

FLY DOPE



Fresno, CA
Founded 1961
www.fresnoflyfishers.org

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Conservation	2
Fly's From Jerry's Bench	4
Casting/Outings	5
Yard Sale	7
Presidents Msg.	7
Calendar	8
Membership	8
Bulletin Board	9

December 14, Big Meadows

Our December meeting is fast approaching, Jayne Ferrante will give a short presentation on Big Meadow, now that the project is now in the ground. We will also have our Christmas desert potluck, Please bring a desert of your choice to share.

December is election time. The Board is seeking nominations for new board members to serve for 2008. If you or someone you know or there is someone you would like to see on the Fresno Fly Fishers for Conservation Board, now is the time to get your name or others to the Board so that we can get ready for our elections in December. Please contact me or any other Board member with your suggestions or interest to serve. The only requirement is to be President you must have served at least one term on the Board of Directors. **Your participation is what makes this club work.**

Special Points of Interest:

*December
14th*

*Desert Potluck,
Big Meadows,
Board Election*

Presentation 7 PM

January

16th

Jack Dennis

Presentation 7 PM

*Check the Bulletin
board!*

Officers

President	Stephen Neal
1st V. P.	Fred Rameriz
2nd V. P.	Bob Papazian
Treasurer	Kevin Wren
Secretary	Jim Clark
Conservation	Jayne Ferrante
Membership	Sue Leveque

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Fly Casting	Dan Busby
Rod Building	Dave Burris
Fly Tying	Monty Trinkle
Outings	Jeff Trafican
Education Dir.	Bill Bruce
Communication	Scott West
Editor	_____
Web Page	Dave Burris
Fair	Mits Kozuki

Vote for Three

Dir. at Large	Jerry Hopewell
Dir. at Large	Frank Jones
Dir. at Large	Roger Miller
Dir. at Large	Paul Prespare

Nominations

Please Volunteer

Conservation

Jayne Ferrante

Accomplished!! The Restoration of Big Meadows

"Down through the mist, the young Tuolumne was seen pouring from its crystal fountains, now resting in glassy pools as if changing back again into ice, now leaping in white cascades as if turning to snow; gliding right and left between granite bosses, then sweeping on through the smooth, meadow levels of the valley, swaying pensively from side to side with calm, stately gestures past dipping willows and sedges, and around groves of arrow pine; and throughout its whole eventful course, whether flowing fast or slow, singing loud or low, ever filling the landscape with spiritual animation, and manifesting the grandeur of its sources in every movement and tone."

John Muir, "A Near View of the High Sierra" in The Mountains of California, 1894

Although Mr. Muir's comments above reflect on a more recognizable watershed nearby, they describe the exact same life process of Big Meadows Creek, which becomes the Kings River after descending the second deepest canyon in North America, entering just upstream from Boyden Cave as a Boulder Creek waterfall.

I have been very fortunate to be involved closely in the Big Meadows Creek restoration for the past four years. The board voted in late 2003 to use monies donated generously by Ted Martin to fund a Master's thesis for Jason Olin, a graduate student at CSU Fresno. Jason had a Bachelor's in Geology with a focus on restoration. This was the perfect person to support in his professional growth. We had struggled a little looking for the appropriate project. We knew that the PAG was doing good work on the Lower Kings, and that our original pot of money, while very generous, would not begin to fund the type of restoration needed on the Kings. The project came to our attention from via Marc Cave from Wayne Luallen, a Visalia flyfisher and accomplished tier.

Wayne with his wife Donna had been fishing in the meadows for over 30 years, teaching their niece, nephew, and friends the beginning motions of fly fishing. It was a perfect location, you have to be very quiet and low with short accurate casts, but the fish are incredibly forgiving if you can keep out of sight. Wayne speaks of hundreds of fish, catching many a day. But over the years they had noticed the degradation of the meadows. Wayne first took Roland Brady, Ph.D. from CSU Fresno Earth Science and I to see the meadows in the Fall of 2003. By this time the stream was down cut, (actually stream bed lower than the meadow) by 5 feet in some places. The water table beneath the ground was 5 feet lower because of this. The grasses were drying out. Their roots were only an inch and a half deep where they should have been 3 or 4 inches. The sod was very dry, breaking apart and traveling downstream in a rush each year with the spring run off, digging the streambed deeper and deeper. It became a seasonal flow, with only a few pools still full of water after July. The Lodge pole pines were creeping into the meadow, having roots that were deep enough to get down to the water, no longer held back by the grasses. The meadow was slowly disappearing. So were the fish.

