

# CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS

CAF October 2023 NewsLetter

[www.chicoareaflyfishers.org](http://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 October 2023

Hello Folks!!

Fall is in the air, rains are predicted, the nights are cooling down, and the days are getting shorter. Fall fishing is starting to develop at some of our high lakes. Hope you're enjoying this special time of the year!!

We have Hogan Brown joining us this Wednesday, October 11th, at the Lakeside Pavilion with Fly tying at 6:30pm by Hogan, and his presentation on "Fishing Northern California Warm Water Species" at 7:30pm. Thank you Hogan!

Don and I, along with our groups are safely back from our yearly September dorado and rooster fishing trip in Mexico after catching more and larger dorado than in any of the 9 years of fishing at La Ventana. The list of amazing stories from this 4-week adventure has a long list of firsts: Largest weighed dorado by fly fishing, 55 lbs; most dorado landed during the adventure; a rod lost then found with the dorado still on the line; 16 broken rods and the list goes on!

Elections for our CAF board will be rescheduled for November. We welcome anyone who would like to run for a position on the CAF Board of Directors. In addition, we welcome those who would be willing to assist the board by volunteering to assist with the various committees. Contact me, Pat Sleeper ([psleeper@sbcglobal.com](mailto:psleeper@sbcglobal.com); 530.228.9197) or John Cowan ([chicoareaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:chicoareaflyfishers@gmail.com); 530.966.0076).

Please note our new fish outs on our fish out page. Thank you!

Yuba Anglers, Thank you for your donations for passage on the river for our raffle!!

See you Wednesday, October 11th, at 6:30pm (Lakeside Pavilion 2565 California Park Drive, Chico) for our first General Meeting of our upcoming meeting cycle.

Sincerely, Pat Sleeper President,  
CAF 530-345-1197

## October Guest Speaker: Hogan Brown

Wednesday, October 11, 2023

Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 California Park Drive, Chico.

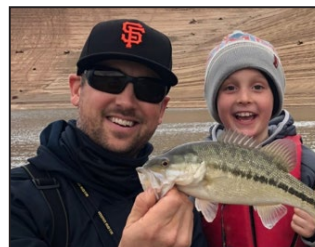
6:30pm Hogan's Fly Tying Demo

7:30pm Hogan Brown: Nor Cal's Warm Water Fisheries

We are honored to start off our General Meeting cycle with Hogan Brown as our guest speaker.

Growing up on the Lower Yuba River as an only child who had a bug collection and really liked catching fish with imitations of those bugs didn't make Hogan the coolest kid growing up. Good thing he got over it and persevered. Deciding to start rowing a drift boat and guiding the lower Yuba instead of living in the woods bitter and resentful.

Living in Chico, CA, now Hogan guides for anything that swims, from trout to striped bass and carp to steelhead, he is at home in a drift boat or poling a mud flat for carp. Guiding the Lower Yuba River, Feather River, and Lower Sacramento River for strippers, trout, steelhead, shad, carp, and bass has made him one of the most versatile and experienced guides in Northern California. His trout, bass, carp, and striper flies have become staples in his home state of Northern California and throughout the West.



Hogan is a Scott Fly Rods, Lamson - Waterworks Reels, Stealth Craft Boats, Air Flo Fly Lines, and Echo Rods Pro along with being a Simms and, Costa Del Mar Sun-glasses Ambassador. Hogan is also co-founder of the California Bass Union dedicated

to developing, sharing, and growing fly fishing for bass in his home state of California. You can catch Hogan demonstrating many (if not all) of his signature flies on his YouTube Channel. Hogan is also a connoisseur of fine ales and fermented grains, a home gardener, die-hard San Francisco Giants baseball and Notre Dame Football fan, along with being a husband and father to two young boys.

Check out Hogan's website: Hogan Brown Fly Fishing. Listen to his podcast: Barbless Co. Podcast. He is also a guide that is actively involved in Cast Hope Fly Fishing which reaches out to kids.



# Chico Area FlyFishers Board of Directors' Meeting Minutes

Submitted by David McKinney, Secretary

10/02/2023 Sleeper's House

Called to Order 6:17 PM by Pat Sleeper, President

In attendance. Pat Sleeper, Don Sleeper, David McKinney, Eric See, Larry Willis, Pat Halin Tom Rosenow.

## Secretary Report

Previous minutes reviewed accepted moved, seconded, passed.

