Fly Fishers of Davis

http://www.FlyFishersofDavis.org

Volume 52 Issue 3

The Fisherman's Line

April Meeting, Tuesday April 25, 2023

7:30 pm @ Stonegate Country Club

Chris Shutes:

Current Water And Fisheries Conservation Issues And Challenges Facing California's Waterways

his month, Tuesday April 25, We will hear from Chris Shutes, Executive Director for the California Sportsfishing Protection Alliance (CSPA). Chris will discuss current water and fisheries conservation issues and challenges facing California's waterways. Chris is a lifelong policy advocate for fisheries conservation issues who initially got involved with local conservation efforts as an avid fly angler. Chris is a hydropower program director and water rights advocate for CSPA, a member of both the California and National Hydropower Reform Coalition, and was named 2017's "Restorationist of the Year" by the Salmonid Restoration Foundation. He remains an active member in many of the most topical fishery concerns and water management issues facing Californians.



Prior the hearing from Chris, the Fly Fishers of Davis UC Davis Scholarship winner will give a presentation. Ann Holmes is a PhD student in Ecology at UC Davis. She is using trace DNA to study fish in Putah Creek, the San Francisco Estuary, and

other regional ecosystems. Her research develops and applies genetic methods for species monitoring and food web analysis in aquatic and wetland ecosystems. Current focal species of her research include fish, crustaceans, and bats. Originally from San Francisco, Ann has a BA in Biology from Cornell and an MS in Biology from San Francisco State. Ann's research uses trace DNA in water to characterize fish communities in Putah Creek. While restoration has significantly improved fish habitat in the creek, surveys typically focus on salmon and less is known about the state of other native fishes. Ann used environmental DNA (eDNA) to assess the presence of native and non-native species at 10 sites, and compared eDNA findings with conventional monitoring. The goal of this research is to develop an eDNA approach that facilitates a whole-ecosystem perspective of native fish management and improves conservation outcomes in California streams.







THE PREZ SEZ

Howdy Y'all,

I hope folks have been getting out fishing (full disclosure I haven't yet but I plan on remedying that this week, weather permitting.) I have good news and bad news. The good news, I have it on good authority that Berryessa is starting to fish well. The bad news is road from Winters to Markley cove is closed and I'm not sure when it will open. Anyone wanting to fish Berryessa will have to drive around through Fairfield.

Shad in the river should be starting soon though I think it might be late this year because of the muddy color of the rivers.

I hope folks make it out to the casting clinic on Sunday April 30th 9-12 am at the NorthStar pond. We have an amazing teacher, Jeff Hogan. Sign up at the meeting.

The one thing I know about casting is that I have caught many fish on bad casts, more on good casts, but never on a cast I didn't make. So go out and make some casts.

Andan Bailey



Home Grown Fly Casting Clinic

Set aside time Sunday morning April 30 for our annual fly casting clinic that will be held at the Northstar Pond from 9 - 12. This year the clinic will be home grown. Several of our Club's accomplished caster will be available to help you get started or improve your casting. Jeff Hogan has volunteered to start the session with a brief presentation of casting basics. Jeff is an excellent caster and a certified Casting Instructor. He is currently working towards a Master Casting Certification. His brief presentation will be followed by hands on practice and coaching by Jeff and other club members.

Bring your rod, reel, line, leader and tippet as well as sunscreen and sunglasses. Eye protection is a necessity when you are fly fishing or casting. Our terminal gear will be brightly colored yarn rather than flies to protect the innocent. There may be a few bugs about so bring along your bug juice. I am looking forward to seeing you at Northstar Ponds. Northstar Ponds are located just to the west of F Street near the intersection with Anderson in north Davis. A parking lot is located on the south side of the road about 800 feet west of the Anderson/F Street intersection. (3434 Anderson Rd.)

Our group will gather on the lawn area south of the pond and adjacent to the playground. We can provide equipment for those that may need an outfit. If you need a casting outfit, let me know. Additional information is available from Bob Zasoski (text or phone (530) 304-0663, or email rjzasoski@sbcglobal.net). A sign up sheet will be available at the April 25th meeting or email Bob.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The meeting schedule has been tentatively set for the next few months. Peter Hawes is the program chair - let him know if you like the program speakers or if you have ideas for one at programs@flyfishersofdavis.org

Fly Fishers of Davis 2023 Meeting Schedule						
MONTH	SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC			
April	Chris Shutes	April 25	Conservation Issues Facing California's Waterways			
May	TBD	May 30	TBD			
June	FFD Members	June 27	FFD Annual Picnic			

IT IS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP



IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DETAILS

Website Members: If you signed up for membership on the new FFD website, you will get an email in the late December/early January timeframe with your renewal details. No need to go to the website before that, so please wait for your renewal information email.

