

Fly Fishers of Davis

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

Volume 33 Issue 6

The Fisherman's Line



This Month's Meeting is Tuesday, June 28th, 7:30 pm.

Fly fishing Yellowstone Park Chip O'Brien



This month Chip O'Brien will be talking about fly fishing in Yellowstone Park. America's oldest and largest national park boasts some of the best wild trout fishing in the lower 48 states. His presentation discusses the flowing waters of the Madison, Firehole, Lamar, Gardner, Yellowstone, rivers and Slough Creek as well as still waters, including Trout Lake, Grebe Lake and Lewis Lake. Well-known and not-so-well-known destinations within the park are documented with a backdrop of stunning scenery, a rich volcanic history and the nation's most diverse wildlife mix.

Trained as a writer/photojournalist, O'Brien is pursuing his childhood dream of writing about fly fishing. His photographs have accompanied nearly 150 fly fishing and aviation magazine articles as well as books, brochures and California Department

of Fish and Game publications. Chip authored, *River Journal*, *Sacramento River* for Frank Amato Publications. As a licensed guide, he keeps tabs on all the best fishing in the legendary lakes and streams of northern California and other destinations.

Prez Says

Wow, this is some weather we have been experiencing. June so far feels more like March or April. The rivers have been flowing at record levels making shad and trout fishing difficult at best and wading downright dangerous. Even the lakes are affected. On the club outing to Lake Davis the weeds were mere bumps on the bottom instead of extending to near the surface. The damsel hatch certainly seems to be delayed as compared to previous years. It is not just California. In Montana, February and March were balmy with no snow or rain whereas April, May and June so far have been cool and quite wet. While the spring rains do not make up for the lack of snow pack, they will help avert record low flows in Montana Rivers. Let's hope the rains continue—up there.

Let's look on the bright side. The cool weather and increased inflows mean that the fly fishing should hold up well into July on Lake Davis. The rivers here and throughout the west should be in better shape through the summer. The high flows will have moved the gravel around in the rivers and washed trees and wood into the rivers. This will provide better habitat for the bugs that trout like and better habitat for spawning. Holes and riffles will have changed and new channels may have been cut. The rivers will be different, presenting new challenges. This ever-changing nature of our rivers is part of what makes fly fishing so much fun. – **Bob Percy**

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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, 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!

Delta Fish Population Crashing The big news this month continues to be that fish populations in the Delta are plummeting. Delta smelt numbers have fallen to the lowest level ever measured. Young striped bass numbers have also fallen. Populations of copepods, 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. It's unknown at this time what's causing the collapse, but it's alarming. 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. But it's not the only suspect. There are also toxic pesticides and herbicides from agriculture and residential use, urban runoff; and exotic and invasive plant and animal species. There's been a switch to pyrethroids from chlorpyrifos and diazinon in agriculture and in our home products that coincides with the declines.

There will be a briefing by Department of Fish and Game and the Department of Water Resources on June 29, 2005 from 12:30-5 pm at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area - Headquarters Office (office located ±1.5 miles west of the wildlife area), 45211 County Road 32b, right here in Davis. I urge you to attend if you can.

Perry Herrgesell and Chuck Armor of DFG and Kathy Kelly of DWR have agreed to brief fishing organizations and other interested folks regarding two important issues. The DFG will brief us on the decline in Delta fisheries and the food web, possible causes, and actual/proposed responses. The DWR will brief us on the freshly-released draft Environmental Impact Report for the South Delta Improvements Project (SDIP, aka 8500), with particular emphasis on the preferred alternative and its anticipated positive and negative impacts on fisheries. The SDIP presentation will be focused on the preferred alternative and fishery impacts to save time - DWR will be conducting more comprehensive public meetings for those needing further information.

