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Special Points of Interest:

October

FLY FISHING



November

11

Fly Tying Expo

Check the Bulletin board!

Meeting Thursday, October 26
5:30 PM Casting
6:30 PM Dinner

Fly Fishing Team USA is holding their second ever Western Regional Trials here on Oct 28 & 29! We will be hosting a bunch of the team members and competitors at our meeting on Oct 26 to a Tri Tip BBQ. This is a no charge Pot Luck, so bring a covered dish and a friend!! Casting starts at 5:30 with the Team, dinner at 6:30 or so with the silent auction and speaking to happen while we eat.

We won't be having quite as big of an auction as last year, but will have lots more top quality gear for silent auctions and raffles, plus a couple of trips that will be auctioned live.

Come and hear the Old Time Music!!! We got so many complements last year on the fiddle/guitar/Bass music that we are doing it again this year. Have some fun with the great spirit of this music.

Finally, this year we are blessed to have a past World Champion, Vladi Trezbutnia who is from Poland attend. Vladi is the person who actually created the technique that later was coined 'Chezk nymphing'. This is an incredible windfall for us, so plan on attending and meeting this past World Champion and current coach for the United States team.

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Fred Ramirez

It's October already and we don't have much time. This month we have Team USA at the end of October 28, 29th. We're going to need help setting up tables and chairs for our potluck, if you can help please be at the meeting about 20 min. early. Don't forget to bring a side dish. The club will provide tri-tip sandwiches and green salad. So come and join us for some good fun and new friends. If you haven't signed up to help with the trials you still have time. None of these events go on if we don't have volunteers.

Just a reminder November 11, 2006, we're going to have our first ever-fly tying expo in Fresno. If you like to tie this is the place to come and learn some new tricks. We're trying to have tiers from all over the state come to Fresno and tie for the day. These fly tying events are a great way to learn some new patterns. So try to attend. We are also going to need help setting up tables and chairs. Then on Friday evening I am going to need help setting up the casting pond, so if you can help please call me. If you want to show off your fly tying skills don't be afraid to call me. We can make room for you.

On to the Lower River, we are going to be needing help doing electro shocking on the river early in November, and I will be getting a date for you soon. If you can help please email call or me. We will need all the help we can get. woollybuggerfred@aol.com.

Let's have some fun. The first person with the correct answer, will win a half a dozen baitfish patterns for November outing.

The question is. What year was our club founded?

No past or present board member can enter. Have fun with it.

One more thing, I would like to thank all the club members that attend the Kaweah Fall Festival and Banquet.

Team USA Trials, get involved

FLY FISHING



Sign up by emailing Jayne Ferrante at jayne@ferrantefinancial.com.

It's always fun to watch and see these innovate fly fishermen do their thing, but we also need some folks to help us pull this off! Here is what we need:

We still need some Monitors. This entails being assigned your own 'beat' of around 200 yards on the Upper Kings River or Hume Lake. Bring a lawn chair. You will watch one angler fish. When he catches a fish, he brings it to you in his net for measuring. You also observe him release the fish correctly. (They lose points if they hurt a fish.) You keep note on a chart provided how many fish and size for each angler. You will have 4 different anglers rotate through that beat, two on Saturday and

two on Sunday. Check out the Agenda bellow for times to start, each session lasts 3 hours. We are starting early on Sunday in order to get home at a reasonable time. Sunday is daylight Savings so starting an hour earlier won't be as hard as it sounds.

Lunch Delivery We need two people to pick up lunches on Saturday & Sunday about 9:30 AM and drive them to the Upper Kings & Hume. We have two cabins at Hume Lake secured for the weekend for volunteers that can work the Lake.

This is a tentative agenda.

Friday, 27th

Piccadilly Inn Airport, Sequoia Room

6:00-8:00 Registrations, beat assignments, instructions

8:00 Welcome by Jack Dennis, Ed Opler, & Jay Buchner, review of fishing techniques, water, tournament rules, etc.