Treasurer's Report. John. Sent by E mail

Account summary reviewed. Plan to change from TCB (Tri Counties Bank), Not done yet. Will be using Square for collections in the future. Cheaper, more services.

Annual Budget to be prepared (pending).

Various Financial needs/options Listed: Salmon in the Classroom, CAF banners and brochures, Table during Fly Fishing Film Tour (upcoming Feb.), begin preparing for annual dinner, honorarium for club speakers, of which we should address in the future.

Discussion of future Considerations: Joining Fly Fishers International (FFI). This was discussed by Tom R, we all had comments and input. Required club membership for our size is \$500. There was concern by several that it may be higher than that. An issue was brought up about insurance coverage. FFI offers a club insurance that is cheaper, but at this time we are not sure what we would be getting. All in all, this was decision regarding membership was tabled (proposed by Pat S, M/S) We will meet and make an assessment of what we would actually receive from membership, and then maybe commit for a year.

Vice President's Report. John Cowan By Email

General Meeting Speakers:

Oct 11 Hogan Brown Warm Water Species, Nov 8 PJ Bock Euro-nymphing, 12/13 Round Table Dinner pizza feed, 01/10 2024 Ryan Williams Bass Fishing, 02/13/24 Flyfishing Film Tour., 02/14/24 Cast Hope Presentation, Feb. 23-25 Flyfishing Show in Pleasanton, March 9th CAF Annual Dinner, 04/10/24 Rod Anderson Bucket List Flyfishing, May 8th 2024, Lance Gray Lake Almanor Hex Hatch, 06/22/24 Lake Almanor Hex Hatch BBQ at Pat Hallins.

Concerns were addressed by several members that we need to establish a Fee code or structure for speakers. Right now there is considerable variance with respect to fees given, none of which has been unreasonable. But still we should try to stick to a fee schedule of some sort. More discussion is planned.

Fishout; Pyramid Float Tube Oct 13-15

Classes? Flytying, Casting

Committee Reports: Tom talked about future Fishouts. Try to find a local venue for October fishout. We also reviewed a comprehensive list of all the places we have had fish out events, interesting. Project Healing Waters. No real report, Larry noted that regular meetings are going strong.

Fund Raising Dinner. Will meet and start planning.

Other.

Holly Swan of California Trout was appointed as a new CAF Board Member Chair for Conservation. Motion and second, passed by acclamation.

We moved officer and BOD election from October meeting to November meeting. Motion and second, passed by acclamation.

Adjourned at 7:40 pm.

## Upcoming November Elections

By John Cowan

In the past, the Chico Area Flyfishers has held their elections during the October General Meeting. At this month's board meeting (see the minutes in this newsletter), the board voted to change the elections to the November General Meeting. This will give those interested in being more involved with the club the opportunity to consider running for a board or officer position.

This article isn't the most interesting or entertaining, but it is important by informing the reader of the roll of the board member. After reading this article, if you are interested in being nominated for an elected position, please let Pat Sleeper (530.228.9197; psleeper@sbcglobal.net) or John Cowan (530.966.0076; jcowan58@yahoo.com) know as soon as possible. The officer positions are typically nominated from the existing Board of Directors. At this time, we need more nominations.

The Board of Directors meets on the first Monday of each month, as called by the CAF President. There are four elected positions, and several appointed positions. You can see who is currently serving near the end of the newsletter. Our club is active in several areas: Conservation activities with Cal Trout, Almanor Fishing Association, and Trout Unlimited; Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing working with local disabled veterans; Youth education with Salmon in the Classroom, The Oroville Salmon Festival, Hooked on Fishing (when it returns), and scholarships; Fly fishing skills development with casting practice, and fly tying; and fishouts, to name a few. To do this well,

we need help. Our annual fundraising dinner is lots of fun, but a lot of work goes into it.

Every organization evolves and changes in time. Consider running as a board member to influence how you would like to see our club progress. The election will be held at the General Meeting on November 8, 2023 at the Lakeside Pavilion, 2565 California Park Drive. 6:30pm is the fly tying demonstration and 7:30pm is the presentation by PJ Bock on Euro-Nymphing Techniques. Between is the election and right after is the raffle.

