

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

Volume 33 Issue 11

**The Fisherman's Line**This Month's Meeting is Tuesday, November 29<sup>th</sup>, 7:30 pm.

"Fly Fishing for California Striped Bass"

With John Sherman



For the November program, John Sherman will discuss striped bass fishing in California's inland waters. John picked up fly fishing at Buz's Fly Shop in Visalia when he was 8 and since then he has fished from Alaska to Baja, California to Louisiana, and has hosted numerous saltwater expeditions in Central America. While working on his degree at CSU Chico, John worked at the Powell Fly Shop and guided the Feather and the Sacramento. It was about this time his interest in striper fishing began after a trip to the Delta -- a passion that eventually lead him to move to Discover Bay on the San Joaquin along with his wife Natih and dog Portis. Another of John's passions is photography, and his photos have graced the pages and covers of fly fishing magazines such as California Fly Fisher, Fly Fisherman, Northwest Fly Fishing, and Southwest Fly Fishing. Currently, John serves as a regional sales representative for some of the best fly fishing manufactures including Sage, Simms, and Scientific Anglers, and he still finds time to guide occasionally on the Delta.

John's considerable experience chasing California's striped bass and his truly gifted talent with the camera will make this a presentation you will not want to miss.

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## Prez Says

As winter approaches our discussions in the Board meetings turn increasingly towards the upcoming Annual Dinner to be held on February 25, 2006. We have twisted Reed Enos' arm to again spearhead the dinner organizational efforts. Fortunately, we didn't have to twist too hard. Reed's efforts have resulted in dinners that have been universally appreciated and I look forward to another one. We will not mess with a good thing so Hickory Hanks will again be catering the dinner and it will be held at Lilliard Hall, Plainfield Station. We will put together the usual PowerPoint slide show emphasizing fly fishing and club outings over the past year. If you have some photos of your fishing adventures we would like to include them. Indeed, the show is all about your photos and that is what has made it interesting to put together and enjoyable to view. Digital images are easiest but I can scan slides or prints as well.

Reed and John Reynolds have been working hard on soliciting prizes for the raffle tables. We are always looking for ways to enhance the raffle and this year we want to make a special effort to encourage you fly tiers to donate flies. If you donate a dozen flies the club will provide a nice fly box to hold and display them. Of course, if you are really ambitious and donate two or three dozen we will up the ante accordingly. To make it even more interesting, the flies in a box could be tied around a theme. Examples might be "Bob's favorite flies", "Flies for Putah Creek" or "Terrestrials". I will certainly contribute and I hope you will too.

The past year has been a good one for the Fly Fishers of Davis. Thanks to our successful annual dinner, our main fund raising event, we have been able to contribute more to conservation organizations. We have also been able to expand our Salmon in the Classroom program to include more classrooms in the Davis Schools. Our meetings have been well attended and we have had excellent programs thanks to the efforts of John Forsyth and John Daniels. Last, but not least, we have had excellent outings thanks to the efforts of Cary Boyden and others. I thank you all for your contributions and look forward to another great year.

## Fly of the Month - Furled Alevin

Only a small fraction of the eggs layed by female salmon survive the rigors of early childhood and migration to and from the ocean. In the earliest of juvenile life the eggs hatch into alevin, which remain in the spawning gravel deriving nourishment from the attached egg sac. Some of the alevins reach the stream bottom and others are liberated by stream hydraulics. In either case, these small larval salmon are not strong swimmers and are easy prey for steelhead and trout. In short order the egg sack will be absorbed and the alevins will turn in to fry (another option for more flies) and later migrate to the ocean. The pattern for this month was designed by Ken Hanley in 1997 to imitate the alevin stage in the salmon life cycle. It features an extended body and the characteristic egg sac.



