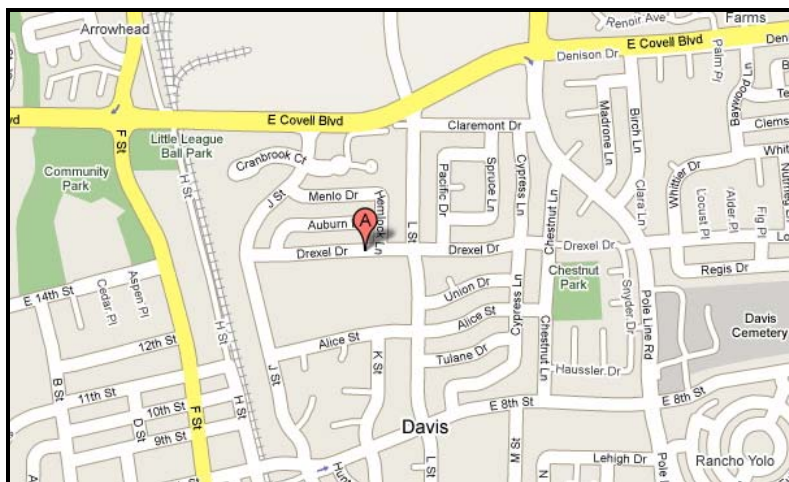


Notice: March 31st Meeting – Alternate Location Holmes Jr. High School (NOT Harper Jr. High)



Oliver Holmes Jr. High School, 1220 Drexel Dr.

March Meeting, Tuesday Mar 31st, 7:30pm

Ralph Wood – Fishing North Fork of the Yuba and Gold Lakes Basin



Ralph Wood will present a program on fishing the North Fork of the Yuba River, its tributaries and a small amount on the Gold Lakes Basin. The program will deal with hatches, times of the year and the various sections of the river and tributaries.

Ralph Wood spent his apprentice years in New Hampshire, learning his craft on the small freestone streams and brooks that predominate in the "Granite State". Here is the birthplace of his love for the myriad of freestone streams of California. For the last forty years he has fished all across the western states, especially in Northern California.

He is a well-known fly-fishing guide and speaker, as well as a demonstration and custom fly tier often appearing at conclaves and events for the Fly Fishing Federation's Northern California Council. Ralph's collection of insect specimens is extensive; from these he adapts his ties to specific venues.

Ralph's writings and fly patterns have appeared in CALIFORNIA FLY FISHER, FISH & FLY, FISHING & HUNTING NEWS, WESTERN OUTDOORS and GO-TO-FLIES (101 Patterns the Pros Use When All Else Fails) published in 2004 by Wilderness Adventures Press. His photographs have appeared in FLYFISHERMAN, the SACRAMENTO BEE and the UNION newspapers. He also authored three chapters and his photographs appeared in A FLYFISHERS GUIDE TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA edited by Seth Norman and published in 1997 by Wilderness Adventures Press. Occasionally, he guest hosts KNCO radio's fishing and outdoors show. His other interests include his fly-fishing sons, Chip and Jeff, and fly fishing book collecting. He lives in the California Gold Country in Grass Valley.

The Prez-Sez

By Tom Burton

Thanks to all the club members, their families and guests that attended our annual dinner last month. Without your help it would not have been the huge success we enjoyed. The Annual Dinner is our big fund raiser each year and we rely on your generous participation to help with our operation expenses. I am pleased to announce we can continue another year.

I would also like to thank the members (you know who you are) that worked on the myriad committees that is necessary to plan and pull off an event like ours. Many hours of individual work and a lot of teamwork were required and it really paid off this year. I think it was the best ever annual dinner I have attended.

A special thank you to Paul Berliner for providing a very entertaining and extremely professional digital slide show. As always a big thank you to Steve Ohrwall for his humorous and skillful manipulation of the audience in squeezing the last nickel from them to make our raffle the most successful yet. Last but not least a huge thanks to Bill and Marilyn of Kiene's Fly Shop for their generous support.

2009 is going to be a great year, the economy notwithstanding, so let's go fishing.

Annual Dinner Video DVD – From Paul Berliner

Hi everyone! I just wanted to extend a word of thanks for the wonderful reception that the "Fly Fishers of Davis - 2008 Highlights" video received at the annual dinner. It was really wonderful to hear the laughter, the applause, and especially all of your kind remarks. From my standpoint, I had *major* fun producing the video, and I would like to extend a special "hats-off" to everyone that contributed pictures. The photography was simply outstanding, and I could not have done it without all of this superb documentary evidence of our 2008 adventures.

If you would like a DVD or a windows media (.wmv) version of the video, please let me know via email (<mailto:paul@berlinerproductions.com>). The honorarium is 1 fly of your choice.

