

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

Volume 43 Issue 3

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

**January Meeting, Tuesday March 31st, 2015
7:30pm @ Harper Jr. High School
The Fly Fishers of Davis Presents:
“Fly Fishing the State of Jefferson”**



This month the Fly Fishers of Davis will hear from Tim Fox who will do a fly tying demonstration and use each fly to discuss the various bodies of water in the “State of Jefferson”. The mythical State of Jefferson, comprised of the Northern most part of California and Southern Oregon, is home to some of the best fly fishing anywhere.

Tim Fox grew up in Northern California fishing all the rivers, lakes and streams. He started commercially tying flies for Powell Fly Shop in Chico at the age of 14 and worked their retail shop from 1988 to 1995. He then left for a new shop being built in Fairfield. It was called the California Fly Shop (before the currently called shop of said name even existed), which he helped start from the ground up. At the end of 1996, he moved to Redding and started working at The Fly Shop in January of 1997. During all this time, Tim was guiding, teaching schools and tying commercially and also creating fly patterns for royalty money. Currently Tim manages Kiene’s Fly Shop in Sacramento, but still lives in Redding. That job is coming to an end and currently Tim is guiding hunting clients for pigs and fly fishing guiding pretty much anywhere in the most northern parts of the state.

THE PREZ SEZ

By Dana Hooper

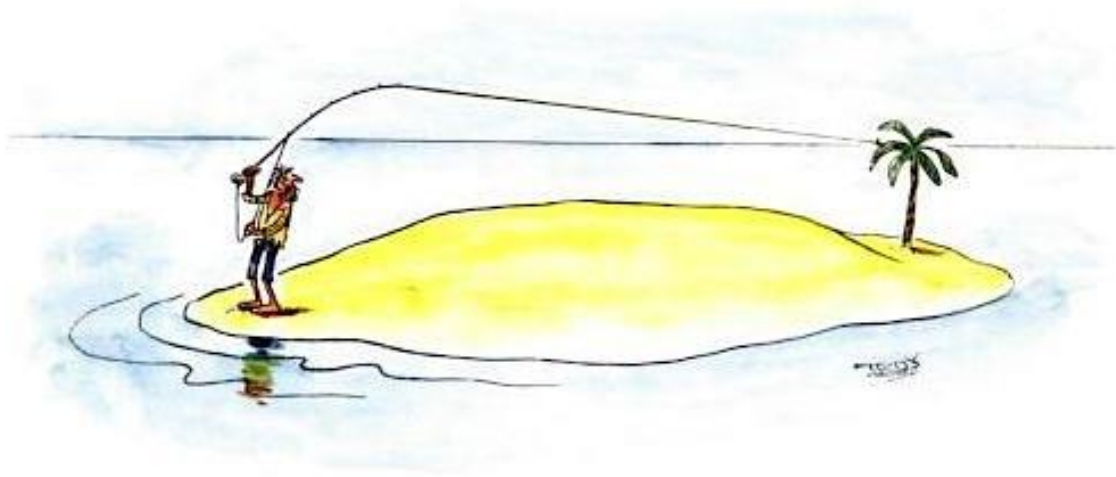
First I want to thank all those that participated in the 2015 Annual Dinner and supported the club in our biggest fundraiser of the year. We had a great turn out, awesome food, great prizes and great company. Special thanks goes out to the team that covered the front table getting people their dinner tickets and raffle ticket Tom R and Paul with Phil and Dan greeting them out side. Thanks to our great Bar Tenders Gene G and Carl L and of course the great video to end 2014 by Paul B.

I hope everyone has had a chance to get out and wet a line for there are many venues to try going into April 2015.

Hope to see you at the meeting next week with The Great Tim Fox Presenting.

Thanks,

Dana Hooper



ANNUAL DINNER VIDEO

By Paul Berliner



I'm glad everyone enjoyed this year's "Fly Fishers of Davis - 2014 In Review" video at the annual dinner, and I'd like to extend my special thanks to everyone that submitted pictures and video clips. Yes, classical music does indeed work well with pictures of trout!

