

The Fisherman's Line

Fly Fishers of Davis



P.O. Box 525 • Davis, California 95316

Member of:

The Federation of Fly Fishermen
The Northern California Council of Fly Fishing Clubs

February 1979

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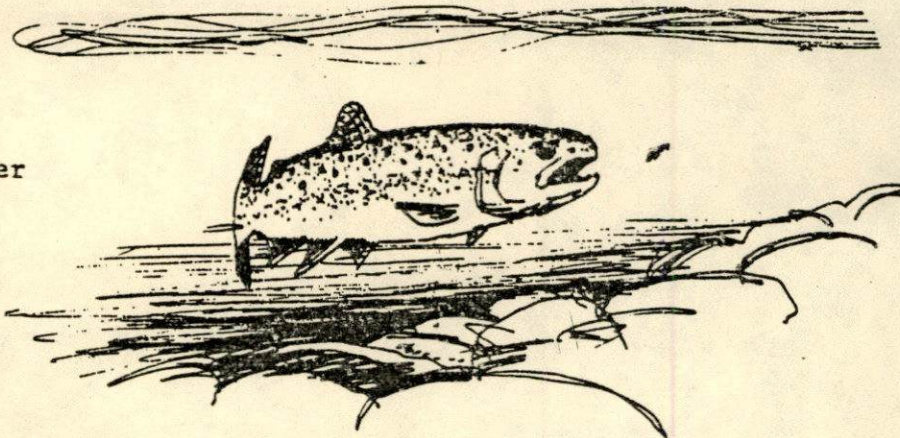


MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, February 27th
Time: 7:30 sharp!
Place: Veterans Memorial Center
14th & B Streets
Davis

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, March 20th
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Bill Dill's home
730 North Campus Way



PROGRAM REPORT - Fly Fishing Baja

Neil Bohannon of the Fly Hutch will present a slide show on his fly fishing experiences in Baja. Neil will have some practical information on where to go, how to get there, and the tackle you will need. If you know how hot and strong those ocean critters can be, then you'll surely enjoy Neil's stories. If you haven't had the pleasure of battling a Bonito, Yellowtail, or Mahi Mahi, then you'd better come see what you've been missing!

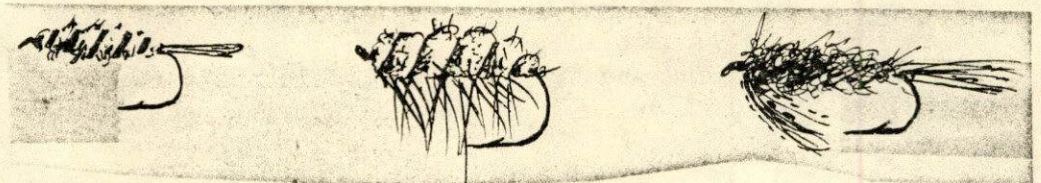
PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE(S)

First, I want to thank all who worked so hard to make our fifth Annual Dinner the success it was. Special thanks are due to Mike Monroe, Bill Keene and all the others who donated prizes for the raffle, which raised over \$250 for our Conservation Fund. Sixty nine members and guests attended the dinner and 29 memberships were renewed. We now have an "official" membership of 32 - let this be a reminder that 'tis time to get your 1979 dues in.

Second, in light of proposed Department of Fish & Game budget reductions, many FFDers may wish to become directly involved in the political process. As your President, I wrote our local elected representatives concerning this matter. My letter to Senator Jim Nielsen elicited a very positive response, "Rest assured that I will join with the Fly Fishers of Davis and many others in resisting unjustified raids on DFG funding and programs." The reply of Assemblyman Tom Hannigan, "If there is any spirit in Proposition 13, it is the challenge to public officials, elected and otherwise, to provide services within a tighter budget. As I consider the Fish and Game budget, I must keep this necessity to balance the need for service with fiscal restraints in mind," suggests to me that Mr. Hannigan requires further input from concerned constituents on this situation. Remember, the DFG is not funded from the General Fund and that license fees will be increased this year. I dislike using our newsletter as a political sounding board, but I feel the membership must be kept informed on this issue. Future things political will be in the capable hands of Conservation Chairman Bill Schnathorst.

Third, your officers and board will continue their efforts to maintain the quality of the club and to also arrange new and different outings and programs. Your help is solicited - if you have an idea or a place suitable for an outing (and don't worry - I cannot think of a single fishery resource that has been placed in dire jeopardy by an FFD outing) - get involved! At the very least, may I suggest informal club trips? After all, outings are the best way for us to function as a unit, to both get to know each other better and to learn new techniques. This is YOUR club - it is a good club - we can make it even better. Tight lines!