Looking forward, please (oh please!) continue to take pictures of your trips, and forward them to our esteemed editor, Brian Bechtold. At the end of the year, Brian will compile all of the pictures, organize them, and send them off to yours truly. Please be sure to label your pictures, so we'll know where they were taken, and who the photographer is. - [Paul Berliner](#)

Thanks to Silver Creek Press and Ron Rabun for Calendars at Annual Dinner

A big thanks for Silver Creek Press for donating dozens of 2009 Trout-Salmon-Steelhead Calendars that were passed out to many of the members at the Annual Dinner. The Silver Creek Press website/catalog is at <http://www.anglers-catalog.com/> where you can find wildlife calendars, DVDs, and more. Also thanks to Ron Rabun for obtaining these calendars and bringing them to the Annual Dinner for our members.

And now a few words from our Sponsors



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Intermediate Tying Classes/Seminars

Intermediate Fly Tying Classes/Seminars are scheduled for the Viticulture Field Headquarters on Thursday evenings March 12, 19, 26 and April 2, 9 and 16 from 6:30 to 8:30. The tentative schedule is shown in the table below. We plan on presentations covering flies for local still waters by Cary Boyden. John Daniels, Tom Burton, Jim Humphrey and Bob Zasoski will cover emergers and hackle stackers, soft hackle flies, tying with CDC, striper and wire bodied flies such as Brassies and Copper Johns. If you plan on attending, have questions, or have a pattern you would like to share with the group please email or call Bob Zasoski (<mailto:rjzasoski@sbcglobal.net> or call at 753-2241). The Specific information on patterns and material lists will be emailed to those who sign up.

Date	Presenter	Flies
March 12	Cary Boyden	Midge pupa, San Juan Worms –two types, Sheep Creek
March 19	John Daniels	Emergers, Paraloops
March 26	Jim Humphrey	Clousers and other Striper Flies
April 2	Tom Burton	Partridge and Yellow, Hare's Ear Soft Hackle, PT Soft Hackle
April 9	Bob Zasoski	Tying with CDC – Midge emergers, callibaetis and trico dries
April 16	John Daniels	Wire- bodied Flies

Dues *Over-Due* . . .

The cut-off date for renewing your membership has now past. The majority of members have already renewed their dues at the Annual Dinner, but a handful of members have not (you know who you are). The membership roster will be trimmed and some of you will wonder where your wonderfully informative newsletter has gone. Should you choose to crash the next meeting, you will be shaken down by the membership “enforcer” (John Reynolds at <mailto:jreyn@dcn.org>) who will be happy to take your dues.

Also, any new members who joined since September of 2008 are automatically paid up thru the end of 2009.

Davis Greenbelts Survey

The City of Davis has an online survey asking what the community wants in the many greenbelts that snake around the city. It only takes a moment to do it. On question 10 (Are there any amenities you would like to see in Davis greenbelts?) I responded "I'd like to see an area where fly fishers could practice casting on water." Maybe if we all took the survey and gave a similar response the city would see a need for a casting area. You can find the survey at <http://cityofdavis.org/pgs/masterplan/greenbeltsurvey.cfm>. - [Lowell Ashbaugh](#)

Fly Fishers of Davis 2009 Meeting Schedule			
MONTH	SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC
January	Bill Carnazzo	Jan 27 th	Trophy Bass - Mexico
February	Annual Dinner	Feb 21 st	Food, Fellowship, and Fun
March	Ralph Wood	Mar 31 st	Yuba River
April	Ron Rabun	Apr 29 th	Bonefish
May	Andrew Harris	May 26 th	Heritage Trout
June	Annual Picnic	Jun 23 rd	
July	TBA	Jul 28 th	
August	No Meeting	Aug	Go Fish!!!
September	TBA	Sep 29 th	
October	Ryan Miller	Oct 27 th	
November	Michael Colberg	Nov 24 th	NW Montana/Kootenai R.
December	Home Grown	TBA	

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.

I've reprinted a story in this month's newsletter that is related to the other topics reported here and go to the heart of California's water problems.

We've all heard in the news that we're in the midst of a historic drought, and that we need to build more surface storage (and a peripheral canal) to meet our water needs. Never mind that increased surface storage would do no good in a drought. I've been skeptical of reports about the drought, so earlier this month I did a little research. I looked at rainfall reports from recording stations around the state and found that we have somewhat below normal rainfall, but I could not convince myself that I was seeing a historic drought. Before I could get any farther, I came across the story below from The Record. It concludes that we do, indeed, have below normal rainfall, but it's not a drought by any means. Powerful water interests are demanding more water than nature can provide (and the regulators have capitulated) and are teaming up to convince us that we all need to pay for more storage and a conveyance system. Keep these reports in mind in the coming months – we're sure to hear more calls for new dams and to move more water from north to south. It's not necessary and won't solve California's water problems. We have to learn to live within nature's limits.

