

The Fisherman's Line

Fly Fishers of Davis



P.O. Box 525 • Davis, California 95616

Member of:

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

May 1979

Editors:

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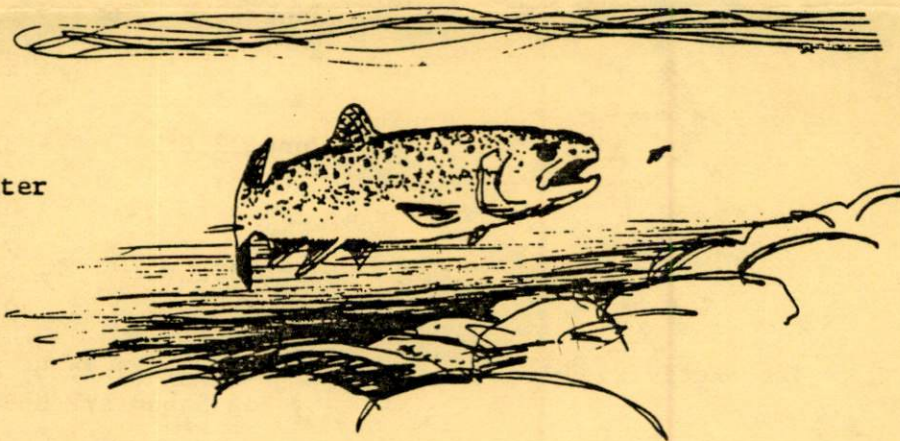


MEETING NOTICE

Date: Tuesday, May 29
Time: 7:30 sharp!
Place: Veterans Memorial Center
14th & B Streets
Davis

BOARD MEETING

Date: Tuesday, June 19th
Time: 7:30 p.m.
Place: Bill Owen's home
683 Bianco Ct.



MAY PROGRAM REPORT - Truckee River Lahontan Cutthroat

A team, headed by Gary Scopetone of the Reno office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, will enlighten FFD on a new program to rehabilitate the Truckee River - Pyramid Lake fishery.

Sixty years ago, J.O. Snyder described the spawning runs of cutthroat trout as ascending the Truckee "...in incredible numbers...their powerful bodies gleaming with flashes of gold and silver, and the great red cheek spot glowing like a coal of fire."

Decimated by man's improper use of land and water, such runs have been gone for many years. Prospects for their renewal will be discussed next Tuesday, May 29th.

CALENDAR OF FFD EVENTS - UPDATE

Board Meetings: _ _ _ _ _ Second-to-last Tuesday of each month, except August (gone fishing).

Regular Meetings: _ _ _ _ _ Last Tuesday of each month, except:

January - Annual Dinner

July - Picnic Dinner meeting, this year at Solano Lake on July 29th, 4:30 p.m.

August - No meeting

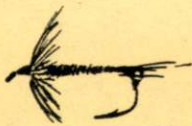
Upcoming Meeting Programs: _ _ _ May 29th meeting - Restoration of Lahontan Cutthroats on the Truckee River.

June 26th meeting- Bass Fishing by Dan Blanton of Berkeley Line Co. and Angler Magazine.

July 29th picnic meeting - Solano Lake, 4:30 p.m., bring fishing gear.

Upcoming Outings: _ _ _ _ _ May 26, 27, 28 - Hat Creek - reserve a place now at Burney Falls State Park.

Special Event →



June 12th - Doug Swisher Seminar, Camp Pollack, Sacramento (see map) at 7 p.m. Buy tickets at meeting or from Hugh Black.

June 23 & 24 - BBQ and Fishout with Northern California Fly Fishing Clubs at Lake Almanor

June 30th - Shad fishout, location dependent on latest reconnaissance.

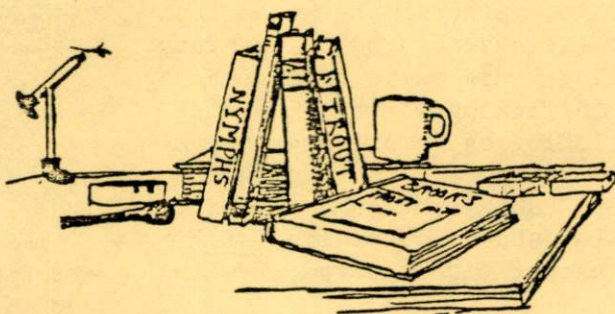
Tech Activities: _ _ _ _ _ A casting clinic by Mike Monroe and Fly Tying class by Ron Rabun are underway. Hope you're enjoying them!

