

# FINNY FACTS

Archived version

JANUARY 2007

San Diego



Fly Fishers

Cleaner Water. Brighter Streams. Better Fishing.

Volume 12, No. 1

*January Meeting*

## Annual Stroud Banquet

The San Diego Fly Fishers annual banquet will be held once again at the Admiral Baker Golf Course clubhouse at the U.S. Naval Recreation Center on Monday, January 8th, 2007.

Here we will celebrate another successful year honoring the volunteers that make this club great. The Gordon Foster Memorial Award will be presented to this year's honoree as well as the distinguished Stroud Award.

Hope to see you all there!

### MEETING NOTICE

Monday, January 8, 2007  
6:30 PM

Admiral Baker Clubhouse  
Annual Stroud Banquet

### REMINDER

Volunteer hosts for this meeting

**Sam and Mona  
Morebello**

*Thank You, Mona Morebello*

## Indian Summer Goldens

by Howard Bailey

This past October, I was determined to take advantage of the Indian Summer and check out a couple of places that Gary Strawn had suggested for golden trout. So, bright and early on the last Saturday of the month, I headed to the eastern Sierra. Some six hours later, I passed through Kennedy Meadows on my way to Fish Creek.

Just past the Troy Meadow campground, Fish Creek flows through a pretty meadow, meandering its way past beaver dams, small clumps of trees and knee-high grasses. The creek itself is small and shallow, and the casting can be fairly technical in terms of directing the fly into openings in the brush and overhanging grass. But, in most places, there was enough room to make a backcast, so the trade-offs worked out pretty well.

While small, the trout were fairly spooky; a casual approach to the bank generally resulted in the sight of a number of fish heading rapidly away in all directions. Thus, the best way seemed to be working in an upstream direction, or standing back from the bank and lobbing the fly into the stream from the side. The fish were also unexpectedly selective. Grass-

hopper patterns received some interest, but most fish turned casually away at the last second. White hair-wing patterns (Royal Wulff) also got some looks but, in most cases, were again refused. Smaller (#14) less obtrusive patterns (yellow Humpy and Adams Irresistible) ultimately became the go-to flies, meaning that a good drift through good water usually resulted in an unhurried take. This happened just often enough that I could focus on fishing, rather than different patterns.

All and all, I fished the creek for about 3 hrs, covering a good bit of the flats upstream to where the forest closed in again and the gradient increased. Although not large, the trout were colorful; stunning, in fact. My little 3 wt rod seemed about right for the job, the line landed on the water gently enough that the fish usually weren't spooked, and the rod was soft enough that even a small fish managed a decent bend.

The next day, I drove a bit further up the road to the trailhead and hiked into Casa Vieja Meadow. This is a 45-min hike in, and it's all downhill, which means that it is an hour and a half out, all uphill. This is a classic Sierra

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: JANUARY 2007

This is the twelfth in the series of these *Messages* which I have had the privilege of preparing. It speaks volumes about our Club that I have never run out of important information to share with you.

First and foremost, a reminder the Stroud Banquet is fast-approaching on Monday, January 8<sup>th</sup>. Given the fact so many of our members deserve to be recognized for their contributions this year, and not all of you will be able to join us on January 8<sup>th</sup>, this month's *Message* presents the perfect opportunity for me to do just that.

I have served in various capacities on your Board for the past five years. During that time, one observation has become quite obvious: the success of our yearly activities is a direct result of the commitment and dedication of your Directors. Lest you think these Directors simply take the time to attend a Board Meeting each month, (which is, in and of itself, service "above and beyond"), please know that each one of your Directors has contributed in some individual fashion, and with distinction. For example, **Gary Strawn**, our first Vice President, took on a number of individual tasks, including organizing the Stroud Banquet, and repeatedly sent me e-mails asking, "What else would you like me to do?"

