



RAFFLE

1st Prize

Echo Carbon 9ft 5wt fly rod

2nd Prize

Orvis Battenkill II Reel

3rd Prize

Choice of Net or Patagonia
Cal Trout backpack

4th Prize

Orvis Brook Trout Anglers Pint Glass

Big Barrel

Various Neat Items!

DINNER MEETING: THURS, APRIL 18



Photo by Marie-Josée Cantin Johnson

what he jokingly refers to as the “feather underground,” in a years-long search for the missing birds. He’ll also give a sense of how the community has reacted or changed in the wake of the book’s publication, and what the future looks like for classic salmon fly-tiers. There will be plenty of time for questions. He will also be selling and signing books (cash or check only).

Here he sets the scene:

“On a cool June evening in 2009, after performing a concert at London’s Royal Academy of Music, twenty-year-old American flautist Edwin Rist boarded a train for a suburban outpost of the British Museum of Natural History. Home to one of the largest ornithological collections in the world, the Tring museum was full of rare bird specimens whose gorgeous feathers were worth staggering amounts of money to the men who shared Edwin’s obsession: the Victorian art of salmon fly-tying. Rist had been there before, months earlier, posing as a student photographer. He was granted access to the collection, and used his time to case the place, taking photographs of the layout of the museum, and making a mental map of the location of each

(Program continued on next page)

CONTENTS

Program: The Feather Thief by Kirk W. Johnson.....	1
President’s Message	3
Directors & Com. Chairs	3
Education.....	4
Outings.....	4
Project Healing Waters	4
Library.....	4
SPFF Event Calendar.....	4
Membership.....	4
Hot Creek Ranch Weekend.....	5
Rip Tide Rendezvous	5
PHW: Teach The Teachers	6
Proposed Trout Regulations	7
Online Fishing Licenses for All 50 States	7
Photos From ITFF	8
Fishing Report: Upper Owens ..	8
Dinner Information.....	8
Fundraiser Report.....	9

THE FEATHER THIEF

by Marshall Bissett

The publication of Kirk Johnson’s book *The Feather Thief: Beauty, Obsession, and the Natural History Heist of the Century* sent shockwaves through the fly fishing and especially the fly-tying world. The book, which reads more like crime fiction than history, reveals the lengths to which fanatics can go in search of authentic materials to tie classic salmon flies. Kirk will discuss Edwin Rist’s transformation from a young fly-tying prodigy into the perpetrator of one of the largest natural history museum heists in a century. After a blow-by-blow of the heist, the police investigation, and the resulting sentencing, he will walk through his own descent into

DINNER MEETING

(Program continued from page 1)

