

November  
2011

The Conejo Valley Fly Fishers' Monthly Newsletter — [www.cvff.org](http://www.cvff.org)

# Conejo Valley Fly Fisher

## November 9 – San Diego Bay and Coastal Kelp Bass with Peter Piconi



At our November meeting we will learn about a large, beautiful and diverse 15-mile bay fishery that is not far from where we all live. San Diego Bay can be fished from float tube or boat and has both top water and deeper fishing available. We'll learn tactics for all kinds of fish (from bonefish to bonito to halibut to yellowtail to calico and white bass) during all the seasons, from summer to fall, through winter and spring. We will also see a "Part 2" in the presentation that will cover the "near shore kelp beds," specifically the best timing for such fishing and the different floating and sinking line strategies. These strategies will cover species by species, e.g., potholing for calicos or "grip it and rip it" for bonito. Be advised, some of these strategies are new to this type of fly fishing, so you'll be getting valuable new tips.

Our guide for this adventure is Peter Piconi of So Cal Fly Fishing Outfitters in San Diego. Peter has been fishing the bay there since 1995, where he started the first full-time guiding service catering to bay and near-shore anglers. He's been featured on numerous fly fishing TV programs and instructional DVDs. Peter is also an accomplished photographer and writer, having been published in Salt Water Fly Fishing and Southwest Fly



Fishing magazines.

Recently, Peter joined Umpqua Feather Merchants as a contract tier and is a Sage instructor for Southern California. He guides trips not only on San Diego Bay, but also instructs clinics for casting and surf fishing and leads trips to British Columbia, Baja, Oregon and Alaska.

Peter was born in Fallbrook (think avocados) and started his life-long love of fly

fishing when he was 12. He is a graduate of Humboldt State University where he earned his degree in Wildlife Management and has since worked as biologist in not only California, but also Idaho and Alaska.

So you can see that we have a presenter who is experienced and filled with valuable information that he wants to share with us. And the beauty of all this is that his program is about a great fishery right in our own backyard.

# Program

## 2011

Nov 9 Peter Piconi – San Diego Bay and Coastal Kelp Bass

Dec 7 Holiday Party

**2012** Programs to be determined

Jan 11

Feb 8

Mar 7

Apr 11

May 9

Jun 13

Jul 11

Aug 8

Sep 12

Oct 10

Nov 7

Dec 12 Holiday Party

The **Conejo Valley Fly Fishers** meet the first Wednesday after the first Thursday of every month at the **Goebel Senior Center** located at 1385 E. Janss Road, adjacent to the Thousand Oaks Library. For additional info, call 805.498.2944.

4:30 – 5:45 Dinner at Bandit's Barbeque

6:00 – 6:30 Fly Tying or discussion with speaker

6:30 – 7:00 Club business

7:00 - 9:00 Program

## Conejo Valley Fly Fishers Board of Directors 2011

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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 \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to help in the following programs:

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.

- 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

**Finding Fish** by Walt Alexander – E.C.  
Powell Flyfishers Newsletter

I believe in the adage that 90 percent of the fish are FOUND in 10 percent of the water. So if we can eliminate that 90 percent of barren water we can greatly improve our odds of catching fish.

Let us consider a scenario where we are visiting a lake for the first time. We arrive and see this large, flat, featureless body of water. What we should do first is look at the contour of the land above the water level. What we see above will probably extend out into the lake for some distance. For instance a slowly sloping meadow will probably mean shallow water, a ridge indicates a point with deeper water on both sides, a steep bank or cliff means deep water, and so forth.

If there is a high point available, USE it. From here you can sometimes see submerged islands, drop-offs, and weed beds.

These are all HOT spots.

As fly fishers we are pretty much limited to shallow water. I personally prefer water that is less than 12 feet deep. If this happens to be a deep lake, I have already eliminated most of the water.

The 4 BASIC needs of trout are Food, Oxygen, Water Temperature, and Shelter or Cover. The more of these needs we find in one area the higher the likelihood we have of finding trout present.

**FOOD:** The trout must eat to survive, so the first place to look for trout is where the food is. Most of the food in a lake is found in the shallow or shoal areas. If there are weed-beds present, so much the better. Weed-beds are food factories and provide oxygen through photosynthesis; they may or may not provide the other two needs.

