

The Fisherman's Line



REGULAR MEETING – Tuesday, May 25th , Note Early Meeting Time

Photography Clinic with Dusan Smetana, 6:30pm
(Learn techniques to better photos in this technical clinic prior to the meeting.)
Regular Meeting 7:30 pm. Program 8 pm.
Location: DAVIS WASTE REMOVAL, Meeting Room- 2727 2nd Street, Davis



THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

“FLY FISHING PERSPECTIVES and IMAGES”

with DUSAN SMETANA

Stare. It is the way to educate your eye,
more.
Stare, pry, listen, eavesdrop. Die knowing
something.
You are not here long.” -Walker Evans



and

It was a nice afternoon and I was driving over Snowman's Summit between Mt. Shasta and McCloud with three angling buddies. Suddenly to my surprise, a rental car pulls aside me in the on-coming lane and flags me to the side of the road. A spry and spirited young fellow greets me and says, "I want to photograph your license plate." [FLYFSCA]. I'm taking fly fishing photos." I said, "Ok, but we were heading to the McCloud River and you could do it there. The photo was taken and conversation yielded, that Dusan Smetana was on a photo shoot for a fly fishing magazine.

Having had a Silver Creek Press, Appointment Calendar for some 15 years, I recognized the works of this young photographer as world class in the company of Val Atkinson and Bryan O'keefe. In this month's program, Dusan will take us on a photographic journey of images related to fishing and the outdoors. You will be transformed in to a still world of light, imagery and meaning through the views captured by Dusan's cameras. This is also a perfect program to bring your family and friends. - Ron

BIOGRAPHY and Credits: 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. **Magazines:** 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. **Book Publishers:** Safari Press, Voyageur Press, Silver Creek Press, Willow Creek Press, etc. **Clients:** Budweiser, Cabela's, LL Bean, National Geographic Society, Nissan, Orvis, Remington, Steiner, etc

Speaker Dinner is 5pm at the Noodle Express, Davis, corner of 3rd and G Streets.

Prez Mez..... from John Forsyth

Like my wife always says, "That's why they call it fishing not catching". I went fishing a couple of weeks ago on a local river, and I did not do any catching. There were plenty of fish rising within easy casting range, for that matter easy netting range. After about three hours of casting and changing flies until my drying patch was full, I finally cried Uncle and left. Nymphs, dries, emergers, double nymphing, bobbers, you name it, I tried it. I did all the usual techniques when things aren't working; daydreaming, eating, not watching my fly, letting it troll in the water, sinking my dry flies, and still no fish. I scanned the water and saw plenty of bugs, trying my best to offer something to imitate them. The fish did not seem bashful, rising, splashing, and porposing, on a regular basis. I wasn't the only one there, and the only thing saving my sanity was the fact that no one else was doing much better. Some days are like that. During the walk to the car, I was already thinking of things I could have tried. That's the great thing about fishing that keeps me coming back, eternal optimism when it comes to outsmarting the wily fish. I have my new strategy planned out and now just am waiting to try again.

----- 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.

2004

(plan for these tentatively scheduled dates)

May 25th - **Perspectives in Fly Fishing** –

Dusan Smetana, international angler photographer.

June 29th – **Homegrown Clinics** – member presentations.

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

August – Go fish, no meeting.

Submit program recommendations to Ron Rabun at 1-800-FLY-FSHN

WANTED ALIVE Member Presentation

Here's your chance as a member to help pass your knowledge, techniques, places to fish, fly tying, or any other aspect of fly fishing to your fellow members. **Give a 10 to 15 minute presentation at the June FFD Regular Meeting.** Some of our most informative programs have been our Homegrown Meeting Presentations delivered by members. Our June meeting will be such a program. Example of programs in the past include: Equipment setups for various angling situations and fishes; items contained in a fly fishers vest; a favorite spot to fish (that you can tell about), using particular patterns, etc. Any fly fishing related discussion is acceptable. (OK, John Reynolds techniques on 'how to get a woman on a fly' might be stretching it.) Contact Ron Rabun to participate.

BRING A FRIEND

To the Next FFD Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be a great opportunity to bring a friend to see and learn about the great aspects of fly fishing. The program will have high quality photographs and serve to reflect on the reasons we fly fish, the spirit and beauty that surrounds the sport.

This will also help to promote your friendship and potential membership in FFD.

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Phone: 916/486-9958
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From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu, (530) 758-6722.

