

May 2018

Headwaters

NEWSLETTER OF THE
STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS

Stanislaus
Fly Fishers

**A CHARTER CLUB
OF FLY FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

**MEMBER OF THE
NORTHERN
CALIFORNIA
COUNCIL OF FLY
FISHERS
INTERNATIONAL**

**May 2018
General Meeting**

Tuesday, May 8, 2018
6:00 p.m.

New Location!

Grace Lutheran Church
617 W. Orangeburg
Modesto, CA

President's Message

This is the time of year that even for the least active person too much stuff is going on. Birthdays, anniversaries, graduations, baseball are only a start of things that interrupt our normal routine. That doesn't count yard work, planting the garden, fixing the fence and washing the car added to my to-do list that makes it hard finding time to get out and fish. Even when I do have some time, river flows are too high to fish or not enough time to make a quick trip to some place a little farther out.

That said we can add to your list this month. The Fly Fishing Film tour is at the State Theater at the end of the month. Trout Fest is going to be the end of June at Hot Creek for those wanting to make the trip over the pass. Look for additional

information on these items in this month's newsletter.

The board is looking into Kelsey Ranch for an outing soon, and with no club meeting in July, we are looking at having an informal gathering the 2nd Tuesday out on the Stanislaus River. This fall we are trying to put together a weekend camping on the Little Truckee either September or October. Let us know if you have any input on these items.

On the business side please get your dues in this month. We only have had 16 members pay their dues and without the funds we can't plan future speakers, projects or activities. Remember to give us your FFI membership number when paying your dues.

- Jim

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$36 per year for members.

Members must also join Fly Fishers International. Dues vary, but do not exceed \$35 for a single, one-year membership.

SPONSOR



WE SUPPORT



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Club News

May Program: Thomas Goodwin "Swinging Flies"



Join us this month for a review of the ABC's of swinging flies. Our own Thomas Goodwin will once again share his tips for improving our approach to this particular technique of fly fishing. Those who attended his presentation on Euro Nymphing know how good his presentations can be.

As we move into summer, it's time to include in our arsenal one of the oldest tricks in the book. Swinging wet flies downstream for trout feeding on emergers can be highly productive. A refresher course on tried and true rigging and techniques, as well as some possible modern updates on the approach, could lead to more trout to hand. So, don't be a stranger! Come on down for some fishing-related fellowship and take advantage of the opportunity to revisit swinging flies.

"The great charm of fly-fishing is that we are always learning."
~ Theodore Gordon (1854-1915) American writer/Fisherman

Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2017 Board of Directors

President – Jim Goodwin
Vice-President – Jeff Bakker
Secretary – Michael Hewitt
Treasurer – Bob Ramos
Outings – Volker Kropp
Membership – Lonnie Moore
 – Rick Allen
Past-President – Jim Bowen
At-Large – Bud Heintz
At-Large – Pat Roe
At-Large – Bob Nakagawa

*Board Meetings are held
on the fourth Tuesday of the
month at 5:00 p.m. at Me & Ed's
Pizza on Pelandale Ave. in
Modesto. All members are
welcome to attend.*

Club News *(cont.)*

Dinner

Dinner will be BYO at the May club meeting

Raffle News

SMALL RAFFLE

When held, the small item raffle is \$5 per ticket or 3/\$10 and only for members in attendance the night of the meeting. The items will be on display and the raffle tickets sold prior to the meeting. The raffle will be held at the end of the meeting time.

DOOR PRIZE

The monthly door prize is for members only. When you arrive and sign in at the meeting, you will receive a ticket for the door prize raffle of a half-dozen flies tied by one of our members. ***Members who donate flies for the door-prize drawing, will receive two regular raffle tickets.***

LARGE RAFFLE (52 Playing Cards + 2 Jokers)

The current large raffle features a ½ day guided trip with Fish Habit Outfitters, a fly reel, a chest pack, and a tying tools kit, plus others.. \$10 per chance. Raffle held when all cards are sold.

Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$36) for 2017 are due. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues, but there will be an additional fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction.

All memberships are “Family Membership” status. Spouses, significant others and children are now all included in every membership.