So, we supported Jason in his Thesis, gaining a large quantity of base information to establish the plan of restoration. Dr. Brady brought down Jim Wilcox, who had studied and worked with Luna Leopold and Jim Rosgen. He had taken their concepts of Geomorphology and expanded on the concept later called "Pond and Plug". Jim is well known and highly regarded as one of the top meadow and stream restorationists in the western United States. Jim supervised Jason and designed the restoration plan. When we had the plan drawn, we continued on with Jim implementing the design this fall.

There was a drawback with one stakeholder group, Sequoia Forestkeeper. They were very afraid of using a restoration technique that included a tracked front end loader and an excavator. We talked with them quite a bit, sending them many pictures of previous projects, and giving them independent third party references from the Sierra Club, Audobon Society, and Trout Unlimited to name a few. Eventually they withdrew their appeal of the project (just in the nick of time), and we broke ground October 6.

Conservation

Continued from Page 2

We finished the construction of the project during three weeks in October. Kaweah Club along with volunteers from FFC came out and helped in many ways. I can't thank you enough for the support and hard work you've given in helping us accomplish this incredible change in the Meadows.

Below is the outline of our project, with a detailed timeline of what was accomplished and when.

Project Description

The project will restore the ecosystem function of Big Meadows and its associated riparian & aquatic habitat in a degraded stream channel traversing this alpine meadow in Sequoia National Forest. Big Meadow was adversely impacted by early 20th century overgrazing and other on-site impacts which led to channel down cutting.

- The existing down cut stream channel will be eliminated, with stream flows returned to functional remnant channels on top of the meadow. This will restore the naturally evolved stream channel/floodplain connection to reduce erosion and filter upland sediments. Water quality will be improved.
- The shallow meadow water table will be raised. This will reverse the ongoing conversion of the vegetative community from wet meadow perennial grasses to dry meadow annual grasses and forbs. This will also increase in-stream cover and shading. Additionally, the project is expected to inhibit the encroachment of lodge pole pine into the meadow.
- The increased area extent of productive meadow grasses will allow the livestock permittee to adjust grazing management and disperse livestock away from the channel area to ensure the sustainability of the project.
- The increased water retention of the restored meadow will attenuate peak flows and increase/extend summer base flows into the Kings River at a time much more advantageous to Water Management goals. This also restores and enhances habitat for Brook Trout. Fishing for these trout is a major attraction at the adjacent campgrounds.

Community groups will be engaged in most of the work in this project, monitoring as well as learning and conducting restoration hands on.

On the ground accomplishments will be measured by physically monitoring the stream channel improvements and ecosystem response for a minimum of five (5) years post-project. The monitoring will encompass the metrics listed below. Affiliated local community groups are currently monitoring these with us in order to establish a pre-restoration baseline.

Stream flow will be monitored year-round with a continuous recording stream gage. Changes in groundwater levels will be measured monthly, year-round, using existing monitoring wells. Photo points will be established to document visual landscape changes. Five (5) cross-sections will be re-surveyed immediately after construction, and years 1, 3 and 5.

Project Accomplishments Timeline

Spring / Summer 2004

- ✓ Data collection
- ✓ Comprehensive field study, Jason Olin

Spring 2005

- ✓ Data analysis & interpretation
- ✓ Program development, grant proposals, partial funding

Fall/ Winter 2005

- ✓ Jason Olin Thesis published, SERCAL presentation
- ✓ October Stakeholder walk
- ✓ Stakeholder meetings and resolution: October 2005
- ✓ Complete ground review with Jim Wilcox



Big Meadow Restoration

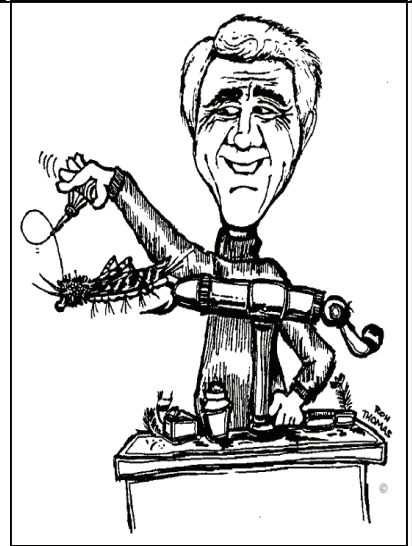
Fly's from Jerry's Bench

Jerry Hopewell

WHY TIE YOUR OWN FLIES

One thing that needs to be resolved is the myth that, it is to save money. If you limit your materials to those required for tying six flies, in two sizes and with good, basic equipment such as a Thompson 'A' vise, it is possible to do this under \$200.00, maybe less.

