

The Fisherman's Line

Fly Fishers of Davis



P.O. Box 525 • Davis, California 95616

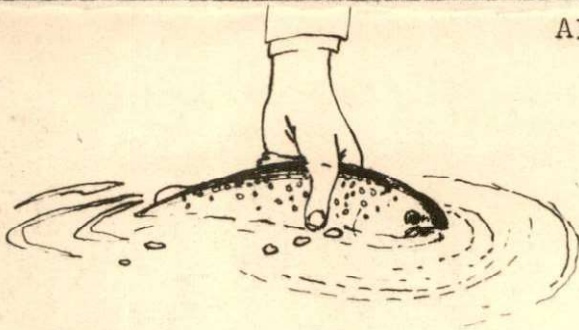
Member of:

The Federation of Fly Fisherman
The Northern California Council of Fly Fishing Clubs

APRIL 1975

Editors:

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756-5780
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756-5664



MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday April 29, 1975
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Place: Veterans Memorial Bldg.

CONSERVATION COMMITTEE MEETING

Date: Tuesday May 6, 1975
Time: 7:30 P.M.
Place: 647 Cleveland St. Davis, Calif.

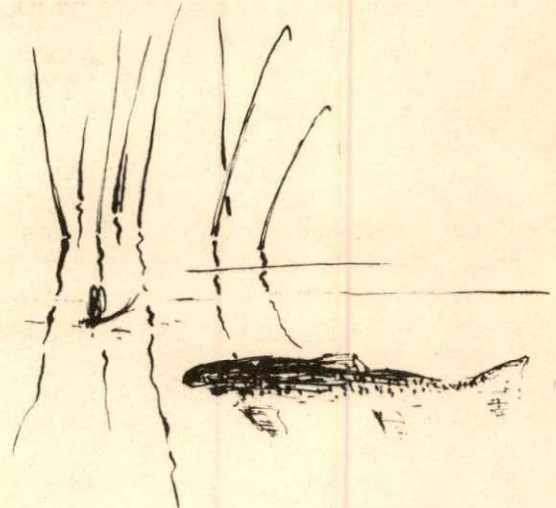
NEXT FISHOUT

Yuba River - SHAD!!! (Date to be announced)

PROGRAM REPORT

The April 29th program will feature Chuck Von Geldern speaking on the management of warm water game fish in California. Chuck has been employed by the California Department of Fish and Game since 1956. He is presently an Associate Fishery Biologist working in the area of warm water fisheries research. He graduated from Stanford University with BS and MS degrees in fisheries biology. Chuck is also an avid fly fisherman for steelhead and trout.

This program will be of intense interest to those anglers interested in black bass fishing in California. Chuck's presentation will include local examples (such as Berryessa) in the Fish and Games approach to management of black bass fisheries.



FROM THE EDITORS

The newsletter staff is pleased to welcome the artwork of fellow member Johnathan Salt. John is an art student at U.C.D. as well as an inspired fly fisherman. We hope to use the line drawings as an educational tool as well as for its entertainment value. After studying John's drawings, no one should have trouble identifying the three stages of Tricoptera. In our freestone streams the caddis pupae imitation fished on the upswing can be very deadly.

We welcome John's drawings to "The Fisherman's Line"

SUMMARY OF FFD BOARD MEETING - MARCH 1975

The March Board of Director's Meeting was held on the 18th. Members present were: Clark (President), Asay, Childress, Davis, Dill, Fisher, Gehrman, Gibson, Havstad, and Ohrwall.

Progress reports were made by representatives of the following committees: Membership, Technical and Conservation. Members are still urged to contact Jim Havstad if they know of a pond suitable for use as a casting pool.

Discussion on the newsletter, publicity and future programs followed.
(Bill Dill)

CONSERVATION NOTES



CADDIS

More on Pyramid Lake. In recent months the level of Pyramid Lake reportedly has gone up at least three feet. Increased flows from the Truckee River account for most of the increase. Considerable cloud seeding has occurred in the Sierras and in the area around Pyramid Lake in the past two years resulting in increased flows in the Truckee and other streams that empty into Pyramid. It is not certain whether the higher water level will affect the fishing timetable in the lake. Although fish have been caught in the last couple of months my impression has been that nothing outstanding has occurred. This is surprising in light of the increased planting in the last two years. Increased flows into the lake could alter water temperatures and change the time-table most fishermen have been used to.

