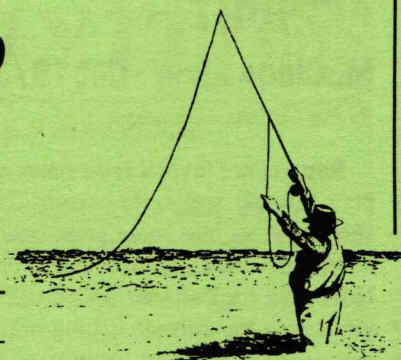




Chico Area Flyfishers' Short Casts

OCTOBER 1996

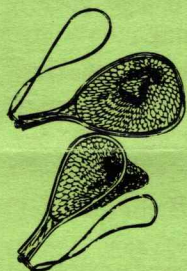
P.O. Box 3583 • Chico, California 95927



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Jeff Richelieu, CAF President

What are you doing reading this? You should be out fishing right now! It's October which is the best month of the year to catch large fish. If its after dark, I forgive you. October is my favorite month of the year for fishing. The salmon are on the riffles and the steelhead and trout are right behind them. Glo-bugs are the obvious choice for this situation, but don't forget about nymphs



Trout and steelhead seem to know this, and hang out in this zone greedily gobbling up the six legged transients.

both large and small. I have caught some nice trout and steelhead in the riffles with birds nest and golden stone patterns. I have also heard that egg sucking leeches are good, but I haven't used them.

The salmon need to spawn in clean, well aerated gravel most commonly found in shallow riffles. Before they spawn, they must dig out a hole to lay their eggs in. The finished product is a cone shaped hole about 3 feet in diameter at the top and 2 feet deep. When the salmon are on their sides fanning the gravel to dig out these holes, a large variety of nymphs get dislodged and wash down stream with the current until they can reach the bottom and crawl under another rock. Trout

and steelhead seem to know this, and hang out in this zone greedily gobbling up the six legged transients. If your nymph happens to be drifting past these opportunistic feeders, hang on because the bite can be tenacious. I've broken off a number of fish on the initial grab due to my adrenaline hook sets.

Forget the chores and get out there and fish because October only happens once a year. I expect to hear some good reports at the next meeting.

See You on the Water,
Jeff Richelieu



FLY TYING

June 20th - 7:30 PM

By Pat Corbett / Jerry Stevenson

Midge Adult / Griffith's Gnat

Over the years I have tried many suggested midge dry patterns. Some at times have been successful and demanded a spot in the box in a variety of sizes.

I have also found through the years experience a super realistic pattern that fish like . . . the deadly Griffith's Gnat, we will tie both.

(Cont. on back page)

GENERAL MEETING

October 9 - 7:30 PM Butte County Library

By Val Bowlby, CAF Board

Tom Peppas, professional guide and professional fly tier, will present our program on Wednesday, October 9th at the Chico library at 7:30. Tom has been fishing every year since he was two! He was introduced to the sport by his dad, and has been hard at it ever since.

Wednesday night Tom is going to give a fairly technical presentation, assisted by many, many colorful slides

taken from trips both nationally and internationally. Tom said that most of his guiding time is spent working on the more technical aspects of fly fishing because that seems to be the weakness of most fishermen. So, join your fellow fishermen for an evening devoted to reading waters, presentations, nymphing, and streamer presentations. According to Tom, when stream fishing, just one foot can make the difference between catching or not catching a fish. Tom also wants to go over the right way to set up a leader system that

(Cont. on back page)

HE'S BACK!

Our General Meeting
featured speaker
will be
Tom Peppas



Plan to attend and
enjoy this educa-
tional presentations!

FISHOUT

McCloud River - Oct 19 / 20

By Pat Corbett, Fishmaster

Reports are favorable as many expect a harsh and early winter. This should put us into some great fishing on the McCloud and also hopefully in November for Delta Stripers. I will let you know the current fishing conditions for the last two fishouts of the year and whether to sign-up at the prior general meetings.

McCloud: Camp at Ah-De-Nah.

Flies: Golden stones, October caddis, and mayfly nymphs / dries.



The isonychia mayfly hatch has trout on the fall bite

BIG-TIME.

— PIT RIVER

LOCAL WATERS

Local information provided by *Fish First* of Berkeley.

Remember — contact your local fly shops before you fish for the latest information.

Feather River / Middle Fork: No report at press time.

Sacramento River / Upper: Fishing is spotty. Indicatory nymph a beadhead and a small mayfly or caddis pupa dropper; most trout are being caught on the smaller nymphs. BWO, small caddis, and midges are out in the afternoon and evening; dry fly fishing is

spotty. Look for the October caddis hatch.

Hat Creek / Lower: Fishing is fair. Some tricos still showing and mid-morning in the flats. Nymphing in the Ph #2 riffle is producing some fish. Use small mayfly nymphs under an indicator on 7x tippet. Small BWO are hatching late afternoon and evening, but the stronger fall hatches will be starting soon.

