

Fly Fishers of Davis<http://www.FlyFishersofDavis.org>

Volume 53 Issue 5

The Fisherman's Line

May Meeting, Tuesday May 28th, 2024

7:30 pm @ **Stonegate Country Club**

“Southern Mexico Tarpon on the Fly”

by Maury Hatch

This month Maury Hatch will talk about catching tarpon on the fly in southern Mexico. Maury has been fly fishing the western United States and Mexico for 35+ years. After honing his skills with trout, he hooked his first striped bass in 1995, and has been chasing, catching, and releasing stripers ever since. As a Captain, he guides both out of the San Joaquin Delta in a center console bay boat in the fall and spring, and then on a jet sled on the Feather and the American Rivers in the summer for Stripers and Small Mouth Bass. All trips include top of the line equipment as well as custom tied flies. He is the sales rep for Costa Sunglasses in Northern California as well as an ambassador level pro staffer for the following products: Simms clothing, Sage rods, RIO lines and Galvan reels. In October of last year Maury retired from full time guiding and took a sales position



with Costa Sunglasses. He now only guides for his long time *V.I.P.s*. He still chases stripers 100+ days a year as well as Hosting Trips for Fly Water Travel.



THE PREZ SEZ

Howdy y'all,

I knew I would miss a few folks to thank in last month's prez sez, because there are so many folks that do the things that keep our club running and thriving. We have one program that flies a bit under the radar but is vital not only to our sport but the overall fisheries of the northwest. That is salmon/steelhead in the classroom. It has been run by Adney Bowker for a long time with the help of the egg deliverers. Thanks, Adney and your minions for helping the next generations to learn about the importance of healthy fisheries.

We are now starting to move into a summer pattern. The high country is starting to slowly open up. Shad and stripers are in the rivers if you can get to them. Hatches are already happening in the lower rivers; hopefully the flows will start to come down to fishable levels. I'm itching to fool some fish into taking a dry fly. I have hope for this week as a group of old codgers including myself invade Fall River. It will either be an epic trip of picene delight or an ill-fated three-hour tour...I'll let you know at the meeting whether we find lots of fish or Gilligan and the crew.

Come out to the meeting early for fly casting practice and instruction. It is held out on the lawn by the lake starting at 6:30. Just walk on out introduce yourself and pick up a rod. As the summer season starts, come to the meetings, and meet some folks. A lot of people are looking for someone to fish with, and there's always someone with new information.

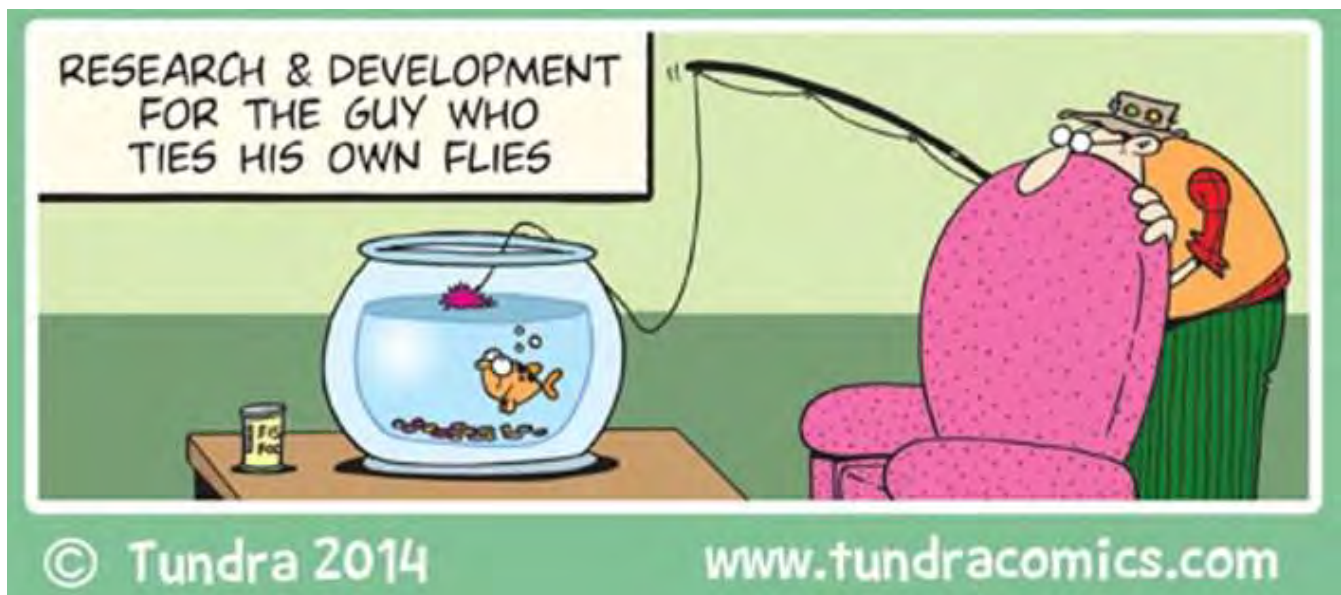
Mark your calendars for June 25. We will be having our annual picnic instead of our regular meeting. It will be at Pioneer Park. Details will be included in the evite and will be available at the meeting.

