



Windknots

The monthly newsletter for the members and friends of the Diablo Valley Fly Fishermen Since 1969

February 2012

Next Monthly Club Meeting:

Tuesday, February 14, 2012

Heather Farms Community Center
301 North San Carlos Drive, Walnut Creek
Doors open at 7:00 p.m. Guests are welcome!

Board Meeting: February 21, 2011.

Sizzler Restaurant, 1353 Willow Pass Road, Concord
Dinner: 6:30 p.m. — Meeting: 7:00 p.m.
Members are invited to attend.

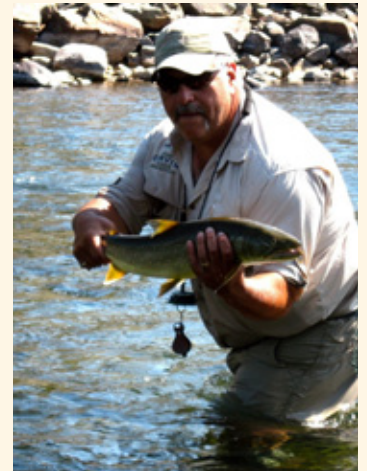
2011 Member of the Year: Dave McCants



Dave McCants our 2011 Member of the Year with a Putah Creek Hog! See Story on page 6.

Dry Fly Fishing in British Columbia by Louie Musso

Come hear Louie Musso talk about the opportunities to fish dry flies on the rivers in the Cranbrook area of British Columbia. This will include the St. Mary, Bull, Skookumchuck and Elk rivers. Louie has had the opportunity to fly fish the North Platte River in Wyoming, Vancouver Island, and many other rivers in B.C., but none compare to the dry fly fishing experience in his own backyard. Cranbrook is located 150 miles northwest of Glacier National Park and 190 miles from Spokane, Wash.



Louie was born in Nelson, B.C., which is approximately 2½ hours west of Cranbrook. He started fishing at a young age. In his early teens he bought his first fly rod and started fly-fishing. In the early 1980s he moved to Cranbrook, fell in love with the area, and has called it home ever since.

Louie started guiding for Ultimate West Flyfishing in the mid 1990s, bought the company in 2005, and moved it to its new location on the banks of the St. Mary River. Ultimate West Flyfishing specializes in dry fly-fishing and is an Orvis-endorsed guiding service that welcomes beginner through seasoned fisherman.

DIABLO VALLEY FLY FISHERMEN OFFICERS:

President	Craig McMullen	925-376-1795
Secretary	Pat Konoske	707-748-0214
Treasurer	Wayne Hofer	925-937-0739

BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2011:

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Ted Shapas	2012-2013	925-330-1950
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CLASSES:

Casting	Willy George	925-943-2211
Fly Tying	Dave McCants	925-228-1329
Novice Seminar	Willy George	925-943-2211

EVENTS:

Programs	Bill King	925-837-8799
Crab Feed	Charles Wright	925-254-3001
Annual Auction	Bill King	925-837-8799
BBQ Dinner	Charles Wright	925-254-3001
Refreshments	Karen Kaiser	925-682-9085
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Badges	John Edwards	925-944-1762
Golden Trout Award	Steve Hess	925-691-5617
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REPRESENTATIVES:

NCC/FFF	Gerry Ng	925-829-4974
Conservation	Ted Shapas	925-820-7943
Trout in Class Room	Gerry Ng	925-829-4974

WINDKNOTS:

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www.diablovalleyflyfish.org

Webmaster Pat Konoske 707-748-0214

DVFF is defined as a 501(c)(7) per IRS rules

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



After I retired, my wife requested that I get out of the house and "get a hobby". Little did I realize when I attended my first DVFF meeting what that would turn into. Through my association with DVFF, I have been able to develop a passion for fly fishing, meet a large number of good friends with the same interests, take part in a wide range of activities such as building my own fly rods, travel to beautiful parts of the world where trout live, and get involved with one of the best fly fishing clubs in the country.



I am pleased to be taking the gavel from **David Lipscomb**, who set a high standard for all of us to follow as our outgoing president. I will do my best to maintain and build on those standards over the next two years as your president.



I would like to welcome **Larry Griffis** back to our board of directors along with new board member **Sev Marsted**. Returning to the board are **John Edwards, Rob Simpson, Tom Seidman, Jim Shively, Bill Vierra** and **Ted Shapas**. I would also like to express our appreciation to outgoing board members **Bill King** and **Jan Horn** for their years of volunteer service to our club.



