

Annual Dinner Announcement

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

ANNUAL DINNER, SATURDAY FEBRUARY 21, 2004

WEST PLAINFIELD FIRE STATION – LILLIARD HALL

6 pm. Social Hour - 7 pm. Dinner, \$25 per person.

Plan you date for the Annual Dinner. Again this year's event will have a great meal, FFD special photo presentation and the ever fantastic Conservation Drawing. This year's caterer, Hickory Hank, will be serving up Barbecued Chicken, Ribs, Tri-tip, and Hot Links. Beans, salad, and dessert. Notice the Dinner price is now only \$25. Wine and beer will be available for purchase the dinner or bring your own if you wish.

Drawing Donations: We are acquiring our usual booty of prizes but YOU can be a valued participant also. Donate items you already have or signup to tie a collection of flies. Member Trip or Activity Certificates are another option where you donate a docent guide or fishing trip for as a Silent Auction or Bucket item. If you have a boat or special fishing location, volunteer to take a member who obtains the certificate with a minimum donation to the club of \$25.

The FFD Annual Dinner will be at Lillard Hall at the West Plainfield Fire Station. 24905 Rd. 95. Take Covell Blvd West to Rd 95 then turn right and proceed North. It will be on the right hand side of the road when headed North on County Road 95.

To make early donations or further information contact:

Reed Enos, Annual Dinner Chairman, lrenos@softcom.net, 530 756-2331

----- 2003 MEETING DATES, PROGRAMS and Events -----

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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)

December 16th

Home Grown Slide Show – Member Presentations

Annual FFD Putah Creek clean-up DECEMBER 13th. (Raindate)

Because of rain, It was changed to December 13, 2003, that's a Saturday. FFD will be conducting the ever popular Putah Creek clean-up. We will again meet at Fishing Access #4 at 9 AM. Yolo County Parks and Rec. will provide trash bags. Volunteers will then fan out and mine the banks and brush all of our favorite treasures. At noon we will break for lunch. With any luck master chef Tom Burton will provide another banquet of either wieners and beans OR, if we're REALLY lucky, beans and wieners. (Geez, I can't wait. See you there, John Reynolds (reynolds@davis.com))



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From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Putah Creek Threatened On October 30, 2003, biologist Ken Davis found a population of New Zealand Mud Snails (NZMS) in Putah Creek. The California Department of Fish & Game Bioassessment Laboratory confirmed the identification as NZMS. The introduction of NZMS into California's popular trout streams is a serious problem. They replace the native aquatic invertebrates and offer almost no value to feeding trout. They pose a serious threat not only to this great fishery but to perhaps many of the other waters we fish. A group of anglers including Granite Bay Flycasters and the Fly Fishers of Davis, along with the NCCFFF, Cal Trout, and the Lower Putah Creek Coordinating Committee have joined together with wildlife agencies to work on this problem.



These snails are serious pests. They multiply asexually, and are apparently born pregnant. They are extremely small (they look like a speck of

pepper), and can cling to your boots, waders, fly line, and flies. You can transport them from place to place without even knowing it. They feed on aquatic vegetation, displacing the natural invertebrates that trout feed on. They can attain densities of up to one million per square meter. They offer virtually no nutritional value to the fish, and have the ability to pass through the digestive tract of fish or fowl unharmed. They can also live on your equipment for many days.

The problem appears to be localized to the section of the creek near access point #3. Although this is the only sighting of them in Northern



California so far it seems likely they will be found elsewhere. They have been found in the Owens River and Hot Creek, and likely were transported to Putah Creek by a fly fisher. Please assume they are everywhere and always decontaminate your equipment after every fishing session. Ten minutes soaking in hot water (130°C) will kill them. Please

take this very seriously! Don't spread this unwanted visitor!

The Granite Bay Flycasters put up posters at the creek warning anglers of the snail's presence, and Gary Flanagan, the GBF President, has been working tirelessly to convince authorities and anglers of the danger they pose to our creek. A coalition of interested parties was successful in getting an emergency 120-day closure from the Fish & Game Commission, enacted December 3rd, so the extent of this infestation can be assessed. It's extremely important to close the creek to fishing temporarily to avoid spreading the snails downstream. So far, they seem to be localized. If they remain localized, we may be able to eradicate them at a cost of about \$100,000. Moreover, the Solano Irrigation District may be willing to put up the money. If the snails spread downstream to Lake Solano, the cost to clean them up could exceed \$5 million. That amount is much less likely to be funded. Unfortunately, one of Governor Schwarzenegger's first acts was to issue an executive order banning new regulations. We need letters to the governor **NOW** requesting him to suspend that order so that the closure goes forward. The Granite Bay website has a template letter to the Governor that you can use or modify (<http://www.gbflycasters.org/>). A mailed letter (snail mail, heh, heh) is most effective. Please send it now!