Despite having previously served as both Treasurer and President, **Warren Lew** again stepped up to the daunting task of keeping the Club's financial records in order, which he did quite

well. As Secretary, **Paul Woolery** maintained our Club records and directed the Lend-A-Rod Station at Chollas Lake on a weekly basis. You have all enjoyed **Bruce Campbell's** monthly columns in the Finny Facts regarding conservation and education. Please believe me when I say that is only a representative sample of Bruce's conservation efforts on behalf of our organization. **George Gates** provided us with some of the most topical and educational pro-

grams we have enjoyed in some time. **Maria Goldman** organized our refreshments every month. **Lucky Ketcham** kept our membership records and twice shared some personal experiences as our monthly speaker (for which **George Gates** was most grateful). **Jim Reeg** chaired our Annual Auction and again directed the Stroud Award process.

Every time their assistance was needed, whether at Day-at-the Docks, the Scout Fairs, the IGFA Young Angler's Tournament, the STARPAL Tournament and/or National Fishing & Hunting Day, **Jonathan Hee**, **Shelly Wagner**, **Al Venton** and **Louie Zimm** enthusiastically stepped forward to organize and staff these various outings.

Perhaps the smarter members were those who contributed without serving on the Board (and, thus, avoided those Board Meetings)! **John Beckstrand** and **Harold Knop** managed our videos and our library on a monthly basis. **Gretchen Yearous** organized last Spring's Maggie Merriman presenta-

tion. **Mona and Sam Morebello**, along with twenty-two other stalwarts, set up and cleaned up after us each month. We continue to enjoy one of the finest club websites on the internet, solely as a result of **Dave Collins'** efforts. **Dick Mount** led us to Bishop and the Kern River and **Jack Bentley** led us everywhere else. (And both returned with the same members they left with!)

Every month without fail, **Ted Reinert** ensured that everyone had a chance to buy a monthly raffle ticket. Speaking of the monthly raffle, each month's assortment of great prizes was organized by **Charlie Wright**.

I have intentionally left several names for last, because they deserve very special attention. As your President, I have enjoyed the opportunity to regularly review several clubs' newsletters. **Rose and Roger Yamasaki's** effort each month continues to keep our own Finny Facts far ahead of the competition. One activity by which we have become so well-respected is our Sunday morning Casting Clinic, for which we can thank **Ned Sewell** and his loyal crew. Finally, a new member joined us this year, **Barry Pechersky**. Without fanfare, **Barry** just appeared at each and every event and "chipped-in."

The risk of writing a column such as this is the likelihood I might fail to recognize someone. If I have, my sincerest apology. So many of you contributed so much, with so little public recognition. On my part, I remain honored that you asked me to lead this group. Stated simply, it was my pleasure. . .



LEE McELRAVY




meadow, surrounded by trees. The stream itself is so narrow that it is not readily apparent unless you approach quite closely. Unlike Fish Creek, it is also quite deep, in some places exceeding 4 feet, with undercut banks galore. There were no people present and, with the exception of mountain bluebirds on the fenceposts and a red-tail sitting on top of one of the trees at the edge of the meadow, I had the place to myself.

I started at the bottom end of the meadow, and tried to stay in the sun since it was noticeably cold. In fact, there was ice on the surface of the slower moving portions of the stream. This led to a couple of interesting moments when the fly bounced along a thin layer of ice, with a trout scoping it out from below. There was also a

wicked cross-wind, which made it really difficult to guide the fly into the narrow creek. A number of casts started out perfectly, with the line right on target but, as the leader turned over, the fly would take off in a new direction and end up on the bank. If I didn't want to spook the fish, I had to crawl up to the fly, detach it from the grass, and sneak back to my original position.

