

The Fisherman's Line**April Meeting, Tuesday April 29th, 7:30pm****Harper Jr. High - Yard Sale starts at 7pm****Shad Fishing in Northern California****Phil Fischer**

Phil Fischer will present on Shad Fishing in Northern California. This informative presentation will cover a brief history of the introduction of shad into California, the gear needed to target Shad, the hot flies and where to go. If you're interested in shad fishing, this is a can't-miss program.



Phil Fischer is the owner of Phil's Custom Flies and has extensive background in fly fishing throughout Northern California and the Western United States. He has taught fly tying for Andre Puyans and has evolved to run his own fly tying business at <http://www.philscustomflies.com>. Every May, Phil can be found chasing shad at his favorite river, a fish he's targeted for the past 35 years.

And now a few words from our Sponsors

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 A silhouette of a person fishing, with a line and hook visible. The background is a dark blue wave pattern.

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 A logo for Jeff Putnam's Fly Fishing Schools, featuring the letters 'JP' in a stylized font inside a dark oval.

Prez Says

By Lowell Ashbaugh

I've been mulling over what to say again this month. It seems there's just more bad news on our fisheries every day. First the collapse of the Delta Smelt population and now fall-run Chinook salmon. Fortunately there was one piece of good news on the OCAP lawsuit – see the Conservation Column for details. Normally by this time of year I would have gone ocean fishing a couple of times, and at least one of those would be for salmon. This year there will be no salmon fishing close by, and I certainly can't afford to go to Alaska – not while I'm remodeling, anyway. The collapse of salmon returns this year was totally unexpected. Estimates are that it will cost California's economy \$255 million. But the environmental costs are also high. Salmon form a major part of the ecology of all coastal rivers. Nutrients from salmon have been found in grapes grown along streams where the salmon spawn – they are that pervasive. When salmon spawn and die, they return their bodies to the rivers where they support a vast web of life.

This is a wake-up call, folks! There are people who would destroy our fisheries for financial (or political) gain. Right now there's one federal judge whose rulings are preventing complete disaster in the delta. It's up to each and every one of us to speak up and get involved. Our fisheries depend on those of us who love them to keep them health. Things won't just magically change for the better – we must push for changes. Speak up! Get involved!

On a related note, Save Our Wild Salmon is coming to Davis with a Giant Salmon Road Show to highlight the plight of wild salmon. The timing couldn't be better. They will be at the Davis Farmers Market on April 26, so be sure to get out there and see it. I met the Outreach Director, Joseph Bogaard, at an NCCFFF board meeting several years ago. SOWS does great conservation work in the Pacific Northwest. It's great to have them here in Davis. Be sure to let him know how you heard of his visit!

Annual Jeff Putnam Casting Clinic

The annual spring casting clinic and tune up will be held at the Northstar Ponds from 11 am to 2 pm on Sunday May 4. Jeff Putnam, noted local casting instructor will be there to help solve your casting problems. If you have questions please contact Bob Zasoski at rjzasoski@sbcglobal.net or phone 753-2241. There will be a sign up sheet at the April meeting.

FFD Yard Sale – April 29th, 7pm at Harper Jr. High

Logistical issues caused the Yard Sale to be postponed from the March meeting. So we'll give it a shot again at the April meeting. Got gear? Need gear? Come to the April 29th meeting at 7pm (30 minutes before regular meeting starts)! We will have a Yard Sale table for members to bring items they wish to sell. So if you have any unused equipment, rods, reels, flies, tying materials, etc. to sell be sure to bring them. The Yard Sale will only occur twice per year, so be sure not to miss this meeting.

Here's how it works - you bring your gear (or money if you need gear). All sellers will contribute 10% of their sales proceeds to the club. The club will use the funds for club operations - programs, the aquarium project, and other club activities. The Raffle Chair will collect the 10% fee.

This is a great way to sell or acquire fly fishing, camping, or boating equipment or items while raising funds for the club. So clean out your storage shed, garage, workshop, or locker and turn those items into cash while helping us raise funds for our many projects!

And now a few more words from our Sponsors



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Giant Salmon Road Show!!!

Davis Farmer's Market April 26th, 8 am – 2 pm



In 2007, just four Snake River sockeye salmon survived their journey from the Pacific Ocean to their ancestral spawning grounds in Redfish Lake in Idaho's Rocky Mountains — *an ancient upstream migration of more than 900 miles inland and 6,500 feet above sea level.*

Snake River coho salmon are gone forever. With returns in single digits, Snake River sockeye are on the brink of extinction. All other remaining Snake River salmon populations - chinook and steelhead - are listed as endangered. And this year the Chinook returns on the Sacramento River are the lowest in history.

Our nation's wild salmon are in crisis.

With some of the best remaining habitat in the Lower 48 states blocked by four outdated dams, restoring a healthy, free-flowing lower Snake River will be one of America's greatest natural resource and river restoration projects.

