



CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

CAF June 2023 NewsLetter

www.chicoareaflyfishers.org

Next General Meeting: Wed. Oct.11th The Lakeside Pavilion 2565 California Park Dr. 6:30 Fly Tying Demo; 7:30 Presentation



President's Line June, 2023

A quick reminder: There will be NO general Meeting for CAF this month; but there is a BBQ at Pat and Pam Hallin's at 4:00pm on Saturday, June 24th, 2023, at Lake Almanor. It is free to any CAF member, but please be sure to RSVP to John Cowan (530) 966-0076, Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197 or Pat Hallin (530) 518-5031. We hope to see you at our annual Hex Hatch BBQ.

With all the wonderful water, please, please, please be careful! If you are fishing around streams and rivers, carry a walking stick, and a personal floatation device isn't a bad idea... Many of the lakes we like to fish are colder because of all the high water. Dress appropriately and use a personal floatation device!

The bass bite continues to be "hot" at Oroville Lake. And, if you haven't been over there to fish just go over and check out the high water, amazing!

Please check out The Fly Shop announcement for their 45th Anniversary Party on Friday, June 9, 2023, Department of Fish and Wildlife meeting announcement and other things of interest in our newsletter.

We love seeing and hearing about your fishing adventure, please send us your pictures and stories by return email. You can email me, psleeper@sbcglobal.net or John Cowan (jcowan58@yahoo.com).

Have a wonderful summer!

Please as well check out our web page for latest fish outs and other updates.

See you at our next General Meeting on Wednesday, October 11, 2023 to hear Hogan Brown speak.

Thank you, Tight lines
Pat Sleeper

California Heritage Trout Challenge Coastal Rainbow Trout

By John Cowan

The California Heritage Trout Challenge was first drawn to my attention by Tom Rosenow. I had never heard of it. We invited Lee Duckwall and Michael Mamola from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to address our General Meeting last January 11, 2023. If you didn't attend, it was a great presentation. Being an avid backpacker, of which one does NOT need to be to participate, I was immediately captivated by The Challenge. I figured others might be, too. I decided to summarize the eleven different species of trout that qualify and the heritage waters they reside in through a series of articles. This information comes from "An Angler's Guide to the California Heritage Trout Challenge" (2017). This guide can be downloaded as a pdf document through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. We have links to it on our CAF website under "Resources".

I chose the coastal rainbow trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*) as the first of the species because it has the widest distribution throughout California. If any of you are like me and want to take on The Challenge, then hitting the low hanging fruit might be a great way to start. These trout are native to Asia and North America in tributaries draining into the Pacific Ocean. They include both resident fish that inhabit freshwater for their entire life cycle and anadromous steelhead that spend time in both freshwater and the ocean. Coastal rainbow trout and steelhead are the same species that exhibit different life history patterns.

Coastal rainbow trout are highly variable in color, body shape, and meristic characteristics (such as the number of scales along the lateral line or the number of rays on a fin). Steelhead are known for their large size, silver-blue "chrome" color, and square-shaped tail. These adaptations allow them to blend into a marine environment to prey on larger food sources such as other fish.

To qualify for The Challenge, any coastal rainbow trout or steelhead caught in waters draining to the Pacific Ocean, including the near-shore marine environment, qualify regardless of elevation. Both hatchery-raised and wild trout are accepted.



Coastal rainbow trout which lives its lifecycle in freshwater.



Steelhead trout are the same as freshwater coastal rainbow trout, however, they are anadromous. Born in freshwater, they migrate to the ocean, then come back to spawn in freshwater. They can spawn year after year, unlike salmon.

Duck Valley, Idaho Fly Fishing

By Elden Hinkle

Rob Anderson (upcoming guest speaker on April 10, 2024) has held fish outs in Duck Valley, Idaho for a number of years now. I have planned to attend one of these for quite some time, so this year I made it! March 23-25, 2023.

