

*Fly Fishers of Davis*<http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/ffd/>

Volume 33 Issue 4

**The Fisherman's Line**

This Month's

Meeting is Tuesday, April 25<sup>th</sup>,

7:30 pm.

**Entomology and the Fly Fisher  
Bugs for the Masses**

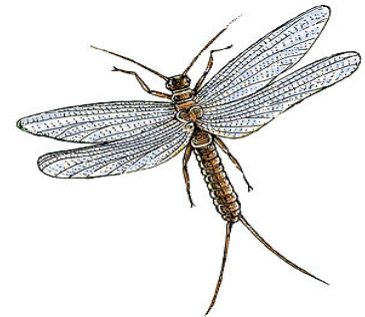
By Mike Parrella



The speaker this month is Dr. Michael Parrella, Professor of Entomology and Associate Dean for Agricultural Sciences on the UC Davis campus. Mike has been an avid fly fisher and entomologist for more than 30 years. He is teaching 'Entomology for Fly-Fishers' on the Davis campus this quarter with an enrollment of more than 30 students.

Mike's presentation will focus on the importance of insects as trout food. His basic message is that even a minimal understanding of the basic life history and

Ecology of Mayflies, Stoneflies, Caddis flies and Midges will greatly improve your fly fishing. He will debunk some common myths associated with Entomology and fly fishing and will present some little known facts about entomology and fly fishing for trout. In addition to photos of trout stomach contents, there may be some photographs of a fish or two.

**The Prez Says**

The excellent reports about Bob Zasoski's fly tying class have caused me to reflect on why I tie flies. The simple answer might be because flies cost nearly \$2 each and tying them might save money. However, the savings may be mostly illusory given that I can hardly walk by a wall of fly tying materials in a shop without seeing something new that I cannot resist buying. Some materials such as good necks are quite expensive and I must admit that I am a sucker for them. I have accumulated several lifetimes' worth of materials. Then there is the investment in tying tools, etc. My most recent acquisition is a nice lamp and magnifier system that I find I need these days.

The real reason is that it is fun and rewarding. Although I do not do it as much as I should, I thoroughly enjoy sitting down in the evening to tie a few flies. First, as I tie the fly there is the anticipation of the big fish I am going to catch with it. Second, there is the creative and artistic aspect to it, though my flies with their messy heads etc. are hardly works of art. Finally, I can experiment with new materials or additions to old patterns and then anticipate that maybe these variations will attract even more fish. Two years ago, I fished Lake Davis with Bob Zasoski, who had tied up some damsel imitations with very fine rubber legs. They certainly worked a lot better than my damsel imitations so I found a source for the material and have been experimenting with adding rubber legs to everything from dry flies to prince nymphs. I cannot say whether they work better than the standard patterns but I do know that it is fun to experiment and daydream about the possibilities.

Don't forget Kiene's Fly Fishing Expo on Saturday, April 23. We will have our club display set up.

- Bob Percy



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## **From the CONSERVATION DESK**

**By Lowell Ashbaugh**

**New mailing list for conservation issues** I have established an email list with Davis Community Network for anyone interested in conservation issues. I plan to use it to send alerts about time-sensitive actions that you could take and for other communications on conservation issues. If you want to join the list, point your browser to <http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/ffd-conservation> and follow the directions. You can control how you receive messages, e.g. individually or in a digest, and you can unsubscribe at any time. You can also see the archive of prior messages. I guarantee you won't get spam with this list and you won't be inundated with conservation messages. You'll likely get one per week on average. Please join the list and become more aware of what's going on!

**New Zealand Mud Snail** DFG conducted tests last month on Putah Creek of several chemicals and application methods to kill New Zealand Mud Snails. A number of volunteers from FFD participated in the tests, as I reported in last month's newsletter. The good news is that all three chemicals tested killed 100% of the snails. The application methods are a bit awkward, as it's important to immerse boots and waders in the chemical. There may be some more tests of application methods. The snails get into the tiniest cracks and crevices, so there must be more testing if application is done by spraying, for example. But this is good news for those who are conscientious about preventing their spread. The bad news, of course, is that there are a lot of people who just don't care. We must find another way to keep them in check. If we're lucky, Mother Nature will find it.