Please come visit the 2008 Save Our Wild Salmon National Road Show when we visit the Bay Area and Sacramento/Davis in the next week.

Take me to the blog. I want to see FIN:

<http://www.saveourwildsalmon.blogspot.com>

I want to send an email letter to Congress NOW calling for leadership to save our wild salmon:

<http://ga0.org/campaign/2008roadshow>

On April 9, FIN, the two-ton, 25-foot fabricated salmon on a trailer departed on its two and a half month national road show to sound the alarm about the plight of wild salmon and steelhead and the need for Congressional leadership to develop effective solutions that will protect and restore endangered wild salmon to healthy, abundant populations.

The journey will take us through 20 states and more than 50 cities between April and June, finishing up when we arrive in Washington DC to send a strong message directly to the nation's lawmakers.

From April 19 to 26, the Road Show will be visiting Novato, San Francisco, Walnut Creek, Sausalito, Sacramento, Davis, Woodland, and Oakland! Come by and say hello to our salmon wranglers Bill and Nate and Emily. Sign a postcard to Congress. Buy a t-shirt. Grab a bumpersticker.

FIN is awesome. Kids love it! You can climb inside! Its serious fun with a serious message!

Giant Salmon Road Show Dates, Locations and Times

SATURDAY, April 19: Trout Unlimited Children's Casting Workshop at Scottsdale Pond in Novato. 12 - 2 pm. Earth Day Festival in Berkeley. 3 - 5 pm

SUNDAY, April 20: Aquarium By the Bay EarthFest in San Francisco. 12 - 4 pm. At Pier 39.

MONDAY, April 21: Friends School in San Francisco. 12 - 1:30 pm.

TUESDAY, April 22: Foothill Middle School Earth Day celebration in Walnut Creek. 10 am - 12:30 am.

WEDNESDAY, April 23: Fish. Restaurant in Sausalito. 11:30 - 2 pm.

THURSDAY, April 24: Hazel Strauch Elementary School in Sacramento. 10 am - 12 pm. Marengo Ranch Elementary School in Galt. 1 - 3 pm.

FRIDAY, April 25: Fred T. Korematsu Elementary School in Davis. 10 am - 12 pm. Town Center Plaza in Woodland. 1 - 3 pm.

SATURDAY, April 26: Farmer's Market in Davis. 8 am - 2 pm. Utah Hotel Evening of Music with Saul Kaye, Stacy Kray and friends in San Francisco, with commercial salmon troller Mike Hudson.

SUNDAY, April 27: Farmer's Market at Jack London Square in Oakland. 8 am - 12 pm, with commercial salmon troller Mike Hudson.

We would love to see you! Tell your friends! Bring your kids! Fin is awe-inspiring!

QUESTIONS? Call Joseph Bogaard at 206-286-4455, x103

BIG THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS:

American Whitewater, Conservation Alliance, Federation of Fly Fishers, NW Energy Coalition, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, Patagonia, Sierra Club, Slow Food USA, Trout Unlimited

And thanks for your support, from all of us at Save Our Wild Salmon.

From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Conservation Mailing List Water issues continue to top the list of environmental and political concerns in California. If you'd like to get timely notices of conservation issues join the FFD Conservation email list. Go to <http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/ffd-conservation> to join the group. I promise you won't get a lot of email – just a few important notices each month.

Giant Salmon Road Show The Save our Wild Salmon coalition is taking a giant salmon (believe me, it's BIG) on tour from Washington State to Washington, DC next month to highlight the plight of salmon on the west coast. They have set up a stop at the Davis Farmers Market on April 26, and will stop at one of the schools where we sponsor an aquarium so our Fish in the Classroom participants can have a chance to see it.

Salmon Season Closure Well, the Pacific Marine Fisheries Council voted to cancel the salmon season off the Oregon and California coasts (for the first time in history) due to the low numbers of returning fall-run Sacramento River Chinook this year. This morning I learned the California Fish and Game Commission closed the season in California coastal waters, as well. There's no word on river fishing yet. The number of returning salmon was lower by 90% over 2002 returns. Only an estimated 59,100 chinook salmon will spawn this fall in

California's Central Valley Rivers, including the Sacramento, American and Feather. That low number is well below the minimum conservation goal of 122,000 fish, leaving officials with few options. Interestingly, the number of returning fish in the Klamath seems to be unaffected. Dr. Peter Moyle wrote an excellent commentary on salmon on The Fishsniffer website at <http://www.fishsniffer.com/cgi-bin/forumsyabb/YaBB.pl?num=1207584281> (no spaces in that URL). Take a few minutes to read it – it's very well written.

OCAP lawsuit settled Federal Judge Oliver W. Wanger has invalidated a water plan known as OCAP (Operating Criteria and Plan) that would have allowed more pumping from the San Francisco Bay Delta at the expense of five species of protected salmon and steelhead trout. Fishing and conservation groups and a California tribe called the ruling a victory for the millions of Californians who depend on the delta for drinking water, fishing jobs and agriculture. The ruling comes in the wake of federal fisheries managers' unprecedented April 10 decision to cancel this year's salmon fishing season because of a record decline in spawning fish.