Each agency presentation will be about 1 hour duration with another 1/2 hour allotted following each presentation for Q&A. Following the agency presentations, the fishing

organizations and interested fishers will meet in closed session to determine what response we may have, individually or collectively. The schedule is:

12:30-2:00 pm	- DFG presentation and Q&A
2:00-3:30 pm	- DWR presentation and Q&A
3:30-5:00 pm	- Closed session for fishery organizations and interested fishers

Steelhead Snorkel Survey on the Trinity The Department of Fish and Game will be conducting a snorkel survey for steelhead on 102 miles of the Trinity River on August 16th and 17th this summer. They have invited anyone who is interested to join in. Most participants will be meeting the night before (Aug 15th) at Scott's Flat campground in Forest Glen, CA. They will conduct a pre-dive training session at 5p.m. on August 15th for all interested or for inexperienced divers. If you cannot arrive the night before plan to meet at Scott's Flat campground the morning of August 16th, no later than 7:30 a.m. A BBQ style dinner (traditionally albacore) will be provided at the completion of the first day's dive. Scott's Flat campground is located approximately three miles east of Forest Glen on Highway 36. Once you reach the Hell's Gate campground sign, pull off of Highway 36 and stay to your left. Continue on that dirt road approximately 3/4 of a mile to swinging bridge. Once at swinging bridge, look for the group of fun-loving natural resource professionals.

You will need to bring the following gear with you: Wetsuit, mask, snorkel, gloves, booties, wading boots, backpack (that can get wet) or backpack dry-bag, water filter or substantial water, thermometer, personal camping gear (i.e. tent, sleeping bag, cooking utensils). If you don't have some or all of these items, please contact Patrick Garrison, Fisheries Biologist, at pgarrison@dfg.ca.gov so he can arrange for possible loaners.

Loren Everest, US Forest Service Fisheries Biologist, is also recruiting volunteers for snorkel surveys on Canyon Creek (August 3rd), North Fork Trinity River (August 9th) and New River (August 23rd and August 24th). He can be contacted at (530) 623-1754.

Please RSVP with number of available personnel to (530) 623-9328 or pgarrison@dfg.ca.gov.

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Fly of the Month

Royal Trude

The Royal Trude like most flies in the Royal Coachman family is an attractor or searching pattern. The caddis-like profile can be a very effective and the white wing is easy to see. As an alternative to the Royal Wulff, the Royal Trude floats well and is easier to tie. The Royal Trude has won the Jackson one fly contest.

Pattern

Hook: Light Wire Dry Fly Hook- Mustad 94840, Tiemco 100 or 101

Thread: Black 6/0 or 8/0

Tail: Golden pheasant tippet

Rib: (optional) Fine gold or copper wire

Body: Red floss with peacock herl fore and aft

Wing: White Calf tail or Buck tail - down wing style

Hackle: Coachman Brown

Tying Instructions

Pinch down the barb and attach the tying thread near the rear of the hook. Tie in the pheasant tippet for the tail. The tail can be rather full to help with floatation. Attach the wire rib. The rib is optional, but, wire or some method of reinforcing the fragile peacock herl is a good idea. Sharp teeth make quick work of herl that isn't reinforced. Attach the peacock herl with the natural curve of the fibers facing toward the tail. Wrap a butt about ¼ of the body length. Tie off the herl and tie in a length of red floss. You can either cut off the peacock herl and reattach the herl for the front or cover the herl as you wrap the floss body and continue the same herl for the front of the

body. Wrap the front section of herl. If you used wire, counter wrap the wire through both herl sections and spiral it over the floss body. If you don't add the wire, wrap the herl around the tying thread as you wrap the herl, spin the herl on a dubbing loop, or wrap back through the herl with tying thread. Tie in the wing on top of the shank, leaving plenty of room for the hackle and head. Calf tail is the traditional material for the wing, but buck tail, if it isn't too coarse, will also work. Arctic fox tail is a good alternative because it ties in with a minimum of bulk. The wing should extend back over the body similar to an elk hair caddis, and extend beyond the hook bend. Cut the butts of the wing material at an angle sloping back toward the tail to make a smoother transition. Cover the butt ends of the wing material forming a tapered base for the hackle. Tie in the hackle and wrap a full hackle collar. Tire off the hackle, whip finish and cement the head. The trude can be fished either wet or dry and can be tied with different body color. The lime trude is a popular variant of this fly.



