

Prez Says from John Forsyth

Winter days are here and fishing opportunities have slowed, so it's time to tie flies. For those of you who don't tie, you may want to give it a try. Resident master, Bob Zasoski will be starting a new round of classes in the next few months.

There are many reasons to tie; though it's not a requirement to be a competent flyfisher. The main reason is it's fun. It's a special thrill to catch a fish on one of your own flies. At first it doesn't seem possible to tie something a fish actually would grab. However, with a little practice you can slowly become proficient in the patterns you use. I remember starting when I was about 15 years old. I didn't fly fish then but instead trolled with the usual assortment of hardware for trout in the lakes of eastern Washington.

One day at our favorite spot, Twin Lakes on the Colville Indian Reservation, we were not having our usual success. Buster, the resort owner suggested we try a small green fly over the weed beds. Bingo! Later we found a black streamer pattern worked great for brook trout tight along the shoreline trolled fast. Little did we know we were using damsel and leach imitations. My dad bought me a very simple tying kit, and I went to work with only a one-page sheet of instructions and youthful exuberance. I didn't have a bobbin, but just a cap on the spool to hold the thread in place. A half hitch knot was my only way to secure things (a whip finisher and head cement was unknown to me). Slowly I began producing streamers with a variety of colors for the body, tail, beard and wing. I didn't like tying just one pattern, constantly experimenting with different combinations (a characteristic I still have today). To my total amazement these flies actually worked, and even if the trout weren't hooked, I was.

Luckily I had the opportunity to learn from a local genius tier and fisherman, John Newbury, who's unique and innovative patterns are featured in several publications. There are a number of fantastic resources to help you along, but individual instruction by a veteran tier is gold. My tying kit, that cost a few dollars and fit in a shoebox, now barely fits in a closet and no doubt cost thousands of dollars. Although many people think it's got to be cheaper to tie your own, don't be fooled. If you can limit your patterns to a dozen or so, it might be cost effective. However, if you like most of us crazy tiers, you'll have to have all the colors of wire or crystal flash for a rib, when plain old copper wire from the hardware store would suffice and last a lifetime (see John Reynolds for Okie tech tips). But, that wouldn't be as fun, and I think Emu feathers really do make a better Callibaetis tail.

So restock you boxes or if you are interested in learning to tie, sign up for Bob's excellent classes and begin your

2003 MEMBERSHIPS DUES

2003 memberships are due as of January 1st for the upcoming year. The dues are \$25 per year when receiving the newsletter via email or the website. \$35 if you wish to continue to receive your newsletter printed and delivered via mail. Receive both for \$35. **Bring your check to the Annual Dinner or mail to:**

Fly Fishers of Davis
PO Box 525
Davis, CA 95617

ANNUAL DINNER PHOTOS ALL SUBMISSIONS

due to Ron by February 17th.

An electronic JPG format file is preferred if you have one or can scan your own photo. OR Provide a hard copy and we will scan. The earlier the better. See standards in the December newsletter. You can also mail hard copies to Ron Rabun, 448 Abbey Place, Woodland, CA 95695.



Fly Fishing Specialties

Phone 916-722-1055 Fax 916-722-1081
6412 Tupulo Drive, Suite C, Citrus Heights, CA 95610
(I-80 at Antelope West)
Email: info@flyfishingspecialties.com

Fly Fishing Specialties Again Sponsors the Annual Dinner High Roller Prize

Stan Helleckson has confirmed the sponsorship with a Sage XP Rod. Remember, you gain one entry for every \$50 of drawing tickets purchased at the annual dinner.

Monthly Fly Tying Contest Sponsored by

American Fly Fishing Company
3523 Fair Oaks Blvd. Sacramento, CA 95864
916-483-1222 800-410-1222
www.americanfly.com

Tie the Pattern of the Month for a chance to win a \$25 Gift Certificate for American Fly Fishing Company. The patterns submitted will be judged by our esteemed fly tying chairman and selected evaluators. Judging criteria are the pattern tied most closely to the Fly of the Month instructions, fly construction skills and best representation of the pattern. Judges decision will be final. Patterns will be assigned a number and judged anonymously. When you arrive at the meeting, sign in and place a numbered tag on your pattern. Submitters are not eligible to judge.

Thanks to Gary Eblen for this sponsorship.

NEXT PATTERN for MARCH Meeting SCUD, Size 12 Tyer's variation.