Photo Hans Weilenmann

Fly K. Hanley

### Pattern

<b>Hook:</b>	Wide gape scud design, 1x or 2x short #8-10.
<b>Thread:</b>	To match body color
<b>Weight:</b>	Optional – small gold or silver bead.
<b>Egg Sac:</b>	Glo Bug yarn, Alaskan Roe or Light Roe
<b>Body:</b>	Furled antron 1.5 times hook length in brown, tan, cream or gold.
<b>Eyes:</b>	Optional – monofilament medium black

**Tying instructions:** Comments- making a furled body can be accomplished in several ways. I find that the easiest way for me is to tie in a group of fibers one half the body diameter and at least three times the body length (long enough to hold) at the appropriate location on the shank. Twist the fibers counter clockwise several times between your thumb and forefingers using both your right and left hand. Then grasp the ends with your right hand and pull the fibers rearward. Now

grasp the fibers with thumb and forefinger of your left hand at the point where the body will end. Bring the tag end of the twisted fibers toward the hook eye and twist the two halves together in a clockwise direction. If you have enough twists in the material, the furling should happen with little help from you. Tie down the second half of the furl. This technique works well with any material that you would care to use for an extended body. While the pattern calls for a scud hook and specified a TIEMCO 2487, I would not use this light wire hook. The light wire bends too easily on good fish that this pattern is likely to attract. I would use a TMC 2457 or TMC 2488H. The new super point TMC2499SP is a very nice (pricey) alternative. There are several other options for tying alevins. Tom Brayshaw developed a simple streamer version in 1939 that has a silver tinsel body; duck flank feather wing and a red yarn throat. Other versions use hot melt glue to make the egg sac. There are matuka versions as well.



Tommy Brayshaw version

Photography © Nick Didlick

### Matuka version



## *From the CONSERVATION DESK*

By Lowell Ashbaugh

**New Zealand Mud Snail Tests** Approximately 50 fly fishers from a number of clubs in northern California participated in a new round of testing of materials to kill New Zealand Mud Snails on wading boots on Saturday, November 12. The tests included Formula 409 Cleaner Degreaser/Disinfectant and copper sulfate - chemicals found to be effective in earlier testing. The primary purpose of this round of tests was to use a method might be used by anglers. The earlier tests required us to soak our gear in a gallon or more of chemical for at least 5 minutes. This test used a spray bottle to soak the boots.

Patagonia donated \$2000 to cover the costs of the tests, as well as a pair of wading boots and a nifty backpack/ vest to be raffled off. The Buckhorn catered lunch for all participants and donated a couple of gift certificates for the raffle. The Northern California Council Federation of Fly Fishers helped coordinate the test and served as the fiduciary body for the donation. You can read about the earlier tests at <http://www.nccfff.org/>.

Once the results of this test are in, I'll post a notice here.

**Endangered Species Act under fire** In a move that has become characteristic of the current administration, California Congressman Richard Pombo introduced HR 3824, "Threatened and Endangered Species Recovery Act of 2005." Why characteristic? He did it during the commotion over the response to hurricane Katrina in hopes attention would be diverted elsewhere. The name is a complete misnomer, because it would actually strip the act of key protections and impose draconian measures in its place. The diversion has worked so far – the bill passed out of the House Resources Committee in record time.

The bill would eliminate major wildlife protections in the law that have saved dozens of species since it was enacted in 1973, including fish species we are interested in.

The government would have to compensate property owners at fair market value for any loss that results from protecting endangered species, or else it could not enforce the act. This would set a precedent to require the government to pay industry for any profits lost to environmental protections, and it would reward developers who plan the maximum and most potentially profitable projects for the most ecologically important habitat. In short, it begs developers to plan projects that allow them to extort payment from the government. It could require the government (i.e. we the taxpayers) to pay private interests to maintain fish-friendly flows in rivers if they plan to use the water for any other purpose.

The draft bill also would eliminate the act's requirements for

critical habitat designations for endangered species. The Center for Biological Diversity contends that species are twice as likely to recover when there has been critical habitat designated.

The bill also would require the Interior secretary to define "best available scientific information," which the environmental groups say politicizes the process. Critics of the act have said protection decisions are often made based on questionable science.

Pombo's committee earlier this year released a study contending that the act has largely failed to help endangered species recover. His committee passed two bills last year to amend the law, but neither got a vote on the House floor. Earlier attempts to amend the law also went nowhere, including a 1997 effort that cleared a Senate committee. This bill deserves to be shot down. Even though Senators Feinstein and Boxer, and Congressman Thompson today are likely to oppose it, it helps to let them know you want them to do so. Write them today.