Locally the suckers are back in Putah Creek. Bank fishermen using various bait have been catching suckers ranging in size from 10 to 15 inches. I have personally observed some of these specimens. This was not totally unexpected since it was not certain that poisoning the creek a couple of years ago was 100% effective. In addition a number of fish species enter the creek via the spill-way at Monticello dam. The build up of non-game species in the creek in the next year or so will put us back to the pre-poisoning days, which means limited trout growth. My surveys of fish activity in Putah Creek this year indicate that trout populations are much lower than last year: about a 75% decrease in spite of recent plantings by the Department of Fish and Game. If my observations are correct the creek is being heavily overfished. Do not base expectations from Putah Creek on results of the past two years. Fish and Game put in several hundred brood trout following the poisoning, and my neighbor gave them over 100 large special rainbow trout selections (fast-growing strain) that were also planted early in 1974)

(Bill Schnathorst)

PYRAMID LAKE: ANOTHER VIEW

The initial flow increases into Pyramid Lake are having a disastrous effect on the Carson Lake and Stillwater marshes. Last year's flow in the Truckee River was 110% of normal; even so the reductions of water supplied to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District were such that by last August 90% of the Carson marshes and 65% of the Stillwater marsh were dry. This resulted in the average bird production dropping by 65% - in some cases the loss was over 95% as per the White-faced Ibis rookery at Carson Lake which was abandoned for the first time this past year. During the fall migration over 70% of Nevada's ducks utilize these marshes. This figure includes from 30-50% of all the canvasback ducks in the Pacific Flyway. In short, the Pyramid Lake vs. marsh complexes (all of which were getting on fine before we white eyes came on the scene) is a prime example of how an ecosystem can be thrown out of balance through man's activities. The slow drying and eventual death of Pyramid Lake (even with the larger inflow) is a sad thing to contemplate; however, the immediate loss of the bulk of Nevada's marsh habitate is complete folly.

(Sarge Reynolds)

Sarge is a member of FFD as well as being a director of the Sacramento Chapter of Ducks Unlimited. Its interesting to note this other viewpoint.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

The following series of articles by Darryl Davis an FFD Board Member, are designed to acquaint us with the methods of proposing and managing our waterways. This series of articles would be a valuable adjunct to any clubs conservation files.



SCUD

Water resources management projects come in a variety of sizes, shapes and forms, some which are of benefit to sport fishing and others not. For those of us interested in our fisheries resources, it should be in our interest to become more familiar with who builds projects, the means by which they come into existence and the purposes they are designed to serve.

This is the first in a series of articles designed to more fully acquaint club members with (1) what are the major management projects and who is responsible for their implementation, (2) the steps required to bring a federal project into existence, (3) the steps required to bring projects of local agencies into existence, (4) the current status (where in the sequence of steps) of major projects that would be of local interest to club members and (5) the effects of various types of projects as they may affect sport fisheries.

The projects of major concern to sportsmen are those that cause the greatest disturbance to the natural system. The types of projects that have the greatest potential for large scale disturbance are reservoir projects that serve such purposes as flood control, hydro-power generation, water supply, and low flow augmentation; channel enlargements/impovvements for local flood protection, bank stabilization and maintenance of navigation depths; levees and flood walls for local flood protection; and smaller detention storage projects for debris con-

trol, control of toxic runoff such as acid mine drainage, reregulation of power releases, diversion of flows for irrigation and temporary storage of water for flood protection.

The major parties implementing such projects are federal agencies, local public agencies, private utilities, and the state. California is unique in the major development role assumed by state and local public agencies. The federal agencies with major water development responsibilities are the Bureau of Reclamation of the Interior Department, the Army Corps of Engineers of the Defense Department and the Soil Conservation Service of the Agriculture Department. Other federal agencies have money grant programs or regulatory powers, such as the Environmental Protection Agency but do not have direct implementation authority.

The Bureau of Reclamation has authority under the 1902 Reclamation Act to construct and operate projects to provide irrigation supplies to local irrigation districts or individual farming enterprises in the 17 western states only. The major projects of the Bureau are reservoir projects for storing winter flows for subsequent diversion during the irrigation season, and irrigation systems to distribute water to the farming enterprises. Reservoir projects may include hydro-electric generation facilities whose revenue may be used to offset the cost of irrigation water. A typical example of a Bureau project is Monticello Dam and Lake Berryessa (major storage), Lake Solano (diversion facility) and the Solano Irrigation District distribution system.

The Army Corps of Engineers has basic federal responsibility for flood control, navigation and major debris control nation wide. The types of projects undertaken by the Corps include reservoirs, channel modifications/improvements, levees and flood walls, diversions and navigation locks. Corps reservoirs typically serve other multiple purpose such as irrigation and water supply storage. The federal agency with the major project purpose usually wins the opportunity of constructing the project. A typical example of a reservoir project is Folsom Reservoir, built and operated for flood control, hydropower, water supply and low flow augmentation. The Corps constructed the reservoir and it isoperated (for supply purpose) by the Bureau of Reclamation. Other major projects of the Corps familiar to club members include the Sacramento River Levees and Yolo Bypass (flood control), deepwater channel and Port of Sacramento (navigation) and Lake Englebright (debris control).