Salmon fishing closed For the second straight year the Pacific Fishery Management Council has agreed to ban commercial Chinook salmon fishing in California, Oregon and Washington. The PFMC approved three options to consider at next month's meeting, none of which included commercial fishing. Sportfishing will also be either banned or severely limited in the final option to be adopted next month. Only about 66,000 adult Chinook salmon returned to spawn last fall in the Sacramento and San Joaquin rivers – the lowest on record. The single option that would allow sportfishing would apply to recreational fishing north of the mouth of the Klamath River to southern Oregon.

Peter Moyle warning Peter Moyle, UC Davis fisheries scientist and author of last year's report on salmon decline, warned researchers at the Salmonid Restoration Conference that coho salmon would be the first to become extinct if protective action isn't taken soon. "This is a crisis," according to Dr. Moyle. He attributed the decline in salmon to excessive water diversions, construction of dams and other changes to the rivers where the fish spawn.

Game warden shortage California already has laws and regulations that could protect salmon, but lacks money and political will to do it. The Department of Fish and Game has been on starvation funding and has suffered from poor leadership for so long that it is now nearly ineffective to protect California's wildlife. We have only about 220 wardens to protect the state's wildlife. That's the lowest per capita number of any state in the union. It's nearly impossible to protect our fish and game with so few wardens. And the Warden's Association reported recently that layoff notices went to 90 of the States meager force of 220 field-level wardens. Our state's wildlife is at extreme risk due to this lack of protection.

Suction dredge mining Recreational gold miners have been using suction dredges on streams throughout California to search for gold. The machines vacuum gravel and sediment from the stream bottom and run it through a sluice box where the heavier gold particles settle out. The rest of the gravel and sediment is put back in the stream. Unfortunately, this action also mobilizes mercury left over from the Gold Rush and makes it available for organisms in the stream. Miners who are not careful or are ignorant of fish needs can also destroy the habitat required for wild trout, steelhead, and salmon. The Karuk Tribe recently pointed out the harmful nature of suction dredge mining at the confirmation hearings for Don Koch, Gov. Schwarzenegger's selection for Director of Fish and Game. Mr. Koch has acted favorably toward the miners. The legislature decided to postpone action on Mr. Koch's confirmation until it could learn more about the issue. In retaliation, a mining club called The New 49ers petitioned the department to close the Karuk Tribes dip net fishery. Let's see now, gold mining has been destroying streams for the last 160 years, but the Karuk Tribe has been fishing this way since the dawn of time. Which one is harming the fishery?

California's claims of three-year drought are all wet

By Michael Fitzgerald
Record Columnist
March 11, 2009 6:00 AM

California's "drought" is overblown. The alarmists calling it a historic disaster are trying to pull a fast one.

Rain fell constantly through February. The drought broke. Yet at month's end, Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger ominously declared a "drought emergency."

Earlier, Lester Snow, head of the state Department of Water Resources, proclaimed, "We may be at the start of the worst California drought in modern history."

Not even close. In reality - a word seldom placed in the same sentence as water in California - rainfall is nearly normal for this time of year.

Don't take my word for it. Here are the current 15-year average watershed precipitation levels, according to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation:

- » Sacramento River: 77 percent
- » American River: 102 percent
- » Stanislaus River: 96 percent
- » San Joaquin River: 91 percent

That is not a drought. That is below-average rainfall. And not far below average: 91.5 percent. But it is true Stockton's only at 75 percent.

Officials say the snowpack is critically low. False. The snow-water equivalent, according to the DWR itself, is 90 percent.

Officials say rainfall has been below average for three years. That is true. There should be water anyway. More on that later.

Officials say there are more people in California now. Well, yes. The addition of more people, however, does not constitute a drought, only perhaps an expansion beyond resources.

Officials say reservoirs are dry. False. Here are the 15-year average percentages for regional reservoirs.

- » Shasta: 69
- » Oroville: 68
- » Folsom: 108
- » New Melones: 74
- » Millerton: 88.

The average is 81.4 percent of normal - and rising. The inflow into Lake Shasta as of midnight Saturday was 13,239 cubic feet per second. Reservoirs are filling.

They may not fill brimful. But that is far from "the worst California drought in modern history."

Besides, state officials, SoCal water importers and other Chicken Littles don't mention they drained Northern California reservoirs prior to February's storms.

"In the first year of the drought, we passed water like a drunken sailor," said Bill Jennings, head of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance.

