



*The*

# *Angler's Line*

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE TRUCKEE RIVER FLYFISHERS

## September 2006

Fellow Fly Fishers,

Club picnic is just a few days away, September 9<sup>th</sup>, at Oxbow Nature Park. The park is at the end of Dickerson Road, which is at the end of 2<sup>nd</sup> Street. A few of us will be there at 8:00 for a friendly one fly tournament, and then lunch will be at noon. As they say "Be there or be square." Hoping to see you there.

Missed many of you at the swap meet, but there were a lot of us there, some great buys were made, I made to many of them myself.

### THE MISSION STATEMENT

We are dedicated to: Improving and promoting the sport of fly fishing in Nevada. Promote and encourage the conservation of game fish, especially wild trout, through the betterment of the streams and lakes everywhere. Encourage and assist our youth to become fly fishers and true sportspersons.

Many of you know long time club member Mike Sevon, he is also a member of N.D.O.W. Mikes' long title is Supervising Fisheries Biologist for the Western Region. You can just call him the head carp guy.

Mike is retiring on September 16, after 36 years of service to the state and to the fishery. Thank you Mike for all you have done for the state, for the fish, and for the club. Of course he is not done with the

club. We are not letting him retire from us. In fact, a little in advance of him knowing, so keep it a secret, we are going to present him with a life time membership in the club as a token of our thanks and gratitude for all he has done and all he will do.

The month of September is always a little light on club functions, there is going to be a very informal fish out scheduled for Milton. If you are interested in going contact me and I will tell you when and if.

October we will be having a fish out Heenan, we don't have firm date on that as yet, but it will be published in the next newsletter and we will be having a speaker for our October General Membership Meeting, so looking forward to a busy October. The Fly Tiers Roundtables are set to start in October as well.

Tight lines,

Tom

## ***The Angler's Line***

*Volume 2006*

*Issue 9*

is the monthly publication of the

Truckee River Flyfishers.  
2875-F North Towne Lane #323  
Reno, NV 89523

http://  
www.truckeeriverflyfishers.org

E-mail:  
info@truckeeriverflyfishers.org

---

### **TRF Officers and Board of Directors**

#### **President/Membership**

Tom Smith 741.8825  
edsontiger@aol.com

#### **Vice President**

Wes Ong  
weswinnot@aol.com

#### **Secretary**

Joe Cendagorta 747.7858  
cendagorta@sbcglobal.net

#### **Treasurer**

Tillie Arizmendi 338.3661  
tadragonfly@yahoo.com

#### **Angler's Line Editor**

Tim Huckaby  
timhuckaby@yahoo.com

#### **Trout in the Classroom Chair**

*Open*

#### **Fly Tiers Round Table**

Bud Johnson 345.0458  
jonce77@aol.com

#### **Board Members**

Gordon Milldrum	324.6643
Ryan Shea	575.5901
Jerry Holtgrave	673.2919
Ken Kersey	972.1816
Jim Hartzel	677-4393

Hi all: Thought you might be interested in what Joe Merz, our host last fall for our conservation meeting at East Bay MUD in Lodi, is doing. Interesting to see how the elements of the planet get around. Fisheries are important for many reasons.

Mark Rockwell

University of California, Davis

August 4, 2006

CALIFORNIA WINE: COMPLEX AND SMOOTH WITH HINTS OF SALMON

[Editor's note: High-resolution, color photos are available by e-mail. They show vineyards, rivers, grapes and animals scavenging fish carcasses. Contact Sylvia Wright, below.]

What does it take to make a fine California wine? Grapes, water, sunshine, the skilled hand of a master vintner -- and a few thousand dead fish. (continued on Page 3—California Wine)

# Club Picnic September 9th

We are going to have our picnic at the Oxbow Nature Park, at the end of Dickerson Road. Bring your own chair and a folding table. This year we are going to have a catered lunch.

## **Lobster Tails, with clams & corn on the cob.**

We are going to have a great raffle and at least two nice rods will be raffled and probably three. Plus lots more. Elliott Gritton donated a rod built by "Mid Lipera" for the picnic.

Picnic starts at 11:00 with lunch at 12:00. Raffle at 2:00.