Fish hatcheries As I mentioned in last month's column, the Bush administration has decided to include hatchery fish in population counts used to establish protection status under the Endangered Species Act. This is a major change in approach to protecting salmon, and is contrary to the conclusions of a panel of scientists hired to provide advice on the issue. Unfortunately, the Bush administration has developed a history of ignoring scientific advice unless it supports their political position.

The panel of scientists concluded that the genetic diversity of hatchery fish is lower than that of wild salmon. This result alone is disturbing, as genetic diversity is what allows a species to react to changing environmental conditions. Lower diversity equates to higher probability of population decline. The panel also concluded that hatchery fish are reared to larger size than wild fish before being released and can then cannibalize the wild fish and initially out-compete them for food. Over the long term, though, they are less likely to survive because they feed mainly near the surface where they can be picked off by predators. This is evidence that hatchery programs can do more harm than good to fish populations.

So why has the Bush administration decided to include hatchery fish in the population counts? The only reason is to remove the fish from the protections offered by the Endangered Species Act so that timber and agricultural interests can operate with fewer environmental restrictions. These industries now must maintain healthy streams and rivers fish passage and spawning. Without the Endangered Species Act restrictions, they can ruin the streams we love to fish and claim the hatcheries will make up for it.

You can help oppose this misguided policy that so far is still in draft form. Call Senator Barbara Boxer to ask that she sign onto a letter that asks NOAA Fisheries to abandon the draft hatchery policy. Send an email to Laura_Cimo@boxer.senate.gov or call Senator Boxer in Washington at (202) 224-3553 or in Sacramento at (916) 448-2787.

New Zealand mud snail I posted a dozen signs on

Putah Creek just before the opening warning of the New Zealand Mud Snail and giving some information on how to avoid spreading them. So far, there are only two recommended procedures. The first is to maintain a separate set of waders and boots for fishing Putah Creek (or just don't fish it at all). You would still have to carefully check all other gear, including your net and lines. These snails are tiny! The second method know to kill them is to freeze your gear for 24 hours. You'll need freezer space for this, as well as a supportive spouse. The NCCFFF is supporting research into other effective measures that can kill the snails, but it will take some time to test them and be sure they won't destroy expensive boots and waders. Meanwhile, I've received a shipment of 20 additional signs that should be posted on Putah Creek. These signs are more durable and colored yellow to be highly visible. If you can take a couple of hours to help me post them, please email me at Ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu or call me at (530) 758-6722. Be aware that the snails have been found on the Mokelumne and Stanislaus Rivers, and have been in Hot Creek for over three years. They have also been found in a private hatchery on Hot Creek. Need I say more about hatcheries? Well, OK then. Whirling disease, a fatal condition caused by a parasite, was introduced in Colorado from a private hatchery in the 1980s. Now found in 20 states, including California, it has contributed to the decline of wild rainbow trout in the Rocky Mountains.

Trinity River news There's some good news from the Trinity River. A three judge panel of the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals made the following decision on Friday April 23, 2004: "Hoopa Valley Tribe's Emergency Motion for Stay Pending Appeal Re: Water Year 2004 is GRANTED to allow a water release appropriate for a "normal" water year type." Prior to this ruling, the year had been designated a drought year, despite a snow pack 130% of normal.

Flows will be 647,000 AF instead of the 453,000 AF granted by Federal Eastern District Court Judge Oliver Wanger. The appeals filed with the 9th circuit by the Hoopa Valley Tribe, the Yurok Tribe and others to overturn Judge Wanger's entire ruling are still pending before the 9th Circuit, but this is a good sign.

Congratulations and kudos to the Hoopa Valley

Tribe!

Backpacking for Conservation Trout Unlimited (TU) and California Trout (CalTrout) are working with the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in a collaborative effort to protect and restore the California Golden Trout. The Orvis Company and its customers are supporting this restoration project along with other Golden Trout educational and monitoring work with grant funds.

This summer TU and CalTrout are coordinating a variety of opportunities for volunteers to participate in the restoration activities that will take place in Inyo and Sequoia National Forests and Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Parks in the southern Sierra. All of the activities involve active, outdoor activity, and some involve rigorous backpacking and/or hiking in the high country. Some of the activities involve catching fish for genetic monitoring purposes, so fishing skills and equipment are required. In all cases volunteers will have to provide their own transportation to the starting points of the trips and will have to provide their own camping, fishing, outdoor gear, and food.

