



## ALERT: APRIL ACTIVITIES (INCLUDING GENERAL MEETING) CANCELED

### CONTENTS

President's Message .....	1
Introduction to Fly Tying	
Class Report .....	2
Membership Renewal .....	3
Library .....	3
Directors & Com. Chairs .....	3
Fun With Knots .....	3
SPFF Event Calendar .....	4
Native Rainbow Trout Sub- Population Expansion	
Plan .....	5
A Reel Tale .....	8
Support Our Sponsors	9



## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

It's difficult to write about SPFF Club activities at this time when everything is being cancelled or postponed and we don't know how severe the restrictions will become or how long they will last. So far, we have cancelled our March fundraiser and dinner, and I'm about to cancel the April dinner meeting. The safety of our members, especially the more senior ones, is my paramount concern. I've been getting regular updates from Cedars -Sinai about their preparations and problems, and I know that Jim Fleisher is getting the same from Tarzana Hospital. They emphasize the need for each of us to stay home as much as possible, not only for our own safety but in order to reduce the burden on doctors, nurses and staff at the hospitals as well limiting their risk as they take care of those who need them.



It's most important that we stay in contact with each other, checking in to see that we are all OK and not in need of help. Most of us are too proud to ask. It also helps to relieve the

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE (CONT.)

(Continued from page 1)

boredom and cabin fever when we talk to each other and share stories and jokes, as well as anxieties and fears. I suspect that this will get worse before it gets better, so anything we can do to get through it will help.

As for me, I'm getting back into fly tying after the Intro to Fly Tying class was finished. I taught one of the flies, the gold ribbed hare's ear, and I liked it so much that I've done a bunch for my fly box and will resupply with Mas' Hot Creek Emergers, hoping that I'll be able to use them at HCR in June. I'm scheduled to teach another fly to the group when it resumes so I'm looking for something interesting to learn and practice. I find it amazing how much time goes by while tying and how therapeutic it is. Thank you, Michael!

I'm also getting more familiar with the world of video conferencing. Most of us have used Skype, or Facetime on our phones, with family and friends but many have not done group meetings remotely. I've participated in them at work but now I have to set them up for Board meetings and such. If I have trouble I will call on my personal source of advanced tech support, my daughter and son in law who work at Google. Though they think I'm a troglodyte who lives in the past century, we can usually get the job done. I will also call on our latest Board member, Social Media Chairman Cat White when I need help. Sometimes, as I connect with the world electronically, I feel like I'm on the Starship Enterprise; if so, I'd like to be Bones, as long as I get to use the Tricorder.

As you can see, I'm starting to ramble so I will end with one thought: we will see the end of this, life will return to some semblance of normal and we will get back to the waters that sustain us. Tight lines!

## INTRODUCTION TO FLY TYING CLASS REPORT

by Michael Peratis

Our students completed six weeks of intensive study on March 11, graduating from our *Introduction to Fly Tying Class* and proudly displaying their diplomas for a class photo. We're looking forward to having them join us on Wednesday evenings once we're able to resume our normal fly tying sessions.

My sincere thanks to the instructors and assistants without whom this class would not be possible: Mike Bowden, Charles Brittain, Pat Cates, Jim Fleisher, David Hoffberg, Rich Hoffman, Dan Liggett, Bill Luddy, Gene "The Knife" Mahn, Rich Ress, John Roberts, Rick Russo, Bill Woods and Tom Wright.



## MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

by Jay Bushore

If you haven't renewed yet for 2020, the easiest was to renew is to go on the [spff.org](http://spff.org) website. You can renew and pay by credit card and your membership is updated instantly.

The other way is to mail a check made out to SPFF. Mail it to:

SPFF  
PO Box 8403  
Van Nuys, CA 91409

## LIBRARY

by Tom Wright

Learn more about fly fishing. Please visit our vast Fly Fishing Library online at [spff.org/Library Catalog](http://spff.org/LibraryCatalog).

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## FUN WITH KNOTS

By Jody Martin

Since gatherings to practice casting are currently on hold, I thought we could at least continue thinking about casting and fly fishing in general by looking at some questions about knots. This is only for fun, so don't worry about how well you do.

The answers will appear in the May issue of The Fly Paper.

Here we go:

1. T/F: A good knot for attaching the leader to the fly line is the nail knot.
2. T/F: A good knot for attaching the fly to the tippet is the double surgeon's knot.
3. T/F: The improved clinch knot is an effective way to attach a fly to the tippet material at the end of your leader.
4. T/F: An arbor knot is often used to connect the backing onto the spool of the fly reel.
5. Which of the following knots is recommended for attaching the backing to the fly reel?
  - a. a perfection loop
  - b. an arbor knot
  - c. a blood knot
  - d. a double surgeon's knot
  - e. both a and d would work well
6. Which of the following knots would be a good choice for attaching a fly to the end of your tippet?
  - a. a blood knot
  - b. a nail knot
  - c. a clinch knot
  - d. an Albright knot
  - e. both c and d would work well

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## FUN WITH KNOTS (CONT.)

