



October Meeting

Tuesday October 27, 2026

7:30 pm @ Stonegate Country Club

919 Lake Blvd, Davis, CA 95616

Johnny Feaster presents Putah Creek Fly Fishing & Conservation

This month, Johnny Feaster, owner and head guide of Feaster Fishing in Winters, will present an inside look at one of California's most unique and challenging wild trout fisheries.

Drawing from hundreds of days spent on the water each year, Johnny will share the history of Putah Creek, explain what makes its wild rainbow trout so special, discuss seasonal conditions, reading water, effective techniques, and common mistakes anglers make. He'll also cover the importance of conservation, responsible angling, and the community efforts that have helped protect this remarkable fishery for future generations. Whether you're new to Putah Creek or have fished it for years, you'll leave with practical knowledge and a deeper appreciation for this incredible local trout stream.



With more than 25 years of angling experience, Johnny specializes in guided fly-fishing trips on Putah Creek and Lake Berryessa, combining personalized instruction with a passion for conservation. A published author in California Fly Fisher and a frequent presenter at Northern California fly fishing clubs, Johnny shares his knowledge to help anglers connect with and protect their local waters. Known as a patient teacher as much as a guide, Johnny is passionate about helping anglers build confidence, improve their skills, and develop a lasting appreciation for the fisheries they enjoy.

THE PREZ SEZ

By Ron Rabun

There is significant recognition to members this month:

First, Matt Perry and Dave Fujino have nearly completed the Aquarium Chiller Fund-Raising Project. The \$20,000 Project Goal is near completion. Paul is working with Matt to complete the FFD page web-link for the videos as part of their donation commitment. Once the link is established, FFD members will need to survey the videos in support of the donation. This donor tracks views, so FFD member views will be important in supporting their chillers donation. Matt and the committee hope to obtain and install many of the new chillers before the mid-November classroom egg distribution. See Matt's report contained later in this newsletter issue.

Second, Jeff Hogan received his Master of Fly-Casting Certification (MFC) from the Federation of Flyfishers International (FFI). Jeff spent many months and sessions at The Golden Gate Casting Club (GGCC) casting ponds in San Francisco completing his Casting Instructor (CI) and Master of Fly-Casting Instruction (MCI) certifications. FFD appreciates that we have Jeff as a member and club casting instructor. FFD tries to schedule monthly casting clinics frequently led by Jeff and other members. See the newsletter and look for club E-blasts for scheduled casting clinics. Please, congratulate Jeff on his challenging accomplishment!

Finally, at last month's meeting, Elijah Brownstein gave a presentation of his recent Fish Camp experience sponsored by The Fly Shop. Elijah was our 2026 Youth Trout Camp Scholarship recipient. The 2027 Trout Camp Scholarship will again be available. See the application and requirements contained on the FFD website (coming soon). **Note:** Elijah also won the fly box and flies for wearing his name badge at the meeting.

HERE'S YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE OFFICIAL FLY FISHERS OF DAVIS (FFD) ORGANIZATION. Members should note that the upcoming FFD Officers and Board of Director(s) Election process begins in October with the election taking place at the December FFD General Meeting scheduled for Tuesday, December 15, 2026, 7:30 PM, at Stonegate Country Club. October/November nominations are now open. The Election Committee will open nominations and develop a slate to be published in the November newsletter. Final nominations and solicitations will be held at the December meeting followed by the election. Newly elected Officers and Directors take over at the first FFD Board Meeting, on Tuesday, January 12, 2027, 7pm, at Steve's Pizza in Davis.

A **Nominations and Election Committee** has been formed including Stuart Meyers, Dan Galloway, and Dana Hooper. The Nominations and Election Committee is responsible for determining the open Officer and Director positions, soliciting nominees, and conducting the Election Process. If you're interested contact any of the Committee members.

Report on FEDERATION OF FLYFISHERS INTERNATIONAL FLYFEST (Ron Rabun)

The FFI held their annual FLY FEST in Redding the weekend of September 24th. FLY FEST corporate sponsor was The FLY SHOP, Redding. Between fly tyers, casters and displays, there were approximately 300 attendees. Rick Wallinder and I represented FFD. The Dinner Auction was very successful, raising nearly \$40,000 for FFI programs. Fly casting instruction widely covered beginning casting, Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) courses and Certified Casting Instructor (FFI-CI) testing. Featured speaker George Daniels gave many sessions including Euro casting, fly tying and

angling techniques. It seems there were more than 40 fly tyers, local and from across the world. Hopefully, FLY FEST success will bring another event back to California soon.

