

Trout Fest touted at Moccasin Hatchery

When I told my dad that I would be writing about fish in this week's column, he, in all his lovable, dry humor, dropped a line of fishing puns including the assumption that my writing would be very "finny," as I am a "gilly" person. Unfortunately, I have to scale back on my own humor (which I get from my dad) and stories of my own poor fishing luck (also inherited from my dad) to make room for the Moccasin Creek Hatchery Trout Fest, an event geared mostly toward children and their parents, but also open to everyone.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday, the hatchery hosts multiple activities, including trout tasting, fish printing, bean bag toss, a kids fishing pond, aquarium and hatchery displays, prizes, face painting, fish feeding, casting and rigging lessons, fly casting and tying demonstrations, fish cleaning demonstrations and more. Adults can participate in all activities except for actual fishing.

"The purpose of Trout Fest is to introduce folks to the ABCs of fishing while also teaching responsible angling techniques through hands-on activities," said Jana Leiran, statewide coordinator for the Department of Fish and Game's Hatchery Interpretive Services

Program. "Our goal is to provide people with the knowledge, skills and confidence to go trout fishing. At Trout Fest, kids can literally 'touch a fish, feed a fish and taste a fish.' It gives them the opportunity to learn about responsible angling while also instilling a passion for trout fishing."

Leiran said parents often bring their children to the hatchery for the

learning experience. Kids can see the fish being raised in the raceways and learn about the life cycle. School groups come on field trips, especially if they are a part of the Classroom Aquarium Education Program and they have raised trout in their classrooms.

Located off Highway 49 in Moccasin, the hatchery sits on a 25.5-acre site that belongs to the

City and County of San Francisco. The hatchery takes water from the afterbay of the Moccasin Creek Powerhouse, a part of the Hetch Hetchy water supply system. A major fish production facility, the hatchery raises various trout, including Eagle Lake, Coleman, Whitney and Shasta strains of rainbow trout, as

Tuolumne Talk

Harmony Wheeler



well as brown and brook trout. "The role of the hatchery is to raise fish and then plant them in rivers,

Continued on next page

Moccasin Creek Trout Fest

WHEN: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday

WHERE: Moccasin Creek Hatchery, junction of Highways 49 and 120, 20 miles south of Sonora

COST: Free

MORE INFO: (559) 765-4824 or trout-fest@dfg.ca.gov



Trout Fest offers information about fish plants throughout the state.



Volunteers teach children to fish for trout on Saturday.



Kids can touch a trout at the event.



Youngsters might reel in a whopper at the Moccasin Creek Hatchery.

Courtesy photos

Do you have low testosterone?

Take the Low T Quiz:

1. Do you have a decrease in libido (sex drive)?Yes ..No
2. Do you have a lack of energy?Yes ..No
3. Have you notices a decreased enjoyment in life?Yes ..No
4. Are your erections less strong?Yes ..No
5. Has there been a recent deterioration in your work performance?Yes ..No

If you answered yes to these questions, you may be suffering from **Low T**.

Ask us about a simple blood test that can help better diagnose **Low T** and your treatment option.

TESTOPEL[®]
(testosterone pellets) **TM**

Now available at our practice. For more info, please call our office.

TESTOPEL[®] is the only FDA-approved treatment that normalizes testosterone levels for 3-6 months per dose.



Dr. Benedicto M. Estoesta, MD

55 Hwy 26, Ste. 1 • Valley Oaks Center, Valley Springs • 209-772-8906

Continued from previous page

lakes and streams, especially where angling pressure is the highest, and to provide fishing opportunities for everyone," Leiran said.

"Hatcheries provide recreation, restoration, conservation and food," Moccasin Creek Hatchery Manager Tom Grove said.

This year marks the first time Moccasin Creek has held the event, but the Trout Fest is not new to hatcheries in general. San Joaquin Hatchery's recent fest saw around 2,000 people attend, and the Kern River Hatchery Trout

Fest has welcomed anywhere from 1,000 to 1,500 people.

"As this is the first year Moccasin Creek Hatchery is hosting the event, we hope the entire community will come out to Trout Fest and get excited about trout fishing," Leiran said.

Send your Tuolumne County events to Harmony Wheeler at hwheeler@sierralodestar.com and mtaylor@sierralodestar.com.

Dogwoods brighten the way to the summit

As the foothill grasses dry to form familiar shades of gold and wildflowers close for the season, it has become apparent that this year's short spring season has officially made its way to summer. Unfortunately, for those with pollen allergies, early summer can be a time of antihistamine-suppressed sneezing and eye-watering outings. For those who experience these dreaded allergy attacks, early summer is the perfect time to move up the hill and out of the heat.

In the same fashion that Mother Lode residents and visitors move toward higher ground in early summer, so move the spring blooms that graced us for a short period in April. This May, early summer wildflower blooms seem to be exploding from 4,700 feet to around 6,000 feet in elevation. Although slightly less vibrant, and certainly shorter lived due to a record lack of rainfall this winter, these mid-elevation wildflower blooms are nonetheless brilliant and absolutely worth several visits.

Some of the wildflowers at higher altitudes consist of the same familiar species we see in the foothills. Indian paintbrush and lupine are two of the most common and easily identifiable



wildflowers that blossom over a wide range of elevations. While these two plants are absolutely stunning, spotting lupines and Indian paintbrush in the Central Sierra is about as rare as spotting a tourist in Twain Harte – not exactly elusive creatures. So as we move up the hill for summer, let's take a peek at some unique mid-elevation blooms that shouldn't be missed this season.

Surprisingly, one of the most brilliant blooming plants in the mid-elevations isn't a wildflower, it's a tree. The Pacific dogwood, or *Cornus nuttallii*, was named after Thomas Nuttall, an English botanist and zoologist who worked in the United States in the 1800s. The dogwood family actually boasts 100 sep-

Continued on page 11



Donnell Dam and the Middle Fork of The Stan are backdrop to some dogwood blossoms.

Photos by Dean Fleming



Where Feeding Your Family Always Costs Less

We Gladly Bag Your Groceries

Plus Hundreds of In-Store Specials

Memorial Day

Boneless Beef Tri Tip Roast In the bag \$2.88 lb. Seasoned or Extra-Lean-\$3.88 lb.	Bar S Franks All Meat 12 oz. 58¢ ea.	Foster Farms Fryer Breasts California Fresh - Value Pack \$1.18 lb.	MEAT IN THE BAG All American Beef Patties 2 1/2 lb. bag \$4.88 ea.
Sweet White Corn 4/88¢ Limit 12	Haas Avocados Creamy Ripe 3/98¢	Seedless Watermelon Red Ripe 18¢ lb.	DELI SAVINGS Resers Potato or Macaroni \$3.88 ea.
Gatorade 32 oz. 68¢ ea. Limit 10	Pepsi, Squirt or Diet Pepsi 12 oz., 24 Pack \$5.85 +CRV ea. Limit 2	Lay's Potato Chips 10-10.5 oz. Selected Varieties \$1.98 ea.	
Crystal Ice Cream 56 oz. Selected Varieties \$2.18 Ea.	Del Monte Ketchup or Western Family Mustard 75¢ ea.	Budweiser or Coors Beer 12 oz. 30 Pack - Selected Varieties \$15.85 +CRV ea. Limit 2	

PRICES EFFECTIVE 5/23/12 TO 5/29/12

555 S. Hwy. 49 - Jackson

Store Hours: 7am - 10pm Daily

ATM

We reserve the right to limit the sale on items to 10 packages or 10 lbs.