



TIGHT LINES

info@santaluciaflyfishers.com | San Luis Obispo County | Editors: Donna & John Sims

Save-the-Dates

- **January 11** - SLFF Monthly Meeting
- **February 8** - SLFF Monthly Meeting
- **February 17 / 18** - Salinas River / Surf Perch Outing
- **March 9** Annual Banquet @ Madonna Inn
- **March 2 / 16** - Casting Clinic
- **June 23 - 29** - Manzanita Lake Outing

Contact Our Club:

SLFF
P.O. Box 166
SLO, CA 93406

EMAIL:
info@santaluciaflyfishers.com

WEBSITE:
www.santaluciaflyfishers.com



In This Month's Newsletter

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SLFF January Meeting - Brandon Worthington

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Annual Banquet - Guest Speaker / How to Sign Up

"The One that Didn't Get Away" - Mark Shelton

The Santa Lucia Fly Fishers fly fishing club was established in 1975 to give local area fly fishers of San Luis Obispo, Paso Robles, Santa Maria and northern Santa Barbara, CA, of all skill levels, participation in a club to learn, share and experience the challenges of our sport in salt water surf, and fresh water rivers and lakes.

President's Message

By Eric Tinglof

What a nice shot in the arm.

Our inaugural meeting at The Milking Parlor was a success! More people attended this meeting than at any other time in the last three years. Well done. It was great to see so many of you again. I didn't want to leave at 8:00. And, some more good news as well. The Octagon Barn management has agreed to let us hold the rest of our meetings for 2024 at this same venue. Everyone agrees that this is a positive development for our Club and I believe that we will continue to see a strong showing of meeting attendees throughout the whole year. Again, the doors open at 6:00. Come early to socialize before the program begins at 6:30. Several of us met for dinner at the Laguna Grill on LOVR at 5:00 before the meeting. That could become a standard pre-meeting gathering.

We had a very successful Club garage sale a month ago. Any left over items will be available for free at the January Club meeting. If you are new to the sport, come early to pick up some free gear. Brandon Worthington will be presenting on fishing in the State of Jefferson.

This newsletter includes our official announcement and invitation to you for our Annual Banquet on Saturday March 9th. Doug Rodericks will be presenting on "Fishing the Eastern Sierra Still Waters". This is always a great event. Last year, we clocked in at over 90 people. This year, I would anticipate even greater demand. Buy your banquet and raffle tickets now on our website.

We have asked a couple of different ways that you pay your dues before January 1st. If you haven't already, please consider doing so today. The link below gets you right to where you can renew on our website, after you have logged in as a member:

<https://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com/product/slff-existing-membership-renewal>

Well, it is a new year but 2023 still feels like a blur. I am personally aiming to slow things down in 2024, but I probably won't succeed. Here's to planning our next adventures into the wilderness!



Dues Reminder

By
Eric Tinglof

Yes, it's that time of year again! Club dues were requested to be paid by January 1st.

If you haven't paid your 2024 dues yet, please do so today.

What do you get for renewing your dues, you might ask:

- Monthly newsletter documenting the Club's activities.
- Spring casting clinics
- Access to many experienced Club members who are eager to help answer questions about gear and fishing opportunities.
- Loaner gear program and club library
- Access to club outings throughout the year and the Santa Rita Ranch when available
- The opportunity to share your fishing stories with people who really feel your excitement.
- An invitation to join us with your guest at The Annual Banquet in March and the Fall Social

The link below gets you right to where you can renew on our website, after you have logged in as a member:

<https://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com/product/slff-existing-membership-renewal>

Welcome to the SLFF Club!
New Members

Kevin Lebsack

Frank Kuhn



2024 Speaker Program Schedule

By Lew Leichter

We're increasing the number of in person speakers and are emphasizing programs on California fishing opportunities, most of which you can reach in a one day drive.

