

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



Volume 7, Issue 7

July 12, 2011

## Club Officers

<b>President:</b>	Randy Kelly
<b>Vice President:</b>	
<b>Secretary:</b>	Craig Bullock
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Larry Longueira
<b>FFF/PHW:</b>	Randy Kelly
<b>Outings:</b>	Paul Sinclair
<b>Safety:</b>	Paul Sinclair
<b>Fly of the Month:</b>	Robert Gomez
<b>Website:</b>	Chris Hynes
<b>Newsletter:</b>	Gary Applebee

Send Articles to: [glapplebee@gmail.com](mailto:glapplebee@gmail.com)



## **President's Message**

We will not be meeting this month, since so many of us are on vacation with our families or a fishing vacation. There is no President's message since we aren't meeting this month. Hope you're out fishing or at least staying out of the heat.

## General Meeting Notice

<b>Date:</b>	Tuesday; July 12, 2011
<b>Time:</b>	NO MEETING
<b>Place:</b>	<b>County Fire Station</b>
<b>Address:</b>	19235 Yucca Loma Rd. Apple Valley
<b>Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.hidesertflyfishers.com">www.hidesertflyfishers.com</a>

## Fly of the Month

### **Pheasant Tail Variant**

Well this is pretty much our old friend the Pheasant tail, but with a few more triggers. A bright bead, a softer tail and rubber legs that will give more movement as it tumbles around. Hopefully those differences will mean more hook-ups. Basically it's an attractor pattern and since these materials are fairly common and inexpensive you can easily make changes them to fit your needs.

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



## HD Club Discount Locations

**Arizona Flyfishers:** [www.azflyfishing.net](http://www.azflyfishing.net)

**Sierra Trading Post:** [www.sierratradingpost.com](http://www.sierratradingpost.com)

**Flymen Fishing:** [www.flymenfishingcompany.com](http://www.flymenfishingcompany.com)

**Sierra Stream:**  
[www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com](http://www.stillwaterflyfishingadventures.com)

**Sierra Trout Magnet:** Dave D'beaupre, owner  
(760) 873-0010 10%  
[www.sierratroutmagnet.com](http://www.sierratroutmagnet.com)



1. Start off by pinching the barb and inserting the bead. Drop a base layer of thread to the beginning of the bend and tie in the marabou tail as you would a wooly bugger. Don't cut the marabou at the tail. Instead secure it along the hook shank to provide some bulk and a smooth surface. On the way back tie in your wire.



Hooks, Tiemco 9300

Wire is small, color: wine.

Marabou dyed brown.

Olive colored pheasant tail.

Tarantu-leggs, Brown Mini



2. Tie in some pheasant tail fibers by the tips. This will provide a more tapered look from the rear of the fly.

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



3. Dab a small amount of super glue to the hook and wrap the pheasant tail fibers the opposite direction you tie your thread. Secure the pheasant tail fibers and wrap the wire the same direction you do your thread. Secure wire.

hook. Since you've advanced the thread forward, tie the legs in going towards the tail until you reach the dubbing ball. This will help secure the legs. Don't cut the legs yet.



5. Add another small dubbing ball right in front of legs to cover thread wraps and then move the string forward once again. Add a second pair of legs.



4. Dub a small ball right in front of the pheasant tail. Advance the thread forward a few wraps (with no dubbing) and add a single strand of rubber legs. Do this by letting your bobbin hang off the hook and wrap the rubber legs around the thread and take it up to the



6. Repeat process until you have three legs on each side.

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



When: Saturday, Oct 15, 2011  
Where: The Olympic Collection  
11301 W. Olympic Blvd  
Los Angeles, CA 90064  
Time: 6:00 PM  
Cost: \$75.00 per person

There are still tickets for the other tables. They can be ordered on our website:

[www.southwestcouncilfff.org/index.htm](http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/index.htm)

7. Final steps: finish dubbing to hide thread wraps behind bead and trim legs to desired length.

## SWCFFF NEWS

### **Joan Wulff Event**

Individual Tickets went on sale May 1st and can be purchased online at our website:

[www.southwestcouncilfff.org/index.htm](http://www.southwestcouncilfff.org/index.htm)

There has been a commitment of 11 tables to date. There has also been 5 RSVP for the head table with Joan Wulff Tickets are \$500.00 each seat. We still have 3 seats available at the head table if you know of someone who is interested. Our break even point for attendees w/o sponsors or RSVP's at the head table is 300 attendees. As we procure sponsors and RSVP's for the head table our break even will be reduced to 200 attendees needed. We still have 3 seats still available at the head table if you know of someone who is interested. We have reservations for 121 people for An Evening with Joan Wulff.

### **Lifetime Membership Raffle**

There are no more shows left to sell these opportunities. This is a \$500 value. Each square is \$5. An email was sent out to the clubs notifying them of squares being available for purchase. If any clubs or club members are interested you are to contact Michael Schweit: President@southwestcouncilfff.org  
818-601-9702

We are also holding a separate drawing for the club reps to win a lifetime membership. By attending the quarterly meeting, your name will be submitted into the raffle. Winners of the lifetime membership will be selected at the January 2012 meeting.

### **Project Healing Waters**

Douglas Dear, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of PHWFF since its inception, has been named a finalist in the L.L. Bean Outdoor Heroes Award competition. In addition to considerable nationwide publicity, the winner's non-profit will receive \$5,000 and a \$500 Bean gift card.

Please take a minute to visit the PHW website to vote for Douglas. [www.projecthealingwaters.org/](http://www.projecthealingwaters.org/)

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



Please encourage your club members and friends to also vote for Douglas.

Thank you,

Carole Katz  
National Trustee  
Southwest Regional Coordinator  
Program Lead, PHWFF @ Long Beach VAMC

## Conservation News

### **Hearing Alert! - Costly Regulations May Threaten Recreational Fishing**

At an August 3rd-4th Sacramento hearing of the California Fish and Game Commission, the Fish and Game Department will be introducing unprecedented and costly regulations that threaten the very existence of fresh water recreational fishing, an industry that stocks California lakes and ponds and supplies your favorite restaurant and grocery store with fresh and affordable fish.

What's more, recreational fishermen will be shocked to learn that they may be required to hold a fishing license at privately owned and stocked fishing lakes! Such as Jess Ranch.

If you are a recreational fisherman, lake operator, fish farmer or just a concerned citizen, please visit our website at [www.SaveCalFishing.org](http://www.SaveCalFishing.org) to learn how you can have your voice heard at this important hearing!

You can also download a hearing flyer that you can post at your favorite bait and tackle shop, lake, or share it with a fellow fisherman. Fishing clubs and lake operators are encouraged to post the flyer on their websites. In addition, please visit our website's "Take Action" page to learn what more you can do to protect recreational fishing. [www.savecalfishing.org/take-action](http://www.savecalfishing.org/take-action)

With the second highest unemployment rate in the nation California can't afford to lose more jobs, drive up the cost of California grown fish, and deny Californians access to recreational fishing!

Protect Recreational Fishing by Having Your Voice Heard - Attend this Important Meeting!

### **In Case You Missed It...**

To read a recent publication in The Press-Enterprise from our Organization's President, Craig Elliott got to:

[www.pe.com/localnews/opinion/localviews/stories/PE\\_OpEd\\_Opinion\\_D\\_op\\_fish\\_loc\\_01.17c0736.html](http://www.pe.com/localnews/opinion/localviews/stories/PE_OpEd_Opinion_D_op_fish_loc_01.17c0736.html)

### **'Phenomenal' start to Russian River salmon restoration project**



Ben White of the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission wades in Devil Creek Tuesday to release coho salmon fingerlings. The creek is a tributary of Austin Creek, which flows into the Russian River at Duncans Mills.

