

The Barbless Hook



December 2011

Members on the Trinity Steelhead
Outing.

President's Message

Tom Vargas

If you are like me, you are “making your list and checking it twice” in anticipation of providing your family a wish list. Mine usually includes some new fly-fishing items or something new for the boat. We decorated for Christmas before all of the turkey leftovers were eaten in anticipation of our upcoming Delta Striper outing and a desire to be able to attend “guiltless.” Many of our club members just returned from the annual Trinity River outing which was by all accounts a success with many hard fighting steelhead brought to hand. This trip is always filled with great camaraderie and the opportunity to get to know some of our fellow club members better. I am very thankful for TVFF and the many fine outings, speakers and education programs we have sponsored over the years. For me it has meant an extended and diverse fly fishing season where my favorite sport can be enjoyed year round.

According to reports the stripers have arrived in the Delta and Discovery Bay, just in time for our outing on December 3rd coordinated by Rick Mikla and myself. This is an outing that a variety of smaller craft can find success in the safe waters of the 5MPH speed zone in Discovery Bay. There still is time to participate and a sign up list will be available at the December 1 meeting.

The election of Club Officers and Committee Chairs will also be held at the December meeting. Thanks to everyone who has offered to serve the club as an officer or committee chair in 2012. I also want to extend my gratitude to all of the current Board members who have made 2011 a successful and fun year.

If you have ideas for outings or programs that you would be interested in seeing next year, now is still a great time to let us know.

From our household to yours we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy Holiday Season. – Tom

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2011 Officers, Board Members, and Coordinators

President	Tom Vargas
Vice President	Ken Javorsky
Secretary	Daniel Kitts
Treasurer	Russ George
Membership	Richard Tarbell
Conservation Director	Derrell Bridgman
Raffle Coordinator	Rob Vellinger
Member at large	Tom Fessenden
Member at large	Robert Nishio
Newsletter Editor	Bob McCollum
Trout in the Classroom	Derrell Bridgman
Outings	Jim Broadbent
Education	Hal Wilson
Speakers	Martin Plotkin
Silent Auction	Bob McCollum
Website	Bob McCollum
Refreshments	Robert Nishio
Video Librarian	Frank Gordet

Slate of Candidates for 2012 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers*	
President	Ken Javorsky
Vice President	Daniel Kitts
Secretary	Bart Hughes
Treasurer	Russ George
Conservation Director	Derrell Bridgman
Other Board Members*	
Past President	Tom Vargas
Members at Large	Tom Fessenden & Martin Plotkin
Raffle Coordinator	Rob Vellinger
Newsletter Publisher	Tom Vargas
Youth & Education	Frank Gordet & Kyle McCammon
Committee Chairs	
Membership	Richard Tarbell
Trout in the Classroom	Derrell Bridgman
Outings	Hal Wilson
Speakers	Jim Broadbent
Silent Auction	Don Gardner
Website	Bob McCollum
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* Voting Members

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December 2011 Meeting Program

Martin Plotkin

Speaker: Our main speaker will be John Rickard discussing Taking Better Photos While Fishing:

John writes: "It seems cliché to write every artist has their muse, but perhaps it's true. I've been a dedicated photographer since the age of sixteen when high schools still promoted the arts. The tangibility, process, chemistry and the vision of the developing print made such an impact on me I've smelled like fixer ever since.

I first stepped foot into the McCloud River in 1998 as a photography student from San Jose State University. In all honesty, at that moment when her waters surrounded me my life changed course. Through many visits to the McCloud I started to see anecdotes of life in her majestic scenery and I began to think this place is trying to teach me something. With my camera I listened to her wisdom, a wonderful mentorship that remains today.

I was born a fisherman, and the McCloud turned out to be a mecca for fly fishing. I was spending so much time on the river I soon learned her secrets and where the monsters lie. The day someone paid me to share that information I slipped and fell into a career as a fly fishing guide. Wild Waters Fly Fishing Guide Service was formed soon after and I finally had an excuse to spend the majority of my time on the McCloud and my days off in the dark room. I was, am, and will remain infatuated with this place. "



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Delta Striper Outing: December 3, 2011

Tom Vargas

As TVFF Fishmasters, Rick Mikla and I will lead the striper outing on Saturday, December 3rd. This is a great opportunity to experience hard pulling, double digit freshwater fish on fly gear. We will fish the Southern bays of Discovery Bay and plan to launch out of Orwood Resort by 7:00AM. You should arrive at least ½ hour earlier in order to set up and get your boat in the water. We will head South about one mile to the Kellogg Creek entrance of Discovery Bay. This is an all-safe 5 mph area and it works well for both small and larger size watercraft. The outing will take place in rain or shine, but plan on a cold morning and the possibility of morning fog for a few hours (we hope the weather cooperates better than last year!)