NAME BADGE DRAWING (Ron Rabun)

At the September 2026 regular meeting, we began a drawing for a fly box with flies for all those members wearing their badges. The Name Badge drawing was meager in my view. Seems like only half of the attendees wore their name badges and received a Drawing ticket.

Please come up to Ron Rabun, President, prior to the start of the meeting wearing your badge, and you will receive a ticket for the Badge Drawing conducted following the regular drawing.

UPDATE ON SALMON IN THE CLASSROOM **AND NEW CHILLERS**

By Matt Perry

New aquarium chillers are on order for our classroom aquarium program!

Thank you to all the members and anonymous donors who provided donations for new chillers for our local teachers rearing salmon and steelhead with their students.

We have donations and pledges for approximately \$20,000. This will cover chillers and the necessary pumps and connections for our annual average of 40 participating teachers.

The chillers will arrive on October 20th or 21st and we will start delivering to teachers authorized to raise fall steelhead.

This year's steelhead egg delivery day is November 18. So if all the tanks are set up by November 9, we will be in very good shape.

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: I'm still looking for someone who would like to take up this column, preferably someone a few years younger than me. It's not hard, but it will take a couple of hours each month to put the column together – less if you're more organized than I am. I'll help you get started.

The Scott River, one of the Klamath Basin's most important salmon-producing tributaries, is again running critically low after spending much of the summer below California's emergency minimum-flow requirements. Recent photographs and drone footage show dry river reaches in a valley where irrigated fields remain green.

Quartz Valley Indian Reservation, Communities United for Water Protection, Friends of the Shasta River, Water Environmental Protection Information Center, Water Climate Trust, and the Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International today called on the State Water Resources Control Board to conduct a comprehensive water use and the instream flow program audit in Scott Valley, including the use of Local Cooperative Solutions (LCS - an alternative to curtailment of diversions).

As of September 1, 47 of the 49 Scott River LCS proposals remained pending, representing at least 18,597 acres. The Water Board is allowing groundwater LCS measures to be implemented before final approval, allowing groundwater diversions to continue while applications remain pending.



The Scott River, September 8, 2026

“You can’t deny that there’s something wrong with this picture, a dry river surrounded by green fields. We have record low snowpack in the Scott River Watershed yet the minimal stream flow requirements designed to guarantee that every use gets a fair share are being ignored,” said Vivian Helliwell, Commercial Fisherman and Policy Analyst for Friends of the River. “The state needs to act to protect one of the most important areas for salmon along the California coast and all those who depend on a healthy river.”

“The Scott River is one of the most important salmon producing rivers in the Klamath watershed,” stated Regina Chichizola from Communities United for Water Protection. “California just committed significant resources to dam removal in the Klamath. To allow such an important tributary to run dry as the salmon are returning is indefensible.”

The Scott River’s water rights were adjudicated by the Siskiyou County Superior Court in 1980. That decree established rights to surface water, underflow and groundwater within a specifically delineated interconnected-groundwater area. It also adjudicated a right for fish and wildlife in the river that has never been honored. It did not address the rights and needs of local Tribes who rely on the salmon, and much has changed in the 46 years since that decree was entered.

Groundwater development has expanded, points of diversion have changed, some users have shifted from surface water to groundwater, and decades of additional hydrologic research have greatly improved understanding of the relationship between groundwater pumping and Scott River flows. Tribes who depend on the Scott and Klamath Rivers say it is time to take action.

Tribes, fishermen and river advocates are calling on the Water Board to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive water audit comparing actual surface-water diversions and groundwater pumping with the rights recognized under the Scott River adjudication and other applicable water rights.
2. Verify wells and points of diversion, including wells developed or modified since the 1980 decree, to determine whether they are extracting water that is already adjudicated.

3. Enforce existing rights and restrictions wherever diversions or pumping exceed lawful rights or violate applicable curtailment orders.
4. Evaluate modern groundwater science to determine whether the interconnected-groundwater area identified in 1980 accurately reflects current scientific understanding of groundwater-surface water connectivity in Scott Valley.
5. If compliance with existing rights is confirmed but those rights still allow depletion of the river, initiate the appropriate legal proceedings to update the adjudication so that water management reflects modern hydrologic science and protects the Scott River and the communities, farms, Tribes and fisheries that depend upon it.