Pit River: Fishing is excellent. The isonychia mayfly hatch has trout on the fall bite BIG-TIME. Best action is with a isonychia nymph (black AP #10) and a small beadhead dropper under an indicator. Action is steady throughout the day. The key is to fish the fast water and get your fly down. Attractor dries are bringing up fish in the evening.

McCloud River: Fishing is fair to good. Large browns are in the river, with a few being hooked from Ash Camp down through the Conservancy; use sinking lines and dark streamers early or late in the day. Nymphing with an October caddis pupa and a smaller caddis or mayfly dropper is producing good action on 10-15" rainbows. Dry fly in afternoon on using PED and caddis.

Yuba River: Fishing is excellent. The combo of decreased water flows and a strong evening caddis hatch have the trout excited. Indicator nymphing with a caddis pupa is producing throughout the day. Great dry fly fishing for the last hour of the day. Try caddis or hoppers. Salmon are in and ready to spawn (but don't walk on the reds).

CONSERVATION NOTES

John Ost, CAF Chair Conservation

Volunteers are needed for Lindo Channel clean-up. November 2, 8:00 AM, E. Lindo / Mangrove bridge. We will be pruning grape vines away from trees / vegetation. John Ost, 343-2417.

ANNUAL BANQUET VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers needed!

The Board members at the September meeting began to set plans for the coming year. The two big topics are board member nominations, and the annual banquet.

Historically, Board and Officer elections are held in December at the annual Anchovy feed. There are a number of positions available. The members of the Board set club policy, where money is donated and conservations projects to undertake. This is your chance to put in your ideas. The time involved is small and as an officer you decide the club's future course. Those interest should contact any board member.

February 28th is the date for the annual banquet. The format will be similar to last years, with a catered dinner at the Masonic Hall. Dinner will be followed by a speaker, whose name will be finalized soon. Again, club members are being asked to volunteer. Committees will be forming soon. A successful banquet takes more than several people to organize. Also, each club member is being asked to solicit two businesses for auction and raffle items. The businesses do not need to be fishing related. If a business does not wish to donate an item, we will accept cash donations to be used for purchasing other items. Contact a board member for details.

KEEPERS-OF-THE-STREAM

Pat Corbett, Trout Bum

Two years ago I tried to verbally teach and give our membership some direction. It was not for all, but I hoped it would catch on and become a group of flyfishers who might see, feel, and do more for the fish, environment and one another. Sign up at the October meeting.

The bottom line: Is there enough concerned members to establish and support a keeper-of-the-stream group?

Together we could . . .

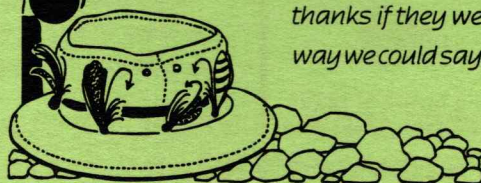
- have a yearly minimum fish kill sign up
- organize a yearly stream restoration or clean-up project
- maintain the importance of voting for club officers and hopefully fishouts
- maintain a positive attitude toward new members enlisting new talent to accomplish good things
- show proper streamside manners and not self-centeredness
- provide some unity, direction and support for the club.

CAF YOUTH ACTIVITIES

By Roger Bevers, Youth Director

Most of the summer was a bust with the youth members, since they were extremely difficult to get a hold of. We did manage to get in a good fishout on Warner Creek though. It was an overnight trip with Reg Hawkeye hosting the trip at his cabin in Warner Valley. We fished the beaver ponds with little luck, since it was mid-morning when we started. It was quite an experience trying to get five kids across the swamp keeping them on the dam surfaces without breaking a leg. We fished the ponds for a few hours, then decided to hit the creek for some moving water experiences. Reg and I were the only adults and the five boys kept us busy maintaining the lines so they could cast to the pools as we fished down stream with nymphs. By one o'clock the boys were hungry, so we headed for the cabin and lunch. After lunch we played a little baseball and relaxed, then headed out again for some late afternoon fun.

The next day Reg and family headed for Paradise and Eric Walter and I stayed in the area to fish. We tried Hot Creek in the early morning to no avail. Then we moved on down to the North fork of the Feather. We found several likely spots and gave it the old college try. It was near impossible to get anything to take on nymphs or dries. We did find some wonderful water to fish and the scenery was spectacular. We fished until midday and then headed home also. I know, your thinking what a bummer for the boys, but fishing is not all in the catching. The boys really got to know each other and had a wonderful time skipping rocks in the beaver ponds and creek. They even got some wonderful individual instruction on approaching a creek and planning the cast so the first one will work. They learned about different currents and drift rates. They learned companionship, and most of all patience in ap-



Generous donation

When it comes to generosity our club members have shown the best in human nature, but I once again need to send a special thank you to Denton Hill for his extremely generous donation to the youth group fly tying chest. Denton recently brought two very large boxes of tying materials to me to use for the boys tying sessions. The excuse was of course that he can't see to tie anymore, but I think the man just loves being an angel in disguise. Denton's donation included vises, hooks, beads, salt water materials, numerous flashy materials and furs. SO, because of your generosity Denton, I've decided to make you an honorary member of the **YOUTH GROUP HALL OF FAME**. Congratulations Man. You've achieved

immortality. I know the boys would say thanks if they were writing this, but the best way we could say thanks to you is to wish you

many more years of wonderful fishing experiences with tight lines.



