

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

FEBRUARY 2013

San Diego Fly Fishers

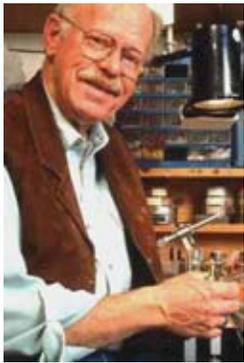


Volume 18, No. 02

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

## Monthly Meeting

### A.K. Best Will Show Us His Best at the SDFF Meeting



World re-nowned fly tyer and fly fisherman **A.K. Best** will be presenting at the monthly meeting of the San Diego Fly Fishers.

Born and raised in Iowa, A.K. has been fly tying and fly fishing for close to 50 years. He is the author of numerous fly tying books and a contributor to over 100 articles.

Come join us for a once in a lifetime experience.

### Bill and Eileen Stroud Recipients of Stroud Award

Lee McElravy Well Deserved Awardee of the Gordon Foster Memorial



### Outgoing President Lee McElravy receives the Gordon Foster memorial Award from past recipient Conservation Chairman Gary Strawn.

Once again an absolutely wonderful evening of fun, food, awards, and prizes at the Annual Stroud Banquet held at the Admiral Baker Golf Course Clubhouse.

Although it was a bit cold outside (37°F) the warmth of the SDFF members and spouses (or maybe it was just the wine) made for a very comfortable evening.

This was the first Stroud Banquet without either Eileen or Bill, so it held quite a bit of significance. What to do about the Stroud Award? Jim Reeg came up with the most obvious answer: Award it posthumously to Bill and Eileen, the most deserving of all recipients.

Rick Vorst accepted the award on their behalf.

**MEETING NOTICE**  
 Monday, Feb 4, 2013  
 7:30 PM  
 Sequoia Elementary School  
 4690 Limerick Avenue  
 (See map on back page)

**REMINDER**  
 Volunteer hosts for this meeting (report at 6:15 PM)  
**Kurt Ruble and Mark Hedderson**  
*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

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"Once more unto the breach, my friends..." A little Shakespeare, *Henry V* to be exact, sets the tone for the position I find myself in as we start 2013. This is my fourth term as president of San Diego Fly Fishers, a dubious distinction I share with **Bill Stroud**. Bill knew of my folly and heartily approved. Our board of directors has threatened that they will keep me in the position until I get it right.

Well, my predecessor certainly got it right. **Lee McIlravey** set the bar high during his term, wrapping up with one of the best Stroud Award Banquets in recent history. We convened at Admiral Baker Clubhouse, first in the well stocked bar and then in the capacious banquet hall. The food was good, the speeches short, and the awards well deserved.

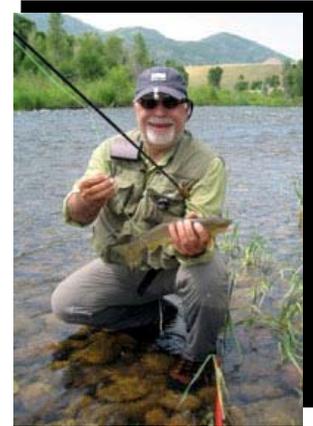
**The Stroud Award** is given to an individual who has worked a lifetime or career in promoting the sport of fishing. This year, in a wonderful, bittersweet tribute, the award was given to **Bill and Eileen Stroud**. The inspiration came from **Jim Reeg** and I can think of no more fitting couple. The Stroud's epitomized the best our shared passion has to offer. Their generosity to this club was legendary. **Rick Vorst** accepted the award on their behalf; he even did a fair impression on how the

duo would have reacted to winning the award.

(I visited Rick at Stroud's the Saturday before the event in order to purchase the Temple Fork Outfitters rod that was won by new-ish member **Roger Yoshioka**. I was delighted to see the expanded hours, now 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, and even more delighted to hear that Rick will be adding another day to the operating calendar each week. You can call him to weigh on your preference.)

We also recognized our **Gordon Foster Award** honoree. In order to receive temporary custody of the beautiful trout under Plexiglas trophy, the winner contributed mightily to the club over a considerable period of time. Last year's winner, **Gary Strawn** announced the latest recipient, **Lee McElravey**.