**Klamath/Trinity River Mess** You may recall that in 2002 there was a massive fish kill on the Klamath River that resulted in the death of an estimated 63,000 adult salmon before they could spawn. Flows in the Klamath River that year were reduced to extremely low levels to allow farmers in the Klamath Basin to receive their allotment of irrigation water. The water temperature in the river was high, and promoted the growth of fungus that caused the gill rot disease that killed the fish. That fish kill is now coming back to affect us in several ways.

In 2002, despite overwhelming evidence to the contrary, the Bureau of Reclamation insisted that the kill was due to factors other than low water flows in the Klamath. Independent analysis points to the low flows as the cause of the die-off. It was, after all, the low flows that caused the water to warm to lethal levels and promote the growth of gill rot fungus. Now the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service have requested that the Trinity River Restoration Program release water this fall to prevent another fish kill, and that the requested flows must come from the allocation specified in the 2000 Trinity River Record of Decision (ROD). Just a few days after the request, the Trinity Management Council voted 7-1 to reject the request. The council was unanimous in recommending that the ROD allocation be reserved to meet its objectives. The single no vote on the rejection was for a delay in the fishing season.

Now we have an odd situation developing with the salmon population in the Pacific. The Klamath was once home to the

third largest run of salmon in the western United States. It's now down to about one-tenth of its historic size. This year the salmon spawned in 2002 are returning to the rivers they were born in. There are not many Klamath fish due to the 2002 kill, but salmon other rivers were unaffected. There are large numbers of salmon in the ocean now. So the fishing forecast is for a banner season that will have to be shortened to protect the Klamath stocks. Look for record numbers returning to the Sacramento and American River systems.

**Eagle Lake News** Reports from Eagle Lake indicate that the number and size of trout in have declined. Eagle Lake used to produce a large number of trophy fish in the 3-10 pound range. Those fish are now quite rare. According to Jay Fair, the drop in number and size is due to overfishing. Apparently there are a number of anglers who go out, catch a limit, return to shore with their fish, and then go out again to catch another limit. The Department of Fish and Game has too few wardens to cover the lake (or for that matter, anywhere else in the state). This has been an ongoing problem with DFG, and is not likely to be remedied anytime soon given the state's budget situation.

**Golden Trout Project** The Golden Trout Project is a collaborative effort of CalTrout and Trout Unlimited of California to help protect and restore pure strains of native California golden trout in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Descendants of rainbow and brown trout introduced into the golden trout's home waters prey on golden trout and compete with them for food. Even more imperiling is the ongoing hybridization between golden and other trout that is compromising the golden trout's genetic integrity. The Golden Trout Project aims to restore the home waters of the golden trout to those fish alone, and to protect those waters from damage caused by grazing and other activities. There are opportunities to support the project with monetary donations, and also by actually working on it in the Sierra Nevada. You can find more information about how to help at <http://www.caltrout.org/specialprojects/goldentroutproj1.html>.

**American River Flow Standard** Water in the American River is in high demand. You may have seen the editorial in the Sacramento Bee a couple of weeks ago calling for the Bureau of Reclamation to establish a flow standard. Last year we narrowly averted a salmon kill when an unusual heavy and cold spring rainstorm came along. Water had been released from Folsom Reservoir in anticipation of spring rains that did not appear. There was no cold water left to release when the salmon needed it. It was obvious during the salmon festival when too few salmon were present to operate the Nimbus Hatchery. This year may bring the same conditions. Numerous agencies have tentatively agreed on their water needs, but the BOR has not established a flow standard. Without one, if water is in short supply the agreements will be forgotten and everyone will demand a share. That would spell disaster for the fish.

