



Reading the Water

January 2004

MEETING

Monday

January 12

Welcome: 6:00 P
Program: 7:30 P

Tony's Jacal
Restaurant

621 Valley Ave.
Solana Beach

(Map—Back Page)

January Program—Stan Bradshaw presents Montana fisheries

Note the special location and time for this dinner meeting in the sidebar at left—See p. 8 for details.

THIS MONTH WE return to what many consider the holy waters of American trout fishing, Montana.

Over the past two decades, many trout waters in Montana have experienced a resurgence in fish populations, and consequently, the quality of the fishing.

This resurgence arises from a variety of causes—wild trout management and an aggressive restoration program, to name just two.

Many rivers—including the Bitterroot, Yellowstone, Clark Fork, Gallatin, and others—have shown the value of this two-phased approach.

Western Montana's Blackfoot River perhaps epitomizes the best of these efforts—having gone from being a river in severe decline as a trout fishery in the mid-80's to a much sought after destination in the new millennium.

Stan Bradshaw tells the incredible story of this amazing transformation, and *provides valuable insight into the major hatches, best seasons to fish, and*

key patterns. Stan is currently a staff attorney for Trout Unlimited's Western Water Project. In that position, he works on a variety of instream flow initiatives, from negotiating with irrigators to lease water to instream flows, to participating in watershed groups to find cooperative solutions to streamflow problems.



Previous to working for TU as counsel for the Montana Water Project, Stan was the Resource Director for Montana Trout Unlimited, where he was responsible for working with various state agencies on resource issues related to cold-water fisheries.

He represented TU in promoting the passage of the bill that permits Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife, and Parks to lease water rights for instream flows. In 1997, while in private practice, he secured the first private instream flow lease on behalf of the Westslope chapter of Trout Unlimited.

In addition to his conservation work, Stan was a principal in Greycliff Publishing with his wife Glenda and the late Gary LaFontaine. †

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President's message

AS YOU KNOW, we have polled members on where to have our monthly meeting. It came down to either meeting at a combination of Skyline School and a restaurant when we couldn't use the school, or having all meetings at a restaurant.

Of those who voiced an opinion, the vote was 3 to 1 for a restaurant, and the Board agreed. However, we are striving to find a happy median which addresses the short comings of Tony's Jacal. The biggest concern voiced was providing an environment with as few distractions and outside noise as possible, and befitting our high quality programs (although more than one speaker has commented on the sterile environment of the school).

Therefore, while we are again meeting at Tony's Jacal this month, *we will be changing the location for February on.*

The December Board meeting marked a turning point for GSF...and it all started with **Bill Byers** sending me an e-mail suggesting it was time to take the club to the next level, and asking how he could get involved. Of course I gave him a list of about a dozen items, and suggested he attend a board meeting to see what it is all about.

Bill not only attended the next board meeting, but he brought along John Wohlfiel and a lot of great ideas on how to improve things. The short of it is that both will be on the Board for next year.

With that, I am please to introduce the GSF Board of Directors for 2004, as

follows...

Patrick Case, President

Bill Byers, Secretary and President-elect

John Wohlfiel, Treasurer

Helen Condict, Director

Peter Piconi, Director

We are now a club in transition to the second generation.

At the same board meeting, veteran fly tier **Gary Kutz** gave us a brief description of the new fly tying class. Suffice it to say the class will go a lot further than just learning how to tie flies—see a description elsewhere in this newsletter.

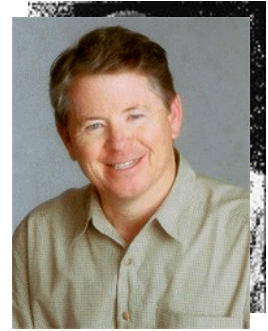
The Board also took up Bill Byers' offer to have his company, **Down2Biz**, host *and* maintain our website for the same price we are paying SBC just to host it. Being able to now make real-time changes to the website to keep in current, as well as improve its exposure, will be a huge asset for the club.

Other items of note, **Helen Condict** will continue to handle PR for the club.

Four North County papers ran her terrific article about GSF.

As a reminder, the first big SoCal fly fishing show is coming to Pomona January 8-11—see www.sportsexpos.com for more information, directions, etc.

Last, but certainly not least, the **Annual Raffle is coming up in March**. Please do what you can to support the raffle—see more on the raffle on p. 3. †



Patrick Case, President

“We are now a club in transition to the second generation.”

2nd Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction coming in March

THE 2nd Annual Conservation Raffle and Auction will be upon us before you know it! The date has been set for **March 22nd**.

The Raffle is *the* fundraiser of the year; and, in addition to your dues, is the life blood of the club and the activities we chose to support.

