

Newsletter

November/December 2011

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Up-to-Date News:

Want the latest and most up to date information? Don't forget the club's web site. <http://www.ecpowellflyfishers.com/> Just copy the address and insert it into your address block and you're on the way. It's filled with the latest of what's going on and when and where to go along with lots of good and timely information.

Calendar of Events

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- Nov 1 Board Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
 - Nov 8 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
Program: **Dale Whitmore**
 - Nov 12 Annual Banquet
 - Nov 15 Fly Tying, Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
 - 6 Dec Meeting, 1055 Portola Valley Dr., Yuba City, 7 PM
 - Dec 13 General Meeting, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM
Program: **Lincoln Grey**
 - Dec 20 Fly Tying, Fly Tying, Lincrest School, MP Room, 7:00 PM



November Program

Our program speaker for the month is **Dale Whitmore** who is the Department of Fish and Game Wildlife Biologist for Yuba/Sutter Counties and who is also a Marysville City Councilman.

The presentation/discussion will be on the improvements being made at Ellis Lake in Marysville for recreation and the aesthetics of the lake.

Topics to be discussed are:

1. Water quality - 48 hours of pumping per week during the May - October period, \$5-7000.00
2. Clean up and tree trimming around the lake
3. Lake lights around Ellis Lake - \$1900.00 this year
4. Fountain operation - Help Ellis Lake Prosper (HELP) Committee
5. Kiwanis Youth Fish Derby - May 19, 2012. 1200 pounds of catfish planted.
6. Six Picnic Tables needed at North Lake
7. Fish Derby Fundraiser!

Banquet Information

As we approach the November 12th banquet, we thought it important to let you know where we are and what's in store for you when you purchase your dinner ticket.

The tickets are available from any Club Officer or Board Member. In addition, Johnson's Bait, Tackle and Fly Shop will also be selling tickets. For your money you will receive a number of opportunities. The dinner (either Steak or Chicken) is paid for from your ticket money. Also, you have the chance to win several really good prizes.

First is the "Early Bird" prize; drawn from those that purchased their tickets no later than the October general meeting. As in the past, this prize is \$40 worth of free raffle prizes. These can be used for chances at nearly 200 fishing and non-fishing related prizes. These items range from high quality fly rods, reels, float tubes, pontoon boats and a huge amount of other raffle items. The value of these tickets can exceed \$1,000 worth of raffle prizes or target raffle items.

Second is the door prize. The winning ticket is drawn from those present at the banquet. This prize has always been a very special prize such as 2 free dinners at some of our areas better restaurants. The value of these can be something near \$50-75.

Third, your ticket puts you in contention for the Grand Prize; a bamboo fly rod. This is drawn from **dinner tickets** of those at the dinner; not by someone that spends lots of money on raffle tickets. So you have the same chance as everyone at the dinner. Just ask some of the people who have won: Audrey Lingenfelter, Don Voigt and Craig Renke. Of the frequently more than 200 raffle prizes; you stand a really good chance at winning one of up to 15+ fly rods (Sage, Orvis, Powell), high quality reels (Ross, Orvis, etc), fly lines, float tube, pontoon boat and other equipment so necessary for your next outing.

Many of you choose to bring items for use in the general raffle. To that we say a huge "Thank You". It is these items that really show your support for the club and the banquet. Whether it's a dozen flies, an item purchased from one of the club's offers, anything; it's welcome and very much appreciated. If you choose to donate flies or anything, we would like to get them NLT the 1st of November. This way you are recognized in the program. If you choose not to have your name in the program, simply bring your gift to the banquet and we'll add it to the list of prizes.

So, don't wait until the last minute to decide that you really want to go. Buy your tickets early and take advantage of the many opportunities that will be available to you. The evening will be a memorable one for you as you see old friends, make new ones, and have a really good meal. You will also have a really good chance at what we, the Banquet Committee, feel are some extraordinary prizes.

Thanks and see you November 12th at the Moose Family Center on Walton Ave. starting at 6:00 PM. Dinner will be at 7:00 PM.

Larry Ingram, Craig Renke, Jeff Lingenfelter, Ken Mackey and Denis Davis



Banquet Donations

If you have something that you would like to donate to the annual banquet, please bring it to the October or November meeting or to the banquet itself.

Thanks, The Committee

Steelhead

Need I say more?

It's time to start thinking about our annual trip to the Trinity River. This year's trip starts on November 27th and runs until December 3rd, 2008.

We are staying at the Victorian Inn in Weaverville. It offers very clean rooms, daily maid service, in room phones, TV, small refrigerator, coffee maker and microwaves. A Continental breakfast is available each morning. Grocery store and other type stores are very close. You will be asked to call the hotel and give them your credit card to hold your room for the first night. Then, you pay for your room when you leave, not before.

Jim Hodges, the manager and son of the owner, himself an avid fly fisher and guide, has made a special rate available to us. A large room with two queen beds will cost \$60 Sunday to Thursday and \$70 on Friday and Saturday. . If you have a group of 5 and would like their Carriage House, it rents for \$120 Sunday to Thursday and \$130 on Friday and Saturday.

We will be able to all eat together in their conference center.

Guided trips are available from local shops in the area or from Jim, himself. Costs vary by guide but all are excellent. I have arranged for a free guided trip for 2 through the Fly Shop. The winner's names will be drawn form those signed up, at the November banquet.