If you'd like a copy, please send an email to paul@berlinerproductions.com, or simply let me know in person at the next meeting. I'll provide you with a high-definition "Windows Media" file of the show.

I can't sell the video, but I will certainly trade it for a few flies. And please ... don't forget to keep on taking pictures and video! Thanks!

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 2015 Meeting Schedule | | | |
|---|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|
| MONTH | SPEAKER | DATE | TOPIC |
| March | Tim Fox | March 31, 2015 | Fly Fishing State of Jefferson |
| April | Dan LeCount | April 28, 2015 | Streamer Tactics for Trout |
| May | Dax Messett | May 26, 2015 | Nomad Angler |
| June | Annual Club Picnic | | |
| July | Dennis Lee | July 28, 2015 | Half Pounders |
| September | TBD | September 29, 2015 | TBD |
| October | Mike Costello | October 27, 2015 | Delta Stripers |
| November | TBD | November 24, 2015 | TBD |
| December | Home Grown | TBD | TBD |

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



Fly Fishing 101 & 201 Classes
 By Dana Hooper

| Class | Date | Topic |
|-------|---------------------|--|
| 8 | Wed, March 25, 2015 | 201 Class: Tight Line Techniques taught by Dan Brugger |

email Dana Hooper at trouthookup1@gmail.com or 916-343-9732 for more information



Learn how to DITCH THE BOBBER
 Fly Fishing 201: Tight Line Techniques
 Instructor: Dan Brugger
 April 17 - 9pm
 UCD Viticulture Room

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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>.

The Salmonid Restoration Federation held its 33rd Annual Conference last week, and I was fortunate to be able to attend it on Friday. I would have enjoyed Saturday, too, but I had another commitment that day. Friday was the conference opening day, so I heard the four plenary talks and then session-hopped in the afternoon.

Dr. Lynn Ingram of UC Berkeley gave the first talk on paleoclimate records of past droughts and floods. She has been studying sediment cores in the San Francisco Bay and elsewhere in California. Because so much runoff flows through SF Bay, sediment cores there reflect precipitation records for about 40% of the state and extend back for thousands of years. Variation in rainfall results in salinity changes that change the microflora and fauna in the bay.

By examining the cores, Dr. Ingram has determined several instances of megadroughts in California's past. Two megadroughts occurred in 1200-1350 AD and 900-1100 AD. Note the length of these droughts – 150 and 200 years! It's thought that the Anasazi civilization, the people who built the cliff dwellings in Mesa Verde National Park, collapsed during a megadrought during this period. Another, even longer, period of drought occurred in the mid-Holocene period (6000-4700 years ago).

On the flip side, there have been megafloods every 200 years or so in California. In 1861-62 it rained for 43 days in a row, flooding the entire Central Valley.

Much of the information she presented is in her new book, "The West Without Water: What Past Floods, Droughts, and Other Climatic Clues Tell Us About Tomorrow." I haven't read it, but it should be interesting.

The second plenary talk was by Brian Spence of NOAA Fisheries, on Historical Context for Interpreting Early Accounts of Pacific Salmon in California. His work is driven by the requirement by fisheries scientists and managers to define the historical ranges of salmonid species in California to comply with the Endangered Species Act and the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Reauthorization Act. Because many salmonid species were extirpated from their historical ranges years ago, this poses some challenges. Records from the past are scarce, and many of them are not accurate.

The first systematic sampling of Pacific salmonids was conducted in 1895-1900, long after much environmental

damage had occurred. Think about, for example, the gold rush in the mid-1800s, when placer mining destroyed vast ranges of salmon habitat. Salmon science was in its infancy during the 1800s. There was no consensus on taxonomy, so the five species we now know of had about 200 names. This was due in part to different scientists observing fish at different stages of development, a poor understanding of the salmon life cycle, limited exploration, and confusion about salmon vs. steelhead trout. To confuse matters further, early hatchery and stocking practices had introduced species to non-native ranges by the early 1870s.

