

RING OF THE RISE

SOUTHERN SIERRA FLY FISHERS NEWSLETTER

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

We just held a very successful California Fly Fishing Open on Sept. 22 nd . The number of participating teams increased and the competition was very keen. The food and entertainment were great and I believe everyone had an awesome time. Read about the winners of the tournament and the other highlights in the following sections of this newsletter.

On September 29th , our club held an Introduction to Fly Fishing seminar to veterans at the Antelope Valley Vet Center in Palmdale. These veterans have given to our country so we can enjoy our freedom. SSFFC wants to return some fly fishing knowledge so the Vets can enjoy time on the water. They learned fly tying, casting, entomology, conservation, knots and fly fishing etiquette. A special shout out goes to Larry Baker of High Desert Fly Fishers and Jon Stanbery for helping as instructors. On Oct. 6 we will have on the water classes with the Vets on the Kern River. If you would like to help out these Vets on the Kern River, please email me at haramic@aol.com

This month's Spotlight features the Buhler Bros. Find out about their love for fly fishing and how they became famous fly tyers. Into the Backing presents a story by Kesley Gallagher and her tarpon adventures. She has become a national fly fishing star coming off her recent win at the Ladies Tarpon Fly Fishing Tournament in Islamorada, FL We also have a Golden Trout Habitat Restoration article and a request for donations for this very worthy cause.

This month is full of activities with our Women's Class, Mentorship Day, the Southwest Council Fly Fishing Faire, and Jon Hart's Tenkara Class. If you have any interest in fishing southwest Montana in July next year, the Club is planning a trip to Rock Creek and surrounding areas. We are also in the planning stages of next year's outings and classes. Please let me know if there is anything you would like to see. We are here for you! Otherwise, please join us on the many activities we provide. Come fish with us and have a fun time!

Chiaki

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT



Ryan Buhler

1. Retired or working. If working, what do you do?
I work for the Porcelain garden producing porcelain nightlights and lamps. I do some landscaping and sell flies to help with gas money for fishing trips. Check out @BuhlerBrosFlies and @RobBuhlerFlyFishing4 Fun on Instagram for fly sales info.
2. How did you get started in fly fishing?
Sawa beginner set up by Scientific Angler and thought it was cool.
3. Did you have a mentor?
No mentor, for better or worse just went fishing and figured it out along the way.
4. Describe your favorite style of fly fishing.
To be honest whichever one I'm doing at the time. Dries, nymphs, streamers or poppers its all addictive to me.
5. What was your most memorable fly-fishing experience?
Two years in a row, Rob and I got into backpacking shape and hiked out to the Kern in the Golden Trout Wilderness. We spent a week each year fishing in heaven. The fishing was epic and I got to share it all with my best friend and brother.
6. Why do I fly fish?
It's a great way to take a time out from everyday life. When fishing, I'm in the now. There is no yesterday, no tomorrow just right now and that is hard to find at times. It's a bonus that I am usually fishing in the Sierra's one of the most beautiful places in the world.
7. Music you've been listening to lately?
Live Grateful Dead and any of Garcia's side bands. Other artists are listened to but the Dead are always at the top of the list. I just went out to Rob's car and here is a list of what was listened to on the last road trip:
 - Grateful Dead 7-7-89
 - Grateful Dead 2-11-69

- Grateful Dead with Branford Marsala 3-29-90
- Willie Nelson and family
- Bob Dylan modern times
- Jimmy Cliff rebirth
- Van Morrison born to sing
- Sonny Rollins way out West
- Jerry Garcia band shining star and how sweet it is both live
- Franco rough guide to Franco the great African guitarist.

UPCOMING EVENTS



A Call To Arms- Veteran's Event

Date: September 29, 2018, Palmdale
October 6, 2018, Kernville

Details: Our Club will be providing fly fishing instructions to our Country's veterans at the Antelope Valley Vet Center and the Kern River. We all know the feelings of spending time on the water and the mental relief it brings. On Saturday, Sept 29, we will be holding an Intro Fly Fishing Class at the Antelope

Valley Vet Center in Palmdale. We will be teaching our vets fly casting, entomology, knots, conservation, and fly tying. On the following Saturday, October 6, they will put their newly acquired fly fishing knowledge to use on the Kern River. We will be hosting and mentoring our vets, sharing fun time on the water. If you would like to help with this program or have any questions, contact [Chiaki Harami](#).