Saturday, 28th

Groups A & B Kings River above Pine Flat Dam

Groups C & D Hume Lake

(Drive time from Fresno is 2 hours) *We will leave from the Hotel at 6:30 AM.*

9-12 First Session

12-1:30 Lunch, Switch Beats

1:30-4:30 Second Session

7:30 Pizza and Teams USA Presentation, John's Incredible Pizza

Sunday, 29th

Groups A & B Hume Lake

Groups C & D Upper Kings above Pine Flat Dam

(Drive time from Fresno 2 hours) *We will leave from the Hotel at 5:30 AM*

8-11 First Session

11-12:30 Lunch, Switch Beats

12:30-3:30 Second Session

6:00 Piccadilly Inn Wrap Up, Initial Scoring Results

Fly Dope

Mark Bequera with a 12" native rainbow taken this past July from the Marble Fork of the Kaweah River in Sequoia Park. Mark caught a number of trout that day with this being the largest. My thanks to him for showing me some great spots this summer.

Bill Bruce



Incubation Boxes Lower Kings River
Pictures provided by KRCD



Conservation Corner

Jayne Ferrante

Jimmie Morales, Fred Ramirez and I have been talking to some folks about the Whitlock Vibert boxes that the club used to plant brown trout eggs in the Lower Kings during the late 80's. We've been talking about what it would take to have more wild trout in the Kings, specifically where it is regulated as fly fishing only.

After feedback from Stan Stephens we've come to realize that we can best help to the increase in trout in the Kings by supporting the efforts of Kings River Conservation District and the Department of Fish and Game with the current Vibert boxes filled with Rainbow Trout.

I am proposing to the Board next week that we double these permanent incubators, (buy two more) and fill these with more Rainbow Trout eggs. We would be able to plant these eggs where we feel they will best survive, season after season. The cost would be less than \$1500.

Also our club needs to support this effort with some real work. We will be taking sign ups for a club member to check all four boxes once per weekend. Please consider taking responsibility for perhaps one weekend a month. Email or call me if you are interested.

Stan's feedback on this question gave me a great outline of what's been happening on the Lower Kings, which is just what I've been wanting for the Fly Dope. I've included it, (with his permission), below.

Also please check www.KRCD.ORG web site where you can find three years of annual reports summarizing most of the fishery improvement work that has occurred on the lower river.

Stan's letter

Jayne,

I guess the first question I would ask is why the interest in brown trout in the lower Kings River?

As you know, the Department has entered into in an agreement with Kings River Conservation District and Kings River Water Association to make improvements to the lower Kings River fishery (Fisheries Management Program). This action involves increases in minimum stream flow during the non-irrigation period, significant habitat improvement and the stocking of hatchery reared trout as well as other activities.

There is some natural rainbow trout spawning occurring in the December-January period. This has been documented over several years, including years prior to our introduction of trout eggs to the river. Much of the documented spawning occurs just downstream of the dam. These are fall spawning rainbow trout (probably Coleman strain) from the hatchery that have become self-sustaining in the river. Rainbow trout spawning probably occurs elsewhere in the river, but has yet to be documented.

The Fisheries Management Program has gone through a series of projects to hatch eyed trout eggs in the river. This has consisted of using Whitlock Vibert Boxes (WVB), old refrigerators as streamside incubators and now two permanent streamside incubators. The refrigerators depended on gravity to supply the water to the eggs and there were problems at some sites and in some years. The current streamside incubators have electric pumps and have performed well (photo attached). Eyed rainbow trout eggs are placed in WVB which are then placed in the incubators and allowed to hatch. The fry remain in the incubator until they are large enough to escape out into the river. We also remove some of the fry from the boxes and distribute them in suitable habitat along the river.

We normally hatch between 100,000 and 200,000 eggs twice a year, although this varies from year to year. We use spring spawning rainbow trout eggs (usually Eagle Lake or Junction Kamloop-both wild strains) usually around April and fall spawning rainbow trout eggs

Continued next page

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(mostly Coleman strain) usually between November and January. This project has been ongoing for at least five years and we generally experience a hatching suggest rate in the high 80 percent range. Is this contributing to the fishery? We are unsure at this point because it is difficult to differentiate trout spawned in the river and those from the boxes.