Fish in the Classroom

We have received a packet of letters from a classroom at Cesar Chavez School. After scanning the letters the resultant file was too large to include in the newsletter. Please visit our website so you can read them and look at the wonderful pictures. This is one of the best projects we sponsor. You'll see why when you read the letters. The kids learn a lot and become committed to preserving fisheries. Start young, I say!

Casting Clinic

The casting clinic was held at the southern end of Northstar Pond on Sunday Jun 12th. The clinic began at 10:00 with over a dozen castaways present. New and previously new members gained valuable skills.

Annual Picnic

Tuesday, JULY 26th, 6:00 P. M. DAVIS Community Park

At the Picnic Area behind the Davis Art Center at 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).

New & Old Water: Member Contributions

I camped at **Burney Falls** with a group of friends the week of May 30 - June 3 and had an opportunity to fish the **McCloud Preserve**, the **Upper Sac**, **Burney Creek**, and the **Pit River**.



McCloud Preserve

The **McCloud** fished very well considering that the fishing reports listed it as unwadeable due to high water. My partner and I were on the **Preserve** the 31st and the 1st. There were only two other people on the river both days. The water was clear and the flows were just slightly above normal for both days. Wading was not difficult and we managed to cross the river in several areas. Both days produced 20+ fish for each of us. The pattern of choice was a Micro Mayfly on the dropper. Not much action on the top flies.



Joel's Friend with "FISH ON"

The flows on the **Upper Sac** made it almost unwadeable. We

fished the **Sweetbrier** area in the morning and tired quickly from battling the currents. Fish were holding along the edges but getting a fly to them proved quite a challenge. We each took two fish and got off the water by noon and returned to **Burney** where we fished the upper and lower creek. Both sections fished well.

Lake Britton had been flowing over the bladder for about 2-3 days making the **Pit 3** reach high and off color. By Friday, the 3rd, the release from the lake was back to normal and the water just slightly off color. We fished from the dam downstream about 3/4 of a mile and fished the river again on our way back up. My partner and I took over 25 fish each for the day although we each lost approximately 20 flies. The best patterns were Dark Lords, Amber Wing Prince Nymphs, Bead Head Birds Nest for the top, and anything small on the bottom, i.e., Micro Mayflies, Brown Serendipity, HBI's. On the way back up I tied on a dry and a dropper which consisted of a Yellow Humpy and a Micro Mayfly. I hit the pocket water as I worked my way upstream. This method accounted for at least half of the fish I took.



Joel's "Good N Plenty"

It's been my experience that getting onto the **McCloud Preserve** midweek has been easy. If you don't have a reservation you can walk on. The weekends are a different story. - **Joel Salinas**

Putah Creek

Although flows are still a little high, Putah Creek provided productive nymphing the weekend of the 18th. High sticking the usual haunts yielded rainbows in the 12-14" range most of the day. Size 14-16 PT's seemed to have the most consistent results, your mileage may vary. As usual, the fish were on the bottom, but were not hesitant to take your fly. Fishing pressure is picking up so be forewarned, you will have company on the weekends. All in all, not a bad day of fishing for only driving 15 minutes. Don't forget to clean your gear. - **John Steele**

Rod Building Class

The rod building class is well underway and the seven class members have had two weeks to practice wrapping. This Wednesday they will begin on their own rods and should have them completed by the end of the 4th class. If all goes well they will be fishing with new rods by mid July.

If there is as much interest next year there will be another class offered. We are exploring ways of accessing club rates for buying rod building kits and if successful should have extremely good quality blanks and parts at very reasonable prices. – **Tom Burton**

Donation from Zak Zakarian

Long time Fly Fishers of Davis club member Zak Zakarian has donated the majority of his rod building inventory to the club. The gift consists of rod blanks of every length, size, type and description. All the parts and pieces needed to assemble quality fly rods, bait casting rods, spinning rods, surf rods, trolling rods, etc. are included in his generous donation.

