

CHICO AREA FLYFISHERS'

OCTOBER 2004



LOCAL GUIDES

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

Fish First
Chico, CA
(530) 343-8300

Merganser Outfitters
Chico, CA
(530) 345-4071

Sierra Stream & Mountain
Chico, CA
(530) 345-4261

Orland Outfitters
Orland, CA
(530) 865-8545

Oasis Springs Lodge
Paynes Creek, CA
(530) 642-4150

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

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GUEST SPEAKER - DAWN STUART

"SECRETS OF THE YAMSI VALLEY"

... the natural history of the Yamsi Valley,
the uniqueness of its fishery ...

Every year, as spring gives way to summer, one of the most spectacular Mayfly hatches in the United States commences. The result of these clouds of insects is a Redband trout feeding frenzy that you have to see to believe. For those who can't make it to Aspen Ridge Ranch for courtside seats we will bring the experience to you with our slide presentation, "Secrets Of The Yamsi Valley".

The Upper Williamson River, in south-central Or-

gon, offers a matchless flyfishing experience featuring one of the few black (gray) drake hatches in the Western US. This 40-mile stretch of gently moving water meanders almost exclusively through privately owned cattle ranches. I purchased Aspen Ridge Ranch ten years ago. Cattle grazing was halted and an intensive fisheries and riparian system rehabilitation project was begun. Now, with



grassy cut-banks, the return of willows, and strategically placed woody materials in the river, we have a deeper, cooler flow of water. Consequently, the native Upper Williamson River Redbands are back; bigger and better than ever.

"Secrets Of The Yamsi Valley" is a 40-minute slide presentation that reviews the natural history of the Yamsi Valley, the uniqueness of its fishery, and our conservation efforts on the Upper Williamson River. The presentation will be followed by a question and answer session.

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president's corner dana miller

Where did the summer go? Planned fishing trips that were postponed and then never happened. I just ran out of time!. I should've been a school teacher, have the summers off and retire before age 60! That's just what a friend of mine recently did, but funny thing is, he's now too busy to go fishing!

I did get out a couple of times, I hit the "Hex" hatch at Lake Almanor. It's always amazing to see those big bugs

hatch right in front of your face! They're so big! Two or three years at the bottom of the lake, then a 20 to 30 foot swim to the surface to hatch.

Although their lives are in danger 99.9% of the time, I believe the biggest threat to their life happens just as they travel to the surface. Besides fish, birds, and bats, the *hexigenia mayfly* leads a simple life, eat, swim, hatch and mate. I watched one pop out of its case, sit on the surface for about 10 seconds and then lumber away, only

to be snatched out of the air by a nasty Sea Gull!

I caught 4 or 5 fish, and one was the biggest rainbow I've ever caught, about 6+ lbs (outside of 5-Dot Reservoir). I used nymphs entirely, because there was very little action. I also caught a 3 lb Squawfish, which because of my careless handling, ended up, belly up.

My last trip to Almanor, I left my rods in my garage in Chico! Fortunately Nick Hanna and his dad, Tim, had two extra rods and reels for my son and me! But bad luck prevailed as I only hooked

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"SECRETS OF THE YAMSI VALLEY"

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For more information and a preview of this slide show visit our website at: www.yamsi.com or call us at (541) 783-2138.

Dawn G. Stuart grew up in Klamath County. Upon graduation from Chiloquin High School she went off to college at the University of Nevada-Reno. In her fifth year of college she ran off

with a cowboy and somehow ended up living and working in Huntington Beach, California as a sales and marketing consultant. After years of searching for just the right weekend escape property, fatefully she ended up back in her hometown, buying several hundred acres in the Yamsi Valley. Quickly the smog and crowds of southern Califor-

nia were too much and the call of the wild brought her back to Oregon for good. Dawn now shares her log cabin home on the Upper Williamson River with Bob Rogers—a surfer, web designer and beginning fly fisher—two dogs, and a cat; all of whom believe they've found heaven on earth.



president's corner

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one on the way in, in the dark. When you're using someone else's equipment it just doesn't feel right.

The Damsel hatch at Davis Lake was pretty good this year, and I missed it, and it only lasted for a month! Now that hunting season is here, my fishing is going to be really limited. I will plan to hit the Snails at Davis in October and November, so long as the ducks aren't fly-

ing. A friend of mine who lives at Lake Almanor had a good outing just before the first of October. Five or six fish 3 to 6 pounds, and larger ones lost!

CAF is looking into a project, where we might be able to participate with another group in a conservation project. Its too early to discuss details, but when we get it nailed down, we'll let the membership know. This may be real opportunity to get CAF's name out there,

and do something good for our area fishermen/fisherwomen.

Get out and go fishing!
The fall is as good as the spring if not better!



We have changed publishers for our club newsletter. Please give me a call for any articles, information or questions. Paul would like to drag his line in the water a little more... thanks for your service to our club.

NCCFFF

Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers announces "a festival of fly fishing."

WHEN: October 15th and 16th, 2004

WHERE: Redding Convention Center, Redding Ca.

FEATURING Jack Dennis, Steve Rajeff, Scott Sanchez and many other great fly fishers and fly tyers.

FESTIVAL INCLUDES: Fly Tying, Fly Fishing Techniques, Fly Casting Instruction, Travel Opportunities, Guides, Artists, Manufactures, Exhibitors, Banquet, Auctions, and lots more!

Come to **CAF's General Meeting on October 13th** at the **Butte County Library at 7:30 pm** to learn more, and possibly win tickets to the festival by just showing up!

GENERAL MEETING - OCTOBER 13TH - 7:30 PM - CHICO LIBRARY

p.o. box 3583
chico, ca 95927

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