DATE	IP (IN PERSON) Z (ZOOM)	NAME	PROGRAM
JAN 11	Z	BRANDON WORTHINGTON	STATE OF JEFFERSON FISHING Fishing No CA & So Oregon
FEB 8	IP	JIM COX	WESTERN RIVERS CONSERVANCY Update From One Of Our Favorite Non Profits
MARCH 9 BANQUET	IP	DOUG RODERICKS	SIERRA DRIFTERS Fishing Eastern Sierra Still Waters
APR 11	IP	FRANK BURR	GOLDEN TROUT WILDERNESS
MAY 9	IP	MICHAEL SCHWEIT	OFFSHORE
JUNE 13	IP	LCSLO CLC MBNEP	RECOGNIZING LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL NON PROFITS
JULY 11	IP	SCOTT MCDONALD	KINGS RIVER
AUG 8	IP	DAN JOHNSON	TROUT UNLIMITED UPDATE
SEPT			PICNIC
OCT 10	Z	ANDREW HARRIS	CONFLUENCE OUTFITTERS PROGRAM TBD
NOV 14	IP	DAN LACOUNT	FISHING TRUCKEE AREA
DEC 12		ANNUAL MEETING & MEMBER SLIDE SHOW	

SLFF MONTHLY CLUB MEETING

Thursday, January 11

The Milking Parlor at the Historic Octagon Barn

4400 Octagon Way, San Luis Obispo

(And via Zoom)

Doors open @ **6:00 pm**. General Meeting @ **6:30 p.m.**

Log-in instructions will be sent ahead of the meeting, for Zoom.

ZOOM PRESENTER:

Brandon Worthington

“Fishing in the State of Jefferson”

<https://www.worthingtonflyfishing.com/>

I met Brandon a few years ago at the Pleasanton show and sat in on his program and added him to my list. A number of our members have fished with him and all have good things to say. For those of you who fished with Craig Nielsen in the past, Craig is also guiding with Brandon. Looking forward to his program.

-Lew

Brandon and his wife run *Worthington Fly Fishing* out of Ashland, OR, just 12 miles from the California border, which allows easy access to the rugged and diverse waters of far northern California and southern Oregon. Brandon spends well over 200 days a year guiding and outfitting on the Rogue, Klamath and Umpqua rivers as well as hosting group trips to his favorite out of area destinations like Alaska and Mexico.

Join Brandon for a his presentation, Fishing the Seasons in the Mythical State of Jefferson to fish huge salmon flies for cutthroat on the Rogue, strip streamers for Redbands on the Klamath, and run deep for winter steelhead on the Umpqua. This seasonal approach to the region's best waters ensures the fishing stays fun and fresh throughout the year.



2024 SLFF Club Fishing Outings

Date	Event	Contact Email	Contact Name
January-September TBD	Monthly Surf Perch Outings	klb1048@gmail.com lsleichter@hotmail.com jerryjames1@mac.com < donaldgwheeler@gmail.com >	Ken Baldwin Lew Leichter Don Wheeler Jerry James
February TBD	Salinas River Striper trip.	lsleichter@hotmail.com	Lew Leichter
March 2 & 16	Casting Clinic	bpeters84@gmail.com	Bernard Pieters
May TBD	Baum Lake	rbayer319@gmail.com	Robert Bayer
May-July TBD	Lake San Antonio Carp fishing	donaldgwheeler@gmail.com	Don Wheeler
June 10 -12	Children's Fishing Camp	lsleichter@hotmail.com	Lew Leichter
June 23-29	Manzanita Lake	bpeters84@gmail.com	Bernard Pieters
July 11-13	Children's Fishing Camp	lsleichter@hotmail.com	Lew Leichter
August 3	Halibut Fishing/Avila	bpeters84@gmail.com	Bernard Pieters
August 4-9	San Juan River NM	lynda.and.jim@comcast.net	Jim Snodgrass
October TBD	Stanislaus River	garybtd@aol.com	Gary Brennan
October 5-12	Lake Almanor/Eagle Lake	klb1048@gmail.com lsleichter@hotmail.com	Ken Baldwin Lew Leichter
November/December TBD	O'Neil Forebay Striper Fishing	mshelton@calpoly.edu	Mark Shelton

Comments: Dates and locations (TBD) for surf fishing will be determined by time, tides, and weather conditions. Notifications will be sent out by e-blast.

The dates regarding the specific locations will be determined by the response of members wishing to participate in the outings. We will update you by email and notices in the club newsletter.

Salinas River Striper/Surf perch Outing

Join Bob Bayer and I the weekend of 2/17 & 18, weather permitting and the launch area isn't flooded out, for a return outing to this cool fishery.

If we can't access the river, this is a great place to fish the surf. This fishery is only available during steelhead season (12/1 to 3/7 weekends & Wed only) so steelhead report cards are required.

Fishing the river requires a float tube or pontoon boat (pfd's required). 7 to 9 wt rods with floating and intermediate lines are recommended.

