



County Executive Office  
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COUNTY OF NAPA  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE

### APPLICATION FOR APPOINTMENT TO BOARD, COMMISSION, COMMITTEE OR TASK FORCE

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT (Complete pages 1 through 3)

\*Application for Appointment to: (Name of Board, Commission, Committee or Task Force)

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

\*Category of membership for which you are applying:  
(This information can be found on the news release announcing the opening.  
You may apply for more than one category if more than one position is open.)

SPORTSPERSON/ANGLER

\*Supervisorial District in which you reside:

DISTRICT 3

\*Full Name

William T RYAN

Date

12/9/09

\*Current Occupation (within the last twelve (12) months):

NEWSPAPER COLUMNIST - "Fishing is my Day Job" St Helena Star Syr  
" ARTICLES - "WEEKLY FISHING REPORT" N.V. REGISTER Syr

Current License (Professional or Occupational); Date of issue and/or expiration including status:

N/A

Education/Experience: (A resume may be attached containing this and any other information that would be helpful to the Board in evaluating your application.)

• Fisherman since I was 6 years old. Fished all over the world.  
• Member: Napa Valley Fly Fishers, Napa River Steelhead, Outdoor Writers Assn of California, Federation of Fly Fishers, St Helena Chamber of Commerce, PARTICIPANT - PUTAH CREEK CLEANUP DAYS

\* NOTE: Please see attached Nov-06 Column to show my involvement & efforts for a

Community participation (nature of activity and community location):

Sustainable Wildlife Steward in Napa Valley

ST HELENA RIANDA HOUSE CHARITY PROJECT  
ST HELENA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
PAST MEMBER NAPA VALLEY FLY FISHERS  
PAST MEMBER ST HELENA ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY Study Group

Other County Board/Commission/Committee on which you serve/have served:

N/A

\* Denotes Mandatory Entry Required

Application for Appointment to: (Name of Board, Commission, Committee or Task Force)

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

Names, addresses and phone numbers of three (3) individuals familiar with your background:

\*Name  
STAN PRESS

\*Address  
[REDACTED]

\*City \*State \*Zip Code  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

\*Telephone  
[REDACTED]

\*Name  
DAN WHITEHURST

\*Address  
[REDACTED]

\*City \*State \*Zip Code  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

\*Telephone  
[REDACTED]

\*Name  
PAUL PRINCIPLE

\*Address  
[REDACTED]

\*City \*State \*Zip Code  
[REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

\*Telephone  
[REDACTED]

Name and occupation of spouse within the last 12 months, if married (for Conflict of Interest purposes):

BARBARA W. RYAN, retired

\*Please explain your reasons for wishing to serve and, in your opinion, how you feel you could contribute:

I have been a Napa County Resident for 33 years. My son lives here. His three children were born here. I am dedicated to try to help Napa County be hospitable in every way.

My life long interest in angling and my 8 years stint writing a fishing column and fishing report have exposed me to the outdoor community. This widespread contact can help me be an effective, real time Wildlife Conservation Commissioner.

My education in marketing and long career in winery management (18 years at Bering's) prepared me to be objective, collegial and reliable.

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WILDLIFE CONSERVATION COMMISSION

APPLICANTS APPOINTED BY THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE AN OATH OF OFFICE.

PLEASE NOTE THAT APPOINTEES MAY BE REQUIRED BY STATE LAW AND COUNTY CONFLICT OF INTEREST CODE TO FILE FINANCIAL DISCLOSURE STATEMENTS.

All applications will be kept on file for one year from the date of application

PERSONAL INFORMATION

The following information is provided in confidence to the extent that it will not be posted on the Internet, but may be used by the Board of Supervisors when making the appointment, or be used by the committee/commission/board/task force following appointment for purposes of communicating with the appointee.

Full Name

William T. Ryan

\*e-mail Address

[Redacted]

\*Home Address

[Redacted]

\*Work Address

[Redacted]

\*City

[Redacted]

State

[Redacted]

\*Zip Code

[Redacted]

\*City

[Redacted]

State

[Redacted]

Zip Code

[Redacted]

\*Telephone

[Redacted]

Telephone

[Redacted]

Please Read!

# Cal Trout getting serious about fishing

Fishing  
Is My  
Day Job



Bill Ryan

## Passionate About Fishing? You bet!

But even better, the members of California Trout (Cal Trout) are passionate about watershed restoration and preservation of fish.

They target trout, steelhead and salmon (all cold water fish) with their efforts. It was a real thrill to meet many of them at a gathering hosted by Dan Duckhorn at Duckhorn Vineyards on Nov. 8.

You could feel the energy and commitment to these goals.

In a nice local connection, St. Helena angler Tom Allen and I heard positive remarks about Napa County's efforts to restore the Napa River.

Kit Crump of N.O.A.A. told us how impressed he was with the work by our Napa County Resource Conservation District.

Led by senior biologist Jonathan Koehler and joined by volunteers like the members of Napa River Steelhead with their hard work, Napa River is getting better yard by yard. I hope Kit stays interested in these efforts — he does evaluations of projects for possible grant funding.

