

August 2022

# 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

August Meeting

Tuesday, August 9

6:00 pm

Round Table Pizza  
(Save Mart Center)

Pelandale Ave.  
Modesto, CA

## President's Message

Wow, are we having a hot summer or what? If you are fishing here in the valley you may want to get out early and come in earlier than usual to beat the heat. If you're out please remember to hydrate and slather on the sunscreen. You can beat the heat a little by going to the high country for your fishing. Although everywhere seems to be hotter than usual. Still, remember to hydrate and sunscreen regardless of your fishing destination.

Vivian and I just returned from a trip to the Texas gulf coast. We went hoping to get a few shots at Jack Crevalle. Unfortunately the fishing was extremely poor and on top of that Texas was experiencing a record heat wave. If you think his valley is hot imagine higher temperatures than we are having and add humidity in the high seventies to eighties percentages. We suffered heat indexes in the 112 to 117 ranges. A whole different heat reality for sure!

Speaking of sunscreen, Vivian and I discovered a sunscreen and a lip balm with clear zinc oxide. That stuff is great. We used it out on the water in Texas and neither of us suffered sunburned ears or lips. I highly recommend finding sunscreen with clear zinc oxide for all of your outdoor activities. We found ours at REI, but I'm sure there are many offered on good ol' Amazon.

Changing gears I want to talk about giving back. While giving back means different things to different folks my thoughts on giving back mostly have fly fishing as a focus. As I think about rising temperatures, habitat loss, drought, decreasing anadromous returns and flow issues on our rivers I realize that to give back I need to practice conscientious angling. I need to land, revive and release fish as quickly as possible, (when I manage to catch one or two). I need to carry a stream thermometer and stop fishing for

# 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.



Like us on Facebook 

**We're on the Web!**



## President's Message (cont.)

trout when water temps get into the 60's. As the old fishing saying goes maybe I need to limit my catch rather than catching my limit. I can also make sure I pack out what I pack in as well as picking up any litter I may find. All small things that give back. If you can, supporting and donating to conservation oriented organizations can really help give back. While making a small donation that you can afford may not seem like much, when combined with all the other small donations allow groups like Trout Unlimited, Cal Trout and Western Rivers Conservancy do really important work that benefits us all.

Another way to give back is to share your knowledge and mentor other fishers. Teaching a child to fish is not only extremely satisfying you are helping to create another outdoor enthusiast who may continue to spread love of outdoors and nature and fishing and may become a fly fisher who will continue giving back.

Giving back can also mean helping folks through fly fishing. Project Healing Waters, Cast Hope, The Mayfly Project and Casting for Recovery as well as our favorite, Rivers of Recovery are a few organizations that help folks through difficult times through fly fishing. Consider giving back through supporting one or several of these organizations.

As we all know there is so much more to fly fishing than just fishing. When you are out with a rod in hand and find yourself in a contemplative mood think of some of the ways you can give back to fly fishing that will work for you and when you get home act on those thoughts.

In the meantime it is time to support our favorite organization Rivers of Recovery. This years fund raiser auction is October 22nd through 29th. It's time to think of what you can donate to the auction to help this year continue to be as successful as the past auctions. Gift cards, guided trips, vacation homes, fishing/hunting gear, gift baskets, and flies are just some ideas of auction items. If you are artistic or crafty or talented donate something you create. Anything you donate may be the big hit that generates a bidding war that not only helps this organization but will entertain you to no end.

Give Back! You'll be glad you did,  
Tight Lines,  
Jim

## Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2022 Board of Directors

President – Jim Bowen  
Vice-President – Gus Link  
Treasurer/Membership –  
Dennis Stambaugh  
Secretary/Webmaster –  
Michael Hewitt  
Outings – Bob Bullock  
Raffles – Jim Goodwin  
At-Large – Bud Heintz  
At-Large - Pat Roe

## Club News

### General Meeting

Tuesday, August 9th, 6:00 pm  
Round Table Pizza, Pelandale Ave., Modesto  
(Save Mart Center)

**Join us for Pizza & Beer!**  
(or your beverage of your choice)

Let's swap lies and talk flies. Life is too short not to keep in touch with old friends and create opportunities to make new ones. One of the great things about fly fishing is the camaraderie that goes with being part of our sport's community. Shared experience, new experience ... tales that are tall and tales that are attached to fish. When it all comes together it is a wonderful thing. Let's not miss a chance to keep the party going. We miss you and want to see your smiling faces. Carpe postestatum! Seize the opportunity!