Conservation News from NCCFFF

Putah Creek closure Please check the NCCFFF web page at <http://www.nccfff.org/alert.html> for complete up-to-date information.

NCC signs PG&E Land Conservation

Agreement As a member of the California Hydropower Reform Coalition, NCCFFF was a signer of a land conservation agreement that could protect 140,000 acres of lands owned by PG&E which adjoins their hydro projects. CHRC was the key conservation advocate on this issue as part of the current bankruptcy proceeding. Three settlement options are currently on the table for consideration by the CPUC and the court, and all include the historic land conservation agreement. The settlement proposal put forward by PG&E, which did not include the agreement, was recently dealt a serious blow by the courts. While anything is

possible, there is some chance this could be settled in the near future, to our great benefit.

Trout Management meeting held with DFG Last week Rob Ferroggiaro attended a meeting with DFG staff from Inland Fisheries and DFG regional offices to outline plans for approval and implementation of an updated Trout Management Strategic Plan. This was the most recent in a series of constructive meetings involving DFG staff and angling groups including NCCFFF, Cal Trout, and TU. Discussion focused on tactics to secure approval of the final plan and potential implementation strategies, given reduced DFG resources. We are eager to support DFG in developing current, relevant management plans and actions for key fisheries, and in ensuring that the hatchery program has appropriate objectives and necessary accountabilities. Along the way, we need to collaborate with other angling groups to document the current program outages and their impact so we can secure the resources necessary for DFG to execute its stewardship responsibilities more fully.

NCC joins Sac Valley Environmental Water Caucus Dave Ford recently represented NCCFFF at an initial meeting of the Sacramento Valley Environmental Water Caucus. This coalition of groups has been formed for education and advocacy to prevent an unjustified and unnecessary grab of Nor Cal water. For example, this group intends to stay active in the current study of the raise of Shasta Dam.

Steelhead Committee meets with DFG Region 4 Sandy Leo, Roger Miller, and Derrell Bridgman of the Steelhead Committee met with DFG members of the Fresno Office (Region 4) on 10/30/03 to discuss steelhead management issues. The meeting was scheduled as an exploratory meeting to identify areas where both sides could be of assistance to the other, and it went very well. DFG outlined their management plans for the area and pointed out that their focus has been on salmon because of funding constrictions. Their goal is to seek funding and place steelhead management on a higher priority, and they indicated that they were making some progress on this goal. They acknowledged that the present condition of the steelhead fishery in their area is unsatisfactory but expressed a sincere commitment to its restoration to a "viable and fishable condition, once they secure funding. They appreciated the committee's offer to help them with

relevant tasks ranging from letter writing campaigns to rolling up their sleeves and doing manual labor. It was evident that a good first step towards establishing an effective working relationship between the committee and DFG personnel would be to maintain a regular line of open communications between the two parties. The potential seems to exist for implementing projects that will help restore the steelhead fishery in the central valley area, and a cooperative effort just might make it happen.

Striped Bass Committee Doug Lovell and crew have been key players in recent work on a new Sportfisheries Enhancement Stamp. On 3 December 2003, the California Fish and Game Commission voted unanimously to support the new stamp. This new stamp will be required for anglers that fish the tidal waters of the Bay and Delta, along with the major tributaries feeding the Delta (downstream of the first major dam). At the Commission meeting, several angling organizations in addition to NCCFFF voiced their support for this new stamp and its broad geographic coverage, including the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, the California Striped Bass Association, the Recreational Fishing Alliance, and United Anglers of Northern California. The new stamp will replace and augment the Striped Bass Stamp, which is scheduled to sunset at the end of 2003. The new stamp is broader in scope, with a multi-species and watershed or ecosystem-based approach, targeting long term benefits for Bay Delta sport fisheries, including, but not limited to, striped bass, sturgeon, black bass, halibut, salmon, surf perch, steelhead trout, and American shad.