**American River Isolation Pools** At the last club meeting I introduced Rod Hall who gave a little background and showed some photos of pools that develop on the American River after high flows. When the water recedes, the pools are left isolated from the main river, trapping steelhead and salmon smolts and preventing their migration to the sea. A

demonstration project was planned for April 16 to cut a channel into the pool just below Sunrise Bridge to see if the fish would use it to escape. Several FFD members volunteered to help out, along with a number of others from the Granite Bay and Sacramento clubs. The project has been put on hold for now. Water is being released from Folsom to make storage for anticipated spring rains (see above) and the flows are too high to ensure safety. We're now looking at performing the work in June. If you'd like to have a chance to help out, please join the mailing list and I'll let you know when we reschedule it.

**Whitewater Flows** You may recall that whitewater rafting groups have successfully lobbied for high flow days during the summer on a number of rivers downstream from dams. The North Fork Feather River is one of them, and there were a number of high flow days last year. The whitewater crowd has asked for even more days this year, and they almost got them. The Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers, along with some other groups, successfully argued to leave the number as is for now while studies are being conducted on the effect of the high flows on invertebrates in the river.

### Kiene's Fly Shop Annual Expo

On Saturday April 23, Bill and Marilyn Kiene will be putting on their annual Kiene's Fly Shop Annual Expo from 9 to 5 at their shop on Marconi Ave in Sacramento. Sales representatives from a number of rod, reel and equipment manufactures will be there so it is a good chance to talk with them and check out the latest gear and cast various rods. There are excellent fly tying demonstrations by leading fly tyers. It is as enjoyable and worthwhile as the big shows plus it is free! Bill and Marilyn even provide hot dogs and drinks.

- Bob Pearcy

### Payne in the Ranch

It's time to dust off the ol' snakebite kit 'cause bass season is here. We're shooting for Saturday, May 14, for the first of two treks into Payne Ranch. There are at least 3 tank ponds known to host smallmouth bass, some of respectable size (ask Jeremy Kidwell, John Hodgson, Mark Tebbutt etc.) that are accessible by foot. I'll be watching the weather forecast closely, if it looks to be too warm we'll either cancel or reschedule, but, in general, the warmer the better. The hike in is uphill and, maybe, 2 miles so be prepared with plenty of fluids and sunscreen. As far as the fishing is concerned you should consider the following:

1. Fish pole (4/5/6 wt.)
2. Slow sinking (camo) line, sink tip, floating line
3. Assorted wooly buggers, size 6/8/10, unweighted for sinking line, weighted for floating line
4. Girdle bugs (rubber legs) big bushy dry flies (Stimulators, Hoppers, Madame-X etc.)
5. Sneakers so you can wade wet and get to the little buggers

Most of the fish are small but if you need to post some big numbers to impress your friends (i.e. compensate for the numbers you posted on the Pyramid Lake outing) this is the trip for you.

As in years past we will meet at the post office in Guinda at 9:00 AM and caravan from there. If the weather looks to be warm we might leave an hour earlier to do the worst part of the hike in cool part of the day. An evening hike out past Road Kill Cafe and Thompson Canyon may be an option and can be beautiful.

More information about Payne Ranch and other public lands in the Cache Creek area can be had viewed at: [www.yolohiker.org](http://www.yolohiker.org).

Look for a sign-up sheet at the meeting. - **John Reynolds**



**Jeremy Kidwell's record bass at the Payne Ranch**

**Dear Dr. Shad:**

My condition is getting worse again. Just like this time last year, without warning, my right arm jerks straight up and bends at the elbow, pauses briefly at the 12:00 position, and then extends forward. Also, I hear noises in my ears like rushing water. I can't concentrate at work and my spouse says I'm detached like I'm in some other world much of the time.

You tell me that this condition can reoccur every 12 months and there is no known cure. Last year you recommended that I re-inventory my fly fishing tackle and sharpen the hooks on my shad darts, especially the chartreuse ones. You said if that didn't help, you had some visualization exercises I could try but you only prescribe those for severe cases. You said that the symptoms would worsen after the cottonwoods opened up in mid-April, but eventually, they would go away by themselves.

Do you think it might help to renew my membership with the Fly Fishers of Davis this year?

