

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

Volume 33 Issue 7

The Fisherman's Line**This Month We “Meat in the Park”****For our****Annual Picnic****WHEN:** Tuesday, JULY 26th, 6:00 P. M. DAVIS Community Park**WHERE:** At the Picnic Area behind the Davis Art Center at corner of “F” and Covell Blvd.

(Closest parking access is the lot off of 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 and N–Z Bring Deserts. Drinks are BYO. FFD obtained Park Permit (alcoholic beverages are ok).

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ROD BUILDING CLASS

Rod building is well underway and we have completed the third class. Three of the seven participants have completed their rods at this writing and the remaining four should have their rods ready to apply the wrap finish at the last class session.



John Reynolds finished his four piece 4 weight backpacking rod early and brought it to the class for all to cast. What a beauty! John plans on breaking it in on the Old Fogie's outing.



Joel Salinas wrapping guides on his beautiful Scott four piece rod.



Tom Martin and Bob Zasoski collaborating on the best way to fit a cork grip.



Bob Norlyn applying the finishing wraps using the wrapping jig he designed. Ask him to show you how it works.



Kurt Arens is lining up the snake guides prior to wrapping.

Fellow Fogies

It is time to get together and discuss the logistics of our backpacking trip. I have set aside Monday, August 1 from 7 to 8:30 p.m. for the pre trip meeting. We will meet at 270 East Mayes Street, Dixon, Calif. (707) 678-3850. It is two story brick house on the S/W corner of Third and Mayes. We will meet in the back yard so the best way is to enter from the third street side. The gate will be open.

I will do a quick over view of the trip and pass out maps of the area. I will cover the basic equipment needed to be comfortable. We will discuss items that are not necessary to bring. For those new to this outing you can bring your pack and equipment and we can go over it. We will be discussing car pooling, meeting times and place, etc.

You Ole Timer Old Fogies may want to come as well to meet the new folks and tell lies, I mean stories, about the last two trips. For those who cannot make the pre trip I will email everyone information on meeting time and location prior to August 5th. - **Tom Burton**

NEW & OLD WATER: Member Contributions

I attended the American Fly Fishing Weekend Clinic in Dunsmuir July 8th - 10th under the tutelage of guides Dave Shafer (the seasoned one) and Dave Sloan (the young buck), both wonderful. It is a great experience aimed at relatively new fishermen, or for someone who wants to brush up on the area or small river trout techniques. We met at a motel in Dunsmuir Friday afternoon and were assigned a roommate. Then we spent a couple of hours at a local park for a casting clinic (there really are so many different techniques for this sport). That was followed by a live demonstration on the river by Dave Sloan--2 fish in 5 minutes!-- and then a delightful pay-as-you-go dinner (all subsequent meals included)..

Saturday we were up early for breakfast and a taste of the local specialties ("them potatoes" a big hit), then off to the water. We had an intro to bugs on the rocks and matching the flies, then started some fishing. Despite a long list of flies to bring, the flies we caught fish on were almost exclusively #14 Dark Lords a #16 micro mayfly in olive, as dropper. One thing I found out almost immediately is that a walking stick (or whatever you call them), is as close to a necessity as possible (only one major fall though). Flows were at 850 cfs/sec but that was still 2-3 times normal for this time of year.

We fished several areas in and south of Dunsmuir, by the seemingly ever present RR tracks. No dry fly fishing, though I understand the bite was on at sunset. We mainly fished small pocket water usually straight-lining, but occasionally doing some real drifts under an indicator. The group of 8 students caught about 60 fish over Sat and Sunday ranging from 6 - 12". We ended the weekend with a nice river-side lunch about 3 PM. The scenery was simply beautiful and I learned lots. A good experience overall.

- **Donn Erickson**



First pond at Payne Ranch



First pond at Payne Ranch



Rafters on Cache Creek

From the CONSERVATION DESK

By Lowell Ashbaugh

This month there continues to be alarm over the collapse of the base of the food chain in the San Francisco Bay Delta. A story that may be related concerns efforts to delist Central Valley steelhead from the protections afforded under the endangered species act. You can read about both of them below. The NCCFFF web page (<http://www.nccfff.org/>) has a lot of background information on the steelhead issue. If you'd like to keep abreast of these issues, contact me at ashbaugh@ucdavis.edu.

Delta Ecosystem Collapse The San Francisco Bay-Delta estuary is arguably the most ecologically rich estuary on the west coast of the United States. Home to a great diversity and abundance of birds, plants, fish, and other aquatic species, it may also be America's most endangered estuary.