By CLARK MASON  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT  
Published: Tuesday, June 21, 2011

Biologists with special water-filled, aerated backpacks trudged up a remote creek in Northwest Sonoma County on Tuesday, carrying their precious cargo of hatchery-

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



raised coho salmon to release into the wild. Within a couple hours, they had put 4,000 juvenile fish into Devil Creek, part of an ongoing program to re-populate the Russian River with the endangered coho.

“They’re really beautiful,” Ken Leister, an Army Corps of Engineers animal care specialist, said as he used a small net to scoop up and examine batches of writhing fingerlings. “You get the gold and the green color and some blues,” he said, pointing out the subtle hues of the fish before they were placed strategically along a half-mile of the creek.

The coho salmon re-stocking program began a decade ago when scientists took some of the last remaining wild juvenile coho from Russian River tributaries and raised them in special tanks at the hatchery at Warm Springs Dam. The captured fish were spawned, and their offspring tagged and released into a dozen creeks in northern Sonoma County that flow to the Russian River. Coho mature in fresh water and go to sea before returning to spawn and die, all in about a three-year life cycle. In a promising sign of their recovery, the fish have been coming back to the tributaries to reproduce and hatch in the wild.

“It was definitely a good thing to document,” said Jeff Jahn, a biologist with the National Marine Fisheries Service. “Last year an estimated 200 Coho returned to the Russian River — a record return in over a decade.” Scientists counted 89 juvenile coho this winter that spawned naturally in Devil Creek, which flows into East Austin Creek and the Russian River. “They’re very healthy, very happy fish,” said Ben White, a biologist with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission. The biologists are among the federal, state and county officials overseeing the coho restoration on the North and Central California coast.

On Tuesday, they were part of the caravan of fish and scientists who made their way over four-wheel drive roads, criss-crossing streams to the 440-acre property

designated as the East Austin Creek Conservation Bank. In addition, they brought dead adult salmon to place into the creek to serve as nutrients for the juvenile fish and other critters. Doing so mimics the die-offs of fish that used to occur naturally when the population was thriving.

Owned by Nancy Summers and her husband Peter Gruchawka of Kenwood, the rugged land with a deep shaded canyon is considered ideal for the coho as well as steelhead population.

The couple said they initially set out to restore the habitat but last year it became the nation’s first conservation bank for coho. That means they can sell conservation credits to developers and government agencies whose projects impact salmon habitat.

The logging last century on the property had a devastating effect on the fish. “The easiest way to log was to drag the trees down the creek. It denuded the area. There was no tree cover and the water was too warm,” Gruchawka said as he stood in the shade of the revitalized tree canopy.

With the help of the California Conservation Corps, the couple augmented the natural growth by planting hundreds of trees and placed large remnants of redwoods and woody debris in the creek to create fish shelter. Gruchawka said there hadn’t been any coho seen in the stream in more than a half-century.

But last year, fish were spotted reproducing. They included a male wild salmon and a female with a clipped fin, indicating a hatchery fish. “To have fish breed in the first year is pretty phenomenal. We weren’t expecting that quick a result,” said Peter LaCivita, an Army Corps fishery biologist.

If successful longterm, the effort eventually could help commercial and sport-fishing. “We’re trying to get enough wild population out here so we don’t have

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



to stock the fish,” said LaCivita. “It would be nice to recover the fish so you could rod and reel them on the Russian River. You can’t do that now,” he said.

## DFG Investigates

### Decline in San Bernardino Mountains Squirrel Population

Recently San Bernardino mountain area residents have seen fewer western gray squirrels and reported sick and dying animals to the Department of Fish and Game. Researchers have determined that tree squirrels are becoming sick and dying from mange, a skin disease caused by mites.

The species of mange mites affecting gray squirrels has been preliminarily identified as *Notoedres centrifera*, which is specific to rodents and cannot infect humans or pet cats and dogs. Veterinary researchers caution residents that local wildlife, including coyotes, raccoons and bobcats often carry other species of mange that can infect their pets and, rarely, people.