This was a fascinating talk with the bottom line that scientists and fisheries managers should avoid the pitfall of over-interpreting individual accounts of species occurrences and instead look at the evidence broadly. In some cases, definitive answers about historical occurrence may simply be unattainable for some watersheds.

Dr. Ann Riley gave the next talk on Successful Restoration Projects. She was a very entertaining presenter, playing off the viewpoints of a fisheries scientist, and engineer, and a geomorphologist (geomorphology is the scientific study of the origin and evolution of topographic and bathymetric features created by physical or chemical processes operating at or near Earth's surface).

Dr. Riley drew on numerous examples of restoration (and otherwise) projects over the past 30 years to show how schools of thought have changed, and what was then and is now important. Different schools include watershed processes and stream evolution models; the empirical school, which includes analogy methods and hydraulic modeling; stream classification; native fish population abundance; fish biological diversity; landscape design based re-vegetation; large scale floodplain re-vegetation agricultural based strategies; and several others.

I really can't do justice to her talk, but suffice it to say she believes it's necessary to have all viewpoints included in the process of developing and carrying out successful restoration projects.

Congressman Jared Huffman (who is a fly fisher, by the way) gave the final plenary talk, and discussed three of the leading threats to salmon restoration in California: drought, marijuana cultivation on public and private lands, and the U.S. Congress. He represents the 2nd Congressional District, ranging from Marin County to the Oregon border (including Trinity County), encompassing about 1/3 of California's coastline.

Mr. Huffman did not spend much time directly on the drought, but noted he has been pushing the Department of

Interior for a long-term plan to avoid fish kills on the Trinity/Klamath system. A major fish kill was narrowly averted last year due to action taken at the last minute to push cold water down the Trinity River.

A major threat to salmonids, especially in the “Emerald Triangle”, is marijuana cultivation. Sixty-five percent of the U.S. production comes from this region of northwestern California. Many operations are on public land and divert water from salmon streams (all of it, in some cases). These operations result in tremendous environmental damage, with thousands of plants and unrestrained use of herbicides and rodenticides. Mr. Hoffman introduced a Plant Act during the last congress, but it was not considered (there’s another instance of gridlock).

Finally, he spent some time on the U.S. Congress. The narrative in Congress now is that a Congress-caused drought is affecting farmers. Anything that is contrary to that narrative will not be considered. Mr. Huffman believes the California state level is working well and cooperatively, but the U.S. Congress is not.

He concluded his talk with a little-known story about William Henry Harrison. He had proposed the Klamath River as a Salmon National Park (recall that the Klamath once had the third highest salmon run on the west coast, after the Columbia and the Sacramento). Unfortunately, in a misguided show of machismo to show the country that he was both a strong hero and a thoughtful and learned man, he gave his two-hour inaugural address in the cold, wet rain wearing no overcoat or hat, and rode to and from the ceremony on horseback. He caught pneumonia and died after 32 days in office, so Salmon National Park was forgotten. Imagine what the Klamath could have been...

In the afternoon I attended two talks on Sonoma County’s Agricultural and Open Space District, which was formed by a 76% vote of the citizens. It assessed a ¼% sales tax to be used to purchase land and easements to preserve open space for several purposes, including salmon habitat. This program has been highly successful in protecting many salmon streams, working with the agricultural community, largely vineyards, to alter practices to be more salmon-friendly. The special district is working to protect the lands in perpetuity.

I heard two talks on recovering salmon and steelhead in California. The first was troubling. In 1992, Congress passed the Central Valley Project Improvement Act to change water management practices in the CVP in order to lessen the ecological impact on the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers. This included a goal of doubling the Central Valley salmon population from 1967-91 levels. Instead of increasing, the population has fallen by 80-90%.