2060 A Harbison Drive, Vacaville California 95687
Phone: 707.446.0760 Fax: 707.446.1206
www.flyfishunlimited.com

Kiene's fly shop

2654 Marconi Avenue
Sacramento, California
Toll Free: 800/4000-FLY
Phone: 916/486-9958
Fax: 916/486-2611
www.kiene.com

From the CONSERVATION DESK By Lowell Ashbaugh

Trinity River action. Judge Oliver Wanger approved a \$139 million settlement of a lawsuit brought by San Joaquin Valley farmers against the federal government. The farmers claim their land was rendered useless by salt buildup because the government did not provide adequate drainage, as promised, of their land. The land was worthless as farmland until the Trinity River was dammed and the water was sent south through a series of tunnels and canals.

The Westlands Water District will pay 105 landowners \$33 million to assume ownership of all but about 1600 acres of the land. It will also assume the water rights. The Bureau of Reclamation will pay \$107 million in damages for the loss of the poisoned land.

There are several aspects of this settlement that are troubling. First is that the Westlands Water District retains the water rights. The water is coming from the Trinity River, which was supposed to get increased flows for fish pursuant to a Record of Decision entered into by the Bureau of Reclamation in the last days of the Clinton administration after 20 years of negotiation. The same federal judge that OK'd this settlement has stalled implementation of the Record of Decision. The fish are paying the price.

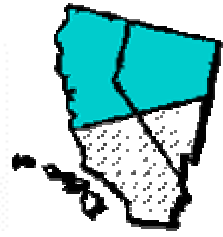
Second, the expectation is that the \$107 million payment from the Bureau of Reclamation will be paid by hijacking funds for other water projects in California. Recently, the entire California congressional delegation protested this action, saying that the funds should come from other sources so as not to punish California by denying other worthy water projects.

Finally, more than half the money would go to just four families, including that of former Secretary of State Bill Jones. Whatever happened to the small farm limit of 160 acres to receive federal water?

Judge Wanger did not address the issue of where the funds would come from, saying that he was ruling only on the settlement's fairness. My question is "To Whom?"



Northern California Council
Federation of Fly Fishers
"All fish, all waters"



Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers

Annual Fly Fishing Hall of Fame

Saturday, March 29, 2003, 9AM to 5PM

Location: Marin Rod & Gun Club

2675 Francisco Blvd. E, San Rafael, CA 94901

- Visit Antique Fishing Tackle & Collectables Booths
- Learn from over 50 of California and the Northwest's Best Fly Tyers
- Fly Casting Demonstrations
- Bid in the Silent Auction and Raffles

6PM Begins a Festive Evening Honoring

Photographer, angler and world traveler....

R. Valentine Atkinson

Induction Ceremonies, Wine & Beer, Buffet, and Live Auction

Admission: Reservations required for evening event.

[click here for online registration](#)

\$35/person includes beverages, buffet and admission to daytime exhibition.

Day admission \$6/person at the door, under 12 free with paid admission.

Mail checks to:

NCCFFF c/o Sheree Kajiwara, 711 Prospect Row #2, San Mateo, CA 94401

For more information contact:

Anne-Marie Bakker 510.262.5499 bakkersmith@vom.com or

Sheree Kajiwara 650.464.0362 skajiwara@earthlink.net

Proceeds benefit the conservation programs of the Northern California Council/Federation of Fly Fishers and California Sportfishing Protection Alliance

-----OUTINGS 2003 -----

Cary Boyden, Chairman, 530-753-3826

OUTINGS REPORT

Cary Boyden

The steelhead outing to the Trinity proved to be slower than expected, but everyone caught at least a half-pounder or had an adult on. Bob and Steve led in terms of numbers, and Cary caught the largest, a 28 inch wild hen. Next year we will try to book it earlier and maybe try a floating trip to the Mattole in February. Maybe also a Feather River trip in early January. On the subject of the Trinity, we have set the summer outing for the weekend of July 19 back at Lewiston. Sarge has promised to hold court at Poison Oak Hollow, and the fishing reports are that the lake has come back to more like it was when 50 fish days were not that uncommon. Particularly hopeful is the fact that guides have been getting into a number of large fish near the dam. This trip has always been a social success highlighted by the Saturday evening dinner at the Inn with its funky bar and large servings of roast beef. The next signups will be in March when there will be several new trip sheets. The April Fly Shop trip is full, and those going should plan to get their checks in by the second week in March. Also, since there will be no regular meeting before the Iron Canyon trip, anyone interested and not yet signed up should call Cary at 530-753-3826. Ernie of the Fly Shop reports that our timing should be very good and that he typically does well on San Juan worms in various different styles.