On 29 June 2005, some 40 concerned fishermen and fisherwomen, including members of the Fly Fishers of Davis, assembled at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area to be briefed by the DFG and DWR on the status of Delta. Chuck Armor, chief of operations for the DFG Bay-Delta Branch, presented the State's understanding of what may eventually be called the "Delta Ecosystem Collapse". Armor described biological monitoring that reveals several resident Delta fish species are at all-time lows, including threadfin shad, delta smelt, longfin smelt and young-of-the-year striped bass. The DFG fears that this is not normal biological variability or indications of a gradual change; the past 2-3 years show a dramatic drop with an almost irrefutable crash. Moreover, Armor presented data to indicate that the Delta's food web – zooplankton (copepods) – has concurrently plummeted.

DFG isn't writing this off to the normal culprit – drought – because we've had normal or above normal water since 2003. Instead, DFG's best working hypothesis is a combination of the effects from invasive species (such as exotic clams and aquatic vegetation), toxic contaminants (pesticides/herbicides and toxic algae), and water exports. The DFG has undertaken focused and expedited studies to sort out the complex cause-and-effect relationships and diagnose our sick Delta. Armor has committed to mid-November 2005 for presenting the results; he also states that an accurate diagnosis may take longer.

For the time being, DFG is not making any corrective action recommendations, not even to recommend a slight curtailment in pumping. The past two years have seen historically high water exports at the state and federal pumping plants in the South Delta.

"DFG's reluctance to recommend pumping reductions is another example of how the State has weakened resolve for the Delta. I'd have a lot more confidence in our State agencies if they demonstrated better ability to reduce pumping, not just increase pumping" laments Doug Lovell of the Federation of Fly Fishers. "The consequences of a food web collapse in the Delta will be tragic. The small fish are disappearing and you don't need a PhD to guess what's next

... the larger fish, birds, other wildlife will be the next to go" states John Beuttler of the California Sportfishing Protection Alliance.

But the State is clearly not thinking reduced pumping. Following the presentation by Armor of DFG, Kathy Kelly, chief of DWR's Bay-Delta Office, presented the proposed **South Delta Improvements Package (SDIP)**, which includes provisions to increase the pumping limit at the State pumping plant from 6,680 cfs to 8,500 cfs.

Kelly presented DWR's latest version of the package that identifies three different operating scenarios given the proposed increased pumping capacity, without identifying a preferred operating scenario. Previously, DWR had stated the operating scenario providing the greatest water export was preferred. Kelly maintains that increasing the pumping capacity will allow pumping more water when it's environmentally benign and less water when the ecosystem is at risk. "Based on the recent evidence from the Delta, it's clear that we do not have sufficient knowledge to make this distinction," comments Tina Swanson, PhD, senior scientist for The Bay Institute, who also conducts research on Delta fisheries at UC Davis. "I challenge any state or federal agency to show a single case where a fishery was actually improved by increasing water diversions from a river or estuary" states Dan Bacher, managing editor of the Fish Sniffer magazine.

Kelly stated that the draft EIR for the SDIP will be released in July 2005 or possibly August, with a 90-day public comment period. Kelly anticipates the draft EIR will show that SDIP significantly impacts the Delta ecosystem, particularly the fisheries, with mitigation proposed via the Environmental Water Account. "How can we be expected to submit intelligent comments within this timeframe when DFG doesn't plan to explain the Delta Ecosystem Crash until mid-November?" stated Dan Odenweller, retired DFG and NOAA Fisheries employee, representing Deltakeeper, an affiliate of Baykeeper. "We should get six weeks after DFG's mid-November report to digest the information and prepare a meaningful review of the proposed pumping increase," he added.

However, at the 29 June meeting, after the presentations by DFG and DWR, the fishery groups collectively and unanimously decided that the proposed increases in Delta pumping were not acceptable unless or until the ecosystem is placed solidly on the road to recovery. "We will join groups like Friends of the River, the Planning and Conservation League, the Natural Resources Defense Council, and the Sierra Club in staunch opposition to pumping increases" states John Beuttler. The fishery groups initially intend to mobilize a grassroots letter campaign to Governor Schwarzenegger requesting the SDIP be shelved.

Steve Evans of Friends of the River put the legitimacy of SDIP in perspective "Additional stress on the Delta is not necessary. California is not in a water crisis. In fact, according to the State's Water Plan, we can meet water needs well into the future without taking more water out of the Bay-Delta estuary. The Water Plan shows that demand in California may decrease over the next thirty years in response to investments in water use efficiency and recycling."

[State of California DFG Rejects Use of Endangered](#)

Species Act Protection SACRAMENTO, Calif. In the face of strenuous protests over its reliance on “junk science,” the California Department of Fish and Game continues to ask the federal government to remove its Endangered Species Act (ESA) protection from diminished runs of Central Valley sea-run rainbow trout (Steelhead), according to a consortium of sport fishing conservation organizations. What’s up, more water exports?

