Friday it had been closed for winter. The last time we had showered was Thursday morning. It was time for another.

With the need for a shower and the apparent weather change, we decided to drive the Grand Loop and be tourists for the day. The nearest showers were supposed to be at Canyon Junction. We pulled out the map and decided to continue on to the geyser basin at West Thumb, then Old Faithful. It would be a full day.

We ate a quick breakfast of muffins and oatmeal, grabbed our towels and hit the road. The first stop was Tower Junction to see the falls. It was early and the visitor center was not yet open which meant no coffee for the road. But we did walk out to see the falls. A great view with the hoodoos in the background, but was it cold.



Tower Falls and the Hoodoos

From Tower Junction we continued to the Canyon Visitors Center. This is the nicest visitor's center in the Park. The interpretive displays are great, explaining the geologic history of the area. Bad news though. The showers at Canyon had closed for the season the week before. Terry and I went to the counter and asked the ranger if there was somewhere else we could get a shower. A very nice woman ranger pulled out her Park phone book and began making calls and found that the showers at Fishing Bridge were still open.

This was right on our way, so no big deal; just had to smell each other for another hour longer than we had planned.

Another piece of good news; the store was open at Canyon and we could get hot coffee. Things were looking up.

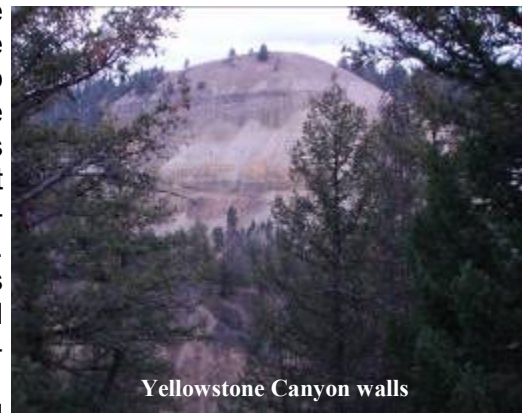
From Canyon we headed south on the Grand Loop. First stop was Upper Yellowstone Falls. The river in this area runs through what many call the Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone. There are two major falls in the canyon, Upper and



Upper Yellowstone Falls from the lookout

Lower. Unfortunately the road to the lower falls was closed for maintenance. We did get to walk out to the overlook at the upper falls.

It was here that we saw the reason the river had been named Yellowstone. The deeply eroded canyon was lined with yellow colored rocks, high in sulphur content.



Yellowstone Canyon walls

Continued page 15

From there we continued on the Grand Loop to Fishing Bridge. That first shower in several days felt so good it is hard to describe. The price was \$3 and you could stay in for as long as you wanted. Usually you find a line of people waiting to get into the showers, but with this being late September, we had the place to ourselves. Of course what other idiots would be camping out when the weather report predicted freezing temperatures and snow. After we eventually pulled ourselves out of the hot water, we packed up and headed toward Yellowstone Lake.

As we drove along the west shore of the lake the weather continued to worsen. Looking out on the water you would have thought this was a bay on the ocean from the height of waves and whitecaps. Yellowstone Lake is the largest alpine lake in North America. It is hard to describe how large the lake actually is until you see it. The opposite shore is visible, but it really looks like it could disappear below the horizon.

We continued on to West Thumb Geyser Basin. West Thumb is a huge arm of the lake that is actually a giant caldera. At one time in the past this was the center of a gigantic volcanic eruption that blasted out a fairly circular hole



Yellowstone Lake and underwater geyser, West Thumb

that has filled with water and is now connected to the main lake. The shore is lined with geysers, some actually under the water.

It was freezing cold as we walked along the lake shore and we actually had snowflakes falling occasionally.

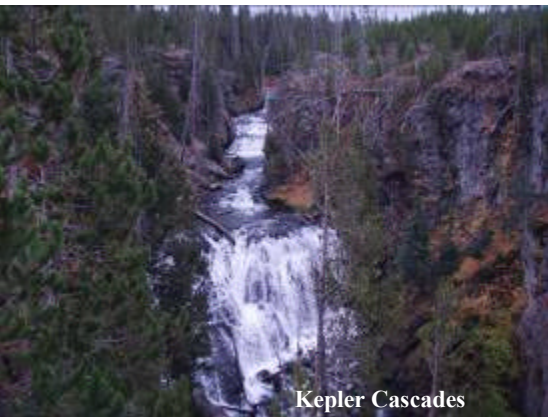
Later we stopped at the Grant Village visitor's center and purchased our float tube permits for later in the week. It really felt kind of weird, buying a permit for a float tube while it was snowing on and off outside. But we are forever optimists.

As we continued, we crossed a ridge that was about a thousand feet higher than the surrounding terrain. The outside temperature dropped below 30 degrees for a few miles, then warmed back up to freezing.



Adam Palmer and Terry Sandridge at West Thumb Geyser

Next stop was Kepler Cascades on the upper Firehole River. I don't know how many waterfalls are in Yellowstone, but there must be dozens. This one has an interesting story. In the early days of the Park, the superintendent was always looking for additional sources of funding. A wealthy visitor arrived one day and the superintendent took him for a tour. As they viewed this waterfall, an offer was made to name it after the visitor's son Kepler, if a donation was made to the Park. The offer was accepted and ever since the falls have been known as Kepler Cascades.



Kepler Cascades

Next stop was the Old Faithful geyser basin. I know of people who have visited Old Faithful without ever going into the Old Faithful Inn. If I remember right, the Old Faithful Inn is the largest log cabin in the world. It sounds a little sacrilegious to talk about a man-made structure before discussing the unbelievable natural features at the largest geyser basin in the world, but this building is fantastic. You walk into the front entrance and are greeted by a fireplace of natural rock over four stories high. The open beam ceiling rises above you to the peak of the building. There are three

Continued page 16

balconies that surround the main lobby, each with comfortable seats looking toward the fireplace. On a cold day, this is one cozy place to warm the body with a hot cup of coffee.