(continued from page 3)

7. Which of the following knots would be a good choice for combining two sections of leader material?

- a. an improved clinch knot
- b. an arbor knot
- c. a double surgeon's knot
- d. a blood knot
- e. both c and d would work well
- f. all of the above would be good choices

8. The most common use of an Albright knot is for

- a. attaching a heavy streamer to a light tippet
- b. attaching the leading end of the backing to the back end of the fly line
- c. attaching the leader or tippet to the fly
- d. attaching the backing to the spool of the reel
- e. building your own leaders

9. Which pair of knots is useful for attaching flies to tippet material?

- a. blood knot, double surgeon's knot
- b. Turle knot, non-slip mono knot
- c. Davy knot, arbor knot
- d. nail knot, clinch knot
- e. Orvis knot, Albright knot

10. Which of the following is commonly used instead of a nail knot?

- a. Albright knot
- b. Perfection loop and loop-to-loop connection
- c. Lefty Kreh try knot
- d. Improved clinch knot
- e. Any of the above could be used in place of a nail knot

Have fun!

Jody

## SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

### APRIL

**ALL PROGRAMS HAVE BEEN CANCELED OR POSTPONED IN APRIL DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

### MAY

*(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)*

Casting For Recovery - Spring Retreat....	1-3
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	2
Project Healing Waters Vets .....	7
Board Meeting .....	7
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	16
Project Healing Waters Vets .....	21
Dinner Meeting .....	21

### JUNE

*(subject to status of COVID-19 Pandemic)*

Project Healing Waters Vets .....	4
Board Meeting .....	4
Hot Creek Ranch Weekend .....	5-8
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa .....	5
Project Healing Waters Vets .....	18
Dinner Meeting .....	18
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa.....	20





# NATIVE RAINBOW TROUT SUB-POPULATION EXPANSION PLAN

Written by

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*South Coast Regional Director*

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*(This article is reprinted with permission of California Trout from its e-magazine, thecurrent; the original article can be found at <https://caltrout.org/article/native-rainbow-trout-sub-population-expansion-plan>)*

Southern steelhead represent the southern edge of the species' range and are critically vulnerable to climate change. CalTrout's project, the Native Rainbow Trout Project, will increase resiliency of native rainbow trout populations in Southern California and facilitate recovery of endangered southern steelhead.

The four high priority rivers targeted for restoring anadromous steelhead populations are the San Luis Rey, Santa Margarita River, San Mateo Creek and San Juan Creek.

As part of the South Coast Steelhead Coalition (SCSC), CalTrout is working to ensure anadromous fish populations can successfully migrate between the ocean and freshwater habitats. Connecting these steelhead populations to each other and to the ocean will strengthen the regional population network and increase resiliency of the species. CalTrout is leading the SCSC in the Native Rainbow Trout Sub-Population Expansion Project Plan.

The project's goal is to increase the genetic and geographic diversity of native rainbow trout and facilitate recovery of endangered Southern California steelhead. By increasing diversity, we increase their chance at survival with anticipated impacts from climate change such as stream temperature change and habitat loss.

CalTrout is using spatial analysis in collaboration with the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission and California Department of Fish and Wildlife to plan for relocating native trout if they become threatened by wildfire or drought.

Thanks to our project funding partners, the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program and Southern California Edison, this project will start in 2020 to preserve the remnant populations of steelhead that have survived in remote areas of Southern California as resident rainbow trout.

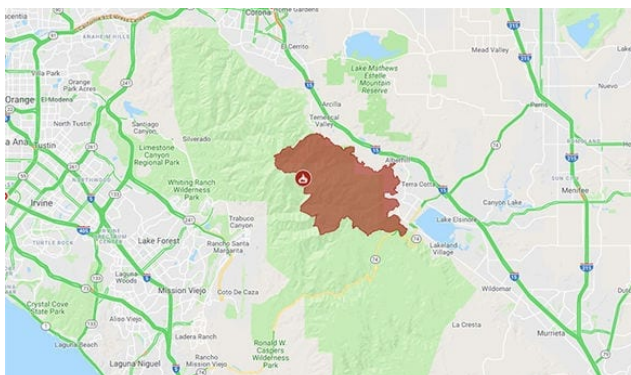
Southern steelhead populations are in danger of extinction within the next 25-50 years due to anthropogenic and environmental impacts threatening their recovery such as major dams and fish passage barriers, urbanization, and estuary alteration. (SOS II: Fish in Hot Water Report)

A growing threat for these sensitive species is fire as seen with the Holy Fire in August 2018 which burned a total of 23,000 acres in Orange and Riverside Counties. The fire burned Coldwater Canyon, which held one of two remaining native rainbow trout populations of steelhead descent left in this part of Southern California.