The other talk was a little more promising, discussing recovery plans in southern Oregon and Northern California. Although most of the 40 population of fish they’re working on are still threatened with extinction, NOAA Fisheries has plans for all of them and they are working hard to 1) prevent extinction, and 2) rebuild the populations. Each population has a profile (plan) that documents it. The profiles are available for download. The biggest barrier to implementing the plans is money. It’s extremely difficult to find the money to do the work needed to move populations out of the threatened category and into rebuilding. The good news is that they know what to do.

Finally, I went to two final talks on Strategically Planning for Salmon Restoration in Coastal California. Sara Beasley, a scientist working with the Yurok Tribal Fisheries Program, gave an encouraging talk about restoration work the Yurok Tribe is doing. Much of the work involves introducing large woody debris into streams to construct woodjams. This improves the habitat by flooding nearby areas, creating refugia for fry and smolts, and slowing the streamflow. Their work is science-driven and has been showing tremendous results in increased fish populations. They have the support of Green Diamond lumber, who has provided whole trees, and they monitor their fisheries to assure the work is productive.

The final talk, by Gail Seymour of the Department of Fish and Wildlife, discussed a number of issues that are priorities to address the question of How Will California Implement Effective Anadromous Restoration? The number one issue is restoring hydrology for fish. Much of the past and present restoration work is inadequate, and there is too little funding for salmonids restoration. She compared the amount of federal funds spent on corporate welfare to the amount spent on salmonids – it’s a depressing comparison of tens of billions of dollars for corporations with tens of millions for fish. Proposition 1 has \$285 million available for restoration over the next ten year, with \$31.4 million for 2015. Ms. Seymour suggested implementing a water use fee, similar to the vehicle registration fee, to be used for restoration work.

She also noted that Central California Coastal coho populations may be already too low to be sustainable. They are on life support by hatchery rearing and desperately need habitat. Finally, she noted that lack of enforcement is a severe constraint. There are far too few wardens in California to effectively protect our wildlife. Salmonid restoration and survival depend on society – do we have the will to pay the cost to restore them?

Delta Smelt may be going extinct, according to recent findings. This is from Capital Public Radio:

“Prepare for the extinction of the Delta Smelt in the wild,” UC Davis fish biologist Peter Moyle told a group of scientists with the Delta Stewardship Council.

He says the latest state trawl survey found very few fish in areas of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta where smelt normally gather.

“That trawl survey came up with just six smelt, four females and two males,” says Moyle. “Normally because they can target smelt, they would have gotten several hundred.”

Moyle says the population of Delta smelt has been declining for the last 30 years but the drought may have pushed the species to the point of no return. If the smelt is officially declared extinct, which could take several years, the declaration could change how water is managed in California.

“All these biological opinions on Delta smelt that have restricted some of the pumping will have to be changed,” says Moyle.

But Moyle says pumping water from the Delta to Central and Southern California could still be restricted at certain times because of all the other threatened fish populations.

So the lesson here seems to be: 1) ignore the Endangered Species Act and pump as much water as possible, 2) when that action leads to extinction, claim that the threat is now eliminated, and 3) pump even more water, leading to 4) killing all the remaining fish that are currently threatened. What a disgusting cycle!

State Water Board allows more exports. The State Water board further modified its Temporary Urgency Change Petition order of last month to allow more pumping of water when state and federal contractor say they need it for health and safety water supplies. This was in response to the busing of 200 farmworkers and San Joaquin Valley residents to the workshop last month to describe how they are suffering. Ostensibly, the water is to be used for residential purposes, but the contractors only need to say they need the water to increase the pumping. All this in the face of possible extinction of species in the Delta.

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT



On April 1st, two great fly shops will be merging! American Fly Fishing and Kiene's Fly Shop will join forces at Kiene's current location under the new name, **"Kiene's American Fly Fishing Company."**



The staff at American will join the current Kiene's staff, and American Fly Fishing's owner, Gary Eblen, will be the full-time managing partner. We will have a beautiful full service retail store, first class e-commerce website, full-time worldwide travel services, robust school program and complete Northern California guide services. The new store will have something for everyone!



