

Casting Times



Santa Clarita Casting Club

Cane Whisperer: Where Art, Science and Tradition Meet by Bill Creitz

Items of Special Interest

- Feature on Cane Rod Builder, Jeff Gin (p. 1 feature story)
- Santa Ynez River Outing (p. 2 story)
- "Casting Corner" with Mike Smith (p. 2 Tips)
- "Trout Grass" DVD Review (p. 6)

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"One of the last remaining cottage industries that have its roots in America and that is still considered a quintessentially American craft" is how I would describe the art of bamboo fly rod making. The generalized view of cane rod makers laboring over a hand-constructed bench, shop apron askew, peering through close-vision glasses as they lovingly hand-plane a carefully selected and dried—in a home-fabricated oven--Tonkin cane blank is pretty generally true.

Yes, there are the R.L. Winstons, Orivis's, and Thomas & Thomas's of the world who produce excellent rods in a more-or-less production fashion but, from my research, most bamboo rod makers are solitary craftsmen turning out fewer than ten rods a year and whose marketing strategy consists of word of mouth by satisfied customers.

I had the recent privilege of meeting and

interviewing one of these unique members of the fraternity of cane rod makers and, in the process, developed a new respect for hand-crafted fly rods and those who make, repair, fish, or collect them.

Jeff Gin is just one of those solitary craftsmen I am referring to. Working in his sufficient-for-the-task, but by no means spacious, workshop in Monterey Park, California, officially known as "Jeff's Tackle," he was reluctant to even guess how many rods he'd made in his 11 years as a cane rod maker (I'll bet it is less than 40).



However, what he lacks in production numbers (which would be somewhat of a paradox to most bamboo rod craftsmen anyway) he makes up for in quality and attention to detail.

By way of history, the tradition of bamboo

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Message from the President "Connie's Corner"

I realize that thinking about and planning for Christmas when the mercury is still hovering around 90 degrees seems like I'm unnecessarily accelerating time and the seasons, but Christmas is one of my favorite times of

the year. With Christmas and winter we get cooler weather, classic Christmas movies, gifts, seasonal dishes, carols, new fly fishing catalogs—did I mention "gifts"—uncrowded days on the lower Owens fishing

BWOs, snow and, last but not least, the SCCC Christmas party.

Last year, we had our best turnout ever as we presented our Ray Bianco Appreciation

(Continued on page 2)

Award to Mike Smith and our Most Improved Casting Award to Rod Wilmot. Then, you all really surprised me with that awesome Sage Z-Axis rod. With that as a backdrop, this year's party is shaping up to be even better.

So be sure to put Saturday evening, December 13, at 7:00 on your calendar. Later this



fall, look for correspondence containing the

party details and a tickets coupon like the one shown to the right. In the meantime, be extra special good, and don't forget to leave plenty of hints for your spouse and/or family about what fly fishing gear you hope to find under the tree.

Santa Clarita Casting Club Christmas Dinner
Held at the Valencia Racquet Club (meeting place)

Saturday, December 13, 2008 Social Hour: 6:00 PM Dinner: 7:00 PM

Name: _____

I will attend the SCCC Christmas Dinner on Saturday December 13, 2008

I will bring _____ adults Total number _____ @ \$15.00 = _____ Total Enclosed _____

I will bring _____ children Total number _____ @ \$5.00 = _____ _____

Yes, I would like to help
 Please call me at this telephone number
 () _____ - _____ (cut out and return)

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 Valencia, CA 91354

S a n t a Y n e z R i v e r O u t i n g : F i r s t T r i p o f 2 0 0 8

"If you could fish with just one fly, which would it be?" Question asked by Field & Stream magazine. Reply: "The Olive Hairwing Dun," - author Dave Hughes

The Santa Ynez River, originating in the Los Padres National Forest and terminating 75 miles later just north of Santa Barbara, was the location for the Santa Clarita Casting Club's first outing of 2008. The 25 mile-long upper Santa Ynez River just happens to be the longest stretch of free flowing river with easy public access in all of Southern California—which can be both good and bad for fly fishers.

