

June
2010

June 9 – The New Lees Ferry with Terry Gunn



Lees Ferry is the section of the Colorado River below Glen Canyon Dam and is the entrance to the Grand Canyon. This 16 mile stretch gin clear river courses through the last free flowing remnant of Glen Canyon and is world renowned for its spectacular beauty and great trout fishing. This year-around Arizona trout fishery fell on hard times in 2000 as the "great western drought" caused Lake Powell to drop to less than a third of capacity. In recent years, normal snow fall has returned to the Rockies, and Lake Powell has risen considerably. Anglers from around the country are once again putting Lees Ferry on the map as a must do destination.

Terry Gunn has been a full time fishing guide since 1983 and is a recognized fly fishing expert, author, photographer, and speaker. Terry has fished around the world in both fresh and saltwater. In 1986, he co-founded Crystal Creek Lodge, considered by many to be one of Alaska's finest fly-out fishing lodges. He also started Baja Anglers, a fly fishing charter boat operation and retail store in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. He is a consultant and advisor to several leading manufacturers of fly fishing equipment and fishing lodges. He has held or holds 10 IGFA world records, all on fly rod, both fresh and saltwater.

Terry was born and raised on a farm in Oklahoma. When not working on the farm, he was always fishing in one of the local

creeks, rivers or ponds. His grandfather, Troy Holsted, was a devoted fan of Zane Grey and decided in the 1930's that if Zane Grey was a fly fisherman that Troy Holsted should also be a fly fisherman. In the 1960's, his grandfather built a cabin in Taylor Park, Colorado and Terry spent his early years walking the high mountain streams watching his fly fishing mentor cast a Montague cane fly rod to rising fish. Every summer Terry still walks the same streams casting the same rod followed by his 9 year-old son, Troy.

Terry's wildlife and fly fishing photographs have appeared in most all of the outdoor magazines, as well as books, journals, newspapers, calendars and brochures. He is a recognized author and has published many technical as well as destination fly fishing articles for several magazines and is on the masthead of Fly Fisherman and Fish Alaska Magazines as Contributing Photographer.

Terry and his wife Wendy, were the co-hosts of Fly Fish Television Magazine, an educational fly fishing show that has aired on Fox Sports National and International, the Outdoor Channel, and on the Outdoor Life Network. They also have two videos, an Introduction to Fly Fishing and an Introduction to Fly Casting. Terry was the photography host for the television series, America's Outdoor Journal. In addition he has appeared on scores of other fly fishing shows including In search of Fly Waters, Fly Fishing the World, Fly Fishing America, Fishing the West, and Fly Fishing Video Magazine. Terry and his wife Wendy competed in the first ESPN Great Outdoor Games in Lake Placid, NY.

Terry Gunn is the owner of Lees Ferry Anglers Fly Shop and Guide Service, and Cliff Dwellers Lodge in Marble Canyon AZ. He lives in Marble Canyon AZ with his wife, Wendy, and son, Troy.

Program

2010

- Jun 9 Terry Gunn, The New Lee's Ferry**
- July7 Ed Engle, Catching Difficult Trout
- Aug11 To be announced
- Sep 8 To be announced
- Oct13 Mike St.Clair, Bamboo Rods – History and Influence
- Nov 10 Jeff Bright, Fly Fishing the Skeena River System
- Dec 8 Holiday Party

2011

- Jan 12 Catching Big Trout on Public Waters - Mike Lawson
- Feb 9 The Bitterroot - A River for All Seasons
- Mar 9 Annual Fund Raiser
- Apr13 Jim McLennan - Alberta – Bow River and Beyond
- May11 To be announced

The **Conejo Valley Fly Fishers** meet the first Wednesday after the first Thursday of every month in the Orchid Room of the **Best Western Thousand Oaks Inn** located between Dupar's and Borders at 75 W. Thousand Oaks Blvd.

5:00 - 6:00 Dinner at the Bandits' Barbeque
 6:30 - 7:30 Fly Tying or discussion with speaker
 7:30 - 8:00 Club business
 8:00 - 9:30 Speaker presentation

Conejo Valley Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2010

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Membership Application and Renewal Form

Date _____	New _____	Renewal _____	Family Membership \$50	\$ _____
Name _____			New Member badge \$10	\$ _____
Other family members' names _____			Student Membership \$10	\$ _____
			Donation to CalTrout	\$ _____
Address _____			Lifetime Membership \$500	\$ _____
			Total Enclosed	\$ _____
Home phone _____	Work _____	Cell _____		
Email _____				

YES! I want to see the newsletter in color and save some \$ for the club by viewing it online instead of receiving a print copy in the mail. Note: Annual dues are \$50 per family living at the same address. Membership is per calendar year. New members joining in the last quarter have their membership extended through the following year. There is a one time additional \$10 fee for each name badge. Please indicate if you would like additional name badges for family members and include \$10 for each. Student (under 18) dues are \$10. Make checks payable to Conejo Valley Fly Fishers.

