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My 24, Big Meadows Update Jayne Ferrante

In 2003 we embarked on a long term commitment to restore Big Meadow Creek in Sequoia National Forest to promote watershed enhancement and fish habitat, a project that is well underway. This has been our central conservation project for the past four years.

Since the late 1800s the Big Meadows area was used for seasonal grazing of sheep and cattle under private ownership. In the early 1900s the area was bought by the federal government. The first recorded grazing allotment under Forest Service jurisdiction was created in the early 1960s. According to Hume Lake Ranger District personnel and district records the initial check dams were installed at the time the allotment was issued. A map from 1941 shows some gullying in the meadow, and according to stream gauge records from Cedar Grove on December 23, 1955, there is evidence of a rain-on-snow event, which likely increased the gullying in Big Meadows. This same event caused massive flooding in several valley towns.

The goal of the Big Meadows Creek improvement project is to restore 6,100 feet of degraded stream within the meadow to enhance aquatic species habitat while maintaining existing land uses including recreation and grazing. The project will use a restoration technology called "pond and plug," which eliminates the existing down cut channel and redirects stream flow back into stable, historic remnant channels on the meadow surface. This reconnects the channel to its naturally-evolved floodplain. The project would provide the following ecosystem benefits: 1) establish a single-thread, low flow channel, 2) reduce flow peaks and increase/extend summer base-flows, 3) increase in-stream cover and shading, 4) enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitat, 5) improve water quality, and 6) raise the local groundwater level within the meadow.

Jayne's presentation will cover the history of the Big Meadows project, where we are now and what needs to be accomplished. We look forward to seeing you at our May meeting the presentation will start shortly after 7:00PM.

Special Points of Interest:

May

20th

Dinkey Outing

24th

General Mtg.

June

2nd

Shad Outing

14th

Lough Fishing

Check the Bulletin board!



PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**Stephen Neal***“In Wildness is the Preservation of the World “ Henry David Thoreau*

The first thing I need to say is a **big thank you to Bob Papazian for putting on a great FFFC Banquet.** The second is to apologize for not getting the fly dope out for April. Life came at me too fast in April and something had to slip and it was the Fly Dope. My son got married, we had the Fly Fishing banquet and we had the Hume Lake outing but with every event there also has to be people to attend those events so our house was full of relatives and grandkids. My after work hours were filled with family and grandkids, mostly grandkids. When I walked in the door after work it was full out kid rumble time. We read, we wrestled, we chased and ran, played hide and seek and watched DVD's, built forts and drew pictures. On the week-end I took them fishing so again I apologize for not getting the fly dope out in April but since I only get to see my Grandkids once or twice a year I plead kid induced insanity.

Well it's May already and things are not slowing down for the club we have new eggs coming in for the incubators please contact Fred Ramirez 779-9501 to get set up. The club outing is scheduled for May 20th this is our new Fly Fisherman outing. If you are new too Fly Fishing or still on the learning curve we will hook you up with an experienced club member and they will spend a day on the water with you, contact Scott West (299-2845. Jayne Ferrante will give a presentation on Big Meadows at our club meeting on May 24. Don Busby will have Fly Casting instruction starting at 6:00 PM on the lawn behind the Sportsman's club.

June 2nd is our Shad outing on the San Joaquin River contact Bob Papazian at 434-6544 Bob will also demonstrate shad fly tying at our May 24th club meeting.

**THANK YOU ONE & ALL
FOR MAKING THIS YEAR'S
SPRING BANQUET A SELL OUT!**

There are many people to thank for helping out with this year's banquet, but first of all, FFFC would like to **THANK EVERYONE THAT ATTENDED.** \$22,000 worth of rods, reels, clothing, flies, & gear was raffled & auctioned off this year, making it one of our most successful in recent years. The money raised this year will help us continue in our efforts to complete the Big Meadows Project & many other programs like Trout in the Classroom. Congratulations to **FRED RAMIREZ** for earning the **FOUNDERS AWARD** & to **WAYNE THOMPSON** as this year's **CONSERVATION AWARD** recipient.

We also thank **HANK URBACH** for a terrific presentation on the **KINGS RIVER CONSERVANCY.**

Putting on the banquet is a lot of work, of course. But it's also a lot of fun & the work is shared by many. **Listed below are all of the people that helped out with this year's event or donated goods or services for the raffles & auctions.** I apologize if I left anyone out!