For those new to the club, the Raffle is important to not only the conservation issues the club chooses to support, but operation of the club. 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!*

Manufacturers, fly shops, lodges, guides and outfitters, restaurants, and other businesses are already offering to generously donate to the Raffle.

B*ut we need your help as well.* Here's what you can do...if there is a lodge or restaurant you frequent, or a favorite guide that owes you a favor, please ask 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 your favorite fly shop and donate it to the Raffle.

The format will be the same as last year! The Raffle will be a combination of raf-

fle 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!.

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!!!

Raffle tickets will be coming your way for purchase soon, so please return them with your donation as soon as possible.

You can bring raffle prizes to the meeting, or call Helen Condict (858-523-1017) or another Board member to make other arrangements. †

“The Raffle is the fundraiser of the year; and, in addition to your dues, is the life blood of the club and the activities we chose to support.”



Membership renewal time

RENEWED YOUR membership yet? The new year is here, and your dues for 2004 should be in.

This past year we saw an extraordinary line-up of speakers and activities. The speakers included the unforgettable Mel Krieger, Ed Engle, Charles Jardine, Brian O’Keefe, Gary Graham, and many others.

We’re proud of the fact that there is not a fly fishing club in the country that had a better schedule of speakers! *And* we already have a slate of top-notch speakers scheduled for you next year! It is going to be another great year!

We also sponsored a number of well

attended casting clinics by some of the most notable casting professionals in the world, including some of those mentioned above, and sponsored our first trip. *A number of trips are already planned for 2004.*

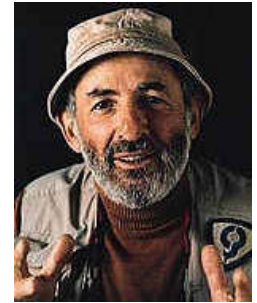
Improvements we are making for 2004 include permanently moving the meetings to a *new* restaurant, which will allow for a more

relaxed atmosphere, and a chance to dine and enjoy your favorite beverage

during the program. You will also notice a more real-time website.

We are sending out Membership Applications separately. If you haven’t yet sent in your renewal, please do so at your earliest opportunity. †

Christmas gift idea—This year give a GSF membership gift to a flyfishing friend!



GSF fly tying classes to start January 21

GSF is offering an eight week fly tying class, starting **Wednesday, Jan 21st, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM**. The class will be held at La Costa Glen Retirement, near La Costa Resort in Carlsbad.



The instructor will be **Gary Kutz**, a GSF member who has been fly fishing and tying flies for twelve years.

The first class will be an introduction to

the tools and supplies that are used in tying of various types of flies. Students will need to purchase the basic tools and some supplies, but all the materials used to tie the flies each week will be supplied by the club. The cost will be \$20 to cover the materials.

See **Flies**, p. 7

Member profile—The art of a bug's life with Gary Kutz

A VETERAN FLY fisher and instructor, Gary Kutz brings an informative and fun-filled class to GSF members who want to know the what, why and how of mimicking what trout love best—bugs.

In a series of fly tying classes, filled with colorful fur and feathers and techniques, you will learn to create clones of nature with flies that will appeal to even the wariest of trout.

Growing up in the Midwest, Gary learned to lake fish for crappie and bass with his father and brother. But it wasn't until moving to the Bay area that he and a friend, Fred, took up an interest in fly fishing when they discovered Fred's father's bamboo fly rods. Gary's fascination with fly-fishing and bamboo rods led him to join the *Flycasters of San Jose*.

With Gary's curiosity as a civil engineer, he became an avid angler, learning the art of fly fishing—equipment use and rod building, identifying hatches at stream outings, tying knots, casting techniques, reading the waters and fly tying.

Now, as a GSF member, you too can

gain some valuable insight into creating flies that catch trout with Gary's upcoming 8-week class. Join Gary in Carlsbad at La Costa Glen Carlsbad Retirement Center located at 1940 La Vante Street Carlsbad, starting Jan. 21 from 7-9pm.

We hope to have a few senior citizens from the Center sign up as well—they are sure to enjoy the conversation and lessons as much as our members. Who

knows, this may start a trend where seniors become involved with fly tying and fly-fishing... well, what do you see *yourself* doing in 20 years?

Gary sums up the fly tying experience best in

saying, "The most important aspect about fly-fishing is it takes us to the most wonderful places that God has created on earth. There is nothing better than standing in the middle of a roaring stream surrounded by mountains and evergreen trees and watching that little bitty fly float down stream with the expectation that a huge trout may rise to the surface and gulp down the fly you created."