Women's Fly Fishing

Date: October 13, 2018

Location: Kernville, CA

Time: 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM

Cost: Membership fee of \$25

Details: We are super excited to bring back our second annual Women's Fly Fishing Clinic! We have an amazing line up of instructors from all over Southern California to teach the class. The day begins with a fun and easy yoga class designed to fire up those fly fishing muscles followed by classes in casting, entomology, fly tying, conservation, knots, and gear and tackle. The day ends with Pint Night at Kern River Brewing.

Lunch is included in the class.

Please bring a yoga mat if you are attending the yoga class. And bring water shoes as we will be on the river for the casting class.

Women's Mentorship Day

Date: October 14, 2018

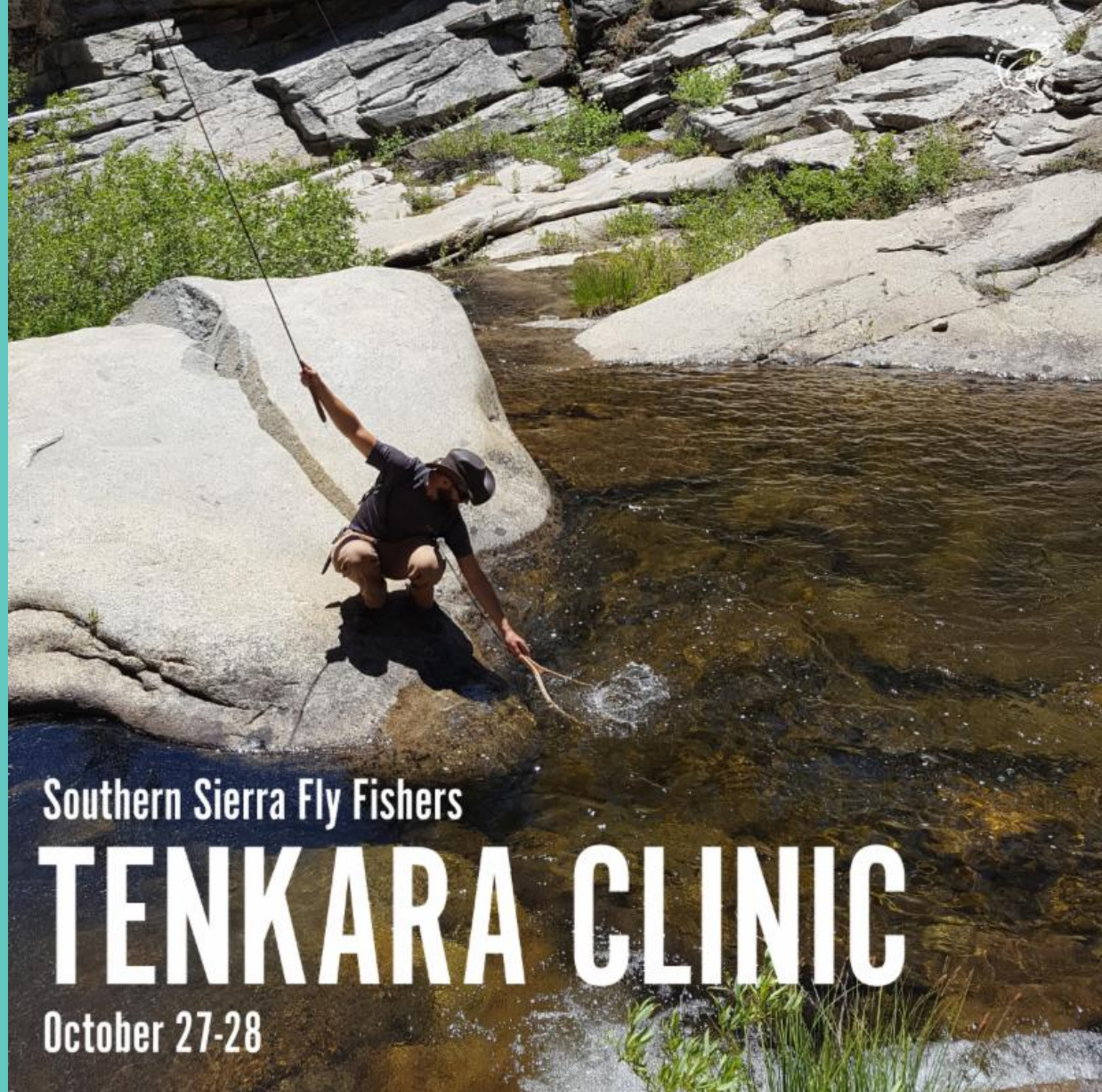
Location: Kernville, CA

Time: 7:00 am to 12:00 pm

Details: This is an excellent opportunity to apply your newly learned classroom knowledge with actual time on the water. You will be fly fishing the Kern River with one of our club members or instructors from the previous day. This will immediately reinforce everything you learned in class. You'll also learn how to read the water for likely spots in the river holding fish. This mentor class is also open to Women's Class participant's family members and their significant others. A valid California fishing license is required. Please bring your own fly fishing gear, if you have one. If not, equipment rentals are available at the Fly Shop.

We will need members to volunteer to assist our beginner anglers on the water.

Please contact ssffc.media@gmail.com to sign up.



Southern Sierra Fly Fishers

TENKARA CLINIC

October 27-28

Tenkara Clinic

Date: October 13-14, 2018

Location: Kernville, CA

Details: Jon Hart from Southern Sierra Fly Fishers will be leading a two part tenkara clinic. Tenkara is a simplified Japanese method of fly fishing, with gear consisting of a rod, line and fly, absent a reel. In the 1-hour evening session, covered topics will include an overview of tenkara, gear, techniques as well as tips and tricks. The following morning, a brief refresher will precede a 2-hour on the water session held at a TBD location, with opportunities for casting practice and personal instruction. If you have your own tenkara gear, feel free to bring it with you. Otherwise, gear will be provided for the duration of the class.