But it was all good. There were quite a few fish, with a couple of males up to 12 inches showing the hooked jaws we know and love. All of the fish fought stubbornly, burrowing into the aquatic vegetation and under the cutbanks whenever they had a chance. In most cases, I tried for an upstream approach, usually to visible fish. In

other cases, I cast blind from the side of the creek, and tried to watch the path of the fly through the overhanging grass. Frequently, I would lose sight of the fly, but the sudden appearance of ripples or rings on the surface of the water was evidence of a grab. Finally, there was the downstream float, where I tried to get a drag-free drift into areas that I couldn't reach from the side or from below.

I fished into the mid-afternoon, and covered most of the meadow before heading back up the hill with more than a little reluctance. There was still ice in the quieter spots in the current and the wind made me thankful for the fleece under my parka, but it was hard to imagine a better day. 

## Thanks to John Kasten !

**C**harlie Wright, the Raffle and Donation Chair, and Lucky Ketcham, Fly Tying Congress, would like to thank our Wednesday Bunch and Sunday Casting Instructor, John Kasten for his generous donations to the club and the fly tying group. The December raffle was made special by some quality equipment that John, unfortunately decided he has no further use for. Anyone that knows John is aware of his gifts to teach fly casting to young and old (especially the young and pretty), tell stories about fishing the Sierras and local waters, and to teach flies and fishing techniques. Now he recognizes that he can help the club and new members with the continuing use of his fine equipment. Last week he donated: One pair of felt soled wading boots, two Orvis and Loomis rod carrying cases, an almost new Orvis fishing vest with tools and his favorite Simms Gortex Breathable Waders. The estimated value of the donation is \$830.

Several months ago John virtually donated over \$1200 worth of fly tying materials and books to me in order that I could better help the fly tying members. John is a club treasure. He is an ambassador of the spirit and heart of the San Diego Fly Fishers.

Thanks for being our friend and mentor to many.



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# FLY OF THE MONTH

## The "O' Wayne"

A variation of the Stayner Ducktail by Wayne Allen, Sdff.  
Photo by John Beckstrand, notes by Lucky



- Hook:** Tiemco 5263 or Mustad 9672, or 3XL equivalent. Sizes 8 - 14.  
**Beadhead:** Black metallic bead, sized for hook, with fine lead wire to center.  
**Thread:** Black, 6/0 pre-waxed.  
**Tail:** 10 to 12 orange saddle hackle fibers, 1/2 body length  
**Body:** Dark olive with red Mylar flash, New Age Chenille, medium  
**Beard:** 10 to 12 orange saddle hackle fibers or golden pheasant crest, reaching to hook point.  
**Underwing 1:** 2 strands of fine copper Krystalflash the length of feather wing.  
**Underwing 2:** small clump of blue/green angel hair or fine Flashabou  
**Underwing 3:** 2 strands of copper Krystalflash  
**Underwing 4:** small clump of fine deer hair or squirrel tail to hold up the over-wing.  
**Wing:** Olive dyed mallard flank feather, tied flat, twice the body length. Slightly tie down the edges over the side of the body.  
**Head:** Black thread with two coats of head cement or black bead head.

This fly was named on Sotcher Lake this fall by John Beckstrand in honor of the success John and Wayne Allen were having in the southwest corner of the lake. John would yell over to Wayne whenever he needed a new fly or caught another on the "Oh Wayne." The next night there was an urgent fly tying session to produce enough for the 2006 Mammoth trip anglers.

Slip a black metal bead on the hook and mount the hook in the vise. Smash one or two wraps of lead wire into the large opening of the bead to center and add additional weight. Attach the thread behind the bead and wrap an even thread base to the bend of the hook. Add a drop of head cement to the lead and thread. Select and stack 10 to 12 red/

orange saddle hackle fibers. Size and secure them then to be  $\frac{1}{2}$  the body length. Trim off any butt ends about mid shank. Bring thread back the bend and attach a two inch strand of olive with red Mylar New Age Chenille. Wrap the chenille to a point three eye widths back from the bead. The space is necessary for to attach the wing and allow for the head. Trim off the tag end of the chenille. Select two fine strands of copper Krystalflash about 2 inches long. Attach the copper flash to the top of the body behind the bead. The length will be trimmed to the length of the wing later. Attach a small clump of blue/green fine angel hair the length of the wing. Attach two more strands of copper flash to the top of the angel hair. Select a small bunch (10 to 15 fibers) of squirrel tail or fine deer hair to help hold

