

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

Volume 33 Issue 5

The Fisherman's Line

This Month's Meeting is Tuesday, May 31st, 7:30 pm.

Land of the Long White Clouds

By Peter Blackman



This Month's speaker is Peter Blackman, who is well known to many of you as the co-owner of American Fly Fishing Co. in Sacramento. Peter will be speaking about New Zealand and especially the fly fishing, sight seeing and other activities available there. His talk will cover both the North Island with its many volcanic features, temperate rain forests and wide variety of lakes and streams and the South Island where the rugged mountains and glaciers of the Southern Alps provide a spectacular backdrop to the crystal clear rivers. The Browns and Rainbows first imported in the late 19th century grow to an exceptional size in New Zealand, making it truly a Mecca for fly fishers. Peter will provide insight into the varied fisheries and techniques employed to entice these huge trout as well as where to go, what to see and what to do (besides fly fish of course) while there.

If you would like to talk with Peter we will be at the Italian Cottage Restaurant for dinner at 6 pm prior to the meeting. Let Bob Pearcy know (756-0932 or rwpearcy@ucdavis.edu) so we are sure to get a large enough table.

Rod Building Class

All of you that signed up for the rod building class please note the following: Classes will be held at the UCD Campus, Viticulture building from 7 to 9 pm. There will be four 2 hour sessions starting Wednesday, June 8th and ending Wednesday, June 29th.

We will discuss ordering rod blanks, reel seats, grips, etc. and practice wrapping at the first session.

Tom Burton will call/email everyone on the sign-up sheet with more information and directions to the viticulture building.

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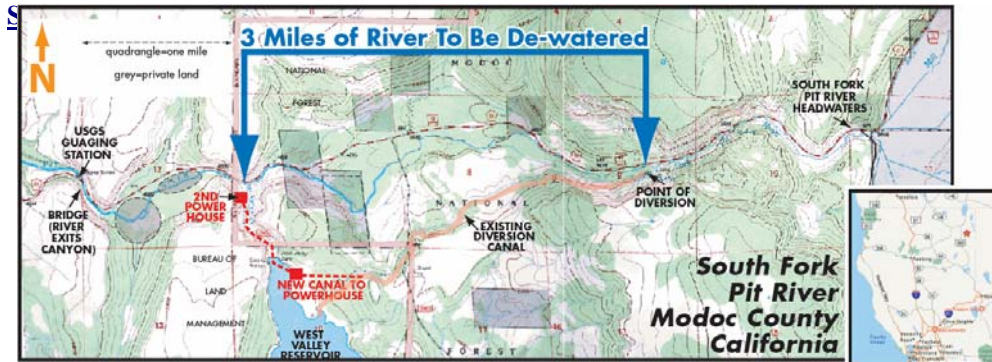
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From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Conservation mailing list Davis Community Network has provided a mailing list to me for anyone interested in fishing conservation issues. To join the list, simply go to <http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/ffd-conservation> and follow the directions. You can control how you receive messages 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!



has filed an application with FERC to construct a hydroelectric plant on the South Fork of the Pit River, located in rural Modoc County. The project proposes to generate electrical power for a maximum of 2200 households, and divert 100 cubic feet per second from three miles of scenic reach of the river through the canyon leading into Jess Valley. The proposal would leave five cubic feet per second within the three miles of river that is diverted with the exception of an eight-week period during the spring high rains. This year, during low rainfalls in February, the river was diverted to 1.5 cubic feet per second and reduced to a mudbed. Fish and aquatic life perished or went downstream. Check out http://pg.photos.yahoo.com/ph/bruzzones2000/album?.dir=mail&.src=ph&.store=&.prodid=&.done=http%3a//photos.sbc.yahoo.com/ph/my_photos to see photos of the devastation during the diversion.

The developers propose to divert water from the river through an existing South Fork Irrigation District Canal located in the heart of the Modoc National Forest and prior to entry into West Valley Reservoir, and then run the water through a pipe to the West Valley Reservoir Dam through two generators to be installed at that site. From there, they propose to spill the water down Short Creek, returning it into the Pit River, three miles downstream from where it was initially diverted. The water will not enter the West Valley Reservoir or raise its water table.

The intended diverted areas include the open, scenic areas that can be seen from Jess Valley Road and will dramatically change the landscape of the area and the native fish habitat, especially in the rolling meadow area owned by private property owners, including land that has been preserved by a

local property owner for community recreational use and areas that have historical and cultural value as Hammawi Indian Tribe hunting sites.

California Fish and Game Codes include public trust laws that require dam operators to maintain a healthy fish environment in river areas around their dams. The Department is reluctant to enforce the laws, though, because local District Attorneys often will not charge the case. The DFG states it is too costly to use the services of the California State Attorney General.