It's a bit of a trek from Chico to Owyhee Idaho, 570 miles taking 10 hours pulling an RV. The area is typical high desert much like Pyramid Lake. The town has a hotel, Gas station, grocery store and Ace hardware. The Duck Valley Indian Reservation is managed by the Shoshone-Paiute Native American Tribes. You'll need to purchase a Reservation license at \$18.00 per day or \$100.00 for the season. Camp sites are \$10.00 per day for dry camping or \$15.00 per day for electric and water with a dump site at the campground.

There are three lakes on the Reservation: Mountain View, Billy Shaw & Sheep Creek. Rob Holds his clinic at Mountain View. He provides lunch and dinner that makes it very easy coming back from fishing not having to fix dinner and to clean up the RV.

Day 1

I fished with guide Mike Curtis and Mike Williams from Folsom, CA. We left the dock around 8:30 am (very casual) in his G3 boat and motored out to a place he had pre-fished before we arrived. The fishing was great, we fished with 5 wt rods floating lines with midges (which he supplied) under an indicator. Fish were from 13-20" rainbows and a couple of Palomino fish mixed in. Palomino trout are a hybrid bright yellow making some call them golden trout but they are not. We came in for lunch at 1:00 pm for a pulled pork sandwich with cold slaw and soft drink.

Returning to fishing after lunch, we fished till around 5:30 pm. Mike showed us a couple of different spots that he had tried with previous success. Then back to camp for dinner of tri-tip, salad and beer bread. After dinner we went over to the dam and continued to fish. All caught a few more fish before calling it a night...

We did this similar routine for the next two days, fishing sometimes on the boat and other times from our float tubes. The fishing was very good and the overall experience was outstanding. We enjoyed meeting new people, good eating and very good fishing.

Rob's goal is to show you different areas of the lake that hold fish and what they are eating at the time. I stayed for another seven days, fishing from my float tube and fishing in the other two lakes. Billy Shaw was the toughest and Sheep Creek second best to Mountain View. Thunderstorms and wind can come up very quickly so you need to stay aware of what's going on.

This is a trip well worth doing. Rob Anderson's contact number is (775) 742-1754.



Dee Bennett's First Fish

By Pat Sleeper

Dee Bennett caught her first fish... EVER!

Is there any better way to understand the reason of why fishermen enjoy catching fish so much that experiencing the catch firsthand? Dee Bennett caught her first fish ever while fishing the Madison River in Montana last month! Now, add in the factor that it was a beautiful rainbow in its spawning colors; measuring about 21 inches; caught in a gorgeous canyon in the Land Of The Giants with mint-green sage brush and pine trees dotting the riverside. It was one of those picturesque days that just beckoned catching your first fish of a lifetime! And she did! CONGRATULATIONS to our member Dee, caressing her beautiful rainbow!



Dee Bennett with her first fish ever caught.



Dee's husband, Jeff, and his catch!

Chico Area Flyfishers Minutes

May 8, 2023

Called to Order 6:20 PM by Pat Sleeper, President

In attendance. Pat Sleeper, Don Sleeper, Dana Miller, David McKinney, Lionel Valley, John Cowan, Stan Thomas, Eric See, Larry Willis, Pat Halin. Secretary Report David McKinney

Previous Minutes reviewed Accepted Moved, Seconded. Passed.

Treasures Report. John Cowan

Account summary reviewed. Plan to change from TCB (Tri Counties Bank). Cheaper, more services especially with respect to the credit card terminals for the dinner. Also, the possibility of using Square as a terminal.

Annual Budget to be prepared (none since 2018) and all account statements. Reviewed 2022 and 2023 (so far) Treasurer's Report.

Vice President's Report. John Cowan

2024 Fundraising Dinner reviewed

Can get an OUTCAST Water Craft from Lance Grey. This is a pro deal, so we must pay for it first. To be considered as a prize for the 2024 Annual Fundraising Dinner.

General Meeting Speaker and Calendar of Events reviewed for 2024.

Request for Fly-tying Classes.

Requests for Casting Classes. (Maybe once a month at horseshoe Lake)

Project Healing Waters. Report by Stan Thomas

no new reports. Membership keeps picking up.