Website Non-members: If you're an FFD member, but you did not sign up on the website and you wish to renew your Membership, please stop by the membership table at our next in-person general meeting, and pay your dues with check, cash, or credit card for 2022. You can also send a renewal check to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. box 525, Davis, CA, 95617.

Note: our preferred method is for website non-members to become website members, by signing up on the website!

Dues for adults and families are still \$30/year, and the student rate is \$15/year. Your dues help to fund almost all club activities — including our superb array of guest speakers, outings, the annual picnic, fly casting and fly tying clinics, our amazing FFD 101 classes, Salmon in the Classroom, and best of all, our contributions to numerous outreach, education And conservation organizations.

Thank you for your generosity and continuing support!



Fly Fishers of Davis is now on Facebook! Like Us and Follow Us to get the Latest updates on Club Events and other News.

Facebook.com/FlvFishersOfDavis





2023 Costa Bass-n-Fly Challenge

Fly Fishing Team Tournament

Prizes & Winnings:

*80% payout after expenses

*Tournament pays out 1 for

every 5 entries

*Trophies awarded to the top

3 teams
*Raffle prizes

When: June 1-2, 2023

6am blast-off 2pm weigh-in

Where: Sugar Barge

RV Resort & Marina**
Bethel Island, CA





Tournament Contacts:

Capt Maury Hatch

firsthatchguideservice@yahoo.com

916-716-3474

Capt Noel de Guzman info@justacastaway.com 510-579-2859 ** Launch ramp fee is not included in entry fees

Entry Fees:

*Mail-in entries must be received 3 days prior to tournament

Boaters: \$250 per team
Big fish option: \$10
Team option: \$20
Late sign-up fee*: \$10
(morning of the tournament)

Kayaker: \$175
Big fish option: \$10
Late sign-up fee*: \$10
(morning of the tournament)

CONSERVATION REPORT

By Lowell Ashbaugh

<u>Conservation Mailing List</u> Want to keep up on conservation issues in between newsletters? Join the FFD Conservation Google Group list. Click <u>here</u> for instructions on how to join, and search for "FFD-Conservation". Or send an email to <u>Ashbaugh.lowell@gmail.com</u> with your request.

<u>Note:</u> If you'd like to try your hand at writing a conservation column, please let me know. I'd like to find someone to start taking over this role. I'll help get you started.

The Klamath Dam Removal project is underway, and the North Coast Journal has a great story on it by Thadeus Greenson here. Mr. Greenson describes the project far beyond the removal of the four dams that comprises the most dramatic part. The dam removal will entail getting rid of 100,000 cubic yards of concrete, 1.3 million cubic yards of excavated soil, and 2,000 tons of steel. There is about 15 million cubic yards of sediment behind the dams, as well.

Prior to dam removal, though, a great deal of preparation has taken place to get ready for reconstruction of the more than 2,000 acres formerly covered by the reservoirs. For the

past few years the Yurok Tribe has been collecting and propagating native seeds for trees, shrubs and grasses – 17 billion seeds and 300,000 tree and shrub starts.



FLY FISHERS OF DAVIS PAGE 5 April 2023

The Yurok Tribe hired Senior Riparian Ecologist Joshua Chenoweth, a former television producer who earned a masters from the University of Washington in restoration dam removal and served as the restoration botanist for the Elwha Ecosystem Restoration project on the Olympic Peninsula. The Elwha Dam was removed in 2011 and the Glines Canyon dam, formerly higher up on the Elwha River, was removed in 2014. I took the picture above of the former Lake Mills at the site of Glines Dam in 2018, just four years after the dam removal.

The restoration crews are also working to remove non-native vegetation from around the reservoirs to prevent it from invading the sites when the dams are removed. Restoration of the former reservoirs will take years of effort and monitoring to ensure success.