We are thankful to have generous members like Gary, and encourage any member with an interest in fly tying to sign up for what promises to be a most interesting and enjoyable class! †

Helen Condict



"The most important aspect about fly-fishing is it takes us to the most wonderful places that God has created on earth."



Helen Condict is also a freelance magazine and newspaper writer.

New Year's Day—Fiction

MY FIRST CHRISTMAS without Kathryn has thankfully passed, and New Year's Day has finally arrived. I don't have to pick up Michael for another half hour.

For the first time in perhaps decades, I'd spent a good part of the past week trying to come up with a new purpose in life. Before breast cancer finally took Kathryn this fall, there wasn't any need to think about purpose—it was balancing marriage, kids and careers with soccer practice, little league, football, vacations, and the crises that befall all families...not the least of which was dealing with Kathryn's disease.

But there have been lots of rewards along the way. One of those rewards was coming to the realization one day that our offspring finally had fully developed brains, and had started to become our friends as well as our children. It was Christmas of his high school senior year that Michael, my oldest, shocked me with the suggestion of us spending the day throwing streamers to steelhead on the Siuslaw rather than watching bowl games all day.

The following year we recalled how much we enjoyed steelheading that New Year's day, and headed to the river again...and again the year after that, and so on. Thus, a 20 year tradition was born, broken only twice—once by Michael's year long courtship of Susan and a Christmas trip to Colorado to meet her parents; and the second time was due to the birth of his daughter, Amy, 12 years ago.

Michael has become a proficient fly fisher along the way, which I attribute to his teacher. He had also become a bit of a literary snob, which I attribute to his years at an east coast college—this, combined with his love for fly fishing, led to me to suggest to him that he might be Oregon's answer to Tom McGuane...as well as other occasional good natured ribbing from the "Ol' Man" about his literary acumen

Feeling the need for the therapeutic benefits of time spent at a tying vise, I told Michael I would tie up the flies for this year's Pilgrimage to the Siuslaw. This also gave me the perfect excuse to spend time at the fly shop picking up hooks, feathers, fur, tensile, thread, and more. Only a fly fisherman can appreciate the difference between buying flies tied in a third world country, and those you spent hours tying yourself, all for the pride of knowing you caught the fish on *your* fly!

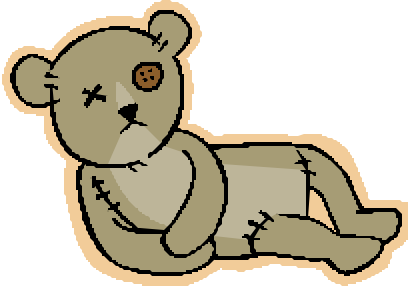


This year in particular I was looking forward to standing in the river on the first day of the new year with Michael, watching him cast elegant loops with his Spey rod—something I still haven't mastered myself. Having him catch a steelie on one of my flies would make the day all the sweeter.

"Hi, Dad," Susan said as she opened the door, "Come in...Michael's been on the

phone for an hour...I'll tell him you're here." In the living room I spotted a new addition, an antique piece decorated with a still life of some of Amy's early childhood toys.

Amy's tomboy nature was well represented...the baseball and plane I had given her in a couple of futile attempts of turning her into a "grandson" that might take an interest in fishing, and a doll and couple of Teddy bears—all showing signs of ambushes over the years by Butch, the family cat.



"Dad, I have some bad news and some good," Michael said as he walked into the room. My heart sank as the thought of him canceling our trip to the river set in. "Jim has come down with the flu...I have to spend the rest of the day preparing for a presentation tomorrow morning," he said with an apologetic shrug.

"And the good news?!...," I asked, trying to hide my disappointment. I no sooner got the words out when Amy

came prancing in modeling a brand new set of Orvis waders. "What do you think?," she asked, feigning a model's pirouette. "Do I look good enough to be your new fishing partner?" My approval I *couldn't* hide, as the tears came while I gave her a hug. "Let me look at you!—you look terrific, Amy!"

"She's been waiting three months to tell you she wanted to go fishing with her granddad this New Year, sorry I

won't..." "Don't worry, Michael, Amy and I'll just have to carry on the tradition without you this year. Well, are you ready, young lady?"

"She's been ready since Christmas morning," said Michael. "All right, we're outta here," I said as I opened

the door. I knew I had found my new purpose.

As we started out the door I said, "Amy, let me tell you about when I taught your dad how to fly fish...well, it was the best of times, and the worst of times..."

!

P.A. Cahill

Flies, from p. 4

A list of the tools and supplies can be obtained before the class starts by calling Gary at 760-438-6682, or e-mail at bandg-kutz@earthlink.net.