Dave Burris, Dan Busby, Jim Clark, Phil Davis, Jim & Delores Graham of Iggy's Catering, Dave & Linda Grubbs, Jerry Hopewell, Jim Johnson, Frank & Nancy Jones, Mits Kozuki, Jack & Sue Leveque, Julie McGuinness, Brian & Shirley McManus, Roger & Sandra Miller, Roger's young friend Blayne, Jimmie Morales, Stephen Neal, Paul Prespare, Neil Pultz, Fred & Nichole Ramirez, Ed Shroeder, Clint Thaxter, Jeff & Patricia Trafican, Scott West.

**NEXT YEAR'S BANQUET IS ALREADY BOOKED
WE'LL SEE YOU ALL AGAIN NEXT YEAR
ON SATURDAY APRIL 12, 2008**

Bob Papazian

Outings

Jeff Trafican

APRIL-MAY -JUNE OUTINGS

Pyramid Lake Trip

Thanks to all that attended our Pyramid Lake outing. We had a total of 16 people travel to the lake. Although the fishing had slowed from the week before, a lot of nice fish were caught. And fortunately the weather was great compared to last year. After fishing on our first day (Sat. 3/31) we all gathered on the reservation in trailer # 8 for dinner. It was a nice evening and it gave us a chance to visit, compare notes, tie some flies, and see what was hot and what was not. Thanks go out to Bob Papazian, Dan Trafican and his sons, and Brian McManus and his son for helping with the food. Dan's sons, Danny and David, flew in from Portland OR. just for the outing. They really enjoyed fishing and visiting with members of the club.



Dan & Sons



Pyramid Lake Trailer Trash



Clint with a nice one.

HUME LAKE

We had our Hume Lake outing on Saturday April 28. We postponed the outing one week because of weather and it turned out to be a great day. About 15 people showed up and a lot of fish were caught. In the middle of the day we took a break for lunch which gave everyone a chance to visit and compare notes. Most people fished the area from the back boat ramp to the dam. The largest fish that I heard landed was 18" by Phil Davis. I also want to thank Phil for all the help he gave me with the outing. If you weren't able to make it, hopefully you can attend one of our future outings.



Hume Lake Fish Bums



Phil & Ron comparing their catch



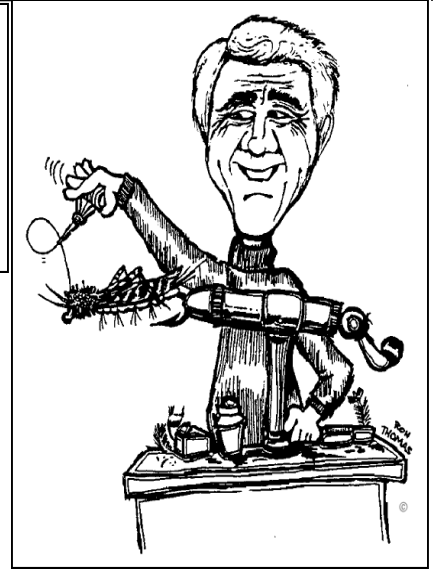
Hank High and Dry

Fly's from Jerry's Bench

Jerry Hopewell

Kings River Aquatic Insects

This is an effort to enhance your knowledge of the various insects found in the Kings River system. I will attempt to provide the type of insect information. The collecting area will be identified. Your task is to research and identify the insects. Feedback will be posted on the web site. Photos by Dave Burris



1: Stonefly, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River



4: Caddis fly, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River

2: Stonefly, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River



5: Beetle Larva, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River

3: Stonefly, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River



Continued next page

Fly's from Jerry's Bench continued from pg 4

6: Mayfly, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River



9: Mayfly, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River



7: Mayfly, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River



10: Caddis, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River



8: Mayfly, Bay Horse Flat, Kings River



Jerry Hopewell
fluestang@comcast.net

Charles Robert Coleman

Chuck a long time member and Past President of this organization passed away on March 21st of this year after a long battle with Alzheimer's. Most of you probably don't remember Chuck, but there are those of us that do, and are thankful for his presence in our midst. I have a few stories about Chuck but if you never met him they wouldn't mean much, but one thing I can pass on was that when it came to fly fishing he was a minimalist in the truest sense of the word, and those of you that knew him will know what I mean. We will miss you Chuck.

Roger Miller, Past President

Outings Continued from Page 3

Jeff Trafican

DINKEY CREEK

For our May outing Scott West is going to take us to the Dinkey Creek area to fish. Scott has fished this area many times before. The outing was moved from Saturday the 19th to Sunday the 20th due to a conflict. All are welcome, including newcomers. We will have experienced people to work with you. The plan is to have Scott meet everyone at 8:00 A.M. at the gas station in Shaver Lake (corner Hwy. 168 and Dorabelle Road). After everyone gathers there he will bring you up the road to the Trafican cabin for pastry, coffee, and juice. We can discuss our day and head out to fish. This should be fun. Everyone should plan on bringing their own lunch. If you plan on attending please contact Scott (299-2845). He can give you more information and details.