### The Fly Box - "The Gurgler"

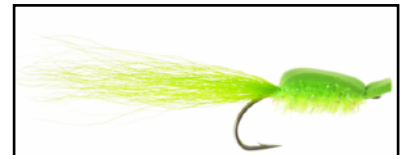
Jack Gartside's Gurgler is a versatile foam pattern that can be fished for several species of fish. I'll link you here to a good article on the Gurgler and you can get the complete picture of its tying instructions, a bit of its history, and how to fish it.

#### **The Gurgler: A Great Topwater Fly for Stripers, Bluefish, and Albies**

[onthewater.com](http://onthewater.com) | Pete Barret | January 26, 2021

*The Gurgler fly is a foam pattern that can be tied in many ways to catch everything from striped bass, to pond bluegills, and Florida tarpon.*

Jack Gartside was an interesting, innovative guy. Some called him quirky or a character, but it was always in a kind and reverent way. He marched to his own drummer, and his passing in 2009 pierced the hearts of the fly-fishing world. In over 50 years of fly-tying, he created many freshwater and saltwater patterns like his Pheasant Hopper and Corsair Minnows along with others like the BeastMaster and Soft Hackle Streamer that refined and improved patterns of other tyers. [More ...](#) Link to video [here ...](#)



## Upcoming Outings and Events

### Knights Ferry Salmon Festival - November 12th\*

\*USF&W are currently monitoring the Covid rate in Stanislaus County. The USACE has restrictions in place for limiting gatherings to 50 people while the Covid status is high, which it currently is. Cutoff date to decide on whether there will be a festival is September 30th. Stay tuned!

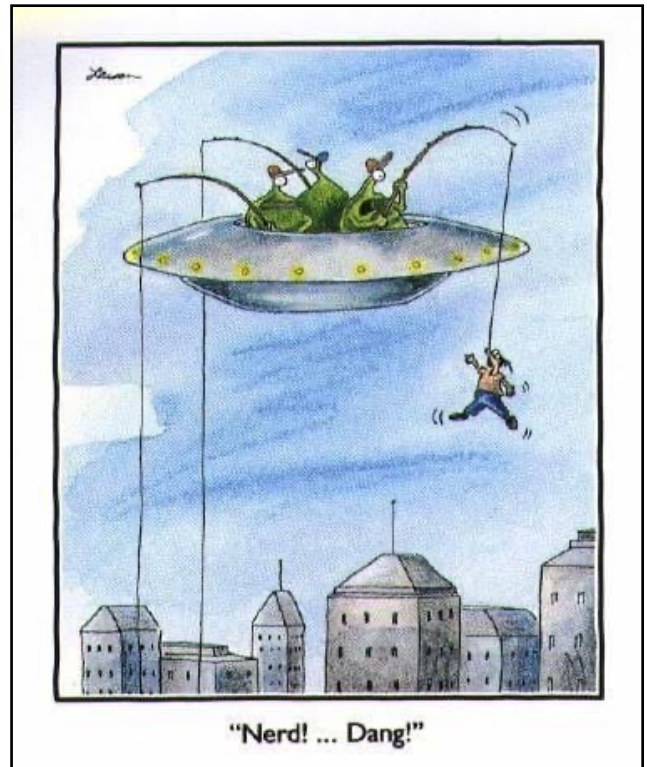
### Membership Information

Membership Dues are \$40 for 2022. For your convenience, we can now accept a credit card for your dues for an additional fee of \$1.00 to cover the cost of the transaction. All SFF memberships are "Family Membership" status; spouses, significant others, and/or children must also be FFI members to be official SFF members. FFI General Memberships include you, your spouse or co-habiting partner, and children under 18.

**Reminder: Club dues 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!** **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.

