

# FLY Lines & Fish Tales



SEPTEMBER 2015

Our next Meeting on **September 16th**, at the Tracy Transit Station 7 to 9 pm. Guest speaker will be Leo Gutterres.

Leo has been fly fishing since the mid 60's. Leo started out fishing for trout and eventually graduated to black bass and shad. And of the two, bass became his passion, if you don't count tarpon. He's fished for largemouth bass on all kinds of water from farm ponds to exotic locations such as El Salto in Mexico.

In the early 70's, Leo fished Clear Lake for bass and was fortunate to meet the famous "Lucky Lloyd Eiserman" the Prince of Clear Lake. Mr. Eiserman was unable to guide Leo for the day, but agreed to meet at his trailer home after dinner for a popper making session. Leo spent the next 6 hours gleaning all the information that Lucky Lloyd graciously passed on to him. From how to choose the hardest balsa, how to make a jig to score the centerline, the different types of solutions for

dipping the poppers for a clear hard body and the different types of paints and painting schemes. A short stint as a commercial balsa wood popper tier convinced Leo that the time vested would not prove profitable as a new career path.

Leo has spent the last 35+ years trying to pass this information along to anyone who is interested in this craft. He has been tying for the NCCFFF for many years and has even provided popper making classes to many of the fly fishing clubs in Northern California including TFF. The ornate wooden poppers that you see at our annual crab dinner come by way of Leo's instruction to those individuals. Anyone using furred or twisted leaders would be surprised to know that Leo came up with idea during his tarpon days providing added stretch when fighting large tarpon off the Yucatan Peninsula.

Come join us for another unforgettable session with Leo and don't forget to bring your notebook.

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## TFF Activity Calendar

Casting instruction with Chuck Robbins, but you have to call him

**September 16** Club meeting at the Tracy Transit Station. 7 pm start time.

October 7 Board meeting- all are invited

November 7th, 2015 - Striperfest, to be held again at the Sugar Barge

January 23, 2016 Annual Carb Feed

February 17, 2016 Club starts meeting at the Council Chambers at 333 Civic Center

## Hidden Talent Sought

Would you want to see your talents added to the newsletter? Do you recall an incident that you could put to pen or just have incriminating photos of nekkid fish out of water or fishout report? Budding writers & photographers can send their submissions to: [craigittings@sbcglobal.net](mailto:craigittings@sbcglobal.net)



Prez sez:

As the summer comes to an end, I hope we still have time to get out to the rivers and lakes and do a little more fishing. Bass fishing is still alive and the Stripers fishing from what I hear is coming on strong.

This month club meeting is going to be great. One of the Gods of Balsa Wood Poppers, Leo Gutierrez is coming to join us! Don't miss out on a great evening as we watch Leo teach us about Balsa wood poppers and how to fish them.

Leo taught me fourteen years ago and still to this day I follow these methods. Nothing is more relaxing than carving a popper from a piece of balsa wood, painting it the color you want, and watching a big bass explode out of the water to eat it!

That's what fly fishing is all about. Enjoying what type of fishing makes you happy.

As the year starts to wind down I hope all of our members get out and enjoy the beautiful weather we have. Hiking or camping, just go have fun.

See you all at the meeting!

Chuck

**What?** We lost our lease at the Tracy Transit Station after the December meeting? Say it ain't so! We have to thank Pat Ferguson for the rescue. We will have a new meeting place- City Hall Council Chambers, located at 333 Civic Center Dr, beginning with the Feb. 17, 2016 Club Meeting.

## TFF Educational Opportunities

Think casting does not play an important role in catching fish? This [video](#) might prove otherwise. If you have not taken advantage of Chuck Robbins' offer, you can now.

Casting instruction is available at Dr. Powers Park with Chuck Robbins on the second Wednesday. The club's only Certified Casting Instructor, provides instruction, from basic introduction to improving your loops and double haul, for any and all that seek him out. If you are interested in improving your casting skills, Chuck will be more than happy to assist. Contact him at 209 835-7812 or his cell # at 209 471-5931. Want to become a better caster? You never know when it might come in handy. Contact Chuck Robbins after seeing this [piece of marketing genius](#). He can get you there, minus the airfare, with your casting skills.

Jeff Fadden

## TFF Outings

September 19-26— Pit River Trip

Oct. 5th thru 8th Manzanita Lake Jeff says that this is the last week that the cabins are available near the lake. It should also be a good time of the year for fishing. Jeff will have more information at upcoming meetings.

Jeff asks if there are any members that would like to be a fishmeister for any of the streams and lakes nearby. I'm specifically looking for someone for the Clarks Fork, Stanislaus area or any of the lower rivers near us, if there is water.

The [Tracy Fly Fishers](#) meet on the third Wednesday of each month at the Tracy Transit Station located at 50 Sixth St. Club Meetings normally begin at 7 p.m.

The Tracy Fly Fishers' Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Safeway grocery store's Community Room (behind the Floral Dept.) at 1801 W. 11th Street. The Board meetings are open to all TFF members. Board Meetings begin at 7 p.m. Stop by and see what goes on "behind the scenes" of your club! Make your concerns known.

Wish to make a difference locally? The Delta is our backyard. Check out the CSPA website and sign up for their action alerts at: [California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, CSPA](#) This is a clickable link for folks reading this at their computer.

## Nekkid Fish Page- No submissions this month

"Some men would rather be photographed with their fish than with their wives."