**DROP-OFFS:** Can provide all of a trout's needs. The water depth can provide the shelter as well as the cooler, more oxygenated water and gives the trout easy access to the shallow area for short foraging trips for food. The most productive area is usually right along the lip of the drop-off.

The shallow area can provide all 4 needs under certain conditions. Low light periods and wind can provide the shelter and as long as the water temperature does not exceed 60 degrees Fahrenheit, the oxygen content will be acceptable.

Another prime spot is INLETS. A creek or river flowing into a lake can provide all 4 of a trout's needs. The current can bring

in food, oxygen, cooler or warmer water, depending on the season, and provide shelter.

Another spot is OUTLETS. Outlets will concentrate the food and if the water is deep enough, they can provide shelter and cool oxygenated water.

Submerged springs can be a productive area, especially in the summer when a lake warms up. The springs provide cool oxygenated water and if they are deep enough, cover.

The most critical of a Trout's 4 basic needs is OXYGEN. The reason is that the oxygen content of the water is already so low that a small change can make a huge difference. To put this into perspective, the air we breathe is about 21 percent oxygen. According to a book, written by Ron Cordes and Randall Kaufmann titled "Lake Fishing with a Fly", 1 liter of air contains 210 cubic centimeters of oxygen and 1 liter of completely saturated water contains 9 cubic centimeters of oxygen. This would mean that water would contain less than 1 percent oxygen.

There are many things that can influence the oxygen content of water.

**TEMPERATURE:** As water temperature increases, it loses some of its ability to retain oxygen. Trout can become stressed when water temperature exceeds 60 degrees Fahrenheit and it can become fatal if it exceeds 70 degrees. When temperatures get up into these ranges, trout will seek cooler water, this usually means depth. When a lake stratifies in the summer, it forms a barrier called the thermocline. The coldest water is below the thermocline, but this water is almost void of oxygen, so the trout will normally drop down to just above the thermocline.

**WIND:** Is the most important element in keeping a lake in chemical balance. WIND will add oxygen to the water as well as mixing the water. The WIND will blow the water from one side of the lake to the other. The displaced water is replaced by water flowing along the bottom in the opposite direction of the WIND. If the lake has stratified, this mixing action will remain above the thermocline. In either case, this brings cooler more oxygenated water to the surface. In the fall, the water will cool and when the entire lake reaches the same water temperature, the thermocline will disappear and the entire lake will mix

again. This is called TURNOVER. At this time, oxygen will again be equally distributed throughout the lake. While on the subject of TURNOVER, let's look at spring TURNOVER. Water is at its densest at 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit. If the lake freezes over, the water just below the ice will be 32 degrees Fahrenheit. This will be the coldest water in the lake. After the ice melts, the surface water will start to warm. When the entire lake reaches 39.2 degrees Fahrenheit, the lake will again mix, causing spring TURNOVER, and once again the oxygen will be equally distributed. In a frozen lake, oxygen depletion can become a problem causing what is referred to as winter kill.

Green vegetation adds oxygen to the water through a process called photosynthesis, but decaying vegetation can rob oxygen from the water. Photosynthesis requires sunlight. If a lake freezes and snow builds up on the ice, light penetration can be reduced to the point that photosynthesis no longer occurs. This reduces the oxygen, the vegetation dies and starts to decay further reducing oxygen. The ice prevents the WIND from mixing the water. This snow balling effect can become FATAL to the trout.

Another thing that can cause oxygen depletion is ALGAE BLOOM. The ALGAE can get thick enough to hamper light penetration. There are a couple of pluses with ALGAE: It is plant matter and can add oxygen, and it can also provide cover for the trout to move into the shallows and feed. The ALGAE accumulates near the surface, so use a sinking line and fish under it.

During these periods of oxygen depletion, three areas of a lake become important to the trout for survival. The first is DEPTH: The trout may go too deep for the fly fisher to reach. The other two are inlets and underwater springs. Both of these can provide cooler, more oxygenated water. The inlets are easy to see. The springs are not so easy. Look for clean, clear areas on the bottom with a lot of bubbles rising through the water column, or you can check water temperature. When I used to fish from a float tube, many times I could feel the

see **Finding Fish** p.4

### **Finding Fish** from p.3

the temperature change on my legs.