The decision is the second time the court has ruled that water export plans would harm the threatened estuary. The court scheduled a conference on April 25 for the parties to address developing interim remedies to protect the fish.

In his opinion Wanger relied on the National Marine Fisheries Services' (NMFS) own finding that diverting water from the bay-delta was killing huge numbers of salmon. He said, "This morbid projection is inconsistent, if not irreconcilable" with

the agency's opinion that the project operations did not jeopardize the survival of the fish. He also faulted the agency for failing to analyze the effects of global warming on the fish, calling that failure "arbitrary and capricious."

The court also cited NMFS' findings that "current operations result in the loss of 42 percent of the juvenile winter-run Chinook population, and proposed project effects are expected to result in an additional 3 to 20 percent loss of the juvenile population."

NMFS also found that proposed water project operations would kill as many as 66 percent of Central Valley steelhead and 57 percent of juvenile spring run Chinook salmon - likely leading to the extirpation of the spring run in the Sacramento River and steelhead in the Central Valley. These findings, the court ruled, are the "diametric opposite" of the finding that the projects would not jeopardize listed salmon species.

"When most of our native fish species are struggling to survive, the water project's plans to eliminate habitat, reduce cold water flow requirements and increase delta exports made no sense," said Dr. Christina Swanson, a biologist with The Bay Institute, a plaintiff in the case. "Ecological collapse in our rivers and in the delta is not just bad for fish, it's bad for the millions of people who depend on delta water for farming and drinking."

The plaintiffs challenged a 2004 long-term water plan known as OCAP (Operating Criteria and Plan) that would have allowed increased exports south of the delta by reversing many of the decade-old protections credited with saving endangered winter-run Chinook salmon from extinction, including relaxing cold water flow requirements and eliminating nearly half of the available spawning habitat in the Sacramento River. These operational changes have corresponded with significant declines in protected Chinook salmon populations since 2004. This year's salmon run has largely failed to show up.

The court will now schedule hearings to establish an interim salmon protection plan for project operations. Agencies predict that a new Biological Opinion for salmon will be complete by December 2008.

Water Agencies sue over Striped Bass A coalition of water agencies has filed suit under the Endangered Species Act, declaring that the decline in the salmon population is due to predation by Striped Bass. They are asking that the state stop supporting the Striped Bass population. This is an unbelievably cynical move on their part to deflect attention from the real problems in the delta that are affecting all fish – not just salmon or Delta Smelt. Striped Bass were introduced into California nearly 125 years ago, and they have coexisted with salmon and other fish since then. The salmon population crash is not due to predation by stripers, but probably is caused by a host of factors, including water diversions, poor water quality, and yes, ocean conditions that created little food this year.

News from NCCFFF

2008 Festival of Fly Fishing Reminder - the Festival of Fly Fishing will be in Lodi, California on October 10-11 this year. While Lodi is close to some great fishing, it's also convenient to the major NorCal population centers. So save the dates—details will follow later.

26th Annual Salmonid Restoration Federation Conference

By Cindy Charles, NCCFFF Steelhead Committee

The SRF Conference was held in Lodi in early March and was focused on Central Valley fisheries and restoration efforts. To paraphrase SRF Director, Dana Stolzman, hundreds of fishheads migrate to participate in this premier conference where in-the-creek restorationists and watershed stewards plus a whole slew of high caliber scientists spawn innovative ideas about how to save salmon, steelhead and trout. I was pleased to have chaired the session on Central Valley Chinook, Steelhead and Trout where I was able to represent the conservationist angler. There was standing room only for several of the speakers in our session. Golden West Women Flyfishers was a proud sponsor of the Conference and everyone gave a great cheer for us when we were announced as a sponsor at the Saturday night dinner—the only angling club involved there.

This year's conference had an emphasis on the current restoration of the San Joaquin River and many speakers, including Dr. Peter Moyle made presentations on many of the specifics as to how this gigantic project will be fully implemented. The main push is to restore Spring Run Chinook Salmon into the river by 2012, but unfortunately, no one was talking about restoring CV steelhead in that river. One of the highlights for me at the conference was Dr. Carlos Garza's talk about his work on Central Valley trout/steelhead genetics, which revealed that fish populations in these rivers were amazing still of pure descent and did not show possession of any hatchery fish genetics. Too much was going on at the conference to summarize here, but if anyone is interested in further details, please feel free to get in touch with me or Dougald Scott who also attended. Next year's SRF Conference will be held in Santa Cruz in March 2008.

FFF Membership at Discounted Rate extended again

The special membership rate has been extended again for affiliate club like FFD until June 30, 2008.