If you are interested, sign up at the Sept. and October meetings or call Larry Ingram at 673-4965. When you sign up or call, please try to have the dates that you plan to arrive and leave as well as someone, if desired, to room with. Additionally, if you'd like to cook a meal for all of us, let me know.

More info to follow in the newsletter and via email to those that are signed up.

Larry

Nominations for President of the E.C. Powell Fly Fishers

On Tuesday evening I accepted the nomination for Vice President of the E.C. Powell Fly Fishers. I did so because it has been a source of irritation that there is reluctance on the part of some club members to accept the responsibility of holding an office. As a result several good people have accepted the responsibility of the office of president with little or no experience as to the clubs workings or activities. For the most part they have been successful in leading the club forward. I am grateful for these people and their willingness to accept that responsibility.

I have in writing submitted two nominees for the office Vice President of the club to the President Craig Renke in writing. Each of these fellows has been on the board of directors for a period of time and are familiar with the working of the organization and it goals and various activities.

I nominated Walt Zukas for the office of Vice President. Walt is a past president of the club and has held various offices over the years. I am not sure how many years that Walt has been a club member I am guessing close to twenty years. Walt is not only on the board of directors but is the current Fish-out Chairman. Walt is also the current Historian for the club. So you can see he is willing to be involved in the various club activities.

The second person I have to nominate is another Walt. Walt Alexander has been and is a willing volunteer for most of the Club's activities. If you read the E.C. Powell news letter you are aware of what a prolific and well organized writer Walt is. In his writings he has passed on many of his

experiences as a fly fisher, and fly tier. Walt has been a member of the board of directors for I believe two years. As a member of the board he is well acquainted with the current activities of the club and its goals.

I have made these nominations because there should be more than one person running for office. Otherwise the election is not an election but an appointment of sort. I don't believe this is in accordance with the bylaws of the club. The following is a negative statement about me. All though I am a charter member of the club and a past president twice I have not been involved in the day to day activities of the club in recent years. Whereas the two above nominates have been!

For the new members who are a result of the Introduction to Fly Fishing Class I wish to welcome you to the club. I originated those classes about eight or ten years ago. I quit doing them because my hearing has degenerated a great deal and I was not longer able to hear the questions the students were asking. It is a serious handicap and even in one on one conversation I have to guess most of the time what people are saying. If the person is soft spoken I am at a total loss. I have sought the help of people at U.C. Davis Audiology department and there is nothing that can be done to improve my hearing.

I feel this would be a serious handicap to an officer of the club. Also being vice president is a three year commitment - a year as vice president, a term as president and then a year as a member of the board of directors as a past president. I will accept the office as Vice President if I am elected but there are other people who are as well or better qualified than me. Ed Hobbs

Benefits of a Fly Fishing Class

In 1999 I retired for the second time and was concerned about what I was going to do with the rest of my life. I had the normal list of honey do's that continued to grow at a rate faster than weeds in my garden. The next year my wife asked me what I would like to do as a hobby. I must have been driving her up the wall! I informed her that I had always thought that fly fishing would be fun. She informed me that there was an advertisement in the local paper stating that EC Powell Fly Fishers were holding a class at the Yuba City Senior Center. Boy, has she regretted that! I enrolled immediately with much anticipation.

I arrived early as I always did in the Military. Within minutes Ed Hobbs pulled up in his white Suburban followed by Jack Stormer and John Davis. I had never met them before and was praying that I would fit in and would not make an ass out of myself trying something I had never done before. With in no time they had me relaxed and ready to start a new adventure that would far exceed my expectation. The next class was an introduction to the equipment that could be used in this sport. John Davis pulled up with his truck loaded down with more equipment than you would expect to see at Cabela's. I had never known anyone with more enthusiasm than John. When he began to speak his eyes light up, his grin was as big as all out doors. Within minutes he had us wishing we could start fishing right away. Then I took another look at all the fishing equipment; how would I pay for everything? How was I going to convince my wife we needed to add on to our house so I had room to store this equipment? What have I got myself into? It was not long and he told us that we did not need everything he had. If that is so, how come I now have almost that much equipment? Ed and Jack were also excited with this sport and it carried over to each of us in the class. They had each of us hooked and were reeling us in! After four weeks of class work we were off to a park with fly rods (not poles) in our hands to learn the art of fly casting. The next Saturday we went to Ellis Lake to try our newly learned skills on water. The final class was a fish out at Caribou in the Feather River Canyon. The river was running high so it was hard to fish. That did not stop Ed, Jack, John and the other volunteers from seeing to it that we all had a good time.

One of the things Jack told us was that we would learn more about fly fishing by joining the Club then we would on our own, so I became a member. How right he was! I had started to fly fish on my own with disastrous results. After about three years I started fishing with the Club; started doing the monthly raffles and became a board member.

The point I am trying to make is that this is one of the best, if not the best, club in northern California. But in order to gain the most from the Club you need to get involved. If you need help, all you need to do is let someone know. You will find you have the best fly fishing instructors with years and years of experience ready and willing to help you master this fabulous sport of fishing. We have several enthusiastic new members from the last class that need our help

and I feel sure that we will get more new members from the upcoming class in April. We all need to get to know them and offer our help and make them feel at home in this great Club.