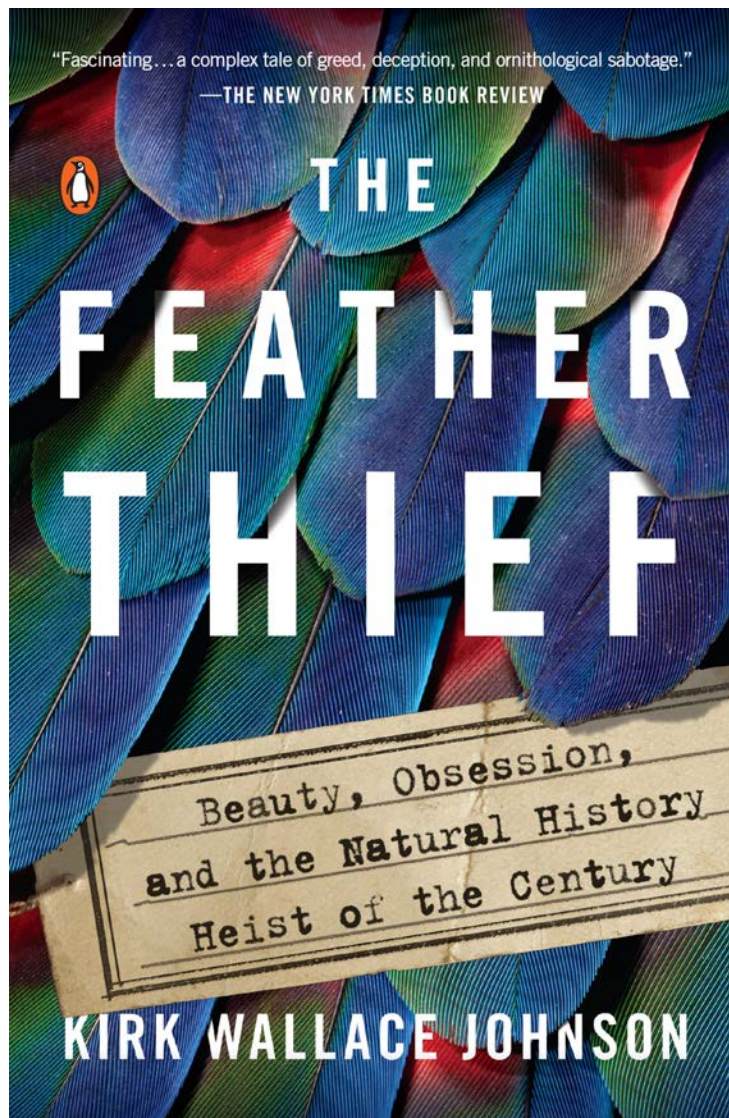
species. After scaling a wall behind the museum and breaking out a window, the champion fly-tier climbed inside and set out to work. He grabbed hundreds of bird skins—some collected 150 years earlier by a contemporary of Darwin's, Alfred Russel Wallace, who'd risked everything to gather them—and escaped into the darkness.

Not too long after that, I was waist-high in a frigid river in northern New Mexico, fly-fishing for trout, when the guide I'd hired for the day mentioned a recent museum heist, carried out to feed the insatiable demand for rare feathers in the salmon fly-tying community. The whole story was so strange as to be almost unbelievable. I had never written a book when I first heard about the Tring Heist, but thought it sounded like a whale of a story, and started poking around, not realizing how quickly I'd be dragged into the feather underground.

What followed was a sprawling, six-year investigation, taking me around the globe in search of Edwin, the missing skins, and some measure of justice. *The Feather Thief* is that account."

Johnson's writing has appeared in *The New Yorker*, the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Washington Post Magazine*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and *Foreign Policy*, among others. Johnson previously served in Iraq with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Baghdad and then Fallujah as the Agency's first coordinator for reconstruction in the war-torn city.

He is a Senior Fellow at the USC Annenberg Center on Communication Leadership and Policy, and the recipient of fellowships from the American Academy in Berlin, Yaddo, MacDowell, and the Wurlitzer Foundation. Prior to his work in Iraq, he conducted research on political Islamism as a Fulbright Scholar in Egypt. Johnson received his BA from the University of Chicago in 2002. A resident of Studio City, Kirk is an avid fly fisherman.



An Amazon Best Book of 2018

2019 Edgar Award Nominee: Best Fact Crime

Goodreads Choice Awards Semifinalist

Andrew Carnegie Medal Nominee

Tring Museum:



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

by Richard Ress

We should all be pleased and proud of our success in the March fundraiser. Whether this was due to an improving economy, the generosity of our members or to the quality of the items offered, it was definitely a result of the hard



work and hours put in by our fundraising committee. I would like to thank all who worked so diligently and most especially Michael Peratis, who kept us on the straight and narrow, and Kevin Radanovich, who not only

chaired the committee but donated several items including the fabulous fly tying desk he crafted and a week's stay at his June Lake cabin. Jody Martin, Steve Esgate, Glenn Short, and Marshall Bissett were especially generous with their time. If I skipped anyone I apologize; it was a group effort all around.

Now we will be able to go forward with our ambitious plans to support worthy conservation and educational efforts. In that regard, I would like to consider resurrecting our Trout in the Classroom program. We tried this several years ago but had to abandon it due to logistical challenges. Several other clubs in the Southwest Council have successful programs that we might learn from. One factor in their success has been having someone who is an educator or school administrator to help to grease the wheels at the schools. If you know of such a person, please let me know.