Some perspective: In the 1990s, the state and feds exported 4 million acre-feet of Delta water annually. In this decade - and well into the drought - officials imprudently powered up exports to more than 6 million acre-feet a year.

They irresponsibly sucked reservoirs down. They nearly killed the Delta. They stopped only when a federal judge called a halt.

"We cannibalized Northern California to sock it away in the Kern water bank and Diamond Valley water bank down south," Jennings said, "giving no thought to the question of a second or third year."

This controversy is about more than a peripheral canal. It is about a state that forgot how water rights work. Or special interests who are attempting to overthrow them.

Many of these distant users are last in line. Their contracts promise surplus in wet years. Yet they now feel entitled to water deliveries every year.

The irony is, the entitlements are bogus. Be they big metropolitan water agencies or small farmers, they've been had. Or they've been foolish.

The 80-year average for Delta water is 29 million acre-feet annually. The state and feds wrote contracts promising 130 million acre-feet: 4 1/2 times reality.

Other contracts bring total export contracts to an insane 245 million acre-feet, an ocean of paper water promised to people who gauged their farms, businesses or urban water consumption accordingly.

This delusion has been abetted by a series of governors from Southern California, misguided regulators and politicians caving to constituents.

So the "solution" to the ginned-up drought really amounts to an old-fashioned California water grab based on the failure to face nature's limits.

The Delta and the law be damned.

"It's an attempt to rewrite 150 years of California water law and legal precedent," declared Jennings, "by giving the most junior and inferior water rights equal footing with the most senior water rights. And to do that, it screws the Delta and Northern California."

Contact columnist Michael Fitzgerald at (209) 546-8270 or <mailto:michaelf@recordnet.com>.

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News from NCCFFF

North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership The Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers is supporting a bill in congress that would form a North American Salmon Stronghold Partnership. The NASSP initiative has great potential to will help focus restoration and protection efforts where they are most needed. Certainly, the dire state of our wild salmon populations requires a strategic focus on a network of watersheds containing the healthiest remaining wild Pacific salmon ecosystems. The NASSP does this - and it does it collaboratively with both non-government

and government agencies. This bill would provide resources to protect healthy Pacific Salmon Strongholds and facilitate the coordination of federal, state and local governments to implement conservation strategies, while helping to save billions of dollars in future restoration and rebuilding efforts. The bill, S3608, would also protect key production zones for commercial and recreation salmon fisheries. Based on data from Pacific Salmon Conservation Assessment, there are Pacific Salmon Strongholds covering approximately 20 percent of the existing range of Pacific salmon in the lower 48 states. By focusing on this 20 percent, nearly half of the total abundance of salmon in the lower 48 states may be preserved.



KIENE'S ANNUAL FLY FISHING EXPO

APRIL 18TH, 2009 ~ 9:00AM - 5:00PM

SPRING TIME MEANS A NEW FISHING SEASON IS UPON US. COME TO KIENE'S FLY FISHING EXPO AND GET INSPIRED. Come visit top fly fishing celebrities and fly tiers like Tim Rajeff, Andy Burk, Jay Murakoshi, Lincoln and Lance Gray, Wayne Richey, David Lee, Steve Potter, Leo Gutierrez, Terry Eggleston, Bob Scheidt and Doug Brutocao. Come see Targus' best tiers from Thailand and other staff members. You will find fly fishing manufacturer representatives with their new lines of great products for 2009 — a great opportunity for accurate technical information from them, one on one. Also take the opportunity to try out new fly rods in the casting area. Try your luck at the casting competitions, there will be mens, womens and kids groups for great prizes. There will also be raffles with lots of top prizes donated by the manufacturers, factory reps, fly tiers and guides. Most of the local fly fishing clubs will be there too. As usual, we will have free hot dogs, chips, bottled water and sodas for lunch so bring the entire family. Hope to see you there!



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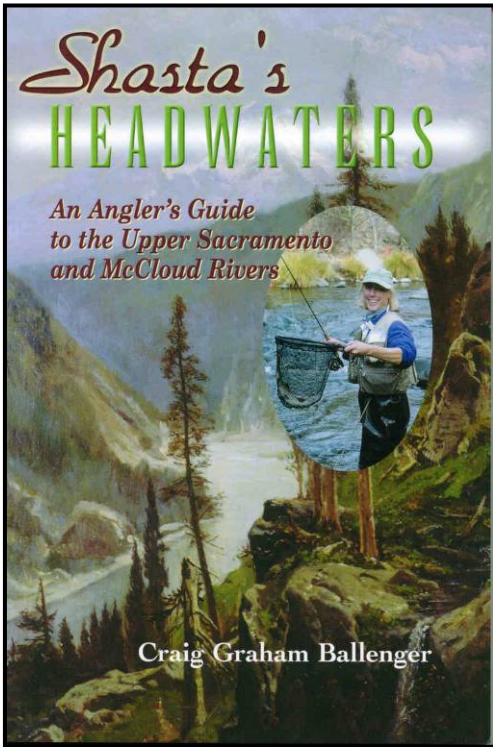
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Fly Fishing Classic of the Month

