

CALIFORNIA 

# FREEMASON

Summer 2007

Exploring Masonry  
and the  
**Outdoors**

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# CALIFORNIA MASONIC FOUNDATION

**THE PILLAR OF SUPPORT FOR LEADERSHIP,  
EDUCATION, AND COMMUNITY AWARENESS**

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Phone: 800/831-8170 or  
415/776-7000;  
fax: 415/776-7170;  
e-mail: [editor@freemason.org](mailto:editor@freemason.org).



## 10 feature story

Freemasons throughout history note the profound similarities between the deeper understanding they derive from their experiences in nature and Masonic teachings. What do they share that draw Masons to both? This article explores the hidden connection between fly fishing and Masonry.

## FOR MORE ARTICLES OF INTEREST, CHECK OUT CALIFORNIA FREEMASON ONLINE AT [WWW.FREEMASON.ORG](http://WWW.FREEMASON.ORG)



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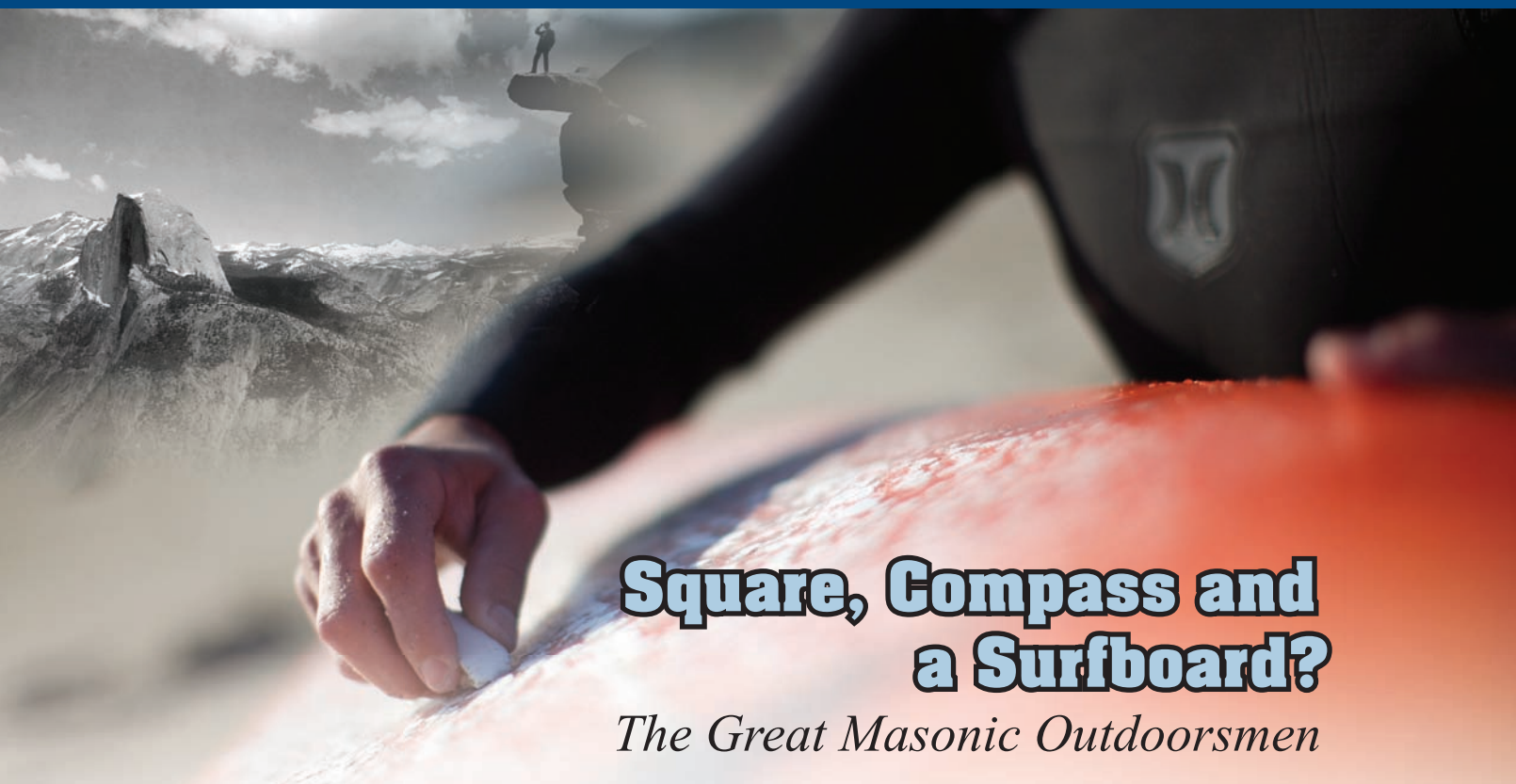
For hundreds of years Freemasons have been recognized as some of the world's most accomplished outdoorsmen. Discover famous outdoorsmen who are also members of the Craft.



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Learn about new lodge ambassador posts that will facilitate communication between members and the Grade Lodge, Masonic Homes and the Foundation.