Reminder: These are the club dues and *DO NOT* include FFI dues. FFI dues are paid directly to the FFI and must be maintained regularly since the SFF is an FFI Charter Club. If you are not an FFI Life Member, or do not pay for three years at a time, **you must renew your membership yearly!** Also, remember to list the Stanislaus Fly Fishers as your **Affiliated Club**. This is important due to our Charter Club status. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

FFI Membership [Application](#)

Upcoming Outings and Events

FLY FISHING FILM TOUR /RIVERS OF RECOVERY FUNDRAISER - May 30, 2018

TROUTFEST: HOT CREEK HATCHERY - June 30, 2018

SALMON FESTIVAL - November 10, 2018 @ Knight's Ferry 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.



WEDNESDAY, MAY 30TH

THE STATE THEATER

1307 J ST. MODESTO, CA

DOORS OPEN-5:15PM / FILM STARTS-6:30

TICKETS AVAILABLE IN ADVANCE AT FST
WEBSITE / FLYFILMTOUR.COM, OR CAN BE
PURCHASED AT THE THEATER DOORS.

VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS
GET IN FREE WITH PROPER ID

"LOADS OF RAFFLE PRIZES"

A BENEFIT FOR:



Donations of items for the raffle prizes for the Fly Fishing Film Tour/RoR fundraiser are greatly appreciated. Please contact Mike Hewitt at webmaster@stanislausflyfishers.org or 606-0424 if you have items to donate. Fishing or non-fishing-related are both good as are gift cards for local vendors. Let's make our tenth annual show more successful than ever!

TROUT FEST 2018

TOUCH A FISH — TASTE A FISH — FEED A FISH — CATCH A FISH



**Saturday
9am - 1pm**

**JUNE 30th
HOT CREEK HATCHERY**

121 Hot Creek Hatchery Road
Mammoth Lakes CA 93546

**All Activities are Free
All Gear Is Provided**
Fishing for 15 years and under only

Casting • Fly Casting • Trout Tasting • Fish Printing • Kid's Fishing
Aquarium • CDFW Displays • Dissection • Trout Touch Pool • Aquatic Insects
Feed the Fish • Trout Cleaning • Rigging • Fly Tying

LEARN TO TIE ~ LEARN TO CAST ~ LEARN TO CLEAN ~ LEARN TO COOK



troutfest@wildlife.ca.gov



"There's always a hot new fly. Precious few of these patterns are genuine breakthroughs destined to last for a hundred years, but more often they're idle comments on existing traditions, explorations of half-baked theories, attempts to use new and interesting materials, to impress other tiers, or excuses to rename old patterns. The results are often pointless fads like the craze in some pretentious restaurants of plopping fried quail eggs on everything or calling sandwiches "paninis.""

~ John Gierach (1946 -) American author/Fly Fisherman

Conservation Notes

From Lonnie Moore, SFF Conservation Director:

Fellow Club Members:

The following is primarily a paper that I created a few years ago, when I first requested to be an outside citizen volunteer for the “Fish Passage Project” group, for the Relicensing of the Don Pedro and La Grange Hydroelectric Projects (FERC No. 14581). The first day that I walked into a meeting of this group (they had been meeting for some number of months) I was surprised to find there was still debate as to what anadromous fish should be considered for possible reintroduction and “passage” past Don Pedro and La Grange Dams. The “passage” would allow young fish to travel downstream, and later return as adults to for spawning in the upper reaches of the Tuolumne River. The decisions based upon this “species determination” were expected to have major impacts in costs, but “saving native fish” was required by relicensing regulations/law.

Part of the debates/decisions of the group had already determined the project should ignore all information that was not substantiated by a modern scientific study. Several of the group members and I argued the validity of this idea as it would mean ignoring at least half of all historical knowledge on the subject, including our own personal knowledge and experience. Somehow, I ended up volunteering to research and write a paper (most of which follows).

The paper also provides for the reader some insight into the “real good ole days” on the river!

I have not included the “reference pages” for the paper, but will gladly supply to anyone that might so desire.

Please pardon some of the errors of the punctuation, as I made the mistake of updating my Mac OS this week, I discovered it affected my MicroSoft Word and Excel software in some strange and irritating ways. Thanks!