### Candidates (to date):

- **President: Pat Sleeper**
- **Vice-President: John Cowan**  
(who welcomes a rival candidate in this area)
- **Secretary: Dave McKinney**
- **Treasurer: John Cowan**
  
- **Board of Directors (vote for four)**
  - o Kyle Crowson
  - o Dana Miller
  - o Mike Pickering
  - o Eric See
  
- **Appointed Members**
  - o Lionel Valley – Donations; Investment Management
  - o Stan Thomas – Project Healing Waters
  - o Pete Wiik – Project Healing Waters
  - o Pat Hallin - Donations
  - o Tom Rosenow – Fish Master
  - o Holly Swan - Conservation
  - o Elden Hinkle – Fish Master
  - o Don Sleeper – Fish Master
  - o Larry Willis – Past President

# September Fishing Report

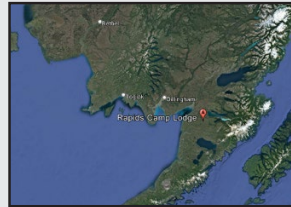
## By Various Authors

If any of you have any good fishing experiences, text or email John Cowan (530.966.0076; jcowan58@yahoo.com) or Pat Sleeper (530.228.9197; psleeper@sbcglobal.net). We had great feedback from last month's Summer Fishing Reports and would love to keep that going with your help!

### September 1-3, 2023:

#### Rapids Camp Lodge by David McKinney.

This place is so remote that after I flew into Anchorage, then took a float plane into Igiugig on the Iliamna Lake, we had to ride these specially trained brown bears to the lodge. At first, I was about to soil myself, but they are really nice bears! They would do circus tricks after dinner at the end of the day. Truly, a one-of-a-kind place! All this aside, the fishing was spectacular! I landed one Nek Nak rainbow trout 31.5 inches with 18.5 inch girth. Getting home was tricky. Smelling like fish, the bears were a little more fidgety. I did soil myself. No longer smelling like fish, the bears were fine. I made it home to share my story!



### September 13 & 22, 2023:

#### Fishing the Lower Sac with Guide Tim Fox by Dave McKinney.

I booked two trips with outstanding guide, Tim Fox. The first trip was with Larry Willis, I asked John Cowan to join me for the second trip, but he made up some lame excuse about having to be in Hawaii with his hot girlfriend, Robin. His loss, the second trip was like all-you-can-eat-bacon day in the kitchen of a hog farm!



David (left) and guide Tim Fox (right) getting dialed in...



David: "Smells like bacon!"

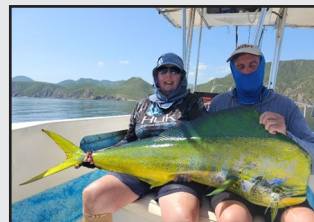


Larry Willis with his rainbow on the Lower Sac

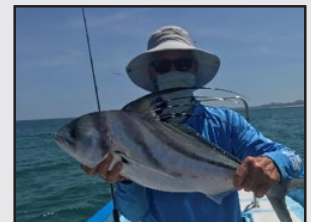
### September 2023:

#### By John Cowan.

Pat Sleeper's La Ventana, Mexico trip has been a big success this year with the largest dorado ever caught since going to this location. Some of the pictures were shown in the September Newsletter. This particular shot is noteworthy... Pete Wiik is helping Pat hold the dorado she caught for the picture. At 55 lbs., this is the largest dorado that anyone has caught to date in the nine years that Pat has been taking folks to this spot. Don Sleeper texted me and said "Did you see my fish that Pat was holding?" Don also exclaimed "Good gawd! It took Pat over an hour to land my fish!"



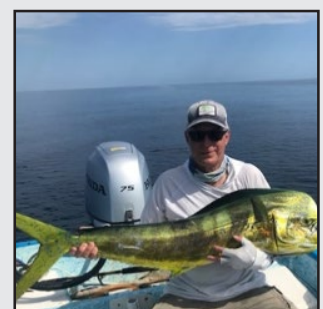
Don Sleeper, who took the picture, said he let Pat and Pete hold his fish!



Pat Hallin and a fine rooster tail specimen!



Carl Selkirk and a fine dorado!



Pat Hallin and a nice dorado.

# Fly of the Month:

## October 2023

### Fly of the Month for September 2011

#### Jumbo John

By Ray Narbaitz

It's the time of year to be thinking about Steelhead, so I went back to 2011 to bring up the Jumbo John. One of the ingredients of the fly is Thin Skin coated with epoxy. Back in 2011 we didn't have good UV Resin available to us. If tying the fly today, I would strongly recommend you substitute it for the Epoxy.

