

# The Fisherman's Line

## Fly Fishers of Davis



P.O. Box 525 • Davis, California 95616

Member of:

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

January 1979

Editors:

Arlen Feldman  
758-0699  
Dick Blanchard  
753-5126



### MEETING NOTICE ANNUAL DINNER

Date: Saturday, January 27th  
Time: 6:30 cocktails, 7:30 dinner  
Place: UCD Faculty Club

### BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, February 20th  
Time: 7:30 p.m.  
Place: Cal Kado's home  
1106 Villanova Dr.

### PROGRAM REPORT ANNUAL DINNER

The fifth annual F.F.D. dinner is almost upon us. Saturday night the 27th at the UCD Faculty Club. No host cocktails from 6:30 to 7:30 with a roast beef - ham dinner to follow, \$10 per person. It is important that those of us who signed up show up since the club guarantees a certain number for dinner, hence the club is responsible from a fiscal standpoint to make good on that number. I know Hugh Black has worked hard on setting it up, so please don't be a no show.



ANNUAL DINNER Raffle and Show

Following dinner we will hold the conservation fund raffle - it's going to be a good one. Some of the prizes donated so far are as follows: Scott graphite fly rod (8 wt.) donated by Mike Monroe of the Fly Hutch, Wheatly fly box from Bill Kiene of Fly Fishing Unlimited, two Sunset fly lines and shooting line from Sunset Line and Twine, fly fishing vest and angler calendars, three Berkeley fly lines plus a rod. I have not heard as yet from other tackle manufacturers who have supported us in the past, but I am sure there will be other prizes coming in. Tickets will be sold for fifty cents each.

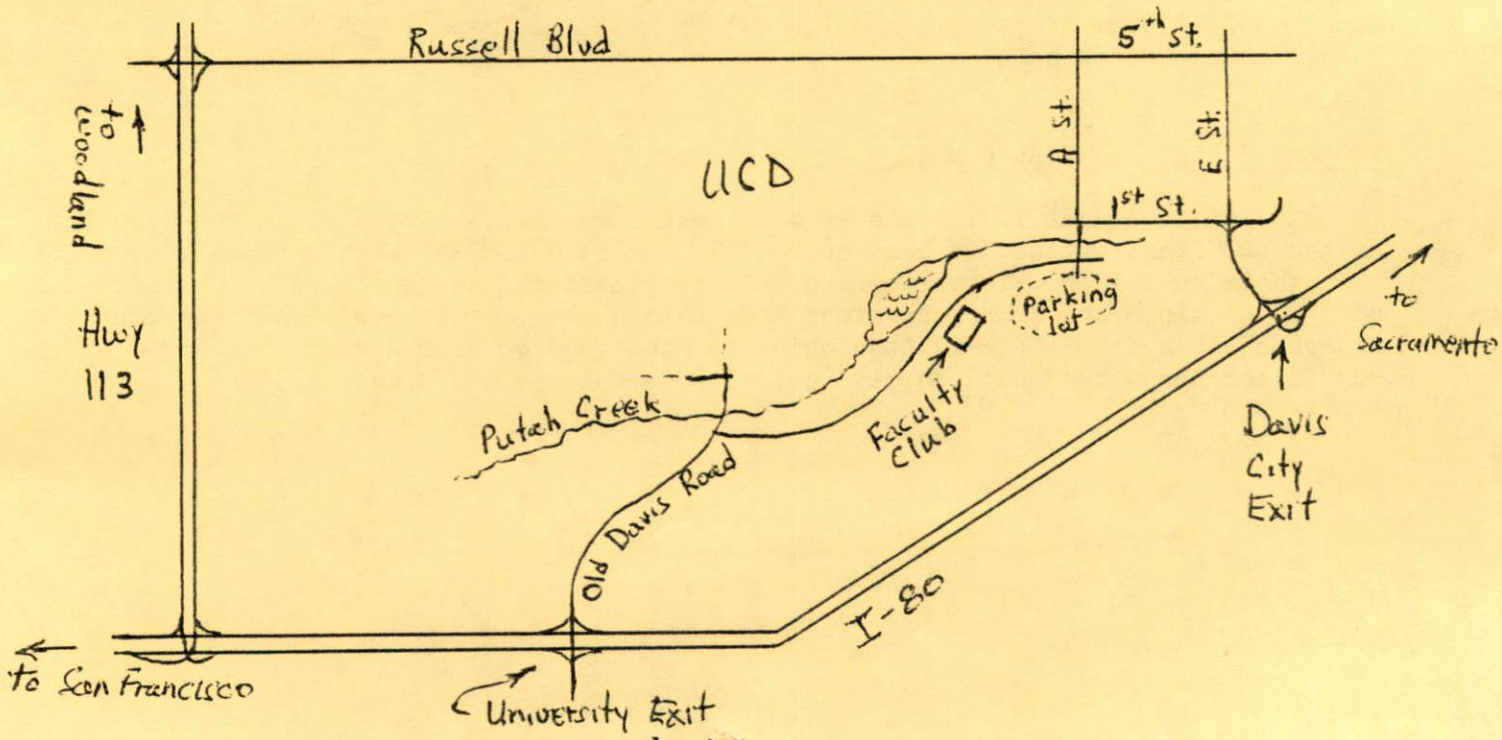
I know that many of you are wondering how I won the Orvis rod last year. It is with considerable reluctance that I relate my technique for winning to you - it has nothing to do with luck. First of all you determine how much you are going to spend on raffle tickets. Divide this sum into thirds and then proceed to buy raffle tickets throughout the evening. This insures that your tickets are dispersed evenly throughout. I have watched carefully over the years the shaking of the raffle can and no matter how hard Sarge shakes it I have felt my tickets stay on the bottom, but not so last year. Next year I will tell you how to crease your tickets so they won't lie flat and are easier to pick up.

