

Downey Fly Fishers



"The Fishingest Club Around"

Downey Fly Fishers Program: John Woodling and Brian Matthews

Fishing in "The Land of Giants"

The last week of September 2009 I was invited by John Woodling to fish the Missouri River in Montana. He always had great stories and awesome pictures of him and his son every year. It was an invite I could not pass up. So I met John and his wife Marge in Helena. We fished two sections of the river. First we fished the section below Hauser Dam (which we fished twice) and second we fished the section below Holter Dam. The weather was cold, mild, rainy, windy, snowing, etc. all in the 3 days there. We were guided by Gary Fritz of Osprey Expeditions. He really knows the water and is a fantastic person. Using mainly nymphs and streamers we caught a lot of big fish...hence "The Land of The Giants". John will be doing a fly tying demo from 6 to 7 PM and then we'll have pictures and recollections of a GREAT fishing trip. Hope to see you all there....

Brian Matthews



Upcoming events

May 11

General meeting at Apollo Park at 7pm (fly tying at 6pm)

May 13

First rod building class at Apollo Park (7:00 pm)

March 15 - 16

DFF club outing to Mammoth

May 18

Board Meeting at Mike Jedlick's house at 7pm

May 25

Fly tying night at Brian's from 6pm-9pm

Deadline for the June newsletter is May 26th 2010.

Members can email stories to bnmandthegirls@verizon.net or tsuttle@charter.net

This month's "Fishing Tales" from the "**Fishingest Club Around**"

By: Tod Suttle

On April 9th, Zino and I joined southern California guide Conway Bowman on an outstanding sight-fishing trip. Our goal was to present our flies to spooky fish in very shallow water. We were fishing from a 17-foot flats boat while Conway poled us around in water that at times, was less than a foot deep. Now for the interesting part; we weren't fishing the Florida flats for tarpon or the crystal waters of the Bahamas' for bonefish. Our destination was a freshwater lake in San Diego for carp (aka the Golden Bonefish). To say that the trip as successful doesn't begin to describe how much fun we all had. Once the water warmed, the bite turned on, and the fishing remained spectacular for the rest of the day. Zino tied a fly that I began calling "the carp killer"; it accounted for most of the fish and hopefully we can get him to tie it at an upcoming meeting. Most of the fish were about 3-4 pounds, but they pull hard and we were into our backing on several occasions. The largest fish landed was about 6 pounds, but Conway assured us that other areas of the lake can produce fish over 10 pounds. During the warmer summer months, it is possible to get these fish on a dry fly if you are able to stop shaking long enough to gently lift the rod tip for a double-digit monster. This trip was very affordable and though it is possible to go at it alone, I would encourage you to give Conway a try. Stalking fish from the front of a flats boat is an experience that you won't soon forget. I have included a link to Conway's website as well as a YouTube video that highlights our experience. If you have a fish tale to share in next month's newsletter, just send me a quick e-mail with the subject line "Fish Tales" and I will enter the information on this page. You don't have to compose a lengthy document or write an essay, just a simple place and date along with the flies used and the fish (if any) that were caught. If you have a photo, send it with your story. Send your tales to tsuttle@charter.net

- Conway Bowman's website: <http://www.bowmanbluewater.com/>
- YouTube video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik1iobnh6Sg>



FLY OF THE MONTH – March 2010

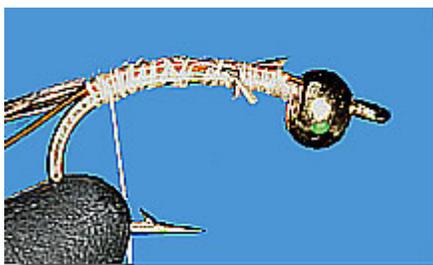
The Shop Vac by Bob Bates

Courtesy of www.fedflyfishers.org

This is a go to fly for many anglers. It is a generic pattern representing many different insects. With its white wing and brass bead it has been called a great searching pattern. Roger Thompson tied this one at the 2009 East Idaho Fly Tying Expo in Idaho Falls, ID. It was developed years ago by Craig Mathews and company at Blue Ribbon Flies in West Yellowstone, MT

It can be used in streams or lakes. One reference said that it most effective in tail waters, but it is excellent in freestone waters. Any type of fly line can be used depending how deep you want to fish it. Some anglers use it as a dropper from a high floating pattern like a stonefly, hopper or mayfly. When fishing it deep in a stream, adjust the length of the leader to be twice the estimated depth of the water. Then cast upstream so it will sink as it comes back to you. Watch end of the fly line to detect a strike. If you are using a floating pattern as a strike indicator be sure to watch it carefully. If the floating pattern does anything strange like stop, move upstream or sideways, tighten your line. It might be a rock or a nice brown trout. I usually don't STRIKE because that is when the tippet breaks. I just tighten the line, and if it wiggles it is probably a fish.

