



# Reading the Water



December 2002

## MEETING

Monday

December 16

Welcome: 6:30P

Program: 7:15P

Skyline School Auditorium

606 Lomas Santa Fe Drive

Solana Beach  
(Map—Back Page)

## Features—

President's message 2

Green River trip 2

Annual Raffle 3

Tom Loe's tips 3

Southern California Steelhead 4

Casting clinic revisited 5

Submittals, ads & speaker hosts 6

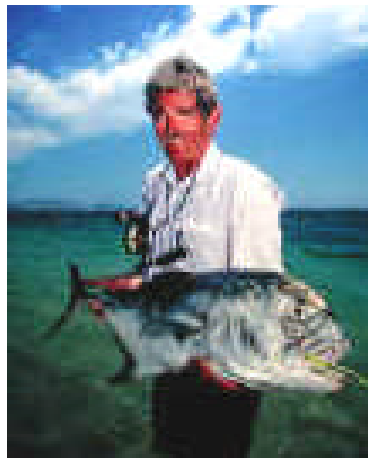
## December program—Overview of Baja fly fishing with Gary Graham

**T**his month we travel to Baja, Mexico, with Mr. Baja-on-the-Fly himself, Gary Graham.

Whether you want to fish La Paz, East Cape, Magdalena Bay or another fishery south of the border, Gary will present the methods, tackle and techniques that make a difference!

With over 30 years of Baja experience, Gary is one of the pioneers of fly fishing in Baja. He guides fly fishers for shore, in-shore and off-shore fishing; targeting such species as rooster fish, jack crevalle, pargo, marlin, wahoo, sailfish, dorado and tuna. One of Gary's specialties is a "cruise and cast" style of fishing, which is the ATV answer to drift boat fishing along the shore in Baja.

A bit about Gary...his love for bluewater fishing goes back to 1978, when he caught his first swordfish, a 209 pounder that took him 13 hours to land from a 23-foot skiff. The following year Gary took two world records: taking a 137-pound bigeye tuna on 20 pound test, and a 15-pound halibut on 12. The next year, Gary broke two more records.



Conservation has been an important aspect of the sport for Gary. He served as executive director of the National Coalition for Marine Conservation in 1979 and 1980. In 1983, he won the Los Angeles Billfish Club's award for proficiency with light tackle. In 1987, he took first place in two major California light tackle

billfish tournaments, and won the Southern California Billfish Championship. Gary's most recent world record was caught on the beach in his own front yard.

In 1988, *Power and Motor Yacht* magazine named him one of the Top 10 Anglers in the United States. And in 1994, Gary was named the IGFA representative for Baja.

In 1989, Gary and his wife, Yvonne, began their lifelong dream of near full-time residency in Baja's famed East Cape fishing region. Together they started *Baja on the Fly*, Baja's first Orvis-endorsed fly fishing guide and instruction operation.

*Warning: you may find yourself irrevocably hooked on Baja fly fishing after seeing this program.*

## President's message

As I confided to a few close friends, putting together the GSF has been a bit like planning a very expensive party and wondering if anyone was going to show up...well, they did! About 45 people attended our inaugural meeting, November 18, and were treated to a very special program by Gary and Wanda Taylor.

We now have 49 members, including eight Golden Charter Members. I extend a special thanks to our Golden Charter Members (soon to be listed on the web site)...these are folks that have contributed anywhere from \$200 to \$500 or more seed money for the club, and asked for nothing in return except to see the club be successful.

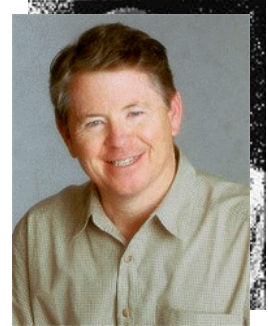
The hot announcement this month is the **Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction** in March. The Raffle is our *big* fund raiser of the year, and it is extremely important to not only the conservation issues the club chooses to support, but operation of the club in the ini-

tial years.

Why March?...Well, there is a method to the madness. Here's the idea: You and your partner submit the winning bid for a fabulous fly fishing trip in March, and tell us about it at the "Members Present" night in September!

First things first, though. We have begun soliciting raffle and auction prizes from manufacturers, fly shops, lodges, guides and outfitters, restaurants, etc., but we also need your help. If there is a lodge or restaurant you frequent, or a favorite guide that owes you a favor, please get them to donate to the raffle and auction. Two-for-one deals are always a favorite. Another great idea is to simply purchase a gift certificate from the San Diego Fly Shop and donate it to the Raffle. The Raffle is a great cause and always great fun. Look for details on page 3 of the newsletter.

Last, but certainly not least, we wish you happy and safe Holidays!