By Gene Gantt

Shasta's Headwaters – An Angler's Guide to the Upper Sacramento and McCloud Rivers

By Craig Graham Ballenger, Frank Amato Publications, 1998



With the McCloud FFD trip coming up May 15-18, I thought I would write about a book that covers this area. The author was born in McCloud and lives in Mt. Shasta, so he has some interesting insights to both of the rivers.

This book covers the history of the rivers from the time of early American Indians through the founding of McCloud (named after Ross McCloud) and covers fishing past and present. For those of us that have fished both rivers for many years, the book gives you a wonderful insight into what happened there a long time before any of us started fishing the region. There is a chapter on the fish and the fishery. He talks about fish that used to be in the river and are no longer there such as the Dolly Varden or Bull Trout. The last known Bull Trout was caught in the summer of 1975. The fish was 16 ¼ inches long and weighed 1 ½ pounds. There were steelhead and salmon on both rivers and the author covers their unfortunate demise. Of course, the book also covers the wonderful McCloud Rainbow and the introduction of German Browns to the streams.

Other chapters talk about bugs and hatches, including the October Caddis hatch. We get a chance to fish this hatch when we do our fall trip. Keep an eye out in the outing section of the newsletter and the signup sheet at the FFD meetings for the dates of this fall McCloud River trip. He also covers tactics and secrets of the freestone river which both of these are. Craig closes with a chapter on the future of the rivers.

“The Rainbow trout (Salmo iridea) weighing from one to three pounds is most plentiful here, but the Dolly Varden, (called by the Indians “wyedulticket”) is, perhaps, the gamiest and best flavored. Salmon are plentiful...and in certain seasons will bite at almost anything.” E. McD Johnstone 1887. Not quite what we experience

today, but both of these rivers enjoy the fact that people do care and work to keep them clean, fishable and will be there for years and years to come.

This book is a must read for anyone who fishes either of these fabulous California rivers. You should have no trouble finding this book. For those of you going on the spring McCloud trip, get a copy and read it while you are there. Sounds great doesn't it. Enjoy.

How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

Dues for adults and families are \$25/year. Student rate is \$15/year. The monthly newsletter is distributed by e-mail only. Please be sure to provide a valid e-mail address so that we can get the newsletter to you in Adobe Acrobat format. 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](mailto:John.Reynolds@dcn.org) , 530-753-2682 or <mailto: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 March Flying Ant Size 14

By Bob Zasoski



Flying Ants can be important trout food. Every angler should have a few in their fly box for the occasions when the wind blows ants and other terrestrials into the water. Over hanging or downed trees are important habitats for ants.

Thread: To match body

Hook: Standard or 1x long dry fly hook

Rear body: Ice dub formed to a rounded body

Hackle: Brown dry fly hackle

Front Body: Brown or red ice dub

Wing: Mylar tinsel looped on each side between the front and rear body



Tying Instructions: Debarb the hook and mount in the vice. Attach the tying thread near the tail position. Dub a rounded body. Tie in two lengths of mylar ribbing material and form a loop wing from each. Use a bodkin in the loop to even the wings. Tie off the wings and then attach a hackle. Wind the hackle in the middle of the hook shank. Tie off the hackle and dub the front body with ice dub. It can either be the same color as the rear body or red. Form a small thread head, whip finish and cement. The body can be dubbed with any dubbing and color to match the ants of interest. It could also be constructed from acetate floss and dipped in acetone to make a hard, shiny body. If you wish, you can dub the middle section and wind the hackle through the dubbing. This is closer to the natural that has three segments to the body, but probably not necessary to catch fish.

Fly of the Month for April Golden Stone Fly Nymph – Size 10

The fly of the month for April will be a golden stone nymph. There are several patterns with different levels of complexity available and any one you care to tie will be acceptable. The pattern found below was tied by Jim Woolacott and photographed by Hans Weilenmann. The picture and description from http://www.danica.com/flytier/jwoolacott/biot_golden_stonefly_nymph.htm is one of the less involved patterns.

Biot Golden Stonefly Nymph



Hook: Tiemco 200R, #10

Bead: gold

Thread: tan 8/0

Tail: goose biots dyed pale yellow, touched with brown permanent marker

Underbody: thread or floss

Body: goose biot dyed pale yellow touched with brown permanent marker for mottled effect

Wingcase: dark turkey tail treated with epoxy or glossy head cement

Legs: partridge or grouse

Thorax: buggy nymph golden stone dubbing

Steelhead in the Classroom – Egg Delivery

By Brian Bechtold

“Do you get paid for doing this? Not even for the gas?”

