

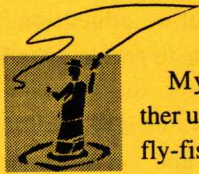
CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS



short casts
april 2000

THE LINE

Redge Hawkley, CAF President



My grandfather use to take us fly-fishing on the south fork of the Snake River. He would always fish downstream from my brother and myself as a safety measure in case we should be swept downstream. The cut-throat trout usually averaged about 14 to 15 inches. Our equipment was an inexpensive flyrod, automatic reel, level fly line and 6 to 7 feet of a 4-pound test leader. The only fly we used was a grasshopper pattern that we fished wet. It was simple and effective. Now I have expensive fly rods and different lines for different situations . . . Sometimes I almost have as much fun as I did when I was 15.

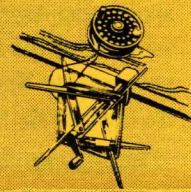
SPRING TUNE UP

The **Spring Tune-Up**, will be held Saturday, April 15th, starting at 8:30 am at the Chico Rod & Gun Club, in upper Bidwell Park.

This special event is open to all people interested in Fly Fishing. It will include, *stream reading, fly tying demonstrations, knot tying, and hands on casting instructions with practice.* A fee of \$10.00 per person will be charged, which includes coffee / snacks and stories.

Any one wishing to participate, or club members wishing to help with the event please call Bob Smith at 342-5908.

A sign up sheet will be available at the General Meeting.



MARCH GENERAL MTG

Eric See, CAF

The March meeting featured Ivan Paulsen with the California Dept. of Fish and Game, who is leading the current activities to control the population of northern pike in Lake Davis. He presented the history of northern pike in California, discussed the DFG's current policy, and explained the measures that will be taken during 2000 in an attempt to control their numbers.

Northern pike first appeared in California during the late 80's in Frenchman Lake. Using rotenone, a fish killing chemical, they were effectively eradicated from Frenchman lake in 1991. In 1994, they were discovered in Lake Davis, and after much controversy with the local public, Lake Davis was treated with rotenone in October 1997. The lake was restocked with trout in July 1998, northern pike reappeared in May 1999.

During the summer and fall of 1999, DFG formed a committee of biologists and representatives from the local

(Cont. on back page)



APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Eric See, CAF

Craig Bentley - "Feather River Steelhead and Salmon Flyfishing, A Fishing Guide's Perspective"

Craig Bentley, a fishing guide on the Feather River, will discuss flyfishing on the Feather River below Oroville Dam for steelhead, trout, and salmon, as well as other species such as shad and bass. He not only will talk about the fish, but also the flies and other tackle, techniques, locations, and other important factors for flyfishing success.

CAF APRIL OPENER (s) - 2000

Hat Creek Saturday, April 29 - Sunday, April 30: This ritual is one of the best attended trips of the year and is especially good for those people

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slick waters of the Carbon Bridge area, hoping for a hatch to come off to tempt a fish or two with a Quigley Cripple or PMD. Most club members gather at one of the restaurants in Burney for dinner and more socializing. Sun-

brother and myself as a safety measure in case we should be swept downstream. The cut-throat trout usually averaged about 14 to 15 inches. Our equipment was an inexpensive flyrod, automatic reel, level fly line and 6 to 7 feet of a 4-pound test leader. The only fly we used was a grasshopper pattern that we fished wet. It was simple and effective. Now I have expensive fly rods and different lines for different situations . . . Sometimes I almost have as much fun as I did when I was 15.

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FLY TYING

April 20th, 7:30 PM, Chico Fly Shop

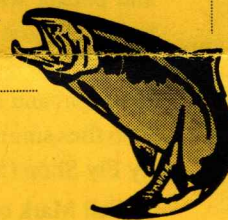
We will be concentrating on teaching basic beginning fly tying skills. Pheasant tail and birdnest nymphs will be shown. Bob Smith and Redge Hawkley will be the instructors. Stop by this to take care of the pre-spring itch and discuss spring plans and stories.

APRIL GENERAL MEETING

Eric See, CAF

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(Cont. on back page)

CAF APRIL OPENER (s) - 2000

Hat Creek Saturday, April 29 - Sunday, April 30: This ritual is one of the best attended trips of the year and is especially good for those people that are new to the sport. You can always find club members that are willing to share their fishing knowledge. If you don't know what to do, don't be afraid to ask one of the other club members. This is a great area to spend a weekend of fishing with many streams and lakes within easy driving distance. Streams include Hat Creek, Pit River, Fall River, and Burney Creek. Lakes in-

clude Baum, McCumber and Manzanita. A great weekend starts at Manzanita or McCumber on Friday afternoon, then to Hat Creek for the Saturday opener and ending up on Burney Creek or the Pit on Sunday. Most people arrive in the Burney area and camp at Burney Falls State Park. On Saturday morning there is usually a good sized group in Burney for breakfast at BJ's Restaurant before hitting the water on Hat Creek, along the fly fishing only stretch. You don't have to be on the water at the crack of dawn, 8:00 - 9:00

is just fine. Fishermen will be stretched from the fish barrier at the lower end to the powerhouse at the upper end. Of course, the power house areas is always one of the most popular spots. Don't be afraid to wade on out and start "high sticking". Bird's Nest, golden stone, or caddis pupa are the usual files. Luncheon finds many club members at the rest area where the where the highway crosses Hat Creek. This is a time for a little socializing and strategizing for the afternoon which finds many prowling the

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During the summer and fall of 1999, DFG formed a committee of biologists and representatives from the local

slick waters of the Carbon Bridge area, hoping for a hatch to come off to tempt a fish or two with a Quigley Cripple or PMD. Most club members gather at one of the restaurants in Burney for dinner and more socializing. Sunday may find club members scattered exploring other waters.