Sincerely,  
A Shad Fever Sufferer

**Dear Sufferer:**

You must renew your membership with the Fly Fishers of Davis, and the sooner the better. I only hope it's not already too late. But that's only the first step. Your symptoms clearly indicate that you need to get out fishing early and often. One of the best ways to do that is to join the any of the club outings. You can find a list of them in this newsletter.

- Dr. Shad

## Fly of the Month Wilma Jean

**Thread** –Black 6/0, 8/0

**Hook #** 10-14 Standard Dry Fly

**Tail** - moose or deer hair

**Body**- Peacock Herl

**Hackle**- mixed brown and grizzly palmered

**Wings** – White hair wing – divided, calf can substitute synthetic

The Wilma Jean is an attractor pattern that floats and fishes very well. Jim White a long time club member fishes this fly as his only pattern (or so the story goes). Bend down the barb and attach the tread in the usual manner. Bring the thread to the wing position and tie in a clump of calf tail. Trim the butts at an angle to give a smooth transition to the body. Post and divide the wings and bring the thread to the tail position. Tie in the deer hair for a tail followed by the brown and grizzly hackle. Add the peacock herl for the body and wrap the peacock to the wing and tie off the herl. Palmer the brown and grizzly hackle over the peacock body and finish at the eye position. Tie off the hackle and make a thread head. Whip finish and cement the head.



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## Casting Clinic

The casting clinic will be held at the southern end of Northstar Pond on Sunday May 15. If that is a rain out then we will try again on Saturday May 21. The clinic will begin at 10:00 and last until about noon. – **Bob Zasoski**



**Jon Teasing his Bug**



**Joel and his Idaho Trout**



**Jon and friends Tying One On**



**Joel and his buddy in Joel's new boat**



**Knit One Herl Two**



**Joel's Catch of the Day**

## NEW & OLD WATERS: Nymphing the Stanislaus River with Mark Pinto,

John Imsdahl and I met Mark Pinto at 8:40 AM in Colleeville at the intersection of Mariposa Rd. and Jack Tone Rd., East of Stockton. We drove from there to Riverbank and then up Highway 120 through Oakdale and to Lake Tullock. We turned left on Tullock Lake South Shore Road and drove up to the dam. Turned around at the dam and came back about a quarter of a mile where there was a small shoulder where we could park, near an outhouse you can see from the road.

Got into our fishing gear and walked down the hill and across the south side irrigation ditch. We walked up the trail on the river side of the ditch to the dam and climbed down the rocks to the river.

The weather was overcast and cool. The water flowing over the dam made a cool mist and a light breeze blowing downstream from the dam. It sprinkled on us a few times and then there were a couple of good showers while we were fishing. The water temperature just below the dam was 52 degrees F, when we began our fishing lesson.

Mark set us up with a nine foot 5X leader and 6X tippet. The indicator he made out of some white poly material and soaked it with a silicon compound to make it float. The indicator was clever because it looked like the drifting water bubbles from the dam. He tied the indicator in on the leader, and added one lead shot above the blood knot where he tied in the tippet. He tied in a nymph or a San Juan Worm, and then he tied in a Midge Pupae as a dropper. He used Orvis knots to tie in the flies and an Orvis knot to tie in the Midge Pupae to the bend in the upper fly's hook. Every fish I hooked was on Mark's Midge Pupae. That fly really works on this river.

We got into position to on a rock that would allow us to cast up to the rocks at the base of the dam and then get a good drift down 10 to 15 yards below the rock we were standing on. The main technique Mark was trying to get us to do was to cast up stream just below the boulders, allow the indicator to have a natural drift in the current without being drug around by the fly line. To do this he tried to get us to throw loops in the fly line up stream above the indicator and strip the excess line so it wouldn't drag on the water. As the indicator drifted past we were to release fly line at a rate that would allow the natural drift to continue in the current by feeding fly line into the rod and bouncing the rod tip up and down about two feet or so to make the line feed out. As the indicator got about ten yards below us on the stream we were to strip the line back to about ten feet, raise the rod tip high, and cast up the stream with a modified roll cast. Then we were to go through the

motions again, and again. By using this casting method parallel to the stream, we were able to cast from beneath a tree on a brush lined stream without getting tangled very much.