June 2nd American Shad Outing

**** Instruction on tying Shad flies will be given at 6PM (before our May meeting)**

Back in the 1970's, the Department of Fish & Game- thinking they were planting tiny Threadfin Shad- put American Shad in Millerton Lake by mistake. The rest, they say, is history. Millerton Lake is one of only two lakes in the United States that have a sustainable American Shad population. Every year between mid May & late June the American Shad begin their journey from Millerton Lake up the San Joaquin River to spawn. Spawning American Shad from Millerton range between 12"-24" long. The action can be fast & furious for these feisty fish as we intercept them on their way up the river. If you catch it just right, 20 to 30 fish days are possible. The outing this year will be hosted by Bob Papazian & Jeff Trafican. A BBQ lunch & bottled water will be provided stream-side. Call Bob (307-4601) or Jeff (299-0591) for details.

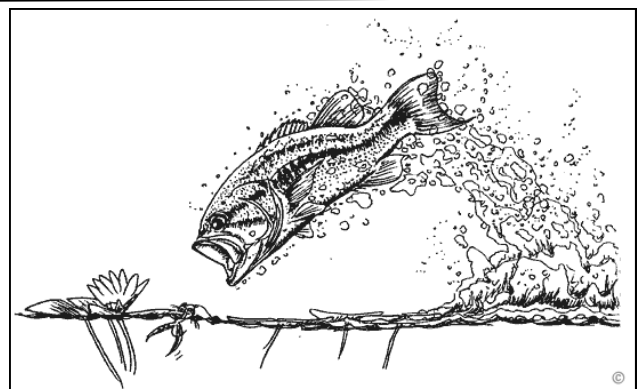
Directions to the Shad Outing: From Auberry, go thru town & turn left just past the Elementary School. The sign will say "to North Fork". Continue for about two miles & turn left at the "San Joaquin River Gorge" sign. Continue until the road dead ends at the Kerkoff II Powerhouse (about 10 miles). We'll meet here at **9AM** & walk down to the river together. If you get there late, it's just a ten minute walk down the paved PG&E road from the parking lot to the river. Bring plenty of sunscreen & get ready for a good time!

BIG MEADOWS

Fred Naylor and the Kaweah Club have invited us to join them for an outing at Big Meadows on Saturday, June 16. If you didn't know, Big Meadows has been an important restoration project for our club. This is a great chance to see and fish the meadow. This will also give us a chance to visit and get to know our friends from the Visalia club. An afternoon B.B.Q. is planned. Please contact me if you are planning on attending. I will have more details as they become available. Jeff Trafican 299-0591



22" American Shad from the San Joaquin River



Club Meeting Dates 2007

March 31-April 2	Pyramid Lake Trip	August 23	General Mtg.
April 4, 11, 18, 25	Casting Woodward Park	September 27	General Mtg.
April 14	Banquet Saturday	Sept. 29-30	Upper Kings River Trip
April 21	Hume Lake Outing	October 20	Cedar Grove (Kings River Classic hosted by Visalia Club)
May 20	Dinkey Creek Area (Emphasize newcomers)	October 25	General Mtg.
May 24	General Mtg.	Nov. 9 Friday	General Mtg.
June 2	San Joaquin River Shad Outing	Nov. 17	San Luis Reservoir Outing
June 14	Lough Fishing (River Center)	Dec 14 Friday	General Mtg.
June 16	Big Meadow w/Kaweah club		
June 28	General Mtg.		
July 21-22	Lake Edison Area Trip		
July 26	General Mtg.		

Lough Fishing for Brown Trout in Ireland with Frank Reilly

Frank Reilly, a highly regarded fly fisherman in Ireland, will be visiting the week of June 10 to fish the Eastern Sierra, and perhaps the Kings, with Patrick and Conor Kelly.

Frank has fished on the Irish national team in European competitions many times. As well as working for one of the regional inland fisheries agencies in Ireland, Frank is a highly experienced ghillie (guide), an accomplished fly tier, and a certified casting instructor.

He will talk primarily about fishing for brown trout on Lough Corrib and Lough Mask, the premier trout fisheries of the West of Ireland. If time permits, he will also talk about Atlantic salmon fishing in Ireland.



Where: The River Center (Riverview Ranch), 11605 Old Friant Road, Fresno.
When: Thurs., 14 June 2007, 7:00 p.m. (set up and socializing 6-7 p.m.)



VOLUNTEER

WYANE THOMPSON

Save The Date!