While the reason for the squirrel mange outbreak is not known, DFG Wildlife Biologist Jeff Villepique explained that a high population density of squirrels and aggregation at feeders makes the spread of any disease far more likely. “Gray squirrels were at higher numbers than natural foods would support, because artificial feeding is prevalent in the mountain communities,” said Villepique. “The inevitable consequence when you combine an artificially high population with animals gathering at food sources is the eventual spread of disease.”

DFG biologists have been closely working with the California Animal Health and Food Safety Lab in San Bernardino, and UC Davis veterinary researchers to find the cause of the die off. Thorough examinations of a number of squirrels from the Big Bear Valley have shown only illness that can be explained by the mange mites.

Although West Nile virus (WNV) has been detected in squirrels in the mountain communities in recent years, no squirrels have tested positive for WNV so far this year. California’s WNV monitoring program is continuing to cooperate with UC Davis researchers to share information. If your pet scratches excessively or develops scabs, you should seek veterinary care, as symptoms could be indicative of one of the other forms of mange, which are readily treatable in pets. Please do not feed squirrels because of the potential for spreading disease.

Residents are asked to report a dead bird or squirrel by calling (877) 968-2473 (877-WNV-BIRD) or submitting an online report at [www.westnile.ca.gov/report\\_wnv.php](http://www.westnile.ca.gov/report_wnv.php).

## Rosenbauer’s 11 Tips for Hot Feeder-Stream Fishing

Orvis news/blog-- Date: 06/17/11

**Tom Rosenbauer**, *host of the Orvis Fly Fishing Guide Podcast*, has been with the Orvis Company over 30 years. Tom has authored numerous books on fly fishing and is currently Marketing Director for Orvis Rod and Tackle.

A few summers ago, I spent two days at Orvis-endorsed Madison Valley Lodge in Ennis, Montana. Manager Chris Eaton took me on a great short float through the Channels section of the lower Madison and showed me just how much I have to learn about fly fishing this river, even after fishing it for 25 years. I think I caught one fish for every ten he hooked. After we got back to the lodge, I asked him about a tiny feeder stream of the Madison that runs through the ranch property. “Lots of fish in there,” he said, “and it only gets fished a few times a year.”

Music to my ears.

Since the creek was narrow enough to jump across, I

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



brought along a 4-wt Superfine rod to make short casts with ease. I walked the bank downstream until the stream got pretty brushy, but kept going. When I got to an area that looked like it would intimidate most fly fishers, I began fly fishing back upstream to the lodge with a big Parachute Hare's Ear dry fly. I stopped counting at 30 fish, and this was in only a short hour of fishing. The browns and rainbows ranged from 16 inches to 6 inches, and they eagerly inhaled both the dry fly and a Tunghead Pheasant Tail nymph. It was some of the best fly fishing I've had in years—within spitting distance of a lodge that hosts scores of good fishermen in a weekend even the tiny fish put a good bend in the Superfine rod. I never would have been able to fish that little creek with the powerful 9-foot, 5-weight Frequent Flyer rod I used on the Madison an hour earlier. I would have been hanging up in the streamside brush. The Superfine rod is the perfect rod for such tight quarters. It's built to load well on those 10 to 15-foot casts in a way that bigger, stiffer fly rods simply can't. I caught more fish because I had the trusty Superfine.

Feeder streams to famous trout rivers usually get ignored. They look too small to hold decent fish, or they look too tight for an overhead cast. But these tiny streams sometimes host large trout that leave the bigger waters because of high water temperatures or heavy boat traffic. Feeder streams always offer cooler water than main rivers, and food is not as abundant as on the big riffles of larger rivers. So you get trout that have not been educated, that eat all day long, and are eager to smash any fly that looks edible.

Here are some tips for fly fishing feeder streams the next time a famous trout stream lets you down:

- Ignore the junction of a feeder with the main river for a few hundred feet. Everybody fishes there.
- Walk upstream from the main river until the casting begins to look difficult. Or if you are on a road

well upstream from the main river, walk up or down until you get out of sight of any bridges

- Don't walk the banks. Stay well away from the water—get to a point where you can't see the water—and then move upstream or down before fishing. Trout in feeder streams may not be the sharpest tools in the shed, but they are spooky!

