

The Fisherman's Line

Our regular meetings are at 7:30 on the last Tuesday of the month.

"Solving Puzzles: Entomology for the Fly Fisher"

By Phil Fischer



For June, our program speaker will be Phil Fisher and his talk, "Solving Puzzles" will cover everything a fly fisher needs to know about entomology...and then some. Have you ever experienced trout rising consistently, only to throw your whole fly box at them and wind up frustrated? "Solving Puzzles" is an overview, from a fly tier's perspective, about fly patterns and the why's behind fly selection. In this presentation, Phil will share with you why certain patterns work well, and why others do not. He will discuss hatch periods, and what to look for on the water to determine what trout are feeding on, and what patterns effectively match each portion of the hatch. Phil will also review the Mayfly and Caddis fly life cycle through patterns, and share why you might fish with each pattern, and what makes it successful. "Solving Puzzles" is a result of many years of experience that pulls together the fundamentals of entomology, fly tying and fly fishing.

Phil Fischer is an avid fly fisherman and a gifted fly tier who was born and raised in the Bay Area and has fly fished for trout extensively through California and the Western United States. He has over 30 years of fly fishing and fly tying experience. He was tutored by Andre Puyans and taught fly tying classes at Andy's former shop, Creative Sports in Pleasant Hill, for a number of years. He currently owns Phil's Custom Trout Flies, and has fly customers throughout the US who count on his expertise in solving fly fishing puzzles on their own home waters. To understand what the fish are eating is more than half the battle, so be sure to mark your calendars for Phil's program!

Prez Sez

I finally got to wet a line a couple of weeks ago at the NCCFF Board meeting at Lake McCumber. Have you ever tried to tie on a fly or tippet with only one opposable thumb? I persevered and got the job done. Didn't bring in any fish, but I had a couple of grabs and it was sure nice to get out on the water. Especially with Gerry Ng rowing the boat – I was handicapped by a cast on my arm, after all... I had a great chat with a few other board members about getting more kids and younger adults involved in fly fishing. It seems our club is not the only one that's getting grayer by the month (I still think someone else must be in the chair when I get a haircut – that can't be my hair). We generated lots of ideas that our board will consider over the next few months as we develop a plan to get some younger members involved. Join the fun! - [Lowell Ashbaugh](#)

And now a few words from our Sponsors



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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 is \$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:John.Reynolds@ffdc.org) , 530-753-2682 or jreyn@dcn.org – **Membership Chair**

Name _____ Address _____ Davis, CA. 95616 - Phone (530) _____

Occupation _____ e-mail: _____

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Our club is only as great as its members, so please **circle one or more** of the following areas where you could share your expertise.

Annual Picnic, Annual Dinner, Guest Speakers, Putah Creek Cleanup, Membership, Budget, Conservation, Newsletter, Communications, Outings, Marketing, Youth Programs, Salmon in the Classroom, Education.

Please also **circle** if you would like to **teach, assist, or attend** any of our classes in **Rod building, Fly Tying, or Casting.**

For insurance reasons, you must be a current club member to attend any of our outings

FLY TYING FOR LEWISTON

A new version of an old theme: on Monday July 8 at 6:30 we will have a no-host get together at the viticulture building to tie flies for Lewiston. All members planning to attend are invited to meet and discuss their favorite patterns and techniques. -

From the CONSERVATION DESK

By [Lowell Ashbaugh](#)

Conservation Mailing List If you'd like to get timely notices of conservation issues such as the warden issue reported here join the FFD Conservation email list. Go to <http://www2.dcn.org/mailman/listinfo/ffd-conservation> to join the group. I promise you won't get a lot of email – just a few important notices each month.

Delta pumping halted, then restarted The big news in the north state this month is the halting of the Delta pumps for 10 days to protect the Delta Smelt. I wrote last month that the population of Delta Smelt dropped 93% this year from last year. DFG survey teams found the fish in only six places of the 36 places surveyed and found no more than seven in one place. The smelt live only one year so such a population crash may spell extinction. Meanwhile, the pumps that send water south have killed over 500 smelt this year – over 70 times what the surveyors found! To avoid a court-ordered shutdown, the state stopped pumping last month for 10 days in hopes the fish would move away from the intakes. The pumping began again a few days ago. We don't yet know how many have been killed this time.

The smelt are an important indicator of the health of the Delta. They are found only in the Delta – nowhere else on Earth. They are on the Federal Endangered Species list because of the many threats to their survival and the fact that their population has declined by over 90% in the past 20 years.