Zak has build hundreds and hundreds of rods over the years and I'm sure that most of the club members are proud owners of one of his fine rods. At one time you could buy a "Zak Rod" at Ted Fay's fly shop in Dunsmuir. Next time you go to Ted Fay's check on the rack. You may still be able to purchase one of his rods. In addition there have been many Zak rods raffled at our annual dinner.

For years Zak conducted a rod building class for the club and many of the current members assembled their first rod under his tutelage. I took Zak's class back when my hair was still brown and I am using it still.

The Board of Directors and Officers of the Fly Fishers of Davis have directed that all proceeds received from Zak's donation will be used in our Youth programs i.e. "Salmon in the Classroom", Beginning Fly Fishing classes, etc. In addition certain conservation projects will be considered as well.

The Board of Directors, Officers and the entire Membership want to thank Zak for his generous gift. We would also like to insure him that it will be used to teach others about fly fishing and more importantly, protecting our fragile resource.

Thank you Zak! – Tom Burton

Casting Clinic

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The following are pictures from Lake Davis



Reed Enos – “Ahoy Matey!”



Bobber’s Big Boy



\$\$*&^\$^ %%%\$\${*#@# PIKE



What you should know



Bill Rains – “Think I’ll throw it back”



Bill Rains – Same day – different fish (I think)

Fish in the Classroom

We have received a packet of letters from a classroom at Cesar Chavez School. After scanning the letters the resultant file was too large to include in the newsletter. Please visit our website so you can read them and look at the wonderful pictures. This is one of the best projects we sponsor. You'll see why when you read the letters. The kids learn a lot and become committed to preserving fisheries.



----- **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

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

They cannot all be good, and two turkeys in a row prove that adage. The Davis trip did produce fish, including the Bobber's now famous pike, but it was slow and the weather, particularly Sunday, borderline miserable. The best fishing was actually at Frenchmans where John Daniels lead the parade with approximately 10 Saturday on flashback pt's. Unlike the prior week when only conventional pt's worked, on this occasion only flashbacks (and skinny doos) did the trick. Next year may be a Frenchmans venture. The pike have really done a number on the Davis trout population taking a borderline world class trout fishery and turning into a second rate place. It did not help that the damsel hatch was sporadic at best.

The shad trip was held on a beautiful day and preceded by reports of great fishing. All bs as far as we could tell. There were less than 6 landed by the 6 of us. It was fun, however, because of the weather, the company and Nancy's living up to its hard earned billing as one of the great greasy spoons in the State.

Hopefully the streak will stop at two. The Lewiston outing is all set to go. POH (Poison Oak Hollow or River Oaks Resort for the uninitiated) is reserved beginning Thursday evening. A large group is signed up. The river should be rounding into shape (with this year's weather no guaranties) as we arrive. And the reports from the lake are good (and from multiple sources). Lewiston is always a great gathering.

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>
Yamsi Ranch	Trout	Jun 24 th - 26 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	
McCloud River	Trout	Sep 7 th	Gene Gantt / Joel Salinas	
Klamath	Half Pounders	Sep 8 th - 10 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Yuba River - Tutorial	Trout	Oct 1 st	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Payne Ranch	Smallmouth	Oct 8 th	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Lower Sac / Redding	Trout	Oct 15 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150.00 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	Oct/Nov	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Klamath @ Iron Gate	Half Pounders	Dec 9 th - 10 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150.00 plus tip

Officers, Directors and Committees

President:	Bob Pearcy	530-756-0932
Vice President	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Treasurer	Lowell Ashbaugh	530-758-6722
Secretary	Tom Burton	707-678-3850
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	John Daniels	<u>530-750-3511</u>
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Refreshments	Jon Knapp	530-756-9056
Raffle Chair	Tom Burton	707-678-3850
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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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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