

August 2018

# Headwaters

NEWSLETTER OF THE  
STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS

Stanislaus  
Fly Fishers

A CHARTER CLUB  
OF FLY FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL

MEMBER OF THE  
NORTHERN  
CALIFORNIA  
COUNCIL OF FLY  
FISHERS  
INTERNATIONAL

2018  
General Meeting

Tuesday, 2018

Fly Club Social  
@The Devine Swine  
825 Roseburg Ave.  
Modesto, CA  
6:00 p.m.

New Location!

Grace Lutheran Church  
617 W. Orangeburg  
Modesto, CA

## President's Message

I hope your summer has been going well. It's time to get back in the swing of things, and this month we are going to do something a little different. We will be having a Fly Club Social at Divine Swine @ 825 Roseburg Ave., Modesto. We will be starting @ 6:00 PM. They are in Roseburg Square not far from where we regularly meet.

Since many requested we do family events like the Christmas Party, this is an opportunity for you to bring out your wives, kids, and grandkids for a social evening. Divine Swine has wonderful food and drinks. This will be a non-hosted event, so come on out even if you only get something to drink.

On the fishing side, I have been out on the Stanislaus River @ Two-Mile Bar several times in the past month. Fishing has been good with six

fish to hand in a two-hour span to absolutely nothing. I don't know why when the flows are the same – the water temp & air temp is the same, but that's fishing. Maybe I should check the lunar calendar?

I know others have been out to the Little Truckee, East Walker, and places beyond, so Tuesday's social would be a good place to get some current fishing reports. See you there.

---

*"There's a fine line between fishing and standing on the shore like an idiot."*

-Steven Wright

*"All Americans believe that they are born fishermen. For a man to admit a distaste for fishing would be like denouncing mother-love or hating moonlight."*

-John Steinbeck

*"What a tourist terms a plague of insects, the fly fisher calls a great hatch."*

-Patrick F. McManus

# Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$36 per year for members.

Members must also join Fly Fishers International. Dues vary, but do not exceed \$35 for a single, one-year membership.

## SPONSOR



## WE SUPPORT



Like us on **Facebook** 

**We're on the Web!**



## Club News

### ***August Program: "Family & Friends Social Night"***

In lieu of a formal program this month, we'll be having an un-hosted social night at the Divine Swine Grill & Bar, 825 W. Roseburg, Modesto (located in Roseburg Square). Bring your wives/girlfriends/friends and let's share an evening of getting to know each other better. We'll be meeting at 6:00 p.m. as usual. Whether you have dinner or just liquid refreshment is completely up to you, but the food there is highly rated. It was voted *209 Magazine's* Reader's Choice Best in Barbeque in July 2017.

...

Derald Lahti recently shared this picture taken on a June trip to Everglades National Park. He reports: "I fished three days and caught about 8-10 small snook, redfish, and trout each day. And this trophy as enticement." Well done, Derald, and thanks for sharing!





**Stanislaus Fly Fishers**  
**2018 Board of Directors**

President – Jim Goodwin  
Vice-President – Jeff Bakker  
Treasurer – Bob Ramos  
Secretary – Rick Allen  
Membership – Dennis  
Stambaugh  
Conservation – Lonnie Moore  
Raffles – Jim Bowen  
Webmaster – Mike Hewitt  
At-Large – Bud Heintz  
At-Large – Pat Roe  
At-Large – Bob Nakagawa

*Board Meetings are held  
on the fourth Tuesday of the  
month at 5:00 p.m. at Me & Ed's  
Pizza on Pelandale Ave. in  
Modesto. All members are  
welcome to attend.*

*Board Meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the month at 5:00 p.m. at Me & Ed's Pizza on Pelandale Ave. in Modesto. All members are welcome to attend.*

### *Club News (cont.)*

The August meeting will be a no-host event at the Divine Swine. No club-provided dinner this month. See the President's Message.

**SMALL RAFFLE**

When held, the small item raffle is \$5 per ticket or 3/\$10 and only for members in attendance the night of the meeting. The items will be on display and the raffle tickets sold prior to the meeting. The raffle will be held at the end of the meeting time.