John Barr is a retired dentist from Colorado who has originated an amazing number of flies, all of which seem to work extremely well. His Copper John almost instantly became the number one selling nymph in the fly fishing world, and continues to hold that lofty position. You knew it had to be a winner, when, within months after it had been introduced to the world by Umpqua Feather Merchants, it was being copied by literally every fly manufacturer in the business. If you enjoy tying, you really should pick up a copy of his book, "Barr Flies." It is full of great fish catching patterns for both Trout and Bass. The sections on Copper Johns, PMD's and BWO's alone are worth the price of the book.

The Jumbo John is a variation of the Copper John that was originally designed to fish for Steelhead. Since that season is rapidly approaching, I thought a different Steelhead Fly would be a good way to start things off after our summer hiatus. Having said that, don't think it is for Steelies only. One of the biggest fish I have ever caught on the North Fork of the Feather took a Jumbo John. If you change the colors of the wire and bead, it is just a really good Stone Fly imitation. For our purposes, let's tie the Steelhead version. If you get the book, you will see that the way I suggest does not follow the book's instruction to the T. If you have read my posts before, you know I am a real advocate of letting your imagination run a little. I also believe there are a lot of different materials that come close enough to do the job without getting totally anal about having to have just what the book says. There are a lot of steps to this fly, but when you are done, it is a really cool looking fly that catches fish.

Hook...TMC2499 # 6 & 8...This is a great hook. It costs a little more, but its fish holding capabilities make it worth it. No one else makes a hook just like it. If you can't get it, the TMC2457 or Daiichi 1150 will work.

Thread...Black 70 or 140 Denier for Abdomen, 70 Denier Orange or Fl. Orange for Head.

Bead...Orange, sized to hook

Weight...10 to 12 wraps of .025 lead

Tail...Brown Goose Biots or Brown Round Rubber

Abdomen...Gold and Brown or Amber or Brown Olive Ultra Wire wrapped simultaneously.

Flash...Salt Water sized Pearl Flashabou

Wing Case...Brown or dark Thin Skin, coated with Epoxy.

Thorax...Arizona Synthetic Peacock Dubbing

Legs...Hot orange round Rubber Legs or Orange Flecked Sili Legs

Hackle...Speckled Hen Hackle

1. Thread bead with hook and place it in the vice.
2. Wrap 10 to 12 wraps of lead around hook, and break off the two ends. Push the lead up into the hollow of the bead.
3. Start your thread, and wrap it up and over the lead, making a smooth transition from the hook up onto the lead. Cover all the lead, right up to the bead. At all times you want to make the body as smooth as possible in order for the wire wraps to leave no gaps. Wrap your thread to just a little less than half way down the bend of the hook.
4. Reset the hook so the eye is pointing down. Tie in the Biots or Rubber for the tail with the tie in point a little less than half way down the bend. I use Rubber because it is easier to work with, more durable, and has a little more motion. Wrap up the hook shank over the Rubber right up to the point where it meets the lead wraps. Again, keep everything smooth.
5. Reset the hook again to a more normal position and take a length of the two colors of wire, and tie them in on the side nearest you, starting about two or three eye lengths back from the Bead. Make sure they stay in position on the hook, and wrap them back to just a little less than half way down the bend. Again, wrap up to the top, making sure there are no bumps or hollows in the wrap. If there are, they will show up when you wrap the wire body.
6. Take the two wires, and wrap them, holding them together, around the hook. This first wrap should be very tight. Continue to wrap them together, trying to see to it that there are no gaps showing. Continue to wrap the wire forward, making sure they don't cross. Wrapping this way will give you the contrast you want with the alternating colors. Wrap it up to the point where you tied them in. Tie them down with several firm wraps, and helicopter them to break them off.
7. Now, wrap your thread back over the wire wraps for a couple of turns. You want the thread to hang just a little in front of the hook point. Take several turns of the thread over the wire here.
8. Tie in the Flashabou, making sure it is right on top of the wire. Tie it with the end pointing back towards the bend of the hook. If you don't have any Saltwater Flashabou, use two or three pieces of regular Flashabou. Just make sure they don't separate when you tie them over the Thorax.
9. Tie in the Thin Skin, again making sure it is right on top of the wire.
10. Dub in a fairly thick Thorax, but don't dub right up to the bead. Leave a small gap between the dubbing and the bead.
11. Bring your thread back to the middle of the Thorax, and tie in one rubber or Sili Leg strip on one side, and another on the other. The tension on the thread will make them splay out like legs. Keep your thread wraps right on top of each other.