I recently sent an email blast about the proposed changes in DFW regulations for California fisheries. We are especially concerned about changes that affect the Owens River, Hot Creek and Crowley Lake, but also care about the trout fisheries in the rest of the state that we may visit. Public comment is critical to making needed changes. As I outlined in my email, the only public meeting in Southern California will be on April 6 at Bass Pro Shops in Rancho Cucamonga. I am planning to go and would welcome a carpool for anyone who can join me. You may also comment on line at the address listed in the email.

Finally, we are looking forward with great anticipation to the April dinner meeting with Kirk Johnson, author of "The Feather Thief." It's a unique, fascinating and true detective story about the extreme culture of tying classic salmon flies with exotic feathers. If you have the book, Kirk will sign it and he will have some for sale as well. Book clubs all over have been discussing this story, so it's not of interest only to fly fishers and tiers. Bring a friend or your significant other to hear this unusual story.

DIRECTORS & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Technical Assistant.....	Aran Dokovna
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EDUCATION

by Steve Ebersold

We offer *Casting Clinics* at Balboa Lake/Beilenson Park in Encino, the 1st and 3rd Saturdays, from 9-11 AM; *Fly Tying Class* in January; "ITFF" *Introduction to Fly Casting* in March; continue *Fly Tying* on Wednesday evenings for fun; *Fly Rod Building* in May and the *Nymphing Clinic* in October.

Please visit spff.org/Education for more information.

OUTINGS

by Jim Fleisher

We mainly fly fish the Eastern Sierra and the Pacific coast. The *Surf Clinic & Outing* is in January; the *Super Bowl Outing* in Bishop; our *Graduation Outing* is in April, in Bishop; *Hot Creek Ranch* weekend in June; and we especially look forward to the *Getting Started Outing* in the Mammoth Lakes area in July and the *Nymphing Clinic* in October. We also fish our local streams during the "Thursday Thrillers." Visit spff.org/Outings for more details.

PROJECT HEALING WATERS

By David Hoffberg

Volunteers meet at Sepulveda Vet Center twice a month to teach Veterans fly tying and fly casting.

Visit [spff.org/Project Healing Waters](http://spff.org/Project_Healing_Waters) for more information.

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).

SPFF EVENT CALENDAR

APRIL

Project Healing Waters Vets	4
Board Meeting	4
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	6
Project Healing Waters Vets	18
Dinner Meeting (Kirk Wallace Johnson, "The Feather Thief")	18
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	20
SWC FFI Quarterly Meeting	20
Bamboo Rod Gathering at PCC	27
General Trout Season Opens - Eastern Sierra	27

MAY

Project Healing Waters Vets	2
Board Meeting	2
Riptide Rendezvous 2019 @ Rincon Beach Park	4
Casting Clinic at Lake Balboa	4
Project Healing Waters Vets	16
Dinner Meeting (Devin Olsen, "Tactical Fly Fishing: Lessons Learned From Competition for All Anglers")	16
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	18

JUNE

Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	1
Project Healing Waters Vets	6
Board Meeting	6
Hot Creek Ranch Weekend 2019	7-10
Casting Clinic @ Lake Balboa	15
Project Healing Waters Vets	20
Dinner Meeting (Dave Hughes, Wet Flies and Wet Fly Fishing")	20

MEMBERSHIP

By Jay Bushore

The members of Sierra Pacific Flyfishers look forward to meeting you. We hope to get to know you better at the monthly dinner Meetings, in our educational programs and on the water. SPFF always welcomes new members. New membership signup is at [spff.org/New Member Signup](http://spff.org/New_Member_Signup).

SPFF always welcomes new members. Please welcome and introduce yourselves to our latest member:

JOHN DIMOCK

HOT CREEK RANCH WEEKEND

JUNE 7-10, 2019

By James Fleisher, MD

Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers has reserved all nine cabins of Hot Creek Ranch for the second weekend in June. (7-10) The rate is \$900.00(inc. tax) per cabin for two anglers sharing a cabin. A third angler would pay an additional \$115.00(plus tax) per night which is paid directly to HCR when leaving. Since the club has pre-paid the reservations, we need all monies paid by the due dates.