Hope you enjoyed the Rancho Seco outing last month - lots of fish and fun were caught!

ORVIS FLY ROD AVAILABLE FOR LOAN

FFD received a "Spring Creek," Orvis rod for a No. 5 line and it is available for loan to members. This is a special promotion by Orvis and all we need to do is write some letters giving our evaluation of the rod. The rod will be a raffle prize at the annual dinner next January. Call Arlen Feldman, 758-0699, to reserve the rod.

NEW BOOKS IN OUR LIBRARY



Through the courtesy of Frank Amato Publications (Salmon-Trout-Steelheader and Flyfishing the West), two books on angling have been received free-of-charge by FFD and deposited in the Davis Branch of the Yolo County Library for your enjoyment. On second thought, you should enjoy one of these books; the other may cause you discomfort.

The Curtis Creek Manifesto. By Sheridan Anderson. Frank Amato Publications, Portland, Oregon. New Standard Revised Edition. 1978, 48 pp. Paperback. \$3.50.

Of this slight volume, Harmon Henkin (I assume that this is a real name) has said: "Every beginning fly fisher should be issued, along with rod, reel, line and leader, a copy of this wonderful angling comic book - without doubt the best basic primer of fly fishing around." Why Harmon Henkin - I cannot forego repeating such a lovely alliterative name - doesn't also wish to include a fly in this package seems strange, but I do agree with his judgment concerning Anderson's book. What I can't understand is why the author chose this title - more reminiscent of, say, "The Showdown at Last Chance Gulch" than appropriate for an elementary book on fly fishing. Ah, well, we deal in tradeoffs these days. A lot of misguided fishermen bought Richard Brautigan's "Trout Fishing in America" thinking they might learn how to tempt Salmo gairdneri.

So, never mind. If you're a beginner, rush out and get this book; if you are already a fly fisher, read it and then reflect on how you have complexed an essentially simple sport. You won't find all the answers to fly fishing here, some of Anderson's methods are a bit old fashioned, and you may even debate the use of some of them. But, start out with this book and you'll: (i) be amused; (ii) simplify your life; and (iii) best of all, catch fish. As Heuwell Tircuit (this is another name whose authenticity I sometimes question) says in his reviews of classical records in the S.F. Chronicle: "Highest recommendations!"

Flyfishing Still Waters. By Donald V. Roberts. Ibid., 75 pp. Paperback. \$8.00.

I suppose there really is a Donald Roberts. This over-priced book on lake and reservoir fishing opens with a section "About the Author" (obviously written by the author) which says: "On a July day in 1956, Donald Roberts loitered by a gray backwater in an Oklahoma gully and watched two amber dragonflies mate in mid-air. A year later a Pawnee Indian woman, shrunken and fragile with age, read of the intrusion in the lines around his eyes."

Perhaps some of our readers can decipher this relationship - a bit too esoteric for me. In fact, after reading this book I feel just like that Pawnee woman - and not from age.

On the credit side, there are some quotations from Tennyson, Wordsworth and other denizens of the "Golden Treasury," descriptions of 25 nymph patterns (13 by the author), some good color photos by Diana Roberts and some nice drawings of flies by Loren Smith. (Roberts, who is purported to be an art

teacher, has contributed some of his own illustrations: either Art-Deco, stylized North Pacific Indian, or drawings filled with a lot of stipple or fine hairy lines. The latter remind me a bit of Koren's New Yorker cartoons, and at times the author reminds me of a Koren character.) To continue with the good points, Robert's description of tackle, methods, the mechanics of lakes, and the behavior of trout are generally satisfactory but elementary.