Membership forms have been created for the special rate promotion. All information is now posted to the web site and can be found on the following page

<http://www.fedflyfishers.org/Default.aspx?tabid=4676>

The rod incentive program information is also available on the same page.

New memberships will qualify for credits towards Rod New Member Incentive Program during this promotion period. Not for use with pre-paid version of incentive program

This is not for FFF renewal memberships – only for those new to FFF.

Public Trust, Unreasonable Use Complaint Filed With State Board

Groups will Sue in 60 Days if Board Fails to Schedule Evidentiary Hearing

Two statewide environmental organizations filed a public trust, waste and unreasonable use of water and method of diversion petition with the State Water Resources Control Board March 19 contending the Board has failed to halt the continuing ecological collapse of the San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary by permitting excessive amounts of Northern California water to be pumped to western San Joaquin megafarms and Southern California.

The California Water Impact Network (C-WIN) and the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) contend the Water Board has allowed the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) to pump so much water each year from the beleaguered Delta that many fish species have been pushed to the brink of extinction, forcing citizen groups to turn to the courts instead of the Water Board, which has primary authority for protecting the state's surface water supplies. "The Water Board has served as a handmaiden for decades to special interest groups instead of doing its job as a regulatory agency," said Carolee Krieger, chair of the C-WIN board of directors. "Dying fish populations and degraded drinking water are the result of this shocking dereliction of duty. It is time board members realize they have a duty to protect the public's interest in our state's aquatic resources and drinking supplies," she added.

Bill Jennings, executive director of CSPA, noted that because of the ongoing failure of the Water Board to do its job a federal judge in Fresno recently was forced to order reduced pumping in the Delta to protect endangered fish species - an action C-WIN and CSPA said the Water Board should have taken years ago.

"The stall-and-delay tactics of the Water Board as the Central Valley's salmonid fisheries and the Delta's pelagic fishers collapse borders on the criminal," said Jennings, a longtime critic of the Water Board's history of inaction and delay. "Watching fisheries that God nurtured over tens of thousands of years being virtually destroyed in less than two decades while DWR, the Bureau and the State Board continue their embrace of denial is surely one of the most wretched and despicable spectacles we have ever witnessed," he said.

The two groups say that if the Water Board does not take decisive action to begin reversing the decline of the Delta within the next 60 days they will take the matter into state court.

The petition filed by C-WIN attorney Michael B. Jackson notes that despite a massive accumulation of evidence that something is seriously wrong in the Delta, the Water Board has still not established mandatory minimum daily flows from upstream dams on the main rivers feeding the Delta in order to protect salmon and other species of fish. The petition alleges the Water Board is violating the Public Trust Doctrine, the California Constitution and numerous California Water Code sections and federal laws by allowing clearly excessive export of Northern California water from the South Delta pumps resulting in an unreasonable use and method of diversion of water. While there is more than one cause contributing to the Delta's decline, including invasive species and degraded water quality, excessive pumping is clearly the main problem, the petition contends.

Water Board action demanded by the two groups includes: (1) modification of existing water rights to improve the fishery; (2) mandatory daily flow requirements; (3) mandatory pulse flows during salmon migration; (4) functional fish passage facilities on all dams; (5) state-of-the-art fish screens on all diversion points to prevent young fish from being ground up in the Delta pumps or sucked down irrigation ditches; (6) requiring DWR and the Bureau of Reclamation to begin actually complying with all water and fishery protection laws; and (7) establishing minimum pool and temperature requirements on all water storage reservoirs to protect fish.

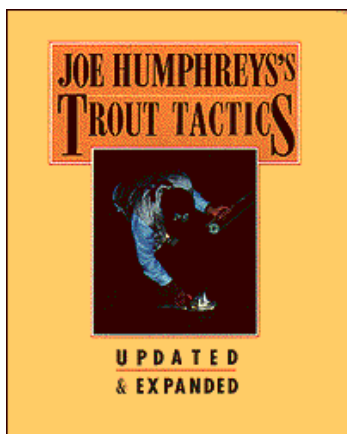
The petition requests the board to begin holding evidentiary hearings including testimony under oath, cross-examination and rebuttal on the issues raised as soon as possible.

CSPA is a public benefit conservation and research organization established in 1983 for the purpose of conserving, restoring, and enhancing the state's water quality, fisheries and associated aquatic and riparian ecosystems. On behalf of its members, CSPA participates in administrative and judicial proceedings before state and federal agencies and actively enforces laws protective of fisheries and water quality.

C-WIN is a non-profit public benefit corporation formed under the laws of the State of California for the purpose of protecting and restoring the scenery, fish and wildlife resources, water quality, recreational opportunities, agricultural uses, and other natural environmental resources and uses of the rivers and streams of California, including the Bay/Delta, its watershed and its underlying groundwater resources.

Fly Fishing Classic of the Month

By [Gene Gantt](#)



When you are not fishing or working...