12. Take a small amount of dubbing and cover the thread wraps, and then advance the dubbing back to the front of the Thorax, still leaving that little gap.
  13. Pull the Thin Skin over the top of the Thorax, and tie it down. Make sure it is right over the top of the Thorax.
  14. Pull over the Flashabou, centering it over the Thin Skin, and tie it down. The Flashabou should be just a little narrower than the Thin Skin. Tie them down with a couple of firm wraps, and trim them off as close to the hook as possible.
  15. Whip finish the Black Thread behind the bead.
  16. Put a coat of five minute Epoxy over the Flashabou and Thin Skin. Make sure the Epoxy coats all of the Thin Skin and Flash, and that a little of it is over the Wire Wraps at their tie in point. Set the fly (its best to tie several at a time, and then Epoxy them) aside until the Epoxy is COMPLETELY dry.
  17. After the Epoxy is dry, reinstall the hook in the vise. Pull the legs back and tie them on the body of the fly to get them out of the way. You can either take a couple of wraps of lead wire around them, or an old twist tie for a plastic bag works well too.
  18. Start the Orange Thread behind the bead.
  19. Tie in the Speckled Hen Saddle.
  20. Take about two wraps of the hackle around the hook, right behind the bead, and trim the excess.
  21. Wrap the Orange Thread behind the bead after you have swept the hackle back a little. Make the wraps thick enough to push the hackle barbs back towards the body of the hook a bit.
  22. Whip finish and trim off the thread.
  23. Cut or tear off the hackle from the top of the hook, taking off only enough to expose the Wing Case.
  24. Unwrap and trim the legs to length. I like to leave mine just a little longer than normal. Around an inch should be good.
- Notes...As I said, this is primarily a sort of Stone Fly. Brown and Gold or Brown and Copper Wire with a Copper Bead and Brown Legs and Tail is a good Golden Stone. If you want to see a really flashy looking Stone, use a Black Bead with Black and Green Wire with Black Tail and Legs...I'm sure this would work on either the Sac or Feather for Steelhead, but I know it is a good pattern on the Trinity.

## Garage Sale

If anyone has any fly fishing gear they want to sell, let **John Cowan (530.966.0076; jcowan58@yahoo.com)** know. Provide as much info as you can about the gear to be sold, a picture(s), contact info, and a fair asking price. If an item is sold, please let John know so that the item is taken off the list for the next newsletter issue.

Item	Price	Contact
Echo OHS 6wt Rod w/ Echo ION 6-7 wt Reel w/ Rio 305gr Trout Spey line (2 combos). Ready for the Yuba River or other small river.	\$500 ea	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo SR 7wt Rod w/ Redington Behemoth 7-8 Reel w/ Rio #7 Switch Chucker. Great for chucking indicators into the wind at Pyramid Lake!!	\$400	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo Spey 7wt 13ft Rod w/ Hardy ASR9000 Reel w/ Skagit Line and Tips. Perfect intro rod for Salmon or Alaska trip.	\$450	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Anderson Trout Spey 3wt w/ Ross Evolution LTX w/ Trout Spey Line. The GO to for the Yuba River or small river spey rod.	\$500	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207
Echo E3 9ft 5wt (3 Rods). The most universal rod one can buy!	\$150 ea	Mark Antaramian (916) 705-1207

## Sacramento River Floodplain Study: Need Your Help!

By Brook Constantz

My name is Brook Constantz, a graduate student at UC Santa Cruz. I'm studying the long-term restoration of Sacramento River floodplain for my Ph.D., and I need help getting the word out on my restoration survey. This survey studies the visual perception of different stakeholders for a variety of floodplain restoration styles, but I need more fisherpeople to complete the study.

I'm currently polling people on how they perceive different types of floodplains to understand ways to increase community acceptance of their restoration.

Visual beauty increases acceptance of habitat restoration within the local community, although it is often overlooked. In fact, many restoration projects have been delayed, have increased in cost, or have even failed because of a lack of community acceptance. Unfortunately, what community members find visually attractive about restored landscapes is not well understood.

This survey seeks to better understand community members' visual preferences by asking them to pick between pairs of landscapes simulated from real floodplains. In separate questions, participants will pick the landscapes that are more natural, cared for, disturbed, complex, and preferred. These landscapes vary in their tree clustering, tree size, understory thickness, and terrain. This data will help me understand participants' ideal floodplain landscapes and how key visual concepts factor in.

My survey is hosted at <https://restorationvisualizer.com/>

My email address is [bmconsta@ucsc.edu](mailto:bmconsta@ucsc.edu) if you need help with the survey or have any questions.