Plans are to drive up Friday PM with a stop at Central Coast Fly Fishing to pick up flies if needed. Fish Saturday & Sunday AM, then head home in the PM.

Stay: Holiday Inn Express 189 Seaside Circle in the city of Marina.

To get on the contact list or have questions email me at lsleichter@hotmail.com.

Lew

SLFF Annual Fly Casting Clinics Schedule - 2024

March 2nd & March 16th

By Bernard Pieters

Our goal is to make you a more complete fly fisher



Casting is (for most of us) the most important part of fly fishing that we have to work on, and can MAKE OR BREAK YOUR DAY.

Your grade in succeeding in catching fish, and having an enjoyable, relaxing fishing experience depends a substantial part on your ABILITY to deliver a solid, well-presented cast in different situations!

Ask yourself a simple question, "Are you satisfied with your casting performance"?

For more than 25 years, through our club casting clinics, we've reached out to members of all casting levels. A lot of you answered the call and greatly benefited from this program.

Don't miss this yearly opportunity to improve and fine-tune your casting skills; to become a better caster and a more complete fly fisher. You'll be glad you did!

The casting clinics are conducted by our club's IFF Certified Casting Instructors team:
Sally Stoner / Debbie Cox / Todd Tose / Bob Hurd / Bernard Pieters.

The clinics are for club members only at NO COST. Our programs are geared to each individual's ability, in groups from beginner to advanced +.

WHEN:	Saturday, March 2nd, and March 16th.
WHERE:	Laguna Lake Park, San Luis Obispo (by the restrooms).
SIGN IN / GEAR UP:	8:15 to 8:50 am.
GROUP ASSIGNMENT:	8:50 to 9:00 am.
CASTING TIME:	9:00 to 11:00 am.
WHAT TO BRING:	5 to 8wt / floating line with 7-9 ft leader + yarn NO sinking lines

Note: Do you need a rod?
Contact Bernard Pieters

**** SEE NEXT PAGE FOR THE PROGRAM DETAILS**

MARCH 2nd Program

CASTING MECHANICS /Spring Tune-up **Plus** the FIRST PART OF PRESENTATION CASTS

This session is a must and a major stepping stone for the next casting workout. It's clear and simple: if your casting **mechanics** are good, your casts are good!

The first part of the presentation casts.

To catch fish successfully in a river: you must be able to control your line! It's very important to understand line control, and how your line and fly are affected by river currents. You will learn the different casts and techniques needed to **EXTEND** a drag-free drift longer and be able to fish more productively the cross and mid-river currents.

MARCH 16th Program

CASTING FOR MORE DISTANCE **Plus** the second part of the March 2nd Presentation casts

Most fly fishers want to learn how to cast farther. Our goal is to help you reach those previously "unreachable fish" for you, adding 10/15/20 (even 30 ft for some of us) to your cast. Some techniques are fairly easy to learn, while others are advanced, and take more time to master.

NOTE: The program can be different, depending on the group level you are in. The beginning casting level groups are more focused on learning the fundamental casting mechanics that are needed to create a good solid cast!

Due to the high demand (and limited spots), **YOU MUST SIGN UP SO EARLY AS POSSIBLE TO SECURE YOUR SPOT** for 1 or 2 sessions.

To sign up, or if you have questions, contact Bernard Pieters (805) 489 3085 or email bpeters84@gmail.com (I prefer a phone call).

See you at the casting clinics.

-The Casting Team

ANNUAL BANQUET INVITATION

Saturday, March 9, 2024
12:00-3:30PM

Madonna Inn - San Luis Obispo



Please plan to join us for our Annual Banquet and Fundraiser.

Our Guest Speaker: Doug Rodricks from Sierra Drift Outfitters. His presentation will be on "Fishing the Eastern Sierra Still Waters". **(See Bio next page)**

Lunch will be served; your choices are below. **Cost is \$35 per person.** There will be a no host bar, raffle and silent auction. Raffle tickets are \$5 each. If you can't attend please help support your club by purchasing some raffle tickets. You may win some great prizes and need not be present to win. Guide trips, auction items, and raffle prizes are coming in from generous donors. As you know from past banquets, the prizes are awesome. You won't be disappointed!

