

Fly Fishers of Davis<http://www.FlyFishersofDavis.org>

Volume 42 Issue 4

T h e F i s h e r m a n ' s L i n e

**April Meeting, Tuesday April 29th,
7:30pm @ Harper Jr. High School
Don Brosier & Kevin Mather Present:
“Trout Unlimited Conservation and Advocacy in CA and Local Area”**

The Fly Fishers of Davis will host Dan Brosier (President) and Kevin Mather (Secretary) on Tuesday, April 29th for a program outlining Trout Unlimited's (TU) conservation, advocacy and education work within California and in the local area. TU is the nations largest cold water fisheries conservation group with over 150,000 members nationwide. Dan Brosier and Kevin Mather, both dedicated steelhead junkies, are board members of Sac-Sierra TU, the local grassroots chapter. Sac-Sierra TU was recently awarded an "Embrace a Stream" grant for erosion control work on Secret Ravine, a tributary of Dry Creek in Sacramento which supports both salmon and steelhead. They will be discussing the project and opportunities for people to become involved.



Kevin Mather is the Secretary for the Sac-Sierra chapter of Trout Unlimited, the Secretary of the California Council for TU and a board member of the Dry Creek Conservancy. He became involved with TU and fisheries conservation because of his love for wild steelhead.

THE PREZ SEZ

By Bob Brodberg

A new fishing season is open. Conditions being what they are this could be a year to remember or forget. Even with low water there were plenty of fish on our recent Lower Sac outings. Take a look at the club outings and fish early this year. Don't forget the casting clinic with Jeff Putnam May 4. It is a great way to start the year.

The Board is making some changes as a result of the member survey. We will be using nametags to increase camaraderie at meetings and make it easier to identify officers and other members. The membership table will be closer to the door and provide a "meeting guide" to make visitors feel welcome. We would also like to have more seasoned members showing new members around. If you would like to help with this contact our new Membership Chair Lynn Hooper or stop at the membership table. We can also use some help at the hospitality table. Fred Bryner has been doing a great job but once in while he needs a break. Talk with him if you can help on occasion.

Bob



MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting schedule has been tentatively set for the next few months. Kurt Arens is the program chair - let him know if you like the program speakers or if you have ideas for one.

Fly Fishers of Davis 2014 Meeting Schedule			
MONTH	SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC
April	Gary Slade	April 29	Trout Unlimited Projects
May	Tristan Leong	May 27	Olympic Peninsula Steelhead
June	Annual Club Picnic		
July	Mike Weir	July 29	TBD
August	NO MEETING		
September	Jay Clark	September 30	Pyramid Lake

*Except where noted, all meetings will take place at Harper Jr. High School

CLUB LIBRARY NEEDS YOUR HELP

By Dave Yarborough



We need your help in upgrading our book and DVD libraries. At present we have only 4 books and 9 DVD's (that are mostly documentaries). If you have any books or DVD's on fly fishing or tying that you would like to donate it would be greatly appreciated.

In the next few months we will be buying some new DVD's and books but in the mean time we would like your input on what type of items to purchase for your reading and viewing pleasure. So please stop by at the next meeting and see what we have and make a suggestion.

All books and DVD's can be checked out at no charge for one month, so take out one meeting, return the next.

Tune Up Your Casting

The Fly Fishers of Davis is sponsoring a clinic aimed at honing your fly casting skills for the upcoming season. The annual spring casting clinic and tune up will be held at the Northstar Ponds from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm on Sunday May 4. Jeff Putnam noted local casting instructor will be there to help solve your casting problems. Jeff is very good at finding and correcting those frustrating problems that affect you accuracy and distance. If you have questions please contact Bob Zasoski at rjzasoski@sbcglobal.net or phone 753-2241. Northstar Ponds are located at 3434 Anderson Rd just west of the F Street and Anderson Road intersection in north Davis. Bring your favorite casting outfit and eye protection. Don't forget sunscreen and bug juice as the gnats could be out. There is no fee for this clinic.



Club Thank Yous



Dear Bob,

On behalf of CFR Northern California I would like to thank the Fly Fishers Davis for the generous donation to our program. Also, thank you for having us at your dinner - what a fantastic group of people - we really enjoyed it. Tight lines!