I am sorry to have missed our annual Crab Feed and Installation Dinner. My wife and I had a trip scheduled to Vietnam and Cambodia, and I can assure you my second trip to this area of the world was a lot more enjoyable than my first many years ago. I have heard great reports that we had another wonderful Crab Feed and I wanted lead a round of applause for **Charlie Wright, Terry and Steve Hess**, and all of their staff and the volunteers who made that event possible.



The success of events such as the Crab Feed, and what sets our club apart, is the commitment and volunteerism of our members. Since I have been a part of DVFF I have found the most enjoyment by getting involved in club meetings, club outings, fly casting lessons, events such as our annual auction, rod building, etc. If you haven't as yet tried one of these opportunities or been on a club outing, I have to ask, "Why Not?" The more you get involved the more fun you will have and the more our great club can and will do for you. **Tom Seidman** is working on a great outings program for 2012, bring your calendar and check them out at the outings table (also listed in Windknots) at our February meeting, and sign up!

Craig McMullen, DVFF President

Pictures and Articles Needed

Got pictures of fishing adventures? Stories to tell? Even lies to tell? Bragging rights to establish? Seriously, we are looking for interesting material for upcoming Windknots. If you have information you want to share with your fellow flyfishing members, we want it. It doesn't have to be long (brevity is usually good) but needs to have the who, what and where in addition to info on the quality of the fishing and experience. Pictures are always a great addition too.

Please send to **Ivan Lee**, editor: ivan@leeadvertising.com. In order to be included in the next month's issue, material must be submitted before the third Tuesday of the month.

WELCOME NEW DVFF MEMBERS!

Pauli Robert

James Beirn

Peter Sandoval

Loretta Stricland

Gary Bard

Pyramid Lake Outing March 26-29

This year's outing will be Monday p.m. - Thursday a.m. (March 26 - 29). The "Nets" areas north and south of the Sutcliffe hatchery are no longer closed after March 15. Join us for some or all of this outing. (A weekend outing to Pyramid would also be welcome - a volunteer is needed to serve as fishmaster for this.) This is a great opportunity to catch large cutthroats, practice casting a shooting head and socialize with other club members. Some of us will be staying at Crosby's Lodge (775-476-0400) at Sutcliffe on the lake. Crosby's fills up quickly. Other options are a motel in Sparks/Reno or camp on the lake shore (it can be <30 F at night). Allow 45 minutes to drive to the lake from Sparks/Reno.

A tribal fishing permit is needed, which can be purchased on the way to the lake at the store on the southwest corner of Eagle Canyon Drive & route 445, about 7.5 miles North of I-80. Fishing permits and a some flies can also be bought at Crosby's store in Sutcliffe. Fish barbless. No NV license needed.

Fish are taken by stripping wooly buggers or foam-backed beetles near the bottom or by floating a nymph 4 to 7 feet deep under an indicator. Gear: 6-8 Wt rods with a fast sink shooting head or full sink line and a floating line for indicator fishing. A 6 ft. aluminum step ladder or 4-5 foot stepstool is needed. They are stable on the firm mud bottom. Tie a plastic jug to the ladder with 5 feet of cord in case it falls over when unattended. Float tubing is also good when the wind is down. Bring warm clothes, lunch and a lawn chair. Weather during the day can vary from freezing to the 60s. Nasty weather usually means good fishing but Donner Pass can be a problem - bring tire chains.

We will probably meet at the "nets" north or south of the Sutcliffe hatchery on most mornings. I will provide information on fly patterns and meeting places for those who sign up. The number of attendees is not limited.

Larry Griffis, fishmaster, 925-947-4914

Northern California
Lower Sac - Trinity - Fall River
Pit - Hat - McCloud - Upper Sac

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Applegate - North Umpqua



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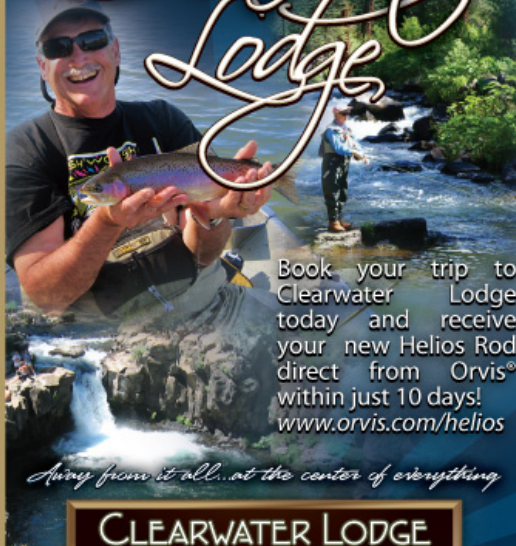
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*Based on double occupancy, 50% non-refundable deposit is due at the time of booking.