- Fishing upstream is almost always better, because you can approach the fish without spooking them. If you want to fish a stretch downstream of your position, walk downstream (stay away from the bank!) and then work up.

- Leave your tiny flies and light tippets on the main river. These fish are looking for a big mouthful, and they feed on terrestrials more often than mayflies and caddisflies. A heavier tippet allows you to rip your fly out of a tree without disturbing the water, and fish on feeder streams are seldom leader shy unless they are in flat, still pools.

- A big dry fly with wings you can see is usually the best fly. Parachute Adams, Parachute Hare's Ear, Royal Wulffs, Stimulators, or grasshopper patterns are some of the best flies, from Maine to California.

- For an even better bet, tie 10 inches of 4X or 5X tippet to the bend of your dry fly hook and add a size 12 Hare's Ear Nymph. The dry fly then becomes your strike indicator and you'll probably double your strikes.

- Be stealthy but move quickly. If a trout in a feeder stream does not take on the first or second cast, it is probably spooked and no amount of repeated fly casting will get it to rise.

- Keep your profile low. Crouch when moving and kneel when casting your flies.

# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



- Your fly rod needs to load quickly. Superfine fly rods are your best choice, but if you have to you can overline a stiffer, faster fly rod by one or two line sizes to get the fly rod to work with only 10 feet of line out. It's not as effective as a Superfine fly rod, nor nearly as pleasurable, but it will get the job done.
- A shorter leader generates higher fly line speed to fire your fly into brushy areas. Use a 6-foot or 7 ½-foot leader for feeder stream fly fishing.

## Afternoon June fishing in local mountain creeks

**Paul Staub**

Although I haven't been able to make it to the meetings over the past few months due to business demands my thoughts are usually on the sport we share an interest in. I try to keep a fly rod in my car just in case the opportunity presents itself to wet a fly. I've often thought of stopping by Sercombe Park while on a lunch break to practice but the time to get set up once I get there doesn't give me much time to try it and get back to work before my lunchtime is over. That being the case I will on a rare occasion get a chance to stop by one of our local mountain creeks on the way home to cast a fly into the tight quarters with my little 2 weight. These long daylight hours of summer are greatly appreciated. I'm usually over dressed as one sunbather commented. I don't want to spend the short amount of time I have to fish dressing down to shorts and boots. So, I'm out there with my dress shirt and slacks like an addicted fool. So far I haven't run into any other fishers, just bathers. Granted, I usually get on the water in the late afternoon and try to be off the water after about an hour so I can still get home at a decent time. That hour on the water always seems to turn into two hours for some reason. These pictures show some of the results from the few afternoon excursions I've managed to squeeze in.



This little fatty from a San Bernardino Mountain Creek took a caddis nymph pattern below a stimulator.



This guy from a San Gabriel Mountain Creek took a size 16 Caddis dry.

I have caught a few fish every time I've taken the time to give it a try but there are a lot more fish in those creeks that I haven't been able to trick into taking my offering. Those creeks are full of wild trout and although most of what I've caught has been around

eight inches I have seen some larger fish up to twelve inches rise on my flies. In one creek I watched fish after fish trying to jump up a small waterfall.

The water has been crystal clear as you might be able to tell by the pictures. I stopped by the San Gabriel Mountain Creek this past week to discover that the water had raised a good two feet from the previous week. I didn't expect that but I guess there is still a lot of snow melt going on in those mountains.

Surprisingly there are a lot of fish in the skinniest water that you wouldn't think would hold fish. Give it a try.



This is a stonefly shuck I found on a rock next to the creek in the San Gabriel Mountains, about a size 10.

## Sierra Trout Magnet

Hello, I have updated my fishing reports to give you a quick reminder of the great Fly Fishing opportunities that can be found in the Eastern Sierra this July 2011.