Fish Passage Project “Species Determination” Paper For Anadromous Salmonids

*Lonnie Moore
August 23, 2016*

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this paper is to bring together evidence, in the form of testament, quotes, and observations by first-hand observers, scientists, and experts, as to the historical existence and locational “reach” of various types of “anadromous salmonids” as native fish populations in California’s Tuolumne

River. It is hoped this evidence may aid the evaluation of fish passage currently underway in the licensing of the La Grange Hydroelectric Project, and provides recognition of the “target” anadromous salmonid species that may be appropriate for reintroduction to the Tuolumne River.

The primary, and most commercially significant, species that comes to mind in considering such a paper is salmon. In the case of salmon, California’s Central Valley Rivers and streams, or “drainage”, had a year-round abundance, “...four seasonal runs occur, fall, late-fall, winter, and spring runs. (Yoshiyama et al. 1998, p. 487). However, this paper shall be restricted to the native anadromous salmonids principally reported to have existed within the Tuolumne River in large numbers: Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, both “spring-run” and “fall-run”) and additionally “steelhead” trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*). Thus, this paper addresses only these three “types” of anadromous salmonids.

2.0 HISTORICAL PRESENCE

The rivers of California’s coast and Central Valley have long been known to produce salmon and steelhead in wide variety and in great numbers. These fish supplied food and other products first to the Native Americans, and then to the early Russian, Spanish, and American settlers. Later, starting in the 1840’s, these salmonids were still very abundant and important for the masses of American and international immigrants that came to California for gold, lumber, land, water, and other riches of the state.

Of course, the native fish of California were abundant long before there were written records. However, we do have recorded observations from early naturalists, explorers, miners, and settlers.

“The first written record (by a Non-Native American) of salmon in the Tuolumne River appears to be that of the Frémont Expedition of 1845-1846. Frémont’s (1848, p. 18) journal entry for 4 February 1846 reads: ‘Salmon was first obtained on the 4th February in the Towal-um-né river...’ (Yoshiyama et al. 2001 p. 100).

“...[P]rior to construction in the late 1870s of LaGrange Dam, located downstream of New Don Pedro Dam, Chinook salmon presumably used the upstream region for spawning and rearing” (Yoshiyama et al. 1998, and Perales, et al. 2015 p. 104).

“The river cañons, where the old bars were located, were romantic places previous to being disturbed and torn up by the gold-digger. The water was as clear as crystal, and above each ripple or rapid place was a long, deep pool, with water blue as turquoise, swarming with fish. Salmon at that time ran up all the streams as far as they could get, until some perpendicular barrier, which they could not leap, prevented further progress. (Angel 1882, p. 402).” (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 72).

“In the San Joaquin River basin, composing much of the southern half of the Central Valley system...a number of major streams such as the Merced, Tuolumne and upper San Joaquin rivers sustained very large salmon populations...” (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 72).

“Significant blockage of salmon runs in the Tuolumne River began in the 1870s when various dams and irrigation diversion projects were constructed, although (smaller) dams and water diversions associated with mining had been present as early as 1852 (Snyder 1993 unpublished memorandum)...” (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 101).

The first “major” blockage of fish passage on the Tuolumne River was known as the “Wheaton” Dam (the site on which La Grange Dam was later constructed):

Before Wheaton dam blocked the Tuolumne, salmon spawned above (the town of) La Grange, perhaps as far upstream as Wards Ferry. In the right conditions of water temperature, depth and velocity the salmon scooped out the gravel of the riverbed to make their nests, or redds, and deposited their eggs. The eggs hatched in late winter or early spring and the young salmon went down to the sea with the spring freshets. The effect of Wheaton’s dam was described in 1877.

Immense quantities of salmon have been prevented from reaching their breeding grounds further up the stream in consequence, and much indignation is expressed regarding the obstruction. The ranchers and others have been taking wagon loads of salmon from the river below the dam during several months past, killing the fish with clubs as they passed over the riffles. The Fishery Commissioners should compel the construction of a fish ladder to the dam, as the law requires. (Paterson, 1989)

Later, Wheaton’s Dam was replaced by the larger La Grange Dam: “By 1884, the Tuolumne and Stanislaus rivers were “dammed in such a way to prevent the fish from ascending” (CFC 1884, p. 16). La Grange Dam, a 120-foot-high engineering marvel when completed in 1894, permanently cut off the former spring-run spawning areas. In 1896, the California Fish Commission stated, “The number of salmon that enter this stream [Tuolumne River] to spawn is small, and after its waters are taken out for irrigating purposes, will probably decrease,” and the proposed fish ladder for La Grange Dam was viewed by the Fish Commission (the predecessor of the California Department of Fish and Game) to be “not warranted, and would be of little or no benefit to the people or the fish (because of poor design and construction)” (CFC 1896, p. 18) (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 101)