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2012 OUTINGS-TRIPS-SEMINARS

If you are interested in being a Fishmaster, please contact Tom Seidman at (925) 256-8818, (510) 774-0316 cell email: tsflyfish@gmail.com.

To participate in an Outing, one must be a DVFF member with signed Liability Waiver on file.

Date	Trip (species)	Fishmaster
March 3	Stanislaus River TR	Bernard Ringer (925) 457-9082
March 17	Yuba River TR/ST	Bob Meadowcroft (925) 631-0194
March 26-29	Pyramid Lake TR	Larry Griffis (925) 947-4914
Mar 30-Apr 1	Pyramid Lake TR	Needs Fishmaster
April	Lower Kings River TR	Bernard Ringer (925) 457-9082
April	Kistler Ranch BA	George Willis (925) 676-6690
Apr/May	Steiner Lake BA	David Lipscomb (925) 283-8865
May	Baum Lake TR	Dennis Gregg (510) 537-0311
May 12	Kelsey Bass Ranch	Bill King (925) 837-8799
May	Shasta Lake TR, BA	Alan Christian (925) 820--7288
June	MCloud River TR	Mark Ericksen (415) 362-1214
June	Conservation Outing TBD	
June	Shasta Lake TR, BA	Alan Christian (925) 820-7288
Jun 24-Jul 4	Fall River TR	David Lipscomb (925) 283-8865
Jun 24-27	Feather R. Chester/L. Almanor (Women Only)	Jan Horn (510) 207-5868 TR
June 27	Upper Sac Seminar TR	John Barry (707) 246-6831 Alan Christian (925) 820-7288
July 14-17	Manzanita Lake TR	John Edwards (925) 944-1762
Sep	San Joaquin River TR	Greg Reimers (925) 798-7716
Sep 20-24	Eastern Sierra TR	Pat Konoske (707) 334-6849
Sep 27-30	Feather River, Chester area/ Lake Almanor TR	Chris Hicklin (510) 673-3260
Oct-mid wk	Middle Klamath-Happy Camp	Craig Bradshaw (925) 987-8493
October	Putah Creek TR	Dave McCants
October	Heenan Lake Nr Markleville	Dan Maher (925) 980-0833
October	Delta BA	Needs Fishmaster
Oct 25-28	Fall River TR	Bernard Ringer (925) 457-8082
Oct/Nov	McCloud River TR	Marc Ericksen (415) 362-1214

* Outing full; waiting list available.

TR = trout, ST = steelhead, BA = bass, TBD = to be determined

Space is limited on many outings. Please sign up only if you are reasonably certain that you will attend. If you discover later that you are not going to attend, scratch your name off the list or contact the outings chairman or fishmaster. This way, a maximum number of members can attend each outing.

Note: To be a Fishmaster does not require guiding. If you are organized, and know the area, you qualify. This also qualifies towards your Golden Trout Pin. Please give Tom Seidman a ring to discuss.

Potential Outings - **Need Date, Need Fishmaster**

Surf Perch • Lake Davis TR • Stanislaus/Beaver Creek TR

Conservation Corner

Striper Shenanigans: Our DFG has created brouhaha with its proposed liberalization of striper fishing regulations. The story is that a group called Coalition for a Sustainable Delta (CSD) sued DFG regarding the impact of stripers on listed species (salmon, steelhead, smelt) declines in the Delta. Since there was no hard data indicating that stripers were actually the cause of these declines, DFG was poised for victory, which they somehow managed to trade for a settlement agreement requiring them to recommend these regulation changes to the CA Fish and Game Commission. The Commission meets in early February, after they've received *plenty* of input from the striper nation on why these new regs are a bad idea. Thanks for your letters in response to the call to action at the January meeting and the recent Conservation Alert email.



For insights on this issue and "astroturf" groups like CSD, see Dan Bacher's blog at <http://www.calit-ics.com/tag/Coalition%20for%20a%20Sustainable%20Delta>. Read even more via links in the Conservation section of the DVFF website.

With our current shortage of precipitation, we can only expect more water-related pushing and shoving in 2012.