Yes, an actual question uttered by one of the students in Gretchen Smurr’s 6th Grade Class at Zamora Grade School in Woodland. Just one of the many interesting questions asked. The class was at recess when I arrived in the classroom—though the few students that remained in the classroom were visibly excited when I arrived. Gretchen had me go ahead and deposit the eggs in the tank, and asked if I would stay just a few minutes to answer questions as the class would be returning at any moment. Moments later the bell rang and the students returned—excitedly as they all instantly knew why this strange man with a cooler was standing there. After taking their seats—there were about 30 hands in the air.

“How many eggs are there? Where were the eggs laid? How old are the eggs?”... Samples of the more basic questions that they started out with, easily answered... “thirty-five, Nimbus Hatchery, and the eggs were fertilized on January 21st”.

“Where are we going to release the fish?” Gretchen needed to answer this one. They would release the fish in the American River just above the confluence with the Sacramento River.

“Where do they go after we release them?” I used that opportunity to explain the Steelhead life-cycle. In the river and to the delta to get bigger, then through San Francisco Bay to the Ocean, where they grow in the ocean over 2 or 3 years and return to the American River to spawn.

I asked a question of the students... *“Do you know the difference between a Steelhead and a Coastal Rainbow Trout?”* One student came close with the answer—saying that while they were still in the river they were Rainbow Trout and when they go to the ocean they are Steelhead. I said that the term Coastal Rainbow Trout and Steelhead are simply two different forms of the same fish. Both are in the same species, with the main difference being that the Rainbow Trout stays in the freshwater their whole life and the Steelhead live part of their life in the ocean. I indicated that the Steelhead will typically grow bigger due to the type of food in the ocean, though rainbows can get very big having never gone to the ocean if the river is rich in insect life (I pointed out that up in Redding the Sacramento river has many rainbows that get very large without ever going to the ocean).

I also visited a Joy Hoffman’s 3rd grade classroom in Esparto. Here the students were in the class when I arrived—so this time I added the eggs a bit at a time so groups of students could watch me add the colorful eggs—that virtually disappear when they blend in amongst the gravel on the bottom.

“Do they die after they spawn?” To which I explained that Steelhead do not always die after spawning, and sometimes return to the ocean and come back a year or so later to spawn again. Salmon, however, usually die after they spawn.

“Why do Steelhead live and Salmon die after spawning? Do the Steelhead just WANT to live more than that Salmon?”

Wow, now that is a question! Joy tried to handle it by explaining that Fish don’t think like we do—and that this is all instinct. I added that it is possible the differences in behavior might be that the two fish have occupied different niches within the eco-system—and that for their niche there is likely a subtle advantage to their behavior. In the case of the salmon—the dying fish puts lots of nutrients into the water that the young fry can live on after they hatch—and it is the very process of the adults dying that make it more likely that their offspring survive.

“Why are the eggs orange?” I pointed out that when out of the water they are easy to see—but inside the tank among the gravel they are very difficult to see (students agreed this seemed to be the case). I then pointed out that other fish will often wait just downstream of the spawning Salmon to eat some of the eggs that drift downstream—and that eggs that blend in with the bottom would be less likely to be eaten and more likely to hatch. And that is it is possible that over generations that the color of the eggs evolved to favor the color that was least likely to get eaten by other fish—and therefore most likely to survive, grow up, and spawn itself. [Yes, I brought up Evolution to third graders, good thing I’m not near Kansas anymore.] I also pointed out it is possible that the color of the eggs varies in different watersheds depending on subtle differences in the color of the rocks.

I always tried to preface much of what I said with “I think”, “It is possible”, or “Some scientists believe” because quite frankly I’m not an expert, and because often the kids will ask a question where there is no clear answer like the egg color question (in the case of the egg color question, I clearly prefaced that this was just my own speculation based on observation, and I didn’t know for sure).

So back to the question at the start from Gretchen’s class, what started as the deceptively simple question, *“Do you get paid for doing this? Not even for the gas?”* Turned into what I think was the most interesting discussion...

“No, I’m donating my time (and gas) as this isn’t what I do for a living.” I replied.

“Why?” The student asked back (uh-oh, the *Why?* game). Gretchen, being a savvy teacher, pointed me right at the answer. She said to the class, “So why would a person take the time to bring us these Steelhead eggs and talk to us about Steelhead and Salmon...”. I took the cue...