The new stamp will cost each angler \$5 and annual revenues are expected to be around \$2 million. The revenues will be deposited in a separate conservation account, to be spent within the geographic area of the stamp, with an angler committee overseeing the expenditures. The nine-member Bay Delta Sport Fishing Enhancement Stamp Advisory Committee will be appointed in January and any angler with the time and interest should consider applying for the committee.

NCC supports Goose Creek (Smith River) acquisition A unique opportunity is before us as Simpson Timber Company, based in Seattle, has agreed to sell its holding within the Goose Creek watershed on the Smith River. In a report from 1980 by the U.S. Forest Service, Goose Creek, the

largest single tributary of the Smith, was described as "one of the most physically degraded. These lands were last logged in the early 1960s. The drainage is recovering as new growth forest develops. Without acquisition, the Goose Creek drainage will be subject to logging again in the future. Federal purchase of the 9,500 acres on Goose Creek would enable this property to be incorporated into the Forest Service management plan. NCC joined a coalition of groups in writing to Senators Boxer and Feinstein urging their help in securing the necessary appropriation from the Land and Water Conservation Fund.

Federal Energy Bill deferred to next session The Federal Energy Bill has been deferred to next session, which means we'll have another opportunity to achieve removal of damaging provisions of the most recent draft. The economic aspects of the bill aside, the bill as written would implement procedural changes that amount to a giveaway to utility companies, while severely limiting the public's ability to insure that conservation is given fair consideration during energy related proceedings.

Conservation Network The NCC Conservation Network held a very productive meeting on November 2nd, as 22 network members from Northern California gathered at Golden Gate Casting and Angling Club. The morning included a highly interesting presentation/discussion with Ed Pert and Dave Lentz of DFG's Inland Fisheries Branch. In the afternoon, attention included updates on the many issues being addressed by group members and possible future activities. A BBQ lunch hosted by Michael MacWilliams, a mini-casting clinic, and the beautiful surroundings put the cap on a great day. Next meeting will be in March.

Other NCCFFF action: Through letters or personal contacts, fly anglers have been represented on several additional issues of importance to anglers. Among them were:

- **Klamath Hydro License:** Chuck Bucaria authored a comment letter on behalf of the Council with specific recommendation for consideration, including consideration of dam removal options
- **Coho Recovery Plan:** Mike Laing submitted extensive comments supporting the recommendation for a Coho Recovery Strategy. In particular, we are supporting efforts to insure

adequate provisions are made for stream canopies and prevention of road erosion runoff during wet periods.

- **Upper Sac:** An NCCFFF resolution on rail safety, authored by Chuck Bucaria with assistance from Bill Berry, was approved by the Council Executive Committee.
- **Ag Pollution Runoff:** NCC co-signed a letter to Governor Schwarzenegger calling on him to require that the State Water Resources Control Board protect our waters from this large pollution source.
- **State Water Plan:** Letter in support of the current draft which places increased emphasis on alternatives other than increasing expensive water infrastructure.

NCCFFF Conservation Program **2003-2004**

You may be wondering what NCCFFF has done for you lately. Here is a list of organized action by volunteers working under the NCCFFF banner. It's pretty impressive what concerned individuals can accomplish. And the NCCFFF is working hard on your behalf to preserve our fisheries! If you haven't yet joined NCCFFF, please do so. It's well worth the small cost to join.

American River Operating Group: (Mike Laing/Dave Ford) Operations planning for Folsom reservoir. (In response to 3/2003 fish kill on the American River)

California Hydropower Reform Coalition: (Rob Ferroggiaro) Improve conditions on rivers affected by hydropower operations (Pit River FERC license, PG&E lands conservation, future hydro licenses)

California Wild Heritage Campaign: (Michael MacWilliams) Secure federal protection for key river segments on public lands

DFG Trout Management Strategic Plan Working Group: (Rob Ferroggiaro/Mondy Lariz) Angling groups working in collaboration with DFG as they develop and implement a new strategic plan for trout

Environmental Water Caucus (Bay-Delta): (Doug Lovell/Sandy Leo) Broad coalition of groups working to improve water quality, primarily in the Delta (CALFED, CVPIA etc)

Klamath River Blue Ribbon Committee: (Chuck Bucaria - majordomo) Letter writing, etc. to seek reform on the Klamath (Hydro relicense, flow regime, etc.)