*Patrick Case, President*

***"...Annual  
Conservation  
Raffle and  
Auction in  
March"***

## Green River Trip—May 18 thru 23

Announcing our first club sponsored trip! The lower Green River, Flaming Gorge, Utah, is one of the most beautiful, productive tailwaters in the West. The water is crystal clear, the scenery breathtaking, and the fish are plentiful!

We have selected these dates because of the terrific cicada "hatch" in late May. For the un-initiated, this means big trout smacking big "bugs" on the surface!

The dates reflect traveling on a Sunday, fishing or sightseeing for four full days—Monday thru Thursday—and traveling back to San Diego on Friday. For those not into fishing four days straight—yes, we do exist—there are a number of other things to do, including visiting the Dinosaur National Monument.

Interested?...call Pat Case @ 858-571-3966, [pcase@enartec.com](mailto:pcase@enartec.com).



## Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction March 17

Our first **Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction** will be held March 17! The Raffle is *the* fund raiser of the year; and, in addition to your dues, is the life blood of the club.

The Raffle is important to not only the conservation issues the club chooses to support, but operation of the club in the initial years. And, on top of supporting great causes, *you are guaranteed to have a lot of fun and the opportunity to take home some great prizes!*

Here's how it works. The Raffle will actually be a combination of raffle drawings and a silent auction. The raffle drawings will be for a variety of mostly fly fishing related items, such as reels, rods, flies, fly tying equipment and materials, lines, vests, and hats. There will also be prizes such as dinners, books, binoculars, artwork, videos, etc. We expect to have about 50+ raffle items.

The silent auction will be for items of a specialized nature—items not everyone may want or can take advantage of. Examples of silent auction prizes are 2-for-1 trips to a lodge, guided fishing trips, boots and waders, clothing, etc.

The Annual Conservation Raffle and

Auction is open to *everyone*—GSF members, members of SDFP and other organizations, family, friends, and business colleagues, as well as the general public!. All you need to do is buy lots of tickets, or bid on an item in the silent auction, or both. There is no limit on the number of prizes you may win in either the raffle or silent auction. The more tickets you buy, the greater your chances of winning!!!

We have solicited raffle and auction prizes from about 100 manufacturers, fly shops, lodges, guides and outfitters, restaurants, and anyone else we can think of. But we need your help as well. If there is a lodge or restaurant you frequent, or a favorite guide that owes you a favor, please get them to donate to the raffle and auction. Tie flies?...consider tying a dozen or so as a prize. And everyone has books they'll never read again. Nearly new, hardly used items are also welcome. Another great idea is to purchase a gift certificate or two from the San Diego Fly Shop and donate it to the Raffle.

You can bring raffle prizes to the meeting, or call Pat Case (858-571-3966) to make other arrangements.

*“The Raffle is important to not only the conservation issues the club chooses to support, but operation of the club in the initial years.”*



## Tom Loe's guide tip of the month—deep cuts and pools

Fish the deeper cuts and pools with streamers and a sink tip line. Try a cast quarter down stream with a big mend opposite the area in which you intend to pull your streamer through. Retrieve the fly with a tight line pulling upstream

with aggressive short strips and short pauses. Keep the rod tip under water a foot or so and learn to strip set the hook by waiting for a solid take, then pulling the line until the rod loads up with the fishes weight. Good luck!

*For Tom's latest fish report go to <http://www.sieradriesters.com/fish.html>*

## Southern California steelhead—an introduction

*This is the first of occasional articles on conservation issues by Steve Netti, Conservation Chairperson for GSF.*

When I first heard about steelhead in Southern California after moving to San Diego, I thought someone was pulling my leg. It only took a little research to find out that the streams in San Diego County were filled with steelhead at one time. So what happened to them?

There are many reasons the steelhead populations were decimated or extirpated. One of the best known reasons is dams that segment the habitat. It is well known that steelhead require access to upstream habitat and dams prevent migration from salt water to headwater breeding grounds. A lesser-known fact is that rainbow trout also require the ability to move through a watershed to take advantage of different habitats during different seasons.

This is important because research has shown that steelhead and rainbow trout that spawn in the same stream segments may not be distinct populations. Research has also shown that steelhead and resident rainbow trout populations probably have a symbiotic relationship. When drought causes a rainbow trout population to be temporarily extirpated from a stream segment, returning adult steelhead spawn in the stream segment producing new year classes of steelhead and resident rainbow trout. Likewise, when winter rains don't open sand bars at river mouths, preventing steelhead from entering to spawn, resident rainbow trout spawn and produce resident rainbow trout and fish that smolt and

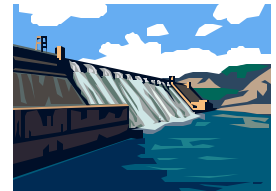
become anadromous.

There are many other types of fish passage barriers impacting steelhead populations. Arizona crossings, bridge skirts, *Arundo donax* infestations and other streambed alterations are known to impact steelhead migration.