continued on next page





up the wing and give the fly a little more bulk than the standard Stayner Ducktail. Even or stack the hair underbody and size it to reach just past the ends of the orange tail. Secure the hair with tight wraps. Add a little head cement to the thread wraps to help hold the slippery squirrel tail. Select a well barred, olive dyed mallard breast feather or wood duck feather. It should be as straight and symmetrical as possible. Do not use one that is curved to one side or the fly will not swim cor-

rectly. Size the feather to be about twice the body length. Mount the feather on the top of the body and secure with 5 of 6 tight wraps. Keep the quill straight on top of the head, trim off the excess quill. Whip finish behind the bead and coat the thread with two coats of Sally's Hard as nails or good head cement.

If you need one of these flies just call "Oh Wayne!"

— Lucky Ketcham

**BEAD TO HOOK SIZE:**

1/16= Size 20,  
5/64= Size 18,  
3/32= Size 16,  
7/64= Size 14,  
1/8= Size 12,  
5/32= Size 10 & 8,  
7/32= Size 6 & 4,  
1/4=#2.

***Why Use Beads?***

Beads can be used on almost any standard nymph or streamer pattern, add weight to get down to where the fish are, and flash to attract them.

***How Do I use Beads?***

1) Put bead on hook by inserting the point of the hook into the small hole of the bead.

2) Wrap a few turn of lead wire around hook shank and push up into the bead. This step is most often overlooked but very important for a few reasons:

2a) By filling the bead with lead it keeps the bead centered on the hook and adds more weight.

2b) When this step is skipped the tyer, he or she uses many wraps of thread that slip into the bead before they can finish the beadhead fly.



## North Central Fly Tying Congress

**T**hanks to Bill Hanson, a new SDF Fly Tying Congress will be starting Wednesday, January 10, 2007. The group will meet at his church in Mira Mesa, close to Hwy 15 and Mira Mesa Blvd.

The meetings will offer a time and place to share fly tying skills, techniques, patterns and to tell fishing stories. The collected group will help any beginning fly tiers. More formal classes may be offered in the future.

Instructors: Bill Hanson, Lucky Ketcham, and Don Davis.

Dates will be Wednesday nights, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Location:  
Christ the Cornerstone  
Lutheran Church  
9028 Westmore Road  
San Diego, CA 92126

Contact:  
William "Bill" Hanson

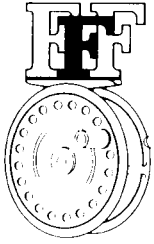
A contact/email list of interested members is being developed by Lucky Ketcham.



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## Federation of Fly Fishers

*Conserving — Restoring — Educating Through Fly Fishing*



## From the FFF Clubwire News

By Capt. Pat Damico, FFF Certified Instructor, CapMel.com Fly Fishing  
Editor Posted 9.6.06 *Fishing Florida Online Magazine* – Fly Fishing Report

### A Successful Guided Fly Trip Begins With....

Once or twice a week I have phone conversations with several guide friends who specialize in fly fishing. We share information about our most recent trips. After discussing the type and number of fish, where they were located, tide and weather conditions, moon phase, water temperature, the number of fish brought to the boat comes up. The client is then described as part of the answer. "The guy was a pleasure to be with, he didn't listen to a single thing I told him, he kept telling me about his other successful trips, a real jerk, I took him back early, I spent most of the day giving him casting lessons, I made every cast for him, he hooked me twice," etc. The movie, "A River Runs Through It," has spawned a new breed of "fly fishers," who ply the water in search of the many rewards of the sport. Experienced clients who we have never met are also anxious to put a few notches on their fly rods with a successful saltwater trip. As guides, we are supposed to be a part of the learning process. How can we make a clients trip an experience that they will enjoy?

