

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, soft drinks, and dessert. Notice the Dinner price is now only \$25. Wine and beer will be available for purchase.

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 decent 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. This is an excellent way to make friends and help the club.

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, irenos@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.

2004

(plan for these tentatively scheduled dates)

January 27th **New Zealand Mud Snails** – Gary Flanagan, Granite Bay Fly Casters

February 21st, Saturday - **Annual Dinner**

March 30th - **Delta Stripers** – Ed Marcillac, Delta guide

April 27th – **Monterey Bay** – Dan Blanton, innovator, guide, author.

May 25th - **Perspectives in Fly Fishing** – Dusan Smetana, international angler photographer.

June 29th - TBA

July 27th – Club Picnic, 6pm, Community Park near Art Center.

August – Go fish, no meeting.

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

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From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Update on New Zealand Mud Snails Putah Creek has been closed to fishing under an emergency order of the Department of Fish and Game. The closure legally only prevents fishing in the creek, not other forms of entry, but it's important to keep people out of the creek to prevent transfer of snails to other areas. The snails have been found, too, up to four feet away from the creek on the bank. Unfortunately, it may be too late to do anything about them in Putah Creek. The snails have now been found in a 0.9 mile stretch of Putah Creek between Fishing Access #2 and #4. The rains that fell over the holidays resulted in two pulses of water that raised the flow from the baseline 50cfs to as high as 500cfs and may have spread them even further. Sometime in February or March the Glory Hole at Lake Berryessa will spill over and send a torrent of water down the creek. No one knows what will happen to them in the slow water of Lake Solano, but the snails seem to prefer slow-moving water with lots of weeds to fast-moving turbulent water.

Snails have also been found in the Mokelumne River near Camanche Reservoir. The Department of Fish and Game will be surveying other rivers and streams in northern California in the next few months to see if they are present there, as well. The rivers targeted for the first look are the Feather, Yuba, American, Calaveras, and Consumnes. James Navicky of DFG will be doing the survey and is interested in hearing from fly fishers regarding access points on these rivers. He will extend the survey to other rivers later on.

I've attended several meetings of stakeholders regarding the snails, and it's pretty discouraging. The lead agency should be the Department of Fish and Game, but it's not clear they would have acted at all, and certainly would not have acted as quickly, had it not been for the involvement and activism of Gary Flanagan of the Granite Bay Flycasters. I haven't yet heard an agency representative say their agency has the lead role in dealing with the snails, and there are many impediments to anyone taking action, especially now that the snails have spread beyond the initial infestation point.

The first option discussed was to divert water from the section of stream where the snails were found and steam-sterilize the area. Now that they are in a

longer stretch of the creek that option is no longer available. Another option that has been discussed is chemical treatment, but that is problematic because the water is used for agriculture and later on for drinking. Any action that is proposed is also subject to CEQA – the California Environmental Quality Act – and is subject to delay to meet legal obligations of the act or due to lawsuits.

Meanwhile, the creek has been closed to fishing, but in the initial days of the closure there was no enforcement. The DFG told us in one meeting that they didn't believe they needed it because "they had the support of the fishing groups." I finally pointed out to them that we don't represent all the fishing community and, in fact, cannot promise to keep our own members out of the creek. Enforcement has been stepped up by the DFG, the CHP, Solano County Sheriff Department and Yolo County Sheriff.

The bottom line is that there may be nothing that can be done about the snails in Putah Creek. It looks like we'll have to learn to live with them. That doesn't mean we can't do things individually. **The most important action we can take as individuals is to clean all our gear carefully after fishing.** It's especially important to clean it after fishing Putah Creek, but it's increasingly important to do so after fishing any water. The snails seem to be spreading throughout California. If we can at least slow their spread until a method can be found to control them, we'll protect the streams we love to fish.

How to clean your gear. The most effective cleaning method found so far that won't harm your gear is to freeze it for at least an hour, preferably overnight. Of course, you need freezer space for that! Heat also kills the snails. Soaking your gear in hot water (130°F) for five minutes should do it. A good scrubbing with a stiff bristle brush will remove them and Formula 409 is said to kill them, but it's not clear if that's true. Soaking in Clorox bleach is effective, as is complete and thorough drying, but bear in mind that the snails can live in the slightest moisture, such as cracks in your felt-soled wading boots. See the current California Flyfisher magazine for more information in Ralph Cutter's article.

It's important to not only get the snails off your gear, but to kill them as well. If they get washed down the drain, they'll just end up infecting another water body. They can close off their opening for a long time and open up again when conditions are

favorable. The Sacramento Club CFFU has been contacting wader and boot manufacturers to gain funding and gear commitments to investigate effective cleaning strategies that will not harm your gear. We hope to have more effective measures to clean gear later on.

Other Conservation News

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved a plan last month that allows Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to exit bankruptcy. The plan contains an unprecedented commitment to protect 140,000 acres of the utility's watershed lands, primarily located in California's Cascade and Sierra Nevada mountains. This historic measure ensures the habitat, recreation, and other public values of these treasured lands will be protected forever.