Let's start promoting next year's banquet now. Because if you didn't attend the 2013 version you were crazy! The door prizes were phenomenal, and you had a one in eight chance of winning! A couple of reels, a \$25 gift certificate to the aforementioned Stroud Tackle, two rods built by Bill Stroud, two incredible sculptures from **Bob Berry**, and a jaw-dropping package from **Tom Loe**.



Let's wrap up with a crystal ball into 2013. Our board is blessed with a Treasurer, **Bruce Harris**, who thinks we have too much money. The board agrees and we are steering some of that money to programs. Programs Chair **Jon Holland** has scored a huge coup with February's guest speaker, **A.K. Best**, one of world's foremost fly tiers, fishing buddy of **John Gierach**, and author in his own right. A.K. will also be conducting a couple of fly tying clinics, limited to ten participants on **Sunday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>** and **Monday, February 4<sup>th</sup>**, the day of our meeting.

So, my first bold prediction. We are going to have eye-popping programs.

My next mantra...and I will share it now is Growth. We want to grow our membership. The reasons? Ah, you'll have to wait for next month's missive for that one.





Rick Vorst accepts Stroud Award on behalf of Bill and Eileen Stroud from Jim Reeg.

# THE WILLIAM AND EILEEN STROUD AWARD

PRESENTED IN MEMORY AND APPRECIATION  
OF:

**WILLIAM & EILEEN STROUD**

BY:  
**THE SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS CLUB**

**IN RECOGNITION OF:**

THEIR SIGNIFICANT LIFELONG SUPPORT OF THE SPORT OF FLY FISHING, THEIR SUPPORT OF FISHING RELATED CONSERVATION CAUSES AND THEIR SUPPORT AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SAN DIEGO FLY FISHERS, BOTH AS INDIVIDUALS AND AS THE FOUNDERS AND OWNERS OF STROUD TACKLE. EVERYONE WHO ENJOYS THE SPORT OF FISHING WILL FOREVER BENEFIT FROM THEIR TIRELESS EFFORTS, ACHIEVEMENTS AND UNSELFISH CONTRIBUTIONS.

**THEY WILL BE FOREVER MISSED.**

THIS  
14TH DAY OF JANUARY IN THE YEAR 2013

*William & Eileen Stroud*

*Lee Mc Elravy  
President, SDFF*



# Fly Plate Awardees for 2012

## Annual Stroud Banquet 2013



Ned Sewell



Paul Woolery received a special flyplate of a fly tied in 1950.



Art Reifman



Barry Pechersky



Larry Sorensen



Bob Pharoah



David Collins



Jon Holland



Rose and Roger Yamasaki



Sam and Mona Morebello also received a flyplate in absentia.



Lucky Ketcham





# Annual Bishop Trip

## February 22 and 23, 2013

This is the club's first trip of 2013. It's open to anyone. Be advised we fish in all weather conditions! Dining arrangements will be at Bishop's finest restaurants, including Jacks, La Casita, The Upper Crust and The Back Alley Bowling Bar and Grill. This trip is for serious fishermen interested in fishing, food, fun, making new friends and hanging out with old ones.

Those wishing to join us for fishing without guide service are also welcome!

- **Contact:** Paul Woolery at \_\_\_\_\_ or
- **Guide Service:** provided by Sierra Drifters
- **Guided fishing:** February 22 and 23. If necessary we can add an extra day on the 21st.
- **Other:** All reservations for rooms, dining and guides will be made by Paul Woolery.
- **Travel:** Make your own travel plans. Carpooling is encouraged!

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## Snow Bows on the Upper Owens River

Tom Loe of the Sierra Drifters Fly Fishing Guide Service shows us one of the Christmas “Snow Bows” being caught on the Upper Owens River above Crowley Lake, December 25, 2013.

Tom’s joy is too good not to share with my San Diego friends. Historically this fishing river has been closed for the winter and only recently the State of California Department of Fish and Game opened it to year round trout fishing.

Tom and his guides take clients to the snow fields and deep river bends via Snow Mobile – “The War Wagon.” If you follow the Sierra Drifter Fishing Reports you will find numerous photos of these giant rainbow trout that have moved up out of Crowley Lake during this colder period of the winter. Hopefully they will still be there in February when many of you visit the area.