**From Save our Wild Salmon** Federal agencies have been given one more shot to create plan that works for salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest. A federal judge, for the third time, ordered government agencies to re-write their failed federal salmon plan. After a series of successful lawsuits brought by fishing industry groups, conservationists, and businesses, a federal court provided a one year timeline for the agencies to re-draft a real salmon recovery plan. Issuing this final ruling, the court stated, "I should not and will not, however, allow another loss of valuable time as occurred during the remand of the 2000 Biological Opinion [federal salmon plan]."

The court's ruling comes at a time when wild salmon and steelhead numbers continue to dwindle, putting scores of people in the Northwest out of work.

The Columbia River Basin has 12 separate populations of salmon and steelhead federally listed as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and one species proposed for listing. Four of the species are in danger of extinction, and the remaining nine threatened species are likely to become endangered in the near future.

The federal government has repeatedly failed to adequately address the harm that outdated dams have on salmon. For that reason, Northwest ratepayers and U.S. taxpayers are spending billions of dollars to keep fish on life support instead of addressing the largest impediment to sustainable, harvestable salmon populations - the four lower Snake River dams.

This issue is inextricably tied to salmon and river conditions in California. In particular, the Klamath River needs adequate flows to support its once great runs of Chinook.

Read more about this at <http://www.wildsalmon.org>

### REEL-TIME River Conservation at it's finest



### Recent attempts at NZMS eradication in Putah Creek



## The December Meeting, a Homegrown Program

### December 13, 7:30 pm at the Davis Waste Removal Meeting Room, 2727 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Davis

Our December meeting will be early in the month as usual to avoid the busy holiday week. Because of the short lead-time, there will be no separate December Newsletter but we will send you a reminder. This year our traditional December homegrown program will be a little different. Cary Boyden and Bob Percy will give a short presentation titled "Getting to the fish: Float tubes to Jet boats". This will be followed by fly tying, knot tying and rod building demonstrations by club members. It will be a good chance to learn up close some fly tying and rod building techniques, and knots, from some of our skilled practitioners. In addition, it will be a good chance to socialize with other club members.

In Cary and Bob's presentation, the full range of options available for getting to the fish by some means of flotation, either big or small, will be covered. Bob will present the wide variety of non-motorized craft from float tubes to drift boats. Cary will talk about an equally wide range of powered boats suitable for fly fishing under different conditions. We will have pictures of various types and tell you what to look for and think about when selecting a watercraft for fly fishing. We hope the information will be useful when you are dreaming about a new way to get to the fish. Or, if you are so lucky, shopping for one.

## SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM

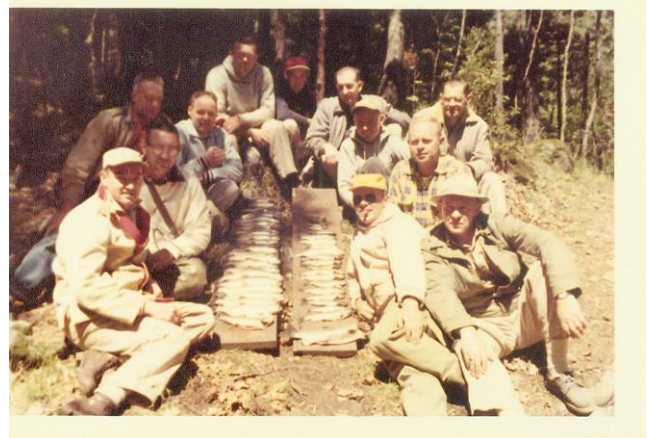
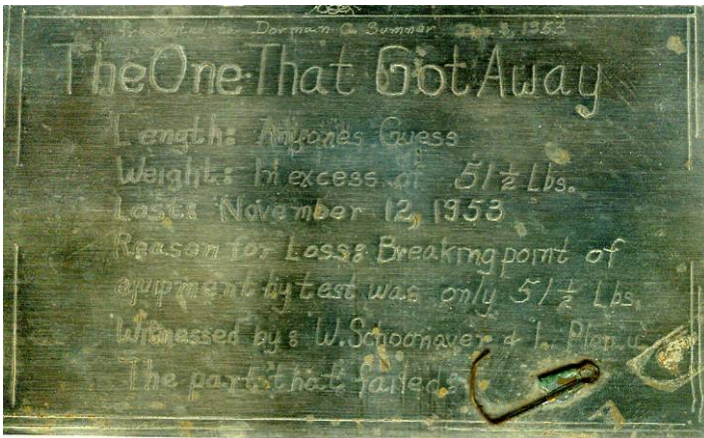
This school science education program continues to flourish and grow. For those that didn't know, your Club has supported this program for about 6 years, with Jim Wirth doing most of the heavy lifting quietly behind the scenes. The program is presented as a science-teaching unit within the classroom which involves the students in the rearing of salmon and/or steelhead fry in an aquarium. Ultimately, the teacher and the students release the fry into a designated river or stream.