Board of Governors member Alan Vidinsky made it simple when he said, "Take care of the fish and the fishing will come."

The reality of that idea was focused perfectly by the evening's speaker and Cal Trout board member, Dr. Peter Moyle, a profes-

sor of fish biology at UC Davis and the Associate Director of the Center for Watershed Sciences.

He is widely regarded as one of the country's pre-eminent experts on fish.

Dr. Moyle told us that there are 32 species of trout and salmon. Two-thirds are native to California, and 65 percent face extinction — if we don't act now.

Cal Trout has been in the forefront of this battle for 20 years. I liked their no-nonsense approach, kind of "just get it done."

And the record shows that they have made some giant strides over the years and earned a seat at the table for major decisions regarding water in the state.

Speaking of "no-nonsense," I hadn't had two sips of my Duckhorn merlot before I was asked, "Did you kill all the fish you caught 50 years ago?"

I had to say yes, I took them home and froze them — and proclaimed that I don't do that anymore.

Catch and release of wild, native fish is one of Cal Trout's major thrusts, and the ongoing program has been very successful to date.

You don't have to be a fisherperson to want to get involved in Cal Trout's activities. They will define our excellence of life going forward — not just the quality of the catch.

Here's their mission statement — "Cal Trout's mission is to protect and restore wild trout and steelhead waters throughout California."

That means clean, cold water for people as well as fish. I'm signing on after I finish this column. You can, too, at [www.cal-trout.org](http://www.cal-trout.org).

It will only cost you a

Jackson, a Hamilton and a Lincoln to become a member. That's a great \$35 smackers investment in our future.

I think I'll get one for my grandson Jack's Christmas stocking — kind of a "pay it forward" gift, to try to repay a few of those bass I killed years ago.

Except for some of our politicians like Mike Thompson and Pat Wiggins, most of the others have ignored our need for and call for protection of our outdoor heritage.

Organizations like Cal Trout can help to organize our voices as we ask for political support.

## Cold Weather Gear?

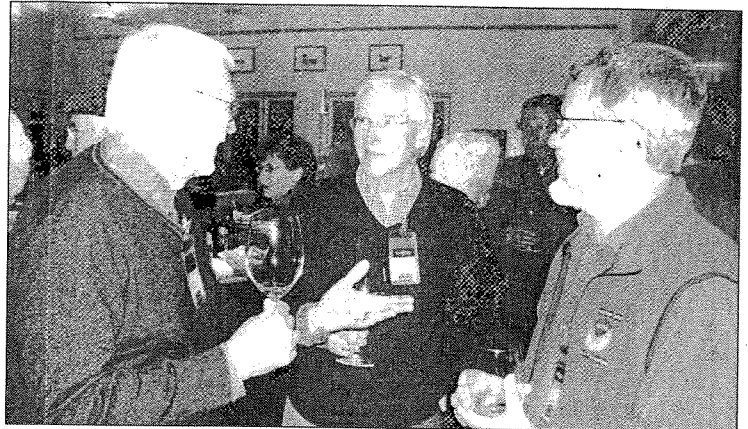
For fishing? I've already had a couple of calls from non-hunters and skiers asking for more information on proper cold-weather dress for wintertime Clear Lake bass angling.

I call this my "Smith River Ensemble" — it's my warmest get-up. Start with poly undershirt and tights (I'm a sight!). Then add flannel-lined pants, a fishing shirt, polartech or woolen pull-over, quilted jacket or vest, then a rain-proof parka plus warm gloves. Rainproof over-pants, Smart Wool socks and waterproof shoes finish you off.

Top it off with a waterproof hat with ear flaps, sunglasses and face mask or neck gaiter for the whole deal.

Chris Stetson can probably outfit you to the nines right at Sportago on Adams Street. You may look like Puff the Magic Doughboy — but you'll be warm out there.

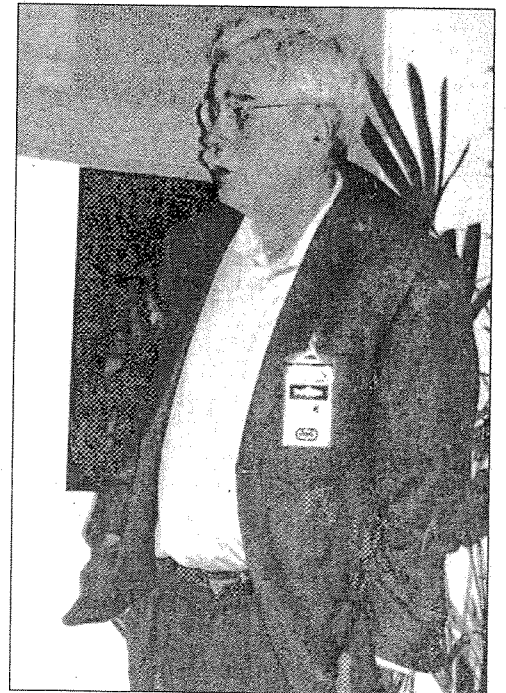
Be cool for your kids. Sure you could bring hot soup in the thermos. Surprise them instead. Before



Photos courtesy of Bill Ryan

Above, left to right: Cal Trout members Alan Vidinsky of San Francisco, St. Helena Thomas Allen and Kit Crump of Santa Rosa discuss the issues.