Catch as many as you can, the way that you want, as often as you can, as long as you can.

Andan

Note from the Editor

We're looking for a more permanent editor for the newsletter. It's not a difficult task, but you need to have a good working knowledge of Microsoft Word and it will take 2-3 hours each month to put it together. You don't need to write it (although some editing may be needed) – just receive the content from others and update the template each month. If you would like to try this, or want more information on what it entails, talk to Lowell at the meeting.



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 2024 Meeting Schedule			
MONTH	SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC
May	Murray Hatch	May 28	
June	Club Picnic	June 27	Watch for an evite for the 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 2024. 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 many 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/FlyFishersOfDavis](https://www.facebook.com/FlyFishersOfDavis)



CONSERVATION REPORT

By Lowell Ashbaugh

Conservation Mailing List Want to keep up on conservation issues in between newsletters? Join the FFD Conservation Google Group list. Click [here](#) for instructions on how to join, and search for “FFD-Conservation”. Or send an email to Ashbaugh.lowell@gmail.com with your request.

Note: If you'd like to try 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.

Research scientists at Oregon State University have found that reproductive success improves after a single generation of hatchery chinook in the wild. Kathleen O'Malley described the results, published in the journal *Evolutionary Applications*, as encouraging for chinook salmon recovery efforts.

"Previous studies have shown that hatchery-origin Chinook salmon have lower reproductive success relative to their natural-origin counterparts when they spawn in the wild, but this study looks beyond that," said O'Malley, who directs the State Fisheries Genomics Lab. The researchers examined DNA for nearly 10,000 fish and created family trees from the results. They found that wild-born descendants of hatchery-origin chinook salmon in the Upper Willamette River showed improved fitness, as measured by the number of offspring produced. The results suggest that reproductive success may improve in the wild as quickly as it declines in the hatchery.

The data were developed using fin clips collected over 13 years at a hatchery constructed in 2010 at the Cougar Dam on the South Fork McKenzie River.

The results showed that first-generation, wild-born descendants of two hatchery-origin fish produced significantly more adult offspring than hatchery-origin salmon that spawned alongside them in the river. Furthermore, the first-generation descendants produced similar numbers to natural-origin salmon.

Although the results are encouraging for the reestablishment of wild populations from hatchery stock, the authors caution that they may not apply to other river systems that have

reduced natural populations. Also, the practices specific to the McKenzie River hatchery may have maintained genetic diversity in the descendants of hatchery-origin fish.

You can read the journal article at [DOI: 10.1111/eva.13678](https://doi.org/10.1111/eva.13678). A more complete description of it is available at <https://phys.org/news/2024-04-reproductive-success-generation-wild-descendants.html>.

Winter-run chinook salmon are being reintroduced to the McCloud River in a pilot project being conducted by the Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the Winnemem Wintu Tribe. Salmon haven't been able to access this area since before Shasta Dam was constructed and cut it off.

The pilot project involves installing a floating structure that spans the width of the river called the [Juvenile Salmon Collection System](#) (collection system) at the point where the McCloud River meets Shasta Reservoir. The collection system is designed to safely catch juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon as they migrate out of the upper river before they get stuck in the vast reservoir. What makes the collection system unique is it's a passive system that can be moved as river and reservoir levels change.

The project began in 2022. During that year, no fish were collected, and the focus was on testing the collection system to figure out the best depth, location, and methods to collect fish. Then in 2023, the project expanded with the goal of collecting juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon. The Tribe, CDFW, and NMFS worked together to place salmon eggs

into the river using egg incubators with the hope that they would hatch and thrive in their natural habitat.

The project was tested by releasing upriver 300 hatchery-raised and tagged juvenile winter-run Chinook salmon once a week and then seeing how many were captured in the collection system. The tests showed the system worked as planned.