For about 17 teachers in the K-12 schools in Davis, Winters, Woodland, and even Fairfield, your Club provides the aquarium, chiller, temperature controller, and miscellaneous items at no cost to the teacher, and then delivers the eggs from the hatchery. Jim coordinates with the teachers and the State Department of Fish and Game to ensure each teacher has what they need, has attended the in-service training required before they can participate, and follows the requirements of the permits issued by the DFG. Jim has arranged the purchase and supply of the equipment and coordinates the Club volunteers that make the egg delivery. The Club provides this support for the rearing of salmon in the fall and steelhead in the spring.

This fall, your Club board approved a gradual expansion of the program to include 4-5 new teachers. A solicitation was sent out in the Davis School District (grades 3-6), and 4 Davis teachers attended the all-day in-service training Oct 29 given by Dave Armocido in Colusa. Dave started the Salmon in the Classroom program, and there are now 2000 teachers participating in California, and the program has expanded to 10 states and seven countries. As part of coordinating the solicitation of new teachers with the Davis School District, the Club obtained approval for participating teachers to receive credit for the in-service training.

If you ever want to pitch in, volunteers are always welcome, particularly when the egg delivery occurs. This fall Adney Bowker has given Jim some help in setting up the new teachers. If you are interested, let Jim or Adney know.

## Dedicated To Days Gone By



Senior University Administrators and Faculty fishing a secret location near Forney Meadows El Dorado county in 1953. And a spoof on our fishing partner in December 1953 - **From the Dorman G Sumner collection.**

### A Successful FFD Outing at PYRAMID Lake

Under the esteemed guidance of Jon Knapp, FFD members met at Pyramid Lake on Saturday-Sunday, November 5-6<sup>th</sup> as the weather was exceptional after 10-20 mile/hour wind gusts were experienced by some early birds that fished on Thursday and Friday. Fish were caught by almost everyone at various shore-sites around the lake. They were hooked on minnow patterns, white, black, green, brown, and purple wooly bugger patterns. Bob Beverlin used a number 2 large green, yellow feathered minnow pattern to chum the water but only scared the fish. Other members present were: John Daniels, Chris Berardi, John Steele, and Bill Schnathorst. The largest (5 lb, 7 oz) fish and the most fish were caught by Cal Kado, followed by Jon Knapp and John Steele, but almost all members hooked into fish ranging in size from 18 inches to 25 inches in length. The southern section of the lake was glassy on top as well as grassy on the bottom. Underwater weeds were common at Warrior Point. Few fishermen were at the nets at Suttcliffe. To finish off a nice day, FFD members got together for cocktails and a nice dinner at the El Dorado. – **Cal Kado**





This was the last fish on Sunday. Basically a "last-cast-fish" 24-25"  
 We fished until 2 pm. Fished the nets in the AM, where we each got 2 (I had another close this size) Then to Separator where Chris got 3-4 (17-20"), and I got 2. We each lost a couple or so and missed a couple or so more. - **John Steele**

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## Stripers on The loose.....

This past Saturday (Nov. 5) saw the running of the annual striper outing. Fishmeister Jim Humphrey got everyone together at Dawson's for the traditional fare and proceeded to lead us to Pirate's Lair where we hooked up with Dave Driscoll and hit the water. The wind notwithstanding, fishing was OK (I can't complain. Skipper Walt Bulski managed to put me onto 5 fish) The highlight of the day was me and Walt tying into a DOUBLE for our first fish of the day.

We found the key to dealing with the wind, a technique gleaned from guide Mike Costello some years back. Find a weed line running parallel to the wind, position your boat broadside to the wind, cast directly INTO the wind, and let the wind push you along the weed line. Don't worry about your pathetic 25 ft. casts. Just throw line out onto the water and let the wind do all the work.