The remainder of the prizes donated are going to have to come from club members. In the past we have had many excellent prizes donated from our membership at large. I would hope that everyone attending will see clear to donate something.

Following the raffle comes the highlight of the evening, our home grown slide show produced by Cal Kado and Sarge Reynolds. I am sure we will all be able to take an armchair trip to see what members have been up to this year.

See you the 27th.

Steve Ohrwall



## ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES

The FFD convened for regular monthly meetings the last Tuesday in each month except January (annual dinner time) and August (vacation time). Meetings typically consisted of brief business sessions (reports on board actions, conservation alerts, fish tales...that's our business, isn't it?...), and occasionally voting), and an entertainment portion. All meetings were held at the Veteran's Memorial Building from 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. A number of our programs were home grown and were exceptionally good. Highlights of local talent programs included Alaska fishing by Sarge Reynolds and Mort Schwartz, fishing the high country (including getting in and subsisting while there) by Bill Dill (pack animals), and Dick and Dot Assay (backpacking - we saved a copy of their suggested pack contents), Putah revisited by Steve Ohrwall and Don Childress, a tying/technical skills clinic (e.g., tying sessions, and table clinics on knots, waders, rods, reels, lines, hooks, flies, etc.) and an equipment swap meet.

Guest programs were presented by our friends from neighboring clubs; Joe Shirshac from Sacramento on local steelheading; Gordon Bennet, from the Bay Area on fishing eastern Oregon lakes and streams, and a Department of Fish and Game representative speaking on inland fisheries. Attendance ranged from a high of 80 persons to a low of 25 or so.

The year marked a low point in outings (maybe this year will be better) with official outings to Pyramid Lake in mid-winter, Hat Creek country in mid-spring, and the Upper Sacramento River in the fall. Unofficial outings (more fish taken) by a few FFDer's were taken to the Klamath and many local streams and lakes.

A casting class was organized in early spring and 10 new FFD stalwarts participated. A fly tying class for beginners was planned and initiated early this year. Other activities were planned but not executed (rod building, tying sessions); more local energy by club members would be helpful.

Conservation activities included continued financial support of the McCloud River preserve area, active participation in rules changes for Hat Creek, monitoring of issues of interest to FFD members (wild trout, Independence Lake ski area, shad study, etc.) and initiation of a more politically based effort to acquire attention for our own Putah Creek, which as you all know is seriously ill and we hope not terminal. The club continued active participation in the regional conservation organization of fly fishing clubs (NCCFFC).

