

September
2011

September 7 – Members' Presentation



This month's meeting will feature a presentation by our own club members. The program will consist of fly selection, equipment matching and angling techniques for fishing small trout streams effectively. Included will be a live fly tying demonstration of patterns that work best under varying conditions; rod, reel, fly line and tippet setups for small streams and pocket water; dry dropper and nymphing setups for successful hookups, and a slide show of small Sierra streams to test your new found knowledge.

Don't miss this chance to enhance your knowledge of small stream trout fishing presented by some of the club's most experienced anglers.

Program

2011

Sep 7 Members' Presentation
Oct 12 Cajun Redfish – Peter Piconi
Nov 9 Tom Pero – The Magic Language of Fly Fishing
Dec 7 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.

7:00 - 7:30 Club business
7:30 - 9:00 Members' presentation

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** \$ _____

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I wish to help in the following programs:

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

Fond Memories by Trisha Campbell -
Kelly Creek Flycasters Newsletter

I have fond memories as a Midwesterner of taking summer vacations to Colorado with my father. One year he took me to a “pay as you catch” stocked pond where they had fly rods. I caught the bug that day and emptied my father’s wallet on fish caught. The next day we were in the sporting goods store getting outfitted with all the needed gear.

For that trip, and a few years after, I remember running up and down those mountain streams with my dad’s watchful eyes on me. Even though I was doing more playing in the water than fishing it, I remember the feeling of standing in a stream with the beautiful mountains all around, the sounds and feel of the cool water, and the smell of pines in the air. I felt this was a special place for me like none I had known before.

Though I had only fly-fished one or two more times in my life, I never forgot those times. When I decided to move to the Northwest, now nine years ago, I made it a goal to learn how to fly fish. As soon as I started, I realized what was true for me as a child was still true for me now; there is no more of a special place for me than the solitude of standing in a stream or river and looking around at the grandeur of nature.

The other day, I called my father who is now into a fairly good progression of Alzheimer’s. I was chatting with him about my plans for future fly fishing activities. He broke into a recount of those days together in Colorado with great detail and clarity. I didn’t even know he remembered those times we shared. I could tell he had a tear of happiness in his eye when he stated, “Those were some of the best memories in my life”.

The Bunyan Bug by Gene Rea - Pikes Peak Flyfishers Newsletter

Over the last couple of years, including just recently, I have been asked repeatedly about the Bunyan Bug, the venerable little stonefly depicted in “The Movie”. As this wasn’t the first time I have been asked about this particular fly pattern I decided to do a little investigation and visited hallowed antiquity to see if it really existed. To my surprise I discovered that it actually does exist! So I thought I would share with you what I learned about this old Montana favorite.

Like many urban legends, there is some

truth to at least parts of all of them. The fly supposedly was suggested by Norman Maclean (who wrote the book “A River Runs Through it”) and created by Norman Edward Lee Means, both men of Missoula, Montana. Or it could have been vise-versa. At any rate, most will agree the Bunyan Bug was designed to imitate the Salmon Fly, a very popular hatch on the Missoula (and the Gunnison River here in Colorado) at that time. The mind-set was...bigger was better.

In 1923, the Bunyan Bug was conceived, made and used for the first time. The first Bunyan Bug was a far cry from the cork body aquatic insects that are used in many parts of the United States and Canada today.

During the month of May on the Missoula, Norman Means observed hatches of a yellow and black bodied stonefly. The females are about one inch long; males, (as in all species of stone flies) are smaller and their wings are dark, translucent gray. In the latter part of May, the big orange stoneflies are starting to hatch. In some states, they are known as “willow flies,” locally, “salmonflies” with male bodies being bright orange and female bodies orange to brownish orange. The wings are a light sand color and translucent when the insects first crawl out of their shell, becoming darker with age. They live about 15 days on most given stretches of water.

Means also observed that June is a big month with many, many, hatches of stoneflies and drakes. The most prominent being the “Big Orange”, the “Yellowbelly”, the “Rusty”, and the “little yellow and black”, hatching in the order listed.

It was these big stoneflies that Means was attempting to imitate with his Bunyan Bug. He was trying to come up with a stonefly imitation that would be able to ride the turbulent white water common on the Missoula. Fishermen on the Missoula knew the biggest fish were found in the swifter, more turbulent water, but typical patterns of the day couldn’t handle the swifter water without sinking right away. Necessity is always the mother of invention – thus, the Bunyan Bug was born.

In using Bunyan Bugs, Means makes the following observation, “never pull them across the water – LET THEM

FLOAT WITH THE CURRENT (sound like a dead drift to you?). With the stoneflies, one should shake the tip of the rod back and forth, left to right, which causes the bug to dance and flutter in a lifelike manner.”

Casting Tip for TBFFC: 17 by Pat Damico - Tampa Bay Fly Fishing Club Newsletter

I notice some excellent casters stand differently when casting, is there a right stance? Your physical makeup will often dictate what stance is more comfortable for you. Placing your casting side foot back is common in saltwater casting because it allows you to use your body to assist in casting with heavier equipment and longer distances. The longer the cast, the further back your foot is placed. Much less stress is on your shoulder, elbow and wrist. Tilting your rod away from vertical and more horizontally also can be more comfortable. This position is the only one that allows you to easily watch your back cast which is most helpful in diagnosing casting problems.

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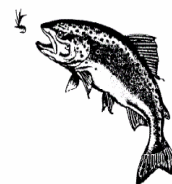


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