Sincerely,
Susan Dobb



Dear Bob

and all members of
Fly Fishers of Davis

Again I can't thank you for enough for your continued support of Casting for Recovery. Was a wonderful evening at your dinner. Great to meet Tom, Kenneth, and Gene this year's River Helpers. Again thank you Susan

Salmon Field Trip to Yolo Bypass



Putah Creek
Council

UCDAVIS
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA



Name: Adney, Fly Fishers of Davis Teacher: _____



Fish Printing



Fish Seining Observations



Zooplankton Identification



Species observed:

Nature Walk

I smell...



I hear...



I see...



I feel...

<http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/knaggs-ranch>

Dear Adney and the Fly Fishers of Davis,
 Thank you for all your help supporting our
 teachers in the Salmon in the Classroom
 Program. We couldn't have done it without
 your help with the teacher training,
 providing the tanks for the classrooms,
 delivering and setting up the tank, egg
 delivery and answering the steady
 stream of "is this normal?" questions.
 We also had the opportunity to take the
 students out to Knaggs Ranch to learn
 about salmon and farming. They had a blast
 many thanks. -Martha on behalf of the PCC Board and Staff

Fly Tying Corner

Manzanita Lake by Chris Berardi

One of my favorite still water venues in all of Northern California is Manzanita Lake. This year's outing takes place on the weekend of May 3rd and 4th. Check with Dana Hooper about the availability of this terrific outing, as it usually fills up fast.

Manzanita Lake is a small, 26 acre lake (elev. 5900') located just inside of the North West entrance of Lassen Volcanic National Park <http://www.nps.gov/lavo/index.htm>, about 1 hour east of Redding, California on Hwy 44. The lake was formed when Manzanita Creek was dammed 300 years ago by a rock avalanche from the northwest slope of the Chaos Crags. The fertile volcanic soil and lush vegetation provide a perfect environment for aquatic insects that support a very health population of both rainbow and brown trout. Fly fishing this gem can be challenging, but with snow-capped Lassen Peak as a backdrop you'll be rewarded all the same.

Given the relatively easy access to Manzanita Lake coupled with clear water and weekend recreation pressure, fly fishing for these wary trout require patience, stealth and knowledge. You are on your own with patience and stealth, but I can help with local knowledge. First, fish small flies. Second, fish small flies along the shoreline (where browns like to cruise) and third, fish small flies in or at the edge of weed beds.

Generally, most midge patterns (my "go to" fly is black Zebra midge) can be fish effectively here if done right, but during the summer months of mid-June to mid-July, the Callibaetis hatch brings out the fish en masse. I fish it on a dry line with a long leader either along the bank or over weed beds.

I like tying Poxyback flies because it adds a dimension of translucence that I feel enhances the attraction to fish. Below is a recipe that works well for me, but of course, you can experiment as you wish. Tight lines!

The Poxyback Callibaetis

- **Hook:** #16-18 Tiemco 200R
- **Thread:** Olive UTC 70
- **Tail:** Gray Ostrich Herl
- **Body:** Olive Dubbing
- **Rib:** Pearl Krystal Flash
- **Casing:** Pheasant Tail
- **Gills:** - Fibers from base of Partridge Feather
- **Thorax:** Olive Dubbing
- **Legs:** Partridge Feather
- **Poxyback:** 5-minute Epoxy



Tying Suggestions

1. Start thread one eye length back from eye. Wrap back to above barb.
2. Tie in a few strands of Ostrich Herl, length of abdomen.
3. Tie in Krystal Flash rib.
4. Dub thread – one wrap under tail and wrap a slender body 60% of hook shank.

5. Tie a small clump of Partridge feathers to each side – wrap back against body to flare the gills to the sides.
6. Tie Pheasant tail on top of shank extending back over abdomen.
7. Dub thorax a little heavier than the abdomen. (do not crowd head)
8. Pull Pheasant tail over top of thorax to form wing case, tie off and trim.
9. Tie a few more Partridge fibers on each side; wrap back against thorax to flare legs.
10. Dub head area. Whip finish and cement thread wraps.
11. Line up finished flies on Styrofoam block. Mix 5-minute epoxy and place a small drop on each wing case. (wing case only).
12. Also, try variation in body color; dark colors work well at higher elevations



**First Annual
Fly Fishers of Davis
DELTA BASS N FLY
Tournament**

Sat. June 7, 2014

contact Dana Hooper
trouthookup1@gmail.com
for more info



CONSERVATION REPORT

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Conservation Mailing List Want to keep up on conservation issues in between newsletters? Join the FFD Conservation email list at <http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/ffd-conservation>.

I recommend taking a look at the Brave Gnu Whirled blog by Steve Notoli titled [Getting Real About Water](#). Here's a brief summary, but see the blog for the full story.