The organization felt the impact of Proposition 13, as did most other entities in California and has adjusted its financial policies to assure a healthy situation for coming years. FFD has a new slate of officers, sound financial position, and a great opportunity to continue service to local fly fishers.



Darryl Davis, ex-President

### From the Editor

It's that time to thank the many FFD members for the newsletter articles which they contributed throughout last year. I'm especially grateful for Bill Dill's literary genius, Sarge Reynolds' piscatorial humor, and Bill Schnathorst's fine conservation reports. Steve Ohrwall, Cal Kado, Don Childress, Darryl Davis and Dick Blanchard also made several enjoyable contributions.

This year, Dick Blanchard will be heading up the editorial staff along with Ron Rabun and myself. We are in need of your continued support and will gladly accept your contributions. News articles may be submitted to us at anytime; however, to make the current month's issue, the material should be to us no later than the 15th of the month.

Arlen Feldman

## SHAD HIGHLIGHTS

Flyfisher Milt Cummings claims that he catches shad every month of the year! Some FFD members tested this claim on the American and Yuba during the last rains and got into steelhead instead. They pointed out that steelhead do not have large shiny scales like on shad.

The reported claim by flyfisher Bob Callen of Stockton of landing a record 13.5 lb. shad could not be documented with evidence according to the DFG. Next time he should remember to take a camera and a tape measure plus a small plastic bag for scale samples.

Last summer's creel census indicated that at the "Minnow Hole" in Sacramento some 19,000 shad were taken per week. This is only at the Minnow Hole, a major stopping point for steelhead and shad, perhaps because they get disoriented by the sewage dumped in at the Hole.

Studies by Mike Mainz and colleagues of DFG show that there is a population of about 1.5 million shad that run up the Sacramento drainage. Furthermore, some 1.5 to 1.9 million stripers are migratory residents of the same drainage. That's good news!

It is interesting to note the correlation between shad runs and flow rates. Mike's tagging studies have now shown that in the Yuba river there were less than 100 shad in 1977 because of low water flow rates (200 cfs). In last year's studies when the flow rate was high (3000 cfs), there were 12 to 13 million shad in the Yuba. We can attest to that fact.

FFD members are hoping that this year will again have large runs of shad like last year. The flow rates should be kept high during the time shad make their runs.

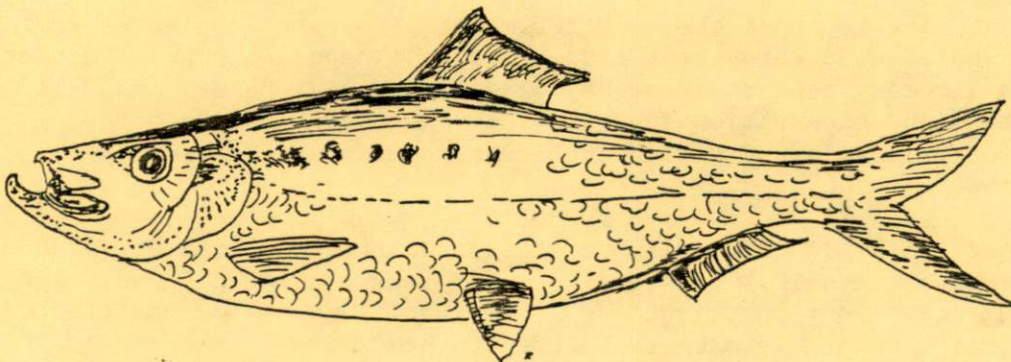


C.I. Kado

## SAD SHAD NEWS

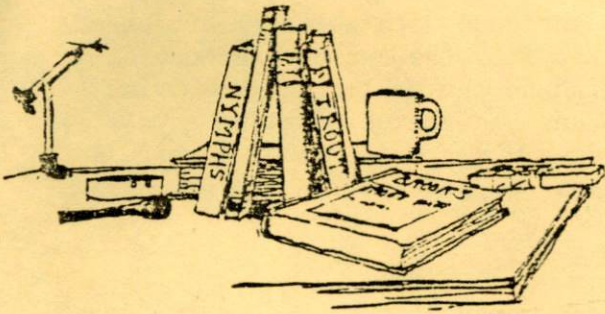
According to FFD consultant Mike Mainz, future studies on the biology of the American shad have been eliminated from the DFG budget owing to stringent budget cuts by the Governor. However, the salmon and steelhead studies will continue.