We are planting 25,000 subcatchable trout (4-6 inch) in October. These are generally Eagle Lake trout, which again are a wild strain. These trout are marked with an adipose fin clip so they can be identified as hatchery products if captured later (not missing adipose fin on fish in photo). Recent hook-and-line sampling (to collect fish for radio tagging) below the dam suggest these trout are contributing about 25% of the fish caught (photo attached). We also believe they are growing from 6 inches in length when planted to about 20-inches in about one and one-half years. This needs to be confirmed, but is similar to growth of rainbow trout documented for the, lower Kings River. This appears to be a very successful program and will continue

In December of last year the Department began planting large rainbow trout (5-7 pounds) that were part of a special hatchery program. These fish were provided special diets and lots of TLC by our San Joaquin hatchery personnel to improve the appearance of the trout. These were Coleman strain rainbow trout and were excellent in appearance and fighting ability (ask Roger, Hank and Kevin). A total of 3,000 pounds of large trout were planted in the lower river between December 2005 and March 2006.

Radio tags surgically inserted into the trout body cavity have provided information to indicate these large fish are still in the river and we expect fish in the eleven pound range to be available when the flows begin to drop later this year. This "big fish" stocking program will be repeated again this year with slightly larger rainbow trout.

The bottom line is we have a program in place using rainbow trout that appears to be working and we wish to support the continuation of this program.

Brown trout eggs have been planted in the river using WVB on at least two occasions. Although the eyed eggs hatched, the offspring never contributed to any degree to the fishery. The lower Kings River, like all rivers below dams in the central valley, is not very good brown trout habitat and a self-sustaining population would not be expected to develop. This is why you seldom see brown trout in these waters. Water temperatures in the fall are generally too warm for satisfactory brown trout egg maturation. While a few adult brown trout may be present, they are uncommon.

The brown trout that do survive are more difficult to catch than rainbow trout for the average angler. This means they could be around for some time and become large predators on other trout. They prefer the deep pools, to the exclusion of other trout, including other brown trout. We need more deep pools on the Kings as a refuge for rainbow trout, not brown trout.

If brown trout were to be successful in spawning, their offspring would probably out compete the small rainbow trout for the limited backwater habitat. The brown trout would spawn probably in October and the rainbows in December-January. That means the young-of-the year brown trout would be larger and out-compete the smaller rainbow trout to the detriment of the rainbow trout population.

The bottom line is that I can not support this project. I would suggest the club assist the Fisheries Management Program with maintenance of the streamside incubators when they are in operation (spring and fall). There is a need to check the incubators every other day when they are in operation and we could use some help.

Please give me a call if we need to discuss this or you have additional questions.

Stanley J. Stephens
Senior Environmental Scientist



Fresno Fly Fishers for Conservation
The First Annual
Central Valley
Fly Tying Expo
Nov. 11, 2006
Time 9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M

Sportman's Club
10645 N. Lanes Rd
Fresno, CA

Adults \$5.00
Children 15 & Under Free

For More Information & Registration Contact

www.fresnoflyfisher.org

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(559)226-4351

rogfly1@hotmail.com

OUTINGS

Don Shuda

I only had one member join me at the Wishon outing and that was Brian - a new member from Scotland (didn't get his last name). Catching was really slow, but it was very interesting to hear how things are in his homeland (gas \$11 per gal, SAGE fly rods \$1100, they use large brightly colored flies, pay as you fish because all fishing waters are private, etc). Brian has only been in the US a short time, and he is very interested in being an active member of our club. He is also a good fisherman, so please introduce yourself and invite him fishing.

