



Reading the Water

Newsletter of Golden State Flycasters and Trout Unlimited Chapter 920

May 2006

Program—Fishing So. America with Jim Klug

MEETING

**Monday
May 15th**

Wetflies: 6:00 P

Dinner: 6:45 P

Program: 7:00 P

Chevys Restaurant

2730 Via de la Valle
Del Mar
(Map—Back Page)

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Some of the best fly fishing destinations in the world are in Central America—Belize, Venezuela, Honduras, the Yucatan, Costa Rica and

the Bahamas. These places are not only home to magnificent and exotic species for a fly rod, but as beautiful and interesting as any place on earth.

Our tour guide is well qualified. Jim Klug has been to all these destinations many times; and while he has become an expert on our neighbors to the south, he gained this knowledge after 20 years experience fly fishing and guiding fresh water locations in Colorado, New Mexico, Oregon, Montana and the Rocky Mountains.

Jim was born in Colorado, but his family moved to central Oregon when he was seven. He grew up fishing the Deschutes River, which flowed near his home. To help pay for his college education at Dartmouth, Jim spent summers guiding. After graduation, Jim moved to Montana

Before becoming a sales rep for well

known fly fishing companies, he guided full time. Jim served as National Sales Manager for Scientific Anglers and Streamworks.



In 2001, he founded Yellow Dog Fly Fishing Adventures, based in Montana, which specializes in booking and arranging fishing trips around the world. He is his company's primary copywriter and photog-

rapher for all catalogs and its website (www.yellowdogflyfishing.com).

Jim resides in Bozeman with his wife, Hilary, and his dog Boone—a yellow lab, of course.

He has been spending a lot of time in Central American at the great fly fishing destinations mentioned above, hosting groups and working with a network of lodges and guides. Thus, we know he has the latest information. Also, because of our network of contacts at other clubs where Jim has already appeared, we know his show has garnered rave reviews as being thorough, beautiful and entertaining.

Don't miss this program! ■

President's Message

By Steve Piper

It was great seeing a lot of first-timers at our April club meeting! We hope you enjoyed it and that you keep coming back. We had a full house at Chevy's to check out the bamboo rod making demo and talk on fly fishing for Atlantic salmon in the Canadian maritime provinces by speaker Jerry Kustich. Jerry showed pictures of some great scenery and large fish, and the program was enjoyed by all. By the way, we found out that good bamboo rods may drop in price a bit in the coming years. Recently, Jerry, Glen Brackett, and their compadres in the Winston Rods bamboo rod building workshop in Twin Bridges, Montana, split with Winston Rods. They are in the process of starting up a new company called Sweet Grass. I hope they do well in their quest to continue to produce high quality bamboo fly rods.

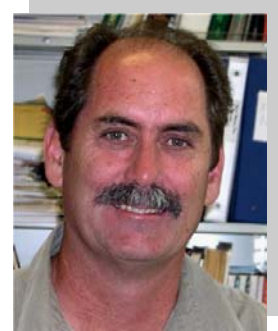
And now for a break in your regularly scheduled program. 4.7 percent! Depending on what it applies to, this number could be high, low, or just about right. In the case I have in mind, Goldilocks would not be pleased—4.7 % is remarkably high! By day, I work in the Carbon Dioxide Research Group at Scripps Institution of Oceanography; and just this week I received the numbers for global fossil fuel CO₂ emissions (burning of coal, oil and gas) for 2003. They were 4.7 % higher than for 2002. Our atmospheric measurements show that 55% of this CO₂ remains in the atmosphere—that translates to a lot of carbon, folks. I won't follow this thread any further here, except to tell you not to

let anyone try to tell you that we aren't greatly changing our environment on a global scale. [Ed note—eat more sushi and sashimi—no cooking, no fuel burned, great eats, and the earth is better off!]