Gwen Cooper and Evelyn Haas

### Jeff Fadden reports:

The Pit River Trip, Sept 20 thru 26, is coming up fast. We have 3 cabins reserved. There is still room for any last minute sign ups. The cabins are fully furnished and each has 5 beds. Dan has his cabin all lined up and there's 6 signed up so far for the other two cabins. Remember, this is not just a river fishing trip as there's the beautiful Iron Canyon Reservoir that we go to as well. It is about 20 minute drive from the cabins that is perfect for float tubing with lots of nice rainbows and some BIG BROWNS!

### Also:

The Manzanita Lake Trip is Oct 5th thru 8th This is a Monday thru Thursday. I have a cabin for my fishing with a buddy group and last checked there's still cabins left for those dates if anyone else wants to come up Cabins are \$95 a night and there's cabins with 4 beds, one room double bed and even an 8 bed bunk one. The cabins are simple. Mainly just for sleeping and heat. No electricity or water. They are right next to the lake which makes it nice. The showers and store are close by.

Here is their website: [MANZANITA LAKE CAMPING CABINS, CA](http://MANZANITA LAKE CAMPING CABINS, CA)



**A 700-FOOT DAM ABOVE BRISTOL BAY THAT'S SUPPOSED TO HOLD BACK TEN BILLION TONS OF CONTAMINATED MINING WASTE FOR ALL ETERNITY – DESIGNED BY THE SAME COMPANY WHOSE DAM JUST CATASTROPHICALLY FAILED IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.**

**WHAT COULD GO WRONG?**



# Where did all the water go???

"Conservation is fair and honest dealing with the future, usually at some cost to the immediate present."  
(Roderick Haig-Brown, taken from *Measure of the Year*, 1950)

A person who won't read has no advantage over one who can't read.  
Mark Twain

**Putah Creek Wildlife Area is Closed to All Public Access Due to Wragg Fire.** The closure affects all public uses including, but not limited to, hunting, fishing, hiking and nature viewing. The closure is intended to allow the landscape and wildlife to recover, minimize erosion, and ensure public safety. As a result of the fire, potential hazards such as loose rocks and falling tree branches exist in the area. CDFW will reassess the Putah Creek Wildlife Area in spring 2016 to determine if it is suitable for public access. This comes by way of Steve Karr/Putah Creek Trout.

As one surveys their neighborhood, lawns are noticeably stressed if not dead from lack of rain and voluntary cutbacks in landscape watering. Understandably, farmers want more water for their crops by any means possible. Even pumping water from deep aquifers in dry years has helped, but at what cost to the long term scenario? Sadly it is weather that dictates our sustainability, but what advantage is provided to our forests during times of drought. Water wars do not include those without voices or funds to press their agenda, fish, the forests- just to name a few. Everything else is the downstream mentality of how do I get my share and at what price? Nate Stephenson's startling comment, "On a 2 1/2-acre plot, 50 trees — a mix of sugar and ponderosa pine, incense cedar, white fir and oak — died in 2010. This year, 490 trees have died." caught my eye in this [article](#).

The Washington Post even jumps in with "[More than 12 million trees killed by California drought](#)". This is National forest trees, not almonds.

Does this bode well for our drought fix? "[Worst El Nino in thirty years](#)" headlines for South America's Chile and Argentina crops as winter arrives in the Southern hemisphere with a vengeance. In Chile, heavy rains in the past week have flooded streets and caused power cuts along the length of the country. Historical weather cycles indicate a possible wet winter is in store for drought stricken south western US.

[Records:California plans taking land for huge water tunnels](#) by Ellen Knickmeyer

LA Times op ed on [Animas River spill and myth of mining safety](#) by Joel Reynolds is a good read.

"When Dams Come Down, Salmon and Sand Can Prosper" is a New York Times [article](#) on the Olympic Peninsula's Elwha River recovery in Washington state.

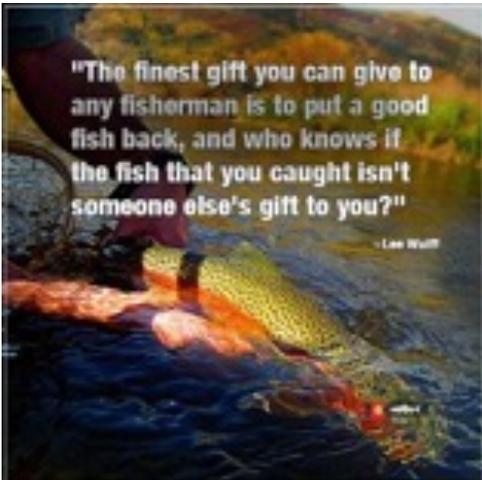
If you are EPA, an agency of the Federal Government, the treatment of a river spill provides unparalleled consequences. This [article](#) compares the spill near Durango to one in Virginia last year.

With the length of this drought, folks forget what too much water can lead to as, "[California's Katrina could be coming to Sacramento](#)" suggests.

Tracy Press reports, "[Normal flows resume in Delta Mendota Canal](#)".

The Miami Herald rings in with, "[A fight between farmers and tribes over Northern California water](#)".

Here is [a different perspective](#) on drought concerns as aquifer is drawn down salt intrusion becomes an issue in Salinas Valley.



You do not cease to fish because you get old.  
You get old because you cease to fish!