Evening presentation is open to the public. Membership is required for the morning clinic.

Contact ssffc.media@gmail.com to sign up.

SWC Fly Fishing Faire

Date: October 20-21, 2018
Location: Glendale, CA

[More Info](#)



EVENTS RECAP



California Fly Fishing Open

by Chiaki Harami

This year's CFFO had 15 teams competing and it was very close for 1st place. The same team as last year won 1st place – Deep Creek Outfitters. They barely won by 1 point over a Tenkara team, Walk Softly and Carry A Big Stick, led by our very own Jon Hart. The 3rd place team, Fish Whistlers, consisted of primarily of SSFFC members- Buhlers Bros, Sergio Martinez, Derek Erquhart and Adam Petuskey, who nabbed the biggest fish of the competition: a sucker at 19 inches. The other fly clubs in attendance were Santa Clarita, Sierra Pacific and Pasadena Casting Club with SCCC's Ben Franken nabbing the biggest trout at 18 inches. Casting for Recovery fielded 2 teams and we had an all women's team, Barbless Hookers, led by Celine Bayla. Freddie Ramirez did his usual outstanding job with a BBQ dinner.

Entertainment was provided by Guy's band, the Stoneflies, and Bernard's band, Par Avion. They both brought fun music to the CFFO. The majority of the raffle prizes were graciously donated by the vendors. We had prizes galore from fly fishing rods, reels, day packs, a yeti cooler and even the Clapper. You remember the Clapper....Clap on, Clap off. Casting for Recovery held a casting game as a fund raiser and gave away a very nice fiberglass rod custom build by Pete Emmel

of Renaissance Rods. We played the Heads or Tails game and the winner received a new custom-built Winston Air rod. A fun time was had by all.

Don't miss next year's CFFO, the date is September 21, 2019.

KEBARI CORNER



Tenkara Adventures

by Jon Hart

Tenkara is a simplified method of fly fishing consisting of a rod, line and fly. Originating over a thousand years ago as a method for efficiently harvesting fish in the mountains of Japan, tenkara shines in small to medium sized rivers, creeks and flowing bodies of water. With similarities to cane pole fishing or the 'ole "stick and a line" you might be familiar with from childhood, tenkara is extremely easy to learn.