Landowners and local residents as well as organizations that advocate for fish and wildlife and the Pit River Indian Tribe are protesting this project and have placed signs and banners up and down the canyon expressing their opposition toward

the project. I intend to find out more about this project and keep the mailing list informed. You can read more in the story below that I've reprinted with permission of the author, Cindy Charles, of the Golden West Women Flycasters. The GWWF has formally intervened in the proposal.

Trinity River Flows Again The Trinity River is flowing higher than any time in the past 40 years as the Record of Decision of the final days of

the Clinton administration is implemented. This month the flows peaked around 7,000 cfs before dropping. They should be down to 450 cfs by the time of our annual Lewiston Lake outing in July. The river will still be higher than last year, but will still be wadeable.

Delta Fishery Imperiled Fish populations in the Delta are mysteriously crashing. Delta smelt numbers have fallen to the lowest level ever measured. Young striped bass numbers have followed suit. Populations of opepods, an important food source for small fish in the Delta, have also crashed. Environmental scientists who have studied the Delta are concerned that conditions there may have passed a "pivot point" that could have triggered a general collapse. Coincidentally, Delta pumping has increased to record highs in the past few years, and the timing has shifted to later in the year when high spring flows are not present to help lessen the damage. This story promises to have staying power – we'll hear more about it in coming months. Stay tuned.

Cache Creek letters needed Assemblywoman Lois Wolk has introduced AB 1328 to designate the upper reach of Cache Creek as a state Wild and Scenic River. This is not the same as a federal designation, but would offer some protection to the river from development. There are no plans for a dam in that stretch of river, and it's geologically not possible to build one there anyway. Letters in support of this designation would help. The river is used by whitewater enthusiasts, but not used much for fishing so it's a good designation for fly fishers to support. Visit <http://www.assembly.ca.gov/defaulttext.asp> to find the bill. Find the link to "legislation" and type in 1328 when you get there.

GWFF Investigates Threat to Pit River Redband Trout

By Cindy Charles

Conservation Chair, Golden West Women Flyfishers

Last November, a landowner of property located on the South Fork of the Pit River in Modoc Country contacted the GWWF to ask for help in preventing a section of the river from being drastically dewatered by a proposed hydroelectric plant. This section of the SF Pit River contains Redband trout, a Species of Concern (one step away from being designated as threatened), as well as brown and rainbow trout. As Conservation Chairperson, I agreed to look into the situation and began doing research and the impact the proposed project would have on the river's fish. At this point, no conservation voice was involved in the process, partly because it was a small project and also because Modoc County is in a "remote" part of California and therefore does not receive a whole lot of attention from anglers.

After many hours of telephone conversations, e-mails and document searches, this is the situation in a nutshell:

Geosense, an Idaho-based company, has filed with FERC to build a hydroelectric plant of fewer than 5 megawatts on the Having spoken to entities including the Department of Fish and Game, the National Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Forest Service, the Regional Water Control Board, the Pit River Watershed Alliance, the Coalition for Hydropower Reform and several other groups, I am still not sure that the Redband trout are safe from the lower water flows which would occur if the hydro plant is approved. I do know in talking to a lot of people that there are great fishing opportunities up in that part of the state and that Redband trout do use that segment of river to get to critical spawning grounds.

After making a series of phone calls inquiring about the project, expressing concern for this endangered species and just generally stirring things up, I can tell you that the following positive events have occurred due to GWWF's involvement:

South Fork of the Pit River, east of Likely, CA near the West Valley Reservoir. The project intends to divert up 100 cfs of water out of the SF Pit River to run through two power plants year round. Currently, the SF Irrigation District diverts up to 38 cfs into the reservoir from November to April. The project will leave about 3 miles of the river with a minimum of 7.5 cfs at certain times. Historical monthly averages from a nearby USGS gauge are 27.5cfs-230 cfs. This segment of river is used by a population of redband trout, a California Species of Concern, to migrate to spawning habitat further upstream. Brown and rainbow trout, as well as other wildlife, live in this area. The plants would be built on US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management land. Issues for concern on the fishery include: extremely low water flows in an already arid area, reduced riparian habitat, sedimentation build-up, increased turbidity, high water temperatures and negative impact on recreational value of public land. Thus far, CDFG has agreed to the very low flows in return for mitigation actions including: installation of a fish ladder, water flow gauges and fish screens to prevent fish from entering the reservoir.

The Pit River Alliance, previously unaware of the proposed hydro plant, invited the SF Pit River property owners to publicly present their concerns for the river habitat at their monthly meeting in March.

California Trout has agreed to investigate the situation and will meet with the hydro plant developer, his fishery consultant and the landowners in April.