Thanks to Ed Hobbs, Jack Stormer, and John Davis, now deceased and all the others that have help me get started in fly fishing and all the others that have continued to help me. You are the greatest! Denis Davis

EC Powel New Members for the month of October 2011:

On behalf of all of us at EC Powell, General Membership, Board and Officers, welcome to the club.

Mr. & Mrs. Rick & Sharon Frank of Yuba City Ca.

Mr. Randy Fukumoto of Yuba City Ca.

Mr. Phil Hubbard of Yuba City Ca.

Ms. Joanne Inouye of Marysville Ca.

Mr. Jim Rennie of Yuba City Ca.

These and last month's 8 listed new members are part of the alumni of our September 2011, Ed Hobbs Introduction to Fly Fishing classes. A good portion of which have been actively engaged in our third week of the month Tuesday evening fly tying experience hosted by Jeff Lingenfelter. It's a joy to have you all on-board, your presence is our pleasure.
Ken Mackey

A Banquet Experience

Want to take a few moments and acknowledge the efforts of Larry Ingram, Denis Davis and a lot of new acquaintances for me around Yuba City and Marysville area.

On the October 10 with rain pouring down, we piled in Larry's truck and headed out to contact last year's supporters of the club for gift certificates and donations. I met a lot wonderful people in our business community. For the most part all that we talked with seemed happy to spend time with us. Some couldn't help this year but still had a great attitude and nice words to exchange. Overall things are really tight out there money-wise; my hat is off to all that found a way to help out for our banquet.

We whittled on that Vendor list for the better part of 7 hours that day. Thanks to Larry for running us all over creation and returning us safely to our cars. The following Thursday Denis and I tried to pick up what we couldn't get to the first day. If there's someone in this community that these two guys don't know, it's because they moved here yesterday.

E.C. Powell has great supporters out there, next time you're in a local business acknowledge them for their support. If not for this time, for times in the past, we've probably been there and they've probably supported us at some point. The banquet is now in its 32nd year and these folks won't hear from us unless we speak up or return next year. Show some love in your travels.

Lot of loving work goes into E.C. Powell and this is an appeal for more help in the effort. Tell a friend or two about the banquet, get the news out, contact someone on the Board or an officer, find a way to get involved. We need to sell the tickets in these tough times and clock is down to less than a month and counting. Behind the club there are fires that need to be stoked. This is a great organization, but in all aspects of it there are needs that you could and can be a part of. Service to others enriches the soul when done in the right spirit, it blesses you and of course many others. Props to Craig Renke and Jeff Lingenfelter who are also toiling away on the banquet and other related club challenges. To the many that remain unnamed at this point for the donations and efforts already put forth, it's much appreciated, thanks.

Ken Mackey

Newsletters for November and December

Heads-up everyone; this will be the last newsletter you receive through December. Bob Long will be taking some time for R&R. We had the option of an alternative news service within E.C. Powell but we don't at this point have the way, will or the means to make that happen. So, November/December newsletters are combined like they were last year.

This will give you a chance to go through all those fishing pictures and knock the dust off those articles you've been dying to write that we haven't seen in time for the January edition. Hurry back Bob, we already miss our humble editor and are praying for your safe return.

Tuesday night Fly Tying

Our third Tuesday of the month fly tying class had a good turnout, which is hosted by our own Premier Fly tying instructor, Jeff Lingenfelter. Subject fly for the night, (The Psycho Prince Nymph) a favorite for the upcoming scheduled Trinity Fish out November 27th through December 3. . This prince is small, 14/16 in size with a 2x shank, bead head, with copper wire ribbing, purple or bright yellow in color for this application. It's a great searching pattern or lead fly, productive and popular with anglers. If you would like to check it out, see Jeff and/or the guys at Johnson Fly Shop. Another option, view a demo on You Tube. Type in (Prince Nymph) and enjoy another great resource for tying flies. If you haven't experienced our Tuesday night class, it's great fun and fellowship. We had the pleasure of Walt Alexander, Jim Fujii, Alex Reno and Ed Hobbs, observing and lending a hand where needed. Joanne Inouye, Ed Brown, Leo Septh, Craig Ranke and I made up the balance of the group. Treat yourself to neat evening of fly tying and come to the next session.

Annual E.C. Powell Elections

Reminder, the elections are upon us. The November 8th general meeting is the day you can honor us with your presence and cast your vote. Any member of E. C. Powell in good standing, (dues current 2011) and although you may not make the meetings you have the right participate in voting for the club officers and board. Your voice can and will be heard either at the meeting or by mail. If you elect to pass on the meeting, print out the ballot make your selections and please allow yourself enough time for the mail to be in our mail box no later than the 8th of November to be counted. Instructions are also on the accompanying ballot. We are looking forward to your participation. (See the ballot at the end of the newsletter)

Dues for 2012

Reminder, some of you have already started paying your dues for the year 2012, thank you. Everyone else, January 1st is the Due date. Two more general meetings and we will be at the New Year, time is flying.