California Game Wardens Two California Game Wardens visited the NCCFFB Board meeting at Lake McCumber early this month to present their situation to us and to ask for help from the fly fishing community. Starting salary for Game Wardens is now \$3570 per month, despite the fact they require the same training and education as CHP officers, whose starting salary is \$6664 per month. After 20 years of service a Game Warden can expect a gross monthly pay (with overtime) of \$4994. A CHP officer can expect \$8400, including overtime, paid lunch, shift differential, physical performance pay, and other additions not available to Game Wardens.

California currently has 192 wardens for the entire state! Florida has 700 and Texas has 500. California is at the level it was in the mid-1950s. DFG has lost permanent funding for 50 positions since 2000, and has had extreme difficulty hiring new wardens. There are so few wardens now that some areas go completely uncovered when the single warden responsible is off-duty.

One of the major reasons for the hiring problems is the salary issue, and that's tied to the wardens' bargaining unit. I recently received the following message from Warden Jim Baird:

"The California Fish and Game Wardens Association (CFGWA) is an affiliate of the California Statewide Law Enforcement Association (CSLEA). CSLEA is the collective bargaining Union for the CFGWA. There are an additional eighteen affiliates in CSLEA, including the State Park Peace Officers Association of California (SPPOAC) of which I am a past vice president.

Link to CSLEA affiliate page:
http://www.cslea.com/affiliate_websites.asp

Link to CSLEA home page:
<http://www.cslea.com/index1.asp>

Unfortunately none of the individual affiliates rank and file members may get increases in pay or benefits without going through collective bargaining. All nineteen affiliates must vote on the contract, which must encompass all nineteen affiliates at once. Thus there must be enough in the pot for all affiliates to get a contract passed.

Unlike the CHP, CDF and Corrections Unions which represent just themselves, CSLEA represents all other state uniformed, investigative and regulatory law enforcement departments under one umbrella.

Wardens make slightly more than State Park Rangers and Lifeguards who also work for the Resources Agency and also play a vital role in protecting the states resources and visiting public. In my job on the north coast of California I deal with abalone, ocean fishing, freshwater fishing, poaching, waterfowl hunting, protection of threatened and endangered species, cultural resource protection, and at times stream and watershed protection issues as a State Park Ranger.

All three of these groups make far less than CHP, Corrections and CDF. Part of the reason is public visibility and part of the reason is the large umbrella union they are legislatively tied to. CSLEA has worked very hard for it's members, but raises and bargaining are complicated. Individual affiliates like the CFGWA and SPPOAC work hard for their membership within the framework of CSLEA. I have some personal experience in contract negotiations, meeting with DPA, and the associated dealings in the political arena of union and supervisory association business. The pay disparity is definitely hurting Wardens, Rangers and Lifeguards with recruitment and retention issues."

Earlier this month I put out an urgent request to the Conservation email list to call two state Senators and request they include \$10M funding to improve the warden situation. More than twice that amount is needed, but the word was out that it might be cut to \$2M.

One-fourth of the current warden workforce will retire in the next three years. Who will be there to protect our fisheries when they leave? How will the state hire new peace officers at the pay rate they're offering? Support your wardens with a call to your state representative!

Big victory for salmon & steelhead A federal judge in Seattle set aside the Bush Administration's 2005 policy requiring fisheries scientists to count hatchery-bred fish in making endangered species assessments of salmon runs, declaring it scientifically flawed and inconsistent with the Endangered Species Act.

The Court also set aside the listing decision for the Upper Columbia steelhead, which was treated with a lower level of endangered species protections due to the abundance of hatchery salmon in its habitat. The ruling came in twin decisions in related cases that were released today.

In setting aside the policy, the Court held "in evaluating any policy or listing determination under the ESA, [the Court's] polestar must be the viability of naturally self-sustaining populations in their naturally-occurring habitat." The Court also focused on statements by federal experts and biologists declaring that the policy was biologically indefensible.

"Nothing . . . provides a scientific justification for basing status determinations" on both hatchery and wild fish together. "Salmon and people need clean water, swimmable streams, and healthy habitat. We all win when we protect and recover wild salmon and their habitat," said Jan Hasselman, an attorney with Earthjustice. "Hatcheries never were meant to be a replacement for self-sustaining populations of salmon in healthy streams."

NMFS's scientific advisors and experts unanimously concluded that it would be "biologically indefensible" to eliminate ESA protection for endangered salmon based on the abundance of hatchery fish. Scientists emphasized that salmon need habitat to sustain themselves into the future while hatcheries rely on an artificial environment that doesn't produce salmon that survive well in the wild. Documents uncovered in the lawsuit showed that political appointees sought to muzzle the agency's scientific experts, forcing some to independently publish their views in scientific journals. "People in the Northwest want salmon in their rivers and streams for generations to come. We should strengthen legal protections and accountability for wild salmon, not weaken them," said Kaitlin Lovell, salmon policy coordinator for Trout Unlimited. TU has worked to improve the operation of hatcheries while keeping attention focused on reducing the need for them by recovering wild salmon to self-sustaining numbers.