Good News for Mono Lake State Park: At a recent meeting, club member **Phil Radlick** asked for help with a petition to keep Mono Lake State Park (and its unique Rush Creek trout fishery) off the state closure list. It worked! Thanks to Phil for his efforts, and to you for your signatures.



Ted Shapas, 925-330-1950, shapas@comcast.net

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FREE	DVFF COUPON	FREE
	Exchange this COUPON at a DVFF Monthly (Tuesday) meeting and receive a DVFF window decal or membership patch.	



Dave McCants - aka: "DaveTyer" DVFF Member of the Year, 2011

"Hello, I go by Dave and have no reservations about my desire to teach others about the fine art of fly tying." That's how this years DVFF Member of the Year, **Dave McCants** introduces himself. As one of the west's best fly tying instructors, Dave has provided lessons to DVFF fly tiers for over 15 years – from basic beginner to the most advanced.

Dave's been tying for over 43 years and ties everything from size 28 zebra midges to size 8/0 Atlantic salmon flies. He's also a designer of flies. Three of his original patterns are the "Big Ugly," the "Lavender Princess," and the "Alex Dreyfoos Special." He also writes "Dave's Tying Loft", on page 7, for the Windknots.

In addition to being an active member of DVFF he belongs to the Federation of Fly Fishers, and has established his own local fly tying club "Creative Comfort Flytyers" in Pleasant Hill, California. He's been a Whiting Farms Pro Team Tyer for over 10 years.

His most interesting catch? A 30-pound Albacore Tuna in the Farralones off San Francisco on a 1960 Fenwick 9 weight rod with no fighting butt. It "...was the thrill of a lifetime (with my own Flash Herring, no less) and I had the stomach bruises to prove it!"

Besides tying Dave is one of the best fishmasters and resources for some of our local rivers, including Putah Creek (see "The Hog" on page 1), and the American River for steelhead.

His real passion is tying steelhead and Atlantic salmon flies, due to the creativity he attains with color, feather flow and design. He believes that "...fly tying is an art form and as such should not be rushed through but enjoyed and well thought out."

Congratulations Dave! www.DaveTyer.com

Fun Crab Feed!

Hardworking volunteers made it a success! Thanks to all of you who pitched-in, gave us a hand! Our amazing volunteers included **Terry & Steve Hess** working tirelessly for days pulling it together, shopping, and cooking! **Bill Vierra** bought and cooked a fabulous prime rib roast to perfection! **Dave Salisbury** warmed and sliced 50 loaves of scrumptious Garlic Bread! **Kit Kohler's** pickup became a low-rider, as he delivered **600 pounds of crab!** **Al Peterson's** enthusiasm and energy made everything come together before, during and well after the event!

Our talented **Jan Horn** kept the table setup running smoothly! Big handclaps for the efforts of **Larry Griffis** and **Phil Erickson**, who mobilized, procured and iced down the drinks, and **Dean Rhodes** who manned the bar to the bitter end!

Bill King conjured up another "to die for" collection of raffle prizes, while **Clem Teeters** flogged "winning" tickets to the last minute! Also generously pitching in were **Phil Radlick**, **Carlos Bocanegra**, **Kirby Elvin**, Terry's friend **Karen Tays**, and "all the usual suspects" who saw a need, and stepped forward to help! We thank you!



Ygnacio Valley High School's Leadership Students really performed miracles with their spirited approach to making this a winning event! We are grateful to them for their community service!

A successful event made possible by our generous volunteers! Thanks everyone!

Charlie Wright

Dave's Tying Loft: Two Toned Zebra Midge

This is a variation of a fly I learned from Aram on Putah Creek. **Also, we will learn how to tie in a single strand of synthetic material to create a wing bud on a midge (as a trigger).** Most of us have used standard zebra midges (silver or gold bead, black thread, silver rib). Have you ever noticed that when you look at the bottom of the real bug, it is light on the bottom and darker on the top of the abdomen? Well it is, really, and we can make any number of patterns by just changing the top color (black/tan/olive/gray) and have a whole selection of midges to fish. My go to zebra midge is a black one with a white base color as follows. Special tying note: Leave barb on hook so you get the proper sense of proportions, pinch barb off only after you have tied whole fly!