Removing fish passage barriers will enable many steelhead populations to recover some of the ground they lost over the last centuries. There are many other issues such as water quality degradation, surface and ground water diversion, competition and predation by exotic species, and numerous other issues, impacting steelhead populations.

There are many significant issues affecting steelhead recovery in Southern California. They require a significant effort to overcome these issues. Recognition of this fact led to the formation of the Southern California Steelhead Coalition. Diverse groups such as the Sierra Club, Surfriders, California Trout, Trout Unlimited, Heal the Bay, Friends of the River and many others recognized that the responsible government agencies, such as the National Marine Fisheries Service and the California Department of Fish and Game, may not have the will to make the difficult decisions to enable steelhead populations to recover to the point of stability. These groups joined their voices to be heard and to encourage fisheries managers to make the decisions that will bring these magnificent fish back from the edge of doom.

*Steve Netti is President for So. California, Trout Unlimited California Council*



***“...research has shown that steelhead and rainbow trout that spawn in the same stream segments may not be distinct populations.”***

## Casting clinic presented by the Taylors a big success!

Ten lucky people were treated to a terrific casting clinic on November 17, presented by the Taylors. FFF Master Cer-



tified instructors, Gary and Wanda not only got first-timers casting properly, and polished those of us that have been



throwing line a few years, but taught us a few useful tricks in the process. Can you inspect your dry fly without stripping in the line?...we now can, and it is a very cool technique!



It was a great afternoon with two of the best instructors and charming people in the sport! The fact that the Taylors are a couple who obviously love what they are doing *together* was also an inspiration to others that enjoy sharing fly fishing with their partner. It is good to see more and more couples enjoying fly fishing together.

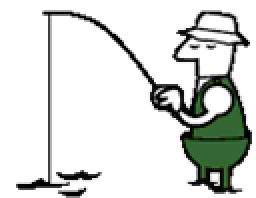


Gary & Wanda Taylor

## On the lighter side...

A man was stopped by a game-warden at Miramar Lake recently, walking to his car with two buckets of live fish. The game warden asked the man, "Do you have a license to catch those fish?" The man replied to the game warden, "No, sir. These are my pet fish." "Pet fish?!" the warden replied. "Yes, sir...Every day I take these here fish down to the lake and let them swim around for a while. I whistle and they jump back into their buckets, and I take 'em home." "That's a bunch of hooley! Fish can't do that!" said

the warden. The man looked at the game warden for a moment, and then said, "Here, I'll show you. It really works." "O.K. I've GOT to see this!" The game warden was curious. The man poured the fish in to the lake and stood and waited. After several minutes, the game warden turned to the man and said, "Well?" "Well, what?" the man responded. "When are you going to call them back?" the game warden prompted. "Call who back?" the man asked. "The FISH." "What fish?" the man asked.



**Submissions to newsletter**

Submissions to the newsletter are welcome. We are looking for articles that provide information—preferably not found elsewhere—or entertain. Have you fished an out-of-the-way place recently?...Come across a killer fly for the Green River?...Have a hot newsflash about a fishery?...Send it in for publishing!

Most importantly, we want the newsletter to address the topics you are interested in. So please contact us to let us

know your feelings. What do you want to see in the newsletter?

Please limit your article to about 320 words, submit it in Microsoft Word, and include a photo or relevant image. E-mail your submissions to [pcase@enartec.com](mailto:pcase@enartec.com), or [hrconduct@msn.com](mailto:hrconduct@msn.com). The newsletter will be 4 to 8 pages long, depending on the amount of copy we have any particular month.



**Advertise in *Reading The Water***

Deliver your message by advertising in *Reading the Water*. As the voice of this new, vibrant flyfishing club, *Reading the Water* can provide you a direct hit to the affluent North San Diego County market.

Copy must be “camera ready,” and readily inserted into Microsoft Publisher. The annual rates are as follows...

- Full page.....\$300
- Half page.....\$200
- Quarter page vertical.....\$150

Please call Patrick Case at 858-523-0224 to discuss your needs. GSF reserves the right to refuse publication of any ad for any reason.

***Advertise in  
Reading The  
Water!***

**Call for speaker hosts**

We still have openings for hosts for our speakers in 2003. For those of you with a guest bedroom, this is a rare opportunity to spend personal time with the best in our sport...teachers, guides and outfitters, writers, photographers, and other professionals. Think about it...fireside chats with Mel Kreiger, hearing about the exploits of Charles Jardine, getting personal tips from Ed Engle.

Besides a bedroom, all you need to do is get the speaker from the airport to the meeting, put ‘em up for the night, be a gracious host, and get ‘em back to the airport or train station the next day.

Here’s what to do...go to the website—[www.goldenstateflycasters.org](http://www.goldenstateflycasters.org)—note the dates of the meetings and speakers, and call Patrick Case at 858-523-0224.