Mail Membership Dues to:  
Dennis Stambaugh  
3833 Blue Bird Drive  
Modesto, CA, 95356

## Comics



## Fishing Report

### Fishing with Zoey

By Jim Bowen

Have you ever considered taking a child or grandchild fly fishing but worried it might be too much for a youngster? I really want to involve my grandchildren in the sport I love and am very passionate about, but at the same time, I don't want to sour them on it because of the difficulty in the process of fly fishing. Fortunately, I met guide Bryce Tedford this past December while chasing stripers around the Isleton area. While we were fishing Bryce told me about a summertime program he runs to get kids out fishing on the fly and catching fish. Bryce told me he wouldn't guarantee fish, but at the same time, he has never been skunked. He described the day he would provide and it sounded perfect for introducing a kid to fly fishing.

With shorter summer vacation from school and the busy schedule my grandkids always have, I finally managed to find a day my granddaughter Zoey and I could go fishing.

We met Bryce at Vieira's Marina in Isleton at 7:30am on a recent Tuesday in a very strong wind that had me worried about our day. Bryce reassured us that all would be fine and that he had places to fish that would be sheltered from the wind. We ran for about 30 minutes and found a channel that was sheltered and calm and loaded with smallmouth bass. Bryce set the boat on a course along the bank, broke out a fly rod, and gave Zoey instruction on casting, retrieving and hooking fish.

Zoey began fishing with Bryce coaching and encouraging her and immediately caught her first fish ever and obviously the first on the fly. The ear-to-ear grin on her face was exactly what I had hoped for. We fished down the bank, and Zoey caught fish after fish. She would fish for awhile, take a short break for a snack or something to drink and then get back to her fishing. We fished for several hours and then Bryce tied up to a public pier and we took a break for ice cream. We followed our ice cream break with more fishing and headed back to the marina about noon. We had a great day designed for a youngster that was fun with catching, sightseeing, and ice cream and not so long as to be too much. By the way Zoey just recently turned 10 years old and this trip was perfect for a child this age. If this sounds like something you'd like to try with a child or grandchild, give captain Bryce a call. The smiles that result will make your day! (More pics [here](#).)



## NCCFFI Report to Clubs - August 2022

*By Mark Rockwell, President & VP Conservation, NCCFFI*

### **Yuba Fest 2022 - Fly Fishing, River Trips, Great Food, Music, Friendship - In Memory of Jon Baiocchi, Yuba Guide, Naturalist, & Good Friend**

#### *A Unique Weekend of Fun!*

The NCCFFI has been busy this past month continuing to work on organizing Yuba Fest, our October 15 & 16 event & fundraiser. A lot has changed, as we now have more activities, more groups participating, and an on-the-river raft float with a Naturalist. Also, a full day of training on how to fly fish on Sunday. Here's a bit of a rundown on the two days:

#### **Groups partnering for the event**

- Northern California Council, Fly Fishers International
- South Yuba River Citizen's League (SYRCL) - (<https://yubariver.org>),
- Fly Fishing Traditions - <https://www.flyfishingtraditions.com>
- Gold Country Fly Fishers - <https://gcff.clubexpress.com>



## Saturday Activities - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

- Fly Fishing Education - Training the club trainers on how to teach fly fishing
- Casting - the essence, art, and importance of casting - Certified Casting pros
- Gathering of Club leaders - new learning programs & how to implement them
- Tying flies - demonstration tyers + individual teaching
- Fly Fishing club contacts - where to go to connect with a local club
- Entomology - the bugs of lakes & rivers - what they look like & how they act
- Women Connect - A group of women fly fishers and what they do
- Conservation - Partner groups will discuss what's happening in California
- Door prizes, raffle items of all kinds, silent auction
- Kids activities & games
- Live music will start at 4 or possibly earlier! Easy listening and fun

## Saturday Evening - 5 p.m. to 8 p.m.

- Friendship & conversation starts at 5 with beverage of choice
- Storytelling session by local storyteller
- Dinner - 6 p.m. BBQ Tri-Tip & chicken, salad, dessert - bring your wine
- 6:30 - Karrie O'Neil, singer/songwriter to play guitar and sing
- 7ish - Recognition talk about Jon Baiocchi, Importance of Conservation
- 7:30 - Live Auction - a short list of cool stuff!