Right: Dr. Peter Moyle, a UC Davis professor and Associate Director of the Center for Watershed Sciences, addresses the Cal Trout gathering at Duckhorn.



you go, fill your wide mouth thermos with boiling water and drop in some hot dogs.

Lather up the rolls — and have a hot lunch on the boat at noon. No fuss, no muss.

Buckie just came in from his library to nominate a St. Helena woman for our new heroine.

Join us in a round of applause for Mary Sproat. In her Nov. 1 letter to the Chron, "Give The Desert Back," she chided the pols for propping up farmers in the Central Valley by "giving them unlimited water from Northern California."

Her best lines were, "I am not prepared to give up salmon in order to have tomatoes or lettuce. I can

grow those in a planter box. It's time to rethink the Central Valley."

Thanks, Mary.

As always, we're yours 24/7 at [acorn\\_3@comcast.net](mailto:acorn_3@comcast.net).

Mary, coffee on me at the Roastery when you have time.

Just say when. (I'm not sure Buckie will make it.) Go Fish!

# Winter fishing is hot: bass on bite at Clear Lake

By Bill Ryan

SPECIAL TO THE STAR

Here's a look at the latest local angling action:

## Clear Lake

As promised, here's a recap of our Nov. 18 bass trip with pro guide Bob Myskey (349-4460). Stan Press and I boated and released 34 large mouth bass on live jumbo minnows in six hours. Stan was the numbers king, right from the start. But I caught the two biggest bass, both at 6.5 pounds.

The magic depth is 28 feet. Find some rocks to go with that depth and you'll be on the fish.

We had the lake to ourselves — never had to veer off from a good spot because other boats were there.

Mighty cold, all day. Don't go under-jacketed.

Layer up.

I'm keeping a cumulative winter count of bass we catch. So far in two "winter" trips, my partners and I have boated 61 bass.

Our target number is the 2008 winter total.

In five winter trips last year from November to March, we boated 165. So, we only need to average 34 in the next three outings to equal the '08 catch.

I'm betting that we will beat it because the bigger numbers are yet to come.

Next up is Dec. 14, which takes advantage of a positive moon phase. Stay tuned.

## Napa River

We had a little bit of rain a week ago, but no problem for the striper bite.

So, keep plugging away while you can. It has been

the best striper season for the Napa River that I can recall in over 30 years here.

As the season wanes, you'll need to be more precise in your choice of fishing spots. If you are new to this, don't be afraid to get advice.

Tackle shops like Sweeney's Sports (255-5544) hear all the news — both good and bad. So, stop in before you head out for insider information and advice on the latest lures/techniques that will help you succeed.

Once again, the Napa Valley Fly Fishers took the lead in the annual Putah Creek Cleanup Day on Sunday. This is hard, unsung work — but worth every callous.

Year after year, truckloads of junk are gathered to make this little stream

better. I'll give you a heads up for 2010 so you can join the fun.

A streamside barbecue follows the hard work.

## Bodega Bay

Wil's Bait & Tackle (875-2323) told me, "Crab fishing is good this year ... we're the only shop doing two-hour crab-only trips this year at \$55 per person."

With reports of giant squid off shore, Wil's will be booking some squid/crab combo trips soon. Price on the six-pack boats is \$170 each and includes the use of a squid rod and jig.

Even this early in the crab season, people have been stealing crabs from Wil's traps.

Just from what I know of the old salts who fish for a living, it would be bad news to be caught stealing

by one of them.

## Around the Bay and Delta

There is a lament that the expected bigger stripers haven't showed up yet.

Delta pros insist that some drenching rains will put everything right in a hurry.

There are regular reports of plenty of sturgeon rolling on the surface but not committed yet. That's good news for the season — we know they are here.

I'm not enthusiastic about shark fishing in the bay, but lots of others are.

The six-pack Sole-man out of S.F. put two clients on seven leopard sharks to 20 pounds and three 7-gills around 10 pounds each.

This six-pack boat fishes for all of the sport fish species, not just sharks.

Book a trip at [www.sole-manfishing.com](http://www.sole-manfishing.com) or at (510)

703-4148.

In a six-pack, it takes a half dozen to book the whole boat. It's just like your own private rig. Nice holiday gift idea.

(Thanks to Brian Hoffman at the SF Chronicle for this information.)

## North Coast Rivers

Brian also said that the Smith River at Crescent City has a lot of salmon in it.

Guide Harvey Young reported fish caught up to 30 pounds with most in the 20-pound range. Sardine-wrapped Kwikfish with some chartreuse markings seem to be the hot lure.

Further north, expectations are high for good salmon fishing in Oregon's Chetco and Elk rivers.

Contact Harvey Young in Brookings, Ore. at (541) 469-2422.