At the hearing, Commissioner Peevey concluded his remarks with reference to the Lands Conservation Commitment. "Long after today's events are forgotten, the people of California will have a priceless asset - 140,000 acres of Sierra lands in perpetuity, for their use."

PG&E's watershed lands surround its vast hydropower system, and encompass rivers, lakes, forests, and wetlands. The lands have historically been managed to buffer hydropower reservoirs from erosion, but with deregulation and then PG&E's bankruptcy, the lands came under increased logging and development pressure. State agencies and conservation groups have been working to protect the lands for years.

"The PG&E holdings are a remarkable assemblage of ecologically and recreationally significant lands," said Reed Holderman, Vice President and Regional Director of the Trust for Public Land. "Long term protection for wildlife and public recreation is a tremendous legacy for future generations and one of the largest land conservation accomplishments in California since the early 20th century."

In June, negotiators for the CPUC and PG&E included the Lands Conservation Commitment as part of a proposed settlement agreement to PG&E's bankruptcy. This fall, the proposed settlement was reviewed at the CPUC. A broad coalition of conservation groups, resource agencies, local governments, and industry associations agreed on a wide range of issues related to the governance and implementation of land conservation commitment. That stipulation is

reflected in the final plan approved by the CPUC. A diverse Stewardship Council will work with PG&E to identify the beneficial public values of each parcel and strategies to protect those values. PG&E will then apply to the CPUC for its permission to either donate the land or enter into a binding conservation easement. Each transaction is subject to public notice, comment, and review under the California Environmental Quality Act.

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"We thank the Commission for this historic decision," said Steve Wald, director of the California Hydropower Reform Coalition, a coalition of river conservation and recreation groups that helped craft the final agreement. "Now we look forward to rolling up our sleeves and getting to the business of collaboratively protecting and enhancing these lands."

The Lands Conservation Commitment, maps, and descriptions of PG&E landholdings can be found at: www.calhrc.org.

The California Hydropower Reform Coalition was formed by conservation, sportfishing, and river recreation organizations in 1997 to restore and enhance California rivers adversely affected by hydropower. The CHRC Steering Committee consists of American Rivers, American Whitewater, California Outdoors, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance, California Trout, Foothill Conservancy, Friends of the River, Natural

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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: COPPER JOHN
Size 14**



The **Copper John** is a relatively new and successful addition to the nymph ranks. Dr. John Barr of Boulder CO. is the originator of this pattern. It is tied with a bead head and a copper body so that it sinks rapidly and may not need additional weight in many situations. However, it can be tied with a few turns of lead under the body to help sink the fly. The copper John is a general pattern like many nymphs and depending on color and size could be mistaken for a mayfly, caddisfly, or stonefly. Some have said it is the combination of a Prince Nymph, brassie, and a PT. Regardless of its parentage, reports rave about its effectiveness.

Hook: Standard nymph hook TMC 5262 or 5263
Size 10-18

Thread Black 6/0 or 8/0 or color to match the body.

Tail: Brown biots

Body: Medium copper wire over a tapered thread body

Rib: none

Thorax: Peacock herl

Wing case: Thin Skin topped with a single pearl flashabou strand center strip that is coated with epoxy.

Hackle: Partridge

Bead Head: Counter drilled gold bead

Tying Instructions: Slip a gold bead on the shank, debarb the hook and place it in your vice. If you are adding lead, take three wraps of lead around the shank and push it up under the bead head. The lead diameter will depend on the hook size and bead. Start the thread behind the lead and make a neat tapered underbody ending at the tail position. Tie in two brown biots about the length of the hook gap on either side of the shank with the concave surface towards the outside. Tie in a length of medium copper wire at the bead and beneath the shank. Wrap the thread back to the tail position maintaining the copper wire under the shank. Now wrap the copper wire in tight spirals up to the bead head. Tie off the copper wire and wrap in a single flashabou strand followed by a narrow strip of Thin Skin. Scud back would also work well. Leave the flashabou and Thin Skin trailing over the body and tie in one or two strands of peacock herl. Wrap a full thorax tying off the herl behind the bead. Tie in the partridge legs that should extend back along each side about 1/2 to 2/3 of the body length or about 1.5 times the thorax length. Pull the Thin Skin over the herl and legs and tie in to form the wing case. Pull the flashabou strand over the thorax and center it on the Thin Skin. Tie down the flashabou and form a neat collar behind the bead head. Place a drop of epoxy on the wing case. Like all other ties, materials substitutions and different colors have been used with this pattern. Different colored wire (red, brown, green, chartreuse, gold, silver) have been used. Wood duck flank can be used for the legs and tail.

TWO GREAT PROGRAMS COMING

FFD programs continue to be successful. Because we have moved to the special member photo presentation at the annual dinner, our program budget savings has afforded us to bring in some premium programs. Two upcoming program represent our efforts to focus on quality programs for you.

April 27th Dan Blanton will be presenting his salt water fishing program on fly fishing Monterey Bay.