SARGE REYNOLDS



ANNUAL DINNER

Those of you who missed the annual dinner should make plans to attend next year - it was an enjoyable affair. The food was excellent and more than enough. Cal Kado and Sarge Reynolds really did a fine job of putting the slides together and giving us a very entertaining one hour of member slides interspersed with a little humor here and there.

It seemed to me that everyone won something at the raffle. Don Childress was the big winner (9½ Scott graphite rod), with Dot and Dick Asay finishing a close second. A special thanks to Mike Monroe of the Fly Hutch for the Scott graphite, to Bill Kiene of Fly Fishing Unlimited for the Wheatly fly box, John Patella of Davis Sport Shop, and to the many club members who donated prizes.

The angler calendars finally came in, so if any of you would like to be a winner, you can purchase them from me for \$4.00 ea, a savings of \$2. I have five for sale. They will be available at the February meeting.

STEVE OHRWALL

FROM THE EDITORS

From what I hear, fishing has been slow - especially with a group of FFDers at Pyramid. Bill Schnathorst skunked the lot of them with a 19" cut. Sarge got on a real hot streak and thought he got a definite hit! The best news I've heard was Ralph Brassfield landing several big steelies up on the Eel River at Fernbridge - "albait," his fly remains a secret.

If you're going to fish the coastal rivers, you might check these phone numbers for the latest info -

Smith (707) 487-7231

Eel/Van Duzen/Mattole - Eureka (707) 442-1832, Garberville (707) 923-2533

10 Mile/Garcia/Gualala/Noyo/Navarro/etc. (707) 882-2022, 964-5630, 884-3441

Russian (707) 869-2156

San Lorenzo (408) 423-6908



FFD MEMBERSHIP REPORT

At last count, the 1979 membership totalled thirty-three and still growing. Some of you may be foundering at the \$15 dues, but just look at it as recycling your Prop. 13 windfall.

Last year's membership was sixty-two, so the other twenty nine of you know what you've got to do. Remember the New Year resolutions you made: to fish more and catch more and release more, no matter what your wife or girlfriend said.

This year's programs, newsletter and activities promise to be better than ever. So don't forget your dues at the next meeting or mail 'em on in if you can't make it. Because if you don't pay up by release of the March newsletter, you'll have to come to the meeting to get it.

Welcome all new and returning members to FFD 1979.

RON RABUN

CORRECTION

I reported in last month's newsletter that there were 12 to 13 million shad that migrated up the Yuba River. Actually, I was off by a decimal. The DFG tagging studies showed 120,000 to 130,000 shad early last summer. Sorry about the error. Here's to another good shad year. The flow rates are being relatively constant and high in this drainage. We should therefore expect another good shad year.

CAL KADO

BONITO FLY FISHING

Last month the bonitos were in great number at King's harbor, Redondo Beach. If you haven't caught a bonito on a fly rod, you're really missing one of the great game fishing experiences on a fly rod. The bonito will outfight any steelhead or shad, and you may end up without a shooting head or with a stripped reel that needs cooling in the sea water.

To get there, take highway 99 to L.A. city limits and then take the San Diego Freeway (Interstate 405) past the L.A. International Airport to Redondo Beach Blvd. West exit. Proceed west to Sepulveda Blvd. and turn left (south) onto Sepulveda Blvd. Go 3 miles to King harbor. There is a public parking area (two story) just past the Harbor and right next to the main wharf. You can bed down in your car or camper right there for convenience. Boat rentals are next to the lot.

CAL KADO

CONSERVATION NOTES - RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

The Fish and Game Commission adopted new 1979 fishing regulations designed to improve and sustain high-quality angling in three wild trout waters. Minimum size limits of 18 inches in Hat Creek and Martis Lake will have a 0 limit catch-and-release only regulation, and lures with single barbless hooks or flies only in the case of Hat Creek. Martis Lake will be open to fishing in 1979. FFD members will recall that this lake, located near Truckee, was poisoned and restocked with cutthroat trout. The regulations on Hat Creek were adopted to prevent further decline in the rainbow trout populations there. New rules for Independence Lake include a 0 limit on cutthroat trout, while the bag limit for other species in the lake remains unchanged. Independence Lake contains the rare and threatened Lahonton cutthroat and provided seed stock for Martis Lake. It contains the only population of pure Lake strain cutthroat in California.