Check in Friday after 4:00 p.m., go fishing, and then stay Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights – obviously you can leave earlier if you have to, but the full rent is your responsibility. You can fish Monday; you'll just need to have your stuff out of your cabin by 11:00 AM.

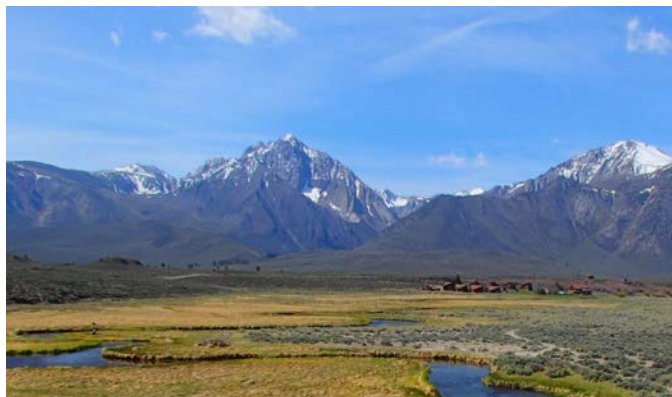
To reserve your room on a first-come, first-served basis, go to our website www.spff.org. **You must log in as a member.** Go to June 7 on the Event Calendar and click on the Hot Creek Weekend Event and then click on the Register Now button. When the list of available cabins is presented, click on the one you would like to reserve. Then click on Complete Registration. **You must make a deposit of \$300.00 per cabin by credit card on line or if by check made out to SPFF and mailed to: Sierra Pacific Flyfishers, P.O. Box 8403, Van Nuys, CA 91409** Note that the deposit is due ASAP with the balance paid no later than April 15, 2019.

If you are going as a pair or threesome, elect a “banker” to pay the \$300 deposit per cabin to reserve your spot. You'll then need to pay the balance by April 15. Again, a single payment for the balance is

required. If you have a third angler, settle up with Kevin at the Ranch. If you reserve a cabin and cannot go, all fees paid will be refunded, and the balance owed forgiven, if and only if, the cabin is later rented.

For questions contact: outings@spff.org If you have trouble registering, you may call Jim Fleisher at 818-990-4921.

More information is available on the Hot Creek Ranch web site, www.hotcreekranch.com



RIP TIDE RENDEZVOUS

On Saturday, May 04, 2019, the Southwest Council, in partnership with Coastal Conservation Association California, will hold its annual **“Riptide Rendezvous”**, a surf fishing contest for anyone that can throw a line.

Where: Rincon Beach Park in Carpinteria, Santa Barbara County

Divisions: **Conventional** and **Fly-fishing!** Prizes awarded in each division for first fish, biggest fish, and most points (1 point / inch).

Time: Check-in begins at 6:00 am. On-site fly and lure exchange starts at 7:15 am. Lines-in will be 8:15 am, and fishing will end 2 hours later. Awards, food, and the raffle follow at 10:45 am.

Rules: The main one...you only get to use one fly or lure that you pick at random from a bag!

Cost: \$10.00

Thank you for submitting your Newsletter Items to news@spff.org by the 3rd Thursday, each month. Look for the Newsletter on spff.org on the 1st of each month.



SIERRA PACIFIC FLY FISHERS

PROJECT HEALING WATERS: TEACH THE TEACHERS

By Carole Katz

For months, a few individuals within Fly Fishers International have been modifying the existing Teach the Teachers Workshop for PHWFF volunteers. The goal was to condense the existing workshop into a day-and-a-half format similar the schedule used in our regional training conferences and still maintain its value. MCI Tim Lawson has been teaching this course for many years, so he was the ideal person to modify it for our use. MCIs Mark Milkovich, Bruce Richards and Jonathan Walter were involved in writing and reviewing the manual, as well as providing guidance along the way.