# Square, Compass and a Surfboard?

## *The Great Masonic Outdoorsmen*

**T**his issue of our award-winning magazine highlights Masonry and the great outdoors, from one of our Wardens on the cover, to fly fishing and the acknowledgment of some of those who are chronicled in history for their contribution as frontiersmen, naturalists and conservationists.

Now I must admit to you that I'm a product of an urban upbringing, and my contribution to the perspective of outdoor living is extremely limited. Growing up in Los Angeles it was hard to understand the principles of fly fishing when the only river, the Los Angeles River, was a large concrete channel running from the San Gabriel Mountain basin to the ocean. I can assure you that fishing was very unproductive in this environment. I struggled to see the value of it all when I could go to the market just down the street and buy the fish without having to put on rubbers that extended to my chest, wading out into freezing water and then trying to keep the line from becoming a tangled web. But as I grew older and had the opportunity to observe and experience the beauty, the power and the serenity of nature's best, I came to marvel at man's drive to be a part of it.

In Masonry, we are asked to take time to experience the great hand of our creator, to contemplate the

exactness of his creation and to always strive through our actions to make ourselves, our families and our communities better. Today, we have access to the world and even the universe. It must have been awe inspiring for John Muir and his expedition to see and experience the unspoiled beauty of our lands. What a thrill it is for David Taylor to ride out the fury of the waves and to know and respect the power of the sea.

Freemasonry, like the world we live in, has its endless bounties and we as leaders of our Craft can only experience its power if we are its outdoorsmen. Carrying the principles and virtues of our Craft into our communities can be as beautiful as our purple mountains or our fruited plains and as powerful as the perfect wave.

Applied Freemasonry is sharing our beauty with all that we can touch. The future of California Freemasonry hinges on our ability to live its virtues and share its teachings. Let our legacy be that we were "The great Masonic outdoorsmen." ✦

**Larry L. Adamson**  
Senior Grand Warden



# The Lowest Vales

by Adam Kendall

## A TENNESSEE LODGE CONTINUES THE TRADITION OF OUTDOOR DEGREES

*In the Entered Apprentice Degree Lecture, candidates are informed that Masons "met on the highest hills and the lowest vales." This may sound as if it is part of a bygone era of Freemasonry when men met in nature more often than lodges to confer degrees. Yet there are a few lodges that still confer degrees in the outdoors. One such lodge is Union Lodge No. 38 in Kingston, Tennessee.*



The lodge began giving rituals inside Eblen's cave on a nearby ranch in 1972. According to the lodge's Web site, the goal of the cave ritual was to "institute an activity that would promote more interest in Masonry." The idea was hatched by Brother Leon A. Meade, master, and Secretary Henry Wattenbarger. John Arp, grand master, and several other members helped to bring it to life. The popular cave ritual is still held today in the small amphitheater size cave that can hold 300 people.

The novelty of meeting in the outdoors only adds to the enjoyment of the fellowship

between brothers surrounding the ceremony, according to members who have experienced the cave rituals. Tom Boduch of the Grand Lodge of F. & A.M. of Tennessee describes the degree as "one of the great events of the year" with several lodges from the surrounding states taking part. Pleasanton Lodge No. 321 in California has participated in the Tennessee cave degree many times.

Eblen's limestone cave is located approximately 30 ft. below the surface and no matter what the temperature is outside during the hot Southern summer or cold winters the cave is always a cool fifty degrees Fahrenheit. The main chamber where the lodge meets is about 2,000 square feet and has a 30 foot arched ceiling. The oblong chamber is fittingly located east to west.

According to the lodge, the entire event usually starts with an Entered Apprentice of Fellow Craft degree on Friday, followed by the cave degree that is limited to the Master Mason degree on Saturday. The cave ritual is followed by another popular outdoor event: a barbeque.

For more information, please consult Union Lodge No. 38's website:

<http://www.gmwp.org> ✨

in the

Dave Taylor, senior warden of Huntington Beach No. 380, has been surfing for more than half of his life.





# ZONE

## Freemasons who ride the waves

**F**or hundreds of years Freemasons have been recognized as some of the world's most accomplished outdoorsmen. From Lewis and Clark who discovered the West to President Theodore Roosevelt who dedicated much of his political life to ensuring its protection. What is it about Freemasonry and Mother Nature that draws Masons to both? Is it just what is taught in the ritual, or was the ritual written because of some deeper connection?

Today, many Freemasons who live along California's coast have found the same connection between the Craft and surfing. Kimball "Kim" Dean Dodds of Coronado No. 441, a lifelong surfer who was raised in 2005, says growing up near the ocean instilled an early appreciation of the power and awe of Mother Nature. He started surfing on the end of his dad's longboard when he was only five years old and today at 50 the sport is still an integral part of his life.

Kim says that surfing and Freemasonry have a similar draw: an appreciation for our own place in the universe. "When you're in the water surfing, you're so close to Mother Nature. It's a humbling feeling experienced by all outdoorsmen who have a one-to-one experience with nature.

"The values of Freemasonry reflect that close feeling to Mother Nature and something greater than you," he continues. "Both surfing and Freemasonry encourage you to draw on experiences and values that are greater than ourselves, and from this to make ourselves better and to be more appreciative of our place in the world."