Seven club members and family met on Sunday, May 3, to test

their skills on this popular spring fishing destination. Of the five club members, Mike Smith, Joe Viescas, Joe Margiotta, Tom Maynor, and Jim Webb, Mike captured top honors with five trout ranging up to 13 inches. Caught on a size 18 RS2 or a bead head golden stonefly, the planted rainbows fought surprisingly well. Joe Margiotta, captured another top, if dubious, honor with a three-inch bluegill; "Smallest But Toughest Fighting Fish" would likely be inscribed on Joe's plaque—if he were

awarded one for a catch that barely exceeded the size of his fly. Joe indicated that next trip he will move up to a six-weight rod in order to handle the vicious strikes.

"Next time," offered Mike Smith, "I would use a full sinking or sink tip line in order to get deeper." That's probably good advice for next year's trip. Maybe going earlier in the spring to avoid warm weather, crowds, and low water would be a good idea too. Okay gang, anyone for Hot Creek?

U p c o m i n g E v e n t s

Sept. 2 — SCCC Board Meeting 7:00 pm

Sept. 9 — Casting Clinic 8:00 to 10:00 am Alameda Park

Sept. 17 — Monthly Club Meeting 7:00 pm

Sept. 21 — Casting Clinic 8:00 to 10:00 am Alameda Park

Sept. 25 — Heenan Lake Trip (1 of 3 weekends)

Sept. 27 — Piru Creek Dam Busting 8:00 am

Oct. 15 — Monthly Club Meeting 7:00 pm

Nov. 19 — Monthly Club Meeting 7:00 pm

Dec. 13 — Annual Club Christmas Dinner (see web site "Calendar" for time)



Mammoth Opportunities at the San Joaquin by Bill Creitz

"A bit off the beaten path, wouldn't you say?" opined a friend of mine when discussing Mammoth Lakes' San Joaquin River. "Dittoes to the 'off the beaten path' part," I agreed, "but I love that river." And, if you've ever fly fished the middle fork of the San Joaquin River (really a stream) in July and August, you probably agree with my sentiment.

I love the San Joaquin for its wild, stocked, and holdover trout; for the sheer variety of fish: browns, rainbows, goldens, hybrids, and brookies. I love it for its ease of wading; for the scenery (a profusion of wildflowers, pine trees, and cottonwoods compliment the gin-clear snowmelt); for the abundant insect activity; for its freestone origins; its productivity; for its willingness to give up trout to the dry fly, streamer, and the nymph; and for the challenge it poses. For me, there is nothing like the San Joaquin among the nearly limitless lakes, rivers, streams, and creeks around Mammoth Lakes.

I've fished around the Pumice Flats campground and the water below Rainbow Falls with all manner of dries; nymphs, bead heads and non-weighted; San Juan worms and egg patterns; dropper rigs; streamers; terrestrials; some rather non-descript patterns; you name it. They all catch fish in this Sierra jewel.

Dry fly enthusiasts sporting their mellow cane rods; graphite rod adherents with Winston and Orvis ultra-light rigs; beginners lobbing nymph-indicator rigs behind their standard-issue five-weights; and Fenwick fiberglass rod junkies angling for that elusive grand-slam-minus-one (cutthroats are the exception); these are the fly fishermen who fellowship on the ever-hospitable San Joaquin. This, of course, makes for a great variety of techniques and some gratifying streamside

conversation when it's time to ease down those lunch break power bars and Gatorade.

The Middle Fork of the San Joaquin River originates high in the Eastern Sierras. Beginning at Thousand Island Lake, elevation 9,833 feet, the river flows south until it joins the South Fork around Balloon Dome and the North Fork around Junction Butte, the confluence of the three rivers and valley they pass through once prompted John Muir to describe them as "...the most remarkable [valley], in many ways, of all I have entered."