Brook Constantz, UC Santa Cruz Ph.D. Candidate



Brook conducting research on the Sacramento River floodplain

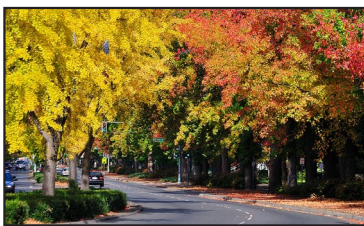
# CAF General Meeting "Speakers" 2023/2024

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	Ryan Williams, North Valley FF	Bass Fishing Winter and Spring
February 13, 2023	Fly Fishing Film Tour	Sierra Nevada Big Room
February 14, 2024	Cast Hope	Reaching kids and how CAF individual members can help
March 9, 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	Lance Gray	The Hex Hatch at Lake Almanor

## Fall Came



## Fall Left



## Fall Stayed



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

Here are future outings that Chico Area Flyfishers provide to its 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 (trozenow.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.**

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Fishout Leader</u>
October 1, 2023	Pyramid Lake Fishing Season Opens	
October 13-15, 2023	Pyramid Lake, Nevada (Rob Anderson)	Elden Hinkle (530) 518-4680
November 15, 2023	California Trout Season Closes	
November, 2023 TBA	Eagle Lake – Heritage Trout Challenge	Tom Rosenow (530) 966-0076
December 2, 2023 (Tentative)	Yuba River – Timbuctoo Bend – Heritage Trout Challenge	John Cowan (530) 966-0076
January 12-17, 2024	Trophy Bass Lake Picachos, Mexico (3)	Pat Sleeper (530) 228-9197
April 27, 2024	Opening Day for Trout Season	
April 27-28, 2024	Hat Creek Campout	Eric See (530) 514-6617
June 30, 2024	Pyramid Lake Fishing Season Closes	

Upcoming: Rescheduled bass fishing at Pingatore's Lake, other fish outs coming up!

**\*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	<a href="#">Bock Fly Fishing</a>	530.598.4087
Hogan Brown	<a href="#">hgbflyfishing.com</a>	530.514.2453
"Dirty Mike" Elliott	<a href="#">Discover Montana Outfitting</a>	406.890.8735
Tim Fox	<a href="#">Mr. Fox Outfitters</a>	530.949.0239
Lance Gray	<a href="#">Lance Gray &amp; Company</a> <a href="#">Lance Gray Online Store</a>	530.517.2204
Lincoln Gray	<a href="#">Lincoln Gray Fly Fishing Adventures</a> <a href="#">Sierra Stream Outdoors</a>	530.520.6895
Joe Garza	<a href="#">J.A.G. Flyfishing</a>	530.570.0978
Bryan Rocucci	<a href="#">Big Daddy's Guide Service</a>	530.370.1001
Wayne Syn	<a href="#">Orland Outfitters</a>	530.624.4156
Toby Uppinghouse	<a href="#">Edgewater Outfitters</a>	916.505.4773

### LOCAL FLY FISHING SHOPS

Fish First!  
766 Mangrove Ave  
Chico, CA 95926  
(343-8300)

Sierra Stream Outdoors  
847 W.5th Street  
Chico, CA 95926  
530-345-4261



# Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing Crater Lake Trip

By John Cowan

Our local group of Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing veterans and volunteers enjoyed a very productive day on September 26, 2023 at Crater Lake. This is not the big one in Oregon. This is Northern California's worst best kept secret fishing spot. Project Healing Waters reaches out to veterans who have any disability rating as assessed by the Veteran's Administration (VA). Each PHWFF group needs a sponsoring fly fishing club as a host. Chico Area Flyfishers provides that roll for our local group.

Six veterans and three volunteers made the run up to Crater Lake to a day of fabulous fishing. From what I heard through the grapevine, 27 was the largest number caught with 10-15 being the average. Almost everyone used float tubes with one fishing from the bank. By 3:00pm, all had enough catching for one day, loaded up and returned to Chico.

If you know of any veteran who has a disability rating (or might need assistance in getting a disability rating) who might be interested in participating (free of charge), please call Stan Thomas (530.518.3715), Pete Wiik (530.520.9495), or John

Cowan (530.966.0076). If you have an interest in volunteering or donating, please reach out to these same individuals.



Stan Thomas and Tony Scott talk shop.



Tony Scott getting into position.



Vance Moody enjoying a successful day!



