

October 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**

**2018
General Meeting**

**Tuesday,
October 8, 2019**

6:00 p.m.

Regular Location!

Grace Lutheran Church
617 W. Orangeburg
Modesto, CA

President's Message

Hey, it's officially Fall, and it sure feels like it. It's steelhead time and the trout fishing is at its best right now. It's also not too early to start chasing stripers, and the water's warm enough to work a topwater bass bite while you are out there. There meaning of course the California Delta.

Even if the fishing isn't great, the scenery out there this time of year is enough reason to go. The fall colors are starting to pop up in the Sierra's and the streamer fishing should be turning on now as those big trout start to feed up for the coming winter.

Speaking of the Sierra's don't forget that the club has an outing this weekend at the Little Truckee. The guys will be camping and fishing the area of the Truckee and Little Truckee, and if you bring a float tube, there are several lakes in the vicinity to try out.

And Pyramid is open now. I haven't heard any reports, but would think you could get a clue by checking Rob Anderson's Pyramid Lake Fly Fishing site. The Reno Fly Shop can also give you a report if you give them a call.

I hear that Davis Lake is

hitting it's fall stride and kicking out some nice fish. There were German brown trout planted earlier this year at Davis and anglers are picking up one or two here and there. They are still planter size, but give them a year or two and things could get exciting.

I will be away this month. The steelhead bug has bitten and we are off to fish the Rogue for the summer run fish. Pat Roe will host the meeting next week and will be giving a recap of the outing. The board is also working of our annual Christmas dinner. We have Gervasoni's reserved for December 10th. All who attended last year gave this restaurant rave reviews for the dinner and service they provided. You will be seeing an Evite coming your way soon. Please check your calendars and RSVP as soon as you can. We need to provide a head count as soon as possible and no later than November 25th.

Well, that's about it for me, I need to start packing the RV for fishing so I'll make this newsletter a short one. Come to the meeting. Support the club. Buy small raffle tickets while you're there. RSVP the dinner. And Go Fishing!!!

~ Jim

Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Membership dues are \$40 per year for members.

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

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Club News

Coming up next month! November 9, 2019!

The annual Salmon Festival at Knight's Ferry is just around the corner. If you've never attended, we highly recommend a visit. The weather is usually perfect, there are lots of activities for the kids, and it's always fun to watch and count the salmon moving in to spawn.

The club will have its usual booth for introducing children and adults to casting a fly rod. We appreciate the club members that volunteer their time to man the booth and assist in the casting. If you have time to join us and provide basic assistance in casting, please come join us! You don't need to be a master caster to work with kids. We'll start setting up at 9 a.m. The festival opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 3 p.m.



Holiday Dinner

Where: Gervasoni's Restaurant, McHenry Ave., Modesto

When: December 10, 2019

Time: 6:00 pm

Cost: \$25.00 per person, includes Entree & Appetizers

Entree Choices: New York Steak, Pork Chops, Chicken Piccata

No-host Bar

Please make reservations by November 24th!

- We are accepting prize donations for a raffle. Please let us know if you have something you'd like to donate.

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.



"This looks like a good spot, momma, bring grandma and the kids!"

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 - October 4-6, 2019

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

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

Pleasanton Fly Fishing Show - February 21-23, 2019

Pyramid Lake Outing - April 2-5 2020 (2nd-3rd are guided)

Tundra Comics



Conservation Notes

Nonnative Trout: Where We Went Wrong

By: Bob Mallard

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



Native Southern Appalachian Brook Trout (Great Smoky Mountain Natuonal Park)

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.



Yellowstone Cutthroat (Wood River, WY)

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

- [Chasing a Memory](#)
- [White House eliminates advisory boards for marine life, invasive species](#)
- [When in Rome ...](#)
- [5 Reasons Why Pocket Water is Suited For Beginners](#)
- [Get a Few More Years from Your Fly Fishing Gear](#)

Video Links

- [The “Blessed” Two-Tone San Juan Worm](#)
- [What is a Tiger Trout?](#)
- [One Fish](#)
- [Mosquitos & Mayflies: Somewhere Else](#)
- [How to Fish a Dry Fly Downstream](#)

Podcasts

- [Reno Fly Shop: Mike Sevon - Pyramid Lake, LCT and Fly Fishing Pyramid Lake](#)
- [The DrakeCast: Steelhead Ch. 1 : The Baiter & The Swinger](#)