Fishing this classic dry fly stream with its meadows, riffles, pools, undercut banks, pocket water, seasonally-challenged holdover snow patches, and even an impressive waterfall, is not to be taken lightly. No, you must acknowledge the fact that this is wild trout water at its best, in the best of locations, with one of the best catch rates of wild fish in California—nearly three fish per hour, according to a recent Department of Fish and Game survey.

I've had days on the San Joaquin where I caught a dozen fish in the space of a hundred feet while offering the fish as mixed a menu as a Parachute Adams, Sierra Brite Dot, bead head Pheasant Tail, San Juan Worm, and a Griffith's Gnat. Everything worked.

Tell me, if you will, where you can get the variety of fish, the beauty of the surroundings, the willingness of your quarry to take all types of flies, the numbers of both wild and stocked fish, the fun of the fight, and the wader-friendly water that you get on this stream.

It wasn't long after arriving on-stream one August morning that my fishing buddy and I discovered a trout-laden run

near the Pumice Flats campground. Prior to the sun's warming rays exposing our private fishery, we tied on Parachute Adams with Prince Nymphs as the dropper flies. Despite frozen fingers and exhaling what looked like facial exhaust, we cast to the head and the tail of a long, shaded run. Within seconds, we both had strikes. Strikes where you could see the trout turn and the white of its mouth signal mealtime.

My friend, John, set the hook downstream, as we'd been taught, and the battle commenced. Careening through the center of the main run, then beneath the foam seam with the leader creating a mini rooster tail, now burrowing into the bottom, the fish fought. He eventually turned, sulked in the shadow of a streamside cottonwood, and then made for the taylor. "More pressure. Point your rod tip in the opposite direction from his run," I yelled, trying not to raise the emotional pitch—but failing miserably. However, after a few more gallant attempts to shake the hook, the fourteen-inch rainbow grudgingly came to the net. That fish, one of several similar in size and defiance that we caught that day, now figures prominently on the inside leaf of our club's publicity brochure.

In my years fishing the San Joaquin River, I have witnessed many such scenes. They are enough to make a stream fishing purist out of the most committed float tuber or steelheader.

If then, variety, wild fish, scenery, and impressive catch rates appeal to your inner Lefty Kreh, then take the opportunity to fling some flies on the San Joaquin River this summer. You won't be disappointed, much less skunked.

Casting Corner with Mike Smith

Recently, club member, Mike Smith, received his Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF) Certified Instructor designation. As such, Mike was a logical choice to initiate this new feature, "Casting Corner," where common casting problems—and their solutions—will be addressed. Let's ask Mike to help us out with that old bugaboo, the tailing loop. Take it away Mike....

Editor: Mike, what causes tailing loops?

Mike: They're caused by one primary fault: the rod tip dipping.

Editor: If that's the case, what can we do about it?

Mike: Take up spin fishing. Hey, just kidding. Really, you need to find the cause for the "tip dip" as I'll call it.

Editor: Give us some examples to look for or to avoid.

Mike: First, it can result from a high

back cast to a high front cast; second, it can occur because of an abrupt application of power—sometimes referred to as an "uneven power application"—on the forward stroke with a final jerk (as opposed to a smooth movement) at the end of the stroke; and third, a tailing loop can result from too short of a casting stroke for the amount of line that is beyond the rod tip.

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Club Information
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Famous Fishermen's Favorite Flies

"If I had to choose a fly to take with me wherever I fish in the world, it would be a Woolly Bugger in black, brown, or olive." - Chris Bailey

"Our favorite streamer...is the Matuka...The Matuka-style tie has a number of advantages over the standard streamer which accounts for its effectiveness." - Doug Swisher and Carl Richards

"The Mickey Finn, a pattern conceived many years ago, is a must for your selection." - Byron Dalrymple

When asked what single fly pattern he has caught the most trout with in his fishing lifetime, renowned fly fisher George Harvey responded: "A deer-hair ant!"

