

August 2019

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

2019
General Meeting

Tuesday, August 13,
2019

6:00 p.m.

New Location!

Grace Lutheran Church
617 W. Orangeburg
Modesto, CA

President's Message

I have had the pleasure recently of fishing several Sierra county and Plumas county fisheries. I know both of those areas are a haul for Modesto area anglers but the fishing is a blast!

I have fished the Truckee, Little Truckee and a couple of spots where I have been sworn to secrecy and just can't reveal. "On pain of death" I believe I was told! Not only has the fishing been good but with the wet year we've had the scenery is still springlike.

I hope you have been fishing somewhere and enjoying the great conditions we are having this year. With that said I do have to mention that the streams and rivers are still high. Certainly not unfishable but you need to use caution and a wading staff.

I did do a lot more euro style nymphing. That style of fishing is really fun, productive and can be a little addicting. On one particular river that we euro nymphed we hooked

several large fish each. Before this I would have fished this river with a 3wt and dry flies expecting that a big fish would be 8". What a difference this technique had made in the way I look at a river.

I also float tubed a small Sierra county lake and did well with a floating line and callibaetis emergers. The best part of this outing was that the guys I was fishing with were chuckling about me being the "kid" in the crowd at 65 years old. Both of these gentlemen are in there 70's and kicked all around this lake for the day and looked like they were ready for more. Just goes to show fishing will keep you young.

Well, I will be absent from the meeting this month. We are going to be in Alaska for a week, sightseeing and hopefully doing a little roadside fishing. I will definitely report back at the September meeting. In the meantime get out there and enjoy the great conditions and bring some fishing stories back.

Tight lines! -Jim

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$40 per year for members.

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

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Club News

August General Meeting

This month we return to the Grace Lutheran Church after out annual hiatus month. Hope to see you all there so that we can share summer fishing stories, plan for the upcoming fall season, and generally catch up after the break.

We've been trying to reschedule the rep from the Northern California Council of Fly Fishers International, but to date they haven't been as responsive as we would like.

We are confirmed for participation at the Salmon Festival in Knight's Ferry, Saturday, November 9, 2019. It's a great day with a lot of activities for the kids. We provide them the opportunity to try casting a fly rod at our booth, so come on out and help out if you can. More details as we get closer.

There is some early discussion about a Little Truckee group trip in October. Come to the meeting and be part of the discussion.

So far the Family Meetings we've been holding are not getting the turn out we'd hoped for. We'll be discussing that at the meeting as well.



Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2019 Board of Directors

President – Jim Bowen
Vice-President – Pat Roe
Treasurer – Dennis Stambaugh
Secretary – Michael Hewitt
Membership – Dennis
Stambaugh
Conservation – Open
Raffles – Jim Goodwin
Webmaster – Mike Hewitt
At-Large – Bud Heintz

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.)*

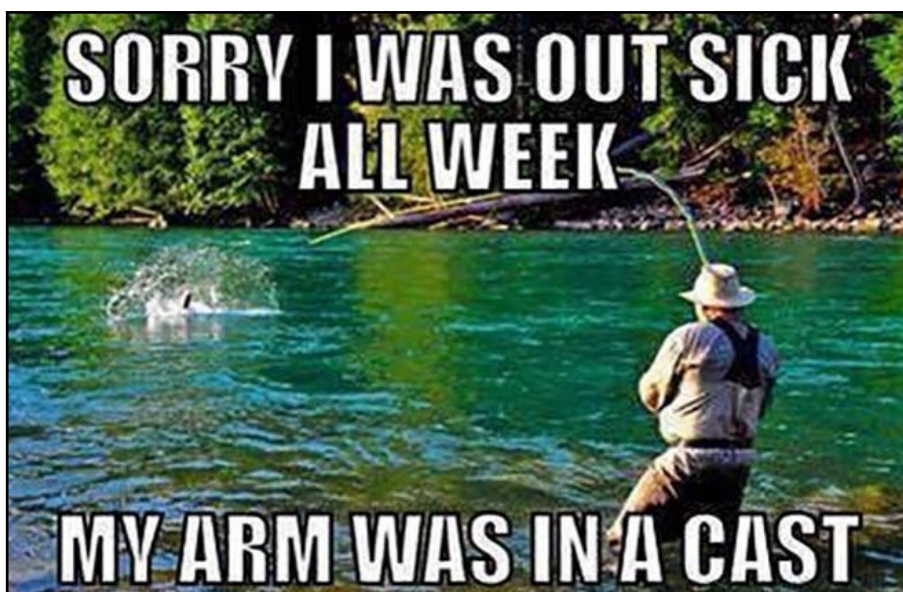
Raffle News

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.

LARGE RAFFLE (52 Playing Cards + 2 Jokers)

There is no current large raffle.



Membership Information

Membership Dues (\$40) for 2019 were due January 1st. 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.

All memberships are "Family Membership" status. Spouses, significant others and children are now all included in every membership.