Nor Cal Rivers Committee: (Mondy Lariz, Nathan Joyner, Rob Ferroggiaro) Upper Sac Management Plan and Wild Trout designations, McCloud Management Plan, Upper Sac train safety

Sacramento Valley Environmental Water Caucus: (Dave Ford/Mike Laing) New coalition formed to prevent negative impacts from possible Sacramento Valley water grab, i.e. Shasta Dam raise, etc

Sierra Nevada Forestry Practices: (Mike Laing) Seeking improved regulatory and enforcement systems to assure proper forestry practices

Steelhead Committee: (Norm Ploss, Sandy Leo, Dan McDaniel, Derrell Bridgman) Focus on steelhead barrier removal and ESA enforcement.

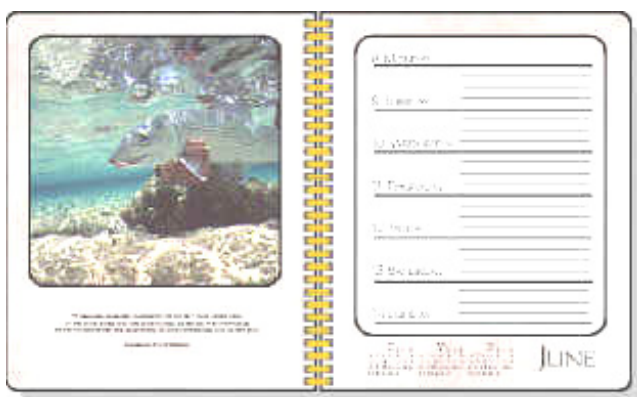
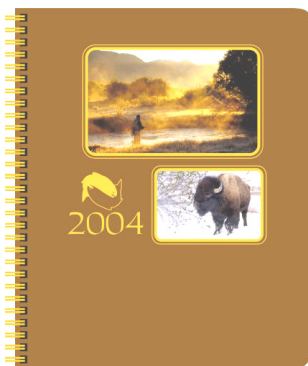
Striped Bass Committee: (Doug Lovell, Mike McKenzie, Sandy Leo, et al.) Fisheries stamp, SDIC, promotion of catch and release angling, CALFED, Membership in Environmental Water Caucus, Annual Fundraiser, San Luis Low Point, etc.

Still Available

2004 Angler Desk Calendars

Again the calendars are available from Ron Rabun at a discounted cost of \$16 including sales tax over the normal retail price of \$22.95+tax. These are GREAT for everyday use, desk viewing or angler's gifts. See Ron at the

meeting.



Becoming a Beginning Fly Angler - Five simple steps to being the rankest amateur on the river:

by Steve Taylor (Printed by permission from Arkansas Wildlife Magazine, March/April 2003) from the FFF Club Wire June 2003

Silly beginners mistakes that caused me to unwittingly rankle other anglers and go home fishless marked my first year of fly fishing for trout. I repeated those errors in so many unique ways that I became a fly-fishing oxymoron-an expert beginner. No one ever bumbled downstream, spooked fish and snagged flies in trees more perfectly. That kind of expertise shouldn't go to waste. These five easy steps guarantee you'll look and act like the rawest angler ever recruited into the ranks of fly fishers.

Wade right in. Never concern yourself with other anglers and the water they're fishing. Slosh right through, and in return, they'll advise you about places to store fishing gear that you've never thought of before. Because the sounds of a gurgling stream, birds chirping and trout slurping mayflies become monotonous after a while, holler your greetings and wave your arms wildly to make sure everyone knows you're there. And when well-oxygenated water.

Cast as if trout could fly. Everyone knows that casting is the essence of fly fishing. Make lots and lots of false casts, and don't let your fly linger in the water long before you cast again. The more time your line and fly spend in the air, the more other anglers can admire your skills. Because trout have excellent eyesight and watch for movements overhead, stand tall and repeatedly false-cast directly over them so they can appreciate your tailing loops, too. When you make long casts because you're too lazy or impatient to wade carefully, they'll signal their approval by swimming at top speed-in the opposite direction.