Nov 2 - Feather River Fishout

Nov 30 - Youth Meeting

Dec 7 - Lk Oroville / Black Butte Fishout

proaching the lie. So all was not lost and what a memory they have to share.

They also taught us adults a valuable lesson. 'A club is for friendship and shared dreams. If we as adults can share our experiences as well with each other as the kids, we're all bound to have better fishing success, but also some many wonderful memories.'

Many thanks to Reg Hawkeye for his hospitality.

STYLISH CASTING

The Youth Group met on August 31st at Horseshoe Lake for a wonderful casting session generously donated by Press Powell. There were fifteen boys who attended and benefited by the personal instruction of Press and other adults who showed up to help the boys. We started out with the boys just casting their own rods to warm up. Then I introduced Press to the boys and he put on his casting demonstration. This was not just any ordinary demonstration of great quality by Press. It was the most super amazing finest display of rod handling the boys and I have ever seen. He went all out for the boys and

gave them "all" the secrets of casting. He not only demonstrated them, but then he had each boy who wanted to come up, so he could personally trouble shoot their casting. By the time the session was over all of the boys had more than doubled their casting ability. Four of them were showing great promise as future casters for club contests.

Many thanks to Press Powell for his time and wonderful skills in casting and in presenting to the boys.

Fly Tying

(Continued)

Midge Adult

Hook: TMC 101 16-18

Thread: Black / Brown 8/0

Post: White poly yarn

Wing & Hackle: Grizzly

Griffith's Gnat

Hook: TMC 101 16-20

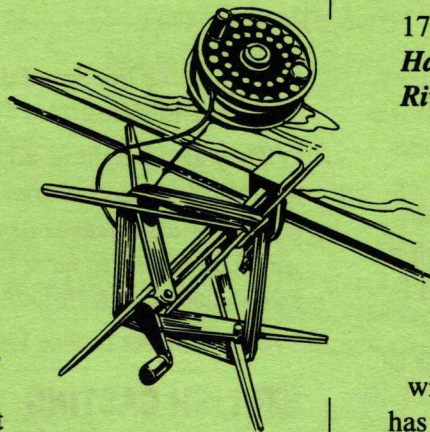
Body: Peacock Herl

Rib: Copper Wire (fine)

Hackle: Grizzly

If you are short on materials, we will have extra supplies available. Come join us and get to know our great fly tying group in the Blue Barn at Music Express, Bed & Breakfast Inn, 1091 El Monte Ave., Chico. Three blocks east from Hwy 99 on Hwy-32.

Info Pat, 877-5448 or Jerry, 898-9376.



General Meeting

(Continued)

will lead to more successful fishing experiences. His goal for the evening is to take some of the mystery out of fishing below the surface.

Tom has been guiding and instructing for the past 17 years. Most of his work is in the Burney area: **Hat Creek, Fall River, McCloud River, and Pit River.** He takes a horsepack trip each year for one week in the Southern Sierras/Mammoth Lakes area where he accommodates 10-12 people. Last year's trip there saw over 800 fish in one week, and they always come into contact with some of the precious "goldens."

In addition, Tom does Argentina and British Columbia. The slides Tom will be showing us will have come from all of these areas! And, Tom has a regular, full time job, at Safeway in Paradise. And, in addition to all of this, Tom ties flies commercially, and last year sold 350 dozen flies ! ! ! !

Tom's company is *Clearwater, Trout Tours of Cassel*, a wonderful local resource.

Calendar of Events

OCTOBER

- OCT 9 GENERAL MEETING
7:30 PM
BUTTE CO. LIBRARY
- OCT 17 FLY TYING 7:30 PM
Music Express Bed
& Breakfast
1091 El Monte Ave
Pat Corbett, 877-5448
- OCT 19 /20 CLUB FISHOUT
McCloud River
Pat Corbett, 877-5448
- NOV 2 CAF YOUTH FISHOUT
Feather River Steelhead
Roger Bevers, 343-6442
- NOV 2 CAF LINDO CHANNEL
CLEAN-UP
John Ost 343-2417
- NOV 30 CAF YOUTH MTG
FLY TYING
Roger Bevers, 343-6442



Chico Area Flyfishers

P. O. Box 3583
Chico, California 95927



PLAN TO ATTEND AND VOLUNTEER FOR OUR ANNUAL DINNER
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28TH, 1997