

Fly Fishers of Davis

<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/ffd/>

Volume 32 Issue 7

The Fisherman's Line



JULY 2004

ANNUAL PICNIC

Tuesday, JULY 27th, 6:00 P. M.

DAVIS Community Park

Picnic Area behind the Davis Art Center, corner of F and Covell Blvd.

Access Parking Lot off Covell near the Bike Bridge

Join members and families for this traditional evening of fly fishing conversation and friendship. Guests are welcome. The Club treats attendees to a main course of hot dogs, hamburgers, corn and fixings. Attendees contribute salads and deserts. A – M Bring Salads / N – Z Bring Deserts. Drinks are BYO. FFD obtained Park Permit (alcoholic beverages are ok).

No Regular Meeting, Board Meeting or Newsletter in August

BRING A FLY

To the September FFD Meeting

Our next regular meeting will be a great opportunity for everyone to bring a Fly to dedicate to our new display collection which will soon serve to illustrate the many aspects of fly fishing as well as provide additional auction fodder. 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.

Kiene's
fly shop



2654 Marconi Avenue
Sacramento, California
Toll Free: 800/4000-FLY
Phone: 916/486-9958
Fax: 916/486-2611
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American Fly Fishing Co.
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Sacramento, CA 95864
916-483-1222 800-410-1222

From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

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

Prez Says from John Forsyth

The club will take a vacation this summer after the annual picnic on July 27th. The picnic will be held in the usual spot in the northeast corner of Community Park in Davis instead of the regular meeting room. Please come and celebrate with the club.

Bring your family and your appetite. I need some help this year. If anyone is interested in BBQing please let me know. There is no meeting in August and we will reconvene in September. Hopefully there will be a lot of reports to discuss. Summer is tough fishing around here until it cools down. I like to head for the high country to escape the heat and enjoy some of the brightly colored wild fish that live in those waters. You have to like to hike.

I find walking in the high country clears my head (lack of oxygen?). The scenery is really the prize, and the fishing is just a bonus. Usually non-technical, the fishing makes up for lack of size with high numbers and relatively easy catching. It is a great way to actually catch a lot of fish on a dry fly, even for novices. Just about any stream has some kind of trout, and if you go high enough, the unbelievably colored Golden trout awaits.

I have never been so amazed by a six incher. That's about how big most of them are, but in a meadow layered with white granite, green pines, and flat blue sky in the Yosemite backcountry, that seems big enough. Yosemite is a great place to find these fish, and it doesn't take a pack mule to have a quality experience. Actually the Tuolumne just beyond the main camping sites is excellent and a flat walk for ten minutes is all it takes. Give it a try.

See you at the picnic. - John

ACTION ALERT! Take Action to Protect Northern California's Coast!

This message comes from Michael MacWilliams of the California Wild Heritage Campaign. Andrew Fulks, one of our speakers at last month's meeting, talked about this campaign in relation to the work he is doing on Cache Creek. If you have any questions about the campaign or this action alert, please email Michael at mmacwill@nccff.org.

From magnificent coasts and cathedral forests to beautiful rivers and stunning deserts, California's wild places provide clean drinking water, homes for plants and animals and tourism dollars for our economy. But today, many of these same places we depend on and treasure are threatened.

In the last 20 years, nearly 700,000 acres of National Forest lands in California – an area the size of Yosemite National Park – have been lost to logging, road building, and other destructive activities. Less than one percent of California's rivers are protected in their free flowing state. Now is the time to protect what is left!

To preserve the remaining wild lands and rivers in Northwest California Senators Boxer & Feinstein (D-CA), along with Representative Mike Thompson (D-CA) are working to pass the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act in Congress (S. 738/H.R. 1501). The bill would designate nearly 300,000 acres of federal land as wilderness and 21 miles of river as wild and scenic along the North Coast of California.

The protection of these lands and rivers will safeguard the homes of salmon, bald eagles, black bears, and other imperiled species, and protect a significant source of clean drinking water. Further, these areas will continue to be available for hiking, fishing, camping, birding, horseback riding and many other activities for future generations to enjoy. The Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act will preserve an important part of our American Heritage for future generations.