Hook: Midge size 18 (Gaelic Supreme Midge preferred), or small curved nymph hook (TMC 2487 for smaller sizes)

Thread: Gordon Griffiths 14/0 white (this thread does not "bleed" as much as other threads I have tried)

Tail: 5-6 barbules of Natural Hungarian Partridge

Body Top Coloring: Permanent Marker (Black or Tan/Olive/Gray)

Rib: UTC Extra small copper wire

Wing bud: Hareline Dubbin Midge Flash - Pearl

Head: Thread, well rounded and top colored with Permanent Marker

Step 1: Start thread at eye of hook and wrap back to pint of hook, then tie the Hungarian Partridge tail (as long as the usable hook shank) tying it down with side by side wraps to just beyond the barb of the hook, and then bring back thread with wraps to midpoint of hook shank. Tie in the ribbing material under the hook shank from the side of the fly that is away from you with 4-5 tight wraps. Continue tying the rib in with side by side wraps, whilst holding the rib material down and on the far side of the hook all the way to the tail set position. This will insure the rib material is on the bottom of the hook at the tail set position, ready for wrapping in step three. See **photo 1** to check the tail and rib set in position.



Photo 1



Photo 2

Step 2: Using the black Permanent Marker, make a stripe down the abdomen. Try to do this in a single motion to insure it comes a little down the sides of the fly, but do not stroke it multiple time as the marker will "bleed" and cover the whole fly body, thereby defeating the two toned effect. With some practice you should be able to create the two toned effect.

Step 3: Once the top of the abdomen is colored, counter wrap the copper wire up the abdomen with four wraps. You must counter wrap (wrapping the wire in the opposite direction of how you wrap your thread) or the fine wire will bury itself in between the thread wraps and you may not see it. After the four wraps, make two more wraps of wire toward the eye and then make one more wrap to cross it over the sixth wrap (this will lock it in when you tie down with thread) and tie those three wraps of wire down with 7 wraps of thread. See **photo 2** to check your work.

Step 4: Tie in the wing bud material (midge flash pearl.) Pull out about six inches of thread and hold the bobbin tightly (so no thread can come out) in front of your chest. Take one strand of the midge flash and loop it over the thread. Slide the material up the thread to the hook and tie it in with three wraps with tips pointed back. Then lift up the wing and make one wrap under at the base. This will insure the wing buds stay up and don't go flat. Wrap thread back up to the eye. Hold the midge strands and cut them off so they are as long as 1/2 to 1/3 of the abdomen length. See **photos 3, 4, 5.**

Step 5: Whip finish the head. Then color top of the head with the same marker. See **photo 6.**



Photo 3

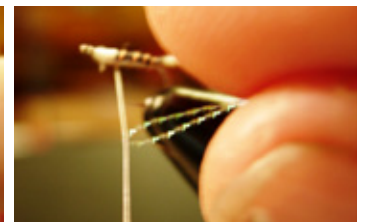


Photo 4

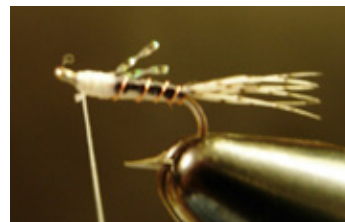


Photo 5

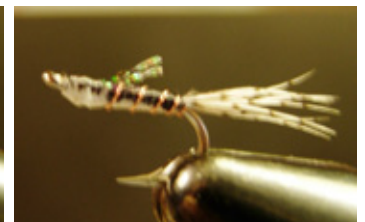


Photo 6

Note: Make a dozen flies, let stand overnight, then turn upside down and apply coating of head cement to body and head, let dry while upside down and the permanent maker color will not spread!

Dave McCants

ATTENTION NOVICE FLY FISHERS

DATE: Saturday, April 28, 2012

TIME: 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

PLACE: Heather Farm Community Center
301 N. San Carlos Dr., Walnut Creek

COST: Club Members: \$ 45.00
Non-Members: \$ 90.00
(fee includes lunch, handouts and membership for non-members)



NOVICE FLY FISHING SEMINAR 2012

We have expanded our capacity for this seminar to handle all those who are interested. To reserve your spot in the class, send in your registration fee as explained below. Non-members must become club members in order to attend (included in fees shown above). Remember, family members (spouses and children under 21) are covered under one primary membership.

REGISTRATION: Enroll by sending a check, made payable to DVFF, to Willy's home address shown below. Please include your name, mailing address, email address, & home phone number with your check. Non-members should also include their completed membership application downloaded from the DVFF website www.diablovalleyflyfish.org. Cancellations after April 1, 2012 will not be refunded.