In lakes you can use a floating line or any of the sinking lines to put the fly in the proper place. Let the fly sink to where you think the fish are, and then retrieve the fly in a manner to attract the fish. Books have been written on the subject.



Materials

Hook: DaiRiki 135, 14

Bead: Brass 3/32 Gold

Thread: Uni-thread, 8/0 white

Rib: Copper wire, small

Body: Pheasant tail

Wing: Darlon, Zelon or Sparkle yarn, white

Follow this link and click on March 2010 for more detailed tying instructions:

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4478>

- Club member Gary Worthen submitted the following letter. For those of us that know Gary, saying he is a fine fisherman is an understatement. He is an all around great guy and as a young high school kid that joined this club 15 years ago, he was one of the most helpful and influential anglers that I have ever met.

Dear Club Members,

A great many of you may not know me. I'm Gary Worthen. I wore a lot of hats in the club in the 18 years that I was an active member. The titles are ambiguous. The hat I wore most proudly was our Downey Fly Fishers Club cap. The absolute happiest and most content period of my life thus far was my active membership in the club. The friends, adventures, associations, and experiences I formed rewarded in ways so richly I won't even bore you with. Whatever I put into the club rewarded me many times more than I can rightly credit.

Before I ever heard of DFF, I read a letter to the editor of Western Outdoor News penned by member Alan Grosdidier about a departed friend, mentor, and member Ruben Valenzuela. Alan recalled how the club visited Arcularius Ranch on the Upper Owens River and took Ruben before he passed away. Valenzuela was in a wheel chair and in failing health. Arcularius was a private ranch much like Hot Creek Ranch is. The club did outings there once or twice a year and it was often the highlight outing each year. That particular trip the fishing was ever elusive. Members helped Ruben in his wheel chair to the streamside and Ruben caught the grand fish of the outing.

My memory gets a little sketchy here, and Alan can correct me if I am wrong. Ruben was more than a catcher of fish. He was an ardent fly tier, instructor and all around core member of the club. He was well liked. Valenzuela proved the power of One idea, fostered unfaltering by one individual...the Power of One. At one point the Lower Owens River below Pleasant Valley Reservoir had experienced years of downturn on a once robust population of native brown trout. Ruben enlisted the help of the Department of Fish and Game's Wild Trout Program. He enlisted Cal Trout and Southwest Council of Federation of Fly Fishers to address this program. Ruben was the point person in getting these disparate entities at the time to address Lower Owens's deficiencies. Through inspection it was found that the stretch of stream from the outlet of Pleasant Valley Reservoir to the Chalk Bluffs Road was the prime-spawning habitat for what we know as the Blue Ribbon stretch now. The main impediment was that the fish could not pass through the culvert under Chalk Bluffs Road. The discrepancy seemed too simple and the larger parties weren't quite so eager to replace the culvert. Ruben persisted, got fish studies done, had hydrologists inspect and finally the culvert was put in.

Almost immediately the stream experienced a dramatic comeback. The 5-6 mile stretch that we know of as the Lower Owens River Trophy Trout stretch was fostered hugely due to Ruben Valenzuela's efforts. Grosdidier's story touched me. I belonged to several other highly respected fly fishing clubs, but didn't feel they suited me. I decided to visit DFF and did so during one of their fly tying classes. I was already an experienced fly tier but I wanted to see the club in action. The class only had a handful of students and the quality of the one on one instruction impressed me. This may sound corny, but I felt two needs meeting that night. I needed DFF and I felt they needed me. It was only a feeling. I never felt that at the other two clubs. I strived over the rest of my active years to make those needs consistent.