Steve wrote his thoughts about a presentation by Bill Tweed, retired Chief Naturalist at Sequoia National Park, on the long-term water situation in California. The bottom line is that we will not be able to keep intensively farming the entire Central Valley. It's fundamentally unsustainable – every year the process uses more water than nature provides.

Water in California is variable, both spatially and temporally. Precipitation varies greatly across the San Joaquin Valley. Much more falls in Northern California than Central and Southern. From year to year precipitation varies by a factor of 5 times – that's the norm.

Agriculture in the Central Valley depends on reliable water – which is not the norm. There is insufficient water to maintain current usage. The deficit is made up by ground and imported water. There is an annual overdraft of ground and imported water of 3 million acre feet a year. The water table used to be 20 feet deep – it is now more than 300 feet. Not all SJV farmland is "prime." There is much marginal hard pan, alkaline and saline irrigation runoff land, for instance.

The warming climate will result in a reduced winter snow pack and even more annual unpredictability. It's also going to get warmer. It's already 2 degrees warmer than the 1960's, more at higher elevations. That means more evaporation from lakes, rivers and vegetation.

Our current water system is at its limit. The SF Bay Delta is already below sea level. If we pump more water out of it or reduce the flow into it sea water intrusion will happen even faster. Saving Central Valley farmland would thus entail sacrificing Delta farmland.

We have already built and dammed the best water storage sites. New storage will come at a higher marginal cost. Meanwhile, California added over 3.4 million people from the 2000 census to the 2010 census. Desalination is expensive – it costs \$1.01 per thousand gallons compared to 10 to 20 cents per thousand gallons for surface or ground water.

The situation calls for realism. Do we go on the way we are until the wells run dry, devastating the region all at once? Do we quintuple the price of water, making all farming uncompetitive here? Or do we limit use according to a fair, sustainable and rationally planned program? It will be one of the three, whether intentionally or not. As the old saying goes, "Not to decide is to decide."

H.R. 3964 Contrast the above analysis to legislation introduced last month by Congressmen David G. Valadao (CA-21) , Devin Nunes (CA-22), and Kevin McCarthy (CA-23) “to resolve the water crisis in California.” According to Valadao’s web site, “H.R. 3964, the Sacramento–San Joaquin Valley Emergency Water Delivery Act restores water reliability to California communities by codifying the bipartisan Bay-Delta Accord. It also reforms onerous federal laws – such as the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and the San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act – that have severely curtailed water deliveries and resulted in hundreds of billions of gallons of badly needed water being flushed into the ocean.”

According to Rep. McCarthy, “The current California drought is a crisis exacerbated by the failure of government to ensure water flows to our communities and farms.”

If passed, HR 3964 would:

- Strip Endangered Species protections for salmon and other endangered species, which are required under both California state law and federal law.
- Overturn the court approved San Joaquin River Restoration Settlement Act.
- Gut the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, which requires compliance with state law, encourages water conservation, makes modest reforms to reduce water subsidies, and contributes water for the recovery of endangered fish species.
- Override current protection for the Merced River under the federal Wild and Scenic Rivers Act and modify water contracts for certain contractors to provide significantly more water than they are entitled to under their current contracts.

The bill was met with comments divided along partisan lines. Senator Feinstein responded “Today’s bill is another irresponsible proposal that puts politics ahead of the needs of California, and candidly, it’s very disappointing. The bill is nothing more than a recycled version of legislation from 2011, and it is profoundly dangerous for California.

Speaker of the House John Boehner called the situation “dire, as a lack of rain is intensified by a federally-mandated drought reinforced by endless environmental lawsuits.”

Congressman Jim Costa said “...as much as I think a number of reforms in this bill are long overdue and some of the policy decisions have increased the damage of the current drought conditions, we all have to recognize that we’re in triage mode and need to focus on the art of possible. It is time for cooler heads to prevail.”

Congressman John Garamendi said this bill “rips up California water contracts and state law. If enacted, this extreme bill would cause an ecological disaster for the San Francisco Bay and an economic crisis for California.”