Most of the trout survived the intense fire and were relocated to a regional hatchery for short-term safety. However, a long-term plan for relocating these rare and special native trout as they face a similar situation remains to be developed. There are only a handful of places that have all the needed characteristics.



While historically wildfires have a long term positive impact for salmon, “Changes in the frequency and intensity of wildfire combined with a general loss of population diversity across the landscape may inevitably, create a phenomenon where salmonids lack the tools to recover and ultimately adapt to the new wildfire regime we are currently witnessing California.”



Holy Fire burn area. Photo: Google Maps



Photo: AFP



In addition to re-establishing anadromous populations, efforts to maintain and expand existing native resident rainbow trout populations is also important. These land-locked populations in Southern California are the remnants of steelhead runs over 100 years earlier. They were identified by molecular genetic analysis by a study completed in 2014, and are recognized as the last remaining genetics sources of these historical salmonid populations. There are new methods by which managed breeding of these highly valuable populations can be performed largely in the wild to avoid hatchery effects.

With additional threats arising, CalTrout is developing a plan using GIS-based analysis followed by ground-truthing to determine the optimal place of refuge for relocating and protecting native rainbow trout. The goal is to enhance population diversity and adaptive capacity in order to improve species resilience and provide these emblematic fish with the help necessary to adapt to a rapidly changing landscape. Once more populations are dispersed throughout Southern California, there will be less of a need to actively rescue and relocate the existing ones.

This analysis will consider:

- Rainbow trout presence, abundance and genetic lineage
- Habitat characteristics (water temperature, water quality, stream gradient, canopy cover, natural springs location for consistent water flow)
- Fire interval maps for assessing fire susceptibility and history

The end goal is not to maximize trout numbers, but to create stable and small populations in geographically disperse areas.

This will serve as an ecological risk mitigation from sporadic local extinction caused by severe environmental changes such as fire, drought water quality or quantity alterations, non-native species competition, climate change and disease.

These wild and isolated populations can be used as genetic sources for further crossing with other Southern California native rainbow trout to populate other suitable habitats in neighboring watersheds.



Southern California Steelhead. Photo: Mark Capelli

## A REEL TALE

### HOW I WON – AND LOST – AND WON - AN ORVIS ROD & REEL

by Ron Ress

Last fall, like most Trout Unlimited members, I suppose, I mailed back the sheaf of entry forms I had received for their 2019 “Great Gear Giveaway” sweepstakes with a donation. Just for fun, not expecting to win anything. Then I received a letter dated January 7, 2020 from “Ventura Associates Intl. LLC Marketing and Promotion”, with a New York City address, saying they were the “independent judging agency” administering the TU contest. The letter said I was a “potential winner” of an Orvis H3D 9’ 6-weight 4-piece fly rod with Mirage LT III Reel and PRO Trout Textured Fly Line. It went on to say that to claim my prize, I had to send back their enclosed form, not later than January 21, signed and notarized, giving my name, address, email, occupation, date of birth, social security number, the names of my family members and their occupations – everything a scammer would need to steal my identity. It also enclosed a photocopy of the “Official Entry Reply” form for the 2019 contest, which had ended back in October. Of course I assumed this was a “phishing” scam and meant to call TU to alert them. I hadn’t gotten around to that when I got a second letter dated January 22 saying I was now disqualified from the prize. This time I did call TU, and the representative who answered agreed that it seemed awfully fishy but he’d have someone get back to me. On January 28, I had a call from another TU rep saying that yes, the letters were all legitimate and I had won the First Prize but was disqualified for not sending back the notarized form to Ventura Associates.

How many emails and print ads do we all receive saying “you may be a winner” and asking us to send in an entry, buy a subscription, sign up for email notices? And we’re warned constantly not to send personal identifying information to strangers. Feeling a bit let down, I sent an email to Chris Wood, President of TU, telling my sad story. Well, Chris immediately forwarded it to Lori Held, who is in charge of member relations, telling her to “make this right.” She called me, apologized, told me that the folks at Ventura Associates had sent out their form instead of the one TU had provided, and did indeed *make it right*. She ordered an extra rod and reel combination, exactly like the advertised prize, which I received this week. It’s magnificent. But the best part is knowing that an organization dedicated to our sport and conservation is run by generous and dedicated folks who really do value its members and its reputation. So next time you get that request for a donation to TU you’ll know what great people they are. And send back those sweepstakes entries. The Orvis gear was the First Prize, but the Grand Prize was a boat. You never know ....





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