Back in Two Months

There is a lot going on and as the days grow shorter and click off the calendar. We will end daylight savings time Nov. 6th; we have about 38+ days till Thanksgiving, 60+ days till Christmas at this printing. By the time we are back online with the letter I will be a grandpa for the first time by my daughter Casey Jo (1st baby) who resides in Sandpoint Idaho. Wishing you all the greatest and safest of holiday seasons God Bless! Ken Mackey

Stillwater Flies

In flowing water the current gives flies a life like action. In stillwater, action must be built into the fly. The best way to bring a fly to life is by using materials that breathe and pulsate in the water. Materials such as marabou, webby saddle hackles, or soft supple furs.

The next consideration our fly needs is whether it is going to be impressionistic or suggestive. I lean heavily toward the suggestive side. I have tied flies that looks almost like the organism I am trying to imitate, they are nice to look at and show off but they don't impress the fish. The best fish catching flies may have very little resemblance to any one organism but if they look alive and are presented in a life like manner the fish will eat them. In fact the more things a fly may represent, the better the odds a trout will take it.

My favorite stillwater fly is Denny Rickard's Stillwater Nymph. Here is the recipe from his book "Fly Fishing the West's Best Trophy Lakes."

Hook: Size 10-12 2x long

Weight: 6 wraps of .020 wire at the head

Tail: Burnt-orange marabou
Hackle: Grizzly Saddle hackle dyed Burnt-orange tied in tip first
Body: Olive seal fur or seal sub, marabou, or ostrich herl
Rib: Copper wire
Wing Case: Medium olive marabou tied down full length over entire body
Head: Olive when unweighted and black when weighted

In my opinion this fly could suggest a leech, a damselfly nymph, a swimmer mayfly nymph, a scud, a small baitfish, or maybe just something good to eat. This covers a lot of territory. This fly is definitely not impressionistic, but is highly suggestive.

Here is how I tie my stillwater nymph.

Hook: I tie most of my stillwater nymphs on a size 12 Mustad 9671 hooks

Thread: I usually use white ultra 70-denier thread

Weight: I tie my stillwater nymphs in 3 different weights, unweighted, lightly weighted and heavily weighed. I timed the sink rate of these 3 different weights and found that unweighted it sank at about 2 inches per second, lightly weighted has 3 wraps of .020 lead wire and sank at about 3 inches per second, heavily weighted had 6 wraps of .020 lead wire and sank at about 4 inches per second. To determine the weight I use a marking pen to color the thread used for the head, tan for unweighted, red for lightly weighted and black for heavily weighted.



Tail: I use Jay Fair's Burnt-orange marabou. I tie the tail $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 times the hook shank length and keep it sparse. I feel the extra length and sparseness gives more movement.

Hackle: I use Jay Fair's Grizzly hackle dyed Burnt-orange. To keep the hackle sparse I strip the barbs from the side that will lie against the hook and only give it 3 or 4 palmered wraps.

Body: Most organisms that trout eat have a translucency I find that Jay Fair's Seal sub dubbing does a fine job of emulating this characteristic. I normally use light or medium olive and dub it directly to the thread, trying to keep bulk to a minimum.

Rib: I use small, copper, ultra wire wrapped in an opposite direction of the hackle. The rib does 3 things, it reinforces the hackle, it gives segmentation and it adds a little flash.

Wing Case: I use light or medium olive marabou tied in tips first and folded over the top of the body. Trim the top hackle barbs before folding over the wing case.

This stillwater nymph may not look very impressive in the vise, but take it for a swim and see how it lights up. I believe that the burnt-orange/olive combination is more visible to the trout as it moves in and out of the shadows of their underwater world. I don't think there is one magic fly that works in every situation, but this fly comes closer than any other fly I have used. There are a lot of stillwater patterns, developed by a lot of tyers, using many different materials but the one material that most effective patterns have in common is the use of marabou. So whether you buy or tie, if marabou is included in the pattern you have greatly increased your odds of catching a stillwater trout.

As important as the fly is, equally important is how the fly is presented. Here is my presentation system.

What I am trying to achieve in this system is a straight line between the rod hand and the fly. The straighter this line is the more sensitive the system becomes. Any bow, sag, or coil in the line is slack that must be taken out before you can feel the take. In order to have a straight line the fly line, leader and fly must sink at the same rate. About 90 percent of my Stillwater fishing is with a Cortland Camo intermediate line. According to Cortland this line sinks at the rate of 1.25 to 1.75 inches per second, so the fly of choice for this line is an unweighted stillwater nymph that sinks at about 2 inches per second. The weak link in my system, for many years was my leader. I was using a tapered leader thinking I needed it to turn the fly over. Nylon leaders tend to float causing a bow in the line and fluorocarbon has too much memory causing coils in the line. Then I came to the realization that maybe I did not need that tapered leader. I believe that tapered leaders were designed for the dry Flyfisher to turn over that light, wind resistant dry fly. In this system we are

casting a sleek heavy fly and the fly's momentum will turn it over. So now I use a straight fluorocarbon leader about 8 or 10 feet long. This eliminates the bow and the coils. It's a little early to make a definitive statement but I do think my catch rate has taken a significant jump.

There are two other elements that must be considered for this system to work. The first is the rod position. If the rod is held above the water the line gets a sag. If the rod is held perpendicular to the line the flex must be taken out of the rod before you will feel the take. It is important that the rod is pointed straight at the fly with the tip at water level - I actually stick my tip into the water.