Kings River Conservancy Volunteer Spring Cleanup Project

Choinumni Park Trail Segment

Thank you for volunteering your time to help with this project! Our spring project will enhance an already existing trail along the Kings River, below Pine Flat Dam. The trail begins at the north end of the Choinumni campground and continues along the western bank of the Kings River (between the road and the river). The trail ends at a vehicle access point one mile north. This trail section is accessible from both end points, as well as a few pullouts along the road. The trail is mainly used by hikers and fishing public.

Clean up dates and time: Saturday, April 21st and Saturday, May 5th. We want to get started early to avoid the afternoon heat, so both Saturday's we will meet at 7:30a.m. at the river access parking lot.

Directions: Hwy 180 to Piedra Road to Trimmer Springs Road. Turn right on Trimmer Springs Road. Continue to Pine Flat Road and turn right (at the Post Office), continue ½ mile (past Choinumni Park campground entrance) to the green sign "River Access Parking". We will have a KRC sign posted to help you find us! We will have a volunteer liability waiver for you to sign before you start to work. Our workday will end at 12:00 noon.

What to bring: Gloves, sun hat, grab sticks, pruning shears, pitchforks, shovels, and pruning loppers. Other suggested items include chain saws and wheelbarrows. Long-sleeved shirts and long pants are suggested to eliminate exposure to poison oak and for insect protection. KRC will furnish trash bags, bottled water and light snacks.

What we will be doing: We will focus our time on trail maintenance, removing brush overgrowth, clearing fallen tree limbs on the trail, repairing eroded portions of the existing trail, cleaning and re-setting existing picnic tables, removing graffiti from rocks and signs along the trail-this includes the Indian grinding rocks found along the trail.

We expect to get a lot of work done and have fun while we work! So please feel free to invite your friends or family members who wish to join us to help with this project.

If you have questions, contact John Gray, Volunteer Coordinator, Kings River Conservancy, at 638-5466 (days) or 876-2757 (evenings).

This project is a joint effort between the KRC and Fresno County staff.

BULLETIN BOARD

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 efforts on the lower Kings.

I am trying to set up a two day outing to Kelsey Bass Lake this year for Saturday May 26 and Sunday May 27, 2007. I have four signups so far. I need twelve per day to reserve the whole lake. If you are interested in one or both days, let me know and also let me know if you plan to camp at McSwain reservoir. Reservations can be made Monday for the next year. The club provides lunch both days and the cost is only what we are charged by the owners. I estimate \$75 a day, but I will confirm that. Let me know. Mark Cave [mdcave@sbcglobal.net]

Mammoth High School Fly Fishing Club is starting a fly tying class this Spring. Chris Leonard our youth VP has told me that they have limited tools and material. The Club sold Christmas Trees as a fund raiser to purchase needed things for the class. They raised around \$300.00, a good start!!; but that wont go very far. MHSFFC is the only youth group that the Council has. I know that every tier out there has some old tools, or material that they don't use. We all now what I am talking about, The bright lime dubbing the dd #6 scud hook the scissors that don't fit your fingers, your first vice. This club of 15 eager students could use it!!! Anyone , or Club wishing to donate can bring items to the next Council meeting, or contact me and I will make arrangements to pick them up. Wayne Thompson [wayne@sawdustandflies.com]

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 _____

FLY DOPE
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 Fresno, CA 93710

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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

Officers

President/Editor	Stephen Neal	(415) 314-7690cell	wsneal@starband.net
1st V.P./Secretary	Jim Clark	(559) 322-1685	blueswiftrun@sbcglobal.net
2nd V.P. /Treasurer	Bob Papazian	(559) 434-6544	bobpapazian@cvi.net
Conservation	Jayne Ferrante	(559) 446-1505	jayne@ferrantefinancial.com
Membership	Sue Leveque	(559) 297-1767	jsleveque@comcast.net
Committee Chairs			
Social Director	Robert Stearns	(599) 298-5253	r.stearns@sbcglobal.net
Fly Casting	Dan Busby	(559) 433-1651	dantheflyfisher@sbcglobal.net
Rod Bldg./Web Page	David Burris	(559) 642-4190	seabass1469@yahoo.com
Fly Tying	Jerry Hopewell	(559) 638-5282	fluestang@comcast.net
Outings	Jeff Trafican	(559) 299-0591	jatraf@yahoo.com
Education Director	Bill Bruce	(559) 299-6615	bbruce@cvi.net
Communication	Scott West	(559) 299-2845	mandydad@sbcglobal.net
Fair	Mits Kozuki	(559) 646-3020	no email
Director at Large	Paul Prespare	(559) 435-5347	utcsppv@aol.com
Director at Large	Roger Miller	(559) 226-4351	rogfly@hotmail.com
Director at Large	Frank Jones	(559) 222-5864	fpjones@comcast.net