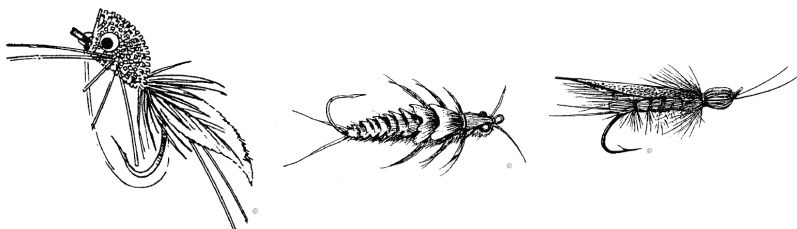
What if you needed an old classic or a new one you have seen in the latest magazine. Just try to purchase that at your local sporting goods store or Wal-Mart. It can't be done! All flies can be improved on. To weight or not to weight, do I want a bead head, what color? Do I want more flash, or less on the fly? What if you wanted to tie with fluorescent materials? Let us consider types of fishing, Saltwater, Steelhead, Salmon, mountain Trout, big river Trout, and warm water fish. It is difficult to purchase locally, flies for the different way we choose to fish. When ordering on line, you can't see exactly what you are getting, until it arrives. Now what? These are some of the reasons I tie. There are other reasons also. It is an art form that you can attempt to perfect. It is extremely therapeutic.



The reason I tie flies is that my flies catch more and larger fish than the ones I have purchased and I enjoy tying them!

I would encourage you all to vote in the upcoming election for Monte Trinkle to be the person conducting Fly tying classes for the next year. I support him!

Jerry Hopewell fluestang@comcast.net



Casting**Dan Busby****The Elusive Tick**
By Gordon Hill, Reprinted from The Loop

Ticking the ground behind the caster is an elusive fault. The caster can't really see or hear it. It can rob power and control from the forward cast. Often an observer can identify the tick, but not always its cause.

Last year, while trying to sharpen my distance casting skills, I thought I was doing really well. My distance had increased and was easier to achieve. When I began to carry a bit more line out of the rod tip, my cast began to occasionally falter enough to make me aware that I'd developed a fault. Try as I did, I couldn't figure what the problem might be. I carefully watched and was pleased with my back cast, and my forward stroke seemed unchanged.

Tom White critiqued my cast and said, "You are ticking the grass behind you."

Now this is a fault we've all observed, on occasion, with our students. It had been, easy for me, easy to see... and not easy to cure until I could get a caster to elevate the back cast enough to prevent it. Here, however, I could look back and note what seemed to be a good back cast; high, with a tight loop. A fine setup for the forward stroke. On the next forward stroke, Tom noted that I ticked again. Evening visibility was getting to be a problem, so we stopped casting without a real solution.

The next morning, I set out to solve this dilemma. The only way I could really see what was happening, was to watch my back cast, and continue to remain turned long enough to see what was going on behind me while starting my forward stroke. I noted that I was waiting just a bit too long after the back cast loop unfurled when carrying the increased length of line. The line started to fall just enough that the fly had started to settle toward the grass. As I began the forward stroke, the initial loading move felt good, but it resulted in the fly continuing on enough of a downward and forward trajectory that it ticked the grass.

All I had to do was change my timing a tiny bit. This resulted in starting my forward stroke exactly as the back cast loop straightened. To prove the point to myself, I purposely made it worse by exaggerating the fault. I ticked every time. By backing off from the exaggerated timing fault, I was able to train myself to avoid it completely.

I have since studied this by watching other casters who sometimes tick. I learned that this is only one method of doing it. Another is to combine poor timing with an open loop cast, and to compound the problem by making the back cast too low.

Then I decided to learn to duplicate the move on the forward cast, where it was easy to see. I got to where I could do so, and it produced a tick every time. I now use that method as a teaching tool. The caster can see it, since it is out in front, and once learned can back off from the fault which produced it and better understand what is going on in the back cast.

Outings**Jeff Trefican**

This month's outing/class for stripers on the San Luis Forbay with Jay Murakoshi was full. I'm sure that those of you that attended had a great time. If you missed out and are interested, we might be able to set up a similar outing next year. Please let me know if you have an interest.

I would like to thank all of you that attended one or more of our outings this year. The opportunity to get together with fellow club members is what makes an outing enjoyable. It won't be long and we will be setting up our outings schedule for next year. Thanks again.



