

SANTA LUCIA Fly Fishers



Tight Lines

April, 2013

Andy Harrison, Editor (aharrison99@att.net)

<http://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com>

President's Letter

John Gierach: *I believe that to have lived a full life one should, at least once, have legitimately broken a fly rod on a fish. To be right, it should be a very good rod and a very big fish, but it should be your rod.*

NEW MEMBERS: Let's all welcome our newest members KC Lim and Stefan Sandoval and welcome back Bob Howell. KC and Stefan are taking advantage of our casting clinics. Last I heard Bob was ice fishing???



BANQUET RECAP: First a great big thank you to all who attended and donated to a very, very successful event! We had over 80 attendees, including a large number of first timers. I got numerous comments that Lee Terkelson's program on the John Muir Trail was "the best ever". The big increase in member donations helped to make this the most successful fund raiser in my tenure. As a result we will be able to continue having interesting speakers at our meetings, continue to support our education and conservation efforts and look for additional ways to benefit you, our members.

APRIL MEETING: Jeff Voight will be our guest speaker. Peter Van Hest met Jeff while on a Baja fly fishing trip last year and introduced us to him. His program, "West Slope Cutthroat Streams of Northern Idaho", should introduce us to an area not too many of us have had an opportunity to fish. (See page 2 for more info).

CLUB OUTINGS & FISHING OPPORTUNITIES: With the closure of the ponds at FHL for most of April and the low water levels and colder than normal temps in our local impoundments, things have slowed down. If you are planning to go out and want some company send me an email and I'll forward it to the members. We'll be looking for surf perch opportunities and maybe an outing to Hume Lake & the west slope streams late in April or early in May.

SAVE THE DATES:

Apr 4th: Fly tying 6:30pm at SLO Odd Fellows Hall.

Apr 11th: Board of Directors meeting 5PM at Margie's. 6:30 general meeting.

Apr 20th: Santa Margarita Lake outing. Contact Art Chapman or Jim Crescenzi.

May 18th: David Holmes knot tying class.

Sept 20-22nd, 2013 SWCFFF Faire in Mammoth.

NEXT SLFF MEETING:
THURSDAY, APRIL 11TH, 2013 AT 6:30PM
MARGIE'S DINER, 1575 CALLE JOAQUIN, SLO
GUEST SPEAKER: JEFF VOIGHT
WESTSLOPE CUTTHROAT STREAMS OF NORTHERN IDAHO



Hello, I am Jeff Voigt, a lifelong fly fisher and fly tier. For over 65 years I have had the good fortune to fish and be associated with fly fishers and fly tiers willing to share information and mentor me. I have resided for 30 years in Spokane, Washington, an area with superb access to some of the finest freshwater fly fishing in the United States. Most of the year, you will find me fly fishing at least 3 days a week. It is a rare day when I don't spend some time at the tying bench. In recent years I have become addicted to fly fishing in saltwater.

My program takes you to streams where dry fly fishing is the rule. The beautiful cutthroat trout and the superb mountain settings are beyond compare. With ease of access and willing fish, Northern Idaho will win your heart.

SLFF FLY TYING GROUP

A Hopper That Trout Can't Refuse!

by Jim Crescenzi

The March Santa Lucia Fly Tying session will be on Thursday, April 4th, at the Odd Fellows Hall in San Luis Obispo (6:30 - 8:00 PM). Paul Crafts will lead the session, tying a "Joe's Hopper". It is well known that come mid-July (more or less) when hoppers are maturing and active near our streams, they become a favorite trout food. Perhaps trout view them as a short cut to lots of nutrition (equivalent to dozens of mayflies), and just too good to pass up. The takes can be violent and pure joy for the fly fisher.

There is a minor problem for the fly tier, however: what pattern to choose? One of the best known, Dave's Hopper, is a relatively complex tie. Paul has chosen a slightly more straight-forward Joe's Hopper, which is also very effective. Others such as Charlie's Hopper will wait for another session. Of these, Joe's Hopper is arguably the most aesthetically pleasing (and appealing to the fish) relative to the skill and patience required in tying the fly. So, if you expect to be on streams or rivers this summer, don't miss this tying session.