"If I had but one fly to use for a single season, not for pleasure but to put pounds of meat on the table, it would be a streamer—a Woolly Bugger." Tom Rosenbauer

(Casting Corner—Continued from page 3)

Editor: Okay, I have my 4 weight, seven foot Jeff Gin-crafted bamboo rod in hand; I'm standing on the practice lawn trying to correct my tailing loops; now what do I do?

Mike: From what I've seen, your new bamboo rod is the only part of your casting that merits attention. Hey, a little humor never hurts.

Seriously, you will need to do one of three things: (1) smooth out your casting stroke. By that I mean "Get rid of the jerky motions, both for the back cast and the forward cast"; (2) begin your back cast with the tip higher and end the forward cast slightly lower; and (3) lengthen your stroke.

Editor: Thanks Mike. And mucho congratulations on your FFF certification.

What's My
by Ray



Line?
Bianco

Originally, fly lines were made from horse hair and date back approximately 2,300 years.

Silk lines, woven and oiled, were introduced in the 1800's. They were made without a core, unlike the lines of today.

In the early '50's, the first lines with cores were introduced and patented.

Floating lines float because they contain tiny air-filled micro-balloons. To create sinking lines, manufacturers add tungsten to the line coating.

Presently, there are four to five different shapes of fly lines.

All fly lines are measured by what is called "the first 30 feet."

Double taper lines: they are efficient for roll casting and can be reversed to extend their life.

Sinking lines: they are usually dark in color (as opposed to floating lines that are light, usually pastel, in color). The higher the line number (on the box) the faster the sink

rate.

Shooting heads (also known as shooting tapers): they are 30 – 44 feet long, cast farther than floating lines, and are usually attached to a running or shooting line of approximately 100 feet in length. Often, the manufacturer includes a welded loop on the end of the line. The Belgian cast is perfect for throwing these types of line.

Saltwater tapers: they are shorter than shooting heads but are designed to turn over with more energy, because of their mass being both more forward and more compacted, and with more velocity because, in most saltwater fishing, the fish are caught sub-surface.

When using sinking or shooting head lines, you usually use a heavier (one size larger) line than your rod size.

For line weight standards, you can consult AFTMA's Single-Handed Line Standard or the Two-Handed Line Standard.

(Continued from page 1)

fly rods in America dates to around 1870. So craftsmen like Jeff Gin, beginning his love affair with bamboo in 1996, represent only the fifth generation in this venerable tradition; not a very long time as traditions go.

As I looked at the perfect hand-varnished, hand-planed rod pieces, the flawless guide wrappings, the high quality cork handle and walnut reel seat, the non-existent (to the eye, at least) seams, the staggered nodes, the perfectly tapered and aligned guide feet, the perfect meshing of the ferrules, and the natural yellow-blonde color of the cane, I knew that I was in the presence of an artist.

And speaking of artists, lest you think bamboo rod making is all science and micro-calibrations, Jeff Gin's background, as well as his finished product, prove otherwise; there is just as much art as there is science in cane rod making. From selecting the right cane to drying it properly to gluing the various pieces to an exacting standard to achieving the optimum handle-to-tip taper, fine cane rods require something of the engineer and the artisan to pull off.

Before bending his skills and perfectionist tendencies to cane rods, Jeff was a commercial artist, Art Director for the short-lived *The Bamboo Fly Rod* magazine (whose logo he created), and a student at UCLA. At the same time, as a young fourth-generation Chinese American growing up in downtown Los Angeles, and hanging around fishing stores since 12 years old, Jeff learned at an early age to disassemble and reassemble reels and all things fishing related. He also learned early on to wrap fiberglass saltwater rods. In his own words, he has always been interested in both conceptual mechanics and design—just the right blend of science and art as applied to his passion for fishing. "Maybe it was my dad's auto mechanic background that influenced me," he mused.

What started Jeff Gin in bamboo rod making was his curiosity. What keeps him in bamboo rod making is his love of a challenge. "It's always different," he offers.