Adjourned 7:40 PM David McKinney, Secretary, CAF

On the Road Again in April By Don & Pat Sleeper

After our last CAF general meeting, we left for Idaho to my cousin's ranch for 3 weeks of fly fishing and turkey hunting. It was mid-April so driving through snow in Oregon and Idaho with our truck and trailer was not the weather we had expected. In fact, at one point, we were asked to "hold in place" after spending the night in Boardman, Oregon, due to the amount of snow that was coming down in Idaho; and, was still gathering on the ground at my cousin's ranch in Idaho. Though that situation only lasted about 2 hours; and off for Troy, Idaho we headed. Luckily, our last leg of traveling would only consist of about 5 hours. As we started traveling, we were surprised to see all the snow was melting fast on the roads and fields which gave us nice slushy wet roads to travel on instead of slick icy roads.

Once we arrived in Idaho, Don hunted for turkeys for a few days and saw a lot of deer and elk but no turkeys in range to bag.

A couple of days later we left for the Missouri river to meet up with Elden Hinkle, Pete Wiik, Steve McLean, Jeff and Dee Bennett, Frank and Steve Spiteri, and our cousins Chris and Krystal (all CAF members). The fishing on the Missouri was fantastic for the four days of fishing on Montana's Missouri River; we collectively had 100 fish days of rainbows from 18 inches to 25 inches. We used beads, nymphs, leaches, and chironomids under an indicator or stripping these flies.

After returning to Idaho, Pat and I fished Mann Lake in Idaho for "Banana Trout". These fish fought harder than any normal rainbow trout. We caught these Banana trout from 14 to 18 inches, close to 40 in two hours on our pontoons. First, I caught a couple using leaches and then Pat found the ideal fly, it was a minnow pattern which we stripped on an intermediate line, and that was when the show began! All the local anglers could not believe how many we were catching! It was one after another! The locals had us circled with their boats watching the show. These trout went arial, time after time, and they measured about 18 inches, and yellow/orange color. What a sight to see! So beautiful in color and fun to experience as well! Definitely...one of the hottest fish we have ever caught!!!

These Palomino trout or Banana trout are the results of rainbow trout crossbreeding with West Virginia Golden trout, not to be confused with California Golden trout. Idaho uses these very aggressive banana trout to clean up lakes that have an over population of shiner minnows.

While turkey hunting, we saw turkeys, but I could not get the right shot. Maybe next time.

You all play safe! Don and Pat Sleeper



Pat Sleeper with her hard-fighting banana trout.



Don and his 24" beautiful Missouri River trout.

General Meeting Topic: Iron Canyon Fish Passage Project May 10, 2023 General Meeting By John Cowan

Holly Swan, of the Lassen Division of California Trout, and Gayland Taylor, retired Fish and Wildlife Warden, gave a great presentation on the recently funded Iron Canyon Fish Passage Project.

Holly and Gayland did an excellent job identifying the problems in Big Chico Creek, just downstream from the Big Chico Creek Ecological Reserve. Due to rockfall, fish are not able to pass this area in their migration upstream to spawn. They showed pictures of the Eagle Canyon Fish Passage Project, which is completed, to give those in attendance who the Iron Canyon Project will proceed.

There are remnants of a fish ladder that unsuccessfully attempted to allow salmon, steelhead, and other fish species to travel past this barrier. Gayland mentioned that one of the people involved in that project was former CAF member Gene "Old Sabertooth" Mercer. He backed bags of concrete up to the location to help build the fish ladder.

It will be some time before the Iron Canyon Fish Passage Project is complete. We wanted to know how CAF members can help, right now. In a phone conversation with both Gayland Taylor and Holly Swan, there are several things that CAF members, or any community member can do:

1. Go through training with Gayland Taylor on how the fish ladder at One Mile is supposed to function. The training would not take long, and it would allow one to report to the City of Chico if the fish ladder is not functioning properly. Not only do salmon and steelhead need this ladder, but trout need it to move up stream to find cooler water.
2. There is a need for people to walk Lindo Channel to find stranded fish. It is good exercise, and if fish are discovered, they can be rescued.
3. There is a need for people to look in the Park, from the lower part of the park all the way to Salmon Hole.