Dan Blanton has been fly fishing Monterey bay since the 1960s for all manner of fly-eating critters from Kelp bass to 150-pound-class blue sharks. This program provides keen insight into all of the Monterey Bay's fly fishing possibilities: Kelp bass; White Sea bass; Blue sharks; Thresher sharks; bonito, mackerel; Pacific halibut; striped bass; King salmon, and others. Every nuance of this fishery will be uncovered, from fishing from private craft to rental boats - tackle, flies and techniques.



May 25th - Dusan Smetana will be presenting his Perspectives In Fly Fishing internationally renown photographs.

Outdoors photographer *Dušan Smetana* was raised in a small village in the Carpathian Mountains, where he spent his boyhood following in the footsteps of his father in a quest for trout, red deer and wild boar. He studied both forestry and photography in Presov, Slovakia. Mesmerized by stories of cowboys and Indians in the American Wild West, he eventually escaped the Communist regime of his homeland and today makes his home in Montana.

Dusan's credits include;

American Angler, American Hunter, Big Sky Journal, Bugle, Bowhunter, Field & Stream, Fly Fisherman, Fly Rod & Reel, Florida Sportsman, Gray's Sporting Journal, Montana Outdoors, Montana Magazine, National Geographic Traveler, Northwest Airlines Magazine, Northwest Flyfishing, Outdoor Life, Outdoor Canada, Petersen's Hunting, Petersen's Bowhunting, Pheasants Forever, Shooting Sportsman, Smithsonian, Sports Afield, Sporting Classics, Salt Water Sportsman, Trout, Via, Western Outdoors, etc.

----- OUTINGS 2004-----

There are two trips to report upon and one which, because of presstime, must wait until the meeting to be discussed. The Feather outing on the 3rd started with a gargantuan breakfast at the Black Bear in Gridley. From there the 5 of us headed to Oroville. Warren took about a 6 pounder, John Daniels landed a 4 pounder, Steve Sherman lost the largest steelie of his life and Bill Raines and yours truly managed to unceremoniously miss 4 collectively. PS Bob P and the author landed in the neighborhood of 8 fair hooked and several not so hooked on the 8th up to at least 6 pounds (nonbelievers may make their own estimates based on the pictures at the annual dinner). This definitely looks like a trip worth repeating in the future.

Amador 2 went off on the 10th on another spectacular weather day. Again the fishing was as good or better than the grease offered by the Tackle Box Cafe. Jon Knapp took the early lead with his ubiquitous green bugger but after 7 or eight seemed to tire of this method and actually switched to a Knappicator which he had to, of course, borrow from his boatmate (along with an Iron Canyon special). From there he and the boatmate were on an even playing field and both landed in the neighbor of 8 on these floating devices. Jon had one with a tag up to the boat which he unceremoniously broke off and which this unbiased observer would estimate at the better part of 7 pounds (his estimate may be higher based on closer observation). Fortunately Reed, Bob Beverlin and others had only slightly less success.

At the January meeting there will be a signup for Iron Canyon in early February (weather permitting or if not a low level lake: perhaps Pardee based upon the good rains or back to Amador) as well as the March Fly Shop trip. We are also planning to bring back a Kelsey trip which Ron is organizing for April and may come up with another trip for earlier in the month. And May will feature Sugar Creek and Paynes Ranch (and perhaps a shad trip). Davis/Frenchmens will be the first week in June with the locale probably dependent on the success/adverse effects of the pike.

Per Warren Caldwell, Trinity trip was a resounding success with lots of steelhead caught. Warren reported 7 fish landed with the largest being 27 inches. The group also fished the Feather Low Flow Section on the way back and caught some nice steelhead there too. All in all, steelheading by club members is at a high point. (editor)

Cary Boyden, Chairman, 530-753-3826

2004 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

<u>TRIP</u>	<u>FISH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>FISHMEISTER</u>	<u>Comments/ Fees</u>
Iron Canyon	Trout	February	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Redding Sacramento	Trout	March 20	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$140.00 plus tip
Pyramid	Cutthroat	April	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Kelsey Ranch	Bass	April	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$50
Payne's Ranch	Bass	April	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Sugar Creek Ranch	Trout	May	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130
Shad/tbd	Shad	May	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Yamsi Ranch	Trout	June	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	\$100 rod per day
Davis Lake	Trout	June	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Lewiston	Trout	July	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Backpacking YS	Trout	August	John Forsyth 530-750-1192	
Backpacking OF	Trout	August	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Klamath	Half Pounders	September	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Pleasant Valley	Trout	September	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	Fee TBD
Redding/Sacramento	Trout/stlhd	October 16	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	140.00 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	October	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Upper Sac	Trout	November	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	
Sugar Creek	Trout	November	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130
Pyramid	Cutthroat	November	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	

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
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	Tom Vail	530-662-0733
2005	Adney Bowker	530-758-2674
	Dennis Rolston	530-758-5135
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Youth	Jim White	530-756-3105.
Video Library	John Forsyth	530-750-1192

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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.

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