Also remember to prepare for the November outing at San Luis Reservoir (or forebay depending on the wind). We are going after Striped Bass, and our guest speaker for the monthly meeting just prior to the outing is an expert in this fishery



Above and to the Left

Rainbow trout used in the tracking survey by KRCD



2006 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October

Fly Fishing Team USA Trials: October 28 & 29 (Jayne Ferrante)
Cedar Grove Outing (October 14)

November

Fly Tying Expo - Sportsman Club (Nov. 11)
San Luis Res. (Nov. 25)

December

Election of New Board

Officially Hooked

Stephen Neal

I have three Grandchildren or should I say they have me. Too many miles separate us, so I do not get to spend as much time with them as I want to. I have bought them all fishing poles but have not had a chance to take them fishing , but that all changed last week-end.

We drove up to Washington and set aside one day to take the grand kids fishing. Cassie is 6, Nathan 5 and Connor is 2 years old. So while this trip was planned with much excitement there was also some trepidation in making this first outing, luckily my son-in-law found a fish hatchery that stocks several ponds for fishing. The kid ratio was four adults to three kids so while the kid to adult ratio was not bad it still was in the kids favor.

We were saved by an onsite goose named Aflack who while not harmful, was not harmless, the goose kept the kids on high alert to his presence so they stayed close to the adults, much to our benefit. The pond was stocked with over a thousand rainbow trout all greater than 12 inches in length. After a tour of the fish hatchery and a few run-ins with Aflack the kids began to fish, we dogged back casts, untangled air knots and birds nests. Gave tips on casting and let nature take it's course. Our grand children came through with flying colors and huge smiles as they caught, missed, lost and finally landed their fish. They are now officially hooked on fishing.



BULLETIN BOARD

Help us out on the Lower Kings!! **LOWER KINGS RIVER ANGLER SURVEY FORM**

There's a new web page in town and among its other features is an angler's survey form for fishing the lower Kings River.

The web page is <http://www.kingsriverfisheries.org>. Under the Navigation menu on the left hand side is an entry titled "Angler Survey". Click on the item, fill in the blanks and submit. The results will be transmitted to the Department of Fish and Game.

WHAT'S HAPPENING ON THE LOWER KINGS

Since 1999, the Kings River Fisheries Management Program (Program) has been working to restore the lower Kings River to the fishery it used to be. A history of the program as well as documents relative to the program's beginning are to be found at the web site run by the Public advisory group. The URL is: <http://www.kingsriverfisheries.org>. Not only can you read these documents, you can report your success, or lack, on the lower Kings via the Anglers' survey, get the latest reservoir levels, be a part of the ongoing discussions in the forum section and view some pictures of the latest restoration ef-

Our Mission:

Fly Fishers for Conservation (FFC) was organized in 1961 by a group of devoted Fly Fishers deeply concerned with the preservation of trout and all game fish, their environment, and the quality of fishing. Our club has maintained two goals since this time:

To foster and promote the sport of angling with artificial flies

To protect, conserve, and increase our angling resources.



FFFC Membership Application

Name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Phone _____

Fees are due February 1, each year.

Pro-Rate: Pay for months remaining until January 30 including current month at 1/12 annual rate.

* Add initiation fee, \$10.

One newsletter per household.

- Regular Membership \$36
- Senior Membership \$24 (over age 65)
- Spousal Member \$12
- Jr. Member \$6 (Under 18)
- Lifetime Member \$500
- Shoulder Patch \$5
- CSUF Scholarship Donation \$ _____
- Conservation Donation \$ _____

**Make Check payable to FFFC.
Mail to 100 E. Sierra, PMB 3310, Fresno, CA 93710**

Initiation fee \$ 10.00

Total: \$ _____

Office use only: Amount _____ Check/Cash _____ Date _____ Input _____ Initial _____

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 California
 USPS 483-110

FLY DOPE (USPS 483-110) IS PUBLISHED MONTHLY AT \$18.00 PER YEAR BY THE FLY FISHERS FOR CONSERVATION, INC.
 POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO FFC, 100 E. SIERRA, PMB 3310, FRESNO, CA 93710

Fly Fishers For Conservation

**2006
 Slate**

Board Officers and Committee Members

Meetings held at:

Fresno Sportsman's Club
 10645 N. Lanes Road
 Fresno, CA 93720

**4th Thursday of every
 Month**
6 PM Skills Training
7 PM Program



McKenzie Cup Winner
 1989

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