A boat is required to participate in this trip. Boaters and non-boaters will need to make arrangements and get paired up before the outing.

Equipment: 8 or 9 wt rod with Hi-Speed / High Density shooting heads. Lead core heads, Teeny 300, Rio Outbound or Mastery Custom Tip Express lines trimmed to match the rod all work well. The integrated style lines are easier to cast than lead core. Your leader is simply 5-6 ft of 15 - 20 lb mono (Maxima). Flies that simulate baitfish patterns such as 3-5 inch Clouser minnows, Flashtail Whistlers, Deceivers, etc. work well. The 2/0 chartreuse and white Clouser is a standard. Take a look at past newsletters for December and January of '07, '06, '05 for what has been successful.

We will provide more information as we get closer to the outing and we can get more specific as the stripers move in, usually around mid to late October.

A sign up list will be available at the November 3rd meeting.



My son Dan with a 6lb Striper from an outing in 2007. These fish are great fun on a fly rod. Even the small ones will give you your money's worth in fight.



Conservation Corner – Derrell Bridgman

Trout-in-the-Classroom Update

As you know the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers is once again getting organized for another session of our “Trout-In Classroom” (TIC) program. I think we can anticipate another great session this year. Our “TIC Team” is prepared to make this one of the best programs we’ve had to date. Three of the teachers from last year are not coming back this year (retirement and promotion), however, five new teachers have taken the training and will be participating this year, so we will have a full complement of classrooms to support again this year.

I have made an agreement with a couple of new partners to help us with the program this year. One is the “Alameda Creek Alliance” (ACA), and the other is a new organization, “Delta Science Center” (DSC).

We are familiar with ACA and work with them regularly on their Steelhead Restoration project on Alameda Creek. They want to get involved in the TIC program as an outreach effort for the Alliance and will get started by managing a classroom in the Sunol Glenn Elementary School. (This includes purchasing and setting up the equipment, etc.)

The DSC is in the process of constructing their facility at the “Big Break” area in the delta (at Oakley). They will purchase the equipment for a classroom in Antioch, but want TVFF to work with them until they gain a little experience managing the program. We will be happy to work with them.

I think that working with these two organizations will be a great way to see the program expand in our area without loading down our club with a lot of extra work. The program continually proves to be a fantastic experience for the kids and reaching more of them has to be a good thing.

Continued on next page.

DeltaStrippers.Com - Jerry Neuberger

DeltaStrippers.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

Conservation Corner – Continued from previous page.

I have learned some other great news about the program. Our (TVFF) program is within the jurisdiction the Bay Delta Region of DFG. The TIC program (AKA; Classroom Aquarium Education Project, or CAEP) is a statewide program, however, our region has repeatedly been credited with having the top rated program in the state. Needless to say that since Gerry Ng (of Diablo Valley Fly Fishers) and I (representing TVFF) were, at least partially, responsible for helping organize and establish the program in this region, several years ago, I take a small amount of pride in this rating.

Additionally - The American Fisheries Society will be honoring the California program with an award for "Excellence In Aquatic Education". This is a national award that is granted annually, and the "US Fish & Wildlife Service" nominated us for the award. Their nomination was based on the merits of the Bay Delta Region program. The presentation of the award is being scheduled for the Fish and Game Commission meeting in February.

We must be doing something right!

Tight Lines

Derrell


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Silent Auction Committee Forming

Bob McCollum

The silent auction is the single largest source of funds for the club. These funds are used to support conservation organizations as well as the operations of the club..

After six years of chairing the silent auction, I can tell you one thing for sure: it's a lot of work! I've been blessed with a the help of many members on the night of the auction . This year, I am asking for more help in the early stages of the auction planning and formulation. I'm looking for 4-6 people willing to help with letter stuffing, following up with vendors, organizing materials, making signs, etc. There will also be some post-auction follow up work – if we decide to offer “right to buy” items.

Please contact me if you are willing to help out with silent auction planning and preparation.



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Trinity Steelhead Outing Report

by Bob McCollum

Members Don Garner, Frank Gordet, Rob Vellinger Tom Vargas, Gary Prince, Robert Nishio, Martin Plotkin, Bob McBride, Bart Hughes, Richard Tarbell, Roger Perry, and Bob McCollum embarked on a 2-day float trip on the Trinity River on November 17th and 18th. Most of the teams fished the lower river from Evans Bar to Pigeon Point. One team fished the upper stretches. All teams hooked and landed adult steelhead. Most used the indicator nymph method of fishing with two flies. Rubber Legs, PT's, Copper Johns, Copper Bobs, and eggs were popular flies. Most of us averaged 1-2 fish per day ranging from 22-27 inches. While we saw and caught less fish this year than we have in years past, it was more like a "normal" steelhead year – working hard to catch a few memorable fish. We also seemed to have a more even split between hatchery and wild fish this year.