“We have an opportunity to get this right,” said Amber Jamieson, Water Advocacy Director for the Environmental Protection Information Center. “There are important opportunities right now for the public to weigh in on the future of the Scott and Shasta Rivers. The North Coast Water Board is considering agricultural waste discharge requirements, and before the end of this year, the State Water Board plans to release a proposed range of minimum flows for the Scott River along with a new hydrologic model examining groundwater and surface-water interactions. Each of these processes will include opportunities for public comment. Now is the time to pay attention and participate.”

Read more about this at [Maven’s Notebook](#) or [FishBio](#).

The South Yuba River Citizens League (SYRCL) finished the initial construction of **Upper Long Bar Habitat Restoration Project** at the end of September. The project is located on the Yuba River about a mile below the Highway 20 bridge and four miles from the spawning habitat at Rose Bar. It’s the latest salmon restoration project completed by SYRCL on the lower Yuba River and is designed to improve edge habitat for juvenile salmon and steelhead. The project is funded by the Wildlife Conservation Board, the Fisheries Restoration Grant Program, and Yuba Water Agency, with project partners including Cramer Fish Sciences, Verdantas Eco Engineering, Silica Resources Inc., Yuba Water Agency, and Anderson Dragline, Inc. The Yuba River does not have a hatchery, so all the adult salmon that return were raised on the floodplains that SYRCL has been building from the spoils of hydraulic mining on the river. Read more about this project and how to become a member to support them at the [SYRCL website](#).

Governor Newsom vetoed a bill designed to reinforce and support the Delta’s levees and protect the Central Valley from flooding and land subsidence. The bill, SB 872, passed both chambers unanimously and had the rare support of State Water Contractors, counties and local governments across the state, and environmental groups (including Restore The Delta). In his veto message, Newsom said that there was already \$170 million in the budget for repairing levees and canals so the measure was unnecessary. But the state’s own data show that the price for fixing the network of 1,100 miles of levees could come to \$3.3 billion. Note that the price of not fixing them could exceed \$22 billion in lost assets and economic activity due to flooding.

If it had been signed into law, the bill would have established a fund in the treasury that could take state money from bond funds, the General Fund and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and use it for levee repairs and to address land subsidence due to excessive groundwater pumping. The bill also would have required the Delta Conservancy to write and publish a five-year spending plan. The veto means that groundwater pumping must be curtailed but a dedicated fund to repair existing damage will not be established. Some levees that need repair will have to be put on hold until sufficient funding is made available. The legislature could override the governor’s veto. That hasn’t happened in 57 years. Let’s see if it happens this year.

FFD FLY CASTING PROGRAM

By Jeff Hogan

The casting clinic held on Sunday, October 11th at Northstar Park had a great turnout of enthusiastic casters wanting to improve their double haul. By the end of the clinic all had achieved their goal.

Double hauling is an advanced cast and an essential skill that when used increases line speed which allows you to be more efficient (use less energy to cast), to better manage windy conditions, and increase your casting distance. It takes a lot of practice to become proficient at double hauling, and I cannot over emphasize how important it is to practice.

Remember my 3 key elements to successful hauling:

1. **A clean fly line!** This significantly helps the line slide through the guides.
2. **The ability to form a good loop.** The energy in that loop will allow it to cut through the air and pull the line through the guides.
3. **Proper timing and length of haul.** The haul must stop at the same time the cast stops (on the back cast and the forward cast). The haul length should match the stroke length. A common error is the haul is performed with a very short and abrupt motion. This leads to tailing loops and/or a failed cast.



The November casting clinic is tentatively scheduled for Sunday, November 15th at Northstar Park 9am-noon.

This clinic will be dedicated to your success in achieving the Bronze level of the Fly Casting Skills Development (FCSD) program. The following casts will be performed:

- Pick up and lay down (PULD) Cast Dominant Side 35 ft.
- PULD Cast Non-Dominant Side 35 ft.
- PULD Cast Horizontal 35 ft.
- Shooting Line 40 ft.
- Accuracy to Targets 25 and 35 ft.
- Roll Cast Dominant Side Minimum 35 ft.
- Distance Cast Minimum 50 ft.