Once the program is up and running and juvenile salmon are collected, they are checked to see which are hatchery-raised and which are river-hatched. The two types are compared to see how fast and how big the river-hatched fish have grown in comparison to those raised in the hatchery. If the river-hatched juveniles do well, then that is evidence the historical habitat above the dams is good for the salmon. After the juvenile salmon are checked, DWR places the fish into containers. The containers are given to CDFW and Winnemem Wintu Tribal monitors to physically transport and release the fish below the dams on the Sacramento River.

You can read more about this project at the [CDWR website](#), and to see the Juvenile Salmon collection system in action and learn more about the project watch these videos of [year 1](#) and [year 2](#) of the project and view DWR's [photo gallery](#).

The DWR released a cost-benefit analysis of the Delta Conveyance Project (The Delta Tunnel) this month that found the project would create billions of dollars in benefits, including reliable water supplies, climate change adaptation, earthquake preparedness, and improved water quality. According to the analysis, for every dollar spent, \$2.20 in benefits would be generated.

It's hardly surprising that this analysis resulted in showing a positive benefit. But there are well-known Economists Letters that point out the flaws in most cost-benefit analyses regarding salmon restoration efforts. A cursory look at the Benefit-Cost analysis document does not show any mention of the impact on the salmon fishery from the Tunnel.

A 1998 letter to governors in the Pacific Northwest from 39 economists regarding

management of Pacific salmon pointed out that most of the discourse regarding economic issues of salmon recovery has focused on the costs of recovery, with little attention given to the economic benefits. For example, the effects on goods and services such as commercial salmon, timber production, and agricultural production should be given the same consideration as recreational fishing, clean streams, and biodiversity. These latter effects are not typically included in these analyses.

A 2003 letter to President Bush and the governors of eleven western states from (too many to count) western economists pointed out that the West's natural environment is arguably its greatest economic asset. But this economic asset is largely ignored in cost-benefit analyses, leading to environmental degradation and economic harm.

They requested that any cost-benefit review should:

- Identify actions having a significant impact on the environment and fully describe the benefits and costs of each.
- Reinforce those actions that strengthen the economy by protecting or restoring environmental quality.
- Arrest those actions that damage the economy by degrading the environment.

One specific example they provided was slow action to conserve threatened and endangered species. Congress has failed to provide adequate funding, and federal agencies have dragged their feet when called upon to conserve threatened and endangered species. These actions jeopardize the economic outlook for western communities by increasing the risks to species with high economic value, protecting inefficient and often subsidized activities harmful to both the species and the economy, and raising the ultimate costs of conserving the species.

Although these letters are decades old, the issues they present are timely today. The cost-benefit analysis for the Delta Tunnel suffers from the same deficiencies these economists pointed out decades ago.

FFD EVENTS: Hat Creek 2024

Photos and Summary by Dana Hooper

After rain was in the forecast, we ended up with a nice group of 12 total that persevered through rain, snow and beautiful sun. Some fishers caught their first fish ever on a fly and everybody ended up catching fish. Friday was a beautiful day driving up with plenty of sun and warmth. Saturday wind showed up with some showers till about 1:00 then it turned out to be a pretty nice day. Sunday was beautiful and sunny with fresh snow over the peaks.

We had some nice wild fish caught but mostly a bunch of small stocked rainbows. The trout participated pretty good for everyone.

Everyone enjoyed the chicken street tacos and all the fixings. The cake and brownies were a great hit as well. Thanks to all those that helped in the dinner prep and bringing sides to finish off the dinner.

The weekend ended up being a great time with some new friends and lots of new knowledge.

Thank you everyone for joining us on FFD Hat Creek Outing 2024.



Group Photo



Mark Wilson trying to get a bite



Mark Thompson's first trout on a fly



Stewart with a nice wild rainbow

FFD EVENTS: Hat Creek 2024



Looks like tacos, was it Tuesday?



Group dinner



Nikki, Heather and Lyn sharing a moment



Keeping warm by the fire



Beautiful spring weather...



...turns to snow!

FFD EVENTS: Duck Days Fly Tying

Photos and Summary by Paul Berliner

Our ace team of fly tiers participated in Duck Days on April 27, and we had quite the crowd all day. Our team included Stuart Meyer, Jim Lawson, Bob Zasoski, Matt Perry, Jack Norlyn and yours truly. This year, unlike in years past, we were indoors in the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Headquarters building, and this made all the difference – since our feathers weren’t flying all over the Yolo Causeway. Better yet, we shared the room with a few live raptors, courtesy of the Native Bird Connections organization. All in all, this was a great outreach event for FFD, with lots of brochures distributed, lots of joy on the kids’ faces, and lots of great conversation about our sport.