Some of Northern California's most spectacular wild lands are included in this proposal, including:

- King Range, the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in the lower 48, with towering peaks of over 4,000 feet over the great Pacific Ocean.
- Cache Creek, home to California's second largest wintering bald eagle population.
- An addition to the Siskiyou Wilderness, a critical area for California's remaining Chinook and Coho Salmon as well as Steelhead trout.

We hope you will join the broad base of support, from local elected officials and businesses to hunters and take action to protect and important part of our heritage.

Take Action!

Please make a quick phone call to Governor Schwarzenegger and let him know how important it is to YOU that we protect the remaining wild lands and rivers

in Northern California.

It is critical that we secure the support of Governor Schwarzenegger today. As the state's highest elected official, his backing would help ensure the protection of the North Coast's wild lands and rivers by showing leaders in congress how important this bill is to all Californians. Become a part of California's public land legacy today!

Please take time right now to make a phone call to Governor

Schwarzenegger urging him to support S. 738. You can call the Governor's office at (916)445-1456 or (916)445-2841.

It's easy to do. Press 7 to speak to a constituent services representative. After identifying yourself, explain that you are calling to urge the Governor to support the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act, S. 738.

PHONE CALL TIPS:

- Give your name and address to the person registering your comments
- Let them know that you are calling to ask for the Governor's support of Congressman Mike Thompson's Wilderness Bill, the Northern California Coastal Wild Heritage Wilderness Act (H.R. 1501/S. 738).
- Be sure to mention why his support is so important: As Governor of California, HIS backing for this legislation will show the broad support throughout the state for protecting these great areas.

POINTS TO RAISE:

- This bill will protect some of California's most spectacular areas such as the King Range, the longest stretch of undeveloped coastline in the lower 48.
- It would also protect critical areas for California's threatened steelhead trout and salmon populations.
- Throughout California there is broad support for the bill.
- Tell about your personal experience, such as: I have been hiking, fishing, camping on the Lost Coast and want this area protected for future generations.
- I hope HE will consider formally supporting H.R. 1501.

After you have called, please email emily@friendsoftheriver.org so that we know how many calls have been placed.

Thank you for taking a step to protect Northwest California's wild lands and rivers for future generations!!

Update on AB 2280 This bill would have required the Department of Fish and Game to allocate 1/3 of the revenues from fishing licenses to a new fund to support fish hatcheries. There was a lot of support for it from county tourist agencies and some angler organizations. California Trout, the Federation of Fly Fishers, several fly fishing clubs, and 15 individuals opposed it. The bill failed to pass the Senate Committee on Natural Resources and Wildlife, but was granted reconsideration, meaning it can come back for another try later on. Once again, this bill is poor public policy. It forces the Department of Fish and Game to support

hatcheries with a fixed percentage of license revenue regardless of the needs of other wildlife programs in California. The vote was 4-3 against it, but Senators Byron Sher and Dede Alpert abstained. If the bill comes back to the committee, we'll need to persuade at least one of them to oppose it. If you'd like to be on my email list to stay informed on this and other conservation issues, send me a note at ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu. You won't be overwhelmed with messages from me – I usually send 1-4 or so each month.

Good News on the Trinity! The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals just reversed most of Judge Wanger's decisions regarding the Trinity River flows. At the end of President Clinton's term, Secretary of Interior Bruce Babbitt entered a Record of Decision (ROD) that would increase flows in the Trinity to 48% of historic flows. The Westlands Water District in the San Joaquin Valley immediately filed a lawsuit claiming, among other things, that there was insufficient study of the effects of the decision on the Central Valley farmers. The latest ruling threw out that argument and paves the way to implement the ROD as written. It's a great victory for the salmon and steelhead fishery in the Trinity River!

Conservation News from NCCFFF

National Legislative Victories! Last week, the Alaska Coalition scored two huge victories on the campaigns we have been working on for a year. Through a bizarre twist of fate, both the oil drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and the logging in Tongass National Forest were scheduled for a vote in the House of Representatives last Wednesday.