The first PHWFF Teach the Teachers Workshop was the weekend of March 16 & 17, 2019, at Pasadena Casting

Club. The course covered many topics related to teaching casting. We talked about casting mechanics, dynamics, definitions, the loop and its characteristics, the “Essentials” and the “Six Step Method”. Then we reviewed how to teach pick up and lay down, false cast and roll cast, with benchmarks for each. We learned about the most common faults and methods to fix them. There was a discussion about the principles of adult learning, what makes a good instructor and general guidelines for teaching. There were many tips as well as opportunities to “teach” other students during the workshop. It was a full course but not overwhelming for the students and Tim kept it fun.



Club in CA. Sixteen PHWFF volunteers from five programs in Alaska, San Diego, Redding, Victorville and Long Beach participated. Lead instructor was MCI Tim Lawson, with help from CI Leigh Ann Swanson and MCI Ray Bianco. A comprehensive manual will be ready soon to accompany the course.



On behalf of everyone who attended, I want to thank Tim Lawson, Leigh Ann Swanson and Ray Bianco for their valuable instruction. Thanks also go to Pasadena Casting Club for the use of their clubhouse and casting pond, and to President Wenda Payan for providing terrific lunches both days. The hospitality very much appreciated.

The aim of Teach the Teachers is to improve the ability of PHWFF volunteers to teach casting to our participants. Every one of us agreed that the workshop did just that. This valuable educational experience will help us be better casting instructors for those we serve. This day-and-a-half-long workshop will be offered during the FFI Expo and elsewhere soon. Stay tuned.



PROPOSED TROUT REGULATIONS

By Chris Leonard

Unless you've been living under a rock, you're well aware of the "Inland Trout Angling Regulation Simplification" proposal being currently conducted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). In short, CDFW is suggesting opening up several hundred statewide fisheries to year-round fishing, and extending the season for five-trout daily-limit any method of take for several of the proposed fisheries. CDFW is suggesting zero limit during the spring and fall spawning periods along with winter, but it does extend the five-trout, daily-limit in a lot of the proposed waters. While many people are in support of the suggested regulation and season changes, an equal number are strongly opposed. CDFW admittedly does not have any data – fish censuses and creel counts – for the majority of waters being proposed for change. CDFW is doing this with the angler in mind, without concrete data of fish. Proposed waters include anything from five-trout, daily-limit any method of take in the Golden Trout Wilderness to an extended bait season on Crowley Lake to year-round bait fishing on sections of the Pit River that have all otherwise been traditionally fly/ artificial lure only. An entire list of the proposed fisheries can be found here: www.wildlife.ca.gov/fishing/inland/trout-plan (Golden trout like the one above are being threatened by proposed new regs that will permit bait angling in the Golden Trout Wilderness)



This proposal has been introduced by the CDFW in order to simplify the current seasons and regulations of inland trout fisheries found throughout the State of California. CDFW spokesperson for this project Roger Bloom is leading the proposal, as well as administering public meetings where stakeholders can offer input on the suggested regulation and season changes being proposed.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday, March 20, 2019, at the Tri County Fairground in Bishop. Around 220 people attended the event. CDFW was surprised to

find that about 99% of the people in attendance were strongly opposed to the suggested changes. Concerns that were brought up by people in attendance included anything from fisheries being fished out due to an extended bait season, to loss of revenue of local businesses with the elimination of a traditional Fishmas, to hazard toward angler fishing on treacherous high-country, ice-covered lakes.

Now is the time to speak up if you have an opinion. No decisions have yet been made by CDFW. They will weigh in on all of the solicited comments and concerns before writing anything into law. You can leave a comment online on the above-listed website. *Even better, attend one of the four remaining public meetings at the below listed time and place.*

Wednesday, April 3, 2019

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Betty Rodriguez Regional
Library, 3040 N. Cedar Ave.,
Fresno

Saturday, April 6, 2019

Noon - 2:00 p.m.