President Obama Visits Fresno With this backdrop, President Obama visited Fresno last week to announce federal assistance and to sit down with a select group of farmers and water agency representatives. The GOP Congressional delegates were not invited, nor was anyone to support the delta or the fisheries. Restore The Delta bussed a load of people to Fresno to demonstrate support for the delta. The proposed aid included \$100 million in livestock disaster relief – livestock are in danger from lack of feed due to drought, \$5 million in conservation assistance, \$5 million in Emergency Watershed Protection Program assistance to protect vulnerable soils. He did not take a position on California’s water wars, nor did his statement reference the twin tunnel plan to move water past the delta. Responses to his initiatives were decidedly partisan. Senator Barbara Boxer praised his actions, and thanked him for moving quickly to provide relief. Congressman Jeff Denham appreciated his visit to the valley, but asked for more storage. Congressman Kevin McCarthy criticized the President’s “massive spending initiative to explore the impacts of climate change.” Congressman Devin Nunes thought it was ludicrous to blame the water crisis on global warming and said California’s irrigation system is able to supply water through five years of drought. Congressman David Valadao said the President missed an opportunity.

Fortunately for us, the President did not take a position on water transfers or the BDCP. He’s apparently leaving the battle to local interests.

Where did the water go? Several of the above comments made a point that California’s water system should be able to manage droughts via storage and transfers. This is probably true, but the past year illustrates how the system can be mismanaged to exacerbate a dry period. If you look at the water storage in the state’s reservoirs (see last month’s newsletter, for examples), you’ll find that Pyramid Lake and Lake Castaic in Southern California are full to the brim.

Nearly all reservoirs in Northern California are critically dry. During the past year, water managers transferred 800,000 acre-feet of water from northern to southern California. The Metropolitan Water District has announced it has sufficient water to go through 2016 without rationing. To their credit, they’ve asked their customers to conserve, but this situation illustrates that despite having a system that could have provided water to all parties, it didn’t work for all of California. It’s one more piece of evidence that if the twin tunnels are constructed, they will be used to transfer as much water as possible, despite assurances to the contrary.

Meanwhile, back at the Delta The Midwinter Trawl Survey presented a grim diagnosis of the health of California’s largest wetland ecosystem. With the exception of a few years (1974 and 1979), the **Fall Midwater Trawl** has been conducted annually from 1967-2013 at approximately 122 stations throughout the Delta. Based on population indices reported by CDFW for the Fall Midwater Trawl, all six fish species surveyed exhibited low abundance in 2013, and many show continued declining abundance trends. Low abundance of multiple species may be indicative of the “continuing biological collapse” of the Bay Delta ecosystem. It’s hard to deny that many Bay Delta fish populations have suffered dramatic losses in recent decades. See more at fishbio.com, including a graph of survey results over time that shows a 90+% decline in population.

Desalination? Oh, yes, about desalination. The major downside is not so much the cost as the brine waste that’s produced. It’s so salty that even returning it to the sea could be disastrous. Gotta get more info on that!

News from NCCFFF

Lowell Ashbaugh

Fish and Game Commission closes rivers As I reported last month, I wrote a letter to the Department of Fish and Wildlife requesting a closure of the American River due to low flows to protect the salmon and wild steelhead in the system. The DFW took the issue to the Fish and Game Commission meeting last month and the commission voted to close the American, the Russian, and all northern coastal rivers to fishing through April 30. This was a real win for the fisheries, despite being a loss to those of us who would like to be able to fish the rivers. Due to the drought, though, these fisheries need protection this year. The NCCFFF joined with a number of other organizations to support the closures.

Stop the Tunnels Petition Whether or not you’ve written a letter to the Governor yet, it would be a good idea to sign a petition to stop the tunnels. It’s supported by Restore the Delta at <http://restorethedelta.org/stop-the-tunnels-petition/>. Take a couple of minutes and sign it today. Then write that letter!

FFD Outing: Lower Sacramento Guided Float

Photos by FFD Members



Fish on for Bob Brodberg



Guide Kris Kennedy and Bob with his 25" trophy rainbow



Safely landed in the net



Golden Stone Fly Husk



Great conditions on the Lower Sac. for FFD members



Lower Sac was very low, but still yielding plenty of big fish



Fish On!



Nice snow pack on Mt. Shasta still



Beautiful Redding Sunrise



Plenty of sights to take in on the Lower Sac Float





Jenny Lubin with a fish ON.



Guide Shane Kolbeck with one of Jenny's rainbows



Lowell Ashbaugh with a nice rainbow



Jenny caught the two largest fish on their boat.

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Doug Falt shows off his catch



Jim Luschwitz and Doug had 5 double that day!



Jim and Doug had 5 double that day!