On the Arctic, with the help of Democratic solidarity, we were able to show the votes necessary so that the Republican leadership had to drop the bill without a vote. We have spared the Arctic again, at least until November.

On the Tongass National Forest, we garnered 48 Republican votes (a lot!) to win a 222-205 vote to drop the subsidies for building logging roads in the pristine old growth areas in our nation's largest National Forest. If this amendment passes in the Senate, we will have spared 300,000 acres of 1,000-year-old trees.

Wild Steelhead Committee Update: A U.S. District Court judge rejected an attempt by Central Valley irrigators to strip protected status from wild Central Valley steelhead trout. NCCFFF and FFF were members of a coalition of groups intervening in court in support of the ESA listing. The coalition was represented by Earthjustice and also included Delta Fly Fishers, Trout Unlimited, Center for Biological Diversity, Woodbridge Rivers Company, and Pacific Rivers Council.

While deferring to the NOAA Fisheries on-going review of the fish's status, the Court ruled that wild steelhead will remain federally protected during the time it takes to complete that process. The Court found that "[t]he scientific evidence ... indicates that the fish faces serious and irreparable harm if removed from the list and

that, given its numbers, its listing is likely to be preserved after the review and update.”

The case was the latest in a concerted effort by developers, irrigation and agribusiness interests, and others to strip federal Endangered Species Act protections from salmon and steelhead stocks up and down the Pacific coast following a controversial district court opinion in September 2001. This recent court case promises to be just one in a potentially long series of court battles.

Legal Action on Butte Creek Salmon Kills: NCCFFF joined a coalition of groups in filing a 60-day notice of intent to sue regarding the re-occurring Butte Creek spring run salmon kills in the DeSabra-Centerville PG&E hydropower project area. The letter petitions FERC formally requesting that they initiate Section 7 consultation under the ESA. This lays the groundwork for potential litigation if there is no action.

Upper Sacramento River Rail Safety: NCCFFF recently joined Cal Trout in attending a meeting with the president of the California Public Utilities Commission as part of a campaign to force necessary corrective action by UP to prevent derailments on the Upper Sac. As previously reported, there have been a series of derailments since the 1991 disaster, including a multi-car derailment in July of 2003. Other action taken and planned by NCCFFF:

- Letter to our US Senators calling for their direct involvement
- Letter campaign to urge Senator Boxer to intervene
- NCCFFF Board of Directors passed a resolution calling on UP Railroad to implement a series of systemic improvements to avoid future derailments in the Upper Sacramento River Canyon
- Potential legislative action
- Public opinion campaign

Legislation Would Shift License Fees To Hatcheries: During the past year Rep. Dave Cogdill, representing Mono and neighboring counties, has twice introduced state legislation that would mandate allocation of a fixed amount of the revenue from fishing license fees to hatchery operations. The percentage allocation would represent a significant increase over current funding levels at the expense of other critical programs. NCCFFF has sent opposition letters to committee members, testified at multiple hearings, and participated in meetings with the bill's author himself. We believe it is not constructive to sacrifice one angling program for another, and that it is bad public policy for the legislature to set DFG budgets. As reported above, the bill failed to pass the Senate Natural Resources and Wildlife Committee, but was granted reconsideration, meaning it may come back to be heard again.

Battle Creek Restoration Project: Throughout the development of this restoration project, NCCFFF has advocated for the most aggressive possible restoration plan, including removal of additional dams blocking access to prime spawning habitat. We continue to

comment at each opportunity since this is potentially the largest realistic steelhead/salmon restoration project in California.

Klamath River FERC License: PacifiCorp is seeking a renewed license for its hydropower operations on the Klamath River. NCCFFF has filed comment letters with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission urging improved fish passage and an improved flow regime.

The NCCFFF continues to work on your behalf to preserve the places we love to fish. This organization deserves your support – join today! Visit their new web page at <http://www.nccfff.org>.