The water quality and terrestrial wildlife will also be monitored throughout the project and it has already begun to provide baseline data prior to dam removal. Aquatic species will also be monitored. In particular, the Lost River and shortnose suckers, which are sacred to the Klamath Tribes, will be relocated to fish hatcheries because they would not survive in the free-flowing river. These fish made their way into the reservoirs after the dams were constructed. The first dam to be removed is Copco 2, a

25-foot dam that sits between the much larger Copco 1 and Iron Gate dams, diverting the river's flows through a powerhouse. It should be removed by the end of this year. Copco 1 will be the next dam removed, with preparation for draining the reservoir completed in November this year. Reservoir drawdown will begin at Copco 1, J.C. Boyle, and Iron Gate in January, and dam removal will begin after the salmon fry from this year's spawn have moved downriver. The 2024 salmon run should see a free-flowing river for the first time in over 100 years.

The restoration work will begin immediately after reservoir drawdown to take advantage

of residual soil moisture to germinate seeds. Restoration and monitoring work will continue for at least seven years.

Read the North Coast Journal story for a more complete description of the work required to remove the Klamath River dams.

The 2023 salmon season has been canceled due to poor returns of adult salmon to the Central Valley this year. The primary reason for the poor returns is high river temperatures in the Sacramento River below Shasta Dam that killed over 90% of the salmon fry for three years running. With closure of the fishing season and the estimated 251,000 salmon in the ocean last year, we may see a decent number of returning fish this fall. If the Bureau of Reclamation again operates Shasta Dam to deliver high temperature water to the Sacramento River, eggs and fry will again die and we'll have another year of major losses.

The Golden Gate Salmon Association (GGSA) has been proactive in getting the message out to Californians about the existence of salmon in the state, their importance to the economy and to the environment, and the reasons for their decline. For those of us who fish, it's hard to believe that many Californians aren't even aware that salmon exist and reproduce in California. But many people have been influenced by marketing efforts of those who want to divert water to their own use without regard to the needs of others.

If you're looking for an effective advocate for California salmon, you would do well to support the GGSA. In their own words, "Our press work also seeks to establish the fact that the closure hurts real people, something that those who claim water flowing to the ocean is a waste completely refuse to acknowledge. They don't want it known that the excessive water diversions they got during the drought have resulted in no income in 2023 for many salmon fishermen and women, and the significant number of businesses that serve both the sport and commercial salmon boats. Part of

our job is to make sure this side of the story gets out as well as the economic losses coastal restaurants, hotels and many other businesses will suffer."

The GGSA Annual Dinner will be held on June 2 in Santa Rosa. If you would like to donate fishing trips, goods and gear, vacation rentals, or adventures to be auctioned off at the dinner, please contact GSSA at 855.251.4472 or Cat@goldenstatesalmon.org. Get your tickets today!

The House of Representatives held a field hearing in Fresno this month to discuss water storage (more dams) and HR 215 (Valadao), which Friends of the River (FOR) has affectionately dubbed the "Frankenstein Bill." This bill is a resurrection of many bad ideas that would harm California rivers. In short, HR 215

- Is a boondoggle and will do little to increase water supply, while placing undue burden on taxpayers and the environment
- Attempts to override State sovereignty to manage state waters
- Seeks to sunset essential Delta restoration efforts

Dubbed the "Working to Advance Tangible and Effective Reforms for California Act" (aka the "WATER for California Act"), the bill would authorize enlargement of Shasta Dam, the Sites Reservoir project,, Los Vaqueros Reservoir expansion, and other surface water storage (dam) projects. It would also require the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project to be operated under the 2019 biological opinions established by the Trump Administration. It would allow for modification of these operations based on any agreement voluntarily reached by water contractors.



Further, it would require the federal government to provide the maximum amount of water practicable consistent with the 2019 BiOps. Basically, H.R. 215 encapsulates the greed of the water contractors who use most of the water in the state and refuse to acknowledge the needs of other users.

Another bill, HR 872 (Calvert), would strip the National Marine Fisheries Services of its authority to protect salmon in California. Mockingly named the "Federally Integrated Species Health Act", or "FISH Act", the bill would give the Fish and Wildlife Service the sole authority to regulate endangered or threatened anadromous species that are anadromous (species of fish that spawn in fresh or estuarine waters and that migrate to ocean waters) or catadromous (species of fish that spawn in ocean waters and migrate to fresh or estuarine waters). Currently, under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 this authority is shared between the two agencies.

Barbara Barrigan-Parrilla of Restore the Delta said in response to these two bills:

"The science is clear. California salmon are in trouble because we are not allowing enough water to flow through our rivers and Bay-Delta when it is most needed by fish. It's really heartbreaking to watch California congressmen introduce federal bills that undermine protections for salmon. This is just another water grab on behalf of venture capital 'farmers' who make generous political donations.

Real California representatives would work to strengthen protections for salmon, and Tribes, and the North Coast communities that depend on salmon."