INSTRUCTOR: Willy George
FFF Certified Casting Instructor
87 Danbury Court
Alamo, CA 94507
(925) 943-2211 Home

PURPOSE: To satisfy the needs of those club members who have yet to be adequately exposed to the basic knowledge and skills of fly fishing. This includes all members of the family—spouse and children (15 years and older).

OBJECTIVE: To provide the beginner with enough information including knowledge of equipment, casting, basic entomology, fly selection, knots, and reading water for their initial experience with the sport.

BENEFITS TO THE NOVICE: The beginner should leave this seminar with a wealth of "how to" information coupled with, hopefully, accomplished basic casting techniques from which to further build his or her fly fishing skills and knowledge.

WHAT TO BRING: Rod, reel, line and whatever leader set up you might already have attached. For those of you that do not have equipment, wait until after the class to make a purchase. We have loaner rods available, but please arrange for this gear at the time you register for the class.



Amazon for Peacock Bass

At the last meeting, I gave a brief fishing report of my trip to the Amazon basin for Peacock Bass. We had some success under difficult conditions with moderately high water. We actually had more success using the fly than bass fishermen on other parts of the river system.

The trip was organized by Jeff Currier (jeffcurrier.com); We fished with River Plate Amazon Outfitters on the Xeriuni, northwest of Manaus about 150 miles and 10 miles south of the Equator. The cost was \$4265 per person plus airfare. Guaranteed 6 days fishing, 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. We had 7 days fishing due to the float



DVFF member **Bill Billings** with 10 lb. Peacock Bass

plane schedule. Eight fishermen caught 333 fish with nine fish over 10 pounds. The number would be three to four times higher with lower water levels. I'd be happy to talk with anyone wishing more information.

All in all, a satisfying trip.

- **Bill Billings, (925) 938-3948**

One Ugly Cat makes a mouthful!

When **Alan Christian** travels he meets up with some very strange friends!

"You go to Louisiana for redfish but other types lurk... I voted to return this cat but the Cajuns said 'remove him from the gene pool.' He landed in the skillet.

Four hooks found flesh. He was about 18" and reportedly known for his poor decision making. By the way, our guide is the cousin of Shelby the Swamp Logger as seen on the Discovery Channel. I think they all went to the same school.

-**Alan Christian**





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Flies by Dave McCants:
(top) Silver Darter - Streamer
(middle) Pale Morning Dun -
Coq De Leon
(bottom) Alxe Dreyfoos Special

Send articles to:

Ivan Lee, editor: 925-680-0139
ivan@leeadvertising.com

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MEMBER'S ADS

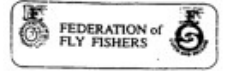
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reservations@toadhollowrental.com

Affiliations



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Diablo Valley Fly Fishermen
Post Office Box 4988
Walnut Creek, CA 94596

Address Correction Requested

DUCK FEATHERS, WILL TRADE

Mallard, sprig, teal gadwall, Wid-geon, Spoonbill, Snow and Speckle goose feathers (a few wood duck). Will trade for some flies.

Tom Morehouse 925-254-7213
TMorehouse@gmail.com

FOR SALE — Youth Gear

Cabela's size 4 uninsulated waders (inseam 20-23", chest 31-34"): \$30

Cabela's size 4 3.5mm neoprene waders (inseam 21-24", chest 29-33"): \$40

Jim Clark, 925-945-7076
jim@theclarkranch.com

FOR SALE — Boat

10ft fiberglass tri hull pram by Keaton: excellent condition, carpeted, quick release anchor systems fore & aft, 6ft sawyer oars, bench seating w storage, very stable...no rocking when standing & casting. \$995

Bob Algieri 925-866-2161

FOR SALE — Boat

Valco 12' Aluminum Flat Bottom boat. 15 hp Motor, Fish finder.

33 lb. thrust, foot-operated trolling motor. Pedestal seats, indoor/outdoor carpeting. Built in cooler, extra storage. Asking \$1500.

Steve Hess 925-691-5617
hessfam@sbcglobal.net

FOR SALE - Simms Waders

Simms G3 Guide Stockingfoot Waders, Size L (9-11 foot) New \$300

Delores Palmquist 925-938-8266
dr.palmquist@comcast.net

FOR RENT - Northstar Home

4 bedrooms, 2 bath, plus loft - sleeps 8 - deck on three sides, gas BBQ - furnished -Access to skiing, pool, sauna, Truckee River, golf, hiking, tennis, biking, etc., yr round access - Avail. during holidays.

Jan 510-207-5868