- I wish to help in the following programs:
- Trout in the classroom
 - Membership
 - Conservation
 - Fundraiser
 - Newsletter
 - Trips/Outings
 - Other

Send payments and correspondence to:
 Conejo Valley Fly Fishers, 2970 Diana Court, Newbury Park, CA 91320-3115

Early Morning Trout by Scott Olson

Drifting across the lake, the mournful cry of a solitary loon was all I could hear as I stepped from the damp bank of the lake into the shallows. I moved cautiously through a silvery gray ground fog that had formed in the early morning chill and was now fingering its way in amongst the reeds that grew in the fens along the lakeshore, illuminated by a waning moon whose last feathery rays would soon be usurped by a grander sunrise.

Water boatmen dappled the surface of the water, schizophrenically moving a few millimeters at a time with no apparent rhyme or reason, hunting for equally frenetic prey, and seemingly taking little interest in their own peril from the cruising trout who sipped them here and there with indifference.

Tall lanky reeds and shorter, but stouter, horsetails had anchored themselves in the marshy water that meandered with the shoreline on the lee side of the lake. Grassy eyots punctuated the reedy fen like warts on a bristly hogback providing cover for feather and fin alike.

It was one of these miniscule islands that had attracted my attention as a larger than average rise form had intermittently appeared along its side at intervals. Weaving as stealthily as my uncooperative waders would allow, I attempted to position myself more advantageously to study my quarry.

As shafts of soft rosy sunlight dappled and glittered on the far side of the lake, I side slipped along in the shadows, side stepping with care thirty or so feet in the fishes lee, carefully positioning myself out its peripheral vision.

The new morning warmth was slowly shredding the fog, which now only held in the cooler areas of the fen as wispy tatters of its former self, and left the low area of the lake with an unkempt and downy appearance.

Having reached what I considered an optimum position behind the fish, I watched as it sidled in and out of the current that caressed its hiding place, snatching unsuspecting baetis emergers as they skidded towards the surface and only occasionally breaking through to take the imago.

Affixing a #20 parachute Adams with a trailing #24 baetis emerger pattern to 7x tippet, I gently false casted several times and then with extreme care nestled the

leader, tippet and flies into a gentle seam of water a few feet above the feeding rainbow. The flies did an intricate waltz as they married with the current and floated within range.

As if in slow motion, the trout moved on the dry fly, studying it for a moment and then rolling away and on to the emerger, chasing it for a foot before it was able to suck it in to its hungry maw. A gentle lift of the rod and the fish was on.

Showing a sudden alacrity that had been uncharacteristic during its feeding, the big rainbow dove for the welcoming cover of the eyots undercut, trying time and again to wrap my line around some subsurface obstacle, but to no avail as the graphite extension of my arm angled him away from any chance of defeat.

In desperation, the fish launched itself in to the early morning air, rending the last wisps of fog with a slap of its tail scattering bright, shimmering beads of lake water into the air to be captured and reflected in the incarnadine light of the rising sun.

Finally, having spent itself in useless acrobatics, the trout came to hand to be admired and carefully released to fight yet another day. With the sun and moon juxtaposed on opposite ridges of the granite ridges framing the lake, I stepped out of the water and on to the marshy mead and headed back to the cabin for a celebratory cup of coffee.

It Ain't the Same No More! by Mike Weigand

Time brings changes; some good and some we would prefer to be otherwise. For a bunch of years I went with the "Moosehead Fly Fishers" to Alper's Owens River Ranch the second weekend of trout season in the Eastern Sierra. It ain't that way no more!

There isn't a "trout season": Hot Creek and Owens River are open all year. This year we went to the area on what would have been the third weekend of the season. And, of course, we couldn't go to Alper's Owens River Ranch. Two years ago, Tim Alpers sold the ranch to the owners of Arcularius Ranch, and guests who had been going for decades were abruptly left with no place to go.

But a few of the "Mooseheaders" journeyed to Silver Lake Resort in the June Lake Loop. We stayed in two very

nice, well appointed, modern cabins. A couple guys tubed Silver Lake with little success. Others tried Rush Creek with flies, but the fish were looking for bait. That left the rest of us a 25 mile drive to Hot Creek.