FFD TRAVELS: New Zealand

Photos and Summary by Sam Chamberlin

Sam went to the Tarata Fishaway Lodge in New Zealand. Unfortunately the day I was to leave for the lodge, Cyclone Gabrille hit New Zealand and threw every thing into a tail spin. The Rangitikei River muddied and restricted the fishing. Of a normal 20 mile drift we could only fish 20 %. That put pressure on that portion of the river and of a projected six days of fishing I could only drift the river three days. I was lucky to catch as many quality fish as I did. Stephen and Trudi Mattock the owners did all they could to make good out of a bad situation, but it was a real challenge. I have decided to go again next year. Hopefully the river will be clear and I can drift the whole river.













FFD TRAVELS: Henderson Springs

Photos and Summary by Paul Berliner

I spent an amazing few days at Henderson Springs earlier this month, up near Big Bend. In any normal April, this trip would have seen glorious springtime weather, but this being California 2023, we had over five feet of snow on the ground, plus a few rainy days and a few clear days. The resort has four spring-fed private lakes stocked with huge rainbows, and on this trip, the muddy roads between lakes were strictly 4WD. Once on the lakes, both indicator fishing and stripping were wildly successful ... and if I go again next year, I'll bring a bigger net.







A little snow at the lodge



A mighty fine breakfast



Friend fishing in the snow



I needed a bigger net



Snowy shore, glassy lake



The beast had me spun around



Trucking the pontoons between lake



On the glassy lake

FFD EVENTS: 2023 UC Davis Picnic Day

Photos and Summary by Paul Berliner

FFD's booth in Briggs Hall was absolutely packed from 9:00 AM onwards, and at 4:00 PM we actually had to turn folks away (since our fingers ached from tying so many Wooly Buggers). We enjoyed every moment, talking about the club, tying flies, handing out brochures, and answering fly-fishing questions in general. Special thanks to our ace Wooly Bugger tying team: Jack Norlyn, Ryan Mitchell, Bob Brodberg, Rick Wallinder and Melinda Torres, and special thanks to our hosts, the UCD Entomology department. If you missed out on the fun, catch us again at Duck Days on April 29th.



She has an eagle eye!



Big crowds for Jack and Ryan



Melissa delights the kids



Step right up! Learn to tie



Bob demonstrates Wooly Bugger skills



Rick has their keen attention

Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International News

By Mark Rockwell, President, March 2023

Hi All: Just a short note to let you know what is happening this coming month within your Council of Fly Fishers. We are continuing our efforts to engage clubs to start teaching the *Fly Casting Skills Development Program*. We started this teaching program at the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton with several clubs attending our "Teach the Teachers" event on Saturday morning. 12 club casting teachers attended and learned how to set up the casting course, good teaching techniques, and the testing required for a caster to receive a passing grade for the three levels - Bronze, Silver, and Gold. Prior to this "onthe-ground" teaching session, we held a PowerPoint session with several club level teachers where Russ Carpenter & Sarah Trenschel, the program leaders, went over the content of the program, tasks required, lay-out of the course, and why club members love the program. Our next session of this program in the Sacramento Region is as follows:

PowerPoint Training Session: April 27th at 6 p.m. - Zoom meeting

Train the Trainers session in Sacramento Region: Saturday May 20, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Contact Person: Clay Hash, clayhash.fft@gmail.com, 530-913-1334

Those who are in the clubs close to Sacramento should take this opportunity to come and learn. We are sure your club members will enjoy this program. If interested please contact Clay at the above email or phone #. Space is limited, so registration is required!!

April 21st - 23rd is another great event - The 21st annual *Jimmy Green World Championship of Spey Casting* - what we also call the *Spey-O-rama*. It will be held at the world renowned fly casting ponds at the Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club in Golden Gate Park in San Francisco (on John F. Kennedy Drive, across from the buffalo paddock). In addition to showcasing product exhibits and casting demonstrations, the best Spey Casters from a variety of countries will be competing in this two-handed distance casting completion. This is the World's best spey casting competition!

Practice is on Friday, with competition on both Saturday & Sunday. Awards to follow the end of completion on Sunday.

This event is open to the public and free to attend!

If you want to compete there is a \$140.00 entrance fee, and you must register. Here's the link to get more info and register: https://www.ggacc.org/spey-o-rama

NCCFFI will be there to talk with visitors and connect with those interested in fly fishing. We will be taking names & contact info from visitors interested in Fly Fishing, and we'll pass that along to the clubs closest to their homes. We want to connect interested people to our clubs to help with membership and to get people started in our sport.

