

May 2023

# 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

## May Meeting

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

6:00pm

Tuolumne River

Lodge

2429 River Rd,

Modesto, CA

See map in newsletter.

## *President's Message*

How about this weather? This seems to be a recurring theme! Seems we went from winter to summer to back to winter again! Woke up cold this morning, already had stored all the blankets! Hopefully, this will slow the snow melt down a bit. I drive out to the Eastside often, DANG! The San Joaquin and the Merced are both staying high. The confluence out by Hills Ferry is really high!

Thanks to everyone who came out for John Driver's Patagonia trip presentation. I certainly enjoyed it! I want to go! Seriously trying to figure out how I can accomplish the trip!

Kistler, Saturday May 6 !hope to see everyone out on the water! Cost will be \$35.00. We are using a site called Sign Up Genius, I have sent out invites. If you did not receive an invite, please contact me and we can get that rectified. My 'toon is ready to go, and I have tied up a bunch of Hair Curler Poppers!

Yeah, you read that right, hair curlers! The dry fly purist part of my soul is curled up in a fetal position, crying and screaming obscenities! Hair curlers (from the Dollar Store!!), foam, Gorilla glue and sexy floss on a worm hook! Sacrilege! Which is a comment on my journey from yes, dry fly purist (DFP) to someone who likes to catch fish regardless of the "purity" of the fly attached at the end of the line. Bob N. used to give me all sorts of shtuff about being a DFP. I used to descry nymphing as "turning to the Dark Side". Bob would patiently explain that I could catch more fish if I did indeed "turn to the Dark Side". Pshaw, I would scoff, holding my pinky up, "Dry fly fishing is the pure expression of the sport". Yeah, pretty narrow minded of me. I have since learned my lesson, and will fish lots of things that once I considered... beneath me? Not worthy of my time? Not sure how to end that sentence, my attitude has changed so much I don't really remember that singularly narrow-minded soul I was at that point in my life. Change is good! And if you are reading this Bob, thanks for all the patient advice and putting up with me all those years!!

May meeting will be Ken Johnson with CDFW, talking about the Heritage and Wild Trout program. I know I have been threatening to do this for years, maybe this will push me over the edge!

June meeting will be a dinner meeting. Paul Wallace and I will be cooking, menu TBD. This will be a family event, so invite everyone you can! We will have casting and games. More info to come!

# Stanislaus Fly Fishers Membership Information

Currently, membership fees are \$45 per year.

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 (continued)*

As always, I hope to have a large turnout at the meeting (May 9), because what do we need at the meetings?

YOU! Yeah YOU, the person reading this! Plus, anyone you can bring. Your friends, your neighbor, your spouse, the kid from down the block. We need to have people at the meetings! We need new members, old members, prospective members, everybody we can get. How do we do that? We need participation by ALL members. Come to the meetings, invite your friends, participate in the Club!

I am looking forward to seeing everyone not only at the meetings, but out on the water in 2023!

Tight Lines!

~ Link

## Club News

**General Meeting**  
**April 9, 2023 6:00 pm**  
**Tuolumne River Lodge**  
**2429 River Road, Modesto, CA**

### **Program: "CA DF&W Heritage and Wild Trout Program"**

Their mission is to protect and enhance California's heritage and wild trout resources, while providing opportunities for high-quality wild trout angling.

The Wild Trout Program was established by the California Fish and Game Commission (Commission) in 1971 and was later expanded in 1998 to include California heritage trout. Major goals are to:

- Manage designated Heritage and Wild Trout Waters
- Each year, recommend new waters to be designated as wild trout fisheries to the Commission
- Protect and restore native trout and their habitats
- Conduct research and evaluate angling regulations
- Engage the public

### **Pre-Meeting Casting**

We'll be practice casting before the meeting starting at 5:00pm. Come early and join in. If you are new to fly fishing, we'll have club rods available and can provide basic instruction. If you're not new, it never hurts to get in a little practice!

## Stanislaus Fly Fishers 2023 Board of Directors

President: Gus Link • Vice-President: Bob Bullock  
Treasurer/Membership: Dennis Stambaugh • Secretary/Webmaster: Michael Hewitt  
Outings: John Driver • At-Large: Paul Wallace • At-Large: Bud Heintz

### Kistler Ranch Outing Saturday, May 6, 2023

Our Kistler Ranch Bass ponds outing is this Saturday. We have the ponds reserved, the gates open at 6:00am and we have the ponds until dark. The cost is \$35.00 per angler to cover the cost of the pond rental.

If you are new to the bass ponds, a 5wt or 6 wt rod will be just right. A floating line will cover most of your fishing, but bring a clear camo line or maybe a type 3 full sink if you have one for mid day fishing. Early morning or overcast skies should bring a top water bite so poppers are a must while blue skies during the day will probably make stripping streamers and Woolley Buggers productive.

Member or not come out, bring a friend, and join the fun. It's always a good time. See you there!