Jim Snodgrass led in March a very well attended (14 tyers in all!) Santa Lucia Fly Fishers session on the Montana Stone Fly. He may have set a new standard for clarity in presenting tying instructions, and the evening was appreciated by all.

Bernard Pieters will lead the May session, tying the Klinkhammer Special. This will be followed in June by Rich Chubon who will tie the Pheasant Tail Nymph. These are all extremely effective patterns, sure to embellish your fly box, and to result in more fish caught. 2013 fly tying has been a roaring success! Thanks to everyone for their strong support.

**SANTA LUCIA FLYFISHERS WANT TO THANK ALL WHO DONATED
TO THE SUCCESS OF OUR 2013 FUND RAISER BANQUET!**

Guide Trips

Guy Jeans
Beryl Rea
George Durand
Tom Maumoynier
Andrew Harris
Keith Kaneko
Ernie Gulley
Rick Paaske

Gift Certificates

Simms
Waterworks Lamson

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Jeff Abel/JTA Products
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Congratulations to Jim Crescenzi,
SLFF Angler of the Year!

Member & Other Donations

Andy Harrison
Andy Malovos & Peter Van Hest
B.L.Harrock & Judy Chubon
Mark Pinto
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Jim & Lynda Snodgrass
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John Ljung
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Rich & Judy Chubon
Ron & Sheri Bryant
Steven Soenke
Sylvia Leichter
Ted Pope
Tim & Karen Marshall
Tom Nickelson
Bob Hurd
Todd Tose
Jim Jamieson
John Orchard
Hal Janssen
Mike Hildenbrand
Ann Waskey



SLFF CASTING CLINICS ARE A HUGE SUCCESS!

Each year Bernard, Eric, Bob, Chad and Todd donate their time and effort and provide us with a series of casting clinics. I can tell you we are the envy of many of the SWCFFF member clubs. To the best of my "perfect" memory this year's clinics were the best attended which is a credit to the team. Thanks guys, from all of us for a job well done. --Lew Leichter



(Photos from the Casting Sessions copyright/courtesy of David Holmes)

Upcoming SLFF Outings

Santa Margarita Lake April 20th

Event Organizers: Art Chapman (805 927-9660) and Jim Crescenzi (805 927-9285).

Santa Margarita Lake is a medium sized lake, with reasonably good bass and crappie fishing. The lake is quite popular, and has considerable tournament pressure, so fishing is seldom “easy”. A number of us have been skunked in late March this year; hopefully there will be better reports in April. We would expect the bass to be in the pre-spawn mode with the males in very shallow water. Indeed, some fish will have already spawned by late April.



Figure 1—Santa Margarita Lake Map

In any case, if weather cooperates, this is a beautiful lake at what is normally a weather-friendly time of year. The water level is lower than normal this year (currently ~68% of capacity), although that can change if we get lucky and have heavy rains in the next few weeks.

Scheduled Time & Launch Location: 8 AM start on Saturday, April 20th (at White Oaks Campground), with a break for barbeque lunch at 12:00 noon.

Santa Margarita Fees and Rules: There is a vehicle parking fee of \$10 and boat fee of \$10 (motorized) or \$5 (non-motorized). Policy on float tubes is unclear (they usually don't require a fee). There can be a ranger inspection for Quagga mussels on boats. It is best to make sure that your boat is clean and dry prior to entering the park. If decontamination is required (*continued...*)

there will be a \$10 fee. This is a no-swimming lake (no body contact with the water), and therefore there will be no water skiers on the lake.

Launch Sites: Most members will launch at the White Oaks Campground and Boat Launch. Bear right at the park entrance, and proceed around the lake to the White Oaks campground and boat launch. Some may wish to proceed on a dirt road starting at the White Oaks launch, going to the Vaca Flat area (0.9 miles, see map). This dirt road to Vaca Flat is not recommended if it has rained recently. If you do wish to go to Vaca Flat, please check in with the event organizers first. There is also a main boat launch area, which is more convenient for those who wish to fish nearer to the dam.