Dave Taylor, senior warden of Huntington Beach No. 380, has been surfing for more than half of his life. Now 34, he joined the lodge in 2000 to find "deeper spiritual knowledge." He says many of the same things that draw him into the ocean day after day drew him to join the Craft.

////////////////////////////////////  
"Both require commitment,  
practice and courage,  
and get you to tap into  
something deeper,"  
////////////////////////////////////

"Both require commitment, practice and courage, and get you to tap into something deeper," he says. "In surfing, you experience something that people call 'the zone,' which is when you are 100 percent focused on what you are doing; riding a wave, getting a barrel. You are in the moment, and nothing else enters your mind. I experience the same thing when I'm giving a lecture or obligation at the lodge."

Like Kim, Dave says that both Freemasonry and surfing "remind you of deeper elements in the universe." For practitioners, Freemasonry and surfing encourage them to take an expansive view, which drives them to build a better life for themselves and their communities.

"They both encourage you to connect with God, Mother Nature, and what life is all about," says Kim. ✨





# THE SPRINGS

by John L. Cooper III

If you have ever stood on the edge of a mountain stream as it tumbles down to the valley below, you will appreciate the power that seems to be in the rushing water. As a hiker I have often thus stood and admired the works of our Great Creator as exhibited in the mighty works of nature. Water gathers from many springs and rivulets as it comes down the mountainside, becoming a part of the mountain stream that becomes, in turn, a rushing river. As it twists and turns on its way to the valley floor, it gains in power,

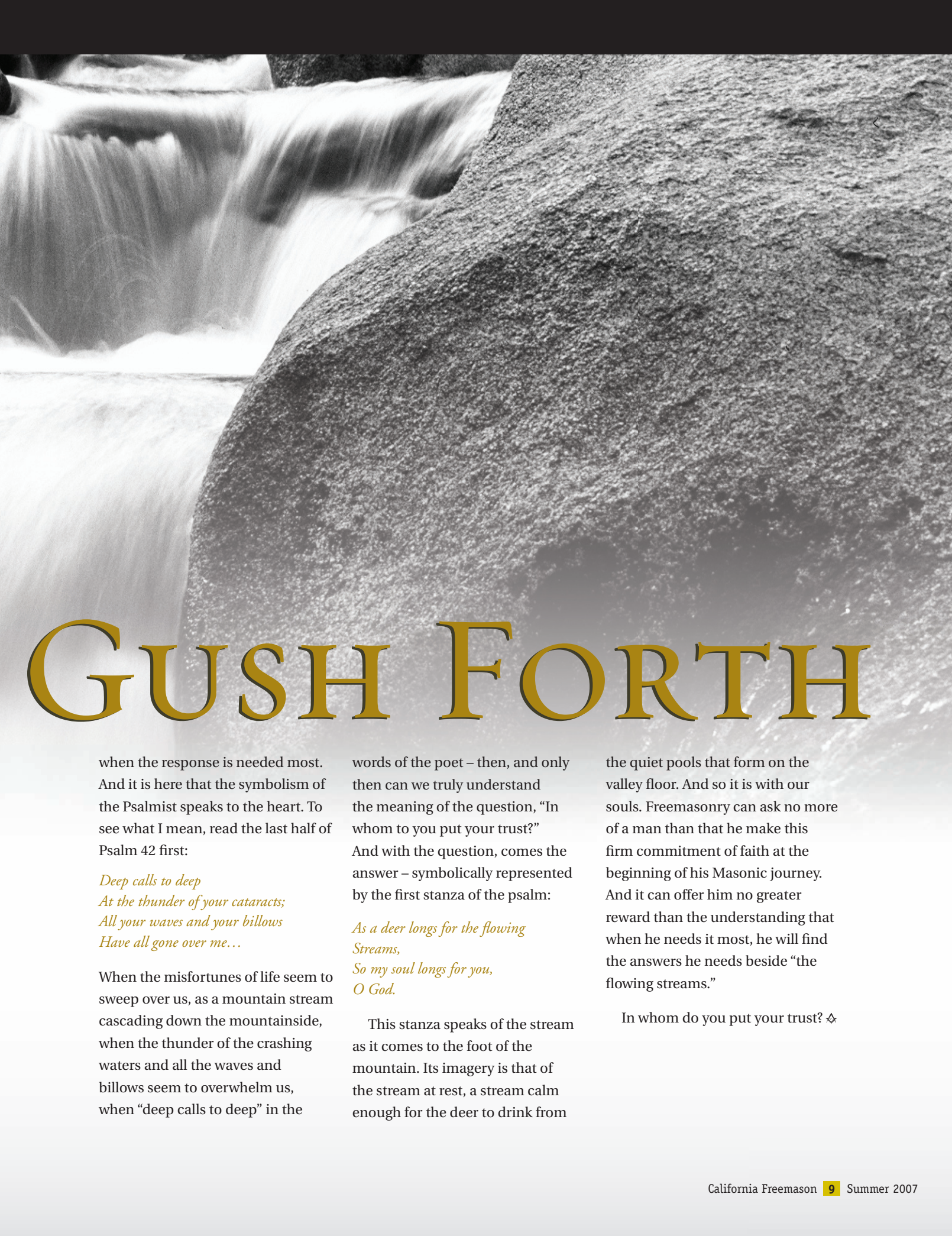
and indeed in beauty. Its splashing waters tumble over, under, and around the rocks in the riverbed as it makes its way to the placid and calm lake at the foot of the mountain. When last I stood on the verge of such a stream, the words of Psalm 42 came to mind:

*As a deer longs for the flowing  
Streams,  
So my soul longs for you,  
O God.*

*Deep calls to deep  
At the thunder of your cataracts;  
All your waves and your billows  
Have all gone over me...*

When you and I first became Masons we were asked a very important question: "In whom do you put your trust?" Such a simple question, but what a profound meaning in that question. In those times in life when things seem to go well, it is easy to respond, "In God! My trust is in God!" And, of course, it is – or you and I would not have gone any further in Masonry. But when troubles assail us, when life does not go as we would have planned, when adversity afflicts us, and our trust in God seems sorely tried, it is harder to respond, "In God! My trust is in God!" But that is





# GUSH FORTH

when the response is needed most. And it is here that the symbolism of the Psalmist speaks to the heart. To see what I mean, read the last half of Psalm 42 first:

*Deep calls to deep  
At the thunder of your cataracts;  
All your waves and your billows  
Have all gone over me...*

When the misfortunes of life seem to sweep over us, as a mountain stream cascading down the mountainside, when the thunder of the crashing waters and all the waves and billows seem to overwhelm us, when “deep calls to deep” in the

words of the poet – then, and only then can we truly understand the meaning of the question, “In whom to you put your trust?” And with the question, comes the answer – symbolically represented by the first stanza of the psalm:

*As a deer longs for the flowing  
Streams,  
So my soul longs for you,  
O God.*

This stanza speaks of the stream as it comes to the foot of the mountain. Its imagery is that of the stream at rest, a stream calm enough for the deer to drink from

the quiet pools that form on the valley floor. And so it is with our souls. Freemasonry can ask no more of a man than that he make this firm commitment of faith at the beginning of his Masonic journey. And it can offer him no greater reward than the understanding that when he needs it most, he will find the answers he needs beside “the flowing streams.”

In whom do you put your trust? ✧



# THE ANGLER'S







# CRAFT

by Richard Berman

## *The hidden connection between fly fishing and Masonry*

Perhaps no image of the outdoorsman is more iconic than that of the lone fisherman casting his line against the backdrop of a lake or river. But as the old angler's adage advises, there's more to fishing than just catching a fish, and it's unlikely that the fly-fisherman standing waist-deep in cold water with a long rod in his hand for days on end is there because he has a craving for fresh trout or salmon. In all likelihood, he's experiencing a profound spiritual connection with nature - and with himself.



# IN MANY WAYS, FLY FISHING AND MASONRY ARE STRIKINGLY SIMILAR. BOTH INVOLVE THE BROTHERHOOD OF A GROUP OF LIKE-MINDED SOJOURNERS, BUT AT THEIR CORE BOTH ARE REALLY ABOUT THE INDIVIDUAL'S RELATIONSHIP — EVEN SPIRITUAL RELATIONSHIP — WITH HIS ENVIRONMENT



Fly fishing - a specialized art that involves the use of long flexible rods and artificial flies to catch certain species of fish - is best known for its esoteric trappings. Devotees of the sport are a committed lot, and they can spend hours looking at handmade rods discussing the design qualities, performance and history, but these traits of the fisherman's tools are a minute part of the whole experience of fly fishing. It's not uncommon to hear fly

fishers raptly describing their trips with words such as "spiritual" or "transcendent" - even if they don't catch a single fish.

In many ways, fly fishing and Masonry are strikingly similar. Both involve the brotherhood of a group of like-minded sojourners, but at their core both are really about the individual's relationship - even spiritual relationship - with his environment. Not surprisingly, the history of fly fishing is inextricably bound to Freemasonry, and many of the most significant figures in the sport were members of the Craft.

The earliest reference to fly fishing dates to the time of Christ, although the first detailed account of the practice was recorded by the Roman writer Claudius Aelianus two centuries later. For more than 1000 years, however, little seems to have been written on the subject until the sport began to achieve popularity in the British Isles. The best known book of the period - and indeed in the history of the English language - was Izaak Walton's *Compleat Angler*, which


was first published in 1653. By the 1800s fly fishing has become firmly entrenched in England and Scotland and had also made its way to the former British colonies in North America. It was here in the United States that the craft of building fly-fishing rods became a highly specialized art.

It is impossible to discuss the history of fly fishing without underscoring the importance of one man: Hiram Leonard. Leonard was a Maine-born, Pennsylvania-raised Freemason who had worked as a taxidermist and fur trader before discovering his true calling. He began manufacturing his own fly-fishing rods in the 1860s, and by the early 1870s had become an iconic figure in the field. His most important innovation was perfecting the so-called "six strip" rod, which featured six pieces of perfectly cut bamboo spliced together into a hexagonal shape to make an extraordinarily strong, flexible tool. A century after Leonard's death in 1907, this design is still considered to be the gold standard for fly-fishing rods.









"I BELIEVE THE BAMBOO FLY ROD IS  
THE NOBLEST TRIBUTE TO THE SPORT  
OF FISHING. AS A WORK OF ART IT IS  
AN OBJECT OF BEAUTY..."