Sometimes a map of the lake will give you locations of springs.

We are entering that time of year when stillwater fishing for trout is at its BEST. The days are getting shorter, the water is cooling down, and the oxygen content is going up. Somehow, the trout seem to read this as lean times are coming and they put on the FEEDBAG, PORKING-UP for the long, lean winter. Remember most of the hatches are over for this year, so I recommend imitating some of the year round food items such as leeches, scuds, baitfish, or midges.

So get out there and catch some of those obese stillwater trout.

### **Who Owns the Rivers** – Don Daniell – Mid-South Fly Fishers Newsletter

In recent years, I've heard numerous stories from members and others describing 'harassments' they endured from property owners while walking, wading, floating or otherwise navigating along our home waters.

Though most incidents involved mild to moderate verbal chastisements, a few seemed to border on criminal assault. So recently, when one of our members described an aggressive verbal exchange at the hands of an unusually agitated and persistent resort owner, it seemed we should attempt to better understand the rights, if any, that fly fishers have regarding use of our streams and rivers.

With this understanding, hopefully we may help better educate our members and others regarding lawful use of our public waterways and the avoidance of unnecessary trespass, e.g., other than in a life or death emergency.

#### **\*\*So which rivers are owned by the public, and to what extent?\*\*\***

The U.S. Supreme Court has held that the bed and banks under all rivers, lakes, and streams that are navigable, for title purposes, are owned by the states, and held in trust for the public. Title in this context means ownership, and this public-trust ownership extends up to the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM.) Therefore, the public has the right to navigate and to exercise the incidents of navigation in a lawful manner up to the OHWM on all navigable waterways.

#### **\*\*What is a 'navigable' stream or river for title purposes?\*\*\***

As the U.S. Supreme Court says, "Rivers that are navigable in fact are navigable in law."

Federal courts have held that even those streams or rivers that are navigable only by small, non-motorized watercraft are still navigable for title purposes, even if the stream is not practically navigable for the entire year (courts have mentioned 6 months).

#### **\*\*Where is the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM)?\*\*\***

The Army Corps of Engineers defines the OHWM as "that line on the shore established by the fluctuations of water and indicated by physical characteristics such as a clear, natural line impressed on the bank, shelving, changes in the character of soil, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, the presence of litter and debris, or other appropriate means that consider the characteristics of the surrounding areas." The line should be something that ordinary people can see. In the case of rivers, such a line would be the line below which the vegetation and soil show the effects of submersion under water. On most rivers such a line is pretty obvious: below it you see water-dependent vegetation like green grass, small green bushes, tamarisk, or other plants that you don't see up on the surrounding land. And you see sand, gravel, and rock that have been washed clean by the passing of water, while above the ordinary high water line you see more dirt and soil.

#### **\*\*What to do if you are faced with an unlawful river situation?\*\*\***

Your time is likely better spent advertising the favorable court decisions that already exist and helping educate the public rather than via a court procedure. So instead of going to court, contact all the local powers that be—government agencies, politicians, landowners, and journalists. Give them a copy of this or related information and anything you can obtain from the State Lands Office, or the Natural Resources Department of the State Attorney General's Office. Notify them of the legal issues involved and the legal rights that are being violated, and emphasize that the problem needs to be corrected. Then follow up as necessary to make sure that it is.

Don't expect overnight success.

Though the law is on our side, few people may know that, so we will be well served to get as many people as possible to understand it. The chances of a court making future rulings in our favor will be greatly enhanced if we start laying the educational and political groundwork now. Stay safe and stay legal!

The information above was summarized or excerpted from the following internet sources: <http://www.adventuresports.com/river/nors/us-law-who-owns.htm>, [http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/18#\\_Toc491144225](http://www.americanwhitewater.org/archive/article/18#_Toc491144225), [www.lrl.usace.army.mil/orf/article.asp?id=1704&MyCategory=44](http://www.lrl.usace.army.mil/orf/article.asp?id=1704&MyCategory=44) PDF file.

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