Fred Sherman casting.

# Coastal Cutthroat Trout *Oncorhynchus clarkia clarkii* #4 in Series on the California Heritage Trout Challenge

By John Cowan

Information for this article, previous, and forthcoming articles in this series come from "An Angler's Guide to the California Heritage Trout Challenge" (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Fishing/Inland/HTC>). This link will provide a downloadable pdf file for those interested.

California has three subspecies of cutthroat trout, two of which are resident fish that inhabit inland freshwater environments. Coastal cutthroat trout are unique in that they exhibit multiple life history patterns, including those that stay within a relatively small area of a particular stream (resident), migrate to the ocean for a portion of their life (anadromous, much like steelhead), migrate larger distances within a river environment (fluvial), and live in lakes.

They were first described by John Richardson in 1836 and named after Captain William Clark from the Lewis and Clark expedition. Coastal cutthroat trout and coastal rainbow trout live in similar habitats and naturally hybridize, making identification difficult. For the purposes of the Challenge, if cutthroat slashes are visible, the fish will qualify.

Sea-run forms typically remain close to the coast in low-salinity areas and can be found in estuaries, lagoons and the mouths of large rivers. The plasticity of coastal cutthroat trout migratory patterns may be due to highly variable habitat conditions as well as the presence of other larger-sized salmonids like steelhead and salmon. This flexibility may release coastal cutthroat trout from competition and predation at certain times of the year while allowing them to track the movements of prey fish.

Coastal cutthroat trout inhabit a large range along the Pacific coast, extending from the Eel River in California north to coastal rainforests in Alaska. They prefer estuaries, lagoons and small, low-gradient coastal streams. Areas with cool, clean water with ample cover and deep holding pools are preferred habitats, especially in warmer summer months.

In California, coastal cutthroat trout are at the southern edge of their range. Self-sustaining populations occur in many coastal

basins including Humboldt Bay tributaries. Coastal cutthroat trout also rear in several lagoons and ponds including Big, Stone, and Espa Lagoons and the Lake Earl-Talawa complex. The principal large stream systems they occupy are the Smith, Mad, and lower Klamath rivers. The largest known population in California resides in the Smith River. Historic coastal cutthroat trout distribution may have once extended past the Eel River south to the Russian River (Sonoma County), but they have not been documented in this area for quite some time.

**Angling Notes:** Generalized fly angling techniques using dry flies or dead drifting nymphs are largely ineffective and typically end up with more coastal rainbow trout in the creel. In freshwater environments, anglers should target deep pools with woody debris or undercut banks and use streamers on sink tip lines. A good technique is to drift the streamer toward cover then strip it away. Try trailing a small nymph behind the streamer. Drifting or stripping large terrestrial insect patterns may also be successful. Another option is to target smaller creeks in which coastal cutthroat trout are the only species present. The fish may be smaller, but the likelihood of catching a cutthroat is higher and dry flies can be quite effective.

The best habitats to target larger coastal cutthroat trout are lagoons or estuaries. Since lagoons have fairly uniform habitat, coastal cutthroat trout typically stay on the move, looking for prey. Covering lots of water by trolling with a streamer is a good technique. Fishing from a float tube or pontoon boat can be particularly effective if you can key into the areas coastal cutthroat trout inhabit.





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Dear Kiene's Fly Shop Valued Customers and Supporters,

It is with mixed emotions that we announce the closure of Kiene's Fly Shop after the recent death of Gary Eblen. With over 30 years of serving our fly fishing community, this decision was not made lightly, and we send our sincere gratitude for your loyalty and support over the years.

Our going-out-of-business sale will begin on October 7 and continue until our final day of operation on December 3. During our close-out sale, we are offering significant discounts on our remaining inventory, giving you the chance to take home your favorite products at unbeatable prices in the shop and online at our website. All sales are final, no returns, no exchanges, no special orders and all sales are subject to stock on hand.

You may have questions about the fly shop closing, so we are here to assist you. Please feel free to reach out to us at [customerservice@Kiene.com](mailto:customerservice@Kiene.com) with your inquiries or concerns.

As we prepare to say goodbye, we want to take this moment to thank you for being a part of our Kiene's family. We appreciate the relationships we've nurtured and the memories we've created together.