In professional sports it is common to hear talk of a “coaching tree” that describes how a coach not only achieved greatness on his own, but launched the careers of his assistants, who then launched the careers of their staff members. Former San Francisco 49ers coach Bill Walsh is legendary not only for the success of his own teams, but also because more than 20 of his assistants (and his assistants’ assistants) have gone on to become head coaches in the NFL. In fly fishing, just about every great rod maker can trace his expertise back to Hiram Leonard, and while the names of fly-fishing luminaries might not be household names to non-anglers, the roster of Leonard’s assistants and those who learned from them is a veritable Who’s Who of fishing, and includes Edwin Garrison, Sam Carlson, Lew Stoner, Claude Kreider, Lyle Dickerson, and others. In addition to being great rod makers, all of these men had something else in common: Freemasonry.

Interestingly enough, despite the number of rod builders who trace their lineage back to Leonard, the master himself was incredibly secretive about his work. Only he and his trusted nephew Rube Leonard were ever allowed to see his beveling machine (which Leonard felt gave him his advantage over other builders), and legend has it that he went to his grave without ever revealing all of his secrets.

Erik Peterson, PM, Secretary

of Academia Lodge no. 847 in Oakland and Manager of Planned Giving for the Grand Lodge of California, builds bamboo rods at his shop in Lafayette. He says that “many rod builders are extremely secretive about their processes and techniques, and [rod maker] Per Brandon strongly considered executing legal documents that would protect intellectual and proprietary knowledge that he developed with respect to his tapers and hollow cutting techniques.”

One of the most important fly-fishing figures in the post-Leonard era was Lyle Dickerson, a Michigan native who started making rods just prior to WWI and kicked off his professional career in earnest in the 1930s. In 1986 Concord-based rod maker (and fellow Mason) Jim Schaaf purchased Dickerson’s shop and incorporated the latter’s designs, philosophies and techniques into his own work. “I truly believe that this man entered the world of rod making with the skill, talent, and vision to craft rods destined to become legacies,” Schaaf has said.

It’s hardly a surprise that many prominent figures in the history of rod building are Masons. For starters, many of the factors that attract men to the Craft also attract them to the esoteric world of painstakingly creating flexible bamboo rods by hand. It takes a unique personality to participate in Masonic ritual and to devote one’s self to memorizing and studying the traditions of

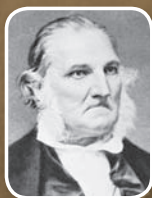
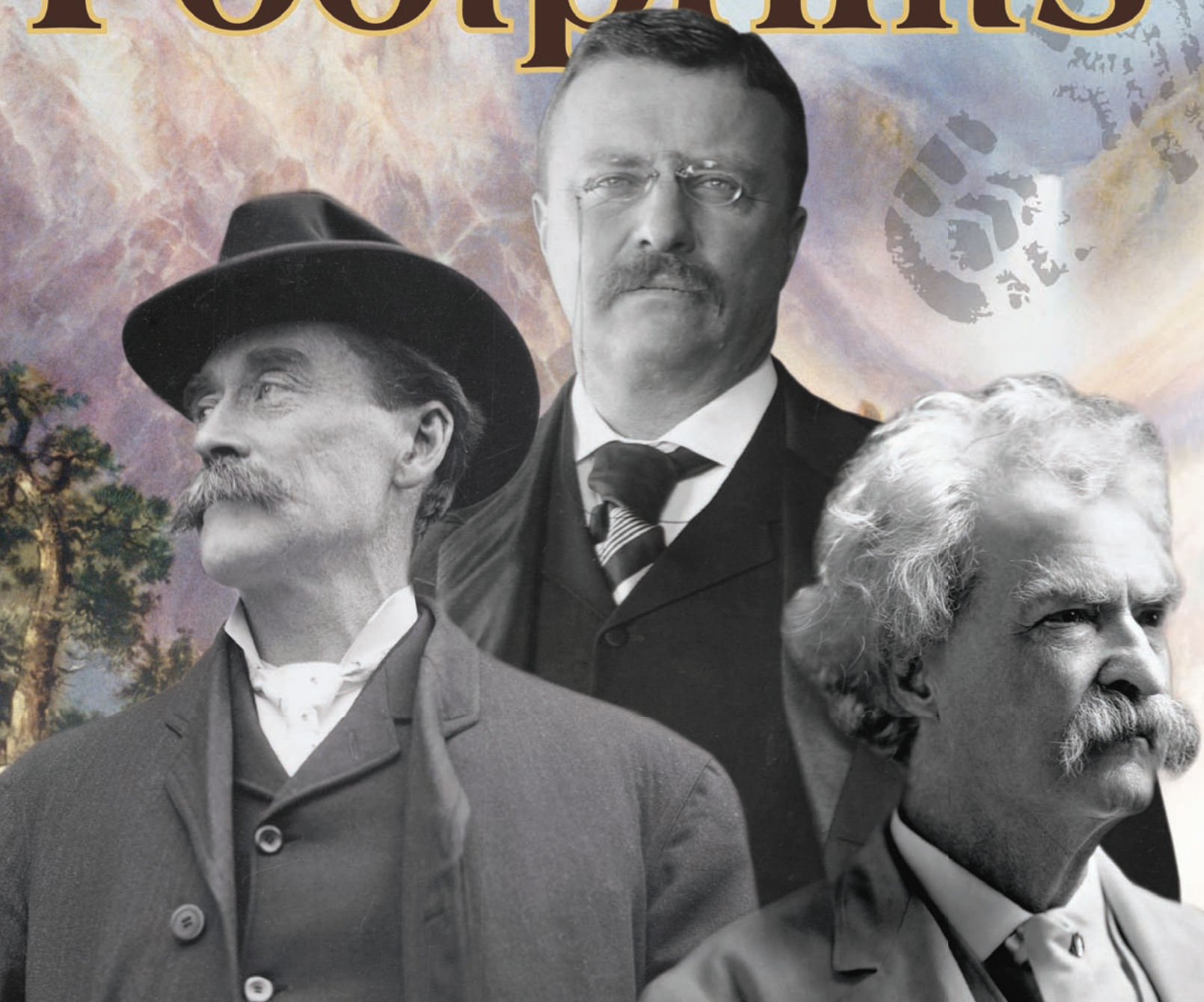