Conservation

Continued from Page 3

Jayne Ferrante

- ✓ Jayne Ferrante receives training on grant proposal writing and management from Plumas Corporation staff.
- ✓ Fund raiser for Big Meadow (Fly Fishing Team USA)
- ✓ Upgrade existing and install additional monitoring devices for the Meadow, Peisometer xtensions, Pressure Transducer & Data logger.
- ✓ Coordinated with Sequoia National Forest NEPA process
- ✓ Nordic Ski club and Fly Fishing Club members help collect data all winter in the Meadow

Spring 2006

- ✓ June: Stakeholders to conduct cross section surveys in the meadow, expanding our data. Terry Henry, Sequoia National Forest Hydrologist and Jim Wilcox, Plumas Corp supervised.
- ✓ Completed restoration design and budget projections, Jim Wilcox.
- ✓ Held a Stream Restoration Class taught by Jim Wilcox of Plumas Corporation with a focus on basic elements of geomorphic restoration techniques. A variety of stakeholders attended, including various agencies, the Sierra Club as well as members of two local Fly Fishing clubs.

Fall/Winter 2006

- ✓ Installed Datalogger & Pressure Transducer to monitor stream flows
- ✓ Further collection of baseline data.

Spring 2006

- ✓ Collaborate with Sequoia National Forest as they complete the final tasks of Environmental Assessment (EA).
- ✓ Install signs for the public describing the problems and restoration process
- ✓ Further develop relationship with the grazer/permittee



Big Meadows Restoration

Fall 2007

- ✓ Shock and remove all trout that are in construction areas to local pools.
- ✓ Excavate over 13,000 yards of earth to use in filling the current downcut channel. Restored 6900 feet of channel.
- ✓ Set aside topsoil and use to top the filled in streambed, to allow the seed bank to sprout next spring.
- ✓ Excavated areas are irregular in shape and depth, hold ponded water, increasing habitat for wildlife. Utilized trees and large boulders to create habitat for fish and wildlife. Some ponds will fill in over time, just as how the meadows were formed originally.
- ✓ Volunteers from Fresno Fly Fishers for Conservation and Kaweah Fly Fishers seed and mulch areas in restoration project.

Planned Activities 2008

- ✓ Monthly monitoring and data assimilation through three years post-project. Flow meter will be used monthly in monitoring activity. Photopoints taken monthly.
- ✓ Spring: Two pronged wildlife study with Forest Service and other partners: first general wildlife study on returning species, second, studying five sets of ponds (one established and one newly constructed) to determine multiple variables regarding aquatic species establishing themselves.
- ✓ Meadow walk and Stakeholder meeting post-project with project manager Jim Wilcox June 2009. One year anniversary party in the Meadows.

A final note: We've have a wonderful man, Stephen Lee who is a Hydrologist for the Department of Reclamation who is helping us with monitoring the meadows. Stephen is also the person designing how the San Joaquin will flow to the ocean, so is very interesting to talk with. We will have Stephen come and discuss Big Meadows soon, as well as help us understand the San Joaquin plan.

Yard Sale on the Web Page

Dave Burris

To support our conservation efforts and also to help our member sell or acquire indispensable items we have initiated a Yard Sale Page on our web site (fresnoflyfishers.com). Please check it out!

To help raise conservation dollars, we are asking members to donate 10% of the sold items sales price to the club. For items up to \$500.00. For items all items selling for over \$500.00 we are asking members to donate 5% of the sold price to the club.

We feel that this is a great way to raise funds for conservation and help out our members and entice other people to view our web site and discover more about us and Fly Fishing. So clean out your garage, storage shed, din, workshop, study and attic and turn those items into cash and help us promote conservation and better fisheries for all.

Presidents Message

Stephen Neal

“In Wildness is the Preservation of the World “ Henry David Thoreau

Jayne Ferrante has done it, the Big Meadows is in the ground. We would like to thank all the members from FFFC and Kaweah who put time and effort into helping with the Meadow restoration. Several FFFC member attended and worked at the No. Cal. FFF, Festival of Fly Fishing , in Redding. After all the hard work several club member fished the upper Sacramento River and had a wonderful time. Patrick Kelly has promised a write up for the December Fly Dope. The gentleman in the picture at the right was seen at the No. Cal. FFF meeting, some have said he is one of our members. If you can confirm this please let us know as he is due some serous ribbing. He claims he hasn't worn a suit in 20 years. Hope to see you all at the December meeting.



FFF ClubWire

October 2007

Welcome to the October 2007 issue of the ClubWire e-mail news service for clubs.