The hydro project developer has shifted his attitude to consider riparian improvements on the segment of river and possibly leave more water in the river.

I plan to continue to work for the protection of those Redband trout and hope to visit the area soon. If anyone has further interest in this project or has contacts in the Modoc County area that might be helpful, please let me know.

- Lowell Ashbaugh

Casting Clinic

The casting clinic will be held at the southern end of Northstar Pond on Sunday Jun 12th. The clinic will begin at 10:00 and last until about noon. – **Bob Zasoski**

----- 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

Fly Of the Month Quigley Cripple Size 14



Hook TMC 100 or 5487
Size 14-18
Thread gray 6/0
Body Marabou or ostrich
Rib Fine gold or copper wire
Tail gray marabou
Hackle Cree/ Grizzly
Wing Light dun Elk or deer
Thorax Light Dun Dubbing
Wing case Elk Hair butts



The Quigley Cripple was designed by noted angler and innovative tier Bob Quigley. The fly is used to imitate emerging mayflies that have not fully shed their nymphal shuck or ones that emerged in a deformed condition. It is designed to be fished with the rear portion hanging below the surface while the deer hair and hackle rides in or on the surface. Therefore, only the front portion of the fly or the deer hair is dressed. Quigley Cripples have become a type of fly rather than a particular pattern and have been tied to imitate the pale morning dun, callibaetis, mahogany dun, etc. Therefore, patterns list a number of different materials. Antron, marabou, and emu are commonly used for a tail to suggest the nymphal shuck. Similarly, the body can be tied from a number of different materials. Turkey biots quills, ribbed with fine wire make a body with a nice ribbed look.

Tying instructions:

Debarb the hook and attach the thread at mid shank. Wrap back to the tail position and tie in several flues of gray marabou and the wire rib. Twist the marabou and wrap a body about 2/3 the way up the hook shank. Wrap the wire to reinforce the body. Tie off the wire and dub a thorax with light dun dubbing. Cut and stack a small bunch of deer hair. Choose the deer hair with black tips and material that will not flair too much. Alternatively you can use elk hair. Tie in the deer hair on top of the shank with the tips facing forward. Secure the deer hair with several wraps and clip the butts of the hair leaving them long to simulate wing pads. The deer hair should be about one shank length long. This wing is essentially an elk hair caddis wing in reverse. Tie in the hackle and make several wraps in the collar area between the deer hair that projects forward and the butts facing toward the rear. The number of hackle wraps depends on the water being fished. For chalk streams and placid waters fewer wraps (3) are needed, while in more turbulent waters addition turns will help to float the fly. A white CDC feather on top of the deer hair wing added before the hackle is wrapped will help you see the fly in low light. Some versions use CDC for the whole wing. You can also tie the deer hair directly on the shank and skip the dubbed thorax. The bulk of the deer hair gives enough suggestion for a thorax. When you tie in the deer hair it is easier if the shank has been covered with a layer of thread to reduce the tendency for the hair to spin on the shank. Note that one of the examples shown above is tied on a scud hook. This fly also looks great tied on the C12-U Gamakatsu curved caddis hook.

Next month's Fly Of the Month is the Royal Trude size 12.



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NEW & OLD WATER: Member Contributions

A couple of meetings ago a new member stood up and said, "I am here because I am looking for some *new water to fish*". This statement resonated with me, and made me think back to something Tom Burton asked me on the Old Fogies trip. Tom asked me where did I fish, and when I replied, he answered more out of boredom than disdain: "Oh, the same places we go". So, I made it a New Year's resolution to "go back" and to "rediscover" some "New and Old Water". As a result, Jack Norski wrote an excellent article on the Stanislaus River in last month's newsletter, this month I am writing about the Truckee River and East Carson River.

From May 2nd to May 4th I fished the Truckee River:

Fishing from Stampede Reservoir to Boca Reservoir is excellent, especially in the early evening between 4:30 PM until very dark, about 8:30 PM. Focus on rapids just below white pole measuring gauge.



Stampede Reservoir below parking area 51

Fishing Truckee River from Hwy 267 to Hirschdale Bridge is fair, average and good. Best spots are off of Glensire Rd parking next to railroad tracks at spots called "The Slalom", "Dog Gut" and "Pink House".

Fishing the Truckee River along 89, hit hard by me, from "Ollie's Bridge" and Granite Flat Campground all the way to Lake Tahoe is absolutely dead. No strikes. Nothing. Spoke with property owner's who watched me fish, some fly fishermen, and most indicated they had no luck in this area in "years". Areas that looked good were at Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, but several fly changes and no fish in all of this area. This area had "counted 70 rods" on it on Opening Day, April 30th.