On the drive up on Thursday, May 13, I was amazed by the amount of snow from south of Lone Pine all the way north. Some of the basins look like an Ice Age has returned; thanks to the El Nino current bringing storms south. (Of course, that has left Montana and Idaho short of snow pack!) If the weather warms too quickly, there is going to be one heck of a run off and streams and rivers are going to be unfishable. When I got to Hot Creek about noon, it was in great shape; not overly high, clear, and only a little cold. Water temperature was just over 50. The cloud cover came in and the air stayed cold - should have worn a heavier shirt. I started with a dry/dropper with little success. The bugs and fish were still deep. Switching to a size 18 Pheasant Tail with a small split shot below a yarn indicator brought a few to the net. Soon some fish began chasing the first mayflies to hatch. Mostly Blue Winged Olives, size 20, and a few Light Cahills. I caught fish on several dries - Blue Winged Olive Parachute, Olive Hot Creek Emerger (with the forward elk hair post), elk underfur emergers, and even a few on my Hot Creek Caddis. By three it was time to head for Silver Lake.

With such a nice hatch on Thursday, I wanted to go back on Friday before the weekend crowd. Yeah, right! I got to the upper parking lot at ten and was the tenth car in the lot! It looked like an opening Saturday from years ago. By chance, no one was in the "sign pool" when I got to the bottom of the trail and I started in with nymphs. Some one must have just left it after pounding it for a while. Only a couple thought my flies looked good enough to eat. Moving up, when and where there was an opening, I caught a few. The weather was supposed to have been warmer on Friday, but the clouds came over the mountains and kept the air cooler than expected. With clouds, there should have been a good hatch, but not so. Very few bugs ever came off and I nymphed most of the day. Again, see Weigand p.4

Weigand from p.3

about 3, I had had enough and headed back to the cabin.

Because of the crowds on Hot Creek on Friday, others wanted to try "Long Ears" area of the upper Owens, the northern most part of public water, on Saturday. With a group, it is hard to get things going, so six of us got there later than I had hoped. Several other fishermen were in the area and we tried nymphs and dries in the bends and runs. One in our group, Eric, had a 20" plus Rainbow close to his net twice before it broke off. The rest had to be satisfied with 8-10" Rainbows and Browns that came up for dries.

Sunday morning, I packed up early and left Silver Lake a little after 8, getting to the second parking lot at Hot Creek by 9. Nothing was on the surface, so I tried a Gary Scott Red Chamois fly. He gave a couple to me and I tied up some others. Yes Gary, they do work very well! 15 inch Brown and Rainbow thought they looked like a good breakfast. Moving down stream, over a rock outcrop, I hooked a nice one on a Pheasant Tail, and then I saw a fish rise. Putting on a tan (elk underfur) emerger, I started getting a few hits. Between 10 and 11, I landed several up to 12". A great finish to the trip!

June 3, I will travel back to Hot Creek Ranch for the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers annual school. I hope the creek is in as good of condition and not blown out by runoff!

Pheasant Tail Flashback Variation: The Pheasant Tail nymphs I used, with success, had a combination wing case. Tying the tail and abdomen in the "traditional" way, I added a small flashback. Finishing the abdomen, I tied in two strands of pearl Krystal Flash, then a piece of turkey tail feather for the wing case. After forming the thorax with peacock herl and adding some hackle fibers for legs, I pulled the turkey forward and then the Krystal Flash over that, securing each with thread. A little head cement kept things in place and added a little extra shine to the wing case. *Mike submitted some photos on p.5 – ed.*

The Demise of Felt Soled Boots – by Wayne Dalzell from Osprey Flyfishers of BCslippery

Stream bottoms have always been a fisher's worst nightmare. Those really

prolific rivers like the Thompson and this year the Chilliwack, with bountiful bottom life, have dumped many fishers onto their butts or worse. A quick rush of water down your backside really cools down your privates and makes warm socks squishy and cold. Just another day you say, well read on!

Stream cleats have been available for many years, but are cumbersome to wear on dry land. On the Thompson River, I remove mine as I walk back to my boat unless rain starts. Wet Thompson River rocks are the same above or below water line. Stream cleats are also hell on the bottom of your boat, to say nothing of the damage to your fly line if you step on it. What's your alternative then?

Felt soled waders have been in use for eons of time, but it has taken until recently to see their pitfalls. Canadian, American and researchers/scientists in many other areas of the world have confirmed the tiny areas between the felt fibers are a perfect holding space for waterborne didymo (rock snot) and whirling disease. Snips and snails and puppy dog tails, too! Might be nothing, you say, but consider damage is "afoot" to pristine trout waters worldwide.