Conduct the orchestra. When you do have a fly in the water, remember all the articles you've read by fishing gurus who flipped line upstream or down for a perfect drift to fool the biggest old trout in the river. My fly-casting mentor calls the way beginners do this the maestro technique. Mend line like an orchestra conductor waving a baton while you learn this subtle art. Just because the trout ignore your fly or run like hell doesn't mean all that twitching and spluttering is bad. And always avoid simple techniques, like swinging Woolly Buggers or soft hackle flies downstream on a tight line. While many trout practically hook themselves when you do so, they won't respect you afterward.

Focus on catching, not fishing. Spend every available moment in the water, casting and retrieving incessantly, rather than observing the water from shore where you might accidentally notice a caddis hatch and determine exactly which fly to use). Besides, soaring hawks, talking herons or sleek otters and mink slinking along the shoreline might distract you.

Here's a little secret: veterans don't wear polarized glasses because they're invaluable for spotting fish. They wear them to prevent the glare of breathtaking sunsets over mountain ranges from causing them to miss a strike.

Finally, here's a bonus hint that guarantees you'll act like a rank beginner who doesn't know any better: fish to utter exhaustion and grumble all the way home about how many trout you missed or how few you caught. Whatever you do, avoid savoring the memories and being thankful for the privilege of spending a day on the water.

**Monthly Fly Tying Contest
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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.

**THIS MONTH'S
Pattern: BIRD'S NEST NYMPH
Size 12**



The Bird's Nest is a nymph has been popular for a long time in California and has found favor in other regions. It has is a staple on the lower Sacramento and is also a very good pattern for trout on the Deschutes River and elsewhere. The Bird's Nest (introduced by Cal Bird) is a suggestive pattern that could be used for stoneflies in large sizes and either mayfly or caddis nymphs in smaller sizes. A lot of anglers are impressed with this pattern.

Bead Head Bird's Nest

Hook: 1 or 2 x long nymph hook

Head: Gold bead.

Thread: 6/0 or 8/0 tan

Tail: Natural wood duck or bronze mallard flank

Body: natural grayish-tan Australian opossum or "Buggy Nymph" # 16 dubbing

Rib: Copper wire

Thorax: the same material as used in the body.

Wing case: none

Weight: Lead wire (optional)

Hackle: Natural wood duck or bronze mallard flank applied as a collar behind the thorax.

Tying Instructions: Debarb the hook. Run the hook point through the bead and secure the hook in the vice. If you are adding lead wire wind the lead on the shank and secure with thread and cement. End with the thread at the tail position. Tie in 4-6 strands of wood duck flank about 2/3 to 3/4 of the shank length for a tail and secure a length of copper wire. Dub a tapered body that extends about 2/3 the way up the shank. Rib the abdomen (body) with the copper wire, secure the end of the wire and trim. Trim the wire by wriggling the tag end close to the tie off point with a tweezers or your fingers. Breaking of the wire will save ware and tear on your scissors. Select a section of wood duck flank about 1/2 inch wide (more or less depending on the hook size). Stoke the fibers downward at an angle until the ends are even and then cut or tear the section from the shaft. Tie the flank feather section in loosely with one or two thread wraps. Roll the fibers around the shank to form a uniform collar. When you are satisfied with the hackle, tie the fibers down tightly and trim the ends. The tip should reach to the hook bend. Build a thorax over the ends of the mallard fibers up to the rear of the bead. Whip finish and cement the thread head to finish the fly. It's some times easier to cement the head on a bead head fly if you apply a bit of head cement to the thread and then whip finish the head.

The fly can be tied with or with out lead weight and with or with out a bead head. It can also be tied in a number of colors to imitate a range of naturals. A variation that I like uses Partridge feathers for the hackle. Tie them in like a soft hackle. In essence the fly becomes a soft hackle with an extended head. Regardless of the variations, the Bird's Nest is a fly that should be in your box

Officers, Directors and Committees

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 The Fly Fishers of Davis
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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.

E-Newsletter Policy

Our e-newsletter policy is to deliver the e-newsletter via email OR for you to download it from the FFD website, <http://www.cal.net/flyfish/>. Be sure if you signed up for the \$25 annual membership you get your email address to 'ronrabun@snowcrest.net'. This will assure you get an email notification for the newsletter. OR, every month the e-version of the newsletter will be posted no later than the 20th of each month for download. (except for August). You will need the free Adobe Reader, latest version 5.0, (www.adobe.com) to view the PDF format. e reader at www.adobe.com. If you receive the paper version, you can also get the e-version notification by sending your email to Ron

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