North Davis Casting Stations

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Bob Zasoski and Tom Burton have been working with the city to establish casting stations at the North Davis pond. They contacted city staff and worked out a plan to build up the south shoreline with existing cobbles, face it with river rock to match the shoreline of the island, and top the stations with decomposed granite. After an initial trial balloon at the Recreation and Parks Commission, city staff proceeded to write a proposal and notified nearby neighbors that the item would be on the May 20 agenda. You may have seen Jean Jackman's column in the May 16 Davis Enterprise where she adamantly opposed any change to the pond. That was just the beginning. She and a neighbor who has a view of the pond from her home on Avocet both spoke against the proposed casting stations. Both were adamant about not removing irises and disturbing the ducks. Another person spoke against fishing in the pond.

One commissioner decided that the pond has evolved into a natural area that should not be disturbed. He moved to deny our proposal, but the commission voted down his motion. The chair then made a somewhat complicated motion to support small groups like ours and requested that city staff work with us to come up with a project with a "softer" impact. We have not yet met with city staff.

Meanwhile the person with the view set up a meeting with Mitch Sears, the city of Davis Open Space Coordinator, a UCD biologist, and the city biologist. They did not invite us. As a result of that meeting the city biologist now opposes any change to the pond shoreline.

The bottom line is there is growing and organized opposition to our proposal.

The commission will discuss at its July 19 meeting what the city policies will be for the North Davis and Core Area ponds. The commission will discuss whether they are designated open space, habitat, or recreation. Our proposal will be deferred until after that discussion. Each of the designations carries with it different allowed uses. The fenced-in pond is now designated a habitat pond, and nothing can be done to it - that's why it's fenced. A recreation designation would allow our stations to proceed. I'm not sure what it would mean to have an open space designation. It will be important for us to have a

large presence at the meeting if we want our views known.

Another idea that has been discussed is to plan casting stations in the new Covell Village development. At this time, the Covell Village proposal contains a mix of parks, ponds, and other amenities that would serve the residents who move in, but there's not much that would appeal to current residents of Davis. It may be possible to include casting ponds in the development proposal.

We'll continue to work on this idea. Your help would be most appreciated. Contact Bob Zasoski or Tom Burton to help.

Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers

A Festival of Fly Fishing



Friday & Saturday October 15 & 16, 2004
Redding Convention Center, Redding, CA

Featuring

Jack Dennis, Steve Rajeff, Scott Sanchez

and other great fly fishers and fly tyers

Fly Tying, Fly Fishing Techniques, Fly Casting Instruction, Travel Opportunities, Guides, Artists, Manufacturers, Exhibitors, Fly Casting Tournament, Banquet, Silent & Live Auction and more...

Bring the Family

For Registration & Updates go to: www.nccfff.org

----- OUTINGS and PROGRAM CALENDAR for 2004 -----

OUTINGS

Since the May meeting, there have been three outings: the shad trip on the 28th, the Yamsi trip on the weekend of the 4th reported on elsewhere here and the Davis trip on the same weekend. The shad outing was to Ord Bend again with eight members attending. The water had changed substantially and unfortunately only several members found the new "slot." In total about 35 shad were landed including a nice mix of hens and large bucks. Particularly notable was that one unnamed party had the distinction of landing the smallest shad anyone on the trip had ever seen.

Davis Lake saw six members attending at some point. There were good hatches Friday and Saturday with varying results. Sunday the wind howled which put a real damper on things. And the wind never died down at night which eliminated the hatches which can make the evening the most productive time. There were some signs of pike like missing tail parts, scarred fish etc. There is no question that there are less fish than in prior years and few in the under 15" class. Hopefully DFG will in fact poison the lake and as soon as possible.

Signups for June include Lewiston (we have reservation at Poison Oak and the flows will be down to 800 cfs; high but definitely fishable) and the October 16 Fly Shop trip.

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>
Lewiston	Trout	July 17 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Backpacking YS	Trout	August	John Forsyth 530-750-1192	
Backpacking OF	Trout	August 6,7,8	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/stlhhd	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	

PROGRAM CALENDAR

The program calendar is being updated for the Fall/Winter Schedule.

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	Bob Beverlin	530-753-6805
NCCFFF	Dave Driscoll	707-446-2671
Programs	Ron Rabun	800-359-3746
Refreshments	Jon Knapp	530-756-9056
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 (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.dcn.davis.us/go/ffd/>. 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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