Both Holly and Gayland are willing to be contacts for people to report to. If you contact them, let them know you are with Chico Area Flyfishers. Gayland Taylor can be reached at gtaylorxfg@sbcglobal.net; and Holly Swan can be reached at (530) 554-1648.



Holly Swan, California Trout



Gayland Taylor, Retired Game Warden

The Fly of the Month June 2023 For May, 2012

By Ray Narbaitz

The Skinny Nelson

This is another pattern that I still fish a lot since featuring it 11 years ago. It's often a go to fly at Manzanita and a couple of weeks ago it took a number of fish at Lake McCumber.

I have been looking at some flies lately that have been making me think that many of them are variations on familiar themes. I thought about this a couple of weeks ago while tying at Bill Kiene's annual expo in Sacramento. I was showing some people how to tie a new Midge Emerger pattern I like called the Hackle Stack Midge. I was showing it mainly to demonstrate the Hackle Stack technique. As I was explaining the steps of the fly, I would say, "You'll notice that the back or abdomen of the fly is just like the Zebra Midge, which is one of the more popular Midge patterns out there." This month's Fly of the Month shares that origin much like the Hackle Stack Midge, except it is a nymph, instead of an Emerger.

There are of course, uncounted patterns that are variations on the theme. In the past few months, we have featured Lance's X-May and Hogan's S&M Nymph which share their thread abdomen with wire ribbing with this month's fly. All of them are good flies, and all have their place. That's part of the fun of fly tying, take a pattern you know, and tweak it a bit to have something similar, but just a little different. Some examples that come to mind are the Bird's Nest and a Hare's Ear Nymph. I doubt that anyone knows exactly how many variations there are of the Woolley Bugger. And the list goes on.

This month's fly, The Skinny Nelson, was developed by a tier from Oregon named Tracy Peterson. He originally tied it with no bead, to be fished in low water years. He later added the bead to get it down as a dropper fly in a multiple fly set up. It is tied to be a Blue Wing Olive Nymph, and in a 16 or 18, it will fit that bill. If you get to the smaller sizes, like 18 or 20, it can make the crossover into being a Midge. The other nice thing about it is that it is a pretty easy tie.

Hook...Tiemco 3761 or Daiichi 1560, 16 to 20

Bead...Black Tungsten (optional)

Thread...Black, 8/0, 70 Denier

Tail...Pheasant Tail Fibers

Rib...Small Gold Wire

Abdomen...Tying Thread

Wing Case...Pearl Flashabou

Thorax...Peacock Herl

1. Debarb hook, place on the bead if using one, and place it in the vise.
2. Start your thread and lay down a base from the bead back to the bend of the hook.
3. Take three or four barbs of Pheasant Tail, and tie in a tail that is just a bit shorter than the shank of the hook. Smoothly wrap the barbs back to the bead, using only one layer of thread. It's called the Skinny Nelson, so don't bulk it up with a lot of thread.



4. Tie in your Ribbing Wire at the bead (I usually stick the end of the wire up into the bead) and wrap it back down to the tie in point of the tail.
5. Wrap the thread back the bead and then spiral wrap the wire close to the bead, tie it down, and break it off. We will tie the Thorax back over the Abdomen wraps a bit.
6. Cut a strip of the Flashabou a few inches long and tie it back to where you want the Thorax to be, about a third of the way back on the shank.
7. Tie in one or two Peacock Herls by the tip at the bead and wrap them back with the thread to the tie in point of the Thorax. Return the thread back to right behind the bead. Roll the Herls in your finger to form sort of a Peacock rope and wrap it back to the bead. Tie it off and trim the excess.
8. Pull the strip of Flashabou over the Peacock Herl, making sure it stays right on top of the fly to make the wing case. Tie it down right behind the bead, and then tie it back toward the tail with just a wrap or two. That will insure that it will not pull out while fishing the fly.
9. Trim the excess, form a collar behind the bead with your thread, whip finish, and trim the thread.
10. Place a little head cement on the collar, and the fly is done.

