

FLY LINES & FISH TALES



March, 2013

[General Membership Meeting \(Tracy Fly Fishers\)](#)

Our next meeting of the Tracy Fly Fishers will be on Wednesday, March 20.

Meeting location is the Transit Station at 50 E. Sixth St.

Meeting starts at 7:00.

Our guest speaker for February will be Gary Howard .

Bring a friend or neighbor you might be surprised at the results!

Prez says:

With Spring rapidly coming on and pushing Winter out of the way, fishing opportunities should really start popping. Black bass and panfish are staging in preparation for the Spring spawn. Striper fishing should start improving with warmer water temperatures on the Delta and rainbow trout are on the bite at all of the local impoundments. I hope you all get a chance to enjoy the good weather and wet a line.

The Sandy Leo Trout in the Classroom program is in full swing. Rod Buchanan, with the help of club volunteers, has done a stellar job with the program and Tracy Flyfishers along with Sunrise Rotary is supporting tanks in five

classrooms around Tracy. The trout eggs have hatched and the alevins (tiny trout larva with yolk sacs) are starting to move out of the gravel. The students are learning about the life cycle of the trout and the environmental conditions that are required to support a good population of trout.

The trout will be released on Thursday, March 14 at Shadow Cliffs in Pleasanton. The release this year will be a big event. About 300 students from classrooms throughout the area will be releasing their trout on this day. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife will have their large rolling aquarium on hand so students can observe adult fish. Tracy Flyfisher volunteers will be on

hand to demonstrate fly tying, knot tying and casting to groups of students and assist in the release. This is all the culmination of Rod's time, hard work and efforts with the assistance of club members to make this program successful in Tracy. Rod hopes to expand the number of classrooms in the project in coming years. Hope to see you all at the next meeting March 20th.

-Steve



February's Guest Speaker:

My Golden Trout Experience

When I was eight or nine years old a neighbor taught me how to tie flies. My Dad's favorite place to fish was in the High Sierras for Golden Trout. Every summer we would backpack to our favorite Golden Trout stream. I caught Golden Trout on my Gray Hackle Yellow on those trips. My Dad did not fly fish, so I lost interest in fly-fishing until the late 1970's when I was a Scoutmaster of a Boy Scout Troop. California Fly Fishers Unlimited came to my troop and taught the Scouts fly-fishing. The Scouts learned to tie flies, cast, and they even made a fly rod. That summer I started taking the Scouts on the Tahoe Yosemite Trail. It took us three years to complete the hike from Meeks Bay to Yosemite Valley floor.

This is what really got me back into fly-fishing. The Scouts took their fly rods and caught fish with flies they tied at almost every camp along the trail. Like I said it took us three years to travel over 200 miles of the trail. After I gave up being Scoutmaster, I continued these hikes of 50 to 80 miles each summer until I reached Horseshoe Meadow which is twenty miles South of Whitney. I have been over Whitney twice and fly-fished all the lakes and streams on the trail, and many side trips. I have hiked over 1000 miles of our High Sierra trails Meeks Bay to Horseshoe Meadow, Desolation Wilderness, Marble Mountains, Grouse Ridge.

When I retired in 1996 I joined California Fly Fishers Unlimited. I have chaired most all of the clubs committees and have been President and now I am Chairman of the Youth Programs for CFFU. I tie all my flies. I can no longer carry a pack, so my backpacking days are done. I now organize horse trips to the High Sierras for the club and my friends. I have a new hobby of making slide shows of the trips I take each summer. My presentation will be two of these slide shows.

The first show is the Upper Kern. In 2004 we went on a trip sponsored by Fish and Game, FFF, Trout

Unlimited, and Cal Trout. The objective of the trip was to collect DNA samples of Golden Trout in the Upper Kern. We tried to get 40 DNA samples from each of about 20 different locations. The testing of these samples told us that every Golden Trout planted by the Fish and Game since 1935 was crossed with Rainbow trout. This is a tough trip. You park your car at Symmes Creek Trailhead, (5,600 feet) hike 10 miles to Shepard Pass (12,600 feet), and then another 5 miles to the basin.

The second show is of Cottonwood Basin Lakes. This is the place that the Fish and Game takes eggs and sperm from netted fish and hatch them in their hatcheries. These are the Golden Trout that have been planted throughout the Sierras since 1935. It is not a tough trip into the Cottonwood Lakes basin. This is a trip you can do. You can park your car at 10,000 feet and hike to 11,200 feet in two hours to Cottonwood Basin. There you have a choice of ten lakes to catch Golden Trout.