Wrap this way, please



Bob has them enchanted



Dad is more interested than daughter



Is this a team, or what?

FFD EVENTS: Duck Days Fly Tying



It's gotta be pink!



Matt shows the way



Pay attentin to Jim's technique



Step right up and learn!



Stuart teaches future fly tiers



Tell your parents "Take me fishing!"

Feather Fun

By Jim Lawson

I have heard that money can't buy happiness, but it can buy the kind of misery that you enjoy. I wouldn't know about that, but I can say the same thing about fishing. Men of a certain age are accustomed to the three o'clock wake up call, but it isn't usually to suit up and head out into the icy darkness. But here we are on the Feather River, happy to be here with the rest of the world's early risers - the muskrats, the Peregrine falcons, feral cats. Andy Guibord has taken us to Star Bend Park and boat launch. If you go there (don't) you will find a world class parking lot and a third world launch. It is clearly an afterthought; after the builders realized they had forgotten to build one until it was too late, they jimmied one in against the far bank, deep in the mud and undergrowth. We had a good day, finding our fair share of stripers, and culminating in this prehistoric striper. This is the moral: go fishing whenever and wherever you can. Bring good friends and a substantial lunch, and you will find happiness.



This is by far the largest fish I have ever caught!



Me too!



I hope to see you later.



Just think, in a few years.....

FFD Fuller Lake Outing

Single-day outing to Fuller Lake located at about 5,500 feet near Emigrant Gap, about a 1:45 drive from Davis. Flootation device is pretty much required as shore fishing is very limited. Float tube, kayak, or pram work best. Trout are mostly small stocked rainbows with some larger resident rainbows and browns.

Date: 6/15/2024

Fishmeister: Shawn DeArmond

Contact: dearmond@gmail.com

Comments: Day trip, Flootation device



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OUTINGS & EVENTS FFD 2024

Proposed FFD Outings & Events

<u>Trip 2024</u>	<u>Fish</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fishmeister</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>
FFD Casting Clinic			May 5	Bob Zasoski	rzasoski@sbcglobal.net	
Hat Creek 101	Trout		May 3,4 & 5	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Camping
Lake Berryessa	Mult. Sp.	Boat	May	Peter Hawes	hawsheatair@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
Putah Creek	Trout		April/May	Son Chong	vsonkilchong@gmail.com	Day trip
Lake Berryessa	Mult. Sp.	Boat	May	Peter Hawes	hawsheatair@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
Delta Bass N Fly Tourn	Black Bass	Boat	TBD	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
Lower Sac Float (Spring)	Trout	Guide	TBD	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Fee + Tip
Shad Sac or Feather River	Shad	Boat	May	Peter Hawes	hawsheatair@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
FFD Annual Picnic			June			
Fuller Lake	Trout		6/15	Shawn DeArmond	dearmond@gmail.com	Floatation Device, Day trip
McCloud River	Trout		TBD	Peter Hawes	hawsheatair@gmail.com	Camping
Umpqua River	Smallmouth	Guide	TBD	Gene Gantt	fishinggantt@comcast.net	Fee + Tip
Manzanita Lake Trip	Trout		August	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@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	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Fee + Tip
Delta Striper Fest 2023	Stripers	Boat	Nov. 2	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Boater pair with non boater
Luke Lake	Mult. Sp.	Boat	December	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Fee
<u>Trip 2025</u>	<u>Fish</u>		<u>Dates</u>	<u>Fishmeister</u>	<u>Contact</u>	<u>Comments</u>
Pyramid Lake	Trout		TBD	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Lodge/Hotel
Lower Yuba Walk Wade	Trout		TBD Feb	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Day trip
Baum Lake	Trout		TBD March	Dana Hooper	troutheadup1@gmail.com	Baum Lake

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The Fisherman's Line is published by:

The Fly Fishers of Davis

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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/>.

Fly Fishers of Davis
PO Box 525
Davis, CA 95617-0525

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.

- **[Membership Benefits:](https://flyfishersofdavis.org/about/membership-benefits/)** For more information about the many benefits of FFD membership, please go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/about/membership-benefits/>
- **[New Members ONLY:](https://flyfishersofdavis.org/memberships/)** To join FFD, please go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/memberships/>
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