There are many of us that spend way too much time working, doing other things and not fishing. Well, I have decided to start what I hope is a monthly article that talks about great and sometimes not so great books, movies, and DVD/videos you can pull off the shelf, order, or go to

your local library and live some fishing without being on the water. I hope you enjoy some of my suggestions and if you have any, well, write an article.

My first book selection is *Joe Humphrey's Trout Tactics (Updated and Expanded)* Stackpole Books 1981.

This is an updated version of Joe's first works from 1981 and it is a fabulous book for beginners and experts alike. For those of you that have not met Joe or are not familiar with him here is some information on him. He taught angling at Penn Sate for 20 years. YES, you could get college credits for fishing. Pretty cool! He was the host of an ESPN program on fly fishing. He is the author of this book and *On the Trout Stream with Joe Humphreys*. Joe is now retired and living in Boalsburg, Pennsylvania and he is in the phone book and says call if you ever get back there.

In *Trout Tactics*, Joe walks you through about everything you need to know to start fly fish and as a great tune-up for those of you who believe they already know every thing there is to know about this wonderful activity we have.

He has taken this edition and broken it into two parts and include topics such as:

- Finding Trout
- Nymph Fishing
- Wet Flies
- Streamers
- Dry Flies
- Brush Fishing
- Night Fishing
- Water Temperatures

In Part Two of the book he takes some of the same information and refines it. "I don't just pass along to you new and useful ideas and tactics, I also take some sound basics and repeatedly aim to instill upon you their importance."

Joe takes you fishing with him through his stories and then walks you through the tactical aspect of the cast, drift and take. He makes you feel like you are there with him on one of his favorite Pennsylvania streams.

Take some time to read this wonderful book.

How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

Membership in the FFD requires an annual donation of \$25 for an adult/family and \$15 for individual youth/student members. Annual dues are \$25. At this rate you MUST provide an e-mail address and will receive the monthly newsletter as a PDF. You can bring the application to the club meetings, which are held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month. For more information, contact: [John Reynolds](#), 530-753-2682 or jreyn@dcn.org – **Membership Chair**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Phone () _____

Occupation _____ e-mail: _____

Fly fishing interest and experience: _____

Our club is only as great as its members, so please **circle one or more** of the following areas where you could share your expertise. **Annual Picnic, Annual Dinner, Guest Speakers, Putah Creek Cleanup, Membership, Budget, Conservation, Newsletter, Communications, Outings, Marketing, Youth Programs, Salmon in the Classroom, Education.**
Please also **circle** if you would like to **teach, assist, or attend** any of our classes in **Rod building, Fly Tying, or Casting.**

For insurance reasons, you must be a current club member to attend any of our outings

Fly of the Month for April

Damsel Nymph – By Bob Zasoski



This month the selected fly is a damsel nymph or swimmer. The exact pattern is left up to your imagination. There are a number of damsel nymph patterns ranging from exact imitation to vague suggestion that have been tied and published and an even longer list of anonymous patterns used by anglers in pursuit of the aggressive trout that key in on emerging (migrating) damsels. The nymphs have three gills at the end of a slender abdomen, an enlarged thorax with wing pads and prominent eyes. They are about ¾ to 1½ inch long. Damsels, like most other aquatic insects, reflect the color of the vegetation they inhabit. Therefore, most damsel nymphs are shades of olive, brown or green. At Davis Lake the early season damsels are darker and turn lighter as the season progresses. The emergence starts in late May and runs until July, but the nymphs are available all year and some anglers fish damsel nymphs though the summer.

During their emergence, damsel nymphs leave the cover of submerged weed beds and head for vegetation that stands above the water line-usually near shore. They crawl out on the reeds, shed their nymphal shuck and turn into damsel flies. During their shore ward migration they propel themselves by a vigorous wiggling of their tails and abdomen. As the nymphs head for shore, they swim for a while and then rest. As they rest they slowly sink and then resume their journey. They swim with their legs folded giving an appearance of three V shaped appendages on each side of the thorax. The legs can be extended, but most of the time the swimmers keep them folded. They swim near the surface and their body tends to remain parallel with the water surface. This behavior suggests some things to keep in mind when fishing and tying damsel nymphs.

Wading the shoreline and casting a floating line and long leader can be very effective at intercepting cruising trout. Retrieves with short strips and distinct pauses seems to work well. Often heard advice about fishing damsel is to use a slo-o-o-o-w retrieve. The take often occurs on the first pull after the pause. Although there are times when alternative retrieves can be effective. The wiggling motion is nearly impossible to imitate, but the use of marabou in many patterns tries to match these snake-like undulations. Check out Charlie's Wiggle

Damsel (<http://www.charliesflyboxinc.com>) - an articulated version that simulates motion by a wiggle tail attached with 3x mono. Don Rotsma has some interesting information about damsel patterns and Davis Lake (<http://www.flyfishwithdon.com>)

Feel free to submit any version of a damsel nymph that you like. The following is a version that I like for Davis Lake.