Tom Robinson showing the fish how to strike a pose



A beautiful Rainbow for Jack Norski



Carl Lunsted with a nice Steelhead



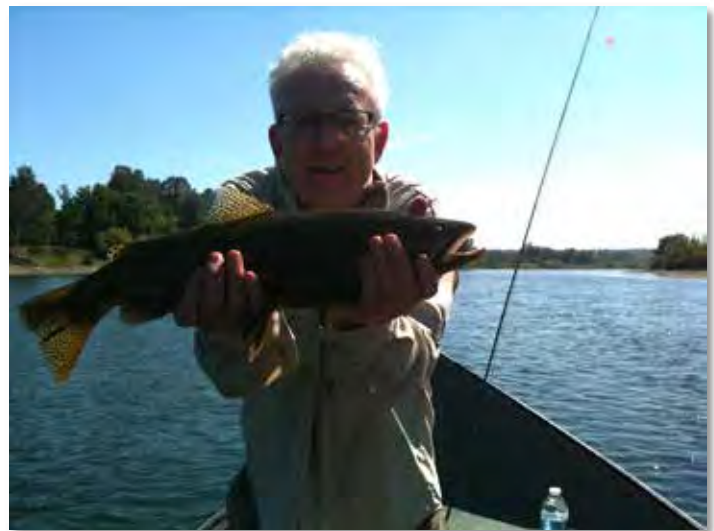
Jack wins award for smallest trout



Another nice Rainbow for Jack



Prescott Williams caught this beauty.



John Hurst shows his nice fish



Prescott with another nice rainbow



Shane Kolbeck got Prescott and John into some nice fish!

Keswick

Photos by Jim Wright



Jim Wright with a nice rainbow!



Mioko landing a nice rainbow



Shasta Dam

Delta Days
Photos by FFD Members



Tom Robinson with a 8lb. Striper



Kurt Arens with a nice Black Bass



Dana Hooper's Black Bass with some nice top water action



One of many Bass Chris Berardi pulled in that day.



Andan Bailey with a Delta HOG



UTINGS FFD

2014 - 2015

Trip 2014	Fish		Dates	Fishmeister	Contact	Comments
Putah Creek	Trout		TBD	Steve Karr	sk60@putahcreektrout.org	
Manzanita Lake Trip	Trout	Float	May 2 - 4	Chris Berardi		Camping
Hat Creek	Trout		May 16-18	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	Fly 101 Camping
Lower Yuba UCD Property	Trout		May 24	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	
Sac River Shad	Shad		May 23	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Payne Ranch	Smallies		May 24th	John Reynolds	530-753-2682	Day trip
McCloud River	Trout		June/July	Gene Gnant	707-451-3262	Camping
Lake Davis	Trout		June 5 - 9	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	Camping may be issue
1 st Annual Delta Bass n Fly	Bass		June 7	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	Rules to be announced
Fuller Lake	Trout		June / July	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722	Day trip
Lewiston Lake	Trout		July 10 - 13	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	Camping
Old Fogeys Trip	Trout		Aug. 7 - 10	Bob Brodberg	530-756-9071	Backpacking
Lake Davis	Trout		Sept 18 - 21	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	Camping may be issue
Payne Ranch	Smallies		Oct 11th	John Reynolds	530-753-2682	Day trip
Lower Sac Float	Trout		Oct. 15, 16, 17, 18	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	\$170 / day (check only) + tip
Trinity Trip (Fall) 2014	Steelhead		October 30 - 31	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$170 / day (check only) + tip
Striper Fest 2014	Stripers		November 15	Donn Erickson	707-718-7724	Share gas with Boat
Luk Lake	Trout/bass		December 5 - 6	Dana Hooper	916-343-9732	\$120/day (check only) + Rentals
Trip 2015	Fish		Dates	Fishmeister	Contact	Comments
Trinity 2015	Steelhead	Guided	Jan. 12 - 13	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$340 + tip
Baum Lake	Trout		TBA	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	
Lower Sac Float	Trout	Guided	April	Cary Boyden	530-753-3826	\$170per day +tip
Pyramid	Trout		April	Jon Knapp	530-756-9056	

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	Kurt Arens	530-624-1986
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	Tom Robinson	530-304-0305
2016	Phil Reedy	530-297-7535
	Eric Kapucinski	916-984-6438
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Newsletter	Tom Robinson	530-304-0305
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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 \$30 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.flyfishersofdavis.org/news1.shtml>

Be sure if you signed up for the \$30 annual membership that you get your email address to [John Reynolds](mailto:John.Reynolds@dcn.org) at jreyn@dcn.org. 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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How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

Dues for adults and families are \$30/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. Drop this form (and a check) in the mail to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. Box 525, Davis, CA 95617. Or 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