By the way, there is an excellent fly shop in the Mountain Hardware & Sports at 11320 Donner Pass Rd. Very experienced young fly fishers that are very friendly and helpful. I suggest you buy the Tahoe Angler Map to be sure about river regulations. The Inn at Truckee was the least expensive, about \$69 per night and it includes breakfast. All campgrounds are closed except Boca Res. Campground,

which I stayed one night, no running water and free for now. Normal cost is \$13 per night. It was cold and rainy so the next night I stayed at Inn at Truckee.



Boca Reservoir Campground

From May 3rd to May 4th I fished the East Carson River:

The local fly fishing guy is Todd at East Carson River Resort, just above Hangman's Bridge. The fishing above Hangman's Bridge was excellent and I did not want to leave to come home. The campground is open, there are several motels, two in downtown Markleeville, one in Woodfords, but I stayed in a cabin in the East Carson River Resort for about \$60 to \$80 per night. The Cabins have kitchens, full baths, very comfortable and clean.



Cabins at Carson River Resort

No risers, all deep double bb split shot nymphing, fast water with only minimal wading, most fish in deep within six feet of the banks, behind fallen trees, and behind big rocks. Between Hangman's Bridge and East Carson River Resort is a rock on the river side that looks like a pineapple. Fish there and "Pebble Beach". You will have numerous hookups and there are several very large trout in this area. I had two 6x lines broken (not at the knots) by very large fish I could not land. Todd at ECR Resort has photos from May 2nd of an eight (8) pounder. Watch out for the Merlot at the Cutthroat Saloon, the people are friendly and they buy you way too much wine.

The Wolf Creek Road is closed due to mudslide.

Please feel free to add to this section "New & Old Water" next issue.

Best of fly fishing to you,
- John Imsdahl

Making the Best of a Bad Situation:

With the high flows from the releases into the Pit River, Iron Canyon pulls out an otherwise wasted trip. Fishing was excellent with average size at 15-16" fishing with a #16 PT fished 5-6' under an indicator did the trick. Fished the morning at Iron Canyon, and finished the day at Manzinita Lake. Both locations produced excellent results and gorgeous back drops.

Hats off to Chris Parsons from the Fly Shop for making an otherwise wasted trip into a great trip!
- John Steele



Manzinita Lake



Iron Canyon



Cory and John at Iron Canyon



Chris and Cory at Iron Canyon with a Brown



Walt's 36 inch Shad! Ma Ma Ma My Verona!



Larry's Twofers at Verona



Jim on the Sac



Jim on the Sac



Jeremy at Iron Canyon



Jim on the Yuba



Iron Canyon



Iron Canyon in the rain



And More Iron Canyon



Iron Canyon



Low water at Iron Canyon



Does anybody really know what time it is?

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

Already there has been interest in the Putah Creek teach in outing aimed at novices at the creek or in general. The trip is set for the first Saturday in October. No host breakfast will be at Putah Creek Cafe, and the idea is that a member who fishes the Creek regularly will act as a docent and be assigned one or at most two members new to the Creek or fly fishing itself. Hopefully this will be a successful format and can join Bob's casting and fly tying classes and Tom's rod building as ongoing Club offerings which form a solid basis to help newcomers readily advance their knowledge of the sport.

Probably before publication we will have had the annual shad trip. Because of flows we will need to try a venue other than Road 48, assuming enough attendees with boats can be found. There are fortunately large herring aside from in the Sacramento this year, and there is a good chance for a successful trip.

The reports from Davis indicate a number of large fish have escaped the pike. A more updated report and forecast will be presented at the May meeting. This is always an enjoyable trip with typically good weather and fishing supplemented by several very pleasant evenings around the campfire; evenings historically enhanced by some of DWR's (not that DWR) home vintage

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:

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>
Davis Lake	Trout	Jun 3 rd - 5 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Casting Clinic	Yarn	Jun 12 th	Bob Zasoski 530-753-2241	
Yamsi Ranch	Trout	Jun 18 th	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	\$100 rod per day
Lewiston	Trout	Jul 15 th - 17 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Backpacking YS	Trout	Aug	John Forsyth 530-750-1192	
Backpacking OF	Trout	Aug 5 th - 7 th	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Klamath	Half Pounders	Sep 8 th - 10 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Payne's Ranch	Smallmouth	Oct 8 th	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Redding/Sacramento	Trout/steelhead	Oct 15 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150.00 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	Oct/Nov	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Putah Creek	Trout	Oct		
Klamath @ Iron Gate	Half Pounders	Dec 9 th - 10 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150.00 plus tip

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Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski	530-753-2241
Picnic Chair	John Forsyth	530-750-1192.
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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