In 1886 the Tuolumne River was also described by the California Fish Commission (CFC 1886 p. 20) as: “... at one time was one of the best salmon streams in the State; Salmon have not ascended the stream for some years.” Clark (1929) also reported that salmon generally were “scarce” in the Tuolumne River; at that time, both spring and fall runs still occurred at low levels, but the spring run was inconsequential, amounting “to almost nothing,” and the fall run comprised “some fish” (Clark 1929, p. 32). Clark noted, however, that “a good run” (evidently the fall run) had been reported in 1925 which “surpassed anything that had appeared in several years.” Two decades later, only “a bare remnant of a spring run” was reported to exist during 1944–1946 (DFG 1946).” (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 101)

“Clark (1929) stated that the (only remaining) spawning grounds in 1928 extended from the town of Waterford to La Grange, over 20 miles of ‘good gravel river.’ At the time, there were two dams of major significance: La Grange Dam and Don Pedro Dam (built in 1923) 13 miles upriver; the latter was 300 ft. high and formed a large irrigation reservoir (Clark 1929).” (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 102).

“La Grange Dam remains a complete barrier to salmon and thus defines the present upstream limit of their spawning distribution (Reynolds and others 1993).” (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 102).

Spring Run Salmon (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)

Spring run Tuolumne River salmon were noted, earlier, in an abundance that allowed easy access for all: "...An early historical account also noted of the local native people: 'Every spring, when the salmon were running up the river, enough were caught and dried to last nearly all the year'; 'The waters of the Tuolumne, Stanislaus, Merced and San Joaquin generally furnish them with good fishing. They spear the salmon with spears made of some kind of tough wood...' (Elliott 1882, p 162, 166). (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 101).

Each year, the multiple runs of salmon (and steelhead) could be found at very high elevations, indeed as high as the flow of water would let them swim, jump, and wriggle, "The spring-run salmon were most likely stopped by the formidable Preston Falls four miles above Early Intake Dam near the boundary of Yosemite National Park (about 50 mi upstream of present New Don Pedro Dam)... (DFG unpublished data)... spring-run salmon probably formerly occurred throughout that reach (of the Tuolumne) as well." (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 100).

Fall Run Salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)

The fall runs were particularly noted by the early observers, probably because of the Tuolumne River's great numbers of spawning salmon and their great size (fall run Chinook length averaging 1.5 times the size of spring run Chinook). This great size (averaging 30 to 40 lbs. and sometimes twice that weight) also made the fall run Chinook more vulnerable, in some ways, to the incursions of man:

"The occurrence of salmon in the Tuolumne River in those early years was also noted by John Marsh, who had arrived in California in the mid-1830s. Quoting Marsh, Edwin Bryant wrote, '...the river of the Towalomes; it is about the size of the Stanislaus, which it greatly resembles,...and it (the Tuolumne) particularly abounds with salmon...' (Bryant 1849, p 277)." (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 101).

"...[I]n his memoirs of the Gold Rush, the entrepreneur Samuel Ward recollected enjoying 'a plenteous fish supper' of fresh salmon, caught by rifle shot in the lower Tuolumne River at Dickenson's Ferry (located roughly halfway between the river mouth and the Sierra foothills (Collins 1949, p. 104). That occasion was "late in the autumn [1851], just after winter's first premonitory showers" (Collins 1949, p. 100) - coincident with the timing of the fall run." (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 101).

"...The naturalist John Muir, while boating on the San Joaquin River just above the confluence of the Tuolumne river, observed on 18 November 1877 that 'Salmon in great numbers are making their way up the river for the first time this season, low water having prevented their earlier appearance' (Muir 1938, p. 244), further attesting to a numerous fall salmon run." (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 86).

"Only the fall run presently occurs in appreciable numbers in the Tuolumne River. In the past, fall-run spawning escapements in the Tuolumne River during some years were larger than in any other Central Valley streams except for the mainstem Sacramento River, reaching as high as 122,000 spawners in 1940 and 130,000 in 1944 (DFG 1946; Fry 1961)." (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 102).