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Capt. Toby Uppinghouse

FFD Event: FFD Annual Dinner

Photos by FFD Members



Setup was quick, once we figured out how to seat up to 140 people



The High Roller Table



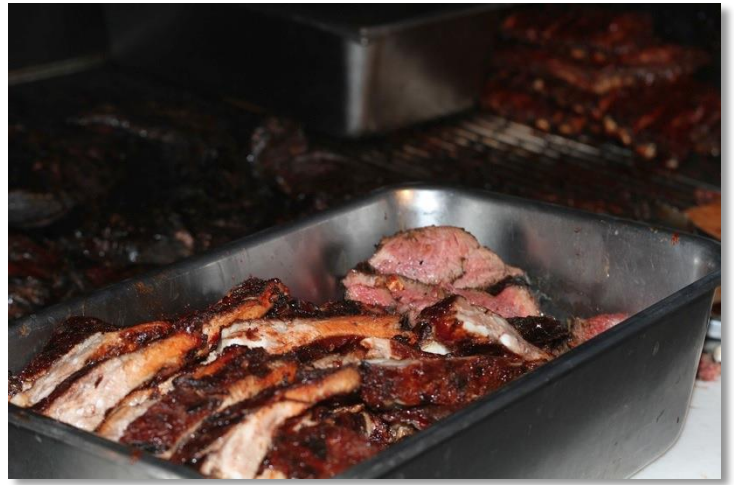
A great selection of general raffle items



Yummm!



Hickory Hank the master at the Q



Tri-tip is ready to serve



It's dinner time!



A small sampling of everything



It suddenly got quiet in the Hall... food must be good



Dana awards a check to Casting for Recovery group



Giacomo Sorrentino wins the Club's first Fish Camp Scholarship



Steve Ohrwall and Jim Humphrey putting on another great show



Eric Kapucinski is the first High Roller... No, not the net!



Rick Wallinder is a High Roller winner



The inaugural Project Healing Waters Fly Fishing 2015 NORCAL 2-Pattern Tournament promises to be fun and challenging, all while supporting local efforts to help the recovery of veterans through fly fishing and associated activities including education and outings. This fundraiser will take place at Turtle Bay Exploration Park, adjacent to the beautiful Sundial Bridge in Redding, Calif., beginning on the afternoon of April 18 and going through the evening of April 19. ([click for more information](#))

FFD Travels: Baum Lake

Pictures by Phil Reedy

We had great weather, a great turnout, and of course great food. Unfortunately the fish were very finicky, so you had to work for your fish. People were so busy trying to figure out what to throw at the fish that only a few pictures were taken during the weekend.



Baum was in good shape.