## Sunday Activities - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. (earlier if fishing)

- One day teaching - How to Fly Fish - Beginners - Clay Hash
- Guided fishing on the Yuba & other local waters
- Walk & Wade guided fishing on the Yuba - Orvis endorsed guide Mike Pease
- Yuba River Salmon Tours - raft trip to see salmon & visit restoration sites, SYRCL must reserve a space before this event. ([https://yubariver.org/salmon\\_tours](https://yubariver.org/salmon_tours))
- Fly casting skills development & testing - FFI Certified Casters teaching

Sierra Gold Country activities - visit our website: [www.nccffi.org](http://www.nccffi.org) (soon to be up)

Where is the event? Sycamore Ranch County Park on the Lower Yuba River - take a look: <https://www.facebook.com/sycamoreranch/>



## Fishing with Zoey (continued)



Montana Slackers!



## Conservation

### Western Rivers Conservancy NORTH UMPQUA RIVER

[westernrivers.org](http://westernrivers.org) | <https://www.westernrivers.org/projects/or/north-umpqua-river>



#### *Keeping park lands open and protected on a cherished Oregon river*

Oregon's revered North Umpqua River is one of the finest streams in the Pacific Northwest. It is one of only two Oregon rivers that flow from the Cascades through the Coast Range to the Pacific. All other coastal streams have their headwaters in the Coast Range. The North Umpqua is also one of the few designated Salmon Strongholds in Oregon, with healthy runs of spring Chinook, coho salmon and summer steelhead. It has good numbers of resident rainbow and cutthroat trout, and its water quality is outstanding. The river is also a recreational treasure, prized by fly anglers the world over. It is flanked by the spectacular 79-mile North Umpqua National Recreational Trail for most of its length and has 33 miles of designated fly-fishing-only water.

Western Rivers Conservancy permanently conserved the 211-acre Swiftwater Tract in spring 2017, an effort that preserved important habitat for imperiled fish and wildlife

and prevented logging and development along the river. The project ensured continued public access to an important reach of the national trail and to a coveted stretch of fly water. The parcels lie within multiple protected areas, including the North Umpqua Wild and Scenic River corridor, the Rogue-Umpqua National Scenic Byway, the North Umpqua Special Recreation Management Area (SRMA), the North Umpqua Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), the North Umpqua National Recreation Trail and the Oregon State Scenic Waterway.

The Swiftwater property occupies nearly a mile of North Umpqua frontage on both banks of the river and contains a largely unbroken stand of old-growth forest. Douglas fir dominates the over-story with additions of sugar pine, incense cedar, western red cedar, white fir and western hemlock. There are several high quality gravel beds within the property that provide spawning habitat, including nearly a mile of designated Oregon Coast Coho Critical Habitat. The forest itself provides habitat for diverse wildlife species, including northern spotted owl (threatened), bald eagle, Roosevelt elk, black bear, river otter and many others.

WRC's acquisition of the Swiftwater tract placed a cherished reach of North Umpqua riverlands into permanent protection within the BLM section of the Wild and Scenic River corridor. It kept a prime trailhead at the start of the National Recreation Trail in public ownership, ensuring Douglas County residents and river lovers from around the world have access to this stretch of the North Umpqua in perpetuity.

For up to date access information please visit the [\*\*\*Bureau of Land Management's Swiftwater Day-Use Area webpage.\*\*\*](#)

*Funding for the North Umpqua Project was made possible through generous contributions from multiple sources, including the David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The Meyer Memorial Trust, The Steamboaters, the Taylor and Alice Alexander Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation, the Martha Staley Marks Fund of The Oregon Community Foundation and with the generous support of many additional individuals, foundations and businesses.*

*This project was also made possible thanks to the Land and Water Conservation Fund, America's most important federal conservation and recreation program. LWCF has protected critical open space and public lands in nearly every state and every county in the U.S.*

| <u>AREA</u>                                    | <u>LONG-TERM STEWARD</u>       | <u>KEY FISH</u>   | <u>KEY WILDLIFE</u>  |
|--|--------------------------------|---|--|
| • 211 ACRES                                    | • BUREAU OF LAND<br>MANAGEMENT | • COHO SALMON<br>• SPRING CHINOOK<br>• WINTER AND<br>SUMMER STEELHEAD | • ROOSEVELT ELK<br>• BLACK BEAR<br>• NORTHERN SPOTTED<br>OWL |
| <u>RIVER MILES</u><br>• 2 MILES                |                                | • PACIFIC LAMPREY<br>• GREEN STURGEON                                 | • RIVER OTTER  |
| <u>LOCATION</u><br>• DOUGLAS COUNTY,<br>OREGON |                                |   |  |