The second item is anchoring the line. You must maintain an anchor point on the fly line at all times. I use the index and middle fingers of my rod hand to anchor the fly line against the rod grip.

The last thing in this system is to animate the fly. This is done through the retrieve. The best retrieve I have found for the stillwater nymph is slow 2 to 4 inch strips with many pauses. I believe the pause to be the most important part of the retrieve. A large percentage of takes come on the pause. When stripping the line always make sure your line hand remains behind your rod hand, this is to make sure you maintain that anchor point. A typical stripping cadence would go something like this, strip, pause, strip, strip, pause, strip, strip, pause and so forth. I usually try to mix them up. The pauses can be anywhere between 3 and 15 seconds.

Why are the pauses so important? First, this closely imitates the action of many organisms a trout eats as they will swim for a short distance, run out of steam, stop to rest, and fall back through the water column. Second, it allows the fly to undulate up and down. Most food items undulate back and forth but this is almost impossible to imitate with a fly but the up and down seems to be close enough. Third, it allows the fly to drop back down into the strike zone. If the fly cannot be matched to the lines sink rate it is better that the fly be faster than slower. This way the strip will cause the fly to raise, a natural movement, as opposed to dive, an unnatural movement.

My best advice in using this system is keep a tight line and don't forget the pauses.

Walt Alexander

(It's with my most sincere and humble apologies that I must admit to a mistake. When Ed Brown submitted the following article, I divided it into two parts and promptly ran the Part II first; thusly, confusing many of you no doubt, along with Ed. Your very Humble Editor)

Prospecting for Gold

Part 1 of 2

I set the hook with such force that I could have lifted a yearling calf into the hay loft. This was a Salmonidae Salmo aqua Bonita and in my exuberance I wanted to make sure that my hook-set was solid. It was. For the next 5 minutes I watched the trout do aerial flips while displaying a kaleidoscope of rainbow colors; I could discern reddish/orange lateral stripes on his sides extending from head to tail, as the sun shone on his sides I could distinguish vertical bars of olive imposed over his back of olive and black dots, his lower belly flashed a golden/yellow and merged with red belly and caudal fins tipped in white. His wardrobe was complete with brilliant red gill covers. I had just hooked and landed one of the world's most spectacular fresh water fish, the official California State fresh water fish- the Golden Trout.

These unusual trout range in California from Alpine County in the north Sierra Nevada Mountains to Kern County in the south. They only survive at altitudes of between 8500-12,000 feet of elevation. Their feeding and growing seasons are short because of the altitude, ice, snow, and cold weather-- so when ice-out occurs they become voracious feeders, although they are very wary and are known as the "Uncatchables."



Golden's primarily feed on aquatic insects along with terrestrials, but they also feed on zooplankton, algae and

organic material. For the fly fisherman the important insects they eat are mosquito larva, mayflies, caddis flies, midges, leeches, small shrimp, ants and scuds.

This trip started in late July because of the heavy snow pack and slow melt and we went south down Highway 395 towards golden trout country and our first stop would be at Lee Vining. We, meaning my two fishing buddies Abe and Bob, both fly fishing aficionados, Abe the oracle and Bob the pragmatist (called Nitty-Gritty Bob). Abe believes the first rule of fly fishing is, there is no rule and secondly; only flies that work under certain conditions are correct. Bob is a paradigm of fishing ethics on any fly fishing trip. Me, I just sit back and continue to learn from these two characters. Abe did make a statement that made Bob and I frown in wonderment. Abe said "You know fellows; I dislike the idea of fly fishing for stocked fish in artificial lakes." Bob and I were left wondering where he normally goes fly fishing. Are there any natural lakes in California where you can catch native or wild trout exclusively?

Our first stop was at 10,000 feet; the Saddlebag Lake general store, where we boarded the water taxi for a short 15 minute commute across Saddlebag Lake. Once on shore we made a short hike of a quarter of a mile to Greenstone Lake our destination. This is a beautiful spot for a day trip and is an easy hike. We rigged up with 7 foot 4-weight rods, 7.5 feet of 5X tapered leader and long tippets of 8 feet. All of us had dry flies, such as Parachute Adams #16, PMD's, BWO's, Tricos in sizes 18-20, plus beetles and ants in varying sizes and colors. Stockers from Saddlebag Lake have made their way up the connecting creek to Greenstone Lake and we caught rainbows up to 15 inches, but not one California Golden Trout. What a letdown! After lunch, we headed up the connecting creek from Conness Lake above; this is a divergent series of braided feeder creeks that I have never seen the likes of before; by fishing the alluvial fans below the outlet of Conness Lake we had a great time catching brookies up to 12 inches. There are many green rocks around Greenstone Lake, thus the name. Micro climates exist around these high altitude lakes that are affected by the altitude, elevation, latitude and exposure, but our one day trip was sunny and warm. The water taxi ride and the short hike to Greenstone Lake were to be a prelude of what was to come.