The policy originally arose out of a 2001 court decision in which anti-protection groups successfully sued to eliminate ESA protections for the Oregon coast Coho salmon. NMFS had included hatchery fish in the definition of the Coho's population, but listed only the wild component under the ESA.

Based on a strict reading of the law, the judge ruled that the ESA did not allow NMFS to list only a portion of a designated species.

The problem identified by the Court could have been solved easily by designating separate populations for wild and hatchery components. However, the Bush administration seized the opportunity to push through a policy designed to take remove endangered species protections for salmon by counting hatchery fish in their population estimates. That policy triggered a nationwide outcry when it was leaked in 2004.

"The presence of hatchery fish should never be an excuse to reduce protections for wild salmon and their habitat. Both wild and hatchery salmon need healthy rivers to survive. Our ultimate goal must be the return of healthy wild fish stocks so we eventually can eliminate our dependence on hatcheries," said Jim Lichatowich, scientist and author of the book *Salmon without Rivers*.

The Court noted that counting hatchery fish alongside wild fish can reduce protections for the wild fish. This was the case when the Administration downlisted Upper Columbia River steelhead from endangered to threatened, which the Court also set aside/is considering.

The groups filing the lawsuits included Trout Unlimited, National Wildlife Federation, Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations, and Institute for Fisheries Resources, Oregon Wild, Klamath Forest Alliance, Pacific Rivers Council, Wild Steelhead Coalition, Native Fish Society and Federation of Fly Fishers. They were represented by attorneys Jan Hasselman, Kristen Boyles, and Patti Goldman of Earthjustice.

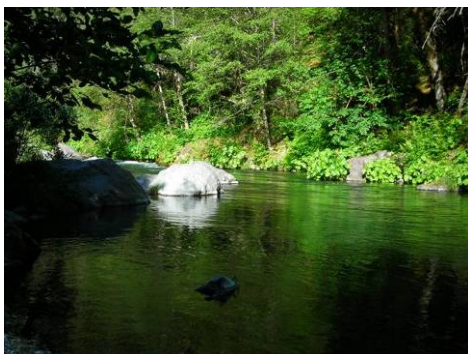
June 2007 McCloud Outing Report

[John Daniels](#)

The McCloud. If there is a prettier river in California, I have not found it yet. Well off the beaten track and a bit of bear to wade, the McCloud nevertheless boasts an excellent campground (Ah Di Nah), lots of water to fish, and a ton of very willing, feisty trout.



Led by fishmeister Gene Gantt, seven intrepid club members spent the weekend exploring the river and even catching a fish or two.



Indeed, I was the last to arrive in camp Friday night, and I found a very “happy” crew gathered around a healthy campfire sharing stories of a good day’s fishing. Encouraged by the reports, I looked forward to the next day, especially after a long off-season of still-water fishing, dredging flies, and staring at bobbers all day.



It was a genuine pleasure to be on moving water again and while there were a few other fly fishers in camp, a short hike down the road was all it took to find your own piece of the river. Oddly enough, no one that I know of even bothered going into the Conservancy.



There was plenty of water outside of the preserve to explore and while the morning fish was slow for many of us, the evening dry fly action more than made up the difference. Everyone caught fish during the trip with Peter Hawes catching the big fish of the weekend (or so he claims) and Brian Bechtold landing the largest numbers.



Fishmeister Gene treated everyone to a magnificent meal of barbequed spare ribs and fresh corn Saturday night, and I know I for one am really looking forward to an encore performance in the fall when the Fly Fishers of Davis once again return to the McCloud.



And here are a few pictures from the last outing on the Lower Sacramento River out of Redding



Fly of the Month Griffith's Gnat Size #18

By [Bob Zasoski](#)

The only thing difficult about the fly of the month is its diminutive size. The pattern can represent a number of different insects or stages of a midge hatch. Often time the large number of individual midges hatching results in aggregated clusters that approach the size of a reasonable fly. Other times the pattern can be used for the adult or as an emerger. The pattern is tied on hooks that range from size 18 to 26. With flies of this size, the appropriate tippet material is also small ranging from 5x to 7x. Unfortunately, the fly has limited visibility and even the worst of casters can cast to fly out of sight. None the less, it is an effective fly and worth having in you box.

Griffith's Gnat Pattern:

Hook: Straight eyed dry fly hook such as Tiemco #101 Size #18 - #26.

Thread: Black 8/0 or finer

Body: Peacock herl

Rib: Fine gold or copper wire

Hackle: Grizzly

Tying Instructions.