Dana Hooper figured out what they want



Kurt Arens and Eric Kapucinski have them surrounded



Eric K. with a rainbow



Kurt Arens lands a nice rainbow



We are in luck! Carl Lunsted is making peach cobbler in the dutch ovens

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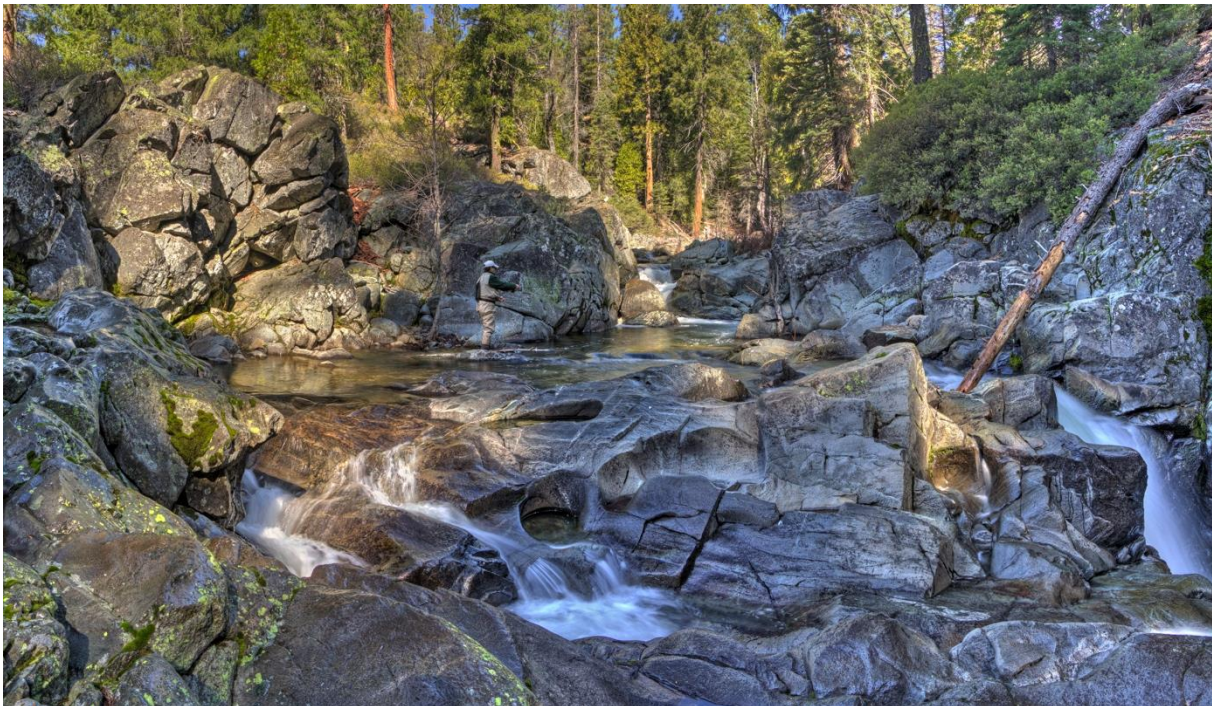
FFD Travels: North Fork of the American River

Pictures by Phil Reedy

Phil Reedy and club members Sam Chamberlin and David Inns have made several trips during the past month to the NF of the American for some fishing and photography. Fishing was slow until last weekend when David managed to hook quite a few fish on a Parachute Adams, usually right when Phil told him to hold still for a picture. A couple of weeks ago after that last snowstorm Sam and Phil found a little snow at the 5000 ft level



But by last weekend it was all gone and it is obvious that the flows are dropping in the river at a time that spring runoff should be roaring. There is a nice amount of water right now and David had a good time last weekend chasing those little bows. This will definitely be a year to hit the Sierras early.



Book of the Month

By Jim Luschwitz

“Inventing Montana”

By Ted Leeson

In this book, the place is Montana, on the banks of the Madison River above the town of Ennis and an hour west of Yellowstone-- a fly fishing destination second to none in the United States. Leeson and a colorful group of friends including a photographer, writer, painter, Hindu, mechanic, and cook, have been gathering at this location and fishing for a few weeks out of every summer, for the last twenty years.

Focusing on such a small area, with a group of close friends, helps bring an intimacy to the book, an almost folksy feel to it. Such as his essay about Ennis.

“For those of you unfamiliar with Ennis, Montana, it is the quintessential cow town, with the added feature of being the quintessential fly fishing town as well (which is an odd dichotomy considering the occasional conflict between cattlemen and anglers)”

The title of the book, *Inventing Montana*, gives some clue to its direction. Leeson writes,

“Montana is not a place. It is merely the name of a place . . . What is called Montana arises in part from our exchanges with this living space, one organism to another.

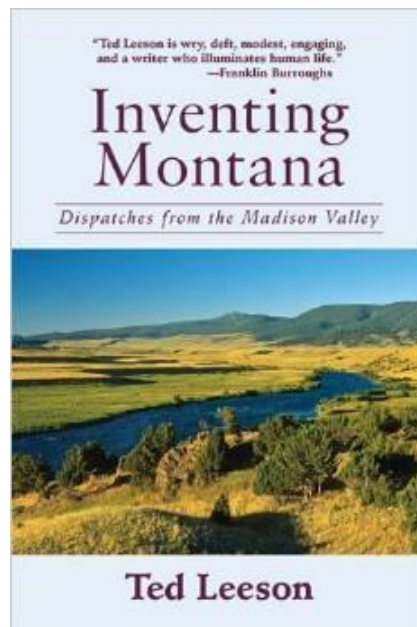
Without such transactions, there is a geography, but not a place.”