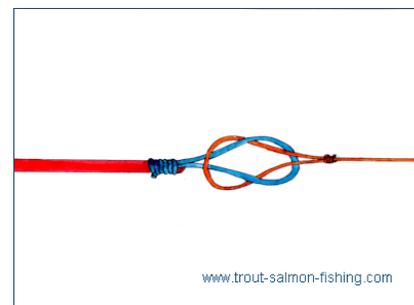
Our one annual conservation project each year would be to go to the Lower Owens River and clean and repair a rather obscure sign proclaiming the Lower Owens Wild Trout Area and the responsible parties for getting the area specified as Wild Trout Status. On the signage or monument were the greater organizations. But the original Downey Fly Fishers logo was routed into the sign. Ruben made sure his club, our club, would be recognized as one of the responsible parties. The power of one member became the driving force for one of the most consistent stretches of Wild Trout Water in the Eastern Sierra. The sign has long since faded and been torn down. Ruben probably isn't even a footnote to anything and the larger groups like DFG, CalTrout and SWCFFF can claim the credit. Ruben was the defacto SWCFF point person, and was DFF's point man. He spearheaded the project. Ruben probably isn't part of the club's collective memory anymore. My facts are most likely skewed and Allan Grosdidier can clear the details more precisely. Ruben was before my time but he was my first link to our club's rich traditions. I share this with all of you so the club's collective memory won't forget. Tight lines...

Gary Worthen

Knots and Rigging: The Perfection Loop

By: Tod Suttle

Loop knots are an essential part of fly-fishing. Many fly anglers use a loop knot at the butt end of their leader so they can attach it to a loop in the end of their fly line. This connection is shown at the right. It is also very helpful to use a loop knot to attach your fly to your leader when fishing a fly that is retrieved. By using a loop knot on a fly such as a Matuka or a Clouser Minnow, you are allowing more movement during the retrieve, which should induce more strikes. The knot of choice this month is the Perfection Loop; it is a strong loop knot that can be used for both instances described above. This knot is a very commonly used on the butt section of a leader, but I will also demonstrate how to attach your fly with it. I tried something new in our knots and rigging section this month. I created two videos that I attached links for below. The first video shows the knot alone, the second shows how to use it to attach your fly. If you have any questions, I would be happy to answer them at this month's meeting.



http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yTCUfrIH_Q



<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0ZSs0wdkJQ>

What is it?

This month's identification is a streamer that is often the first one picked from our boxes during a fishing session. It is believed that this fly was created by Russell Blessing, but its exact origin is unknown. The one fact that we can all be sure of is that this fly catches a lot of big fish. Be the first to provide the correct name of this fly and win 5 raffle tickets. Good Luck and the first to respond wins. Please send answers to the following e-mail address:

tsuttle@charter.net



Our annual White Elephant fundraiser was an outstanding event this year. Zino does a great job at getting a variety of wonderful items that any fisherman can use. Thank you to all of those members that helped with the food, fly-tying and accounting; also a big thank-you to Carl serving as a great auctioneer.

Fly Tying Night at Brian's

This month's fly tying night will be on Tuesday, May 25 from 6:00 pm until 9:00 pm at 4729 Coldbrook Ave in Lakewood. This is for those members or friends that want to get together and tie flies, learn new patterns, get tips and techniques, or just socialize. All members are welcome to come and learn some great new techniques from some well-rounded fly-tyers. Contact Brian at (562) 425-7936 or bnmandthegirls@verizon.net. Hope to see you there.

Board Meeting

There is a board meeting at Mike Jedlick's house on May 18. The meeting will start at 7:00 pm and all club members are welcome. Please come and share your ideas about the club policies and practices. We are always looking for new ideas and helpful volunteers to keep the club going strong.

Club Officers

President:	John Barnett
V. President:	Brian Matthews
Secretary:	Brian Matthews
Treasurer:	Mike Jedlick
Past President:	Carl Laski

Board of Directors

Alan Grosdider	Jim Buchannan
Mike Jedlick	Terry Mattsuura
Eric Rasmussen	Frank Russick
Phil "Doc" Solomon	

Chairpersons

Conservation and FFF rep	Carl Laski
Education	John Barnett Bob Stuart
Fly bank	Don Mulder Jerry Ferrin
Membership	Brian Matthews
Newsletter	Tod Suttle
Outings	Position Open
Potlucks	Brian Matthews
Programs	Zino Nakasuji Ray Sugiyama
Publicity	Brian Matthews John Barnett
Raffles	Brian Matthews
Refreshments	Mike Jedlick
Trout in the Classroom	Randy Teeple Richard Dekker
Video Library	Fred Roberts
Website	Jerry Phan

DFF Supports:



Cal Trout



-The Barbara J. Riley Community Senior Center is located on the corner of Rives Avenue and Quill Drive just west of Paramount Boulevard and just north of Imperial Highway.

This month's meeting: May 11th, 2010
Barbara J. Riley Community Senior Center
7810 Quill Drive
Downey, CA 90242



PO Box 516
Downey, CA 90241