If you would like to be involved in any of these hands-on projects, please send me an email and I'll send the complete package to you. Here are the brief details.

Gill Net Removal - Chicken Spring Lake

Date: June 5, (Friday travel, Sat. work)

Work Weekend at Monache Wildlife Area

Date: June 19-20, (Sat. and Sun.)

Work Weekend at Monache Wildlife Area

Date: June 19-20, (Sat. and Sun.)

Genetic Monitoring – hike the back country, catch fish and record data:

Date: July 10 or 17 for training, July 24-August 1 for genetic sampling/monitoring backpack trip, work parties on Sept 4-6, Sept 24-29, and Oct 9-10.

Conservation News from NCCFFF

Letter from Interior Secretary Gale Norton The NCCFFF recently received a letter from Secretary Gale Norton praising the organization for its conservation activities. Here's what it said:

A Message from the Secretary

Fly fishing conjures images of grace, to be sure, but its master requires patience, and commitment. The

commitment of fly anglers in their pastime is legendary. Less well known, however, and deserving far greater recognition, is the vital role fly fishers have played and continue to play in conservation in the United States. Through their license fees, they contribute tens of millions of dollars annually to help sustain State fishery conservation programs. Through the special manufacturers' excise tax the pay on their fly tackle, additional millions flow to conserving and restoring priceless fisheries across this great Nation. One group in particular has grown to become one of the most exemplary in its commitment to conservation. The Federation of Fly Fishers was founded in 1965 to help teach, promote, and spread fly fishing as a wholesome and worthwhile angling endeavor. Through their efforts, hundreds of thousands of anglers have become proficient in this ancient art. More importantly, The Federation of Fly Fishers has built community support for stream and fishery conservation projects throughout the country.

Perhaps the greatest legacy The Federation of Fly Fishers can point to is their pioneering role in promoting "catch and release" fishing, the practice of returning a trout, salmon, or other highly-prized species to help sustain healthy stocks of our native fishes. Whether plying small upland streams for native trout, or casting for bass and bream in a farm pond, or fly fishing for the great game species of our coastal waters, members of the Federation are outstanding examples of sportsmanship, ethics, and deep concern for our living world.

For your many contributions to the quality of our waters, the health of our fisheries, and the good fellowship and accessibility you have brought to fly angling, it is my great pleasure to salute you as you prepare for the celebration of 40 years of commitment to conserving America's fisheries

Sincerely,
Gale Norton



"What do you mean: **not tonight** you have a headache?!!!"

**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.

**THIS MONTH'S Pattern
ANY SHAD FLY**



Do shad actually eat flies or just react to them?

BRIAN M. WIPRUD

(Excerpts from Fly Fisherman Magazine,

The question does not have a definitive answer, but there is some evidence to suggest that shad actually attempt to eat a fly or lure, rather than as has oft been suggested—nip at it defensively.



The bright colors and general shape of shad darts resemble krill (above) and copepods (below) which are important shad food sources.



Boyd Kynard, Fisheries Biologist at the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center in Turners Falls, Massachusetts, believes shad are probably reacting to a feeding instinct.

"When adults enter the river in April and early May, there are few zooplankton. [It] Would not be a good evolutionary strategy to delay migration and feed on these few zooplankton, but some shad could harbor an instinctive response to strike (attempt to feed) on a fast moving object. Based on the present information, a feeding response is most likely the root cause of the dart strike."

As to the premise of defensive or antagonistic behavior, Boyd said "No one has studied the

behavioral interactions among individual shad. Do they have antagonistic interactions to determine position in the school? We do not know if they have an antagonistic response toward anything." Much less a shad fly.

But do shad actually recognize a fly or dart as something to eat, say, the same way a trout recognizes a mayfly, caddis, and stonefly? Walter explained the shad marine diet.

"American shad consume some fish but feed mainly on planktonic crustaceans such as copepods, mysid shrimp, and euphausids (krill). Hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*) are more piscivorous and routinely consume fish. Very doubtful [that shad think flies are plankton.] The size of shad prey is generally much smaller than the size of the lures commonly used. Copepods are generally less than 1 mm. Mysid shrimp may be as large as 15 mm, slightly smaller than most shad darts. Shad spoons likely resemble small fish. American shad consume some fish but feed mainly on planktonic crustaceans such as copepods, mysid shrimp, and euphausids (krill). Hickory shad (*Alosa mediocris*) are more piscivorous and routinely consume fish."