Our next jump off place was to be the town of Mammoth Lakes. Both Abe and Bob are going to attempt to complete their "Grand Slam," of California trout and the California Golden Trout is the last one left to complete their slam. Rumors are that the Thousand Island Lake-nearby Shadow Lake and Upper Soda Springs is the place to garner all of the species of trout for the slam in one trip. This didn't impress Abe or Bob because all they needed was two California Golden Trout—one for each of them. Road 203 near Mammoth Lakes will take you to the campsites and the trail head to Thousand Island Lake. Both Shadow Lake and Upper Soda Spring can be reached in a day's hike, but Thousand Island Lake and the John Muir Bridge areas take a 3 day trip to complete. We opted for Upper Soda Spring; because that's where the golden's are.

All of us carried a full complement of Parachute Adams, BWO'S, Prince Nymphs, Hares Ears, Pheasant Tail Nymphs and ants. Bob started out great, he yelled at me "Hey! Brownie I've just been spooled," not unexpected when he was using a 3 weight pack rod and light 7X tippet and the trout was a 14 inch rainbow. Abe and I also enjoyed some success with bright; wild, six-to eight-inch rainbows. Additionally, I was panting like I just run a 3 minute mile. I could hear Abe chanting "Bugs, bugs, I want bugs," and I believe this thin air is affecting his judgment. We are not here to catch bugs I thought, we were fly fishermen, looking for goldens.

Bob was elated as he brought his next fish to net, he murmured softly "I got one, I got one." Abe and I rushed over to give Bob a hand and observe the first golden; this fish didn't have the kaleidoscope of rainbow colors I was expecting to see, instead it had a slight pinkish color on its sides, then I remembered there was a golden trout hybrid that is 50/50



golden and rainbow and believed to be a silver phase of the goldens, but this proved not to be true. They are rainbow/golden hybrids that the rainbow genetics have overwhelmed the golden's characteristics. I explained to Bob that there are two separate species of the California Golden Trout; one is the *Salmo roosevelti* (Volcano Creek) and the *Salmonidae Salmo aqua Bonita* (Kern River Golden).

These two separate species have interbred and are hybrids, 50/50 rainbow and golden trout. Then these hybrids have bred within their own species and created

their own unique strain and this is what he is looking at; needless to say Bob is not very happy, but Nitty-Gritty Bob is undaunted and he said "Let's go find a real California Golden Trout boys. " so back down the mountain we went and on to our next destination.

Heading south down Highway 395 we passed Hot Creek and Crowley Lake, then as we approached Tom's Place we turned right (west) and headed for Treasure Lake and Little Valley Lakes. Eleven miles from Tom's Place to Mosquito Flat puts you at the highest parking lot in California at 10,200 feet in elevation.

Little Valley Lakes is a classic u-shaped glacial scour. The glaciers left lateral moraines, which are masses of rocks with deep depressions that became a myriad of lakes in an antediluvian setting. There are fourteen lakes in the valley with three Treasure Lakes and Mills Lake further up the valley. The three Treasure Lakes contain golden trout and Mills Lake is the natal home of the California Golden Trout. The valley lakes are all within a 5 mile easy hike and are a favorite for family hiking. July is the preferred time for family hiking and picnics in this valley, so be prepared for lots of foot traffic. There is very little elevation change from Little Valley Lakes up to the three Treasure Lakes and Mills Lake; so we pushed right on through Little Valley as we were intent on reaching golden country. The only information we had was that there are golden trout in the highest of the three lakes and in Mill Lake. The access trail is the vestige of an old mining road (Pine Creek Tungsten Mine) and is now within the John Muir Wilderness Area.

We arrived at the first lake in good shape (for old codgers) and rigged up with light 3 weight rods and light terminal tackle; our flies consisted of mostly dries such as BWO's, Adams Parachutes, Humpies, Royal Wulffs, hoppers and ants. The three of us split-up and went our separate ways around this first lake, but .stayed within hailing distance. We allowed ourselves 2 hours to fish this lake before moving on to the next lake above us. Abe and Bob hooked and landed some nice rainbows, but I got skunked (not unusual).

The second lake proved to be similar to the first one in size and environment, but this lake surface was spotted with concentric circles spread across its entire surface—indicating that trout are gently taking mayfly duns on or just below the surface film and the three of us wasted no time in getting rigged and shaking out a line. No hyperbole here; these fish are nice and plenty of them, they are of decent size and scrappy to boot. There's nothing prosaic about this lake, there was plenty of action to keep all three of us busy for two hours until we had to move on to the third lake.

Lake number three turned out to be a clone of the previous two, but still no goldens. We fished for over an hour, caught some nice bows, but became anxious to move up to the last lake above us, which is Mills Lake (home of the golden trout). After lunch we climbed the remainder of the way to Mills Lake, which sits above 12,900 feet. There is no formal trail to the lake so we followed the creek up the mountain to the lake, this was the most difficult climb to date, with the thin air, large boulders and brush we found ourselves taxed to our limits. Finally we arrived at Mills Lake and prepared for an afternoon of good fishing. Anticipation ran high; even the pica's and the marmots were voicing their opinions; however, I think they were advising us to leave their sanctuary.

All three of us fished together in a tight group. No, we were not expecting trouble, but we wanted to be close at hand when one of our guys caught his first California Golden Trout.

