

The Barbless Hook



April 2011

The Silent Auction returns at the April meeting. Don't miss it!

President's Message – Tom Vargas

Our annual auction will be conducted at the April 7th meeting. This is the most important fundraiser for our club and I hope all of you will dust off your wallets and attend. Bob McCollum has put together some terrific offerings including opportunities for great deals on gear, flies, buddy trips and even a few cabin rentals. Thanks to everyone who has contributed to make this event a success.

Following up on our presentation at the March meeting on fishing Lake Del Valle, our club outing and picnic will be on April 9th at Del Valle. The excellent presentation is available on our website at http://www.tri-valleyflyfishers.org/speaker_info.htm. We will have casting instructors available to assist you in tuning up your cast or learning a new technique. Ken Javorsky and Daniel Kitts are heading up this first-time event and have planned a great venue and are hosting a BBQ meal for the entire family. Come out and have a relaxing day at one of the true gems of the area located in our own back yard.

March came in like a lion and is going out like a lamb, creating hope for fishable waters as we approach the Sierra trout opener. The snow melt this year will require us to be creative as we look for opportunities to fish this spring. One thing for certain is that all this water flushing out our rivers and the Delta system should bode well for the health of our fisheries in Northern California.

I hope to see you this month at the meeting and our outing and in the meantime,

Tight Loops!

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2011 Officers, Board Members, and Coordinators

President	Tom Vargas
Vice President	Ken Javorsky
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Conservation Director	Derrell Bridgman
Raffle Coordinator	Rob Vellinger
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Member at large	Robert Nishio
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Outings	Jim Broadbent
Education	Hal Wilson
Speakers	Martin Plotkin
Silent Auction	Bob McCollum
Website	Bob McCollum
Refreshments	Robert Nishio
Video Librarian	Frank Gordet

“Like” TVFF on Facebook

TVFF has it's very own Facebook page. Just search for us under “Tri-Valley Fly Fishers”.

The TVFF Facebook page is a great place to post and share your latest fish stories and pictures. “Like” TVFF on Facebook and join the fun!



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2011 Meeting Schedule:

The schedule of meeting topics is presented in the table below. Please contact Martin Plotkin if you have suggestions for speakers for these topics.

Month	Topic
March	How to Fish Del Valle and Shadow Cliffs, Vaughn Willet & Mike Willet
April	Silent Auction - No Speaker
May	Advanced Nymphing Technique
June	Fishing the Eastern Sierra
July	No Meeting
August	Pizza Nite - No Speaker
September	Fishing the Redding Area
October	Taking Better Photos
November	Fly Fishing Tahoe Truckee Area
December	Still Water Fly Fishing

DeltaStripers.Com - Jerry Neuberger

DeltaStripers.Com is dedicated to guided catch-and-release fly fishing for stripers and large mouth bass on the waters of the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta.

A fishing day starts about sunrise and lasts nine to eleven hours with a break for lunch. While catching lots of fish is never guaranteed, a typical fishing day will yield from six to ten stripers per rod or a dozen or more bass per rod. Some days are much more productive and yes, some days are a little tougher! However at the end of every cast there may be that 35 pound striper or a 15 pound largemouth just waiting to rip that rod out of your hands.

Come spend a day on the delta. I can't guarantee you'll catch fish but I'll guarantee you'll have a great day on the water!



E-mail: gneuberger@yahoo.com
Phone: 209-369-5752, Cell: 209-327-5993

2011 Trout Season Opening Day Party & Celebration

The Fly Shop – 4140 Churn Creek Road, Redding, California
April 29, 2011 – 10:30am-4:30pm

Hosted by The Fly Shop, everyone is invited to this fun and informative annual event to kickoff the 2011 trout season. Free hamburgers & hot dogs with all the trimmings (chili beans, coleslaw, relishes, chips, beverages) and cookies made by members of the Shasta Mayflies will be provided for all attending. Fly fishing manufacturer representatives will be on hand to showcase their newest products. Fly tying demonstrations are scheduled throughout the day with some of the fly fishing industry's finest tyers – The Fly Shop's staff members Mike Mercer, Tim Fox, Justin Miller, and Zack Thurman. Our entire staff of expert fly fishers will be on-site to assist and answer any and all of your questions.