Possessing a curious mind, I asked Tom: “What was the Biology behind the migration?” Did these big rainbows follow the spawning brown trout up the Owens to feed on eggs and later on the baby brown trout fry? Did they come up for the warm springs to feed on the mosquito fish attracted to the warm water? There are never any very simple answers in Nature. I love Tom’s reply:

**“These winter run rainbows are the best experiment that the DFG ever did. It is a huge success. The Upper Owens has higher water temps than Crowley Lake being a spring creek. Trout will migrate towards a better habitat Lucky.”**

Be the Fly... Tom

See more great winter fishing pictures and more information about the Sierra Drifter’s Guide Service at Tom’s website. Some of you might not want to wait until the February Bishop Trip. Merry Christmas. LK

<http://sierradrifters.com/>

### **FREE CASTING LESSONS EVERY SUNDAY 9 AM--NOON**

Join the San Diego Fly Fishers at Lake Murray to cast or improve your skills. Free instruction is available. Bring your own equipment or use the club equipment, available from one of the instructors.

**DIRECTIONS--Take Interstate 8 to Lake Murray Boulevard. Go north on Lake Murray Boulevard to Kiowa Drive. Turn left and look for people casting just as you enter the park. That’s our bunch.**



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Notes by Lucky Ketcham on A. K. Best presentation taken at the Ontario Fly Fishing Show February 26, 2005.

## **“Match the Naturals Not the Hatch” or “Paying Attention and Carrying a Camera.”**

A.K. suggests carrying a camera on your fishing trips, since you can never adequately describe what you will see. One photo will bring back great memories, help show and remember what patterns and colors of flies that worked.

In a nymph the only part of the nymph that is “shiny” is the part out of the water. If all nymphs shine they would all be eaten. He does not like to use synthetic materials on trout flies.

Green Drake Mayflies are one of his famous patterns. Note the adult emerges at the bottom of the stream or lake. There is no “Emerger stage.” Fish a sunken adult on the bottom and see what happens.

Look at your local species of mayflies to determine proportions, not just following the normal rules for wings and tails. Mayflies cannot read. He shows slides of a mayfly with long wings and short tails. Notice the segmentation. Notice the leg distribution. Light reflects from the abdomen, not through it. The body is “not translucent.” For the Henry’s Fork Green Drake he uses green/white floss to get the light reflection.

On the Frying Pan River, large fat brown trout feed heavily on Mysis Shrimp that get flushed out of the reservoir.

Brown drakes are found in lower sections of rivers and streams with “mucky bottoms.” Look at the last segments of the abdomen. The large females have a

bend upward at the last segment. The males do not. Fish the dry flies after 7:00 PM at night. The silhouette counts. Use a white calf tail parachute so you can see it late in the evening.

On Henry’s Fork, Osborn Bridge, upstream there is a big bend. A large stump always has big trout rising.

Observe caddis larvae – their bodies are “waxy” not “fuzzy.” A.K. uses a quill body to duplicate the waxy segments with no bead or weight in the fly. Try a white/cream quill body, a dark beard and a black or peacock herl head. Use split shot weight on the leader to fish on the bottom. Since he switched to the floating fly he is losing fewer flies and catching more trout.

Observe adult caddis flies. Note the long rear legs sticking out like outriggers. Rear legs stick back, not out to the side. Note the heavily segmented body. Segment your patterns. You never see a tent wing caddis on the water, only when resting on trees or rocks. When they are on the water the wings are “buzzing.” That is why elk hair caddis works well.

Mouse patterns – note when swimming the nose is above the water and the mouse body is very skinny, about 3 inches long. Most mouse patterns are too fat and tied so the nose dives under the water.

Elk Hair Caddis with a yellow body also works well as a Little Yellow

Sally Stonefly. Note the segments of the body. The wings must be fanned out to show the outrigger legs.

Not a single “adult” aquatic insect has a fuzzy body. Of the terrestrials that trout eat, only the bee has a fuzzy body. Woolly worms are not the adult stage of moths or butterflies.

Early brown stoneflies – use mink guard hairs for the wing, dark quill body and brown hackle for the legs, If you hold a stonefly nymph in your hand it will curl up in a defensive pattern with the antennae forward; but if you look at a floating stonefly it turns like a bend up, with the antennae folded back. He recommends that you bend the front 1/3 of your hook up to mimic the drifting stonefly pattern.