This is not a competition, but rather a fun, interactive way to assess your skill at performing commonly used fishing casts. Upon successful completion of all 7 skills, you have the option of purchasing a pin from Fly Fishers International showing off your accomplishment. Then, Silver and Gold await!

Do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need a loaner rod: casting@flyfishersofdavis.org

Luk Lake: A pay-for-play outing on Monday, November 16

By Dan Brugger

I have had some grand days at Luk Lake over the past few years. Ask many members of the club and they will also likely have some fond memories sprinkled in with perhaps some less cherished ones. In my short institutional memory, I recall at least two overturned prams and, more recently, a fish taking a rod clean out of a boat. That rod was last seen bobbing tip-up in a cove only to shoot across the water still attached to the thief and lost from sight. Maybe we will come across such sunken treasure this next outing and be able to return it to its rightful owner?!



Adam Brugger with one of many that day - Dan Brugger

Luk Lake is located just behind the Rolling Hills Casino in Corning, CA. It is approximately 1.5 hours from Davis and straight up I-5. Access is reserved through The Fly Shop in Redding. Bass and panfish are featured during the warmer seasons. Trophy-sized trout are stocked when the water cools in the Winter and Spring.

To fish Luk Lake, there is an option for a daily (\$175) and a half day (\$105) fee. There is no bank access so a pontoon or float tube is ideal. Although they allow a boat < 14' (electric motors only), the boat launch should be considered treacherous at best. Until the Fly Shop puts resources to repair this ramp, I would not recommend launching a boat off a trailer. They also rent narrow-beam prams for \$25 that are simply death traps. Only the desperate should attempt.

As far as techniques - I have had most success trolling / slow stripping buggers. I've used intermediate and Type 3 sinking lines with success but you could also use a floating line with a sink tip. Vary your retrieve and sink time until the fish respond. Rick Wallinder turned us on to an orange bugger that, for some strange reason, we have had a lot of success with at Luk over the years. Weird. More natural colors work well. When things slow down you can try flies under an indicator especially if you can find a drop next to the weedy patches. I've heard of dry-fly action as well but have never attempted. The quality of the fish last year was IMPRESSIVE. Most were in the 16 - 20" class and they jump & fight better than a stocked trout should.

The 11/16 date is tentative and may change due to water temps and stocking plans. This is a great opportunity for those just getting into fly fishing AND have access to a floating apparatus of some fashion.

Please see me at this month's meeting for more information, and please fill out the sign-up sheet if you'd like to go!

Tight Lines!

CASTING FOR RECOVERY SWEEPSTAKES!

By Nicole Lazarus, CFR Fishing Coordinator

To all our friends at Fly Fishers of Davis:

Help support Casting for Recovery, and get the chance win a 2026 Ineos Grenadier Fieldmaster — complete with Off-Road Rough Pack, plus \$10k cash for registration, taxes and other fees. The total value of this prize is close to \$100k. The winner will work with their local Ineos dealer to customize the vehicle to their liking.



Scan the QR code (to the left) for details. Through the QR code, our Northern California CFR chapter will receive 70% of the proceeds from your ticket purchase.

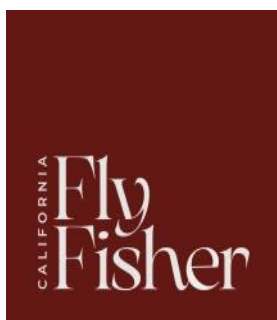
This is a great way to donate to Casting for Recovery with the possibility of winning a prize. The more tickets you purchase, the more bonus entries you get.

For example:

- \$25 gets 18 entries + 4 promo entries
- \$100 gets 90 entries + 18 promo entries

The sweepstakes runs through 12/1/26. The winner is drawn on 12/9/26.

CALIFORNIA FLY FISHER MAGAZINE **PROMOTIONAL OFFER!**



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If you love swapping stories at the next meeting, tying flies at the bench, or planning your next trip to the Sierra, this magazine belongs on your shelf (and in your inbox).



MEETING SCHEDULE

Peter Hawes is FFD's program chair. Let him know if you like the program speakers, or, if you have ideas and suggestions for one, please let us know at the next meeting. You can email Peter at programs@flyfishersofdavis.org.