Why did I bring this up? Well, we held our First Cast program at Lake Cuyamaca this past weekend. It is designed to teach kids about fly fishing—in turn, it quite likely will get them charged up about our environment. That has got to be a good thing. In any case, it was fun for all involved. Many thanks to organizer and teacher Sandi Jacobson (bugs), and teachers Gary Kutz (fly tying), Pat Case (casting and hooking tree branches demo), Ken Notter (knot tying), Helen Condict (media), and the parents, grandparents and kids who participated in the program.

[Ed note—Steve is way too modest. He and Sandi did an *outstanding* job putting on this TU program. *And*, we received a number of letters thanking them and the club for sponsoring this event. Having witnessed this event, the looks on the faces of the kids, and having read the Thank You letters myself, there is no doubt these programs have a tremendous impact on our kids and the future. Please get involved.]

The Eastern Sierra trout opener is this weekend. Good luck to any of you who brave the opening weekend spectacle in Bishop, Crowley, and beyond. Send us a picture if you get lucky and be sure to check our website for upcoming events, classes, and trips. ■



Steve Piper

**WOW!!!!!!!!!!
WHAT A
NEWSLETTER!
!! WHAT
BREADTH YOU
COVER!!!!!!!!!!**

**Don Bishop
AskAbout-
Flyfishing.com**

Sweetwater trout rising from the ashes

By Patrick Case

A real story of man's (and animals) triumph over nature is starting to develop here. Actually, this story really started December 19, 1997, when trout from the Sweetwater drainage were moved to the new exhibit of trout indigenous to San Diego County at the Chula Vista Nature Center (CVNC).

For those of you not familiar with this exhibit, it is a project the San Diego Fly Fishers contributed a chunk of money to during its development, and the club was named the principal sponsor. Coincidentally, I spearheaded that project for the club (and went on to spend more of SDF's money than probably anyone else in history).

And so, about eight and a half years ago Alex Vejar, DFG, Bruce Campbell, SDF, and members of San Diego Trout captured 14 native rainbow trout from the Upper Sweetwater River and moved them to the Center to enlighten the public to the fact San Diego has viable trout fisheries.

Flash forward almost six years to October, 2003, when the devastating Cedar fire scorched East County. The fire caused staggering ecological devastation to the area. By at least one estimate, the fire consumed 50 percent of the tree cover and nearly three-quarters of the chaparral and shrub in the city's 28,000-acre burn zone. It also extirpated all the streams in the Sweetwater drainage, and the trout in them. Every last trout was exterminated...except seven...the last

remaining residents at the CVNC.

There is another twist to this story. The Center began a major renovation of the main building in the Summer of 2005. Part of the project includes replacing the original trout exhibit with a live trout stream exhibit—the renovated Center is scheduled to open mid-July of this year. During construction of the renovation, the trout were moved to Hubbs Research Institute for safe keeping. During their stay at Hubbs, what were about two to four inch trout have grown to five to six *pounders*! And a very virile broodstock—in fact, the trout were observed to breed while in the original exhibit.

The devastation of the fire on the Sweetwater fishery and the current status of the trout at the CVNC was brought to my attention by Allen Greenwood, *San Diego Trout*, at the Fred Hall Show. Again, Allen stepped up to support trout indigenous to San Diego County by initiating an *Emergency Breeding Project* to re-stock the Sweetwater watershed with these native trout. He has already obtained approval of the Department of Fish and Game for the project.

In addition to hosting the trout, gratis, for nearly a year, Hubbs is also donating a good deal of equipment required for the initial breeding program, and is coaching us in developing a long-term hatchery plan.

While it has limited resources, and has run out of space, the CVNC has also pledged its support for the project.



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See *Trout*, p. 10

GSF-U...Education at GSF

By Steve Piper, Education Chairman

The fly tying class taught by Joe Hall ended on April 12th. Many thanks again to Joe for teaching this class. Fortunately for us, things are looking good for locking him into a 20-year multi-fly contract.

To tide us over until next January, when the class will be offered again, Joe is trying to arrange a laid-back monthly (or so) fly tying meeting where fly tyers—new, beginning, and advanced—can meet to tie flies and tell lies (I saw that somewhere; apologies for the plagiarism). Contact Joe Hall (jkhall@vision-sunltd.com) if you are interested in participating in these meetings.