This is a much anticipated and popular annual event that benefits anyone interested in fly fishing, regardless of their experience. Fly rods and other gear will be on hand to “demo,” and members of the Shasta Trinity Flyfishers have graciously volunteered to prepare all the hamburgers and hot dogs you can eat. Join us for a great day with kindred spirits of the fly fishing community.

For further information call Sandy Watts at 530-222-3555 or email: sandy@theflyshop.com



Come Celebrate
the OPENING of
TROUT SEASON

FRIDAY APRIL 29TH 2011
THE FLY SHOP
10:30 AM TO 4:30 PM

photo: Marcel Siegle

2011 Outing Schedule:

3. April 9th -Del Valle Picnic/Casting, fishing, family outing
4. April 14th-18th - Pyramid Lake-Ken Javorsky and Rob Vellinger
5. May-TBD, Fuller Lake, George Allen
6. June 2rd-5th –Sonora Pass/Pinecrest
7. June-TBD, Davis Lake, possibly with Tracy-Jim Broadbent
8. June-TBD on flows, Upper Sac/McCloud-Russ George and Daniel Kitts
9. July-TBD, Manzanita-New Frenchmen Res.-Hal Wilson
10. August 25th – 27th Kennedy Meadows/Clark Fork-Bob McCollum
11. September 23rd- 25th -North Fork of the Stanislaus-Derrell Bridgman, Russ George and Tom Vargas
12. October-Lower Sac River Float-Ken Javorsky
13. October-December,TBD-Delta Stripers; Rick Mikla and Tom Vargas
14. November-Klamath River?
15. November 16-20, Trinity River Fall Steelhead-Bob McCollum



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Club Picnic at Del Valle Reservoir in Livermore Saturday April 9th, 2011

Our club will be hosting a picnic at the Coyote Corner site at Lake Del Valle on Saturday April 9th. TVFF will be providing burgers, hotdogs, buns, salad/ appetizers, paper plates (etc.) and non –alcoholic beverages. This will be a great outing for you and entire family. Just come out ; kick back and relax.

We plan to have casting lessons for those who are interested as well as other activities permitted with the park. Never fear, there will be plenty to do that day . Or, if you wish, just take in the day and vegetate.

This event is free to all TVFF members and their families. The only costs are the park fees (parking, boating, fishing) charged by East Bay Regional Parks.

Come out and enjoy the sun!

Please contact Ken Javorsky if you have any questions. (kjavorsky@sbcglobal.net)



Andrew Harris: 888-481-1650 / www.confluenceoutfitters.com

TVFF Outing at Pyramid Lake, Nevada April 2011

Fishmasters: Rob Vellinger & Ken Javorsky

Outing Dates: Thur - Sun, April 14-17

Rob & I would like to welcome all members to join us and experience the thrill of pursuing the legendary Lahontan Cutthroat trout in their native waters.

Pyramid Lake is 40 miles north of Reno (33 miles northeast of Sparks). During March and April when the water temperature gets over 50 degrees F, these monsters enter the shallower waters to feed. . While there is no guarantee of fishing success , this factor makes fishing in April prime.

Shore fishing is the norm at Pyramid where anglers make casts to the drop offs using 6 or 7wt. rods. One unique aspect of this fishing is the use of step ladders to help your casts reach the drop-off zones where the fish are located.

Details on the meeting place, accommodations , recommended equipment , line set up, and regulations will be given to the members who sign up for the trip. Last year most of us stayed at Crosby Lodge (775) 476-0400 which is on the shore of the lake near Sutcliffe, NV. There are also plenty of places to stay in Sparks or Reno.

Please sign up at the monthly meeting or see Rob or myself if you have any questions.