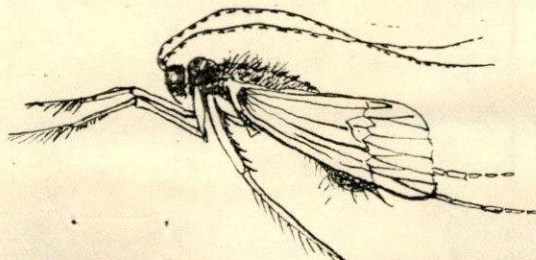
The state of Oregon has expanded its wild trout program. Wild trout management will be extended to cover the lower 100 miles of the Deschutes, the Oregon section of the Klamath, Spencer Creek, and the Williamson River. The Resources Agency of California has proposed restoration of the declining Klamath-Trinity salmon runs. Plans call for rehabilitation of the watershed, a system of salmon hatcheries and rearing ponds, and new management of the fishery, both ocean and inland. Fish barriers would be removed on 23 spawning tributaries, and stream banks revegetated and reforested to reduce erosion. Flow rates below Lewiston Dam on the Trinity will receive considerable attention. Also, the program will attempt to develop management programs for Tribal resources with benefits going to the tribes instead of gillnetters. A state and federal monitoring program is proposed to assure perpetuation of the runs. Steelhead would not be a part of the Indian fishery.

A new trout study on the upper Sacramento River received \$50,000. This study will span two years and be conducted by the DFG under contract with the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board. Although progress has been slow in coming, state and federal agencies now feel somewhat optimistic about restoring the spawning runs of giant Pyramid Lake cutthroat trout in the Truckee River. Incidentally, Pyramid Lake is the lowest I have seen it in the past five years or so. The reduced flow in the Truckee River, due to our two-year drought, was largely responsible. Currently the fishing is the worst in recent memory for the period covering January, according to a fisheries biologist in Nevada. A number of factors is likely involved. The fish apparently are there in good numbers, but have not been biting. The State Wildlife Conservation Board has completed purchase of eleven parcels of property east of Truckee, which involves six miles of Truckee River frontage. The river was threatened with damage by various forms of development. The WCB has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars to preserve this section of the Truckee, which is managed by DFG as a wild trout area.

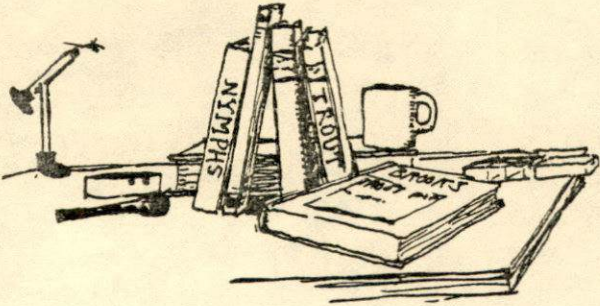
BILL SCHNATHORST - CONSERVATION CHAIRMAN

FREE COPIES OF "FLYFISHING THE WEST"

As a way to introduce more fly fishermen to their magazine, "Flyfishing the West," the publisher is offering two free copies to non-subscribers. Use the attached coupon and send them 50¢ for postage and handling.



BOOK REVIEW



Trout, by Ernest Schwiebert. New York, E.P. Dutton, 1978. 2 vols.

This monumental work, long awaited, is available in the trade edition for about \$65.00. The deluxe edition, in a special binding and signed by the author, sells for about twice as much. Naturally I acquired the trade edition, but only after long cogitation and without telling my wife, who regards such purchases with extreme aversion. But after examining this remarkable book, I'm glad I made the plunge.

First of all, Schwiebert is a writer of great skill comparable to Roderick Haig'-Brown in the vigor of his flowing prose. He is also a first rate artist and the whole work is profusely illustrated by his own superb black and white drawings and his beautifully executed color plates of the various trout, char and grayling species.

The scope and magnitude of Trout is indicated by the fact that it is divided into the following six books: (1) The evolution of fly-fishing; (2) American species of trout and grayling; (3) Physiology, habitat and behavior; (4) The tools of the trade; (5) Casting, wading, and other skills; (6) Trout strategies, techniques and tactics. Each book is, in turn, divided into from six to twelve sections. Book four, "Tools of the Trade", for instance, has sections on fly dressing, the fly line, leaders and knots, waders, clothing and other equipment, reels, and rods. In the appendices in volume two are a catalog of fly patterns and notes on new equipment, as well as a bibliography which is lengthy and selective. The illustrations cover fish, fly patterns, and prominent persons in the history and development of fly fishing. They also depict graphically methods of casting, where fish are likely to be in a stream, and proper methods of fishing a typical trout stream.