Freemasonry, and building fly-fishing rods also requires the same level of dedication and focus. The art of rod building is steeped in tradition and mystery in much the same way that the Craft is built around ceremonies to which non-Masons aren’t privy. And just as master rod builders don’t reveal their secrets to other rod builders, Masons are careful to guard the particular practices unique to their degree, even from other Masons who may not yet have attained their level within the Craft.

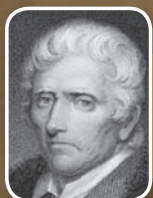
Jim Schaaf once opined that “I believe the bamboo fly rod is the noblest tribute to the sport of fishing. As a work of art it is an object of beauty. As a tool its purpose is to catch fish. Yet, as an instrument that unites the skills of man with the materials of nature, it has a higher calling.” In many ways, this is also the essence of being a Mason. ✧



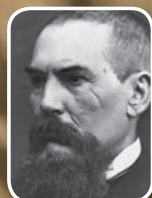
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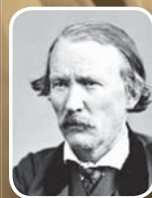
John  
James  
Audubon



Daniel  
Boone



Sir  
Richard  
Burton



Kit  
Carson



## Notable Masonic Outdoorsmen

# ON THE TRAIL

### Freemasonry's illustrious outdoorsmen

Freemasons, both past and present, note the profound similarities between the deeper understanding they derive from their experiences in nature and Masonic teachings. The allure of the outdoors and discovery of new wonders isn't unique to any one group of people, but a number of illustrious explorers, frontiersmen and outdoorsmen throughout history have been Freemasons.

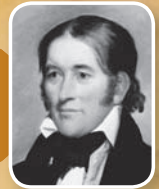
American history is full of examples, from Merriwether Lewis to Peter Lassen, Kit Carson to Robert Peary, Theodore Roosevelt to Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin. Freemasons have been responsible for both the exploration and preservation of natural resources across the country and beyond. They have also chronicled the natural beauty of the landscape, as John James Audubon, the Audubon Society's namesake, did in his celebrated drawings of American birds and their environs and as Mark Twain did in his writings of the lushly mysterious Mississippi.

Mark Twain's writings on both Freemasonry and nature seem to capture the draw of both the Craft and nature. A member of the Polar Star Lodge No. 79 in Missouri, Twain once wrote of Freemasonry what could have been written about man's experience in nature, that it is "the grip and the word that lift a man up and make him glad to be alive."

Conversely, in "Life On The Mississippi," he wrote of the river what he could have been said about the Craft: "The face of the water, in time, became a wonderful book — a book that was a dead language to the uneducated passenger, but which told its mind to me without reserve, delivering its most cherished secrets as clearly as if it uttered them with a voice. And it was not a book to be read once and thrown aside, for it had a new story to tell every day." ❖



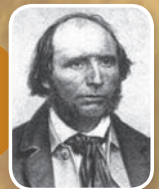
Theodore Roosevelt



David "Davy" Crockett



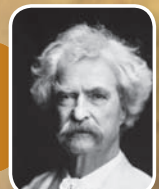
Matthew Hensen



Peter Lassen



Merriwether Lewis



Mark Twain



William Clark



William "Buffalo Bill" Cody



Robert Peary



# Book Reviews

## The Wild Muir: Twenty-Two of John Muir's Greatest Adventures

Paperback, 211pp.  
1994, Yosemite Association  
ISBN-10: 0939666758  
ISBN-13: 978-0939666751

Reviewed by Adam G. Kendall

While not known to be a Freemason, John Muir (1838-1914) certainly made history with one, namely Brother and President Theodore Roosevelt. Muir influenced Roosevelt to create the National Park System, other major conservation programs and the Yosemite National Park. Originally from East Lothian, Scotland, Muir is among California's, and America's, most famous naturalists and conservationists. Still immensely popular today, "The Wild Muir: Twenty-Two of John Muir's Greatest Adventures" is a collection of some of the most exciting stories lived and written by Muir, compiled by Lee Stetson, an actor who is known in Yosemite for his dramatic depiction of Muir.