California Trout, Trout Unlimited, both Northern and Southern California Councils of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), and California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance jointly oppose the Department’s illogical delisting proposal. While DFG is asking that winter-run Chinook salmon, a commercially valuable species, continue to be protected, it is requesting that Steelhead, also a “threatened” species, be delisted. “With the food chain in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers Delta in collapse, and its sport fishing future in doubt, what possible motivation does the State have to remove ESA protections from another species which must pass through the Delta on its way to spawning and rearing areas in these rivers?” asks the conservation groups.

In a letter written July 11 to a group of sport angling organizations, Resources Agency Secretary Mike Chrisman expressed great concern about the condition of Central Valley Steelhead by stating that they, “... are clearly in trouble ...” and vowing that, “... we will continue to do everything we can to protect and restore this species.” In spite of these seemingly supportive words, the State Department of Fish and Game is asking the Federal Government to remove ESA listing protections from Central Valley Steelhead.

“Without ESA protection, how can the State protect and restore a species which it has failed to protect and restore under present listing standards?” asks Phil Greenlee, president of the Northern California Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF). “State government has not explained to us why they had to invent new pseudo-scientific methods to justify removal of the ESA threatened designation from Central Valley Steelhead,” stated Charles Bucaria, a member of the Board of Directors of NCCFFF. “DFG had to take dead fish counts from the 1991 Dunsmuir area poisoning of the Upper Sacramento River to project the number of trout and sea-run Steelhead now in the river for 50 miles below Shasta Dam. Neither steelhead nor salmon have been able to get above Shasta Dam since it was built. It is illogical to use old data from an area steelhead can’t reach to measure the health of sea-run trout (Steelhead) below the dam,” Bucaria said.

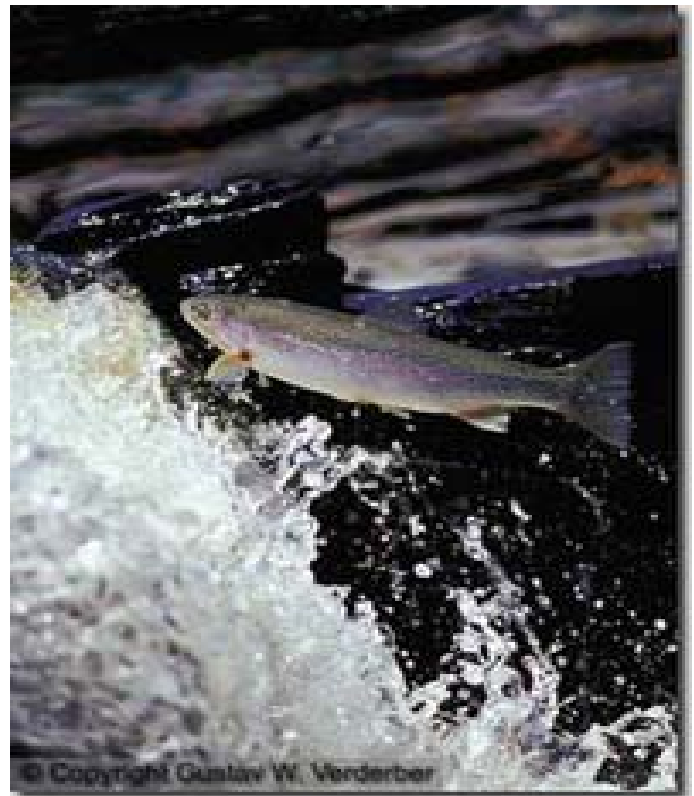
“The American Fisheries Society has debunked the state’s methodology and believes that Steelhead trout are deserving of continued ESA protection,” said Brian Stranko, Executive Director, California Trout (CalTrout). The California Advisory Committee on Salmon and Steelhead, which reports to the State Legislature, has urged the Department of Fish and Game to reconsider its proposal to de-list,” he went on to say. “There is only one logical reason which we can think of that the administration has for stone-walling us for the past six months. That is that by allowing Steelhead to become extinct, it becomes easier to for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to export more water down the Sacramento River.”