My friends would all agree that success or failure will depend primarily on one thing, casting ability. All factors being equal, the person who can cast well will be successful. Eight hours is a long time to spend on a flats boat with someone who has poor casting skills. Can a person not cast well and be a successful fly fisherman? I guess that depends on how you define success. If success means catching fish, read on.

I recently fished a trophy trout stream in northeastern Pennsylvania that was loaded with healthy, native trout. The

stretch of water was limited to fly fishing only, from the bank, in very clear and for the most part relatively shallow water. The urban setting means that every day, all year long, these fish are bombarded with flies by some very astute anglers. The catch and release regulations mean that these fish have been caught many times. Are they difficult? They are for the most part, impossible.

I always advise doing a little research before doing any casting. I've spent many years fishing for freshwater trout so I gathered information from some friends who are frequent visitors, as well as from a few of the local experts. I saw a few fish caught and these are some of the requirements for success Six X, nine foot leaders with seven, or eight X, two to three foot tippets were used. Flies as small as size twenty-six, and twenty-eight were common. Some Tricos, were hatching and these were what was needed to successfully match the hatch. Many of the trout would sip these small natural morsels, refusing an imitation that was a little too large, the wrong color, had a floating leader, or exhibited a hint of unnatural drag. Many fish were caught within a few feet of the bank.

As a certified casting instructor, the casting skills needed for this type of fishing blew my mind. Very few fisherman had more than two or three feet of fly line extending past the tip of their eight and a half or nine foot, four or five weight fly rod. Imagine doing this every trip and catching fish. Here we have a fly fisherman who has great skill in stream entomology, stealth, presentation and remarkable fly

tying skills and consistently catches fish with only a few feet of fly line past the fly rod tip, using a very long fragile leader. The technique could be called "high sticking," or "dabbling." Casting skill is almost nonexistent. He is however, in the eyes of his piers, a master fly fisherman.

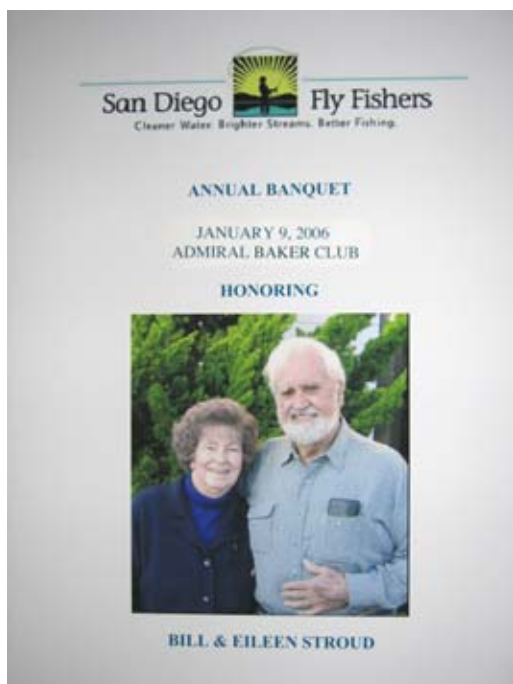
Contrast this to a June trip scheduled to catch one hundred pound plus tarpon along our beaches where a twelve weight nine foot fly rod with a weight forward line attached to a 3/0 fly will have to be cast a minimum of fifty feet, quickly and accurately, usually in the wind, to a moving fish, with a minimum of false casting. I realize I am using two extreme examples, but they both are factual and do exist. If I take one of my best saltwater clients and put him in the above freshwater situation, what will his success rate be? Not very good Which is harder? They are both difficult, and herein lies the allure of fly fishing. If you want diversity, a challenge, a never ending learning curve, you picked the right sport. The successful freshwater angler will be a disaster in the salt. And this is the situation we frequently have to deal with.