**DOOR PRIZE**

The monthly door prize is for members only. When you arrive and sign in at the meeting, you will receive a ticket for the door prize raffle of a half-dozen flies tied by one of our members. *Members who donate flies for the door-prize drawing, will receive two regular raffle tickets.*

**LARGE RAFFLE (52 Playing Cards + 2 Jokers)**

There is no current large raffle.

Membership Dues (\$36) for 2018 are overdue. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues, but there will be an additional fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction.

**Reminder: These are the club dues and *DO NOT* include FFI dues.** FFI dues are paid directly to the FFI and must be maintained regularly since the SFF is an FFI Charter Club. If you are not an FFI Life Member, or do not pay for three years at a time, **you must renew your membership yearly!** Also, remember to list the Stanislaus Fly Fishers as your **Affiliated Club**. This is important due to our Charter Club status. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

## FFI Membership [Application](#)

## Upcoming Outings and Events

LITTLE TRUCKEE OUTING - October 5-7, 2018

SALMON FESTIVAL - November 10, 2018 @ Knight's Ferry 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

HOLIDAY DINNER - December 11, 2018 (TBD)

## Tundra Comics



# Conservation Notes

Reprinted from *National Wildlife Federation Blog*

<http://blog.nwf.org/2018/08/california-fires-a-searing-image-of-our-megafires-era/>

## California Fires a Searing Image of Our Megafires Era

MILES GRANT | AUGUST 8, 2018

With so many intense fires currently burning across the western United States, it's hard to convey to those outside the region just how bad it is for firefighters, communities and wildlife. Here are the big numbers: There are 103 large fires burning more than 1.5 million acres across 14 states, according to the National Interagency Fire Center. In 2018 to date, more than 5.3 million acres have burned.

Let's take a look at how communities and wildlife are being impacted, and what we can do to prevent and manage future megafires, which burn 100,000 acres or more.

### California Infernos

The Golden State is at the epicenter of the current fire season:

**The Mendocino Complex fire, which became the largest wildfire in California history on Monday night, had burned more than 290,000 acres as of Tuesday morning, officials said. The sprawling blaze, which is actually a combination of the Ranch and River fires in Lake County, has frustrated firefighters as it continues to leap natural and man-made barriers. ... Prolonged drought and extreme heat have made California ripe for dangerous fire conditions in recent months and years. Of the five largest wildfires in state history, four have occurred since 2012.**

Those records are hard to comprehend. If all that wasn't enough, the Carr fire in Northern California that destroyed more than 1,000 homes also continues to grow, with 167,113 acres burned so far. And down in Orange County, firefighters are battling a 4,000-acre brush fire in the Cleveland National Forest.

Beth Pratt, NWF's Regional Executive Director for California, lives outside Yosemite National Park and has experienced two major fires the last two years. "Last year the Detwiler Fire scorched through our community and destroyed 63 homes—we had to evacuate but our home was luckily spared. This summer, fire struck again in our community, with the Ferguson Fire. Sadly, it's becoming the new normal here in California with climate change and drought."

### Harm to Wildlife

While natural wildfires can have some beneficial effects on ecosystems, megafires threaten to destroy huge swaths of habitat. Birds and adult animals can often flee the flames, they can't take their nests or dens with them.

The National Wildlife Federation's Lauren Anderson has detailed how all fires aren't the same – these hotter, more intense burns can be much more devastating to fish and wildlife:

**Fire that burns through built-up dead vegetation, caused in part by overly aggressive fire suppression practices, can burn so hot that it damages the root systems that hold soil in place. This can increase the risk of erosion and runoff when rains return. The runoff and associated mudslides can damage the streams, rivers, and lakes that fish and other wildlife depend on. Severe megafires can also burn so hot that they destroy native seed banks, which makes it harder for native vegetation to regenerate following a fire. When native vegetation isn't able to grow back it leaves habitat more vulnerable to invasive species.**

Climate change is part of the problem. As the National Wildlife Federation detailed in our Megafires report last fall, global warming has pushed us into a new era of hotter, more intense, and more frequent fires. The eight worst fire seasons on record have all occurred in the past 15 years. The Washington Post's Angela Fritz also reported recently that firefighters say fires are behaving differently than in the past, with unpredictable winds making them harder to fight.