Abe was the first to hookup, so Bob and I reeled in our lines; we didn't want any distractions while watching this spectacle unfolding before us and what a show it was. Abe was literally foaming at the mouth; he couldn't quit jabbering as he gave us a running commentary on his every move. There was no doubt that the fish on the end of his wand was a California Golden Trout, because Abe described every nuance of color in minute detail. Bob and I felt that Abe was playing the golden far too long which would decrease the golden's chance for survival when released, but our fears were allayed when Abe finally netted the golden and spent the next 10 minutes swimming the little golden around in circles, this activity made Bob and I dizzy just watching, so we left to continue our own quest for goldens.



I caught the second California Golden Trout which I described in my opening paragraph; albeit, I did handle my golden a little rough at first, the end result was satisfactory, the barb less hook I removed did no harm to the golden and I'm sure he was thankful when I very carefully released him. Bob caught his first California Golden Trout late in the afternoon and the whole event was rather anticlimactic. Abe and I watched Bob greyhound that little golden across the water's surface as rapidly as he could (that's Bobs way). Meanwhile, Abe and I stood on the bank offering our sage advice (isn't it funny, when one performs a specific feat once, he suddenly becomes an expert on that one feat) because we had already caught our California Golden Trout and now offered our comments to the novice. After all our kibitzing, Nitty-Gritty Bob ignored us.

All of us, Abe, Bob and me had all caught the coveted California Golden Trout. The "Grand Slam" for Abe and Bob attained. Now, we could relax and enjoy the rest of our fishing expedition in a relatively relaxed manner. Below us lie 8 lakes that we passed up on our way to golden country: Gem, Chicken Foot, Long, Hidden, Box, Heart, Marsh and Mack Lakes. There wasn't time to fish all 8 lakes so we chose three and not in any particular order, other than one sounded intriguing, Chicken Foot. Box Lake is connected by a marsh to Hidden Lake above it. Chicken Foot Lake lies at 10,760 feet and contains mostly brook trout, some bows and browns; dry flies worked well on all three species. Box Lake is approximately a mile off the main trail; we passed up the lake itself and fished the creek connecting Box Lake to Hidden Lake, which had lots of pocket water with swift moving water that goldens prefer. No goldens were caught in these three areas, but many brook trout and rainbows were. The scenery is outstanding and I considered the trout a bonus.

Ed Brown

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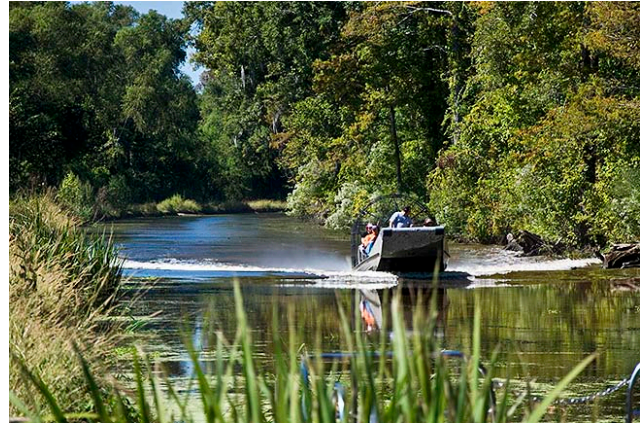
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NEW ORLEANS – REDFISH and the BILOXI MARSH

When some one talks about going to Louisiana and New Orleans most folk immediately think French Quarter, Bourbon St., Cajun cooking, and swamp. Well, last week we saw all of that and a whole lot more.



For some time now my fishing buddy, Jim May, and I have been talking about going Redfishing in the gulf and when our wives caught wind of this they too decided we should make a vacation of it and include them. So, last week, off we went. The girls planned quilt shops and plantation tours while Jim and I get a few days on the water.

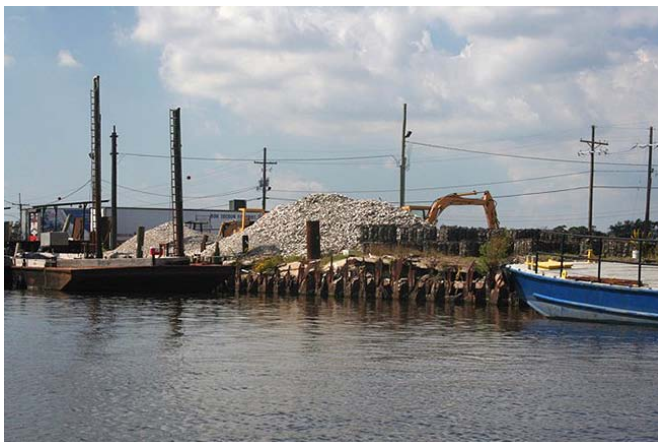
We booked our guide, Capt. Greg Moon, through Uptown Anglers, New Orleans only fly shop and agreed we'd be fishing the Biloxi Marsh area out of Hopedale for the next couple of days.



Greg picked us up early at our hotel and promptly headed south to our first stop along the way,,,,,, Penny's Café. Penny's is where all the local guides and good ol' boys swap stories and lies about the previous days fishing. We load up on breakfast and get a few Po'Boys for lunch and continue on to Hopedale and the Breton Sound Marina where we launch.



At first glance, except for the shrimp boats and mountains of oyster shells, this looks just like our own delta here at home. Quiet bayous (sloughs), lots of trees and foliage right to the water's edge, and animal life everywhere. All of this was about to soon change though.