2008 Conclave planning has begun. It will be our 43rd Annual FFF International Fly Fishing Show (Conclave) and the dates are set for July 22 – 26, 2008. The location for this Conclave will be Whitefish, Montana. Whitefish is a small town located on the shore of Whitefish Lake. Just a few miles from Glacier National Park and International airport. Mark your calendar !!!!

As some of you have seen our new web site has been launched. So far the comments have been positive on the new look. For the member area you need to go ahead and register as if you were a new member entering that section of our site. You will not be able to enter with the old logins and passwords created on the old site. Should you notice something missing that you visited often on the old site and don't see it on the new please contact gene.wright@spcpro.com

We need more clubs to join the ranks to help in the conservation and education efforts of the FFF. If you would like to start a club or know of a club that might be interested in affiliating with the FFF please direct them to the Club Information pages below:

For Affiliate Clubs <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4359>

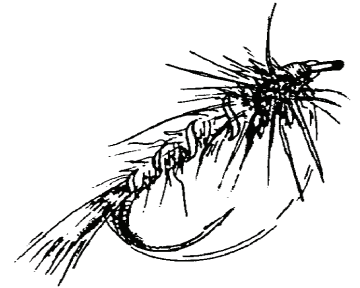
For Charter Clubs <http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4358>

If you have great article that you'd like to share with other clubs please submit to me via e-mail fffoffice@fedflyfishers.org we want to hear from you.

Barbara Wuebber - ClubWire Editor

Club Meeting Dates 2007

August 23	General Mtg.
September 17	Big Meadows Ground Breaking
September 27	General Mtg.
Sept. 29-30	Upper Kings River Trip
October 20	Cedar Grove (Kings River Classic hosted by Visalia Club)
October 25	General Mtg. Lee Haskins
Nov. 9 Friday	General Mtg. Guy Jeans
Nov. 17	San Luis Reservoir Outing
Dec 14 Friday	General Mtg. Election of Officers
January 16	Jack Dennis



Membership

Sue Leveque

It's that time again! The 2008 membership drive has unofficially started. You may notice a few changes on the registration form. The Board has agreed to keep the membership dues the same as it has been for the past several years. But, to put on the functions that attract members we need to maintain a viable cash flow for another great year of fly fishing entertainment. The Board has recognized a need for some changes.

There are quite a few members who still receive the Fly Dope by mail instead of email. With the continually increasing costs of the regular mail, the expense of mailing the Fly Dope to these members has exceeded the profits of registration.

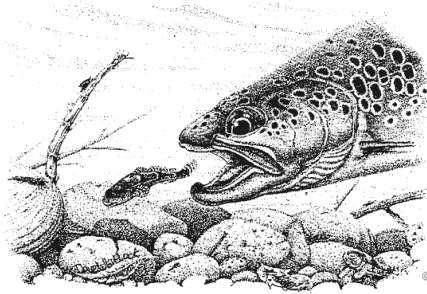
This year there is an option on the registration form regarding the choice of "hard copy by mail" for an extra charge of \$10 annually or "email" for free. Life members are exempt from this additional fee.

In addition, we have eliminated the "early registration" discount to try to keep some of the dollars in the "bucket" for conservation, speakers and up front costs of fund raisers.

The club is growing by leaps and bounds due to a great web site, an active Board and the excellent reputation of the members themselves.

We are not raising the club dues for 2008 but we are eliminating the early bird special. Membership is now a fixed \$36 a year fee. To help defray the cost of publishing the News letter we are asking those who wish to have it mailed to pay an additional cost of \$10.00 per year. **Current Life Time Members are exempt** from this extra mailing cost. It currently costs the club \$4,000 annually to mail the news letter to about 1/3 of our membership. Our annual membership dues bring in just a little over \$4,000 per year. Our Fund Raising Banquet supports all of our other activities including our conservation efforts. Communication is a very important part of our clubs mission so we are trying to mitigate that cost and still get the information out. If you still want the news letter mailed to you we are asking that you help pick up some of the cost.





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.

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. 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 _____ Date of Birth mm/dd _____

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
- Fly Dope Mailing fee \$10 (Life Member Exempt)

Conservation Donation

\$ _____

Initiation fee \$ 10.00

Total: \$ _____

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

I would like to receive the Fly Dope by EMAIL

I would like the Fly Dope mailed to the above address (\$10.00/yr service fee)

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

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 100 E. Sierra, PMB 3310
 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
 Conservation Award
 2007

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Director at Large	Frank Jones	(559) 222-5864	fpjones@comcast.net