Payment includes lunch, tax, tip and speaker. You can prepay for your meal(s) and/or raffle tickets on our website <https://www.santaluciaflyfishers.com> or by sending your payment with the registration form below to:

Santa Lucia Fly Fishers
P. O. Box 166
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406

We are still receiving a number of payments by check to our P.O. Box which creates additional work for us, so please use the website.

In either case, we need to receive your reservation information and payment no later than February 28, 2024, either online through our club website, or delivered to the club P.O. Box.

Your prepaid tickets will be held at the door. Lunch tickets cannot be sold at the door.

Name_____	___ Total Meals @ \$35	\$_____
Address_____	___ Raffle Tickets @ \$5	\$_____
City, State, Zip_____		
Telephone_____	Total Enclosed	\$_____

Meal choices: ___ Roast Sirloin of Beef, ___ Petite Monterey Salmon Filet, ___ Vegetarian Lasagna



Doug Rodricks grew up in sunny southern California and would spend many summers vacationing in Yosemite National Park with his family since before he could crawl. The sights, sounds, and smells of the outdoors were instilled in him at a young age, as he experienced the beauty of the high country. His interest in trout fishing started at the age of 9, when he witnessed an angler reeling up a trout out of the Merced River. To this day, he still remembers the sun's bright glare reflecting off that fish's iridescent scales. It was this magical and captivating scene that would spawn his passion for fishing. The following year, he hooked his first trout in the gin clear waters of that same river.

Doug took up fly fishing at the age of 18 and would practice fly casting after school every evening. He vacationed in Idaho and West Yellowstone one summer, where he experienced drift boat fly fishing for the first time. In 2001, he met Tom Loe in the eastern sierra where he continued the path to learning the most exciting way of catching trout.

His patience, outgoing personality, and teaching techniques have served him well in guiding clients to some of the best fishing areas in the Eastern Sierra. He has a knack for working with beginners and youngsters and finds it very rewarding to watch them catch their first fish on a fly rod. Doug's knowledge of the area and fly fishing techniques have also challenged and rewarded some of the most experienced fly fisherman. Many of our clients claim an outing with Doug is like fishing with a friend they have known for years. Doug has appeared numerous times on the pages and covers of Western Outdoor News, with his clients displaying their trophy catches accompanied by their smiles.

By learning from his mentor and friend, Tom Loe, Doug soon found himself taking over as the owner of Sierra Drifters Guide Service, where he continues to innovate and provide the best service and instruction to Sierra Drifter's repeat and fast growing customer base. Doug is a USCG licensed captain and provides trips on some of California's best trout lakes.

Doug also guides on the best rivers and creeks in the area for catching large trout. Nymphing and streamer fishing are the primary techniques Doug uses during these outings, but when the fish come to the surface to feed, he will switch over to dry fly fishing to catch these beautiful fish. In the winter months Doug rides his clients out to the best fishing spots by snowmobile where you can fish to rainbow trout ranging from 19 - 25" in length."

SANTA LUCIA FLY FISHERS
MEMBER DONATIONS REQUEST

Thank you for considering making a donation to our fundraising banquet on March 9th. Your donations make a significant contribution to our fund-raising efforts. They and your dues allow us to have entertaining speakers and programs at our meetings and the other special events we enjoy so much.

We need donations of all types. What items do you have that you haven't used in the past year or didn't work for you at all? Do you have Gear? Services? Flies? Jewelry? Art?, Books, Gift certificates, etc.? If so PLEASE CONSIDER DONATING IT. This is a way to support our club in a way that doesn't require a time commitment.

By making a donation you will be entered into a special drawing during the banquet.

Please complete the bid sheet below and return it to Steve Soenke (soenkearchca@att.net) 1802 Pinecove Drive, SLO by February 28th.

Leave the Item # blank, we will assign one. Give us a description of the item you are donating (include a picture if appropriate); your name; an approximate retail value (if known); and your suggestion for a minimum bid if you chose. We will set the bid increment.

It would be easier for us if your donated items could be dropped off at Steve's home at the address above, prior to the banquet. If you are unable to drop the items off, you can bring them to the banquet as long as we have the bid sheet in advance.

Questions? Please call Steve @ 805 - 550 - 1715

SANTA LUCIA FLY FISHERS SILENT AUCTION

Item # _____

Description: _____

Donated by: _____

Retail Value: _____

Minimum Bid: _____

MANZANITA LAKE OUTING

JUNE 23 - 29

By Bernard Pieters

This majestic place with its snow-covered alpine peaks and natural beauty, wild trout, and quality fishing, brings us back year after year. It also attracts a lot of non-fishers, and because of this THERE IS A SHORTAGE OF CAMPSITES on the weekend and AROUND THE TIME OF THE OUTING.