### The Fly Box - "Easy Damsel Nymph"

This is a very simple, quick, and easy-to-tie damsel pattern. Jim Bowen has recommended using a damsel nymph as a popper dropper at Kistler. This one only has a few materials and a handful of steps in the process, so you can tie up lots of these in different colors to make sure you have variety and never run out. A very handy fly to have for still water fishing.

Click [here](#) to go to the YouTube link for a tying video.

Have a favorite fly pattern to share? Drop me a line [here](#).

Hook: Daiichi 2220 Streamer 4x shank #14  
Thread: Olive  
Eyes: Small Black Bead Chain  
Body: Olive Dubbing  
Ribbing: Medium Gold Wire  
Tail: Olive Marabou Blood Quills  
Chartreuse Crystal Flash



## Upcoming Outings and Events

May 6, 2023 - Kistler Ranch Outing

May 9, 2023 - General Meeting: DF&W “Heritage Trout Program”

May 25, 2023 - Board Meeting

June 13, 2023 -General Meeting: “Family Dinner Night”

### Membership Information

Membership fees for 2023, currently \$45, are now due. 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 as that links you to us on their roster.. The online application for FFI membership is linked below.

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

[\*\*SFF Membership Form\*\*](#)

[\*\*FFI Membership Link\*\*](#)

## Comics



## NCCFFI Report to Clubs - May 2023 By Mark Rockwell

I sit here thinking about what to write to all of you who are ready to go fishing, and wanted to remind you that tomorrow, April 22nd is Earth Day, 2023. It is a day to remind us that we only have one planet that supports life as we know it. There is only one earth, and it is our home. Take a look:



There are no borders. All of it is our home. We tend to identify only with the region that is close to us and our residence. Then identify with our state and our country. For most, the rest of the world is "over there". But, is it really?

I came to a difficult time recently when we moved to Santa Barbara and left Northern California. I miss all of you and the place where all of my fly fishing life has been spent. I know little about the watersheds down here and most of what is trout country is a long way away. I still yearn for time on Fall River, the Lower Yuba, bass in the Delta, and steelhead on the north coast. I also miss the beautiful vistas - The crest of the Sierra, driving up Hwy 5 along the Upper Sacramento River,

fishing on the Delta for stripers, and the ocean around San Francisco.

After reading a great book - *The Sense of Wonder* by Rachel Carson, I came to a new reality that has helped me with my move. In the introduction it says, "She captures the essence of the wonder-filled world of children and stirs in us that ancient longing for unity with the living world." What I know for me is that when I'm outdoors I do feel more 'connected' to the planet, and it gives me a feeling like nothing else I do. This sense of connectedness started when I was about 8 or 9 and being at my grandparents cabin in the San Bernardino mountains. I'd spend the day fishing with worms in the creek and watch deer come for a drink, birds playing in the trees, a beaver swimming by, and fish swimming. Those moments changed me.

Then I grew up and went off to college, work and a family. As an adult I became connected to my work and family, but was uneasy inside until I got outdoors and re-connected with other planetary residents - trees, fish, birds, deer, etc. Fly fishing was my vehicle to get connected again, and rediscover that child within me. I love that feeling, and do all I can to have that connected experience often. Ask yourself if this isn't true for you. Do you feel "more connected to the planet" when fly fishing. Is it the fishing that you love, or is it the sense of connectedness? Maybe it's both.

An experience I had in B.C. fishing steelhead was one moment I never forget. I was alone fishing a run at 9 p.m. in the evening in July (still light) when a nice fish grabbed my submerged spey fly. We fought for maybe 12 minutes and when I got her to the bank, grabbed her tail, eased the hook out, I was stunned by her beauty. Silver, sleek, clean, shinny, with a slight streak of rose on her cheek and side. She was Gorgeous! She lay on her side with one eye just looking at me, and I looking at her. We were one for that moment. I thanked her for the meeting, let her catch her breath, and let her swim back to complete her journey to spawn. At that moment I was totally connected - to her, the place and the planet. It was special.

Now, when I'm asked, "where do you live?" I respond, "planet earth". My residence is in Santa Barbara. To me, that response tells me I am still connected to Northern California, and I'm connected to all of the planet. I'm working my way through a new reality that is more comforting and wholesome. My home is our planet, not this one place. This has changed me forever.

So, this Earth Day, let's all think about what we can do to help the planet deal with we humans. We are currently a stressor to the planet, and we have to all find it in our hearts to act differently. Leave a light footprint as we walk, and use less, dump less, reduce our carbon footprint, call on our elected officials to move NOW on ways to reduce carbon. After all, we are taking care of our home by these actions.

Join FFI as a start: <https://www.flyfishersinternational.org/>. They are our fly fishing brothers. A recent paper from FFI - A New Conservation paradigm - connects caring for our watersheds and the importance they play in sequestering carbon. Science now says that the plants and watersheds can sequester 37% of the carbon we need removed from the atmosphere. Learn more about this, and how you can help here: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1ZdvXYBASbRvPb9IOv6XpQl06q6FhnoXo/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=103694342699691456221&rtpof=true&sd=true>

Happy Earth Day! We all live here together. Let's all find a way to help! FFI, NCCFFI, your fly fishing club are all brothers and part of the fly fishing clan. Let's play!