There will be a one fly tournament starting at 8:00 if we get enough members to call and sign up prior to the event, call if you want to fish in the tournament. Need at least five. There is plenty of room to fish at the park.

This is going to be a little different than past years as we are going to be asking for a co-pay of \$10 towards this lunch, and are asking you to call to RSVP to 741-8825

(continued from Page 2—California Wine)

A few thousand dead chinook salmon, that is, according to new research that shows for the first time that the salmon that die naturally in California's Mokelumne and Calaveras rivers contribute significantly to the growth -- and likely the quality -- of wine grapes raised nearby. How? Wild animals eat the salmon carcasses, converting the nutrient-laden fish into fertilizer for the grapevines.

The study was led by Joseph Merz, a Lodi-based fisheries biologist with East Bay Municipal Utility District and an instructor at Sacramento State University. Merz's research collaborator was his former Ph.D. adviser and the leading authority on California native fishes, Peter Moyle of UC Davis -- which also happens to be the world's premier wine school.

Using a combination of their own new studies and other researchers' earlier findings, Merz and Moyle examined what happens after Chinook salmon incorporate the rich chemistry of the northern Pacific Ocean (carbon, nitrogen, phosphorus and more) into their body tissues, then carry it upstream in fall and winter to their inland California spawning grounds.

By tracing the movement of elemental "fingerprints" called nitrogen isotopes, the scientists found that when the salmon die upstream after spawning, natural scavengers move the marine-origin nutrients into the terrestrial food chain -- either through their wastes or by dropping fish carcasses onshore.

Merz and Moyle recorded 14 species of animals feeding on salmon carcasses, including turkey vultures, raccoons, river otters, rats, coyotes and even deer.

Before long, the nutrients travel through soil and water into wine grapes being grown commercially along the riverbanks.

"What we found is that the grapes close to the river get up to 25 percent of their nitrogen from salmon," Merz said. "In wine making, nitrogen affects yeast growth and sugar fermentation. No doubt some of the best California wine has salmon in it."

While their results should enliven the table talk over dinners of wild salmon and pinot noir, Merz and Moyle say there's more to it.

"Our study indicates that managing regulated rivers for salmon has benefits far beyond simply providing fish for fishermen," they write. "The marine-derived nutrients of salmon can positively affect both natural riparian systems and agricultural crops, with considerable economic benefit."

For starters, grapes getting one quarter of their nitrogen from natural sources, rather than from commercial fertilizers, is good for the environment and for the farmer's bottom line: In the Central Valley region where the study was done, nitrogen fertilizer costs \$500 to \$2,800 per ton. That does not include labor and fuel costs of applying the fertilizer -- services performed gratis in this instance by wildlife.

In an interesting aside, the scientists noted that the operators of state-run salmon hatcheries, after they harvest eggs and milt from spawning fish, routinely dispose of the carcasses rather than placing them back in the river. "Hatcheries consequently could be removing significant amounts of nitrogen of value both to agriculture and to the local ecosystems," Moyle said.

The study, "Salmon, Wildlife, and Wine: Marine-Derived Nutrients in Human-Dominated Ecosystems of Central California," is published in the June 2006 issue of the journal *Ecological Applications* and was noted in the news pages of the July 21 issue of the journal *Science*.

The research was funded by the East Bay Municipal Utility District, through its financial support of Merz's doctoral study of using gravel enhancement to restore salmon spawning in the Lower Mokelumne River.

The researchers thanked the East Bay Municipal Utility District's Fisheries and Wildlife Office for help with monitoring; Woodbridge Irrigation District for access to monitoring facilities; the California Department of Fish and Game for spawning data and salmon carcasses; and several local wine grape producers for access to vineyards.



# Events Calendar

## September 2006

*Tues 5th*                      *Full Moon*  
 Sat 9th                         Annual Family Picnic (see article)  
 Tue 26th                       Board Meeting  
 Wed 27th                       General Membership Meeting

## October 2006

*Tues 5th*                         *Full Moon*  
 Wed 25th                       General Membership Meeting  
 Tue 31st                         Board Meeting

Local Supporters—  
Support them, they support us!