Pinecrest/Sonora Pass Outings - Bob McCollum

Two outings are planned this summer for the Sonora Pass area:

Pinecrest Outing: This outing is intended to tap into typically excellent late spring/early summer fishing at Pinecrest lake, but there are several other opportunities—depending on flows—including Beardsley reservoir and after bay, the Upper South Fork of the Stanislaus or the lower Stan. The date is currently set for June 2-5 but may need to adjusted depending on the weather and snow melt. For Pinecrest, fishing from a watercraft (float tube, kayak, boat, etc.). usually works out best. Shore fishing can be OK, especially at the inlet, but is usually not as productive as from a watercraft. The current plan is to stay at my cabin and perhaps other cabins in the area. Camping at Pinecrest is also available.

Clark Fork/Kennedy Meadows, August 25-28: Late summer is a great time to access the upper headwaters of the middle fork of the Stanislaus and its feeder creeks just below Sonora Pass. The plan is to camp in the Sand Flat campground on Clark Fork. There are has many different fishing options available from this base camp. This is a great place to break out your 3 or 4 weight rod and experience intimate high-country fishing on small rivers and streams. Lots of eager resident trout from 6-12 inches and stockier planted rainbows can be caught on dry flies. A few small lakes are also accessible via foot or four-wheel drive/high ground clearance vehicle. The Walker River, Pickle Meadow, and Kirman Lake are about an hours drive on the eastern side of the pass.

You can sign up for these trips at the next meeting or you can contact me directly.

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CONSERVATION CORNER - Derrell Bridgman

TIC Team Scores A Big Win

Your Tri-Valley Fly Fishers all volunteer “Trout In Classroom” (TIC) program is winding up its season. The team has worked well together to manage a very successful program this year.

The program encountered an unusual number of equipment failures this season but, the team, working together, managed to correct the problems with only a couple of minor interruptions, and no catastrophic loss of fish. The teachers have all expressed satisfaction with the way the program ran this year, and are looking forward to a repeat next year.



“Good-Bye Little Fishes” Have a Nice Life

In addition to the extraordinary number of equipment problems, the program was expanded again this year. The final numbers are not in yet, however, a

summary for the program this year is impressive: The program has expanded to include 33 classrooms, in 26 different schools, in 6 different cities. The total number of students that have been exposed to the curriculum is in excess of 4500, which means that the total number for the 10+ years that we have been doing the program is now in excess of 25,000 students.

With the expansion of our team this year we have been able to visit classrooms more frequently and chat with the students about the fish, their life cycle, their habitat and environmental survival requirements, and even fly-fishing. The students seem to enjoy these visits and can ask some very impressive, thought provoking questions.

In spite of some nasty weather we have had some good turnouts at the fish release field trips. The kids enjoy the opportunity to spend some time in the out of doors and to send the little aquatic friends off to face whatever they are going to encounter in the waters of Shadow Cliffs

and Contra Loma Reservoirs. The TIC Team members have also attended the releases and offered assistance to the teachers plus short presentations on fly casting/fishing. These presentations were well received and appreciated. They would have been

(Continued next page.)

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TIC Team Scores A Big Win — continued from previous page

even more successful if the weather had been more cooperative.



East Ave. Middle School Teacher Discusses Fish Release Details with TIC Member Steve Ruley At Shadow Cliffs

The TIC Team is proud of what they have accomplished this year, especially the number of kids they have impressed. They will be preparing and looking forward to another successful year starting this fall.

Tight Lines

Derrell



Some of the TVFF – TIC Members Enjoying a Delightful Saturday Morning at a TIC Fish Release at Shadow Cliffs.

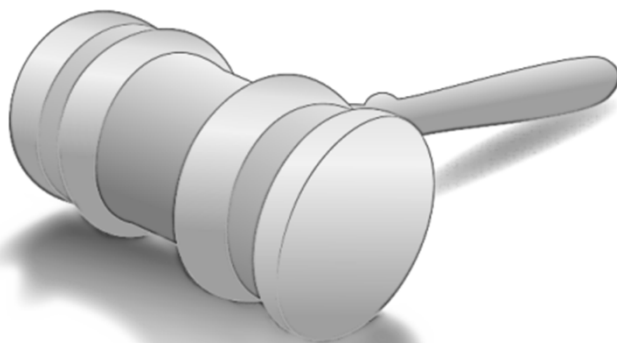
Silent Auction Update


— Bob McCollum

The annual TVFF Silent Auction will be held during our regular April meeting on April 7. Doors will open at 6:30 for preview of items. The auction will start at 7:00. We have a great line up of items this year donated by TVFF members, guides, and fly fishing manufacturers.