If you are interested, I urge you to **reserve your campsite now!**

WHERE: Manzanita Lake: Lassen N-Park (north entrance).
Take Highway 44 east out of Redding.

ACCOMMODATIONS: Camping near the lake (no hookups), and cabins.
Motels are in Shingletown,- 14 miles toward Redding.

RESERVATIONS: [recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) or call 877-444-6777.
Reservations can be made six months in advance.
Most club members are camping in loop C.
I have reserved site C-1 for myself

FOR THOSE NEW TO THE LAKE: Do you want to step up your still-water knowledge?
Manzanita is the lake to go to!

Here is a fair assessment of what you can expect during your stay. Despite the overall good fishing the lake is known for, it can also be challenging. Keep in mind that the 14" to 18 "wild trout are catch and release, and at times, highly educated about what they will eat.

Speaking from my own experience of fishing this lake for twenty-five years, many of us have encountered situations when we individually tried to figure out what was going on with this fish. Was it the fly, the cast, the leader, the retrieve, the weather? Or was it simple trial and error? When you do figure it out, IT CAN PAY OFF BIG TIME.

What I and some of us like about the lake, it's one of the rare still-water beauties that can teach us a lesson. It can challenge us to rise to the occasion, step up our fishing knowledge, and become better still-water fly fishers!

SEE MORE INFO - NEXT PAGE

The fishing is primarily done in 4 to 8 ft of water, with long 12-17 ft leaders over submerged weed beds. Most of us begin to fish around mid-morning and stop by mid-afternoon. In general, the fishing is slow between 3:30 and 7 pm. This will give you ample time to have dinner, and be ready for the evening fishing. If fishing the gods were not on your side during the day, you have still a good shot at great fishing in the evening.

The lake comes back to life when the sun is going off the water around 7:30 pm. The dry-fly activity starts at that time, with improving results later in the evening until dark. During this low-light period, the fish are much less picky and easier to fool. What was (for some) hard to achieve during the day is now working great. At the same time 8 to 9:30 pm, stripping a dark medium-sized seal or wooly-bugger can be very productive, with a lot of breathtaking violent strikes from mostly brown trout. This is a great way to end your fishing day and to dream of the next fishing morning.

A float tube or pontoon boat is the best way to go, however, many good spots around this 80-acre lake can be fished productively from the shore.

TACKLE: 4 to 6 wt rod / floating line / and hover line 1 ips.

LEADERS: For dry flies 12 to 17 ft including 3 ft 6x fluoro tippet.
In low light hours :10 to13 ft incl 3 ft 4 to 5 x mono or fluoro tippet.
For nymphs: 12 to15 ft incl 3 to 4 ft 4 to 6 x fluoro tippet.
In low light hours 10 to 12ft incl 3 to 4 ft 4 to 5 x fluoro or mono tip.

For w-buggers and wiggle tails 12 to 15 ft incl 3 to 5 ft 4 to 5x fluoro tippet
Low light after 8:00 pm: 9 to12 ft incl 3 to 4 ft 3 x mono or fluoro tippet.

DRY FLIES: Parachute Adams, Female Adams, Callibaetis - cripples, duns, all in size 14 to 18.
Black Ants size 12-14.

NYMPHS : Callibaetis / Cold Ribbed Hare's ear and flashbacks / Birds Nest / Pheasant Tail, all in size 14 to 18. Damsels-olive12 to 14. Chironomids in black or red 14 to 18.

STREAMERS: Small W- Buggers (olive), Wiggle tail (olive) sizes 8 -10.
In low light hours: W- B or Seal Buggers (black or brown) sizes 6 to 8.

**** A fishing license and life jacket are REQUIRED.**

We plan to have a short, daily get-together fish report at 5 pm in loop C. **I am in site C-1.** At the get-together, we will talk about what was working, or not working, during our fishing day. If necessary, we will come up with an adjusted fishing plan. A dinner get-together can be arranged for Wednesday from 6 to 6:45 pm.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to call Bernard Pieters - (805) 489-3085

See you at Manzanita!