"The introduction (by fishers felt soled boots?) of single celled algae called didymo to New Zealand in the early 2000's quickly caused a significant ecological and economic problem." Didymo forms large mats on the bottom of lakes, rivers and streams. It is not considered a significant human health risk, but it affects stream habitats and reduces sources of food for fish.

"Native to the boreal forests, didymo was not historically a significant problem. However, the pattern of didymo spread among rivers on Vancouver Island correlates with the activity of fishermen and the commercial introduction and widespread use of felt-soled waders. "Didymo has spread to the Thompson, Columbia, Kettle, Kootenay rivers, and other Canadian and many American rivers.

In 2008, Simms introduced Vibram boots and in 2010 said they would no longer sell new felt soled boots. New Zealand has already banned felts, as will parts of Alaska in 2011 with other areas to follow. Most wading boot companies have followed the industry leader. The move to eliminate felt will grow quickly

although sales of felt replacements may grow temporarily. Keep in mind that other parts of wading boots might actually be of more concern than felt soles.

All science aside, it appears that personal intervention in preventing the spread of water borne diseases is your responsibility. Wash and dry your boots inside and out with soap and water after use, especially before heading to a different river or lake. Buy more than one pair, rotate your fishing boots, buy a new pair every two years or? Easy to say if you have an unlimited budget! I use a different pair of boots lake fishing and river fishing. My lake boots are too old for good river use, so fit my budget well. Is this good enough?

New Simms boots (with Vibram soles) are now a wide fit, and difficult to wear without special fitting if you have narrow feet. Vibram soles are slippery on slimy rocks and logs, not suited to our fishing environment and what we walk on.

The latest advice from fly shops is "buy screw in cleats", but cleats sound like tap dancing shoes, don't last forever and cost \$10 per boot. Cleats also mark or mar boat bottoms, easily puncture inflatable tubes, cut your fly lines and are difficult to slip into fins when float tubing. The cheapest route may be to remove the cleats when you don't need them but, what a hassle!

You could resole your felt boots, but don't plan on fishing in Alaska, many U.S. states, or New Zealand. Maybe cleats and Vibram will be okay. There aren't many solutions but, your actions could help reduce the ecological impact of waterborne diseases!

A summary of an article by Bob Wiltshire, *The Science of Felt - 2009*, with special touches from my own experiences

Photo Album



Kit Korf and Sherwood Bass



Bob Vorac and Westlake Bass



Mike Weigand's Hot Creek Brown



Sierra Snowpack on Mammoth Mountain – Weigand



Don Honus and David Lambroughton on Hot Creek



Bob Keiling and Hot Creek Rainbow



Larry Martin - not to be outdone

Announcing the 2010 3Bs Tournament!

When: June 12, 2010

Where: Mission Bay, San Diego

The 3Bs tournament is a low-key, "for fun" event:

- Saltwater fly-fishing only
- 100% catch-photograph-release
- Focused on Bass-Bonito-Barracuda (plus Yellowtail)
- Extra Points for "Slams" (1 Bass, 1 Bonito, 1 Barracuda)
- Power Boaters and "FOPS" (Fins, Oars, Paddle, Sail - Kayakers, paddleboards, kickboats) Divisions
- Team tournament format (maximum of 4 people/team)



Gear & Tackle Prize Drawings:

Special 3Bs Tournament engraved Abel Super 7/8 QC reel, Temple Fork, Redington, and Cam Sigler fly rods, products from Scientific Anglers, Simms, and Rio, gift certificates, boating accessories and more!

There will also be...

Door prizes & Swag Bags (tournament T-shirt, BTB visor + more)
Dinner & drinks (non-alcoholic)

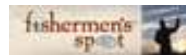
Plus...

- You can use a captain or guide! We have special offers from local guides just for contestants.
- Special room rates at The Dana on Mission Bay (easy walking distance to Tournament HQ & the ramp)
- FREE Skills/Strategy/Orientation Seminars – Come in and find out what's happening:
 - o Saturday, May 15, 1:00pm - The Fishermen's Spot in Van Nuys, (818) 785-7306
 - o Saturday, May 22, 1:00pm - Bob Marriott's Fly Fishing in Fullerton, (714) 525-1827
 - o Saturday, May 29, 3:00pm - SoCal Fly Fishing Outfitters in Pt. Loma, (619) 224-4000

For more information and the full rules:

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