Fly Fishers of Davis 2026 Meeting Schedule			
MONTH	SPEAKER	DATE	TOPIC
October	Johnny Feaster	October 27	Berryessa and Putah Creek
November	Rick Bruglia	November 17	Custom Rod Building FFD Board Nominations
December	FFD Club Members	December 15	Homegrown, White Elephant Gift Exchange FFD Officer Elections

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP

IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL DETAILS



Website Members: If you signed up for membership on the 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 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. You can also send a renewal check to Fly Fishers of Davis, P.O. Box 525, Davis, CA, 95617.

Note: Our preferred method for renewal is to become website members, by signing up on the website! Dues for individuals and family memberships are \$35/year, and a student membership is \$10/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 support!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETINGS

Your FFD Board of Directors (BOD) meets once per month on the second Tuesday of each month (effective February 2026) to discuss many aspects of the club, including charitable contributions, conservation, budget planning, and the Annual Picnic and Annual Dinner. If you'd like to attend a board meeting, bring up an issue or send a message, the BOD meets in Davis, and welcomes your feedback! Since meeting places may change, please contact a board member or club officer for time and place details if you would like to attend.



UTINGS & EVENTS - FFD 2026

PROPOSED FFD OUTINGS & EVENTS

Trips & Events 2026	Species & Info	Dates	Contact	Notes
Striper Fest	Stripers	Oct / Nov	Dana Hooper	Boater pair w/non-boater
Heenan Lake/Carson River	Trout	Nov 6-9	Jacob Orton	Camping and fishing
Casting Clinic	Jeff Hogan Instructor	November 15	Jeff Hogan	Northstar Park 9-12
Luk Lake	Trout and Bass	Nov 16	Dan Brugger	Float Tube needed

Here's a link to NCCFFI
Website, Calendar of
Events and Membership.



FLY FISHERS | **NORTHERN CALIFORNIA**
INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

Jeff Putnam's
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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 meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month except for December, and other exceptions are noted in our newsletter. FFD meetings and membership are open to the public. The Fly Fishers of Davis provide equal opportunity membership without discrimination on sex, race, origin, age or religious orientation.

OFFICERS			DIRECTORS	
Term: 2 years			Term: 3 years	
President:	Ron Rabun	Through Dec.2027	Stuart Meyers	Through Dec. 2026
Vice President	Dana Hooper	Through Dec.2027	Peter Hawes	Through Dec. 2026
Treasurer	Andan Bailey	Through Dec.2026	Marc Wilson	Through Dec. 2027
Secretary	Matt Perry	Through Dec.2026	Dan Galloway	Through Dec. 2027
			vacant	Through Dec. 2028
			Dan Brugger	Through Dec. 2028
COMMITTEES				
Outings	Dana Hooper	Programs	Peter Hawes	Youth Fish Camp Andan Bailey
Conservation	Lowell Ashbaugh	Hospitality	Dave Fujino	Casting Jeff Hogan
Membership	Marc Wilson	Raffle Chair	Peter Hawes	Website Bob Beverlin
Newsletter	Meyers / Wilson	Fly Tying	Bob Zasoski	Website Paul Berliner
NCCFFI	Ron Rabun	Youth Programs	Adney Bowker	

E-Newsletter Policy

Each month, the e-newsletter will be posted to our website and emailed prior to the meeting. To view our PDF newsletter, download Acrobat reader at: <https://get.adobe.com/reader/>. 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 individual memberships (\$35), student memberships (\$10) and family memberships (\$35). 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 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. For more information or if you have questions, please email membership@flyfishersofdavis.org

- Membership benefits: go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/about/membership-benefits/>
- New members ONLY: to join, go to <https://flyfishersofdavis.org/memberships/>
- Existing members, login and dues assistance: email webmaster@flyfishersofdavis.org

Important: The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter's articles are those of the respective authors only, and do not necessarily reflect the views or positions of the Fly Fishers of Davis Board of Directors, or the club's general membership.

Newsletter Submissions: To send articles and photos etc. to be included in the newsletter, email all materials to newsletter@flyfishersofdavis.org. Please put *FFD The Fisherman's Line* in the subject line. Deadline for materials is the 15th of each month. Not all submissions will be published.