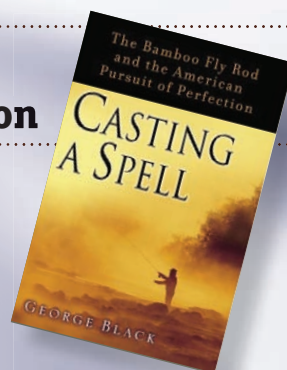


## Casting a Spell: The Bamboo Fly Rod and the American Pursuit of Perfection

244 pages  
Published by Random House  
New York (2006)  
ISBN: 1-4000-6396-5

Reviewed by Erik E. Peterson

In "Casting a Spell: The Bamboo Fly Rod and the American Pursuit of Perfection" author George Black details the little known history of the Craft of the bamboo fly rod builder. Beginning with the father of American rod building, Brother Hiram Leonard, Black tells the story of the men behind a great American craft. In covering 150 years of American fly rod craftsmanship and innovation, the author occasionally refers to Freemasonry, offers hints of his political leanings, and makes commentary on changes in the American social and economic structure. While "Casting a Spell" contains no stories of actual angling, Black offers a fascinating and unexpectedly intimate view into the lives of men who have poured their souls into their craft.





# New Lodge Ambassador Posts To Facilitate Communication

By Mike Neben

**W**hen Grand Master Mel Stein asked me to chair the Fraternal Support Services Committee this year I was both pleased and challenged. I am extremely proud to be part of our great fraternity in California. Every day, I see my brothers, my friends live out their Masonic obligations: through their involvement in the life and management of their lodge, by the care they take of their brothers and brothers' widows and through their contributions to their communities.

The Grand Lodge, the Masonic Homes and the Foundation are organizations that exist for the sole purpose of furthering the work of our fraternity. These organizations accomplish our collective goals only to the extent that they reflect and meet the needs of our membership. That's why communication is so important. Our grand lodge entities must hear from individual members and individual members must know about the work being carried out on their behalf through the grand lodge entities.

To this end, the Fraternal Support Services Committee (FSSC) has developed the role of "lodge ambassador" to help facilitate communications. The lodge ambassador is the designated communications officer in the lodge.

## WHAT IS A LODGE AMBASSADOR?

The lodge ambassadors help us achieve our goals by acting as information officers for their



lodes, individual members and widows. This includes:

- Understanding the programs and services available from the Masonic Homes, Masonic Outreach Services, the Masonic Foundation and Grand Lodge for the benefit of their members and widows in need;

- Learning about the supportive services available to lodges and their officers for effective functioning of the lodge;

- Awakening the awareness and commitment to the philanthropic goals of our organization; and,

- Listening and responding to the emerging needs of the lodge, membership and widows, watching for trends, and communicating those issues to the Fraternal Support Services Committee.

We will be sending monthly e-mails to the Lodge Ambassadors updating them on important developments and ongoing education. We expect the lodge ambassadors to employ a variety of methods to disseminate this information.


Brethren, think of the possibilities if all members of our fraternity were actively engaged in the life of their lodge and their brethren! I believe the work of the lodge ambassadors will help make this a reality. I want to extend my sincere appreciation to all those members who have taken on this important role .

If you have any questions, please contact **communications@mhcuc.org** or **(888) 466-3642**. ✨



## Acacia Creek Communities

# Embrace



**W**e hope you've already become familiar with the Acacia Creek Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs), but in case you haven't, here's a quick overview: The Masonic Homes of California is developing two new senior living communities that will provide members of our Fraternal Family a choice of beautiful independent-living apartment and cottage homes, a wealth of fine services and amenities, and a full continuum of health care including assisted living, memory care, and access to skilled nursing care.



# Nature

The two campuses are being developed on the sites of the existing homes in Union City and Covina. The goal at both campuses is to encourage and support what health experts today call “successful aging.” That means offering delicious, healthy menu selections; opportunities for social interaction; an array of fitness programs; health and wellness programs; and much more. In other words, Acacia Creek Masonic senior living is designed to offer residents everything they need to stay happy, healthy and actively engaged in life.

In designing the new Acacia Creek communities, the Board of Directors worked closely with the architects to take advantage of the incredible outdoor space at each site. With 33 acres at Covina and 305 acres at Union City to work with, there were plenty of ways to incorporate the beauty and bounty of Mother Nature into each community’s design.

Acacia Creek at Covina features walking paths that meander gracefully throughout the entire campus. Residents can enjoy

the pathways while taking a casual stroll to enjoy the beauty of their surroundings or while participating in a community walking program that helps them maintain their health. The same paths will take residents from their apartment or cottage to the beautiful formal dining room, community lounge, fitness center, and other campus amenities.

Acacia Creek at Union City, sitting on an expansive 305 acres, will also provide interconnecting pathways to enjoy. Residents will be able to stroll along outdoors while enjoying the fresh Bay breezes, beautiful views of hillsides and meadows, and perhaps even glimpses of the deer that graze there regularly. Benches will be interspersed throughout the pathways so neighbors can stop for a friendly chat.