Get as much information before your trip into a different fishing environment and come prepared. Do your homework and be honest about your skills and experience. Your fly rod must be thought of as an instrument. An instrument performs only as well as the person holding it, and require hours of practice. Get some help from someone who is knowledgeable, do your homework, duplicate the fishing situation before you arrive, and you will have a successful trip.



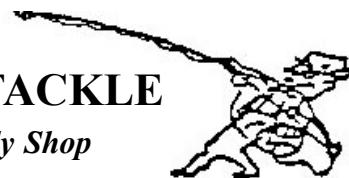
Recipients of the  
**Stroud Award**

2004-Jim Brown  
2005-Allen Greenwood



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Eileen & Bill Stroud

Cutoff date for **February FINNY FACTS**  
articles---Friday January 12th.

Send articles to:  
Rose and Roger Yamasaki,  
5415 Lodi Place  
San Diego, CA 92117  
858-274-2712.

You can E-mail at [finnyfacts@gmail.com](mailto:finnyfacts@gmail.com) Thanks!!

Send change of address information,signup for  
electronic version of newsletter, or Club mem-  
bership renewal to:

Lucky Ketcham  
3510 Gayle Street  
San Diego, CA 92115  
[membership@sandiegoflyfishers.com](mailto:membership@sandiegoflyfishers.com)

### LIFE MEMBERS

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

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Randy Ford, Allen Greenwood

Recipients of the:

### GORDON FOSTER MEMORIAL AWARD

For unselfish and outstanding service  
to the flyfishing community

1991-Ned Sewell	1999-Gretchen Yearous
1992-Bob Camp	2000-Tom Smith
1993-Bill & Eileen Stroud	2001-Rose & Roger Yamasaki
1994-Ed Velton	2002-Larry Sorensen
1995-Bob Wisner	2003-Jim Tenuto
1996-Gary Hilbers	2004-Joe Bain
1997-Jack Bentley	2005-Jim Reeg
1998-Gordie Zimm	



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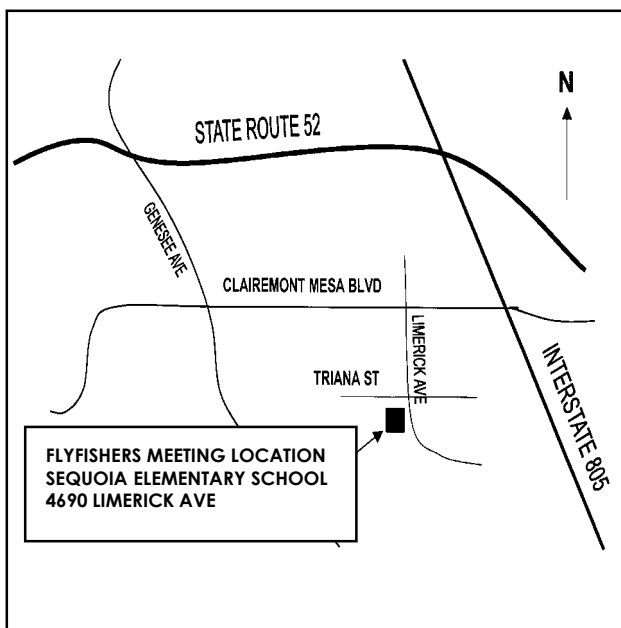
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Newsletter CoEditors-  
Rose & Roger Yamasaki  
5415 Lodi Place, San Diego  
92117, 858-274-2712  
E-mail:  
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Meeting Place for Workshops

San Carlos Recreation Center near Lake Murray. (We no longer meet at the Lake Murray Water Training Facility at 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.



San Diego Flyfishers Headquarters  
Stroud Tackle  
1457 Morena Blvd.  
San Diego, CA 92110  
619-276-4822

1457 Morena Boulevard  
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