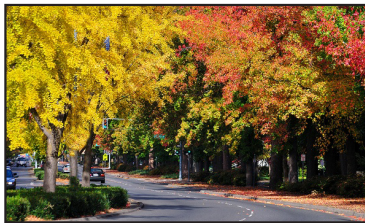
CAF General Meeting "Speakers" 2023/2024

Our General Meetings take place on the second Wednesday during the months of October through May. The other months are for fishing and adventure! We would love to hear from you about your fishing experiences! Send your experience with pictures to John Cowan (jcowan58@yahoo.com; (530) 966-0076) to help build our newsletter. Also, if you have suggestions for who could share or a topic for sharing at the General Meeting, let John know!

Our General Meetings include a fly tying demonstration (6:30pm) followed by the featured speaker (7:30pm). We also have informal time for chatting with one another and a raffle at the end of the meeting. Lots of fun! If you haven't joined us before, I hope you will consider coming to a meeting soon! All of our meetings are at the Lakeside Pavilion at 2565 California Park Drive, Chico. Here are what we have planned for you so far:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Speaker</u>	<u>Program</u>
October 11, 2023	Hogan Brown	Bass Fishing on the Fly
November 8, 2023	PJ Bock	Euro-Nymphing Local Waters
December 13, 2023	Annual Pizza Feed	Chat it up with other members!
January 10, 2024	Greg Vinci (in the works)	California Trout Fishing
February 14, 2024	TBA	
March 2, 2024	52nd Annual Fundraising Dinner	Raffle, Live and Silent Auctions
April 10, 2024	Rob Anderson, Bucket List Fly Fishing	Fly Fishing the Amazon; Pyramid Lake
May 8, 2024	TBA	

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2023 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION LUNCHEON!

FORTY FIVE YEARS AGO it was my pleasure to meet two enterprising young men with a dream, Mike Michalak and Brad Jackson. They knew what they wanted. They understood Redding was the prime spot to open a fly shop, with the intersection of Interstate 5 and Highway 299 pointing the way to world-class fishing in every direction – north, south, east or west! I was in real estate at the time, and by the afternoon of the first day we met we found a small commercial spot behind a pizza parlor, and The Fly Shop® soon opened its doors. What started as a two-man operation has grown to what it is today, with the latest and greatest retail store, knowledgeable guide service, local private waters, and a world-class international travel service second to none!

None of this would have been possible without the support of all of you, our valued customers. We want to say thank you by having a free luncheon on June 9th, between 10 am and 3 pm.

With the heavy snowpack we have had this year, our local rivers look to be in fantastic shape by early June. Hat Creek, Fall River, Pit River, and the McCloud will be among the favorites. The Lower Sacramento River, one of our country's finest trout fisheries, will be ideal. Keep your fingers crossed for the Upper Sacramento.

We are grateful that several of our vendors will be here with the gear they sell, and happy to answer any questions you may have.

Our local fly club, Shasta Trinity Flyfishers, will serve the luncheon. Be sure to sign up for door prizes when you get here! If you have any questions or need further information, please call:

Sandy Watts at 530-222-3555
or email: sandy@theflyshop.com

As part of our continuing efforts to support our fly clubs/conservation groups, we are again offering to donate a \$50 Gift Certificate to those California fly fishing clubs who mention the event in advance in their on-line or print newsletter. Just send a copy of the announcement to the event coordinator, Sandy Watts, here at The Fly Shop® or email: sandy@theflyshop.com and we'll get the certificate sent immediately.