No matter which campus the members of our Fraternal Family choose, they will be sure to enjoy nature’s handiwork in the singing of the birds, the soft breezes rustling the trees, and the calming outdoor moments that refresh the soul.

## TO LEARN MORE ABOUT ACACIA CREEK

Both Acacia Creek Masonic Senior Living Communities will offer a wealth of amenities, including:

- **Fine Dining**
- **Continental Breakfast Service**
- **Luncheon Buffets**
- **Restaurant-style meals served in a beautiful Dining Room**
- **Delicious Sunday Brunch followed by a light supper**
- **Heart-healthy, vegetarian, and low/no sugar menu selections**
- **Private Dining Rooms and Catering Services**
- **Community Lounge**
- **Fitness Center**
- **Indoor Pool and Spa**
- **Technology/Computer Center**
- **Activity/Meeting Rooms**
- **Hobby Studios**
- **Library**
- **Barber/Beauty Shop**
- **Scheduled Transportation**

**And more...**

There is still time for California Master Masons, and their wives, widows, and mothers to become Founders. By calling our marketing office today, you can learn how retirement living at Acacia Creek can benefit you and your loved ones. ✧

*All of us at Masonic Homes of California are very excited about the new Acacia Creek communities and the opportunity to broaden our services to our Fraternal Family. We hope you take the time to visit [www.acaciacreek.org](http://www.acaciacreek.org) and learn more about the wonderful retirement options now available.*



# NEWS YOU CAN USE

## FRATERNAL SUPPORT SERVICES ▶

**communications@mhccuc.org, (888) 466-3642**

## MASONIC HOMES WEB SITE ▶

Visit **www.masonichome.org** to read about the latest developments -concerning the Homes, initiate an application, download recent mailings and learn all about the programs and services we provide.

## MASONIC OUTREACH SERVICES (MOS) ▶

We know that many of our constituents prefer to live out their lives in their own homes or home communities. Yet many need help coping with the challenges and issues associated with aging. In response, the Masonic Homes of California have expanded the Masonic Outreach Services (MOS) program to better meet the needs of our elderly constituents who wish to remain in their own home or community.

Our goal is to provide our fraternal family members access to the services and resources they need to stay healthy and safe in their own homes or in retirement facilities in their home communities.

Our services include:

- Ongoing financial and care support for those with demonstrated need
- Interim financial and care support for those on the waiting list for the Masonic Homes of California
- Information and referrals to community-based senior services providers across California

For more information on MOS, please contact us at: **(888)466-3642 or (888)HOME MHC or intake@mhccuc.org**

## ACACIA CREEK COMMUNITIES ▶

For those interested in learning more about the Acacia Creek communities, please visit our Web site at **www.acaciacreek.org** or contact our offices:

**For Acacia Creek at Covina:**

**Call (626) 646-2962 or (800) 801-9958**

**For Acacia Creek at Union City:**

**Call (510) 429-6479 or (888) 553-7555**

Or e-mail us at **seniorhousing@mhccuc.org**.

## CHILDRENS SERVICES ▶

For information on our children's program or to find out how to sponsor a child in need, please contact:

**Masonic Home for Children**

**1650 Old Badillo Street**

**Covina, CA 91722**


**(626) 251-2227**

**hrameriez@mhccov.org**

## CHILDRENS SERVICES ▶

The Masonic Homes have speakers available to come to your lodge or function to speak about the services available through the Homes and other issues related to aging. For more information, please contact the communications office at **(510) 675-1245 or communications@mhccuc.org**. We look forward to hearing from you!





Meet Erik E. Peterson  
Fly Fisherman  
Mason since 1995

## *Faces of Masonry*

**F**or Erik Peterson, an expert rod builder and fly fisherman, Freemasonry has given him a deeper connection to his dual passions. "I try to build rods that are implanted with the spirit of Freemasonry; to condition the mind of the angler much in the same way we use allegorical emblems to teach men about the Craft." He continues, "I strive to capture and instill a "spirit" or approach to fly fishing that elevates mindfulness of natural surroundings. Through my rods I hope to share something that will inspire anglers to approach their sport with confidence, tranquility and discipline." He served as Secretary of Academia Lodge in Oakland, as well as Master

twice for Acalanes-Fellowship Lodge No. 480 in Lafayette.

He became interested in Masonry after he learned about it from his grandfather, Alfred E. Peterson, Past Master, Foothill Lodge No. 564 in Oakland. "I met a lodge full of men who had the same qualities that I admired in him. It was very moving for me."

Erik, 38, lives in Lafayette with his children Andro and Linnea. He is the Manager of Planned Giving for the Masonic Grand Lodge of California.



Masons of California



# 158th Annual Communication

September 28-30, 2007

- Grand Lodge Formal Opening 1:00 p.m. Friday
- Saturday Breakfast for wives and families
- Grand Masters Banquet
- Public Ceremonies Sunday
- Hotel packages available

Go to [www.freemason.org](http://www.freemason.org) for more information and registration.

**San Francisco, California**

★ Grand Lodge F & AM of California  
1111 California Street  
San Francisco, California 94108

PERIODICALS  
POSTAGE

**PAID**

AT SAN FRANCISCO CA  
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MAILING OFFICES