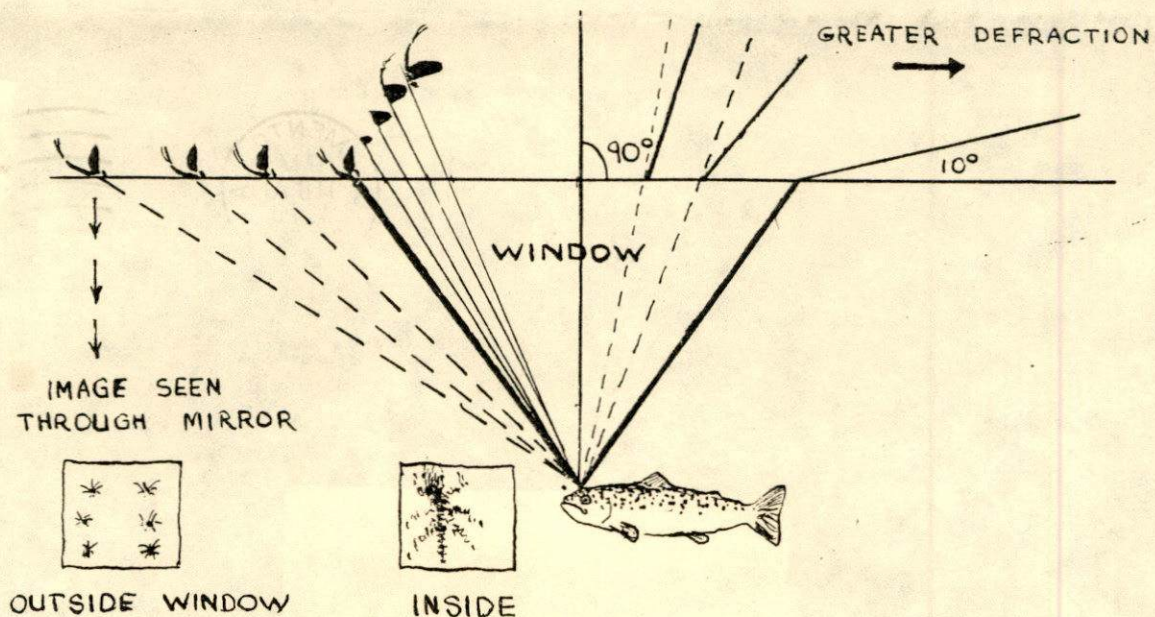
I have access to no formal biography of Schwiebert, but from delightful anecdotes about his own fishing experiences in Trout and from other sources I have been able to glean the following. He is a successful architect. He has a ten year old son to whom he dedicates his book. His father was a professor of History and also an expert fly fisherman. Schwiebert started his fishing career at an early age, catching his first fly caught trout on a wet cahill along the Pere Marquette in Michigan. Later he fished all over the United States; his stories of fishing in Chile, Argentina, England, Norway, Iceland, and Germany have appeared in many journals and books. In his earlier works such as Nymphs (1973) and Matching the Hatch (1955), he displayed his great knowledge of aquatic insects. Remembrances of Rivers Past (1972) is a poetic invocation of great rivers Schwiebert has fished. Salmon of the World (1970), magnificently illustrated by the author, is a definitive work on salmon. But Schwiebert has topped his career with this present magnum opus which illustrates his scholarly knowledge of the history and literature of fly fishing, his ability to describe the various techniques of the art, his great interest in the zoological and ecological aspects of freshwater fishes, and his remarkable ability as an artist and a writer.

Of course, nothing is ever perfect. A few typographical errors resulting from sloppy proofreading appear here and there. The paper of the trade edition is a dead white and not of very good quality, resulting in some loss of effectiveness of the fine black and white drawings. And, yes, sometimes even Schwiebert nods. Although a writer of consummate skill, he occasionally is carried away - he labors over minor

points a bit too much in order to cover every possible detail and at times the prose becomes just a little too purple and precious. But these are niggling complaints in view of the totality of Schwiebert's accomplishment. One can truly say the author is the Renaissance man of fishing. If one were to acquire only a single book on fly fishing for trout, this would be it - it has everything and will remain the definitive work on the subject for many years to come.

Schwiebert is an active member of the Fly Fishing Federation and some of our members have met him at the national meetings. If I ever have that good fortune, I shall seize him by the hand and fervently thank him for his great contribution to our art.

DICK BLANCHARD



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