Observe an Adult Stonefly. Look at the heavy rear legs point to the rear. Your patterns need to mimic that leg. He uses a deer hair wing on the back half of the body fanned to mimic the legs. His pattern has a black yarn body, with an orange yarn thorax palmered with soft black hackle. The thorax wing case is deer hair with the tips sticking back for the wing and legs. Note he uses the softest hackle he can find, not stiff rooster hackle. He wants movement of the hackle on his nymph patterns. Move the fly when fishing. A twitch is equal to a one-inch movement.

Observe and check proportions. Look in spider webs. Nature will let you know what is hatching. Trico mayflies have wings that are three times the body length. Trico duns hatch before the sun comes

continued on next page



## Notes on A.K. Best

continued from previous page

up. Therefore fish early before the crowds and spinner fall. Note the body is creamy green and the legs are not black yet. The spinner's legs are black. The wings are almost clear. If he wants to sell Trico duns he needs to tie them with black hackle legs; but for himself he uses cream hackle legs on Tricos.

You can use Grizzly Hackle for the wings of Spinners. Use a size 16 hook with a size 12 grizzly hackle. Use only two turns of hackle. Three turns are too much.

Some people say the wings are not important on spinners. Look at the shadow of the clear wings on the bottom of a stream. The wing profile is very prominent. Read Vince Marino's book *The Ring and the Rise* and note the section on the "cone of vision." Best likes to fish spinner falls. Trout are closer to the surface. In the poor light of early morning or late evening the cone of vision may be a very small two inches. You need to get the fish to notice

your fly. The wings are the first things to be seen in the shallow cone of vision.

March Browns. Look at the shiny waxy body on a red quill spinner. Compare the fly to a dubbed fine poly or fur version. The light reflection is very different. He thinks the quill bodies look more natural.

Slide of floating dead mayflies. Note there are four different sizes hatching at the same time. Which pattern do you use? — Pick the most common and largest to start with and then go smaller if you don't get bit.

Observe that all drowned beetles have the clear membrane, second pair of wings sticking out at the rear of the body. He recently changed his beetle patterns and Bam! They worked better. Try a "Winged Beetle" – Dun hen hackle wing tips, Black bug skin for the leather over wing, red/brown fuzzy dubbing or peacock for the body, brown soft hackle

palmered for the legs.

Fish the white rapids where other fishermen do not like to fish. Fish the tail out pools. After wading across a stream take a 20-minute break and then fish. No matter how carefully you wade and cross a stream, you must know: The fish know you are there!

One of his favorite hatches is the dependable eastern evening Sulphur Mayfly. *Ephemerella dorthea*. Try a Sulphur Quill Body Spinner, size 16 or 18.

Try his midge pattern and see if it works for you.

**Emerging Midge** – Fished very early in the morning. Note light legs and different trailing shuck.  
**Hook** TMC 100 size 18 or 20  
**Thread** Cream 8/0  
**Body** Black fine dubbing  
**Tail/Shuck** 3 or 4 spotted Mallard flank fibers, not shiny Antron  
**Wing** Cream hackle – not black legs  
**Head** light cream thread. 

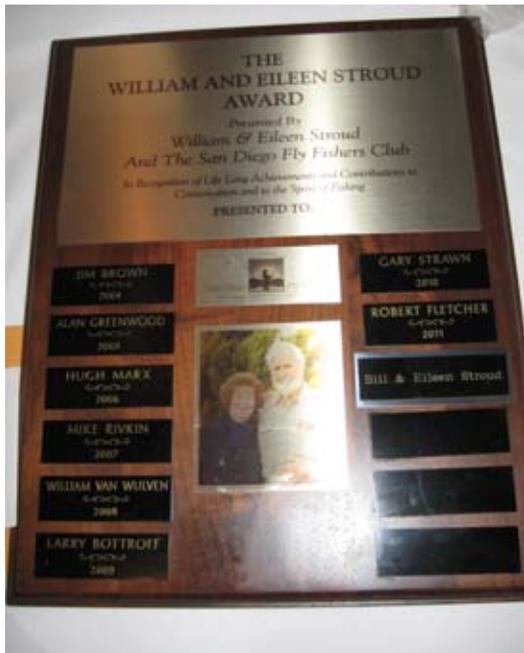
In with the new

## San Diego Fly Fishers Board of Directors

and out with the old?



Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**  
 2004-Jim Brown  
 2005-Allen Greenwood  
 2006- Hugh Marx  
 2007- Mike Rivkin  
 2008- Bill Van Wulven  
 2009- Larry Bottroff  
 2010- Gary Strawn  
 2011- Bob Fletcher  
 2012- Bill and Eileen Stroud



## EILEEN STROUD CONSERVATION FUND



Donations are gratefully  
 accepted  
 Make checks payable to Eileen  
 Stroud Conservation Fund

Mail to:  
 Stroud Conservation Fund  
 1457 Morena Blvd  
 San Diego, CA 92110

**All funds collected in Eileen's name will be donated to fresh water fish conservation or research programs in San Diego County.**

### LIFE MEMBERS

Gordon Foster (in memoriam), Bill and Eileen Stroud (in mem), Bernie Hammes (in mem), Hugh Turner (in mem), Nancy Pitts, Bob Wisner (in mem), Ken Armer, Glen Paul (in mem), Betty Coram, Ned Sewell, John Kasten (in mem), Leo Bergevin (in mem), George Beach (in mem), Bob Camp (in mem), Marvin Darling, Gene Jerzewski, Oz Osborn (in mem), Robbie Robinson (in mem), John Gauld, Lloyd Jefferies (in mem), Doug Joseph, Gary Hilbers, Tom Smith, Bud Olsen

### HONORARY MEMBERS

Jim Brown, Louisa Kassler (in memoriam), Hugh Marx, Bob Fletcher, Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood, Mike Rivkin, Bill Van Wulven, Larry Bottroff, Aubrey Wendling

Cutoff date for **March FINNY FACTS**  
 articles---**Friday February 15th.**

Send articles to:  
 Rose and Roger Yamasaki,  
 E-mail at  
 Thanks!!

**Send change of address information,  
 signup for electronic version of newsletter,  
 or Club membership renewal to:**

Paul Woolery

### Recipients of the: **GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD**

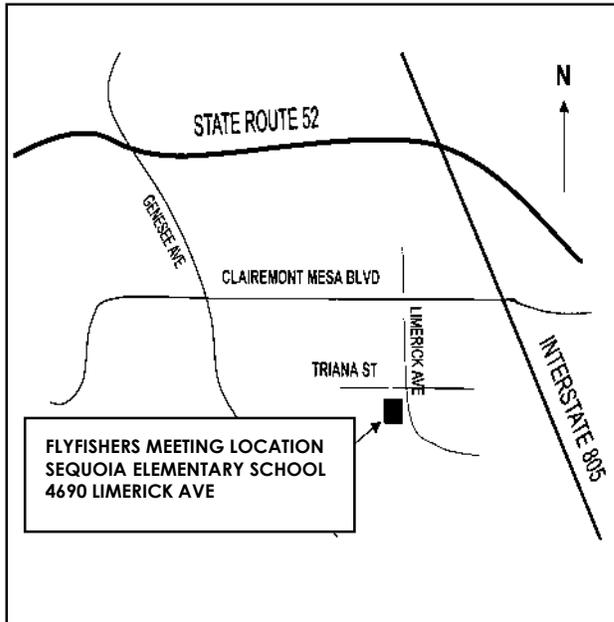
For unselfish and outstanding service  
 to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	2004-Joe Bain
1992-Bob Camp	2005-Jim Reeg
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2006-John Kasten
1994-Ed Velton	2007-Lucky Ketcham
1995-Bob Wisner	2008-Louie Zimm
1996-Gary Hilbers	2009-Warren Lew
1997-Jack Bentley	2010- Paul Woolery
1998-Gordie Zimm	2011-Gary Strawn
1999-Gretchen Yearous	2012-Lee McElravy
2000-Tom Smith	
2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki	
2002-Larry Sorensen	
2003-Jim Tenuto	



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 Art Reifman  
 Alan Roach  
 Gary Strawn  
 Alan Thompson  
 Lew Walsh  
 Paul Woolery



Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. The address is 6445 Lake Badin Ave. To get there from Hwy. 8, take the Lake Murray Blvd. exit just like you were going to the lake. Instead of turning into Kiowa, keep going on Lake Murray Blvd. another 1.6 miles. When you come to Lake Adlon Drive, (first corner past Jackson Dr.) turn left. Go down three blocks and the recreation center will be on your right. It is on the corner of Lake Adlon and Lake Badin.



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FFF Southwest Council-  
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**San Diego  
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**SINCE 1962**