The Soil Conservation Service has basic authority under PL 566 to undertake projects to foster good land management. This usually is manifested in small flood control reservoir projects and flood control channel improvements. SCS projects are undertaken in cooperation with local Soil Conservation Districts. Projects of the SCS program that may be familiar to club members include the Ulitas flood control channel improvements (near Vacaville) and the more than 1000 farm ponds/reservoirs that dot the foothills of California.

The next article will discuss activities of local public agencies, private utilities and the state of California and will explore the long, ponderous process of bringing a federal project into existence and the key stages for general public and interested local group input to decisions.

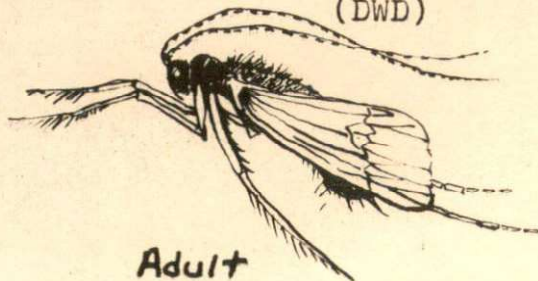
(DWD)



Caddis LARVAE



PUPAE



Adult

SPRING TURNOVER - WHAT IS IT?

In order to catch fish consistently one must be aware of what is going on underneath the water. Temperature, water clarity, oxygen levels, topography, plant and animal life all must be considered in successfully evaluating a body of water as to whether it contains fish. Many of us have been approaching it from the standpoint that to fish is first in importance, to catch fish is second. By paying more attention to some of the above mentioned factors the fish catching may improve.

The bass fishermen in the last 10 years have really zeroed in on the scientifics (I should say electronics) of catching fish by accurately evaluating temperature, O_2 levels, and topography. I feel it is not necessary to have the electronics if you keep abreast of the changing conditions and learn to recognize them, hence the explanation of spring turnover.

At springtime a significant physical change takes place which has a most favorable effect upon fishing. The sun warms the surface water rapidly. As its warmth approaches the temperature of maximum density (39.2 degrees F), these surface waters, which become heavier as they become warmer (up to this point), begin to sink and mix with the lighter colder waters below. This phenomenon automatically starts a turnover of the body of the water.

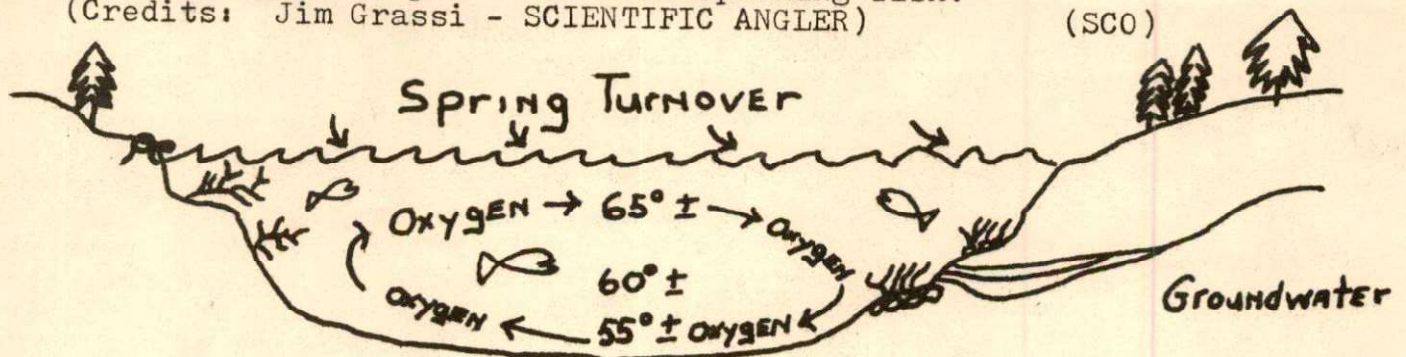
The winds and sunshine add oxygen as well as encourage a turnover, and the fish begin to swim to the surface and feed. With the warmer temperatures comes an increase in the metabolism rate of the fish, thereby creating a use of more energy and a need for more food.

Since the waters along the shorelines of the lake are warmest and provide an abundance of oxygen and nearby food, game fish often are taken very close to shore.

Usually, best fishing is enjoyed on the windward shore because fish seek this area to find forage which the wind drifts into them. At this time, bait fish ascend to the rivers and coves to various spawning areas. The game fish begin to follow the migrating schools, intercepting them at the inlets and outlets of these streams and coves. As the winds begin to die down and temperatures continue to warm the water, fish begin to select their nesting areas for spawning. Calm waters and good cover are generally the best places to find spawning fish.

(Credits: Jim Grassi - SCIENTIFIC ANGLER)

(SCO)



YOURS FOR A LAUGH

A fisherman was lugging a large fish when he met another fisherman with half a dozen small ones on a string.