The rod building class taught by Gary Kutz also ended in April. Thanks Gary! We are still waiting to see the rods built in this class. Mine will be finished early this summer when I get more time for this...honest.

Michael Maloney will present casting clinics on Sunday, May 7th. Michael is one of the few dozen instructors in the U.S. who has been certified at the highest level, "Master," by the Federation of Fly Fishers. He teaches all levels, from beginners to advanced, to instructors, to fly fishing guides. Cost will be \$85 per person for a three-hour group clinic, \$125 for a one hour private lesson. Contact me for information.

The DVD "Trout Grass" in our club video free-lending library is a well-done artsy documentary on the journey of bamboo from the hills in Tonkin, China, to the bamboo fly rod building shop in

Twin Bridges, Montana. The shop just closed in February as a part of Winston Rods, but will be re-opening soon as "Sweet Grass," according to April speaker Jerry Kustich, who worked there. Check out the "Trout Grass" video and many others in our library at our monthly club meetings. Contact librarian Gary Kutz for a current list of videos, to suggest a great video that we should buy, or to donate a video.

Club outings and trips are a great hands-on way to learn from other members and/or guides. You might really enjoy fly fishing in San Diego Bay—spotted bass, halibut, bonito, croakers, corvina, and even smallish bonefish are some of the species on tap there.

Bob Day will be organizing club trips to the bay in the coming weeks. If you are interested or have questions, contact him. Another option is to take a guided trip on the bay on the "Salty Doc" with GSF member Dr. John Grim.

It's not too late to join us on the club trip to the eastern Sierras on May 19-21; contact Don and Gayle Beasley (msbez@adelphia.net) for information.

The bewitching hour (day) is closing in fast for the trip to the Green River in Utah, on June 2-7; contact me immediately if you are interested.

As always, if you have any suggestions for ways to expand or improve educational opportunities at GSF, please contact me (scpiper@popmail.ucsd.edu). ■

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Authority on fly fishing San Diego Bay, Bob Day

A great day at Cuyamaca—TU First Cast class

Story by Joe Paoluccio, photos by Joe Paoluccio and Helen Condict

DESPITE COLD, CLOUDY windy weather, a nearly full class of future fly fishers were very engrossed in the Trout Unlimited School at Lake Cuyamaca (students are listed in President's Message).

Sandi Jacobson, Steve Piper, Ken Kaufman, and Pat Case of the Golden State Flycasters provided the expertise and had the young men and women restless for more. The students included **Chris Castro, Kyle Kaufman, Andrew Lopez, Alex Lopez, Joe Mackens, Mathew Sievert, Marion Steers, Guy Winston and Charity Winston**. The class introduced the new comers to conservation, entomology, fly tying, equipment (including line and leader types and sizes), fly categories and roll casting and overhead casting. A parent or friend accompanied each student, who helped them with the instruction.

I took Andrew, my grandson; my friend, Roy Mackens, took his son, Joey; and Frank Kawasaki teamed with Alex, another grandson. All had a wonderful time and did not want to leave before catching a fish. As it turned out, the cold weather, combined with the wind, deterred the use of flies with hooks. We promised the boys that we would help them learn to cast and take them for some real fly fishing.

The parents and students thank each of the instructors for the time and skills and to TU and GSF for an unforgettable day at Lake Cuyamaca. ■



Finding the right guide

By K.R. Spint, DMD

Once again, I was reminded saltwater fly fishing is a new idea for many people, even those in the sport fishing industry. On a recent holiday cruise to Mexico, I wanted to fish one of the days we were in port. So I first tried get a guide in Cabo San Lucas for January 1st, but could not find one to work on that day—even for an additional “bonus.”

The next stop was Puerto Vallarta. After finding only one fly fishing guided charter advertised on the Internet, I chartered a half-day with “Master Baiters”—yes, that is the actual name. Their web site, www.mbsportfishing.com, states “MBSF is the only charter company in Puerto Vallarta *specializing* in Fly Fishing.”