Gary Howard



Events and Outings:

Last month's Fly Fishing show in Pleasanton had a good representation from the TFF, tying and just visiting and supporting others.



Rick Clemens with none other than Gary Berger



Steve never gets tired of sharing his great tying skills with others



Ben, doing his thing, sharing his love for the sport with others.

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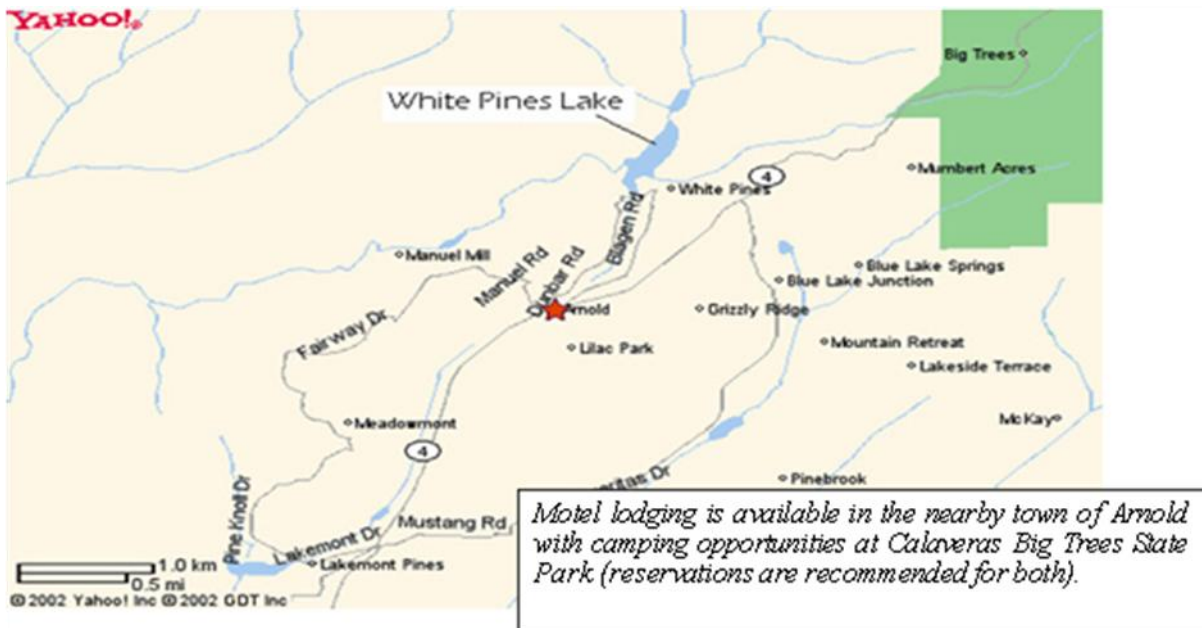
TFF Club Outings For 2013:

We have a great line up of outings planned for this year:

- 1) Season Opener at White Pines Lake on 4/27. (see below for map and details)
- 2) Fishing at Eagle Lake Bass Pond on 5/18.
- 3) Davis Lake June 21 – 23.
- 4) North Fork of the Stanislaus River in July.
- 5) Alpine Lake Sept 27 – 29.
- 6) Davis Lake Oct 18 – 20.
- 7) Feather River in November.

Great unplanned outings also result from joining us at the monthly general meetings and just talking to other members about common interests and the opportunity to get in some fishing and share gas expenses.

White Pines Lake (Arnold) details:



Directions:

Traveling eastbound on HWY4 to the town of Arnold, make a left hand turn onto Blagen Rd and follow it to the White Pines Lake day use/picnic area (approx. 1 mile from HWY 4).

Suggested Gear:

- 9 foot, 4,5 or 6 wt. fly rod with floating and clear intermediate (sly) lines
- Subsurface flies: Woolly Buggers and Wiggle Tails in olive and brown or rust. Olive damsel nymphs.
- Wet Hare's Ear or PT nymphs as trailers.
- Dry flies: Quigley Cripple, Adams, Elk Hair Caddis, Humpy's and Stimulators
- Float Tube, fins and waders. Personal Floatation Device is also recommended

Education:

Rick and Stan have put together a great program for 2013.