In fact, over the past half-century the Tuolumne River has supported one of the largest natural populations of salmon in the Central Valley tributaries (DFG unpublished data; USFWS 1995). Tuolumne

River fall-run salmon at times comprised up to 12% of the total fall-run spawning escapement for the Central Valley (Reynolds and others 1993), but run sizes during the early 1990s fell to extremely low levels... (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 102).

“However, hydrological conditions in the Tuolumne River during the past few decades have not been conducive to the maintenance of a late-fall run—notably the lack of consistent, cool stream flows during the summer to support the juveniles (Reynolds and others 1993).” (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 103).

Steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*):

Historically, native “steelhead” trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) are believed to have existed in virtually all accessible streams throughout the Central Valley of California. However, today they are only found in a handful of rivers, and most only below dams. A very small population is apparently “hanging on” in the Sacramento River basin, but they appear to be all but extinct in the San Joaquin River basin. Occasionally, in the past several years, a rare steelhead has been reported as wandering into the lower Tuolumne River (but for several years there have been no reports of steelhead spawning).

“Before extensive habitat modification of the 19th and 20th centuries, steelhead...were broadly distributed throughout the Sacramento and San Joaquin drainages. Historical run size is difficult to estimate given the paucity of data, but may have approached 1 to 2 million adults annually. By the early 1960s run size had declined to about 40,000 adults.” (McEwan 1997, Fish Bulletin 179: Volume One). However, by 2003 a status review conducted by the “National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (NOAA Fisheries 2003) had estimated the Central Valley steelhead population at less than 3,000 adults. (USBR, 2008)

Although the quantity of historical records noting the locational presence of Central Valley steelhead, is sparse (salmon getting most of the press), steelhead are understood to have been well distributed in the Tuolumne River and its smaller tributaries. (McClain, 2010, p. 173).

Historical Reach

“The Tuolumne River was once home to a healthy population of spring and fall-run Chinook salmon, *Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*, the spring-run likely ascending upstream as high as the boundary of Yosemite National Park, at an elevation of nearly 760 meters. (McClain, 2010, p. 173).

“...in the Tuolumne drainage, steelhead probably ascended several miles into Cherry Creek, a tributary to the mainstem about one mile below Early Intake, and perhaps spring-run salmon also entered that stream. Steep sections of stream in the Clavey River and the South and Middle forks of the Tuolumne shortly above their mouths most likely obstructed the salmon (T. Ford)” (Yoshiyama et al. 2001, p. 100).

However, there is concern that some earlier estimates of steelhead distribution or “reach” may have been somewhat conservative: “The data for steelhead distribution were incomplete in Yoshiyama et al. (2001)...(as) the upper limit was set equal to the upper limit of spring-run Chinook salmon. However, the true distributions of steelhead most likely extended to higher elevations and into smaller tributaries.” (Schick, et al. 2005, p. 02).

“For streams where Yoshiyama et al. (2001) mentioned the presence of fall-run Chinook salmon, but failed to give an up-stream limit for their distribution, the 150 meter elevation contour was chosen as the upper distribution limit (Yoshiyama et al., 2001).” (as quoted in Schick, et al. 2005, p 02).

The upstream estimate for reach of Chinook Salmon are provided as expressed in Yoshiyama et al. (2001, p 79):

Historical upstream limits of Chinook salmon in the Tuolumne River:

Mainstem	Preston Falls
North Fork	One mile above mouth
Middle and South forks	Presumably not used by salmon

The upstream estimates for reach of Steelhead are provided as expressed in the reference Schick,et al. (2005, p 02):

Historical upstream limits of Steelhead in the Tuolumne River:

Mainstem	Higher elevations than for all Chinook Salmon (i.e. Preston Falls), and into smaller tributaries.
North Fork	Higher elevations than for all Chinook Salmon (i.e. “One mile above the mouth”, and into smaller tributaries.)
Middle and South forks	May have been used by steelhead for holding and spawning.

Conclusion

There is ample, and highly reliable, evidence that Chinook salmon (spring and fall runs) along with steelhead, were historically thriving residents of both the upper and lower reaches of the Tuolumne River long before the creation of existing barrier dams.