C.I. Kado



## BOOK REVIEW

Japanese Angler, by Koseki Sato. Foreign Affairs Assn. of Japan, Tokyo. 26 pp. Undated.



Last month I found a delightful little book on angling under our Christmas tree. No card accompanied this gift, but I am grateful to the giver and should like to review the book for my fellow fishermen.

This slight volume, obviously an English translation, is printed on double sheets of so-called rice paper. The binding is hand-sewn; the cover bears an attractive idiograph.

On the technical side, the book discusses the behavior of fishes, equipment and fishing methods, and the principal fishing waters of Japan. Since we do not have the same complement of species (e.g., the ayu, ito and awana) in our streams, much of this information is not very helpful to Californians. Furthermore, some of Mr. Sato's methods - such as the use of live field mice for bait - may be considered repugnant by members of the Fly Fishers of Davis. Even his recommendations for the use of long rods (several FFD members have recently discovered their virtues) are a bit extreme. He advocates a 30-foot rod to catch ayu (a salmonoid fish usually less than 12 inches long). And his method of strengthening lines by coating them with persimmon juice seems a bit awkward to me. I already carry line dressing, fly floatant, fly-dry, leader and line sink, wader repair goop, inspect repellent, sting eze, and a little Jack Daniels (to placate rattlesnakes) - and this leaves no room in my vest for persimmon juice.

But it is not the technical aspects of "Japanese Angler" which are of major interest. It is, rather, Mr. Sato's accurate personification of the universal angler, and his cogent remarks concerning his family life I wish to pass on to my fellow Club members - especially the married men.

As a preface to these remarks, I must explain to the younger and less-experienced men in FFD that there are four requisites for a successful career in angling. The first three are: (i) possession of proper equipment, (ii) use of correct techniques, and (iii) a knowledge of good places to fish. None of these can be acquired except through assiduous effort. But, once acquired, these foundations of angling success will remain with you forever.

However, in addition to these requisites, one must also have (iv) a base where one can store equipment, compound leaders, tie flies, resole waders, and eat, sleep and shave between fishing trips. In the vernacular of anglers, such a base is called a "home", and the custodians of this base are termed the "family". As many of us have discovered (sometimes ruefully), unlike the first three requisites for angling success, acquisition of a home and family is a very simple matter. It is their retention that is difficult, and up to now, membership in the FFD has not been particularly helpful in this regard.

As part of a new Club policy, I should like, therefore, to call to your attention paragraph 2 on page 3 of "Japanese Angler". It is suggested that all male members of the FFD read this aloud (with expression) to their wives. It is quoted below:

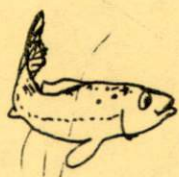
"I dare say no housewife should have any worry over her angler-husband. She is spared the heart-rending worries suffered by her unfortunate neighbors whose husbands frequent horse-races or bicycle-races, or, even worse, the disreputable geisha-houses. The angler's return home in the evening is the event

of the day. He is invariably welcomed by his family, partly because of their curiosity and partly because of his day's absence. If his catch is too meager to enrich the evening repast, which is very often the case with the self-professed angler, that material lack can easily be compensated with the curious account of his adventure - a miraculous story in which the fish on the table can grow twice, three times in size and number, as the story goes on. In virtue, angling as a hobby has a double blessing, a blessing on the angler who grows healthy physically and mentally and another on his family who can enjoy his absence."

An Afterthought by the Reviewer

You know, in my copy of this book, the last ten words of the above quotation were underlined in bright red ink. Perhaps I didn't need a gift card after all.

Bill Dill



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Fly Fishers of Davis  
P.O. Box 525  
Davis, CA 95616