** If your club has received a donation, we hope that will suffice in place of a \$50 Gift Card.*



4140 Churn Creek Road
Redding, California 96002

800-669-3474 530-222-3555 email: sandy@theflyshop.com www.theflyshop.com

Chico Area Flyfisher's Fish-out Schedule 2023-24

Here are future outings that Chico Area Flyfishers provide to it membership. These club fishouts are designed to give fly fishers the best opportunity to catch fish and enjoy the outdoors. Our club has many accomplished anglers who are willing to share their skills with others and you are only limited by the willingness to become involved. From selecting promising locations and times, to helping those members new to the sport, we try to make these trips fun, exciting and successful. But, it's up to you to ask for help, if you desire to learn.

If you have one of those favorite spots that you don't mind sharing with others and would like to lead our fellow CAF members for a day of fishing and fellowship, contact any of the following fish masters: Elden Hinkle (ehinkle1221@yahoo.com; (530) 519-4680); Don Sleeper (dnsleeper@gmail.com; (530) 228-6197); Pat Sleeper (psleeper@sbcglobal.net; (530) 228-9197); Eric See (eric.see@water.ca.gov; (530) 899-1918); and Tom Rosenow (trosenow.chico@gmail.com; (530) 520-3053).

***NOTE: The fishout schedule may be subject to change depending on the fish bite, weather conditions, and or COVID issues.**

Date	Location	Fishout Leader
June 24, 2023	CAF BBQ & Hex Hatch Lake Almanor	Pat Hallin (530) 518-5031
July 1, 2023	Free Fishing Day! No license needed	State of California
July 16th, 2023	Bass Fishing @ Pingatore Lake (Free)	Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197
Sep 1-2, 2023	Free Fishing Day! No license needed	State of California
Sep 2 - 9, 2023	Dorado fishing, La Ventana, Mexico –	Pat Sleeper 345-1197 (530) 228-9197
Sep 9 - 16, 2023	Dorado fishing, La Ventana, Mexico –	Pat Sleeper 345-1197 (530) 228-9197
Sep 16 - 23, 2023	Dorado fishing, La Ventana, Mexico –	Pat Sleeper 345-1197 (530) 228-9197
Sep 23 - 30, 2023	Dorado fishing, La Ventana, Mexico –	www.patsflyfishing.com; (530) 228-9197
Jan 12 - 17, 2024	Trophy bass fishing Lake Picachos, Mexico –	Pat Sleeper 530-345-1197

***Check the Chico Area Flyfishers website for the most up to date fishout information.**

LOCAL GUIDES

Mark Antaramian	Mark Antaramian Guide Services	916.705.1207
PJ Bock	Bock Fly Fishing	530.598.4087
Hogan Brown	hgbflyfishing.com	530.514.2453
"Dirty Mike" Elliott	Discover Montana Outfitting	406.890.8735
Tim Fox	Mr. Fox Outfitters	530.949.0239
Lance Gray	Lance Gray & Company Lance Gray Online Store	530.517.2204
Lincoln Gray	Lincoln Gray Fly Fishing Adventures Sierra Stream Outdoors	530.520.6895
Joe Garza	J.A.G. Flyfishing	530.570.0978
Bryan Rocucci	Big Daddy's Guide Service	530.370.1001
Wayne Syn	Orland Outfitters	530.624.4156
Toby Uppinghouse	Edgewater Outfitters	916.505.4773

LOCAL FLY FISHING SHOPS

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Chico Area Flyfishers Membership/Renewal Form

Dear Fly Fisher,

Welcome new members and renewing members alike! Your membership dues enable Chico Area Flyfishers to continue to provide quality programs, outings, seminars, and to participate in conservation efforts.

Dues for the Family Membership are \$35 per year. Membership extends through the calendar year (January 1 through December 31). Please complete this application and return it along with your membership dues today to the following address:

CAF
2796 Beachcomber Cove
Chico, CA 95973

Your support is appreciated!

NAME: _____

Please include the names of family members that may participate in club functions:

Family Member: _____

Family Member: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

EMAIL: _____

If you have any questions, please contact John Cowan (jcowan58@yahoo.com; (530) 966-0065).

Make checks out to "CAF". Memberships can also be completed online using PayPal: chicoareaflyfishers.org

A Shout Out To Some Of Our Supporters Who Have Helped Us Over The Years!