Weather Note: The average high for April 16th is 71 degrees - nearly perfect. Of course, at the time of writing this article, we have no idea of the actual weather forecast. It is often quite cool in the early morning, so bringing layers is highly recommended. This lake tends to have the wind pickup in the early afternoon. Also, there will be some bass boat traffic on the lake, so take care if you have a small boat or float tube.

Come for Lunch: We will meet at a small picnic area near the White Oaks boat launch at noon for a barbeque lunch (hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, soft drinks, chips, etc.). Fly fishers and their guests are welcome for lunch. We request a \$7 contribution for the barbeque lunch, which includes burgers, hot dogs, potato salad, chips, and soft drinks.

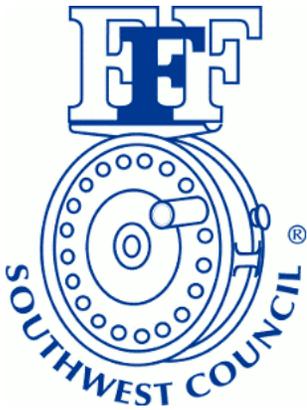


Figure 2 -- Google Earth View of Santa Margarita Lake, showing fishing spots

Fishing the lake: One advantage of Santa Margarita Lake is that there are many arms and bays in which to fish. The area between the White Oaks Boat launch and Vaca Flat is a favorite for float tubers. The Jackass Canyon arm is another favorite (if not closed for spawning). The area west of the main launch (near the campgrounds) can be good for crappie. There can be good surface action in the early morning and late afternoon. However, the standard approach will be with a sinking line (or sinking tip line) and flies imitating minnows and other small prey. Good luck to all!

Come wet a line with us! For SLFF membership information, please visit <http://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com/membership.htm>

Native Lahontan Cutthroat Trout Aided By Fly Fishing Clubs, SWC-IFFF



BRIDGEPORT, Calif. - California Lahontan cutthroat trout, squeezed out of their native Sierra habitat by illegally planted brook trout, will be reestablished and nurtured by a consortium of local fly-

fishing clubs and the Southwest Council-International Federation of Fly Fishers (SWC-IFFF) in cooperation with the California Department of Fish & Wildlife (CDFW).

Target area is Silver Creek in the West Walker River watershed near Bridgeport.

A base camp will be established at the headwaters of Silver Creek and a team of 4-5 people will assist the CDFW with electro-fishing. The goal of this multi-year event is to eradicate the non-native brook trout so the stream can sustain a currently imperiled population of Lahontan cutthroat trout. Upon competition, Silver Creek will be opened to angling.

The project is being spearheaded by Debbie Sharpton, Oak Park, conservation chair of the San Fernando Valley-based Sierra Pacific Flyfishers and conservation director of the SWC-IFFF; and Gary Applebee, president of Deep Creek Flyfishers. CDFW coordinator is fisheries biologist Dawne Becker Emery.

A project lead gift of \$5,000 from the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers club was shepherded by Sharpton. Funding is being sought from all clubs within SWC-IFFF and other interested

organizations or individuals.

Volunteers are needed to assist with this effort. Information for volunteering and donating is available at <http://southwestcouncilfff.org/Conservation/swc-iff-iff-conservation>.

The brook trout elimination will take place from late July to late Sept., said Emery.

According to the Bishop-based biologist, "Silver Creek, a tributary to the West Walker River in Mono County, is Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery water that was illegally stocked with brook trout. Brook trout were discovered in Silver Creek in 2004 during a survey intended to collect baseline population information to support opening the stream to regulated angling. Lack of ability to utilize efficient methods of brook trout removal that could be completed within two or three seasons has resulted in the lost opportunity of angling for a native Walker Basin cutthroat trout in this mountain meadow stream."

Removal of the voracious brook trout will be accomplished with the introduction of an Alaskan weir, modified to fit the stream, within one mile from the headwaters of Silver Creek.

Immediately downstream of the headwaters, block nets with approximately 1/4-inch mesh will be placed within the channel, where brook trout removal will occur incrementally within block netted sections, working downstream to the weir.

An intern position is available. Go to www.spff.org or <http://southwestcouncilfff.org/Conservation/swc-iff-iff-conservation> for details.

SANTA LUCIA *Fly Fishers*



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Santa Lucia

 *Fly Fishers*

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