

Downey Fly Fishers May 2014



Help us welcome Joe Margiotta of the Kern River Fly Shop on May 13th

Joe was born and grew up in Chicago. As a young boy his Mom and Dad would take him fishing at the city's lakefront (Lake Michigan). Here is some more information from Joe's own account:

I remember the day I turned 3 and was allowed to hold the long cane pole on my own. I caught a fish that day, it was a yellow perch; I was hooked for life. When I was 16 I bought my first fly rod. I knew nothing about fly fishing except for an article I had read in Field and Stream magazine that got me interested. It was an 8' fiberglass rod with an automatic reel and a level line. I bought a small selection of dry flies, wet flies, and some small bluegill poppers based on nothing in particular; I knew nothing about what I was doing. In spite of the struggle of learning how to use my new outfit on my own I managed to catch some fish. I found bluegill to be very cooperative and my first trout was on a dry in a river in northern Wisconsin. That little Rainbow was only about 6" but it was one of the most memorable catches of my life; I can still visualize that spectacular strike with the fish coming clear out of the water, my fly in it's mouth.

While I fly fished often in my early years I still turned to spin and conventional casting because I was more familiar with those methods and I was still learning to fly fish on my own. After moving to California, meeting people that fly fished became more frequent so I gradually turned more to the fly. I haven't fished anything but fly in the last 25 years. I guide in the Southern Sierra and other parts of California. I teach beginning fly fishing classes and was one of the instructors of the first Youth Academies pioneered by the Santa Barbara Fly Fishers. I have taught "learn to fly fish" classes at the Artful Angler Fly Shop in Carpenteria and the Kern River Fly Shop in Kernville.

I have fished in many parts of the US and Canada, moving water, still water, fresh and salt. I have lived in and extensively fished the waters of Inyo and Mono counties. I now live in Kernville, home of the Kern River which I have fished for over 45 years.