See our reports here:

<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?SierraTroutMagnetFly/46c5a0cdf1/c13a5cdbfe/f66b328069>

As some of you know I was able to spend a month in Chilean Patagonia in April. I experienced some of the finest and most exciting fly fishing in the purest waters I have had in my 18 years of professional guiding. I will be offering a 6-7 day guided trip to this remote part of the world in December and January. We will be

staying with Chilean families for the ultimate Chilean experience.

You will be receiving a lot more information about this experience on my new website that we will be launching in the next few days.

Here is a teaser video of what to expect in this untouched area. Mouse fly fishing!!

Go to this link:

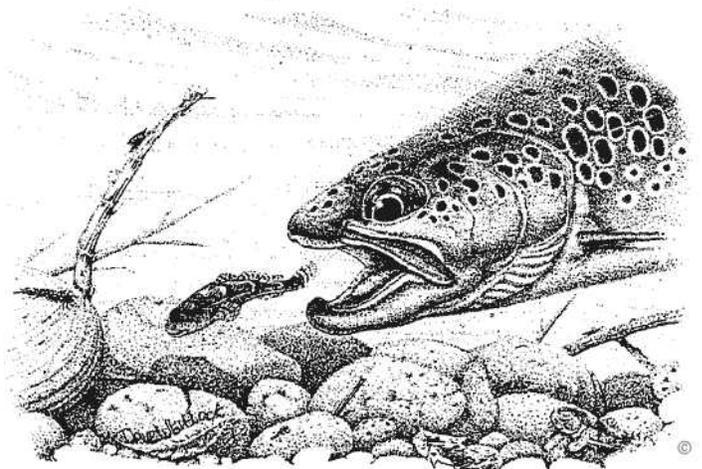
<http://cts.vresp.com/c/?SierraTroutMagnetFly/46c5a0cdf1/c13a5cdbfe/e2c63b1e6d>

Also I will be announcing my dates for the Montana trip I do every year back to my Dad's lodge where I started guiding. This is my "home water" ... Fishing is done from drift boat and large dry flies are the game. This trip is always popular with many clients returning to test this fishery.

Stay tuned for another E-mail with more information in the next few days.

David D'beaupre  
(760) 873-0010  
[www.sierratroutmagnet.com](http://www.sierratroutmagnet.com)

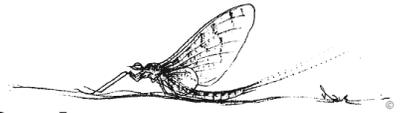
Don't forget we **will not** be meeting in July. Instead go fishing if you get the chance. The local mountains are cooler and the fish are active.



# Hi-Desert Flyfishers



## Calendar 2011



### May

**Speaker:** Gil Rowe--Fishing the San Juan  
**Outing:** Silverwood Lake  
**Community:** Food Service cards

### June

**Speaker:** Richard Bean--Bass Fishing  
**Outing:** Silverwood Lake  
**Community:** 6/25-26 Rush Creek Cleanup

### July

**We are not meeting this month.**

### August

**Speaker:** Dave D'beaupre, Seirra Trout Magnet  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** Bishop  
**Community:** PHW (Barstow Vets)  
Fly Fishing-101

### September

**Speaker:** Speaker Trout Unlimited  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** Family Day Bar-B-Que  
**Community:** PHW (Barstow Vets)  
Fly Fishing-101 (cont.)

### October

**Speaker:** Michael Schweit--SWCFFF  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** Newport Back Bay--salt water fly fishing  
**Community:** 10/15 Boy Scouts Fly fishing merit badge  
10/07 PHW Jess Ranch (tentative)

### November

**Speaker:** TBA  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** TBA  
**Community:** TBA

### December

**Speaker:** TBA  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** TBA  
**Community:** TBA

### January 2012

**Speaker:** TBA  
**Education:** TBA  
**Outing:** TBA  
**Community:** TBA