“Well, it is because these fish are vital indicators to the health of our environment...” I went on to discuss many of the threats to these fishes, and how they are indicative of significant environmental problems. If the quality of the water is polluted to the point that the fish cannot survive, it has implications for our own health. If we waste water, it means we have to take more water from the reservoirs and rivers that feed the Delta where the fish grow up—and that could cause the extinction of these fish. Apparently, this discussion went on long after I’d left the classroom.

Annual Dinner Pics Photos contributed by Donn Erickson



President Award Recipient: Tristan Leong!!!



We use to just shine flashlights through negatives for the program...



I'll give you the diet coke—ain't noboby buying the sodi-pop.



Ah shucks, you might as well just give me the whole roll.



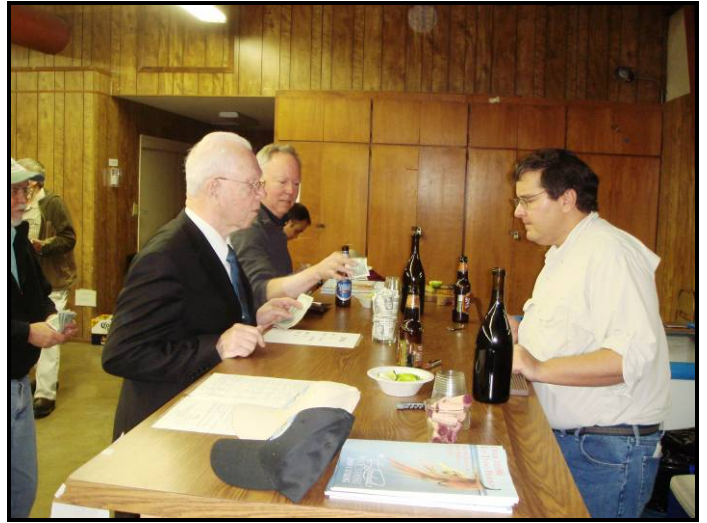
What a turn-out—we may need a bigger place!



John Reynolds at the door to take your money!



I seem to be out of beer... I've got plenty, I know the bartender...



...Sorry, Gene has all the beer.



A Man with style... and Corona!



Thanks to Ron Rabun and Silver Creek Press for the free calendars.



You realize now you have to do the Video Program EVERY year.



Hickory Hank's supplied the good grub.



Ok, trying really hard not to select a crinkled ticket...



I mean it—stop crinkling the tickets—you will be sorry.



Now for the various pics of people eating—in this case, only two noticed that Donn was standing there with camera.



This is better—everyone took notice and posed for the camera.



An example where NO ONE notices the camera...
...except, ironically, the kid in the background.



Ah, this is how it's done—a thumbs up for the camera! Nice.

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

Should we or shouldn't we was the question of the first week in March as the weather reports fluctuated between snow and sun. Ultimately the Baum trip was a go, and after a bitter cold Thursday afternoon the weather broke and the rest of the trip was in sun interspersed with blasts of cold wind. It was one of those trips which any fishmeister wants to see happen. A great bunch of guys enjoying themselves and each other, and some wonderful meals along the way.

As for the fishing, Baum is tough generally and this trip was no exception. Thursday Tom Burton was clearly high rod with 6; and almost the only successful rod. Friday Jim Wright, possessed of some mysterious intuition, put on a psycho prince and had a great day while causing a run on my fly box supply of these gaudy creations. But Saturday the old reliable #20 midges (ice cream cone and candy cane) seemed again to be the favorite offering.

And as to those meals: Jim Wright (actually his better half) served up a great vegetarian chili on Thursday and Gene Gantt gave us a wonderful pork stew Friday, in both case topped off with pie for dessert courtesy of Tom and preceded or accompanied by the usual wine, salads etc provided by the rest of us. Appreciation is due particularly for the 2 chefs and Tom for a great camp setup.

No report on the trip would be complete without mention of the mid night sonatas rendered by one who will remain nameless. His efforts to unseat Sarge as the unquestioned snore champion of the Club were truly prodigious. So loud were the evening emanations that Tom's otherwise sound sleep in his enclosed shell some thirty feet away was continually interrupted. Needless to say the chain saw imitator received a certain amount of good hearted abuse taken in stride and the victims likewise took it all in good humor. Note to Sarge: your title could be in jeopardy.