## Trump's Tweets

President Trump issued a series of tweets in recent days, pointing fingers at forest management and policies that give some limited protections to the natural water flow fish depend on. As the Los Angeles Times' Michael Hiltzik writes, the president's criticisms are off-base:

**The likeliest explanation for his take on water is that he's confused by the demands for more irrigation water he's hearing from Republican officeholders in the Central Valley. They're the people who grouse about water being "wasted" by being diverted to the ocean, rather than into their fields.**

**Their demands have nothing to do with the availability of water for firefighting. Fire agencies haven't been complaining about a lack of water, especially water "diverted" to the Pacific. Major reservoirs are near the worst fire zones; the Carr fire is near Lake Shasta and Whiskeytown Lake and the Mendocino Complex fire is near Clear Lake. All are at or near their historical levels.**

## Long-Term Solutions

Congress took a step forward earlier in 2018 when it included a firefighting funding fix in a forestry reform package, but much more is needed:

- We need federal legislation to cut climate-disrupting carbon pollution
- Congress should prioritize forest restoration, advance outcome-driven wildfire management practices, and encourage more responsible and fire-wise development in wildland areas
- Wildlife need dedicated investment in protecting and restoring habitat through the Recovering America's Wildlife Act

We'll be watching the fires out west. Follow National Wildlife Federation Action Fund on Facebook and Twitter to stay updated on how you can help protect wildlife from megafires and other extreme weather caused by climate change.

## Suggested Reading (Click on link to read)

- [\*Guest Opinion: 'Definite Plan' explains details of removing dams\*](#) - Conservation
- [\*Corporation submits plans to remove four dams on Klamath River\*](#) - Conservation
- [\*Soft Hackles\*](#) - Technique
- [\*Why California's New Wild and Scenic River Is a Big Deal\*](#) - Conservation
- [\*Guest Species – What about the nonnative species we like?\*](#) - Conservation

## Video Links (Click on link to view)

- [\*The Trout that Saved Mono Lake\*](#) - Conservation
- [\*Performance Fly-Casting: Length of the Casting Stroke\*](#) - Technique
- [\*The Last Steelhead: An Eco-Rock Opera\*](#) - Conservation (audio link)
- [\*Hat Creek: A Wild Trout Legacy\*](#) - Profile
- [\*Woodman Creek Fish Passage Project 2018\*](#) - Conservation



## A Cast from the Past

*Reprinted from the August 1982 Newsletter of the Stanislaus Fly Fishermen*

### **FISH TALES**

This roving reporter [Curt Stevenot] has heard some good ones this month, and I would like to share them with you. First, there is a gentleman that recently attended our McSwain outing. He was so fired up about the action, he made a return trip the following Tuesday. Upon his return to his favorite spot he proceeded to take a couple of fish. Then he did it, so he claims, he hooked up with the one that broke him off the Saturday of the outing. The reason he was sure it was the same fish is that, so he claims, the fish was still wearing his fly in his mouth. Now that is very well in the realm of possibility, so now that I have got your attention, try this one: Recently there was a person fishing on Hot Creek watching half a dozen fish taking nymphs, while fishing some holding water. Now this person made a few casts to a fish in his slot, and hooked up with him. But after a few turns and shakes the fish released himself only to casually swim back to his slot and resume feeding. So the angler moved upstream a few yards and fished the next hole. After a short period of time, returned to the same spot only to hook and release the same fish. Sounds like a hungry fish, huh?

Then there is the fellow that claims at an undisclosed location nearby which could be anywhere within two hours got into a spinner fall, the kind you only dream about or always happened yesterday. Also took a fish every cast. Well, we all know that place does not exist in Central California, don't we?

And finally the person that just returned from the famous western waters of Montana. He claimed he hooked a seagull, now if he wanted to fish for seagulls who go all the way to Montana? Boy some people!

## Montana Adventures with Bob Nakagawa