Premium fly fishing rod and reel manufacturers will be present so you can check them out and do some casting on the club's ponds.

You owe it to yourself to come and watch and just have some fun. We'll see you there!!



UTINGS & EVENTS FFD

2023-2024

Proposed FFD Outings & Events

<u>Trip 2023</u>	<u>Fish</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fishmeister</u>	Contact	<u>Comments</u>
Putah Creek	Trout		April/May	Son Chong	vsonkilchong@gmail.com	Day trip
FFD Casting Clinic			April 30	Bob Zasoski	rjzasoski@sbcglobal.net	Instructor: Jeff Hogan
Hat Creek 101	Trout		May 5 -7	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Camping
Lake Berryessa	Mult. Sp.	Boat	May 10	Peter Hawes	hawsheatair@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
Delta Bass N Fly Tourn	Black Bass	Boat	TBD	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
Lower Sac Float (Spring)	Trout	Guide	TBD	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Fee + Tip
Shad Sac or Feather River	Shad	Boat	May	Peter Hawes	hawsheatair@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
Fuller Lake	Trout	Boat	May	Shawn DeArmond		
FFD Annual Picnic			June 27	Tristan Leong	abailey2006@comcast.net	
McCloud River	Trout		Prop June/July	Peter Hawes	hawsheatair@gmail.com	Camping
Umpqua River	Smallmouth	Guide	July 24-28	Gene Gantt	fishinggantt@comcast.net	Fee + Tip
Manzanita Lake Trip	Trout		August	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Floatation Device / Camping
Lake Davis	Trout	Boat	TBD	Need Fishmeister		Camping
Lewiston Lake	Trout		TBD	Need Fishmeister		Camping
Lower Sac Float (Fall)	Trout	Guide	TBD	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Fee + Tip
Delta Striper Fest 2023	Stripers	Boat	TBD	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
Luke Lake	Mult. Sp.	Boat	December	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Fee
Pyramid Lake	Trout		TBD	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Lodge/Hotel
Lower Yuba Walk Wade	Trout		TBD Feb	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	Day trip
Baum Lake	Trout		TBD March	Dana Hooper	trouthookup1@gmail.com	





Officers, Directors and Committees

Officers, Directors and Committee				
President:	Andan Bailey			
Vice President	Jeff Williams			
Treasurer	Tristan Leong			
Secretary	Devin Bartley			
DIRECTORS				
2023	Mike Rivers			
	Rick Kennedy			
2024	Jacob Orton			
	Alicia Torres			
COMMITTEES				
Outings	Dana Hooper			
Conservation	Lowell Ashbaugh			
Membership	Ryan Mitchell			
Communication	Tom Robinson			
Newsletter	Tom Robinson			
NCCFFF	Lowell Ashbaugh			
Programs	Andan Bailey			
Hospitality	Peter Hawes			
Raffle Chair	Ryan Mitchell			
Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski			
Picnic Chair				
Youth Programs	Adney Bowker			
Youth FishCamp	Tom Robinson			
Video Library	Eric Kapucinski			

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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. FFD meets monthly. Our regular monthly meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December, and other exceptions are noted in our newsletter. December meetings are held the second Tuesday to accommodate holiday schedules.

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

Each month, the e-newsletter will be posted to our website and emailed about one week before the meeting.

You may need to download Acrobat reader at:

https://get.adobe.com/reader/ to view our PDF newsletter.

Members are urged to maintain their current email address and other important personal data by logging in, and visiting:

https://flyfishersofdavis.org/account/. This ensures accurate communication and notification of our monthly newsletter, which is also downloadable at:

https://flyfishersofdavis.org/media/newsletters/.

How to become a member of the Fly Fishers of Davis

FFD collects annual dues for adults (\$30), students (\$15) and families (\$30). Family membership may include a spouse and children living with named member up to maximum age of 25. All family members will share one membership and username. Please be sure to provide a valid email address. For insurance reasons, you must be a current club member or registered family member to attend any of our fishing outings.

- <u>Membership Benefits:</u> For more information about the many benefits of FFD membership, please go to https://flyfishersofdavis.org/about/membership-benefits/
- New Members ONLY: To join FFD, please go to https://flyfishersofdavis.org/memberships/
- Existing Members, Login and Dues Assistance: email webmaster@flyfishersofdavis.org
- For Additional Information: or questions email membership@flyfishersofdavis.org