Like western style fly rods, tenkara rods can be made from a variety of materials. Modern tenkara rods are generally in the 12-14' range, though some can be as short as 7-8' or as long as 17' or more. Some are even adjustable, allowing on-the-water adjustments of up to multiple feet with a simple tug. All are collapsible to varying degrees, generally collapsing down into themselves into the 1-2' range, some small enough to fit in your pocket.

Rigging a tenkara rod is simple. At the very top, thinnest section of the tenkara rod is a piece called the lilian, which is a piece of cord to which you tie your fly line. Much like with western style fly fishing, the length, composition and characteristics of the fly line are governed by angler preference and the water you'll be fishing. Tippet is attached directly to the end of the line, and then one or more flies can be tied on. The entire line and tippet will be anywhere from 8' to well over 20'.

Casting tenkara is very simple and similar to other styles or techniques you might be used to. It is perfect for delicately placing and dead drifting dry flies or the traditional tenkara kebari. The long rods with hyper-sensitive tips make this technique very effective. It is also extremely good for tight-line nymphing one, two or even three fly rigs, a proven technique in more flowing water than not. Want to pull a streamer or flutter some flymphs? No problem.

My journey with tenkara starts at our local fly shop, the Kern River Fly Shop. Several years ago on our first trip to the Kern River, one of my first times fly fishing, I purchased a tenkara rod from the shop and eagerly headed upriver to try it out. As it turns out, what I bought was the empty storage tube for the tenkara rod, but no actual tenkara rod -- the tube was empty! A simple mixup fixed with a quick call and return visit to the shop. I read the instructions, rigged up, whipped some passable casts, and even managed to convince a beautiful rainbow trout out from the hidey hole he was in under a rock, rocketing to the surface to take my fly.

Tenkara fits my style of fishing, which is to say that it is simple, low-hassle and fun. The small, collapsible rod is easy for me to take along in any number of situations without getting in the way; slung across my back for a day of fishing, strapped to my packs for hiking, biking and other adventures, or stuffed alongside my laptop on business trips. A spool of tippet, some nippers and forceps, a selection of flies and some spare level line and I'm good to go.

Since that original tenkara experience, tenkara has been my primary form of fishing almost everywhere I've been.

I've caught nearly every species in the Kern River drainage you'd expect a fly fisher to pursue, from beautiful, feisty wild fish in the high creeks, to the native kern river rainbow bruisers, elusive browns and pikeminnow. I've also wrangled plenty of catfish, bass, piles of panfish, and literally hundreds of hefty carp from the local carp hotspot, Lake Isabella. Surf perch chasing crabs just a few feet from

shore in inches off water off the Central California coast were a blast on tenkara, albeit a bit different.

Tenkara was my technique of choice earlier this year when I won both Carp Throwdown, in San Diego, and with my team at Carp Fest, hosted by SSFFC earlier this year in Kernville, both fly-fishing only tournaments targeting carp. The all tenkara team I assembled for the recent 2018 California Fly Fishing Open, “Walk softly and carry a big stick”, missed first place by a single point.

Earlier this year, I traveled to Utah to participate in the [Oni Tenkara School](#), a 3-day experience hosted by [Tenkara Guides](#) and Masami “Tenkara No Oni” Sakakibara. Masami is a Japanese tenkara master who wades waist-deep white water with ease despite his age, flings his minimalist size 6 kebari with laser precision despite wind, obstructions or current, cons fish out of places picked apart many times over by previous fisherman, and owns the designs for and helps produce some of the finest tenkara rods available. Despite him speaking almost no English and me speaking almost no Japanese, the simplicity of tenkara allowed us to communicate effectively and I learned immensely from the experience.

The mighty Kern River, home to Southern Sierra Fly Fishers, happens to be an excellent river for tenkara. With over 20 miles of winding river an easy drive from town, the special regulation areas like the wild trout section above the Johnsondale bridge, the Golden Trout Wilderness, the countless creeks that feed the Kern as it flows through Tulare and Kern counties, there are a lifetime of pools, plunges, rips, runs and waterfalls perfect for the tenkara angler. While there are stretches of the river that can get quite broad, rare is the time where you’ll miss a fish because you failed to nail that 60’ cast that might otherwise be possible with western gear -- the fish are generally much, much closer, and well within reach of tenkara.