On the discredit side, is his god-awful writing: his compulsive need to mix words which should never be mixed, to strive for analogies which do not exist, and to express his every reaction to fly fishing by an off-beat body sensation. Listen to Don: "I touched the ... old bamboo fly rod and felt a slightly dissonant chorus erupt in my bones," or "Each trout came ... barging through the reeds, causing a swelling in my knuckles and my adrenalin (sic) glands to slosh drunkenly," and "I followed its descent with the rod, feeling its life jolt in my arm sockets."

What can one say of a man who writes: "The catching of fish perpetuates the refinement of all other aspects of the sport." Refinement? "I had a rod in each hand with two heavy fish wrenching their guts out...", and "Sometimes just after subduing the 'stipple and rose mole' quarry, with the bubbles dying at my feet and the worn critter still bending, wrenching, we stare at each other, trout and man, and I wonder - which one of us most vacantly?" (No question in this reviewer's mind of which.)

To Roberts, "The trout's metallic-curtained flesh burns with an incandescence, but dies as an ember smothered when out of water." (Note by reviewer: next time you want to keep an ember glowing, be sure to hold it under water.) From Roberts: "I scissored the rod between my legs...and considered the Freudian implications of this strange endeavor." Again, to Roberts: "...silt bubbled up phlegmatically." Somewhere, "there is a trout which unstrings fishermen like ruptured violins." And when he hooks a fish, they are "An odd couple, strung together like strangers at an alien dance hall," while his line is "strung to E sharp."

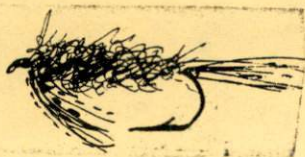
In addition to this junk, and two highly fanciful chapters (whose omission might have lowered the price of the book), there is a series on the author's experiences on nine western lakes which netted him a few "wrenching" fish but will net you little, and a ridiculous diatribe against fishery departments (of which he obviously knows little). Strangely enough - considering his own writing - he states that one should "...demand plain and simple language" from the "anadroids of government." "Persist," he says, "until all excess verbiage has been trimmed..." (I assume he doesn't object to basic verbiage?)

At this point, I have been taken into hand by our editors (both kind men). "Bill," one of them says gently, "you may not be 'wrenching' but I think someone should hold your head."

"Sir," I respond, "I am not alone in my opinion. A recent correspondent of Flyfishing the West (Nov-Dec 1978 issue) writes of Roberts as one "...whose gaseous 'fly blown' prose does disservice to your good magazine. His article ...could have been a good one if he could control his lust for far-fetched simile and metaphor."

I, too, like Flyfishing the West of which Roberts is the editor. But please, Don, don't try so hard, even if the foreward to your book does say of you: "Much of his writing, indeed, most of his thinking is explained in a naturalistic sense. 'I am inspired by the dragonflies and their slender cousins, the damselflies, which never cease to crisscross my soul, like lake bottom ooze, with a multitude of tracks.'"

I suppose that with a soul composed of bottom ooze, this book is a natural product.

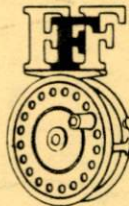


Your friendly reviewer,

Bill Dill

KERRIDGE FRESHWATER ANGLING COLLECTION

My predecessor as conservation chairman of the International Federation of Fly Fishermen was Captain Philip Markham Kerridge, Ret., U.S. Navy whom I succeeded in 1972. Mark, as he was more familiarly known, was the first FFF conservation chairman when its program was established in 1970. He was also a noted collector of books on freshwater angling who started the collection at California State University, Fullerton, with a large donation on 11 March 1969, after a two year loan. It consisted of 1,245 books and pamphlets, including twenty editions of Walton's The Compleat Angler, and was appraised at \$11,300. At the end of December 1978, the holdings numbered: 3,002 books; 299 pamphlets; 1,136 issues of 32 periodical titles; labeled forms of ephemera; special files on the "fly line" from Myron Gregory; Pete Hidy's Leisenring flymph items, the Golden Trout, and others; oral history interviews; and miscellaneous materials such as illustrations, tied flies, and a mounted brook trout. Related and overlapping areas of the holdings include: ichthyology, fly tying, entomology, recreation, travel, conservation, ecology, stream management, intercultural relations, geography, social and economic history, book design and book history. It was the wish of Captain Kerridge, as it is of his widow, that the collection "continue to grow in a way that will make its resources of unique value to scholars." With the help of the Patrons of the Library of CSUF, Mrs. Kerridge, limited state purchases, as well as the Federation of Fly Fishermen through its Southern California Regional Council, new materials are being purchased and traded for the collection. Should any of you FFD members have opportunity to visit and use this fine scholarly research collection, by all means do so, as I'm sure it will be a meaningful experience. I'm reminded that Mark donated five books to the initial contributions made to Yolo County by Fly Fishers of Davis several years ago. The Federation of Fly Fishermen takes great pride in this illustrious member's motivating influence in and contributions to CSUF's collection which is one of the world's finest.