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 - TBA, October 2019

Salmon Festival - Knight's Ferry, CA November 9, 2019 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

Holiday Dinner - TBA, December 10, 2019 6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show - February 21-23, 2019

Pyramid Lake Outing - TBA, April 2020

Tundra Comics



Conservation Notes

(Reprinted from: <https://midcurrent.com/conservation/nonnative-trout-where-we-went-wrong/>)

Nonnative Trout: Where We Went Wrong

By: Bob Mallard

While once viewed, and rightly so, as the best steward of the resource in the sporting community, can trout fishers truly make that claim today? Is any group of sportsmen more accepting of nonnative species than us? More reliant on artificial propagation and husbandry? As willing to embrace hybrids and other genetic mutations? Has any group of sportsmen lost more native fauna?

Prior to the late 1800s, most of the trout, and I use the term figuratively, caught in America belonged where they were found. The east was home to brook trout, the Rocky Mountains to cutthroat, and the west coast to rainbow trout. There were Arctic charr in New England, Gila and Apache trout in the southwest, and golden trout in California. And Arctic grayling could be found in the Northern Rockies and Michigan.

Today we have rainbows east of the divide, brookies west of the Great Lakes, browns of European ancestry from coast to coast, all of which have been introduced on top of native trout. Gila and Apache trout are hanging by a thread, pushed out by exotic rainbows and browns. Arctic charr are gone from New Hampshire and Vermont and extant in just eleven native waters in Maine, driven out by alien lake trout and landlocked salmon. And browns have pushed grayling out of Michigan, and along with rainbows, greatly reduced them in the Rockies.

To be fair, we trout fishers did not start the nonnative train down the track, the federal government did, specifically, the US Fish Commission. And not long after the feds started playing god in early 1870s, state fish and game managers enthusiastically jumped into the fray, and with both feet. But to be clear, our exploitation of the resource was at least partly to blame, and some would argue, very much so.

Rainbow trout were first introduced outside their native range in 1875. Brown trout showed up on US soil, or more appropriately, water, in 1883. According to US Fish and Wildlife, "As early as 1850 the range of the brook trout started to extend west through introductions." Cutthroat, golden trout, Arctic charr, and grayling were moved around as well, but to a much lesser degree than bows, brookies, and browns.

In the 1930s through 1950s, chinook, chum, coho, and sockeye salmon, all Pacific species, were stocked into waters in Maine – thankfully they didn't take. Starting in 1889, brook trout were introduced to Yellowstone National Park, the nation's flagship public land and one of the most intact ecosystems in America. Brown trout, lake trout, and rainbow trout followed. Basically, we threw nonnative fish around like rose petals at a wedding.

Once the nonnative movement took hold and gained the acceptance and support of the trout fishing masses, state fisheries managers ramped it up and upped the ante. They engineered pigment-deprived "palomino" trout, hybrid splake and tiger trout, and fast-growing nad-zapped triploids, all to satisfy the odd appetite for unnatural fish from within the trout angling community.

While we trout fishers didn't start the nonnative movement, we didn't try to stop it either. And in many ways we have perpetuated it by supporting and even encouraging what amounts to government-sponsored bucket biology. Like many modern state fisheries managers, today's trout angler has become enamored with nonnative species, and other things that don't belong there.

While we fly fishers are admittedly the ones who started the trout conservation movement, it was in trouble right out of the gate. Begun on the banks of the fabled AuSable River in Michigan, a nonnative brown trout fishery that existed at the expense of locally extirpated Arctic grayling, the focus was on wild versus stocked fish, not native versus nonnative fish.

You could call what happened to the nation's native trout "the perfect storm." A lot of things went wrong at once. Angler exploitation degraded our fishing. Habitat degradation did as well. And anglers wanted more than they were getting, and stocking was seen as an

alternative to what would have been unpopular at the time reductions in creel limits and tackle restrictions.

As anglers began to get used to stocked fish, shifting to nonnative fish was not that big of a leap. In some cases, the nonnatives did better than the natives. In other cases, they grew bigger, or faster. Some nonnative trout fought better than the natives. In many cases, anglers did not know the difference, or understand the consequences. And why should they, it was after all the “experts” who were moving the nonnatives around.

As they say, when it comes to nonnative trout, the horse is out of the barn and cannot be put back. Nonnative trout are here to stay. But there appears to be a pro-native movement taking hold that gives me hope we can still hold on to some of what Mother Nature gifted us: Wild native trout. We have the knowledge and technology to do it. The question is do we have the will? The stamina? The appreciation for wild native things?

Hopefully we trout fly fishers can regain our position as the most ecologically enlightened sportsmen. We started fish conservation; we can do it again. We have lessened our footprint by embracing low-impact tackle and promoting catch-and-release. We now shun hero shots in favor of #keepemwet. No one does more habitat work. And few sporting groups have a stronger media, outreach, and volunteer ethic. Let’s put some of that to work saving what is left of our wild native trout and regaining some of what we’ve lost.

Suggested Reading

- [Could a sex change operation be the key to restoring native trout?](#)
- [Ending cutthroat restoration in Utah](#)
- [Fish Every Cast](#)
- [Time to Un-Match the Hatch](#)
- [What Water is Covered by the Clean Air Act](#)

Video Links

- [How Silk Fly Lines Are Made](#)
- [A Healing Journey](#)
- [Fly Fishing the California Coast: Catalina Island and Los Angeles](#)
- [Breaking Free in Mammoth Lakes California](#)
- [How to Read a River](#)