The boulders were very smooth and very slippery when wet so wearing felt soles, without spikes, were what Mark recommended. Mark had a pair of Korkers, which allow a change of the soles of the boot to fit the conditions (felt, felt and spikes, or rubber). John was trying out a pair of these shoes also and they seemed to work very well.

We fished four separate locations, two just below the dam, and two below where we were parked about 400 yards downstream from the dam. The last location was much easier to get too, we only saw two other fishermen. One was by the dam, and the other was on the river below where we fished near the cars.

At the second site, just below the parking area, Mark had us use the high sticking method. Using the same set up as far as the flies and indicator, and adding another lead shot. The system was to have a short section of fly line out, three feet or so, then drift the line down stream, raise the rod tip high and cast up stream into a seam alongside some fast water. Then, lift the rod tip so that none of the leader is in the water, and follow the indicator with your rod tip. If the indicator stops or takes a dive immediately swing the rod tip downstream to engage the hook, raise the rod tip and keep tension on the fly line and hopefully land the fish.

We had many hits on our set ups, about forty or so between us. It indicated that the way we were rigged was correct, and that the drift methods Mark was teaching us were working well. Our ability to translate these hits into a high percentage of hookups and fish in the net will require more work. This is a real challenge on a #20 barbless hook. If you allow any slack in the line at all, the fish are gone. Finally, these are native trout that are not fooled by poor quality drifts and are intolerant to being "lined" in the water.

We got back to the cars and got out of our gear about six PM. A long day, but it was a great learning experience.

Mark was very patient with us and didn't get upset when we continued to mess up in our casting and line handling. He just kept up the pressure to get us to perform the various tasks that he knows gets results in the Stanislaus River. His patience was very much appreciated.

They say variety is the spice of life. We sincerely hope that other FFD members will seek out and "re-experience" some often overlooked local waters and report back their experiences, strategies and tactics.

- John Imsdahl & Jack Norski.

### ----- EVENTS / SPEAKERS CALENDAR for 2005 -----

April	Mike Parrella	Entomology	May	Peter Blackman	New Zealand
June	Chip O'Brien	Yellowstone	July	Annual Club Picnic	In the Park
August	No One	No Meeting	September	John Sherman	Stripers
October	Andy Burke	Big Fish Techniques	November	Ron Anderson	Pyramid



**Lower Sac – Nice one John**



**The bobber says "Fish don't know Weather"**



**Chris the guide says "What the Hail is this!"**



**John's Lower Sac Trophy Trout**



**Pyramid Lake - Good Start Cal**



**Great Lunch!**

## ----- OUTINGS CALENDAR for 2005 -----

Since last report there have been two outings. The first was the **March Fly Shop trip**. It was a miserable day, and only four of the six boats went out. The other two rebooked for later. For those of us who did go the results were mixed. Jim Humphrey and Warren Caldwell did well numbers wise, and Jim caught several large trout. The other six all caught fish including several more large ones.

The second get together was **Iron Canyon Reservoir**, the last lower elevation lake jaunt of the year. There were nine members who fished for all or part of the trip, and the number of fish landed was well north of 100. The largest was Jeremy Kidwell's 20 inch bow. As in the past, San Juan worms were the most effective fly overall, but the Davis blood midge produced a number of grabs during the evening midge hatch.

**Herring:** A few are here at Verona. Several nice hens in the group. River in great shape. Should get nothing but better if weather holds. Relatively few stripers taken during day from what could see. Launch still \$10.

Warren and I hit Verona this pm. More shad (8 or so landed and probably twice as many hooked for varying lengths of time). Also landed a 10 pound plus or minus chrome salmon. Quite a tussle on a 7 1/2 foot Fenwick FF 756 which is at least 30 years old and is my stick of choice for boat fishing for shad (albeit not for salmon).

### Two new trips have been added to the year's offerings.

The first will be a day on Putah aimed at new members and novices at the Creek. The timing has not been finalized, but sometime in October is most likely. The second is a one or two day session with the Fly Shop guides on the upper Klamath near Iron Gate. The date set is December 9; depending on interest, we will also fish the 10th. This is an area which various members have been hearing about favorably for years. A great deal of interest has already been shown, and we are limited to 4 boats (8 persons). Accordingly, those who may be interested are encouraged to contact me ASAP, as it is likely the trip will be full by as early as the April meeting.