What sets Jeff apart from his cane rod maker peers is his approach: "I try to approach rod design and, in fact, every rod I make, from an artist's perspective." If you saw one of his rods, you would agree. Every blank is hand-planed. Every one of the six sides has the bamboo nodes staggered. Every silk wrap is hand-wrapped to perfection. And every rod is hand-varnished rather than impregnated.

Having grown up fishing, beginning at the age of three or four in Lassen County, Jeff began fly fishing in his twenties at Lake Sherwood. Even as a youngster, he toyed with building a bamboo rod after reading a book by Joe Brooks. Years later, Jeff came upon a bamboo rod "how-to" book at Bob Marriott's Fly Fishing store in Fullerton, California. That book, combined with a chance meeting with cane rod maker (and later, mentor) Richard Sherman of Huntington Harbor, cemented his determination to build with bamboo.

With a little help from Richard Sherman and authors Hoagy Carmichael and Everett Garrison (by way of their book *A Master's Guide to Building a Bamboo Fly Rod*), Jeff's first rod was built in April 1996. Dried in his home-made oven and assembled on his home-made binder, the first J. G. Gin rod reflected, even at the beginning, Jeff's philosophy of rod building: "Every rod is built as if it is for me." And to emphasize that point, Jeff still has and fishes with his first bamboo rod.

"You know, you really have to love this," observes Jeff as he sights down the length of one of his flawless six-weight rods. At an average of 80 hours to make cane rods like these, love of the art, love of fly fishing, and a generous helping of pride in a job well done and scrupulous attention to the little things are the minimum requirements for a successful bamboo rod maker.

Those same attributes carry over into Jeff's love of fencing; another finesse sport. Like his desire to share his insights and knowledge of bamboo rod making with like-minded enthusiasts, Jeff Gin coaches fencing—in particular, the saber—at a UC Irvine fencing club. He has been a member of a fencing club since 1975. Fencing and fly fishing: complimentary sports that require dexterity, practice, patience, strategy, commitment, and a calculated exploitation of your opponent.

When Jeff can slip away from the tackle shop and coaching, he likes to hunt yellowtail and tuna from a live-bait boat out of San Diego. And no, he doesn't carry one of his four- or six-weight bamboo rods on those excursions. Rather, he uses one of the saltwater sticks that he builds in his shop alongside the cane rods.

When not coaching at school or chasing schools of tuna, Jeff float tubes Lake Crowley in the Mammoth Lakes area with

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a striking blonde—namely, one of his beautiful, natural-colored yellow, or “blonde,” cane rods. As Jeff tells the story, a few years ago he and a friend were fishing with their bamboo rods just off shore in one of Lake Crowley’s bays, when nearby float tubers, who observed them pulling in numerous big trout on their bamboo rods over a few days, began referring to them as “the guys with the yellow, or blonde, rods.”

Ideally, and when time permits, Jeff would like to fish for sea-run brown trout off Tierra del Fuego near the coast of Chile and Argentina and teach bamboo rod making. Not surprisingly, these twin goals combine the complimentary attributes of the sportsman with that of the teacher—the love of a thing well done. As with fencing, Jeff loves a challenge. “What I like is that it’s (bamboo rod making, teaching, and fishing with bamboo) always different,” he offers.

What’s different, from my observation of Jeff Gin and his bamboo rod creations, are his quiet but consuming passion for quality, attention to detail, sharing his knowledge and hard-earned experience, spurning of shortcuts, and all things fishing related.

Having left Jeff’s Tackle shop after our interview, cradling my newly-purchased, first-ever bamboo rod in my arms, I kept hoping that some of Jeff’s coveted attributes might wear off on me—hopefully in proportion to the amount of time I caressed and admired my own exquisitely built, shapely “blonde.”

“TROUT GRASS” – Raising Cane With Fly Fishers

by Bill Creitz

“A magic piece of grass,” opines a bamboo rod aficionado in hushed tones when describing the nearly mystical properties contained in “split cane.” The highly sensual and mystical aspects of a new (2007) DVD about bamboo fly rods are just two of several noteworthy features of this three-years-in-the-making film by Ed George and Andy Royer.