John Beuttler, Conservation Director of the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance believes it is not in the public

interest to put Steelhead in greater jeopardy, “It’s hard to believe the Department would even consider delisting this troubled fishery since it has shown so little recovery. Compounding this problem is the collapse of its food supply in the Delta, which is needed by the young out-migrating Steelhead to make it to the ocean. Given these acute problems, how can it possibly serve the public to put such a valuable natural resource in greater danger of extinction?” After repeated correspondence and meetings with Schwarzenegger Administration officials, the Federation of Fly Fishers in both Northern and Southern California, California Trout and Trout Unlimited have been joined by the California Sport Fishing Alliance to publicly oppose the State’s delisting proposal and to urge that the Governor reaffirm commitments made by 2 of California’s last 3 governors to significantly increase the numbers of native steelhead state-wide.

The sport fishing groups have asked Gov. Schwarzenegger to reaffirm California’s long-time commitment to protect and enhance state steelhead populations. A letter to the Governor dated June 18, 2005 stated, “We ask that your administration take a public position in favor of protection and enhancement of naturally occurring Central Valley sea-run steelhead trout.” The Governor has not responded.

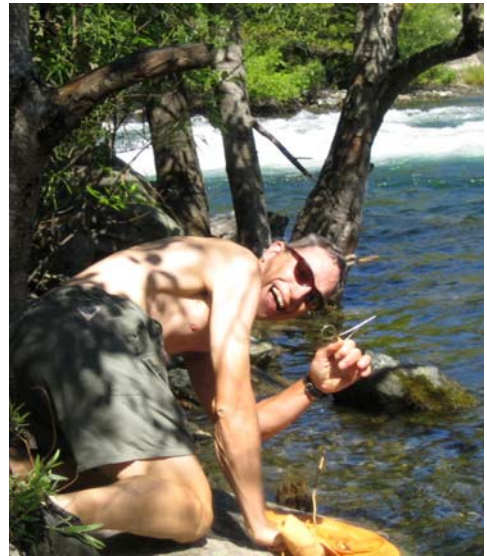
“What we want to know is simple,” stated David Katz, California Director of Trout Unlimited, “what is this Administration’s position regarding steelhead trout and salmon in California’s rivers and streams, particularly those whose fisheries may be threatened by loss of habitat through urban development and increased water exports? When is the Administration going to get serious about protecting this public resource?” - **Lowell Ashbaugh**



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Wind Knot?



Recovered Forceps



STRIKE!



Family Values



Lonely Lake Trout



Nice Trinity Picture

----- **EVENTS / SPEAKERS CALENDAR for 2005** -----

July	Annual Club Picnic	In the Park	August	No One	No Meeting
September	Rob Anderson	Pyramid	October	Andy Burke	Big Fish Techniques
November	John Sherman	Stripers	December	Home Grown	Slide Show

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

The monkey is now off the back again. After two turkeys, the annual Lewiston outing restored a feeling of success to the Club's outings program. The lake was tough, although Dr. J, Steve (anything is ok as long as it's a green bugger) Ohrwall and yours truly did manage collectively in the range of 7 toads or thereabouts. The river, on the other hand, was loaded with 10-12 inch trout along with a smattering of half-pounders. While the usual buggers and leeches worked fairly well, the real success was achieved upstream indicator fishing with small nymphs of various types.

Brian Brothers and the Bobber early on discovered this fact, and by the end of the weekend even died in the wool no back swingers had to face the music. There were fish everywhere and if it was about #16 and brown (or even a small orange San Juan), every cast or two the indicator would stop and every so often you would not miss it; certainly more than enough of the time to avoid too much very enjoyable frustration.

The Klamath trip has filled up subject to last minute drop offs (there is a waiting list). We were lucky to sign up all 3 club jet boats, and so we will have the maximum attendees. We also have a drift boater (Joel Salinas) who will join the group. Any other members who decide to acquire a jet boat or have a drift boat and want to come, please call me at 753-3826.

The October fly shop trip currently has 2 openings. If they are not filled by the 1st of August I plan to release the 6th boat, and we will go with 10 members.

The projections are for a large salmon run, which means likely great steelhead and trout fishing behind spawning salmon. This should be a great trip!

At the September meeting there will be signups for the striper trip, Pyramid (presumably) and the first Amador trip (i.e. breakfast lovers Nirvana). - **Cary Boyden**

Upcoming:

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

TRIP	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/Fees
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	May be cancelled
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
DIRECTORS		
2005	Adney Bowker	530-758-2674
	Dennis Rolston	530-758-5135
2006	Bob Beverlin	530-753-6805
	John Daniels	<u>530-750-3511</u>
2007	Joel Salinas	717-446-8097
	Gene Gantt	707-451-3262
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	John Forsyth	530-750-1192
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
P. O. Box 525
Davis, California, 95617

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 policy is to deliver the e-newsletter via email OR you may download it from the FFD website at: <http://www.dcn.davis.ca.us/go/ffd/>.

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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Fly Fishers of Davis
PO Box 525
Davis, CA 95617-0525