Their office and launch area was only a few taxi minutes away from the cruise ship landing. The 20+ foot panga was outfitted with a center console/Bimini, and rigged for trolling. Hector, my Mexican guide, spoke English well, was very congenial, and said he had fished all of his life; but—as I found out later—he had very little experience with fly fishers. In fact, his wife videoed the



day’s action, while I was told I was the first to be filmed for their charter service.

Because it was a short charter, we stayed within Banderas Bay, with most of the fishing done on the north end toward the Marietas Islands. This extremely large bay comes with afternoon winds and rolling surf. Plenty of fish were sighted (including breaching whales), with the pre-dominant species being medium-sized Bonita and Sierra, spotted near diving birds with surface bait activity. An eight-weight rod and green/yellow “deceiver” flies (size 1/0) seemed to work.

I enjoyed this short charter, but would have enjoyed it even more had there been more fishing opportunities with a more knowledgeable fly fishing guide. Positioning the boat relative to the wind, distance and the target are key to a successful fishing venture. From now on, when I hire a fly fishing saltwater guide I will know what questions to ask before spending \$400 for six hours of guided fly fishing.

New GSF member, Dr. Spint, is a Solana Beach oral surgeon. Although he is relatively new to saltwater fly fishing, he has been fly fishing for over thirty years. He enjoys local bay fishing with guides from San Diego Fly Shop. And, he has fished the saltwaters of the Yucatán, Honduras, Belize, and Cancun areas. ■

From now on, when I hire a fly fishing saltwater guide I will know what questions to ask before spending \$400 for six hours of guided fly fishing.

You have the trout of your life on...now what do you do?

By Tom Loe

Why do big fish get big? They have been hooked before and know how to play the game without getting caught. When you eventually set the hook on “Troutzilla” there are several things I suggest you can do that may help you get a photo opportunity with the fish of your dreams.

First, make sure you keep your rod tip high and the upper half of the rod bent! Keep your rod tip as high as possible (hold the rod well above your head if necessary), this will keep a significant amount of line out of the water and reduce friction that can break a line or weaken a hook set. Do not let the butt section of the rod get parallel to the water surface and allow the tip to point at the streaking fish. Your rod is a spring that absorbs shock, use it! Keep an angle to your running fish.

You must back off on the pressure you apply to the fish as it makes its initial burst. Resist the urge to “palm” or slow down the reels spool. A decent drag set properly prior to the hook set has no emotion—it does not care if the fish is eight inches or eight pounds! Let the reels drag do its job.

When you do finally see that mysterious thin line called backing peeling off the reel’s spool, rest assured you have a substantial adversary on the end and your fight is in the infancy stages. The weight of the line and the reel’s drag will eventually slow the fish down if your gear is properly matched to the potential of the water you are angling. Ob-

serve where potential obstacles like weed beds, anchor lines and shallow water are.

As you retrieve line the fish will no doubt make several more runs away from the pressure. These are prone to be shorter and with substantial but somewhat less energy. Keep your hand off the reel handle when not actually retrieving line; many fish are lost during this series of shorter bursts due to “hanging on” of the reels handle.

The tug of war will go on until the fish’s runs are very short with many headshakes and rolls of its body. Jumps may occur any time—lower your rod tip and dip the rod tip swiftly near the water to prevent losing angle and breaking off at all times during a fish getting air. You must apply steady pressure by keeping the rod bent at all times. Get your tip up immediately after a jump.

Hopefully you have a good long handled catch and release net handy. Avoid bringing your leader into the guides of the rod until you are convinced the fish is ready to bring into net. Most of the time its head will skim the surface if you have your tip high, this is a good time to slide the fish into net.

After a prolonged battle, fish will acquire tremendous amounts of lactic acid that build up in the muscle tissue. Please make sure you fully revive the fish by holding its tail and moving it back and forth while laying it upright under the water. Avoid lengthy durations of time out of water for photos, as it is a death sentence. ■



*Tom Loe
Sierra Drifters Guide
Service, Mammoth
Lakes*

Fly of the Month—Little Red Sedge

By Gary Kutz

O rigin—Developed by George Edward MacKenzie Skues, who was without a doubt one of the greatest fisherman that ever lived. He was born in England in 1858 and died in 1949.