Mirroring a nearly identical sentiment as that of the bamboo rod aficionado above, the DVD’s title, “Trout Grass,” is more than just marginally appropriate—it is perfect in its description of this ancient, yet modern, grass so revered by and exquisitely suited to the bamboo fly rod enthusiast.

Lush photography; the fog-shrouded southern China setting, Guangdong Province, where the best fly rod (Tonkin) cane grows; the original banjo—of all instruments—score; and the solemnly respectful narration by David James Duncan elicit nothing if not admiration by the viewer and a feeling that centuries-old Tonkin cane does indeed retain much of its life force even after being harvested, trimmed, dried, bundled, shipped, split, planed, beveled, baked, glued, bound, tapered, flamed, sanded, wrapped, varnished, cured, and finally shaped into a fishing stick in a home-built workshop thousands of miles from its homeland.

Featuring bamboo rod legends Hoagy Carmichael, author of the seminal *A Master’s Guide to Building A Bamboo Rod*, and Glenn Brackett, formerly of R.L. Winston Rods and one of the famous “Boo Boys” who recently established Sweetgrass Rods in Twin Bridges, Montana, “Trout Grass” captures, in a wonderfully memorable fashion, the essence of bamboo and the fly rod makers’ craft.

Maybe the comment by Hoagy Carmichael best summarizes the essence of bamboo from a rod maker’s perspective, “Its feel. It’s got a feel to it that no other material, before or since, has....” Add to that the impression made by bamboo on David James Duncan that “Bamboo is a natural fiber, and it’s got a feel nobody’s ever been able to duplicate,” and you truly have the components for what many call “magic grass.” In one sense, bamboo is a lot like a rough cut diamond in that they both clean up nicely and are greatly prized thereafter.

Still harvested by hand, Tonkin cane, *Arundinaria Amabilis* is, by weight, as strong as steel but remains flexible and light—perfect for building fly rods. While only one of 1,200 species of bamboo, Tonkin cane works best for the crafting of fly rods. Most of this species, when harvested, ends up being used for agricultural or domestic purposes in Europe and North America; however, that one-percent that successfully completes the eight to twelve week growing season (sometimes growing three feet in a night), and the one to three week drying process (this is what gives it the familiar straw-yellow color), and that passes the grade for straightness and node spacing, is sent to rod makers around the globe to be made into fishing sticks.

Bamboo broker, Andy Royer, ships all of his Tonkin cane to Seattle and, from there, to rod builders across the U.S. One of those builders is Glenn Brackett. The film follows Glenn and some of the Boo Boys around their shop in Twin Bridges. From receiving the Fed Ex cane shipment to shipping the finished cane masterpieces to eager customers, “Trout Grass” explores what a true cane master does, what he feels, how he thinks, and why he spends upwards of 60 hours per rod hand-crafting custom fly rods for fun and the sense that he is giving something back—and sometimes even for a bit o’ brass as the British say. Too, there is a compelling desire to uphold the traditions, skills, and innovations of the past craftsmen and to ensure that

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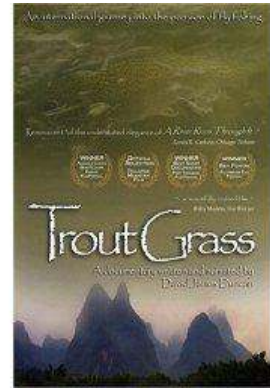
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they are cultivated for, cherished by, and conveyed to succeeding generations.

One of the reasons that Andy began selling his best cane to rod builders is exemplified in the response to his own rhetorical question, "Is a fly rod just a fishing stick or is a bamboo rod a little something more?" He answers himself by correctly observing that "For thousands of people throughout the world, fly fishing is much more than a sport; it's a spiritual endeavor." And if fly fishing is a spiritual endeavor, then the look, feel, flex, and finish of a fine bamboo fly rod represent the theological-made-tangible for the fly fisher.