The Gilley Fishing Store— 1111 Rock Blvd  
775-358-6113

Reno Fly Shop— 294 E. Moana Lane # 14  
775-825-3474

**NOTE:**

*All meetings are held at the NDOW Headquarters at 1100 Valley Road—unless otherwise noted.*

*General Meetings start at 6:30, BOD meetings start at 6:00*

### 2006 Membership Form

Name	<input type="text"/>	Date	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>		
City	State	Zip	
Home Fone	Work Fone	<input type="text"/>	
Email	Occupation	<input type="text"/>	
Experience	Beginner	Intermediate	Advanced
Fishing Interests	<input type="text"/>		
Projects and Activities Interests	<input type="text"/>		
Are you willing to volunteer at club events?	Yes	No	
Circle One	Individual = \$25	Family = \$30	Student = \$10
Circle One	New Member	Renewal	

## Fish Prospects

By Wes Ong



**August:** Sorry there was no prospects letter in the August newsletter.

**Truckee River:** Doug O. has been using a golden stone thru the deep runs and picking up fish. Wasn't that a great presentation he gave in June on New Zealand!!!! Thanks Doug! Ryan, all through August was doing great from Mayberry Park to Verdi using a Czech nymph and a cinnamon sparkle prince. Standard evening set up is a Yellow Stone fly with a hook bend dropper with a Caddis emerger pattern.

**Little Truckee:** This month the crowds should subside, all reports for the last two months have been saying that the LT has been great. Look for it to continue with less pressure and be even more consistent.

**Crater Lake:** I've only fished this once but it is a pretty lake and I'll bet the weather is cool up there. Pitch a small attractor nymph into the shoreline cover and let it sink, then twitch it back. Mostly a put and take fishery. I passed by here on July 4th and McCoy Flat Res. was full. I have no report on how the fishing has been.

**East Walker River:** Flows have been decent here most of August. Great time for terrestrials with a Spent Partridge Caddis dropper in the afternoons. There are rattlesnakes here.

**Yellow Creek:** Small catch and release water west of Butt Valley Res. a small attractor dry and a stealth approach will yield one brown out of every hole, unless you can get that one out without spooking the others. Check out Butt Valley on your way out to see if the inflow is running hard?

**Pitt River:** Third week of September start the Isonychia hatch. High stick nymphing, lots of lead, right under the white water. If Isonychia nymphs don't produce try a stonefly pattern or for that matter a large prince nymph. Iron Canyon Res. is not far for a still water side trip.

**Knott Creek Res.:** Look for this water to be crowded this month. Everyone I talk to has a trip planned for September except me!! I like it in the first weeks of October.

**Heenan Lake:** Opens the Saturday before Labor Day the reports that I read it is always slow in the beginning and is more consistent later in its season. Only open Saturday, Sunday, and Wednesday. Small Olive Woolly Bugger on the bottom seems to work the best.

**Other Ideas:** Eagle Lake, Dodge Reservoir, Squaw Creek Reservoir, Billy Shaw, Wildhorse, Wilson,

### WINGLESS TROUT CANDY by Bud J.

They have seven pairs of legs. They are known to swim on their backs upside down and are usually seen in the weedy shallows of a lake and around underwater plants in slow tail waters. They prefer dull and cloudy days and tend to shy away from bright sun. Lakes with large populations of these critters produce large fat trout.

Entomologists call them Amphipoda. Fly fishers call them Scuds.

The two main species are Gammarus and Hyalella. The former are the larger, from 1/3 of an inch to an inch, while the Hyalella rarely exceed 1/3 of an inch. Both species swim in a darting manner and while swimming maintain a straight shape. Only when climbing on the bottom or the stalks and stems are they in a curled position. Colors tend to be tans, olives and grays. The female will exhibit an orange egg sac.

Use a count-down to get your imitation near the shallow bottom, then begin retrieves with six inch spurts and pauses. You can switch to an intermediate line on windy days.

Aside from the plastic-backed patterns that have become so common, those in the know insist on the True-blood Otter as a good fly to go to.



Truckee River Flyfishers  
2875-F North Towne Lane #323  
Reno, NV 89512

**NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
PAID  
RENO, NV  
PERMIT NO.221**



# September 2006

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5 	6	7	8	9 Family Picnic
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 BOD	27 General Mtg	28	29	30