A few pictures are pasted below and many more are available on the Clubhouse page of the TVFF web site.



Member Reports and Pictures:

Truckee River — Doug Witmore



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The Tier's Bench No. 24: CDC and Elk

By Jim Cramer

It is no secret that I like flies that are fast and easy to tie, especially if they do a good job of catching fish. The Elk Hair Caddis has been one of my favorite caddis patterns for many years and still holds a spot in my boxes, but in more recent years it has been seriously challenged by another caddis pattern that is even easier to tie and may even out perform it on most occasions. That new challenger is the CDC & Elk Caddis or just CDC & Elk for short. In appearance it is very similar to the Elk Hair Caddis.

Credit for this fly goes to my friend Hans Weilenmann from the Netherlands who first tied it about 1992. Hans has a favorite saying, "If it takes longer to tie a fly than it does to lose it, then it takes too long to tie it." A sentiment with which I fully agree. The fewer different materials that are required to tie a fly the generally faster it is to tie, and the CDC & Elk with only two materials makes it a very fast tie indeed.



Hans and I differ slightly on our methods of tying the fly. I'll first describe his approach and then mine. Both end up with much the same result which illustrates that there are no hard and fast rules in tying. I'll leave it to you to decide which one you prefer or if you want to adopt your own approach. Although the fly is called CDC & Elk, deer hair is often substituted especially on the smaller sizes. Most any dry fly hook from 10 to 22 can be used. For colors I recommend various shades of tan or gray but be sure to include some black.

Hans's approach: Select a CDC feather of the required color and size. (The longest barbule approx. 2 times shank-length) Hold the CDC feather at the butt and stroke the feather between thumb and index finger towards the tip to bunch the tips together.

Tie in the bunched tip pointing forwards with the butt pointing to the rear. Tie down with two turns then slip a third turn under the tips and a fourth turn over the barbules just forward of the third. This will lock the CDC barbules in place and prevent them from coming loose. Spiral the tying thread forward to eye then back one turn.

Clamp the butt with hackle pliers and wind the CDC feather towards the eye in touching turns. You will find that the rear half of the body will resemble a dubbed one but as you progress towards the eye more and more free barbules appear. Stroke these backwards with each turn. A little practice will enable you to arrive at the eye with only the bare part of the stem left.

Tie in the CDC stem and cut off. Tie in a stacked bunch of deer or elk hair to form a wing the length of the body. Trim the butts of the hair to form a head as on an Elk Hair Caddis.

Continued on next page.

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The Tier's Bench No. 24: CDC and Elk – Continued from previous page.

With my approach I first lay down a thread base with the thread ending at the rear of the hook. Using the same type of CDC feather as Hans I tie it in by the very tip so that the tip fibers of the feather form a very very short tail. Now I know that caddis flies do not have tails but this one is so short and fluffy that it appears more as an extension of the body and provides additional flotation. Advance the thread to a point two eye widths behind the eye of the hook. Now roll the stem of the CDC feather between your fingers and wrap it forward on the hook. As you wrap forward some of the fibers will escape which is exactly the effect you want. Tie it off at the front. Now I generally take two or three CDC feathers depending on the size of the fly and the density of the feathers, and tie them in so the tips form an under wing about the length of the body. Complete the fly with an over wing of elk or deer hair and clip the hair to form a head as with an Elk Hair Caddis. The CDC under wing is protected and supported by the hair wing and provides a considerable amount of additional flotation.

As you can see the only difference is the method of tying in the CDC for the start of the body and the CDC under wing that I add. This is a great fly, simple to tie, and one that should be in every trout angler's box. Don't limit yourself to using this fly only during caddis activity as it often produces very well during mayfly hatches.

Editor's note: See link for detailed tying instructions and a link to a video demonstration:

<http://www.danica.com/flytier/hweilenmann/cdcelk.htm>

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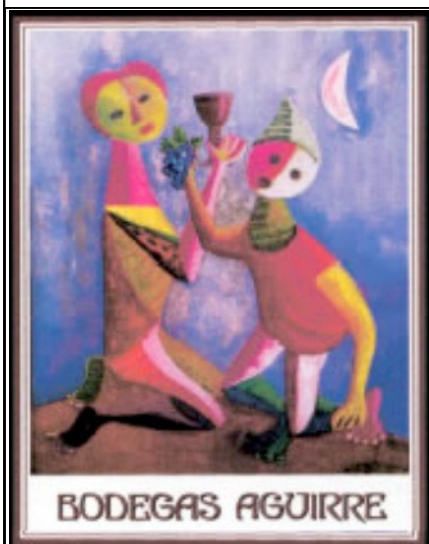
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