Debarb the hook and place it in the vice. Attach the tread near the tail position and tie in a length of gold or copper wire for the rib as well as an appropriately sized grizzly hackle. Now tie in two stands of peacock herl and wrap a body up to the eye position. Peacock herl on the shaft of a tail feather will vary in fiber length being shorter near the base of the shaft. Select the herl from the lower portion of the tail feather so that it will not fill up the gape. Tie it in by the butts after removing an inch or two of the base. Secure the herl and wrap the hackle forward to the eye. Secure the hackle and counter wrap the wire over the herl and hackle.

The wire is optional; however, the peacock herl is fragile and the wire will make the fly much more durable. Alternatively, you can use a single strand of fish hair as a rib. It is very light and strong. A problem with this fly is finding herl and hackle of the appropriate size for a 18 – 26 size fly. Some saddle hackle are this size, but a neck with likely have more small feathers. The newer midge size saddles are an alternative. It is also possible to tie these flies on 2x short shank hooks so that the gape on the fly is larger. A Tiemco 206 BL works well. As the size drops below 18, using thread that is finer than 8/0 also helps to construct a neater fly. If you use 8/0 care must be taken to limit the number or thread wraps. An alternative to the standard gnat pattern is to tie what I call the bare ass gnat. In this instance tie the fly as mentioned bringing the herl body up to the thorax position. Clip the herl close the hook shank leaving a fuzzy body and tie in a herl with longer flues at the thorax position. Wrap a thorax with the larger peacock herl and rib the body and thorax. Finish with one or two wraps of grizzly hackle that are tied back wet fly style. A similar fly has worked well for me during midge hatches. It is shown above right.



Get Ready - Here Comes the FFD Annual Picnic

Tuesday, JULY 31st, 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).

----- Outings Report -----

Since last meeting we had the Davis trip. Frenchman produced 14 fish for the 4 attendees on Friday. The Bobber led the way from the view of hits and losses. Davis had fish pounding damsels and produced 7 lost fish Saturday and one landed; all of very nice size. Looks like the rotenone will be applied and next year and after could be awesome. Members who remember the pre-pike days can attest to the potential the Davis fishery has.

June's meeting will be the last time to sign up for the Fall Sac trip, Fuller and Tom Burton's summer hikes (old farts and lake venture). The old farts has great signups to date, and Sac trip appears to have rounded out well. Fuller is a bit sparse so far.

- [Cary Boyden](#)

2007 OUTING SCHEDULE (tentative dates)

TRIP	FISH	DATES	FISHMEISTER	Comments/Fees
Trinity	Steelhead	Jan 8 th - 9 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 + tip (per day)
Baum Lake	Trout	Mar 2 nd - 4 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Redding Sacramento	Trout	Mar 17 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 + tip
Iron Canyon	Trout	Mar 30 th - Apr 1 st	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Payne Ranch - (overnight)	Bass	Apr 30 th - May 1 st	Donn Erickson 707-718-7724	CANCELLED - Low H2O
Shad	Shad	May 25 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Payne Ranch	Bass	May 26 th	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	CANCELLED - Low H2O
Frenchman Lake	Trout	Jun 1 st - 3 rd	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
McCloud	Trout	June 8 th - 10 th	Gene Gantt 707-451-3262	
Loreto, Baja, Mexico	Dorado / Sailfish	Jun 24 th - 28 th	Donn Erickson 707-718-7724	\$90 down by Feb 15 th
Fuller Lake	Trout	Jun 30 th	John Daniels 530-750-3511	
Lewiston	Trout	Jul 12 th - 15 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	
Annual Picnic	Stories	Jul 31 st	Lowell Ashbaugh 530-758-6722	
Old Fogies - Backpack	Trout	Aug 10 th - 12 th	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Sierra Lake - Backpack	Trout	Aug 18 th	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
High Country - Backpack	Trout	Aug 22 nd - 25 th	Tom Burton 707-678-3850	
Klamath	Half Pounders	Aug 29 th - Sep 1 st	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	Limited Space
Payne Ranch	Bass	Sep 22 nd	John Reynolds 530-753-2682	CANCELLED - No H2O
McCloud	Trout	Sep 28 th - 30 th	Gene Gantt 707-451-3262	
Klamath	Half Pounders	Oct 5 th - 7 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	Very Tentative
Redding/Sacramento	Trout & Steelhead	Oct 13 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 + tip
Delta	Stripers	Oct/Nov	Jim Humphrey 707-678-2149	
Trinity - or - Klamath	Steelhead	Nov 29 th - 30 th	Cary Boyden 530-753-3826	\$150 + tip (per day)
Pyramid	Cutthroat	Nov/Dec	Jon Knapp 530-756-9056	

Officers, Directors and Committees

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Davis, California, 95617

The Fly Fishers of Davis (FFD) is a non-Profit 501.C.4 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](#)".

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