The One that *DIDN'T* Get Away

Mark Shelton

My 60+ years of fishing have resulted in lots of fish caught and many that got away, often big ones, whose size grew in my mind after their escape. Having started fly fishing around 1972, and then going barbless about 20 years ago, I've made peace with the idea of long-distance releases. I rely on just a few knots that I'm confident in: *nail knot* for connecting leader butt to non-looped fly line (I used to cut the loops off new fly lines to keep a low profile connection); *double surgeon* knots to add leader sections; and either *clinch* (non-improved) or *non-slip loop* knots (for streamers) to connect flies.

There are few things more frustrating to me than preparing for a fishing trip, traveling to the destination, fooling a nice fish, and having a knot fail. This happened last year to my son, Dave, while fighting a nice rainbow on the north Platte river in Wyoming. I'd driven to his home near Boulder, CO, picked him up and we drove to Alcova, WY where I'd booked our cabin for 3 nights. Since he's starting out with a new baby, sizeable mortgage and nanny expenses, this trip was on me. After a great day floating the river with a guide, we set out to wade fish on our own for a day. After I'd caught a nice fish, I noticed Dave's rod bent nicely as he battled with a good rainbow in a riffle. I headed towards him to assist with the landing, then watched as his line suddenly went slack. The curly pigtail in his tippet told the story...his clinch knot failed. Rather than console him for this frustrating loss, I said "we've come too far to lose fish with bad knots" and showed him the proper knot technique (again). I regret my choice of words at this moment, but perhaps he'll learn to tie that knot now. In fairness, he rarely fly fishes, but he's getting pretty proficient.

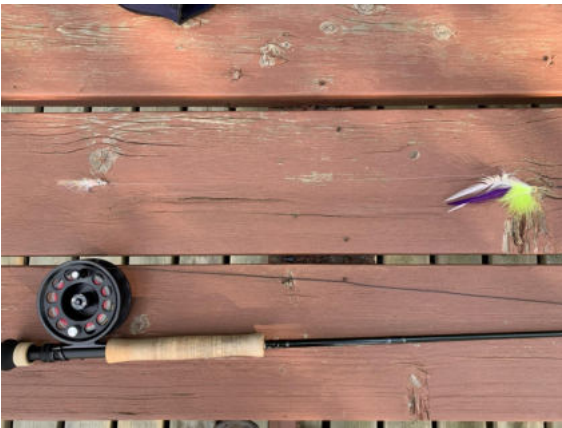
Last week, my nephew, Chris, who lives in Bloomington, MN, and former SLFF club members Peter Van Hest and Mike Kohle spent 6 days/nights at an Ontario fishing lodge about 1 hour NW of Fort Frances, CN. Chris and I had flown into a different lodge in this area twice before and loved catching bass, northern pike ("northerns" to the local yokels), a few walleye and some panfish on flies from boats. Bob Bayer and Ted Jacobson joined this trip last year.

Since Chris lives in Minnesota, has a nice Lund boat with all the latest electronics, including a \$4,000 trolling motor with power lift and deployment and fishes all the time, he's pretty focused on northerns and muskies. He's landed 8 or 9 muskies, most on giant plugs, braid line and bait-casting rods/reels, but he's also caught a couple on flies, most recently about 12 years ago when he was 16 years old. Lots of muskies have followed his plugs and flies to the boat, but they usually slink away into the depths without biting. On last week's trip, in 6 days of throwing large muskie flies on his 9 wt., he hooked one muskie and had two other follows. Muskies are called "the fish of a 1,000 casts" for a reason.

After watching Chris fish like this over 6 or 7 trips, I decided I didn't have the patience to double-haul 6-10" flies on my 10 wt. rod all day with hopes of a muskie hookup. So, I used my 8 wts. to target northerns and smallmouth/largemouth bass. Since northerns, walleyes and muskies have sharp teeth, we use *bite tippets* of tieable wire to connect to swivels or directly (via loop knots) to large-eyed flies.

This year's location, Pipestone lake, was really loaded with smallmouth bass, which readily took smallish streamers and occasionally, topwater poppers. Most of these bass were 10-12", but we got some that went 18+ inches and several pounds. I decided to go for numbers after the first day fishing, so rigged up a large streamer on bite tippet with an 18" dropper of 12 lb. mono and a small streamer to attract bass. Pretty quickly, I learned that while the bass mostly went for the dropper fly, some went for the large streamer, as did northern pike. I was pleased to see this "hybrid" rig work as I'd hoped.