Be sure to come early so you don't miss out!

Don't forget to patronize our sponsors!





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The Tier's Corner - Jim Cramer

The Tier's Corner No 19 : Soft Hackle Flies

Ah, those lovely dainty soft hackle flies, so simple and sparse, and yet so effective. These simple flies are some of the oldest patterns of record and even today will often out perform our more modern patterns. I have had enough good days with these flies in the past that I seldom venture forth on a trout stream without my supply of them.

The term "soft hackled fly" is generally considered to be a special style of fly tied with partridge, grouse, starling, hen hackle, and a few others that are mostly all web. It should not be confused with standard wet flies and steelhead patterns tied with webby rooster hackle even though this is also a soft hackle.

Of course all of these subsurface flies are more effective when tied with the softer feathers rather than the stiffer dry fly type of feather.

In their oldest and most simple form the soft hackle flies are tied with a very slim silk floss body and not more than two wraps of hackle. The traditional soft hackle fly is very sparse, always tied without wings or a tail. In the actual tying the floss is usually tied in near the front of the hook and wrapped to the rear and then forward to achieve a very slender smooth body. The hackle feather is tied by the butt with the natural bend of the feather pointing towards the bend. One or two wraps of the hackle and a small neat head complete the fly. The only difficulty one might have is breaking of the fragile hackle which happens to all who tie this fly - join the club.

Sylvester Nemes in his books gives the recipes of many old soft hackle patterns. Silk floss is almost exclusively called for on these patterns but I suspect that it was about the only material available in yesteryears. I have no problems substituting more modern materials. Likewise, many of the pattern he lists call for hackle feathers no longer readily available such as: Plover, Brown Owl, Snipe, and several songbirds. Again, in my opinion, grouse and partridge will suffice for my needs. The most common body colors are orange, yellow, green red and straw with orange being the predominate choice. A collection of flies with orange, yellow and green bodies with either gray or brown partridge hackle in sizes 10, 12, and 14 would give one the nucleus of a soft hackle collection. Tie these flies tied without tails and with a thread to match the body color if you have it. On very small Soft Hackle's you can use the tying thread in place of floss for the body.

The next step in complexity for the Soft Hackle's is the adding of a thorax. In these patterns the rear two-thirds of the body is floss with the front third a soft fur dubbed thorax. Hare's mask is called for on many of the traditional patterns. I often use a couple of wraps of peacock herl in place of the dubbing. The thorax adds a little bulk to the fly and I suspect that it may add some appeal to the fly by preventing the very soft hackle from completely collapsing around the hook shank. With this form it probably makes a better than average representation of an emerging caddis. Another variation is to very lightly dub the floss with a fine soft fur. The dubbing should be light enough so that the floss clearly shows through and dominates the body color.

The Soft Hackles work best where there is some current to give the fly some life. I do not find them as productive in still water conditions. In a current the flies have enough action of their own that a dead drift works very well. Just watch that the flies don't drag and mend your line as necessary. The flies are so simple to tie that every trout fisherman should have a few in his vest.



Items For Sale

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Modern kitchen opens onto large great room with propane pot-bellied stove. Master suite with queen bed and large bathroom. Garage with parking for one car. Ample outdoor parking. Elevation: 3400 feet.

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Contact: Bob McCollum 925-989-2358



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We meet at the Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club (directions below) on the first Thursday of every month except July and August at 7:00 PM.

Directions to

Livermore/Pleasanton Rod and Gun Club: 4000 Dagnino Road, Livermore, California.

Exit Highway 580 on North Livermore Avenue

Proceed North on North Livermore Avenue to May School Road (~2.5 miles).

Turn right onto May School Road and proceed to stop sign at intersection with Dagnino Road (~1 mile).

Entrance to Rod and Gun Club is directly across intersection