The testaments, quotes and observations by first-hand observers, scientists, and experts provided herein are certainly adequate to provide a basis for facilitating reintroduction, and passage, of these three species to the upper and lower Tuolumne River to contribute to their continuing restoration and survival.

For References Contact Lonnie Moore

Video Links

1. ["California Trout 2018"](#) -
2. ["Craig's Corner Spring 2018"](#) - Pyramid Lake
3. ["Little Shasta / Big Hart"](#) - The Hart Ranch Project on Little Shasta River is working to bring salmon back to a section of stream where they have long since disappeared due to irrigation diversions and water obstructions.
4. ["Healing Elk River"](#) - The Elk River in Northern California has had a contentious past.

Suggested Reading

1. ["It's about art making a statement"](#) - A roadside display of signs and structures underscoring the plight of salmon and steelhead in the Columbia River Basin tie together the two passions of Wil Wilkins: art and fly-fishing.
2. ["Dead fish swimming"](#) - Lice from fish farms infecting wild baby salmon in B.C. One louse on a baby salmon can be fatal.
3. ["Full-Page Ad Urges First Quantum to Dump the Pebble Mine"](#) - Opponents of the Pebble Mine appeared in Toronto at the annual meeting of First Quantum Minerals with a message for its shareholders: "We Will Never Relent in our Fight Against the Pebble Mine."
4. ["Keep a backup nymph rig ready"](#) - Keeping a pre-rigged tandem nymph rig ready to go, will allow you to quickly change out your flies from one hole to the next and save you critical time when your fishing time is limited.
5. ["The River Advocate"](#) - e-Newsletter of Friends of the River

"You can't say enough about fishing. Though the sport of Kings, it's just what the deadbeat ordered."

~ Thomas McGuane (1939 -) American writer/Outdoorsman

A Cast from the Past

Reprinted from the February 1976 newsletter of the original Stanislaus Fly Fishermen:

OFFICERS

President, Al Browder; Vice President, Loren Lacque; Secretary, Dr. Ernest Soderstrom; Treasurer, Jim Blum; and Editor, Don Fetzer

THE PROGRAM

This program should be outstanding. Our guest speaker will be Tom Morgan, owner of the Winston Rod Company.

Tom was brought up in Ennis, Montana, which is located on the Madison River where he fished from his early childhood. He is a terrific fly fisherman, fly cater, and before buying the Winston Rod Company he operated the famous El Western Hotel in Ennis and also was a fishing guide in Montana. He will have his latest fly fishing rods on display and stories of interest for all.

FLY SHOP

Sacramento is getting a first rate fly fishing shop. Neil Bohannon, owner of the Flyhutch in Santa Clara, California and Bill Kiene of the Tower of Sports are opening up a branch of Neil's Santa Clara store in Sacramento at 2517 Yorktown Avenue. The store will be a duplicate of the one in Santa Clara and will also be called The Flyhutch.