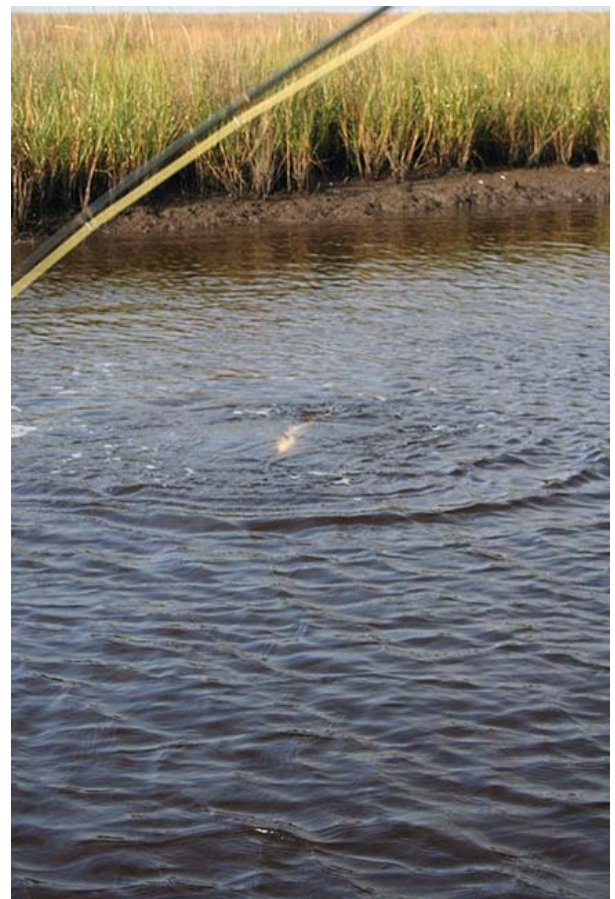
As we motored south toward the gulf we make a sharp turn through a small cut which opens into a vast open body of marsh pot marked with thousands of small grassy islands and channels of water some only a few inches deep. For as far as you can see in every direction all there is are patches of grass, oyster beds, and small ponds of water,,,,,,,,, no landmarks of any kind. This is definitely GPS country.



Greg is weaving through slots and channels barely a foot deep as we head outward farther into the marsh. Finally we get to our first spot and begin poling and looking for signs of fish cruising and feeding in the shallows. All fishing here is totally sight casting and we strain to see tips of fins or small wakes of moving fish. Soon enough I spot movement and immediately blow my first shot. The water erupts with laid up fish we hadn't seen. Jim's turn next and he hooks up right away. Greg yells for me to cast short at 12:00 o'clock. Twenty feet! Geez, barely at the end of my pole and I can't see them from the glare. Luckily I get the grab and I'm on. My first red hook-up!



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Because of the murky water it's critical that you place your fly within a foot or two of the fish's head in order to get their attention.



I spot another bigger fish and make my cast only to get ignored. "Cast again closer" Greg yells. This time I get his attention and a good grab but fail to get a good strip set and he shakes loose after several quick runs around the boat.



We decide to move as the wind comes up and cross another open bay looking for quieter water. As we move the boat's push pole comes loose at speed and snaps in half as it hits the bottom. Damn! This ends our day and we're just getting started. Greg's not happy either as carbon fiber push poles don't come cheap. Fortunately he has a back up at home for the next day.

The following morning is clear and calm and we head farther south and west bordering the gulf's open water and the many oil rigs farther out to sea. There is some deeper water here that allows bigger fish to come onto the flats and hopefully to our flies. Several state and world records have come from right here Greg tells us.

And soon enough I spot what appears to be at least a 25lber. coming straight for the boat. I make one quick cast and the big red turns tail across the flat. I choke for a moment and try to regain composure but this fish was definitely a lot bigger than what we'd been seeing.



We continue on working small creeks between the grass islands picking fish up to 8 lbs. as we go but still looking for that BIG one Greg promised. This is definitely hunting first to find your fish and then the casting. We end our day with a nice double and decide to call it quits as the tide has topped out and the fish are totally laid up.



On the way back to the marina we pass a small gator sunning himself. What an incredible place. I know I'll be going back soon,

TONY BUZOLICH



Election Ballot For 2012

November is the month for our annual election of officers and board members. At last October's general meeting the nominations indicated below was made. **Please remember to vote.** A space is provided for a "write-in" candidate in all offices. Please either mail in your ballot or bring it to the meeting. This is your chance to have a say in who is going to make most of the decisions about our club and what we will do during the year 2011.

Election Ballot: 2012 Officers and Board Members

Please place an 'X' in the appropriate box.

President:

Ken Mackey _____ ()
_____ ()

Vice President:

Ed Hobbs _____ ()
_____ ()

Secretary:

Alex Reyno _____ ()
_____ ()

Treasurer:

Doug Fujii _____ ()
_____ ()

Board Members: (vote for 2] Tony Buzolich _____ ()

Larry Ingram _____ () Ron Battles _____ ()

Ed Brown _____ () _____ ()

Please bring this ballot to the November 9th meeting or mail it to: E.C. Powell Fly Fishers, P.O. Box 1135, Yuba City, CA 95992. If you mail the ballot, it must be received not later than **November 8th**.

Additional ballots will be available at the meeting for those who forget theirs.