We saw Sandhill cranes all day long and along with lots of ducks and geese. This is always a special time of year to be in the delta and has become one of my favorite club outings.

Thanks Jim Humphrey, for again, hosting this year's event. - **John Reynolds**



**The biggest fish of MY day ..... and a special 'family-values' moment at Frank's Tract (Nice bass, lady!)**



Early this month Walt landed this 18 LB King salmon at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Old River. The Striper fishing has been lousy. This day we caught a six inch and a twelve inch striper.



## ----- Outings Report -----

There have been several trips since the last meeting reported on elsewhere (hopefully). Signups continue at the December meeting for Amador and the March Fly Shop trip. Also there will be a sheet for the Feather in mid-January and for a February outing, probably at Amador again.

Looking ahead, any members with jet boats interested in going to the Klamath in late August or early September and transporting a member or two up and down stream, please let me know. Right now it looks like we will be full before we even put out signups, with several members already having expressed interest in going and known available jet boats being in short supply.

Just a note on future Fly Shop trips. Because of issues created by last minute cancellations we would ask that before you sign up for one of these trips (as opposed to the non-fee trips) please make as sure as possible you will be able to make it. Obviously sometimes things come up which cannot be helped, and this request does not relate to these. However, if a look at your calendar would reveal a conflict it would be helpful if the conflict is found as early as possible.

Along the same lines we will collect earlier than in the past for the Spring and Fall (not the Trinity or Upper Klamath) trips in a further effort to avoid the problems which have occurred (and fortunately to date have been resolved) with cancellations arising at the last minute. Hopefully this approach will not deter signups of those who would otherwise attend but will rather only achieve the desired result. – **Cary Boyden**

### How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

Membership in the FFD requires an annual donation of \$25 for an adult/family and \$15 for individual youth/student members.

Annual dues are \$25. At this rate you **MUST** provide an e-mail address and will receive the monthly newsletter as a PDF. If you do not have internet access and want a printed copy of the newsletter mailed to you dues are \$35. You can bring the application to the club meetings, which are held at 7:30 p.m. on the last Tuesday of the month in the conference room at DWR, 2727 2nd St. in Davis). For more information, contact: [John Reynolds](mailto:jren@dcn.org) , 530-753-2682 or [jren@dcn.org](mailto:jren@dcn.org)

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### 2006 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

TRIP	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/Fees
Amador/Trout	Trout	Dec 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	12/17 rainout
Upper Klamath-Iron Gate	Steelhead	Dec 9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 plus tip
Feather River	Steelhead	Jan	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Trinity	Steelhead	Jan 9 <sup>th</sup> -10 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150-160 plus tip
Low Elevation Lake	Trout	Feb	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Redding Sacramento	Trout	Mar 18 <sup>th</sup>	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150-160 plus tip
Iron Canyon	Trout	Apr	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Apr	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	
Payne's Ranch	Bass	May	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Shad	Shad	May	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Frenchman Lake	Trout	Jun	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Lewiston	Trout	Jul	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Backpacking YS	Trout	Aug	John Forsyth 530-750-1192	
Backpacking OF	Trout	Aug	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Klamath	Steelhead	Aug/Sep	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
McCloud	Trout	Sep	Gene Gantt 707-451-3262	
Yuba River - Tutorial	Trout	Oct 1 <sup>st</sup>	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Payne's Ranch	Bass	Oct	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	
Redding/Sacramento	Trout/Steelhead	Oct	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150-160 plus tip
Delta	Stripers	Oct	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Nov/Dec	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	

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The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.3 charitable organization dedicated to the education, participation, conservation and enhancement of fly fishing. Annual associate membership is \$25 beginning with each calendar year. FFD meets monthly except for the month of August. Regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December and January. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules. January hosts the Annual Dinner meeting which is scheduled in the latter part of the month based upon facility arrangements.

FFD is an affiliate club of the Federation of Fly Fishers (FFF), an international nonprofit organization, and its Northern California Council (NCCFFF) affiliate.

Meetings and membership are opened to the public.

The Fly Fishers of Davis provide equal opportunity membership without discrimination on sex, race, origin, age or religious orientation.

#### E-Newsletter Policy

Our 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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