Golden Trout Award is back.

Be recognized as a TFF Golden Trout recipient upon completion of selected tasks in some of the following categories: Literature (reading), Conservation, Entomology, Outing participation, contribute to club events, Casting, Knots, Fly Tying, Rod Building and Membership Drive.
More details to follow!

Introduction to Fly Tying. March 5th thru April 9th, Tuesday nights from 7:00 – 9:00.



Mike and Jim getting into it in the first session.



Rudy and Corey getting into it too.

Parks and Rec “Adventures in Fly Fishing- Introduction” will take place on April 6th.

<http://stareg.ci.tracy.ca.us/stareg/Activities/ActivitiesDetails.asp?ProcessWait=N&aid=1354>

Entomology. April 13th at 2 mile Bar.

Rod Building. June (3 days) exact date tbd.

Casting in the Park with Chuck will be back **starting March 13th.** Monthly fly casting instruction with the master.

The Tracy Fly Fishers' Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Safeway grocery store's Community Room at 1801 W. 11th Street. The next board meeting will be held on April 3, 2013, at 7:00 pm. The Board meetings are open to all TFF members. Stop by and see what goes on “behind the scenes” of your club!

Wish to make a difference locally? The Delta is our backyard. Check out the CSPA website and sign up for their action alerts at:
CSPA.CaliforniaSportfishingProtectionAlliance or www.calsport.org/

Conservation: (Hopefully this effort also helps us get to the source of the mercury problem.)

Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Project Summary

The Central Valley Water Board has established the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program (Delta MERP) to reduce the consumption of mercury contaminated fish. While fish is an important part of a healthy diet, fish from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta contain mercury that can be harmful to one's health. A health advisory for the Delta recommends limiting the types and amounts of fish consumed as a means to limit exposure to mercury.

The Delta MERP is currently in its planning phase. Central Valley Water Board staff is developing a work plan to reduce exposure to mercury from Delta fish. The program will be funded by wastewater dischargers, State and federal agencies with jurisdiction over waterways, and farmers and land managers in the Delta. The Water Board is currently meeting with these agencies to establish their contributions to the Delta MERP, which will determine the overall size of the program.

The primary goals of the Delta MERP are to:

- Involve local organizations that serve Delta fish consumers and their families (such as Tribes, community-based groups, and county health departments) in the design and implementation of the exposure reduction program;
- Develop and implement community-based activities to reduce mercury exposure from Delta fish
- Raise awareness and understanding of fish contamination issues among fishing populations; and
- Provide information and tools that encourage consumers to change their fishing behaviors in ways that reduce their exposures.

As a part of the planning process, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) is meeting with some of these organizations to learn more about fishing populations, the organizations that serve them, and explore possible approaches for reducing mercury exposure among affected populations. CDPH hopes to incorporate the ideas and suggestions from these meeting into the Delta MERP work plan.

Timeline for the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program

- February and March, 2013: CDPH meets with local organizations to solicit input on the Delta MERP work plan.
- October, 2013: The MERP work plan, including specific implementation tasks, budget, and funding commitments are complete.
- Early 2014: The Delta MERP begins work on a 5-to-6 year plan in the Delta.

CDPH and the Central Valley Water Board invites community-based organizations, Tribes, fish consumers, fishermen, fishing organizations, and other community representatives with an interest in reducing exposure to mercury in fish to participate in the Delta MERP. For more information about the Delta Mercury Exposure Reduction Program, please contact Janis Cooke at Janis.Cooke@waterboards.ca.gov (916) 464-4672.

For more information about the Mercury Exposure Reduction Project visit:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/rwqcb5/water_issues/tmdl/central_valley_projects/delta_hg/hg_exposure_reduction/index.shtml

For more information about fish advisories in the Delta visit: http://oehha.ca.gov/fish/so_cal/srnd041108.html or http://oehha.ca.gov/fish/so_cal/centralsouthdelta.html

Used Fly line:

I am a Preschool Special Ed teacher and the floating fly line comes in handy for many projects that preschool children make: necklaces, lacing, hanging art, fishing poles.....I would be happy to collect it and give it away to other preschool teachers. Dave or I attend the meetings pretty regularly; we could have the members bring it to the meetings?

Thanks for the consideration.

-Cathy Hiromoto

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Our next meeting will be on March 20, 2013, at the Tracy Transit Station, at 7:00 pm.