He caught his first fish in 1874 with an eleven foot rod, a silk and horsehair line, and a Wickham's Fancy fly. His first day fishing on a chalk stream was the Itchen in 1887, and a year later he wrote his first article in the angling press. His first book, *Minor Tactics of the Chalk Stream*, was published in 1910 after careful exploration of the possibilities of nymph fishing at a time when the dry fly reigned supreme.

His achievement was the invention of fly fishing the nymph, an achievement that was not without controversy. At that time, and even yet, fly fishing in England was basically done only with dry flies to rising trout. Although he was known for his nymph patters that are very much like our hare's ear nymphs, this is a dry fly pattern that he developed.

Pattern—

- Hook—wet fly type, sizes 12 & 14
- Thread—hot orange
- Tail—none
- Body—dark hare's fur
- Rib—short fiber red hackle – palmered on the body
- Counter rib—fine gold wire
- Wing—landrail wing, bunched and rolled and sloping well back over the tail (Landrail is a bird that I

think is similar to the partridge)

- Hackle—deep red cock in front of the wings (longer than the body)

Tying Instructions—

- Pinch down the hook barb
- Wrap on thread base and cement to the hook
- Tie on the red hackle at the bend of the hook to use later
- Tie on the gold wire to be used later
- Dub on the body of hare's dubbing – stop at about the 1/3 point of the hook
- Palmer wrap the red hackle and tie off at about the 1/3 point
- Counter wrap the gold wire and tie off
- Tie on the wings on top of the body , make the wings a little longer than the hook
- Tie on and wrap the red hackle feather in front of the wings, make about five wraps
- Whip finish the thread and cement

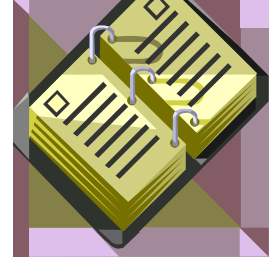


Flies Imitated—You will notice that this is very similar to our present day Elk Hair Caddis, except for the hackle in front of the wing. It does imitate a small reddish brown caddis.

How to fish—Like any dry fly – dead drift in the foam line, around rocks and structure. ■

Calendar of events

Month	Date	Day	Event	Time	Location
May					
	9	Tues	Board meeting	TBA	TBA
	15	Mon	Monthly meeting—Jim Klug, “Fly Fishing Central America”	7:00 P	Chevys—See p.
Jun					
	6	Tues	Board meeting	TBA	TBA
	12	Mon	Nicole and Jason Apple, “Chile and Argentina, North to South”	7:00 P	Chevys—See p.



GSF trips schedule at a glance

■ **Mammoth/Convict.** WHERE: Tom's Place Resort & vicinity. WHEN: Friday, May 19th, May 20th & 21st (some are going up on Wednesday, May 17th). Call Tom's Place www.tomsplaceresort.com for accommodations ASAP 760-935-4239, or there is camping at French Camp, reserveamerica.com. Please call Don or Gayle Beasley for information or if you want to share a ride, 760-744-4848

■ **Lower Green River,** June 2-7, contact Steve Piper, scpiper@popmail.ucsd.edu. See discussion of the Green below.

Have a good trip in mind? Please contact any of the board members (see our website for contact info) and we'll work to make your trip happen. ■

The Green River—beginning fly fisher's paradise

The lower Green River may be the best all-around tailwater fishery in the West! It flows through a beautiful canyon in the Flaming Gorge area of NE Utah, the water is crystal clear (in spite of the name), and there are a reported over 10,000 fish per mile!

The Green is a *particularly good river for those relatively new to fly fishing* because there is plenty of room for cast-

ing, the great number of trout in this fishery, and the excellent chance for great dry-fly action on big bugs!