HOW TO VERIFY YOUR FISH STORIES

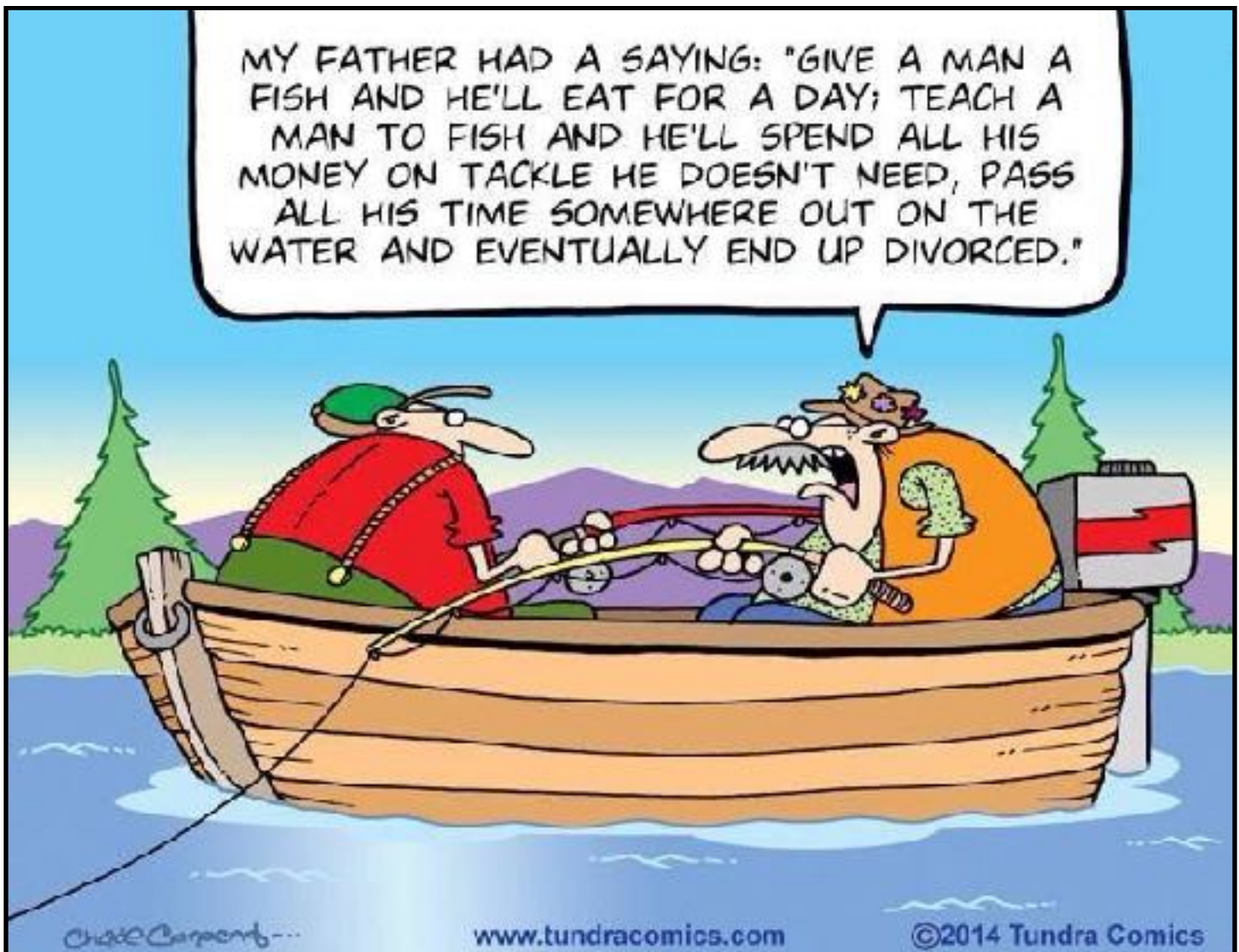
Buy yourself a roll of 24-inch-wide brown paper from any five-and-dime store. This, along with a pencil is all you need to record those trophy fish. Carry the paper and pencil in your fishing car and each time you make a sizable catch simply roll out the paper; lay the fish on it and trace around the outer edges of the fish you caught with your pencil. Other information: such as kind of fish, date caught, where caught, what type of bait you used can be added. Even what time of day the fish was caught. You may want to record every big fish you caught in a particular season and compare it with next year's. It will give you useful tips on bait, location, etc. And best of all you have proof next time those whopper stories arise.

TIP OF THE MONTH

What does the letter X after a number mean when referring to a leader tippet?

The X number of any tippet, subtracted from 11, gives you the tippet diameter in thousands. Thus, a 6X tippet is .005 inch, a 5X is .006 inch, and so on.

Tundra Comics



Testament of a Fisherman

"I fish because I love to; because I love the environs that trout are found, which are invariably beautiful, and hate the environs where crowds of people are found, which are invariably ugly; because of all the television commercials, cocktail parties and assorted social posturing I thus escape; because, in a world where most men spend their lives doing things they hate, my fishing is at once an endless source of delight and an act of small rebellion; because trout do not lie or cheat and cannot be bought or bribed or impressed by power, but respond only to quietude and humility and endless patience; because I suspect that men are going along this way for the last time, and I for one don't want to waste the trip; because mercifully there are no telephones on fishing waters; because only in the woods can I find solitude without loneliness; because bourbon out of an old tin cup tastes better out there; because maybe someday I will catch a mermaid; and, finally, not because I regard fishing as being so terribly important but because I suspect that so many other concerns of men are equally unimportant -- and not nearly so much fun"

~ Robert Traver (John D. Voelker, 1903-1901) Lawyer/Author/Fly fisherman