### Upcoming:

**Shad:** usual suspects (my favorite is the Uncle \_\_\_\_\_ special tied with fluorescent pink edge glo, yellow braided tinsel tail, fluorescent red or pink thread and standard bead chain)

**Lewiston:** green buggers and no back leeches 8-12, Obrien midges in 12, pts in 14-16, San Juans in the fluorescent style 8-12, mercer poxybacks 12 etc; good dry fishing possible

**Klamath:** to paraphrase Ohrwall: anything as long as it's a brindle; also rubber legs under indicators and the other usual Klamath flies like assassins, hiltens, green drakes etc.; for those who doubt brindles it is still strongly suggested that some be brought along in case those with no imagination may prove correct. - Cary Boyden

### Outings Update

<u>TRIP</u>	<u>FISH</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>FISHMEISTER</u>	<u>Comments/Fees</u>
Payne's Ranch	Bass	May 14 <sup>th</sup>	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Shad	Shad	May 20 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Yamsi Ranch	Trout	Jun 18 <sup>th</sup>	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	\$100 rod per day
Davis Lake	Trout	Jun 3 <sup>rd</sup> - 5 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Lewiston	Trout	Jul 15 <sup>th</sup> - 17 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Backpacking YS	Trout	Aug	John Forsyth 530-750-1192	
Backpacking OF	Trout	Aug 5 <sup>th</sup> - 7 <sup>th</sup>	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Klamath	Half Pounders	Sep 8 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Redding/Sacramento	Trout/steelhead	Oct 15 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150.00 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	Oct	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Putah Creek	Trout	Oct		
Klamath @ Iron Gate	Half Pounders	Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> - 10 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150.00 plus tip





**Pyramid – Nice Cutter Jon!**



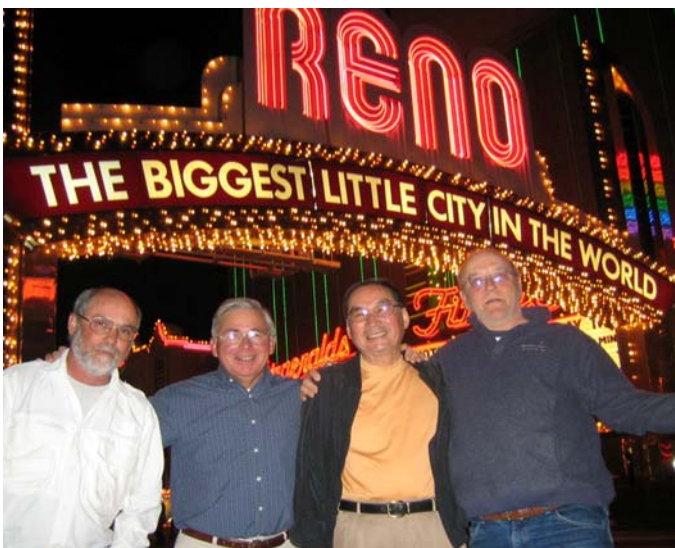
**Pyramid – A Great example of Dental Hygiene**



**Pyramid – A Great example of Dental Hygiene**



**Pyramid – Who needs a Bobber anyway!**



**I like the Night Life, I love to Boogey**



**Pyramid - A Step Up for Jon**

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Video Library	John Reynolds	530-753-2682

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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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Be sure if you signed up for the \$25 annual membership that you get your email address to [Bob Beverlin](mailto:Bob.Beverlin@ucdavis.edu) at <mailto:rcbeverlin@ucdavis.edu>. This will assure that you get an email notification of the newsletter. Each month, except August, the e-newsletter will be posted to the above site and emailed about 1 week before the meeting. You will need Acrobat Reader <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html> to view the PDF format. If you receive the paper version, you can also get the e-version notification by sending your email to "[the bobber](mailto:thebobber)".

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