

2016 Flycasters Awards

The Broken Paddle Award: for the member who has been involved in any humorous situation while on Club fishout. (A 'goof-up') Awarded to **Gairel Gandrud**

It hardly seems fair ---

Not only was this Gairel Gandrud's first trip with the club – it was his first trip fly fishing.

In fact it was Gairel's first DAY fly fishing.

Gairel and his wife Mary Beth were on the Beaverhead River in Montana, guests at the Big Hole Lodge on the 2016 Montana fishout.

The banks of the Beaverhead are pretty steep and Mary Beth was having trouble getting up and out of the river – her gallant husband Gairel moved in to lend a hand.

Gairel was able to help Mary Beth up onto the bank, but as he stepped up the bank himself he fell backwards completely into the Beaverhead. A true full immersion baptism.

Soaked from head to toe – Gairel spent the next couple of hours drying out his waders and his shirt.

Thank God Gairel wasn't hurt – other than being a bit cold and wet – but it seems a shame that his chivalry resulted in his being awarded the Broken Paddle Award.

The Editor's Award: Selected by the editor of Flylines for the member who submitted the best article or articles to the club's newsletter in the past year. Awarded to **Ray Chin**

Ray submitted several well written and informative articles on conservation and a tremendous reminder about how to revive fish so that "catch and release" means release and thrive. He is awarded the coveted Skitt Fiske hat --- and all that the award is meant to convey.

Member of the Year: for outstanding service to the club. Awarded to **Albert Yi**

A member of the club for 5 years who has continued to increase his contributions each year. His rod building skill draws awe from members regularly and he is passing on this knowledge through the seminars. His participation in the Bamboo and Fiberglass Rod Night at the Ponds (also known as slow rod Thursday) helped make this new activity a great hit with all the members who attended. He has set up and promoted the new forum on the Flycasters web site, making communication among members much better. As club secretary in 2016 and 2017, he greatly aids the board, creating agendas, sending reminders and producing comprehensive minutes. He freely spreads his enthusiasm and club is better for it.

The Ken Eugene Award: for members who have performed a singular (or many) service(s) for the betterment of the club. Awarded to **Lee Dorius**

Over the last three years, this member has made a big impact as the lead Fishmaster (Master Fishmaster?). His vision and encouragement has nearly doubled our annual Fishouts. He is maintaining this pace for 2017 with 20 trips planned. He also hosts at least two Fishouts each year and started the Lava Lakes, Klamath River, and lower Yuba River trips. All are very popular and the latter is a great benefit to new members.

The Jim Thatcher Award: for a member who gives significantly of his/her time and effort, without regard to their own interest, for the specific betterment of the Club and its activities. Awarded to **Mason Seim**

As new seminar chair last year this member has made great strides expanding the educational opportunities for club members. Skilled at organizing and motivating fellow members to action he promoted many seminars and activities that have proved popular with the club.

The Houwink-Seldon Conservation Award: for the members who have contributed the most to conservation activities for the club, for the benefit of all fisherman, environmental improvements, local state or federal conservation activities or work in the NCCFFF. Presented by Chuck Hammerstad -

*It is my honor to present this year's recipient of the Flycasters Conservation Award. This person joined the Conservation Committee about 7 years ago, when there were only two other members. He was the first during the growth period of the committee which has now grown to 10 members. While serving on the Conservation Committee he served 3 years on the club's Board of Directors. His work on the committee included for the past 5 fundraisers, 4 years of solicitations of lodge trips, preparation of informational material for guide trips, creating and printing the "Gone Fishing" placemats and an integral part of the fundraiser closing team. He stepped up to volunteer for tasks when a need arose. He has taken on the duty of being the Flycasters Facebook site administrator and his posts have included many articles on conservation issues. We would be remiss if we also failed to recognize the effort of his wife in the set up and closing for our banquet fundraiser. For the past 5 years, she played a very important role of being an integral part in the fundraiser closing process. We are indebted to both of them for service to the club's conservation efforts. It is my great pleasure to present the Houwink-Seldon Conservation Award to **Mike and Pat Jamison** Congratulations to you both for your dedicated service to the club.*

Distinguished Service Award:

For the member who has performed a service of special significance to the Club.

Awarded to **Frank Eldredge**

2016 wrapped up our final year celebrating the club's 50th anniversary with the history being captured in an excellent booklet facilitated by this member. There were many contributors to this effort and it will be a lasting reminder of the club's achievements over the last half century. In addition to the booklet, Frank has contributed many articles to the Flylines and to Fly Fishing magazines as well as being very active on the conservation committee. He is off to a great start in his new career post retirement.

The U. Shadsby Bulldrop Award: for the member who is the best teller of tall tales during the current year. Awarded to **Les Page**

We all know someone who is always ready with a story that draws us in, albeit initially with a good eye roll. Accomplished with tales, this member is tall to boot. It is good that we often have waders nearby since things can get deep and thick fast.

His stories usually wind around an experience he had getting ready or heading to a Fishout, sometimes ending with a big fish story.

His travels to Big Hole in 2015 could have been worthy of a broken paddle award, but at least made for a humorous tale.

The President's Award: selected by the President for outstanding support during a year. This year's outgoing club president Diana Ross has honored **Luke Sing**.

For many years our fly casting lessons were organized by Jo Hood. When Jo retired from the club, Luke stepped up and took over the planning and organizing. And how great to have a real pro teaching us how to cast. I say that because Luke has been active in Fly Casting Tournaments around the US for many years.

In 2016 Luke organized the American Casting Association Northern California Regional Tournament at the Campbell casting ponds. This year he has convinced the ACA to hold their National Championship tournament our ponds again. This is not an easy process.

Luke will be asking for our assistance.

Angler of the Year: Tim Anderson 90 Points

- Most points ever accumulated in our club's history -

Ring of the Rise Award - Saltwater:

John Brezzo 63 pound Giant Trevally from the Seychelles

Ring of the Rise Award - Freshwater:

Judy Nakawatase 21 pound Brown Trout from the Rio Grande,
Tierra del Fuego