Hook: Tiemco 3761, 2312, 200R, Size 12 or 14.

Tail: Marabou to match natural (dark olive to golden olive or even black)

Body: Fine dubbing or marabou

Rib: Krystal flash

Thorax: Dubbing to match marabou

Covert: 1/8 inch scud back

Eyes: Melted monofilament or midge tubing

Tying Instructions: Place a de-barbed hook in your vice and attach the tying thread near the hook eye. Attach mono eyes (clear, yellow, black or red -your choice) about 1/16 inch behind the hook eye. You can either melt the mono to form eyes prior to attaching the monofilament or when it is on the hook.



Cover the x-wraps used to secure the eyes with dubbing. Bring the thread to the tail position and tie in a bunch of marabou fibers extending about 2/3 of a shank length beyond the end of the hook. Tie the marabou well back on the shank to reduce the tendency for the tail to wrap around the hook. Tie in a single strand of krystal flash to match the color of the marabou. Dub a slim body with fine dubbing to match the marabou. You can also use marabou for dubbing. Wrap the krystal flash to the thorax position. Tie in a length of scud back about 3 inches long with the material extending over the tail. Dub a heavy thorax with spiky dubbing to match the body color. When the fly is finished, pick out the dubbing to simulate the folded legs. Stop the thorax just short of the mono eyes. Bring the scud back over the thorax and tie it down with two or three wraps behind the eyes. Bring the thread to the front of the mono eyes and just behind the hook eye. Bring the scud back over the mono eyes and wrap the scud back down with two or three thread wraps and bring the thread back behind the eyes. Fold the scud back over the eyes and tie it down with a few wraps leaving the excess material reaching back toward the tail. Whip finish behind the eyes and apply a

drop of head cement. Trim the scud back by folding it in half along the long axis and trimming at ~ 45 degrees. This will produce a V shaped wing pad extending over the thorax. Save the excess scud back for he next fly. The V shaped notch on the wing pad will produce a tapered end on the excess scud back for the next fly. The wind pad should extend just beyond the thorax. The sink rate of the fly can be controlled to some extent by the hook chosen. The 3761 is a bit heavier and will sink more rapidly than the 2312. Being 2x long you can drop down a size in the 2312 as well. Glass eyes will increase the weight of the fly and bead chain eyes will allow it to sink rapidly. A rapid alternative to this damsel is described below. Tie a long marabou tail on a scud hook and attach a single krystal flash ribbing. Twist the marabou and wrap a body tie it off at the eye and wrap the ribbing. Now fold the excess marabou over the back and tie it down. Whip finish and cement the head. A single gold bead will get this down a bit. If you are going to Davis Lake this spring, be sure to bring

along some damsel nymphs and hold on.



Bob Zasoski's Beginning Fly Tying Class

Photos courtesy John Daniels



Fly of the Month for May

The Fly of the month for May will be a variation of Mike Mercer's micromay nymph. The pattern as shown below was contributed by John Daniels. Detailed tutorial and pictures of the original version are available at <http://www.charliesflyboxinc.com>.

Hook: TMC 921 #14-20 (prefer Dai Riki 075 which is 1XH, TMC 2488H would work)
Thread: Olive, brown, black (12/0 Benecchi)
Bead: Copper
Tail: 3-4 strands pheasant tail
Rib: Copper wire

Abdomen: Thread (original used stripped peacock herl)
Flashback: Flashabou
Wingcase: Mottled Turkey tail
Thorax: Superfine dubbing
Legs: Hen saddle
Collar: Superfine dubbing

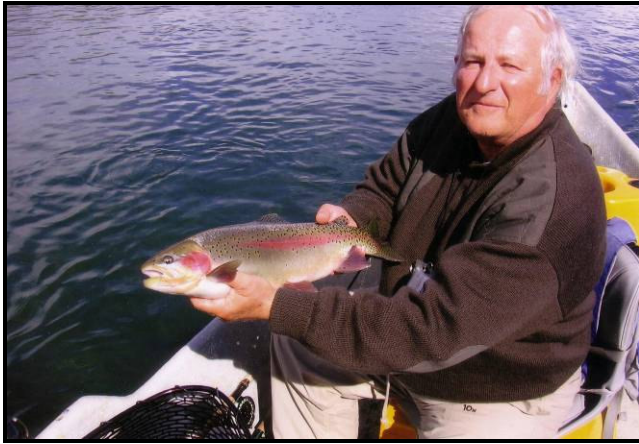
Tom Burton's Intermediate Fly Tying Class