Promoted as "an international journey into the passion of fly fishing," "Trout Grass" is so much more. It eloquently captures the spirit of the cane, the land, the people, and the process in such a way as to lead the viewer, ever so gently and almost imperceptibly to the acknowledgment that "Bamboo...is something to everyone and everything to some."

WARNING: Viewer discretion advised. Viewing this video may result in extreme anxiety and an implacable desire to seek out, cast, own, and fish a bamboo fly rod with possible addictive behavior and unanticipated financial implications as a consequence.



NEW PRODUCTS NEWS by Bill Creitz

Summer is nearly a memory, and so may be those lazy days of trout sipping dries from a meadow creek or a shady cove in your favorite lake, but fly fishing equipment manufacturers remain busy with new ideas for must-haves and gadgets, and improvements to existing equipment that knows no seasons.

Along those lines, some well-known manufacturers are offering some items that you don't want to miss and that may be the stuff of Christmas lists. Let's take a look at a few:

Simms, one of the Cadillacs of the industry, is offering its new "Rivershed" wader boots in two options: felt soles and what is termed "AquaStealth," a high-friction rubber. Selling for \$189.95, these comfortable-as-hiking-boots wading boots sport rubber-coated ballistic nylon and synthetic mesh uppers, neoprene rubber liners, non-corrosive hardware, and carbide-studded soles. And they look cool too.

Oh, and did I mention durability? These boots define durability. Like nearly everything from Simms, the Rivershed wader boot is top-notch fishing gear. Check them out at the Fisherman's Spot or on-line.

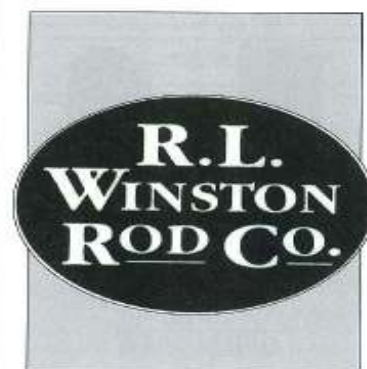
Another offering from a well-known fly fishing retailer is L.L. Bean's River Treads II, also termed "AquaStealth." Like the Simms model, these boots are designed to mimic hiking boots in terms of comfort; with their brown synthetic leather uppers, they even look like hiking boots. They have a unique rubber sole that spreads on contact to disperse water and, thereby, improve wading traction, as well as reinforced toes and heels to reduce wear.

Speed lacing (what every wading fly fisher expects these days) and a flex tongue are just two more reasons to give these boots a try. Lauded for their ankle support, traction--especially if you get them with studded soles--and durability, at \$130 a pair

these boots compare favorably with competitors' high-end models.

Both manufacturers' wading boots, from all of my research, are for the fly fisher who doesn't want to buy new boots every couple of years. The Rivershed and River Treads II boots are intentionally designed to be a part of your "buy and hold" strategy for fly fishing gear acquisitions.

"To catch fish, you have to think like a fish: food, cover, oxygen." Maggie Merriman



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FFF Certified Casting Instructor - Club Member Mike Smith Honored

The very first Santa Clarita Casting Club (SCCC) member to obtain the coveted FFF Casting Instructor certification, long-time member, Mike Smith, was honored at the club's August meeting by President Connie Bullock, Master Certified Casting Instructor, Ray Bianco, and a host of well wishers (many of whom have been students of Mike's at the Sunday casting clinics).

Mike, who recently retired from fishing for over 42 years. Having been Mike was self-taught before join-caster, Ray Bianco, Mike worked Long Beach Casting Club. "I'm really come from this fairly young club," ment.