Back to the future, there are various new signups which will be out at the March meeting, particularly as of press time the Old Fogies and Donn's Trinity camping venture. Also a note for anyone interested in next January's Trinity trip: while full there will be a wait list and invariably there are dropouts. Thus if interested it would be advisable to signup soon. Also as to Fly Shop trips, there are numerous openings for both the October (Friday and /or Saturday) and November (2 days) outings. Practically speaking the signups for the October trip close no later than July. In addition, Gene Gantt has set the dates for the Spring McCloud outing on May 15th - 18th. - [Cary Boyden](#)

Fly Fishers of Davis 2009 Outings Schedule

EVENT	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/Fees
Trinity Fly Shop	Steelhead	Jan 5-6 (M-Tu)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$160 + tip (per day)
Feather River	Steelhead	Jan (tentative)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	Cancelled
**FF101 Meeting	Kickoff meeting	Feb 19 (Th)	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Meet, gear and logistics
Baum Lake	Trout	Mar 5-8 (Th-Su)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Redding / Sacramento	Trout	Mar 20-21 (Fr & Sa)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$160 + tip
**FF101 Lower Yuba	Trout	Mar 21 (Sa)	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Class on the River
Jeff Putnam Spey Clinic	Watt Ave. Access	Mar 22 (Su)	Bob Zasoski 530-753-2241	9-1 \$50
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Apr 3-4 (Fr-Sa)	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	Big Lahontans
Kiene's Fly Shop	Exposition 2008	Apr 18 (Sa) 9 - 4	Bill & Marilyn 916-486-9958	2654 Marconi Avenue
Christmas Island	Bone Fish, etc.	Apr 13-21	Donn Erickson 707-718-7724	
**FF101 Day Trip	TBA	Apr 24-26 (Fr-Su)	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	
Jeff Putnam Clinic	Casting	May 3 (Su)	Bob Zasoski 530-753-2241	North Star Ponds - Free
**FF101 Day Trip	TBA	May 8-9 (Fr-Sa)	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	
McCloud	Trout	May 15-18 (Fr-M)	Gene Gantt 707-451-3262	Also an **FF101 event
Shad - Sacramento River	Shad	May 22 (Fr)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	Road 48
**FF101 Upper Sac	Trout	May 22-25 (Fr-M)	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Memorial Weekend
Payne Ranch	Smallmouth Bass	May/June	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Yuba River	Trout	May 30 (Sa)	Joe Melendres 530-304-0480	Tentative date
Lake Davis	Trout	Jun 4-7 (Th-Su)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
**FF101 Day Trip	TBA	Jun 12-14 (Fr-Su)	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	
Lake Almanor	Trout	Jun 19-21 (Fr-Su)	Chris Berardi 530-759-1968	Lincoln Gray School
Trinity Alps	Trout	Jun 25-28 (Th-Su)	Donn Erickson 707-718-7724	
Fuller Lake	Trout	Jul 11 (Sa)	Brian Bechtold 530-574-5157	
Lewiston	Trout	Jul 16-19 (Th-Su)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Old Fogies - Backpack	Trout	Aug 7-9 (Fr-Su)	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
**FF101 Backpack	Golden Trout	Aug 6-9 or 13-16	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	Pending Interest
Klamath	½ Pounders	Early Sep (tentative)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	Limited Space
Payne Ranch	Smallmouth Bass	Sep	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
**FF101 Guided Trip	Trout	Sep	Tristan Leong 530-747-0563	
Lake Davis	Trout	Sep 11-13 (Fr-Su)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
McCloud	Trout	Oct	Gene Gantt 707-451-3262	Also an **FF101 event
Redding / Sacramento	Trout & Steelhead	Oct 16-17 (Fr & Sa)	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$160 + tip

Tote & Float	Steelhead	Nov 5-7 (Th-Sa)	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	Tote 'n Float
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Nov	Jon Knapp	530-756-9056	Big Lahontans
Putah Creek Cleanup	Garbage	Nov	John Reynolds	530-753-2682	FREE Food & Drink
Trinity - or - Klamath	Steelhead	Nov 19-20 (Th-Fr)	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$160 + tip (per day)
Lake Amador	Trout	Dec 5 (Sa)	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Trinity - or - Klamath	Steelhead	Jan 7-8, 2010 (Th-Fr)	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$160 + tip (per day)

**** FF101 Clinic Events**

Officers, Directors and Committees

President:	Tom Burton	707-678-3850
Vice President	Gene Gantt	707-451-3262
Treasurer	Gene Gantt	707-451-3262
Secretary	John Imsdahl	707-685-1582
DIRECTORS		
2009	Marge March	530-753-1583
	Donn Erickson	707-718-7724
2010	Brian Bechtold	530-574-5157
	Bob Brodberg	530-756-9071
2011	Tristan Leong	530-747-0563
	Dick Bellows	530-668-7981
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	Donn Erickson	707-718-7724
Hospitality	Reed Enos	530-756-2331
Raffle Chair	Bob Brodberg	530-756-9071
Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski	530-753-2241
Picnic Chair	Donn Erickson	707-718-7724
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:bechtold.brian@gmail.com) at <mailto:bechtold.brian@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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