When one compares shad flies and darts with the copepods, mysids, and krill, the resemblance—perhaps only incidental—is striking. For example, certain features like round heads, sparse tails, and pink are strongly evocative of the copepod shape and reddish oil seen through their transparent carapace. The two-tone, cone-shaped darts resemble the shape and color of krill and mysid shape, ingested organic matter looks bright green or chartreuse through the carapace. Could the shad's lack of parallax vision and thus inaccurate depth perception be a factor? A small object up close looks large, and thus the shad may not be sensitive to the disparity in size.

Walter considered this. "Perhaps. But maybe actually the size of the shad lures are not that much different than other shad prey such as mysids, krill, and sand shrimp that may reach 5-6 mm in length. So I think the disparity in size between copepods (prey that are probably consumed more in a filtering capacity) and shad darts may be explained by the fact that other prey commonly taken is larger. This larger prey most definitely would have to be attacked as it could attempt to avoid the predator, thus the shad could not simply filter the water unless prey concentrations were extremely high. They are in some areas but probably a shad has to

spot and chase down the larger prey as it would a shad dart."

Walter also pointed out that color would make less difference the deeper the fly is fished, but as the photos reveal, light at shallower depths would reveal color through the transparent body of the plankton.

While a remote possibility, the freshwater prey of shad fry might also resonate with adult shad as food targets. Boyd Kynard identified the primary river food source as a plankton called cladoceran bosmina, and they bear a resemblance to copepods but without any tail.

"It is likely that the shapes and perhaps colors of lures do match their natural prey. Shad probably think they are eating some krill-like crustacean." Walter added. "If indeed they do prefer the ones with eyes, perhaps it would be neat to try a shad dart with a single black dot on the top of the jig head as copepods only have one eye. Mysid shrimp and krill have two eyes and are much closer to the size of the shad dart. The shape, color and action of the lure likely mimics some crustacean, either copepods, mysids or krill. These prey species span a size range from less than a millimeter to larger than 5 cm so they are well within the range of prey naturally consumed by shad."

The observation about eyes is one often noted by shad anglers. Large eyes, or any eyes at all, don't add to the attraction of the fly, and are not a component of the vast array of shad fly and dart patterns. Many contend that an eye actively detracts, and it's been my personal experience that the small black dot suggested by Walter is preferable to none at all.

OK, there's a primer on Shad behavior and why they may eat your particular pattern. This suggests that many patterns are relative impressions; therefore, you can simply devise one of your own that can be tremendously effective.

So get tying your, 'Green Weenies', 'Pinkies', Orange Monos', 'American River Specials' or other pattern. THE BOTTOM LINE - SHAD ARE JUST PLAIN FUN TO CATCH.

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

As Jon reported at the meeting, the Pyramid trip was another great success. If we continue to have a run of trips like the last few, we may begin to think we have a winning formula. Hopefully this is not the front page of Sports Illustrated jinx on the upcoming offerings.

Before the meeting there will be the Paynes Ranch hike-in on the 15th. Anyone interested who has not signed up should contact John Reynolds. At the meeting there will be a last chance to sign up for the shad trip on the 28th. While we have enough boats, we will probably need to spread people out on some new bars given the number of attendees.

The response to the Davis/Frenchmans trip picked up significantly at the April meeting, and we should have a good turnout. As previously noted, Yamsi on the same weekend is full. The May meeting is also a chance to sign up for Lewiston and the OFBP trip. We now have 4 jet boats in the Club and fortunately all are going to the Klamath in early September. Recognizing that we have never in recent years had more than a handful of attendees on a Klamath trip, it is a pleasant surprise that almost twice that number have already signed up. There is still a spot or two left, however.

We also have slots for the October Fly Shop trip. This one should produce a mixture of steelies and trout and be a great trip. We seem now after several years of trips to have settled on a group of guides who have received uniformly high grades both for their skill and personalities. Shane deserves kudos for his response to our observations and flexibility in dealing with our preferences.

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>
Payne's Ranch	Bass	May 15 th	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Sugar Creek Ranch	Trout	Friday May 7 th	Ron Rabun 800-FLY-FSHN	\$130pp incl lunch.
Shad/tbd	Shad	May 28 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Yamsi Ranch	Trout	June 4 th -5 th	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	\$100 rod per day
Davis Lake	Trout	June 4-5-6	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Lewiston	Trout	July 17 th	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 16th	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

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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.

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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