Looking to learn more? Want to try tenkara? Join me with Southern Sierra Fly Fishers for a two-part Teknara clinic Saturday, October 27th at 7pm at the Kernville Chamber of Commerce. The hour long evening session will cover tenkara history, gear, techniques and a Q&A session. The following morning, Sunday, at 8am, we will meet at the Kern River Fly shop and travel upriver for a hands-on session where members can try their hand at tenkara, practice casting and other techniques. Space is limited for the Sunday session. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own tenkara gear if possible, however some tenkara rods, lines and other gear will be available for loan. Contact SSFFC via ssffc.media@gmail.com to sign up or kernrivertenkara@gmail.com for questions.

CONSERVATION NEWS



Silver Creek Restoration Project: August 2018

by Gary Applebee

As some of you may recall the Southwest Council has been involved with the Silver Creek Restoration Project for six years now. This project started back in 1994 with the CDFW. The SWCFFI got involved in 2013 with volunteers doing a lot of the work. In both 2013 & 2014 the Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers gave the SWC a grant to hire an intern or two. Then the Golden State Fly Fishers which is a fly fishing club in the SWC and a TU chapter received two large grants to help the project in 2014 & 2015. In 2016 & 2017 the state Wild and Heritage Trout Program took the project on. In every year the SWCFFI has had volunteers on the project. Both Trout Unlimited and Caltrout have helped with the CDFW and SWCFFI.

This year because of scheduling conflicts the Wild and Heritage crew could not make it to Silver Creek. The SWCFFI stepped up again to work two weekends recently. We were up there on August 17-19 and August 24-26 with two different volunteer crews. On the first weekend we had Jim Garvey from Long Beach Casting Club, Dale Dalrymple from Golden State Fly Fishing, TU, and Michael Chan from Mindon, NV from Carson Fly Fishing Club. The second weekend we had Larry Behm from the Fly Fishers of Orange Country, Chris Moore from Sespe Fly Fishers, John Cary from the Hi Desert Fly Fishers, and Jim Miller and his sixteen year old daughter Andrea from Sierra Pacific Fly Fishers. Dawne Emery and Gary Applebee both worked the e-fishing equipment.

Almost 600 brook trout were removed and we saw 72 Lahontan Cutthroat Trout (LCT). This is a big improvement from the past years where we would remove 2,000-4,000 brook trout. The ratio of brook trout to LCT's in the past was 450 brook trout to 1 LCT.



Golden Trout Habitat Restoration

by Gia Pizzino Martynn

Sequoia National Forest has started the bridge replacement work on Fish Creek. The contractor began cutting out the asphalt on Sherman Pass Road on Sept. 10th. Currently the culvert is acting as the streamflow bypass around the construction while they prepare the foundation and framing for the first bridge abutment. Once they pour the concrete for the first abutment, they will re-route the stream channel alongside the that abutment and begin to work on the opposite bridge abutment. As of the date of this posting, they were still working on the first abutment and determining whether they were going to have to import rock for the riprap needed around the bridge. The following photos were taken during the first week of construction on September 12th.

The first photo shows the water being diverted through the culvert during removal of the road bed.

The second photo shows them removing the road bed on Sherman Pass Road Xing over Fish Creek. The survey rod sticking out of the cut is resting on a terrace that the bridge abutment will be built on.

Over the last three weeks we have raised \$3,850 (10% of our goal!) from 21 people/groups. We would like to thank all our donors for their support to date. In particular we would like to give a special shout-out to the local fly fishing organizations and their members who have so generously donated to the cause and helped spread the word about the campaign: Southwest Council of Fly Fishers International, Kaweah Fly Fishers, Southern Sierra Fly Fishers, and Pasadena Casting Club. We apologize if we have left anyone out. Please let us know if we did.

We still have a few more weeks before the stream restoration work would need to begin (after they are done constructing the abutments, but before the bridge deck

is installed). So please continue to share with others and donate if you haven't already done so. Every little bit helps!

Support our state fish and their habitat. Let's not let the California Golden Trout end up like our state mammal, the grizzly bear! Let's work together to sustain this beautiful native fish for future generations to enjoy.