"Howdy" said the first fisherman, dropping the hugh fish and waiting for a comment.

The fellow with the small ones stared and stared. Then he said camly, "Just caught the one, eh?"

CREATIVE SPORTS LOST TO FIRE

We are saddened to learn that Creative Sports Enterprise in Pacheco was consumed by fire recently. Andy and Dave have bounced back and are now operating out of a trailer across the street. They have recently put in a bid on a new location in Walnut Creek. A fire sale is in the planning for customers of CSE. Many items that were only slightly damaged or waterspotted will be offered at 50-60% savings. Details will be furnished when they are available.

We wish Dave and Andy the best in establishing a new location.
(DWC)

PUTAH CREEK - BOATING REGULATIONS

Did you know it is illegal to be on Putah Creek in a boat when flows are above 750 cfs (also applies to tubers). A member of our club, who wishes to remain anonymous (Darryl Davis) found out the hard way in a Solano County courtroom.

We have listed two numbers you can call to find out the flow. 916-795-2990, if no answer call 707-429-6402. Might it be an appropriate club function to try and get regulations changed for Lake Solano????
(SCO)

FISH RECEIPE: SALMON CROQUETTES

One pound can salmon, 2 eggs beaten, 1/2 cup buttermilk, 1/2 cup flour, 1/4 teaspoon soda, salt and pepper to taste.
Place all ingredients in a bowl and mix together well. Drop by tablespoonfull in deep hot fat, and fry until golden brown.
(Courtesy of Jackie Gaumer - Angler Magazine)

FISH TAILS

Steve Ohrwall reports that small steelhead are being taken in good numbers in the American River in the area of Cal Expo. The immature fish are great fighters, but should (must) be released in order to "do their thing" later.

Putah Creek is starting to come alive again. Callibaetis are hatching in numbers too small to produce trout activity, but the hatch is getting larger. Damsal fly nymphs are once again abundant. Weed growth is down in Lake Solano and the lake is quite fishable.

Jim Havestad, Jack Clark, and myself spent Picnic Day weekend scouting out East Park Reservoir and were very pleased with the results. Jack fished poppers over the spawning beds in late evening with good success. Several bass were taken on the serpent fly (see Fly of the Month) fished with a sink tip line in deeper water. We found East Park to be a very agreeable lake in that there is much water that can be fished with a fly, a nice setting with grassy slopes down to waters edge, and a good population of Florida strain bass. A family type outing is planned to East Park in May. More about that at the general meeting April 29th.
(DWC)



RIFFLE BEETLE



FLY OF THE MONTH

From the United Fly Tyers "Roundtable", March-April, 1974 edition comes a bass fly designed to go down below when the surface activity has ceased.

Larry Green's Serpent Fly

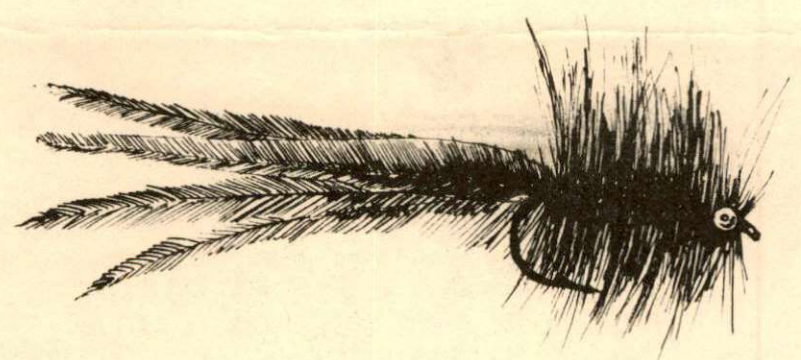
- HOOK - No. 1/0
- TAIL - Six long slender saddle hackles (dark color)
- BODY - Six additional saddle hackles, fatter than tail
- EYES - Bead chain

Tying suggestions - (can be weighted with lead) Tie three of the long slim saddle hackles just inboard from the bend of the hook so any curve they have will bow them out to one side. Tie the second three long slim feathers on to form a separated or swallow tail. Tie five of the wider on over the tail windings and palmer them forward to make a very dense hackle body to within three eighths of an inch of the eye of the hook. Tie on the eyes, cement, and bind them down tight. Tie in the last wide saddle hackle and finish the hackle body past the eyes. Form a neat head and the Serpent Fly is complete.

For added durability use head cement liberally throughout the tying procedure.

This is one of the fly rodders answer for catching sow bass in the shallows in late winter or early spring. Can be tied on a keel hook or use a monofilament weed guard to give some hook point protection while fishing amongst the weeds.

(DWC)



REMINDER

This newsletter is being sent to those people who have paid their dues as of April 1st. If you know of someone who paid but did not receive a newsletter please notify the editors - Thanks (SCO - DWC)