Thus, Leeson embarks on a journey to define his Montana, a place of "human invention, a negotiated space lying somewhere between the fact of the land and our desire to inhabit it."

Each chapter is devoted to a topic, such as the nature of leisure, approaches to a trout stream, life surrounding a

fishing cabin, the fishing community of Ennis, fishing pressure and selective trout, secret fishing spots, and flies and fly tying. In all these chapters, Leeson explores what it means to be a fly angler both individually and communally.

For those of you who might have tried Leeson before but didn't quite get into it, give this one a try. For those who already enjoy Leeson, you'll love the extra dimensions this book adds to his repertoire.





UTINGS FFD

2015 - 2016

| <u>Trip 2015</u> | <u>Fish</u> | | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Fishmeister</u> | <u>Contact</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------|----------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|
| Lower Sac Float | Trout | Guide | April 8 - 11 | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 | \$170/day (check only) + tip |
| Pyramid | Trout | | April | Jon Knapp | 530-756-9056 | |
| Putah Creek | Trout | | April | Steve Karr | | sk60@putahcreektrout.org |
| Manzanita Lake Trip | Trout | Float | April 17 - 19 | Chris Berardi | | Camping |
| Hat Creek | Trout | | May 15 - 17 | Dana Hooper | 916-343-9732 | Fly 101 Camping |
| Delta Bass N Fly Tournament | Delta Bass | Boat | May 2 | Dana Hooper | 916-343-9732 | Boater pair with non boater |
| Sac River Shad | Shad | | May 22 | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 | |
| Payne Ranch | Smallies | | May | John Reynolds | 530-753-2682 | Day trip |
| Lake Davis | Trout | | June 4 - 7 | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 | Camping |
| Lower Yuba UCD Property | Trout | | June 13 | Dana Hooper | 916-343-9732 | |
| Fuller Lake | Trout | | June / July | Lowell Ashbaugh | 530-758-6722 | Day trip |
| Lewiston Lake | Trout | | July 7 - 11 | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 | Camping |
| Old Fogeys Trip | Trout | | July 16 - 19 | Bob Brodberg | 530-756-9071 | Backpacking |
| McCloud River | Trout | | June/July | Gene Gnatt | 707-451-3262 | Camping |
| Payne Ranch | Smallies | | TBA | John Reynolds | 530-753-2682 | Day trip |
| Lake Davis | Trout | | Sept 17-20 | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 | Camping |
| Lower Sac Float | Trout | | TBA | Dana Hooper | 916-343-9732 | \$170 / day (check only) + tip |
| Trinity Trip (Fall) 2014 | Steelhead | | November 2 - 3 | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 | \$170 / day (check only) + tip |
| Striper Fest 2015 | Stripers | | November 2 - 3 | Dana Hooper | 916-343-9732 | Boater pair with non boater |
| <u>Trip 2016</u> | <u>Fish</u> | | <u>Dates</u> | <u>Fishmeister</u> | <u>Contact</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
| Luk Lake | Trouth/Bass | | TBA | Dana Hooper | 916-343-9732 | \$120/day (check only) + Rentals |
| Trinity 2016 | Steelhead | | TBA | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 | \$340 + tip |
| Baum Lake | Trout | | TBD | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 | |

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| Treasurer | Paul Berliner | 530-753-3886 |
| Secretary | Tom Robinson | 530-304-0305 |
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| | Eric Kapucinski | 916-984-6438 |
| 2017 | Fred Bryner | 530-756-4883 |
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 The Fly Fishers of Davis
 P. O. Box 525
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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 Lyn Hooper at membership@flyfishersofdavis.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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Fly Fishers of Davis
PO Box 525
Davis, CA 95617-0525

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: Lyn Hooper at membership@flyfishersofdavis.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