Photos courtesy John Daniels



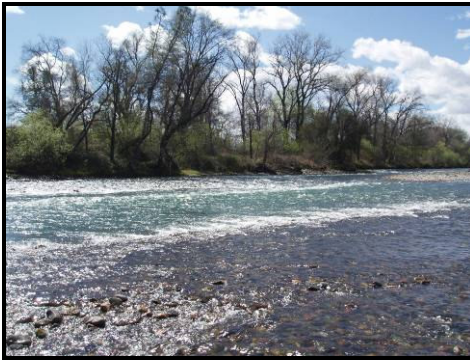
March Lower Sacramento River Float Trip

Photos courtesy Jim Wright, Jim Luschwitz, and Brian Bechtold



More Lower Sacramento River Pictures

Photos courtesy Brian Bechtold



101 Update

Upcoming FF101 Events

- April 25th 7pm, Yolo County Library, Davis – Upcoming events planning meeting.
- May 4th 11am – 2pm - Jeff Putnam Casting Clinic at Northstar Ponds.
- May 23rd-25th (Memorial Day weekend) – Upper Sac or Burney Creek*.
- May 30th-June 2nd – McCloud River (Regular club outing).

*Unusual weather may force our hand on the snowmelt/safety/fishing issues. To satisfy everyone's needs and abilities, further location changes may be necessary on the Memorial Day weekend outing. As such, the Upper Sac is most likely if snowmelt/runoff is not a significant factor, or the Burney area salmonfly hatch on Burney Creek if Upper Sac is not an option. [Burney Creek is spring fed, so snowmelt is not a factor.] Both will be visited in the following weeks and a decision made on the location. Stay tuned.

No “knot-sense” knots

By [Tristan Leong](#)

There are three knots the trout fly fishermen must know how to tie in the field. While I could exhaustively diagram and describe how to tie each one here, I feel it is a better allocation of my time for me to tell you what knots to use, and when to use them. There are plenty of diagrams on the internet and books that detail how tie them.

The three knots you should know how to tie blindfolded are the *clinch knot*, *the double surgeon*, and *the perfection loop*. Always wet knots before tying so that they don't slip, and give them a tug to check if you tied them correctly. If “knot” then cut it off and re-tie. Also, check the tippet for signs of abrasion that may have weakened the line.

Perfection Loop

Use: Attaching two lines together via loop to loop connections.

Comments: The Perfection loop is especially useful when you are tying up small leaders and attaching them to the butt-section or loop of your fly line. It is a very easy knot to tie. A correct perfection loop will always have the tag end perpendicular to the loop, so remember to check your knot for the correct placement. As always practice makes perfect.

Diagrams of the Perfection loop:

<http://www.killroys.com/knots/perfecti.htm>

<http://www.animatedknots.com/perfection/index.php>

Double surgeon

Use: Connecting/adding various lengths of tippet to your leader.

Comments: This very simple knot is useful when you want to extend various lengths of tippet to your leader. Another handy feature of this knot is that when used with a nymph setup, the knot's placement will effectively establish the lowest point that the split-shot may slide, thereby protecting your flies from sliding weight, and providing a predetermined length of depth control.

Diagrams of the Double surgeon knot:

<http://www.flymartonline.com/article211.html>

<http://www.animatedknots.com/surgeonsjoin/index.php>

Clinch knot

Use: Tying your fly to your tippet.

Comments: This knot is a bit more complicated to tie, but the most important knot of the three listed. If you tie this one incorrectly, you may lose your fly, or worse yet a lunker fish! Make sure to tie this knot wet (to prevent abrasion and slippage) and check it once done. The easiest way to cinch the knot is to hold the fly and tag end with one hand, and pull the opposing end with your other hand in an opposite direction. The “improved” clinch knot is not as effective as the regular. The only difference between the original and the improved is that the improved clinch knot requires one to go back through the loop created at the end of tying the knot.

Diagrams of the Clinch knot:

<http://www.killroys.com/knots/clinch.htm>

<http://www.animatedknots.com/improvedclinch/index.php>

----- Outings Report -----

Since last report there has been the annual Spring Sac trip, and the Pyramid Lake outing which had a good turn out with 8 members showing up to try their luck in the line-up at Pelican Beach. The fishing was best on Friday when there were less fisherman and wind from the South, but fell off on Saturday when the wind shifted to the north. The annual Spring Sac trip was extremely successful overall, and at Jim Wright's suggestion we are exploring adding another day option for this and the fall trips.

There will be a number of signups at the next meeting for trips first available last month. Also for those going to Davis Lake there will be a pre meeting tying session to be arranged. - [Cary Boyden](#)