A different type fly will be tied each week to learn the different basic principals. We will not only learn to tie flies but we will also learn about the dif-

ferent fishing equipment, insects, knots, and techniques used.

We will also learn four or five flies each week. The best thing about the class will be that we can share stories about our favorite trips and interesting adventures.

!

Gary Kutz

Welcome in the New Year Mexican style!

When:	Monday, January 12th
Where:	Tony's Jacal
Address:	621 Valley Ave, Solana Beach (see map on page 8)
Time:	Wet Flies, 6 p: Program, 7:30 P
Cost:	\$15 of meal (booze extra)
Menu:	Choice of two from the following: Taco (turkey or beef), Taquitos (2) (turkey or beef), Flautas (2) (turkey or beef), Tamale (turkey or pork), Enchilada (turkey, beef, or cheese), Chile Relleno, and Tostada (bean); including rice and beans.



Tom Loe fishing tips—fishing rising water

USE HIGH VISIBILITY patterns such as streamers or large nymphs so the trout can get a good look at your presentation. Rising water will make fish seek different holding areas. Fish a section or piece of water redundantly and with patience. Fish will be in transition and not be in areas you encountered them previously.

When rigging up, try not to use loops or knotted leaders. With the large amount of sediment, free floating weed and such, the more streamlined you keep your leader and tippet the less chance you have of picking up drifting material.

Fish the backwaters and quiet sections of the river. These areas will produce when water levels are rising. Fish tend to congregate in these areas during rising flows as they do not have to expend large amounts of energy holding in the swift current. Bring a variety of differ-

ent sized strike indicators if you intend to nymph fish. Do not rely on one size, as you may have to change the amount of weight needed frequently to get down to the fish.

Use several small weights as opposed to a large single for weighting your nymphs. Spread them out on your tippet about a half-inch apart. This will make casting easier and get you down more effectively.

I use several types of sink tip lines for various flow rates when pulling streamers. This can be expensive and time consuming. Check a local fly shop out for suggestions on what to have before you go. They will no doubt have the proper line for you. There have been leaps and bounds made in improving sink tips. They cast better, sink evenly and come in many sink rates and lengths customized for your area and flow. †



Tom Loe



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Deliver your message by advertising in *Reading the Water*. As the voice of fly fishing in North San Diego County, *Reading the Water* can provide you a direct hit to this affluent market. Copy must be in JPEG format.

The **annual rates** are as follows...

- Full page.....\$300
 - Half page.....\$200
 - Quarter page.....\$150
- Please call Helen Condict at 858-523-1017 to discuss your needs. GSF reserves the right to refuse publication of any ad for any reason.



Call for speaker hosts

We still have openings for hosts for our speakers in 2004. Have a guest bedroom? Don't miss 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 the best in the sport.

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—note the dates of the meetings and speakers, and call Patrick Case at 858-523-1017.



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www.goldenstateflycasters.org

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Welcome to the Golden State Flycasters

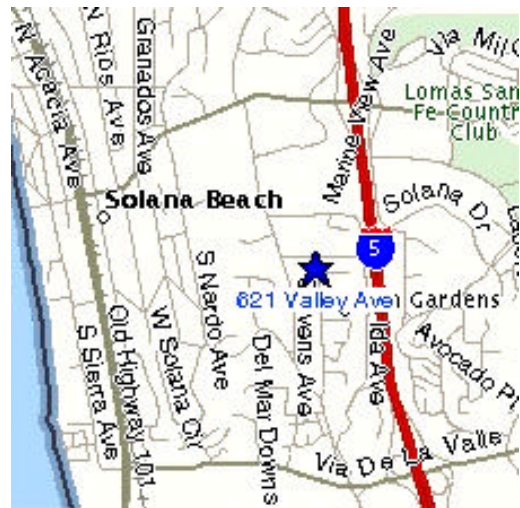
The GSF was formed in 2002 to serve the interests of fly fishers in North San Diego County, South Orange County, and Camp Pendleton.

Mission Statement

Promote national and international amateur fly casting competition; conservation and restoration of fisheries; and knowledge, support, ethics and social relations in the sport and art of fishing.

Map to meeting location

Tony's Jacal Restaurant
621 Valley Ave., SB



Submissions to newsletter

Hey, you frustrated Hemingways and Steinbecks out there...we are looking for articles for Reading the Water. The best are personal stories that are entertaining, or provide information not found elsewhere. Have you fished an out-of-the-way place recently?...Come across a killer fly for a favorite 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 500 words, submit it in Microsoft Word, and *include photos or relevant images.* E-mail your submissions to: hrcondict1@yahoo.com.