| <u>TRIP</u> | <u>FISH</u> | <u>DATES</u> <u>(tentative)</u> | <u>FISHMEISTER</u> | <u>Comments</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Pyramid | Cutthroat | March | Jon Knapp 530-756-9056 | |
| Tbd (maybe Iron Canyon) | | March | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Redding Sacramento | Trout | April 6 | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | \$132.50 plus tip |
| Payne's Ranch | Bass | April | John Reynolds | |
| Sugar Creek Ranch | Trout | May | Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN | \$130 |
| Shad/tbd | Shad | May-June | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Davis Lake | Trout | June | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Tbd (probably Lewiston) | | July | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Backpacking YS | | August | John Forsyth 530-750-1192 | |
| Backpacking OF | | August | Tom Burton | |
| Klamath | Half Pounders | September 4-7 | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | |
| Pleasant Valley | | September | Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN | Fee tbd |
| Klamath | Half Pounders | October | Jim Wirth 530-662-5388 | |
| Lower Sacramento Redding | Trout/Steelhead | October 11 | Cary Boyden 530-753-3826 | 132.50 plus tip |
| Delta | Stripers | October | Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149 | |
| Upper Sac | Trout | October | Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN | |
| Sugar Creek | Trout | October | Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN | \$130 |
| Pyramid | Cutthroat | November | Jon Knapp | |
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----- 2003 MEETING DATES, PROGRAMS and Events -----

All meetings are held at 7:30 p.m., Davis Waste Removal Meeting Room, 2727 2nd Street, Davis (east of Sudwerks) unless otherwise noted.

2003

(plan for these tentatively scheduled dates)

February 22nd (Saturday) Annual Dinner, Davis Senior Center. 6 pm. Dinner served at 7 pm.

March 25th Indoor Casting with Mike Kahl.

April 13th (Sunday) CASTING CLINIC – Location TBA

April 29th TBA

May 27th TBA

June 25th New Zealand presented by Ron Giles, a real NZ Kiwi guide.

Have a program recommendation, contact Ron Rabun at 1-800-FLY-FSHN

July 29th TBA

August No Regular Meeting - YOLO COUNTY FAIR August 13th-17th

September 30th TBA

October 28th TBA

November 25th TBA

Officers, Directors and Committees

| | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------------|
| President: | John Forsyth | 530-750-1192 |
| Vice President | Reed Enos | 530-756-2331 |
| Treasurer | Lowell Ashbaugh | 530-758-6722 |
| Secretary | Bob Pearcy | 530-756-0932 |
| DIRECTORS | | |
| 2003 | John Hodgson | 530-756-8095 |
| | Jerry Pollock | 916-682-7798 |
| 2004 | Tom Burton | 707-678-3850 |
| | Tom Vail | 530-662-0733 |
| 2005 | Adney Bowker | 530-758-2674 |
| | Dennis Rolston | 530-758-5135 |
| COMMITTEES | | |
| Outings | Cary Boyden | 530-753-3826 |
| Conservation | Lowell Ashbaugh | 530-758-6722 |
| Membership | John Reynolds | 530-753-2682 |
| Newsletter | Ron Rabun | 800-359-3746 |
| NCCFFF | Dave Driscoll | 707-446-2671 |
| Programs | Ron Rabun | 800-359-3746 |
| Refreshments | Vacant (Knapp) | |
| Raffle Chair | John Forsyth | 530-750-1192 |
| Fly Tying | Bob Zasoski | 530-753-2241 |
| Picnic Chair | Jim Humphrey | 707-678-2149. |
| Youth | Jim White | 530-756-3105. |
| Video Library | John Forsyth | 530-750-1192 |

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The Fly Fishers of Davis
P. O. Box 525
Davis, California, 95617

The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.3 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 month of August. Regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December and January. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules. January 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.

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TO SIGN UP FOR THE e-NEWSLETTER
with your new or renewal membership.
Please Send your email address to the
editor at ronrabun@snowcrest.net.

Fly Fishers of Davis
PO Box 525
Davis, CA 95617

ANNUAL DINNER Donors to Date

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