Find out more at: [Golden Trout Habitat Restoration Project](#)

INTO THE BACKING



One Crazy Gringa

by Kesley Gallagher

“Oh, by the way, the team is going to the Puerto Rico facility for our annual meeting. Bring your tarpon rods.”

“Wait . . . what?”

If you ever want to get my attention, say, “Tarpon.” I will automatically be alert and on point. My colleague said nothing further except told me the March dates for the meeting. I quickly made my reservations to arrive 18 hours ahead of the team and searched for a tarpon guide in San Juan. I quickly found Omar Orraca and started my agonizing wait. It was January.

Fast forward to March. Flying from Los Angeles to San Juan takes nine hours. It hadn't occurred to me how far east Puerto Rico actually was. I arrived in the evening in San Juan, got my rent-a-car, and carefully drove to my hotel. Driving in San Juan was similar to Miami—no-one does the same speed, ever. It was nine at night and my guide wanted me at the dock at 5:30 am. Given the four hour time difference, I wasn't sure if I'd fall asleep or what kind of shape I would be in at dawn. But, hey, go big or go home! I laid out my fishing garb, pliers, nippers, lucky starfish earrings, bracelet, and buff, took ½ a sleeping pill, and crashed.

The alarm went off at 4:15 and I woke up not knowing where I was. I jumped into my clothes, got in my car and realized I didn't know where I was going. Quickly plugging the address in my phone, I crept out into the dark, rainy streets, and traced my way back to the airport. The airport in San Juan is surrounded by lagoons which are apparently full of tarpon. Much like the Bay of Biscayne in Miami, the tarpon are fished hard and hook savvy. Urban fishing. LA River carp, Honolulu bonefish, and Mosquito Lagoon redfish all qualify for this tough as nails category. I was jet-lagged, tired, and groggy—prime shape to take on San Juan tarpon!

After finding the apartment building, my guide's wife greeted me with a cup of hot coffee, a sandwich, and a big smile. Not a bad way to start. She helped me to his panga and we loaded up my gear: 10wt and 7wt. I had no idea what to expect. Omar Orraca made it down, said good morning, and soon we were off into the dark mangroves of San Juan. The frogs, "coqui", heralded the coming dawn and I wanted more coffee.

Omar told me to get on the bow and soon I was casting under mangrove branches searching for baby tarpon. Nothing. As the sun came up, I was able to see more clearly. We were in a neighborhood which was quickly waking up and going to work. As we cruised under bridges full of commuters, I realized I was within the city proper of San Juan.

Soon we made it to a more open lagoon. I could see larger tarpon (30# – 60#) rolling in the distance and got pumped. I changed my Sage Salt 7wt for the Sage X 10wt. As I stripped out line, though, I noticed the reel had not been correctly changed over to right hand retrieve although the line and backing had been. Essentially, it was useless. Great. Ever see a grown woman have a near meltdown? Yep. Me. That moment. Omar laughed, blamed my jet-lag, and handed me the 7 wt. He said a 7wt was a better rod for these fish anyways. I said, "OK, God, I'm really tired but I'm here. Let's do this!"

The white clouser we were using wasn't working so we tied on a heavier, brown fly. Soon, we found rolling tarpon near homes full of crowing roosters greeting the morning. I cast into the school, stripped slowly, and came tight. I set the hook hard and she jumped, a beautiful Puerto Rican silver king. The 7wt bent hard and my Abel purred as the tarpon ran and jumped and jumped. I finally woke up and found my smile.

I will tell you that landing a 30 lb tarpon on a 7wt wasn't easy and was certainly memorable! She dove under the panga several times but I knew she wasn't going far. My hat is off to Abel and Sage; this combination tamed the tarpon beautifully and I was elated as was Omar. As we released the fish, Omar called his wife and told her to meet la senora with mucho café in 10 minutes. I was grateful for the coffee; Omar could not believe I had flown in from Los Angeles the night before and still met him at 5:30 am.

“You are one crazy gringa.”

I nodded in agreement with a smile as big as the sun. . . and texted a big thank-you to my co-worker.

**Events may be cancelled or postponed due to weather, road and river conditions*