We hope to see you during our going-out-of-business sale. Please know that your continued support means the world to us. Farewell, and thank you for being a cherished part of our journey.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Eblen and the Kiene's Fly Shop Staff

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## Salmon in the Classroom Update

By John Cowan

As most of you know, I'm a retired science teacher. I taught for 36 years, most of it at Fair View High School. Back in 1995, a CAF member whom some of you remember, Bob Smith, approached me and told me about this program. I jumped in with both feet! My alternative education students at Fair View were captivated. Bob moved on to new fishing grounds in another dimension and my participation with "Salmonids in the Classroom" stopped. Eric See, CAF member and Board member picked up the reigns, but not for several years after Bob's passing. While Salmonids in the Classroom is run through the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the big success comes from direct participation of fly fishing clubs such as Chico Area Flyfishers. The program's actual name is "The Classroom Aquarium Education Program". Whoever named this had charisma bypass surgery! We like to call it by its old name "Salmonids in the Classroom". (<https://wildlife.ca.gov/CAEP>)

Last year, I became more involved in helping Eric out and the numbers of teachers in Butte County rose. CAF has committed to supporting teachers who want to participate in this program. Back in my day, we used an aquarium and cut a hole in the door of an old refrigerator so kids could watch the development. Now, there are smaller, more efficient chillers to keep the water temperature of the developing eggs at the exact temperature. The success of raising eggs to fry is extremely high. However, to outfit a new teacher, the cost is approximately \$800. Thankfully, once the purchase is made, the equipment can be stored and reused for the next year.

Both reaching out to teachers and teachers hearing from other teachers about this program has increased the number of teachers wanting to participate this year. Currently, about five new local teachers would like to participate in this program. CAF could use your help in a couple of areas. First, a direct donation to CAF would help with the cost of equipment (either

a check to "CAF" or Venmo shortly...). Second, if you have the time to donate, Eric and I could use your help. The really fun time is when the kids release their fry into the Feather River during their field trip. Helping with teaching kids with fly casting, or helping with the "Macro Benthic Invertebrate" station, or even helping to deliver and set up the equipment in teacher classrooms is where help is needed.

Chico Area Flyfishers hopes that this program will increase throughout Butte, Glenn, and Sutter counties (and beyond), but help is needed. If you are reading this and know of an educator who would be interested, please have them contact me. Or if you are able to help, either financially or physically, please contact me ASAP. John Cowan (530.966.0076; [jcowan58@yahoo.com](mailto:jcowan58@yahoo.com)). Call me about being able to donate via Venmo. I hope to have that working shortly.



Dr. Jada White addressing Mindy Birdseye's classroom at Sierra View Elementary.



Elden Hinkle's daughter, Suzanne Price, is a participant. Here are her students.



Students at the "Macro Benthic Invertebrate" station.



John Cowan helping kids learning how to fly cast.

# VISUAL PERCEPTION OF FLOODPLAIN RESTORATION

## An Interactive Survey

### PROBLEM

Habitat restoration that looks more beautiful to the local community is more readily accepted, costs less and, is more resilient. In fact, many restoration projects have slowed or even failed due to a lack of acceptance. It is hard to include the preferences of community members since few surveys take their views into account.

### SOLUTION

This survey seeks to better understand the visual perception of habitat restoration of local community members.

### SURVEY

Participants will pick the landscape they feel is most natural, cared for, disturbed, complex, or preferred. The landscapes will vary in tree clustering and size, understory thickness, and terrain. The data collected will help guide future restoration projects to be more successful.

All participants 18 and older are eligible to take this survey, which should only take 10-15 minutes to complete on your own computer. Go to <https://restorationvisualizer.com> or scan the QR code to learn more. Please complete the survey using a laptop or desktop computer not a mobile phone.

SCAN QR CODE  
TO LEARN MORE  
AND  
PARTICIPATE



If you have any questions, please contact Brook Constantz at [bmconsta@ucsc.edu](mailto:bmconsta@ucsc.edu)  
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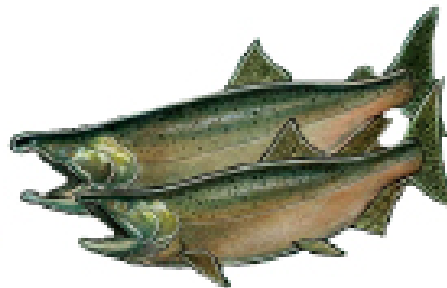


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Dues for the Family Membership are \$35 per year. Membership extends through the calendar year (January 1 through December 31). Please complete this application and return it along with your membership dues today to the following address:

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Your support is appreciated!

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

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Family Member: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

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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](http://chicoareaflyfishers.org)

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