Fly Fishers of Davis 2008 SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

EVENT	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/Fees
Trinity	Steelhead	Jan 7 th – 8 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 + tip (per day)
Feather River	Steelhead	Jan	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	Very Tentative
++ January Meeting	Speaker - TBA	Jan 29 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	
Baum Lake	Trout	Feb 23 rd	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
ANNUAL DINNER	Fun & Prizes	Mar 1 st	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	Wine, Women & Song
Redding Sacramento	Trout	Mar 15 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 + tip
++ March Meeting	Speaker - TBA	Mar 25 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Apr 4 th – 5 th	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Kiene's Fly Shop	Exposition 2008	Apr 19 th 9 – 4	Bill & Marilyn 916-486-9958	2654 Marconi Avenue
++ April Meeting	Speaker: Phil Fischer	Apr 29 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	Shad
Jeff Putnam Clinic	Casting	May 4 th 11 – 2	Bob Zasoski 530-753-2241	
** Upper Sac	Trout	May 23 rd – 25 th	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Beginners Spring Clinic
** American River	Shad	May (evening)	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Shad Clinic
Shad	Shad	May 23 ^h	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Payne Ranch	Smallmouth Bass	May 24 th	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
++ May Meeting	Speaker: George Bouvion	May 27 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	High Sierra
McCloud	Trout	May 30 th –Jun 2 nd	Gene Gantt 707-451-3262	
Davis Lake	Trout	Jun 5 th – 8 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
** Private Waters - Yuba	Trout	June 13 th – 15 th	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Trout Clinic
Annual Picnic	Food & Fun	Jun 24 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	Wine, Women & Song
Fuller Lake	Trout	Jun	John Daniels 530-750-3511	Cancelled
++ NO June Meeting	None	None		
**	Trout	Jul 11 th – 13 th	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Advanced Nymphing
Lewiston	Trout	Jul 17 th – 20 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Loreto, Baja, Mexico	Dorado / Sailfish	Jul 27 th – 31 st	Donn Erickson 707-718-7724	\$100 deposit due by 2/4
++ July Meeting	Speaker - TBA	Jul 29 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	
Old Fogies - Backpack	Trout	Aug 8 th – 10 th	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
High Country Backpack	Trout	Aug	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	Cancelled
Klamath	½ Pounders	Aug 27 th – 30 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	Limited Space
++ NO August Meeting	None	None		
McCloud	Trout	Sep	Gene Gantt 707-451-3262	
** Pit River	Trout	Sep	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Advanced Nymphing
Payne Ranch	Bass	Sep	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
++ September Meeting	Speaker - Lincoln Gray	Sep 30 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	
** Klamath / Trinity	Steelhead	Oct 2 nd – 5 th	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Nymph Clinic & Float
Redding / Sacramento	Trout & Steelhead	Oct 18 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 + tip
++ October Meeting	Speaker - Jeff Putnam	Oct 28 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	
** Trinity	Steelhead	Oct 30 th –Nov 2 nd	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Classic Clinic & Float
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Nov 7 th – 8 th	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Putah Creek Cleanup	Garbage		John Reynolds 530-753-2682	FREE FOOD & DRINK
++ November Meeting	Speaker - TBA	Nov 25 th	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	
Trinity - or - Klamath	Steelhead	Nov 21 st – 22 nd	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 + tip (per day)
** American	Steelhead	Dec	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Winter Steelhead Clinic
Lake Amador	Trout	Dec 6 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	

++ Regular Meetings

** Clinic Events

Officers, Directors and Committees

President:	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Vice President	Tom Burton	707-678-3850
Treasurer	Gene Gantt	707-451-3262
Secretary	Gene Gantt	707-451-3262
DIRECTORS		
2008	John Imsdahl	707-685-1582
	Michael Neumann	
2009	Marge March	530-753-1583
	Donn Erickson	707-718-7724
2010	Brian Bechtold	530-574-5157
	Bob Brodberg	530-756-9071
COMMITTEES		
Outings	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826
Conservation	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Membership	John Reynolds	530-753-2682
Newsletter	Brian Bechtold	530-574-5157
NCCFFF	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Programs	vacant	
Hospitality	Reed Enos	530-756-2331
Raffle Chair	John Imsdahl	707-685-1582
Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski	530-753-2241
Picnic Chair	vacant	
Youth Programs	Adney Bowker	530-758-2674
Video Library	John Reynolds	530-753-2682

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The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.4 charitable organization dedicated to the education, participation, conservation and enhancement of fly fishing. Annual associate membership is \$25 beginning with each calendar year. FFD meets monthly except for the months of July & August. Regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December and February. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules. February hosts the Annual Dinner meeting which is scheduled in the latter part of the month based upon facility arrangements.

FFD is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), an international nonprofit organization, and its Northern California Council (NCCFFF) affiliate.

Meetings and membership are opened to the public.

The Fly Fishers of Davis provide equal opportunity membership without discrimination on sex, race, origin, age or religious orientation.

E-Newsletter Policy

Our policy is to deliver the e-newsletter via email OR you may download it from the FFD website at: <http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/ffd/>.

Be sure if you signed up for the \$25 annual membership that you get your email address to [Brian Bechtold](mailto:brian.bechtold@gmail.com) at <mailto:brian.bechtold@gmail.com>. This will assure that you get an email notification of the newsletter. Each month, except June & August the e-newsletter will be posted to the above site and emailed about 1 week before the meeting. You will need Acrobat Reader <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> to view the PDF format.

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