RAY W. FISHER, Senior Advisor
Federation of Fly Fishermen

RECENT SHAD FISHING REPORTS

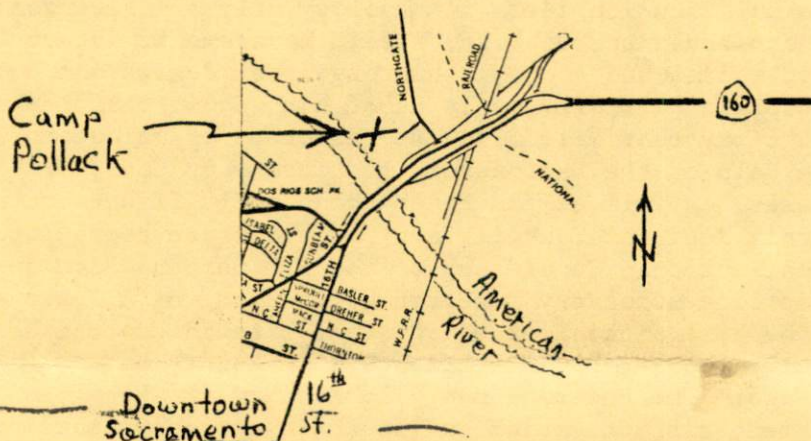
Large numbers of shad are being caught from boats at the mouth of the Feather. No report on how waders are doing. A small group including Bill Dill and Ray Fisher tried the American on May 8. After investigating the Watt Avenue area and fishing for a short time on the riffle at Goethe Park they had to give up as the water was much too high. However, shad have been seen in the river and fishing should improve as the flow drops and the water warms. Another group consisting of Darryl Davis, Steve Ohrwahl and Dick Blanchard tried the Sacramento at Princeton on May 9. The long riffle area was easily fished and wasn't too high. In about five hours of fishing Darryl caught about 9, Steve - 4 or 5, and Blanchard - 2. They were all males. Greenish colored flies seemed to be the most successful. While we were there another fisherman who had recently been to the Yuba said it was too high and roily. In any case the shad are here and the prospects for catching them should improve greatly over the next few weeks.

DICK BLANCHARD

DOUG SWISHER SEMINAR

Doug Swisher of Darby, Montana, the author of Selective Trout, Fly Fishing Strategy and numerous other articles on Fly Fishing for trout, will be the guest speaker on Tuesday, June 12, 1979, 7:00 p.m. at Boy Scout of America's Camp Pollack (please refer to map below). This seminar is co-sponsored by CFFU, Fly Fishers of Davis, El Dorado Flyfishermen, and Delta Flyfishermen of Stockton.

Doug will present an outstanding program on various aspects of trout fishing and will cover such subjects as aquatic insects and fly imitations, casting techniques, reading water and other valuable aids useful in trout fishing. Our speaker keeps a busy schedule and conducts the Doug Swisher Fly Fishing School at such places as Hat Creek (Burney, California), Selway River (Darby, Montana), West Yellowstone (West Yellowstone, Montana), Beaverkill River (Roscoe, New York), Bristol Bay Lodge (Alaska), and a few other locations.



DIRECTIONS: From Freeway 160, take the Northgate Blvd. exit, north. Proceed north on Northgate Blvd., about 1 block. Look for "Golden Empire Boy Scout" sign and turn south (left) on this road, then right to Boy Scout building.



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