AT&T, is an avid fly fisher who has been fish-first introduced to fly fishing as a Boy Scout, ing the SCCC. Under the tutelage of master for two years before taking his exam at the proud to be the first Certified Instructor to offered Mike when asked about his accomplish-

When Mike's not casting, instruct-strategies for the club's annual September and October. Combined with mid-week trips to the East Walker River and waters surrounding Bridgeport, Mike's trips draw on years of experience float tubing for the famous Lahontan Cutthroat trout that are bred in this water. Mike's casting improvements, combined with his recent certification, can only mean trouble for the Lahontans this fall.

ing, fishing, tying, or practicing, he is plotting Heenan Lake trip that he spearheads every

If you see Mike around the club or Eastern Sierra waters, give him a high-five for his great accomplishment and remind him that his planned relocation to Saratoga, Colorado next summer will put him out of reach of (1) his favorite lake and (2) his many fans and students. C'mon Mike. Who really wants to move to those ol' trout-infested Colorado Rockies?



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On the Stream Fly Fishing Clinic, Lower Owens River

The Lower Owens River, just outside of Bishop, CA offers world-class fly fishing for wild trout during the winter and spring! Join us for a 2-day educational experience to improve your success in nymph, dry fly, steamer and wet fly fishing. You will be introduced to entomology, stream structure, casting applications, short and long line presentation, reading the water, fly selection and basic knots. **NEW** this year will be a clinic dedicated to ladies only conducted by Kathy Kim and Joe Libeu. In addition, Advanced Nymphing Clinic will be offered in November. Joe Libeu, your Instructor, is a certified Federation of Fly Fishers "Master" Instructor and Guide and brings with him years of experience on his home water.



- 2008:** October 18-19 and 24-26 (Women's Clinic)
 November 1-2 and 8-9 (Advanced Nymphing class)
 December 6-7 and 13-14
- 2009:** January 10-11 and 17-18
 February 1/31-2/1 and 7-8
 March 6-8 (Women's Clinic) and 14-15

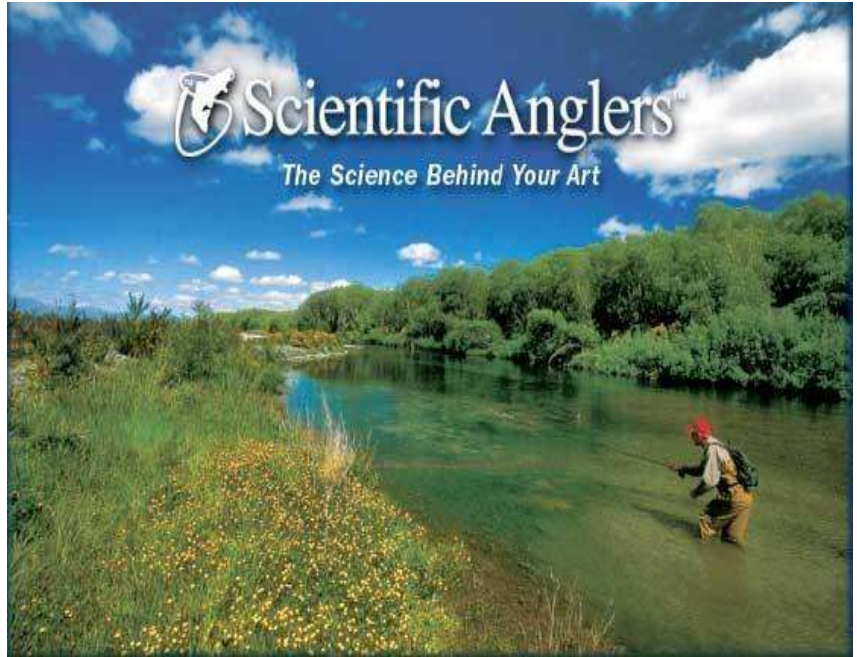
Classes are limited to 6 students only, so reserve your spot early! For reservation, tuition and other information call Joe Libeu 310-749-6771 (jspsfa@ic.netcom.com) or Kathy Kim 714-290-6930 (kkspsfa@yahoo.com)



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