Four flags fly from the poles on the top of the Inn. Along with the US flag, there are the state flags of Idaho, Wyoming and Montana, the three states that Yellowstone NP occupies.

After a cup of hot coffee at the Inn, we headed outside to view the geysers. Of course we started with Old Faithful. Due to the high humidity the eruption of Old Faithful was clouded in water vapor and was a little hard to see. Still it went off on time as expected.

From here we took the self-guided boardwalk geyser tour. There were so many sights, it is hard to list them all. We did see several eruptions, particularly the Grand Geyser, which was memorable.

At least as memorable were the geysers that did not actually erupt, but were colored with algae that feed on the minerals in the water. The colors range from blues and greens to yellows and reds. The colors each represent a different species of algae. You can roughly tell the temperature of the water by the color of the algae. The algae in the hottest water, near boiling, are a bright blue. As the water cools, you see greens, then cooler yet are yellow, then down to the oranges and reds.



Old Faithful Inn



Old Faithful

It was getting a little late in the day and we had a long drive back to the camp. We took the route through Madison Junction and on the way we stopped at one more geyser area, Biscuit Basin. The basin is located across the Firehole River from the Grand Loop road with a pedestrian bridge connecting it to the parking area. As we crossed the river there were a couple of fly fisherman upstream. As we stopped to watch, one of them hooked a nice 12" brown trout. There was a good blue winged olive hatch going off and we saw rises everywhere we looked. It was tough to watch someone else catching fish while we were tourists. We were definitely coming back here.

From here we started the 70 plus mile drive back to our campground.

It was still light, but getting dusk. As we crossed the highest point on the trip, Mount Washburn, it was snowing pretty seriously and I wasn't looking forward to breaking camp tomorrow in a couple of feet of snow. Luckily, as we dropped into the Lamar Valley, the snow let off but it did not warm up.

In camp we made a quick pot of pulled pork and sat by the fire for a very short time and then hit the sack. For a day of rest, we had done quite a bit of sight-seeing and we were bushed.

Just before crawling into bed I checked in with Dave again. He had pushed on through and made it as far as West Yellowstone. We firmed up our plans to meet at the Grebe Lake parking area in the morning.



Morning Glory Pool, Upper Geyser Basin

Tomorrow – Grayling.

2011 Yearly Calendar

September

- 01-03 FFF National Conclave–West Yellowstone
- 12 Board Meeting **at Trafican's**
- 17 50th Anniversary Picnic at Coke Hallowell
Center for River Studies
- 23-25 Eastern Sierra Outing (Hosted by Stephen
Neal and Kevin Wren)

October

- 03 Board Meeting at Carrows
- 05-16 Fresno County Fair (FFFC Booth)
- 27 General Meeting - Kevin Dorn "Fishing the
Delta"

November

- 05 Upper Kings River Outing (Hosted by Bill
Bruce and Jim Clark)
- 07 Board Meeting at Carrows
- 18 General Meeting - Steven Korbay of Fly
Fishing Specialties

December

- 03 San Joaquin River Parkway Christmas Cheer
(Tentative)
- 05 Board Meeting at Carrows
- 14 General Meeting - Members Share Fishing
Trips

* Dates subject to change - check with a Board
member for more information

2011 Board Officers and Directors

POSITION	NAME	PHONE	EMAIL
Officers			
President	Jeff Trafican	260-7974	jatraf@yahoo.com
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Social	Paul Prespare	435-5347	utcspvp@aol.com
Web Site	David Burriss	642-4190	seabass1469@yahoo.com

* All area codes are 559 unless otherwise noted.

Fly Fishers for Conservation

Board Meeting

Carrows Restaurant
4280 N. Blackstone Ave.
Fresno, CA

**1st Monday of every month
7 p.m.**

Subject to change, call a board member

General Meeting

Fresno Sportsman's Club
10645 N. Lanes Road
Fresno, CA

**4th Thursday of every month
6 p.m. Skills Training
7 p.m. Meeting**



**McKenzie Cup Winner
1989
Conservation Award
2007**

Anniversary Barbeque Flyer

FLY FISHERS FOR CONSERVATION

50th Anniversary BBQ Celebration

Coke Hallowell River House

11605 N. Old Friant Rd.

September 17th, 2011, 4:00 p.m. till dark

BBQ tri-tip dinner prepared by members of the Board of Directors.

Cost: \$12.00 for adults
\$ 5.00 for kids (12 and under)

Bucket raffles for the following:

Bamboo fly rod with 50th Anniversary club logo
Hand-crafted, and donated, by club member Wayne Thompson

Elkhorn 5 wt. fly rod with 50th Anniversary club logo
Elkhorn 7 wt. fly rod with 50th Anniversary club logo

Raffle tickets are \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00.
You do not need to be present to win.

QUESTIONS OR MORE INFO PLEASE CONTACT: *Jeff Trafican (260-7974); or Scott West (299-2845)*

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "FFFC" AND MAIL TO: SCOTT WEST
884 CHENNAULT,
CLOVIS, CA 93611

_____ ADULT DINNER TICKETS @ \$12.00 EA = \$ _____
_____ CHILD DINNER TICKETS @ \$ 5.00 EA = \$ _____

_____ RAFFLE TICKETS @ \$ 5.00 EA = \$ _____
_____ or 5 TICKETS for \$20.00 = \$ _____

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
PHONE _____
CITY/ZIP _____

TICKETS WILL BE HELD FOR YOU AT THE DOOR