On the 6th and last day of our Canadian fishing trip, Chris and I found ourselves in a cove about 5 feet deep with 77°F water, much warmer than large northerns and muskies prefer (according to Chris' experience and lots of 'experts'). Nevertheless, as I retrieved my double fly rig to the boat, I noticed a large muskie hovering about 5 feet from the boat and staring at my flies. Chris said "leave 'em in the water" which I luckily did. I then twitched my flies slightly and watched this fish open then close his mouth on my little dropper fly, at which point I reared back and set the hook and the game was on. For the next 7 or 8 minutes, we watched as this muskie jumped, porpoised, and pulled line, along with piles of aquatic weeds on my leader. I was pretty sure he'd either bite through or break the mono leader so I told Chris to take a picture or two before he got off. Somehow, this beautiful 44 inch, 20+ lb. muskie stayed attached and found his way into Chris' jumbo net. It was the most unlikely fish I've ever caught and I was glad to watch him swim strongly away after we got some photos.



Canadian fly fishing rig: 8 wt. rod with fast-sinking, 330 g line, wire bite tippet to large streamer, 12 lb.



Muskellunge or Muskie; *Esox masquinongy* Mitchell





FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL

Fly Fishers International (FFI) is dedicated, through education and conservation, to preserving the fly fishing experience. Conservation of our public waters and connected upland's is essential to our enjoyment, understanding and appreciation of fishes and their habitats and also the health of natural systems.

"When you teach a person to fly fish you have just created a conservationist"

- Lee Wulff

JOIN FFI TODAY



THOSE WHO FISH BECOME
CONSERVATIONISTS.
THOSE WHO FLY FISH
GO THAT EXTRA STEP.
KEEP 'EM WET. LET 'EM GO.

PARTNER WITH US.
DONATE TODAY!

EDUCATION/EVENTS/GRANTS/ACTION

YOUTH/WOMEN/DIVERSITY/CONSERVATION

Pictured above: Asher de Callier with his prize trout.

"When we teach a person to fly fish, we just created a conservationist." Lee Wulff

<https://www.swcffi.org/donate>

or send a check to: Southwest Council
PO Box 52, South Pasadena, CA 91031

If you would like to sign up for the Southwest Council Fly Fishers International's (SWCFFI) monthly newsletter, click here:
<http://eepurl.com/dEL97L>

PRIVATE CASTING LESSONS AVAILABLE

While our six FFI certified casting instructors generously put on a series of free casting clinics for our club members each spring, we wanted you to know they are also available for private casting lessons throughout the year.

If interested, please contact them directly for additional information.

Bernard Pieters	Arroyo Grande 489-3085 bpieters84@gmail.com
Bob Hurd	Arroyo Grande 550-9071 rbrthurd@gmail.com
Todd Tose	Grover Beach 904-5288. trtflyfisher@charter.net
Sally Stoner	Halcyon 550-9509 fishsal44@gmail.com
Deb Cox	Arroyo Grande 440-4344 debgrainercox@yahoo.com

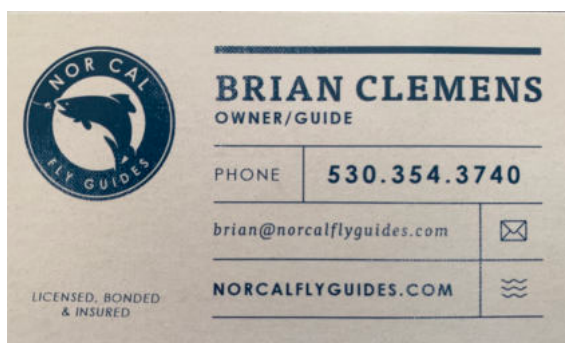
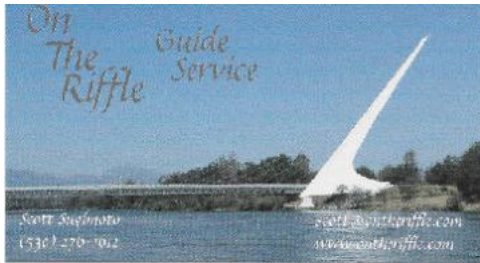
SLFF MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

An individual regular membership is \$45.00 per year for 12 months (January through December).

Enrollment after July 1st is \$30.00 for the remainder of the year.

**To join, please visit our website:
santaluciaflyfishers.com**

**MEMBERSHIP FEES CAN BE PAID ONLINE
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