Speaking of dry-fly fishing, we selected the dates of this years trip to put us on the river in the heart of the cicada “hatch”—and there is no better fishing than watching a trout come up and smack an imitation of these big bugs! ■



Meeting details

Where: Chevys Fresh Mex restaurant

2730 Via de la Valle, Del Mar (Flower Hill Mall)—See map on Back Page of newsletter

Time: Wet Flies, 6 P; Dinner (optional), 6:45 P; Program, 7:30 P

Cost: \$15 for meal, including tax and tip (booze extra)

Menu: San Antonio-style steak & chicken Fajita buffet, plus unlimited coffee, tea and sodas.



Trout, from p. 3

While the initial emergency project is still in the planning stage as of this writing, things will come together quickly over the next few weeks, as another spawning season is nearing, and the trout aren't getting any younger. Time is of the essence.

As with any project, it will require cash, and it will require sweat equity on the part of individuals. An initial coalition of concerned non-profits and individuals have come together to carry the project. They include San Diego Trout, Golden State Flycasters, San Diego Fly Fishers, Chula Vista Nature Center, Paul Curtis (Aqua Solver), and others.

The immediate need is a space for the first year breeding facilities. About 375 square feet is required, or a space measuring about 15' x 25'. It needs to have power, water, and a place to drain excess water to within close proximity.

Equipment-wise, we need a water chiller. Paul Curtis is inventorying equipment to be donated by Hubbs, and preparing a shopping list.

Once the emergency breeding project is under way, we will immediately begin developing plans for a larger hatchery for the long-term re-stocking of the watershed.

This is a project with everything to gain if successful, and everything to lose if nothing is done. The life of a species is literally in the balance.

What can you do?

- Got space?...donate it for the emergency breeding facilities.
- Donate cash. You, your family trust, your company, and your charitable organizations can contribute cash to this project by sending a check to GSF and noting your contribution is earmarked for the "Sweetwater Trout Project."
- E-mail me at red20hook@aol.com to offer your support.

Updates on the project will be made through press releases. Of note, *Fly Rod & Reel* magazine has already picked up on the story, and will be publishing a short piece on it in its *Shortcasts* column in the July/October issue. ■

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www.goldenstateflycasters.org

Patrick Case, Editor
Helen Condict, Co-Editor

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Welcome to the Golden State Flycasters

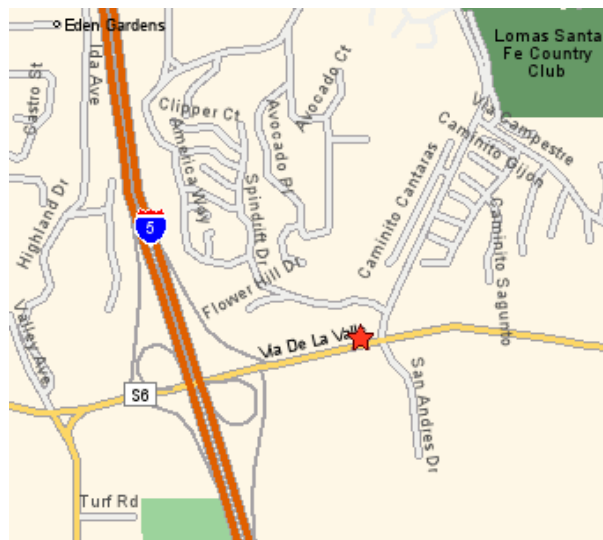
GSF, a 501(c)3 non-profit, was formed in 2002 to serve the interests of fly fishers in North San Diego County, South Orange County, and Camp Pendleton.

Mission Statement

Golden State Flycasters supports the conservation and restoration of fisheries, and education in the sport and art of fly fishing.

Map to meeting location

2730 Via de la Valle
Del Mar
(Flower Hill Mall)



Submissions to newsletter

Submit articles for *Reading the Water*. We are looking for personal stories that entertain, inform and are newsworthy.

Have you fished an out-of-the-way place recently?...Come across a killer fly for a favorite river?...Have a hot news-flash about a fishery?

Please limit your Word article to about 500 words, and include photos. E-mail submissions to: Helen Condict at writeroftthewest@aol.com.

The deadline for submissions is the 20th of the previous month.