Bass Pro Shops, 7777
Victoria Gardens Lane,
Rancho Cucamonga

Wednesday, April 10, 2019

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Colonial Heights Library
Community Room, 4799
Stockton Blvd., Sacramento

Tuesday, April 23, 2019

6:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Truckee-Tahoe Airport
Community Room, 10356
Truckee Airport Road,
Truckee

ONLINE FISHING LICENSES FOR ALL 50 STATES

By Bennett J. Mintz

Anglers may purchase fresh and saltwater fishing licenses for all 50 states by visiting the Fly Fishing Show's website, www.flyfishingshow.com/. "At the top of the page, click the word 'More' to purchase a fishing license by credit card wherever you are planning to fish," said Fly Fishing Show President and CEO, Ben Furimsky.

There is no additional fee for purchasing out-of-state licenses through the Fly Fishing Show website.

PHOTOS FROM ITFF

(Photos by Ellie Brittain)



FISHING REPORT: UPPER OWENS

By Debbie Sharpton

Early March trip to Mammoth with my fishing buddy Robin Johnson of Deep Creek Fly Fishers. We had a wonderful, but incredibly cold, day on the Upper Owens River! Doug Roderick of Sierra Drifters delivered Robin, Kevin Rainbolt and me via snowmobile to several holes holding some beautiful rainbow trout ranging from 18 to 21 inches, and a 5 pounder. The next day Robin and I snowshoed into the Hot Creek interpretive site. Lots of fish hanging out taking dry flies and nymphs. The trip was well worth the snow and cold.



MONTHLY DINNER PROGRAM MEETINGS

THIRD THURSDAY

Monterey At Encino

16821 Burbank Blvd., Encino, CA 91436

6:00 Cocktails / 7:00 Dinner / Program follows

\$32.00 Cash or Check, No Cards

Non-dining guests are FREE!

Reserve Dinner by Monday Prior

818.789.1919

montereyatencino@gmail.com

DINNER MENU:

Appetizer

Green Salad

Entree

Corned Beef & Cabbage or Fish

Dessert

Ice Cream Sundae

FUNDRAISER REPORT

By Marshall Bissett

With over 55 silent and 10 live auction items, the bidding was brisk and hectic with an estimated take of around \$9,000. This year's focus on non-fishing items paid off in spades as the Museum of Natural History Tour (donated by Jody Martin) set a new record of \$1000, while condos, cabins and hand-crafted artwork made hands rise in the live auction. A guided day in the UK donated by Charles Jardine went to a bidder from the Sespe Club and, closer to home, two lucky people will get to see a taping of *The Voice*. In the silent auction, competition was brisk for Green River, Montana and Owens River trips. Not a single item of clothing was left behind as the auction tables were cleared at the end of the evening. Flies from Steven Fernandez (encased in a gorgeous hard wood frame by Kevin Radanovich), Mas Okui and Bill Blackstone all fetched prices not seen in recent years. The lengthy but excellent raffle gave tabulators Michael Peratis, Mike Hembre and Debbie Sharpton time to tally up the takings. More than ever this year was a true team effort. Co-chairs Steve Esgate and Kevin Radanovich enlisted Bruce Altrock and Bill Luddy to make the vendor calls and Michael Peratis assembled the catalog and bid sheets. With heartfelt sincerity, Kevin R was heard to remark: "Never again – this was TOO much work" to which we reply - "Thanks and see you again next year."



SUPPORT OUR SPONSORS

The Board of Directors and membership of the Sierra Pacific Flyfishers wish to express their appreciation to the retailers below. Their promotion of our club and its activities thorough the year, and their contributions of products and services help us to continue the various public services that we offer.

Fishermen's Spot
14411 Burbank Blvd.
Van Nuys, CA 91401
818.785.7306

Gangadin Restaurant
12067 Ventura Place
Studio City, Ca 91604
(818) 509-0722

Kern River Fly Shop
11301 Kernville, Rd.
Kernville, CA 93238
760.376.2040

Orvis
345 S. Lake Ave.
Pasadena, CA 91101
626.356.8000

Pat Jaeger
Eastern Sierra Guide Service
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Bishop, CA 93514
760.872.7770

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Patagonia-Pasadena
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Pasadena, CA 91103
626.795.0319

Real Cheap Sports
235 W. Santa Clara St.
Ventura, CA 93001
805.643.6074

I'D RATHER BE
Fishing