The Trinity River at Lewiston Saturday, April 29: An excellent alternative for those that may have grown a little tired of Hat Creek. The fly fishing only sections opens from the Trinity Bridge up to the hatchery. You can expect to

(Cont. on back page)

LOCAL GUIDES

Chico Fly Shop
Chico, CA
(530) 345-9983

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

Dick Murrell
Oroville, CA
(530) 532-4223

Merganser Outfitters
Chico, CA
(530) 343-4071

Orland Outfitters
Orland, CA
(530) 865-8545

Oasis Springs Lodge
Paynes Creek, CA
(800) 642-4150

Big Bluff Ranch
Red Bluff, CA
(530) 529-2291

NEWSLETTER
tod2flyfish@aol.com

CAF WEB
<http://www.stormnet.com/caf>

FISHING RPTS
Fish First of Chico
www.fishfirst.com

FISHING READINESS

IT IS TIME FOR THE LAST
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TAKE TIME TO VISIT OUR
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CONSERVATION NOTES

Paul Hendricks, CAF

Here is an editorial from *California Fly Fisher* magazine.

"SHARPEN YOUR PENS"

The attempt by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to sell its watershed lands and hydropower facilities is finally coming to a head. As Tom Martens reports, state officials believe we may only have 10 months before the utility gets the green light from the Public Utilities Commission to put these properties - which include stellar angling destinations as Hat Creek powerhouses 1 and 2, Pit River powerhouses 1 through 7 - on the market. Their sale could easily result in loss of public access, as well as river flows harmful to fish populations.

Unfortunately, little is being done at the state level to preserve these lands and waters for public use. The only bright spot is Assembly Member Fred Keeley, of Santa Cruz, who is sponsoring Assembly Bill 1956. This legislation would, in essence, give the state the ability to purchase PG&E lands and powerplants. But it needs support from the public, which means it's time for fly fishers to step up to the plate.

What we can do:

- Support AB1956. Assembly Member Fred Keeley at Room 3152, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone (916) 319-2027

- Urge resources Secretary Mary Nichols to provide funding and leadership for the Utility Lands Working Group, 1416 Ninth St., Room 1311, Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone (916) 653-6656

- Urge Governor Davis to support protection of (and continued public access to) PG&E lands and waters, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814.

- Urge California Fish and Game Director Robert Hight to make review of the PG&E lands environmental study a high priority for his new staff assigned to dam re-licensing reviews. 1416 Ninth St., 12th floor, Sacramento, CA 95814. Phone (916) 653-7664

- Urge trout conservation groups that have not weighed in (e.g., Trout Unlimited, the Northern California Federation of Fly Fishers, United Anglers of California) to take a position on the PG&E land and water protection issue.

April Opener - con't

find other fishermen but you can also expect to see some very nice steelhead still in the river, in addition to a healthy trout population. This is traditional nymph fishing in the deep runs and pocket water riffles. If you luck into one of these steelhead, hang on because they're had to land in the fast water. This is where Jeff and I will be Saturday. Get on the water at first light and use the stand "short-line nymphing" techniques with flies similar to Hat Creek. Contact Herb Burton at the Trinity Fly Shop (530-623-6757).

Call Mark or Jeff at 893-1600 if you have any questions.

March Mtg - con't

area, and devised a series of strategies to control the population of northern pike in Lake Davis, none of these strategies include the use of rotenone, and are intended to keep the pike population from exploding. They include the use of underwater explosives, electrofishing, netting, possible fishing derbies, blocking the adult spawners from tributary streams, increased law enforcement in the area, additional structures on the outlet, improved public education, increased efforts to regulate the lake to avoid spills, the stocking of brown trout which may feed on juvenile pike, and the stocking of fewer but larger numbers of trout to reduce the impact of pike predation.

During the Q&A period, these issues were discussed. 1) DFG does not know for sure if some pike survived the treatment, either in the lake or its tributaries, or if some were illegally restocked from Nevada after the 1997 treatment. 2) Other chemicals, besides rotenone, can be effective in eradicating unwanted fish, the DFG is currently limited by State law use rotenone if a chemical is to be used for eradication. 3) Following the treatment in 10/97, DFG crews began collecting the many thousands of dead fish. No rainbow trout smaller than 17 inches were collected, presumably due to predation from the growing northern pike population. 4) DFG will spend \$1 million in northern pike control activities during 2000. 5) Draining the lake is impractical due to the excessive time that it would take to drain and then refill, possibly 3 or more years. This would devastate the local economy far more than the chemical treatment. 6) Future chemical treatment has not been completely ruled out, this would require a consensus of the committee and would not occur anytime soon.

APRIL
Calendar of Events



(530) 343-4071

Orland Outfitters
Orland, CA
(530) 865-8545

Oasis Springs Lodge
Paynes Creek, CA
(800) 642-4150

Big Bluff Ranch
Red Bluff, CA
(530) 529-2291

NEWSLETTER
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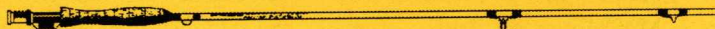
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APRIL Calendar of Events

- apr 12 GENERAL MEETING
7:30 PM
Butte Co. Library
- apr 15 SPRING TUNE UP
Horseshoe Lake - 8:00 AM
- apr 20 FLY TYING
7:30 PM
Chico Fly Shop
- apr 27 YOUTH MTG
ROGER BEVERS
343-6442
- apr 29 SPRING OPENER
MARK / JEFF 893-1600
- may 10 GENERAL MEETING
7:30 PM
Butte Co. Library



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For premier internet services, call 897-4060.