## Conservation

### New Regulations on the Fall River and a Major Legal Victory for Native Trout

[caltrout.org](https://caltrout.org) | April 17, 2023

CalTrout and the Fall River Conservancy recently secured a major legal victory for our native trout. The Fall River will now be treated as a single regulated entity for catch and release angling with barbless artificial lures, open all year. This builds upon CalTrout's history of conservation on the Fall River, which started in our founding year of 1971. *Full article [here](#) ...*

### CalTrout Awarded CDFW Funds for Shasta Region Salmon Habitat Restoration and Drought Resiliency Projects

[caltrout.org](https://caltrout.org) | April 13, 2023

On April 13, 2023, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) announced they are awarding California Trout and our partners \$4.77 million for four salmon and trout habitat restoration projects that will contribute to drought resiliency in the Klamath River watershed and the Upper Sacramento River watershed. These rivers and their tributaries are strongholds for the California's native salmon populations. The projects bring together landowners, agricultural producers, universities, and Tribes to enhance water availability for both fish and farms. Explore below the four projects awarded and a fifth project that CalTrout is a partner on. *Full article [here](#) ...*

### It's a Bird, It's a Plane, It's a Fish Biologist?

[fishbio.com](https://fishbio.com) | May 1, 2023

Over the last decade, rapid improvements in drone technology have led to the widespread use of these devices in many fields, including fisheries. From mapping riverbeds to monitoring salmon spawning, the potential applications of drones in fisheries research are diverse, and as these approaches are developed, FISHBIO's FAA-certified drone



pilots have been buzzing about with increasing frequency. As with any new technology, however, some trial and error is often necessary to develop novel applications for these flying machines. Most recently, our drone operators have been testing a new approach for evaluating the river flows necessary to allow passage for fish in coastal California watersheds. *Full article [here](#) ...*

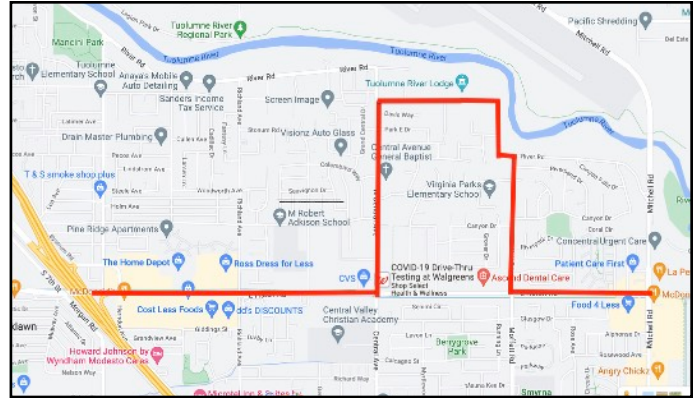
## This and That ...

### Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge

From 99 take Hatch Rd east to Central. Left on Central to River Rd. Right on River Rd.

From Mitchell Rd take Hatch Rd west to Moffett Rd. Right on Moffett to River Rd. Left on River Rd.

Click on map for link to Google Map.



### Look who's been fishing ...

John Driver/McCloud River & Lower Sac. With AC Flyfishing.





After all this wonderful rain we've been having that has kept me off the water, I have finally been out a little lately. On April 17th, Vivian and I made the trip to Reno and fished Pyramid Lake the next morning. We fished with Bucket List Outfitters guide Mike. When we got ready to leave the hotel at 4:30am to make it out to the lake for the first light bite, it was snowing a few flakes. As we drove out to the lake, we encountered near white out conditions. We were for sure having second thoughts about fishing, but the story is that the worse the weather, the better the bite.

We made it to the rocks at Pelican Point and met up with Mike who got us on ladders and fishing just as it was beginning to get light enough to see. Because of the many rocks at this location, it is all indicator fishing. The preferred method at the lake for indicator fishing now is the use of switch rods that enable long distance roll cast. We were fishing by 5:45 and it wasn't long before we were into fish. Vivian caught two before the 31-degree temp sent her to the car to thaw out. I fished until 11:15 before deciding to call it at the half day mark. I managed 11 fish with the biggest an 11 pounder. As I like to say, some measure their fish by the inch, but I measure mine by the pound! A really good, but very cold day of fishing. Pyramid Lake is a fun fishery.



After that cold weather fishing, Pat Roe and I made a trip to the Delta this past Friday. With a forecast of 90 degrees, we agreed that an early outing and a plan to end the day at noon would be a good idea. We launched at B&W and headed to Sherman Island. It was flat calm when we left the marina, but when we made it out to Sherman, the wind was crazy. We managed one striper before we were blown off. As we headed back towards the marina the wind laid down and we were able to continue fishing. We hit a few new spots and several regular spots, but the fishing was slow for us. By the time we came in at noon, we had 3 stripers to the boat. Not great catching, but the delta is such an awesome place that it's fun to just be out there.



*Delta Photo by Pat Roe*

## Volunteers needed! Teaching Fly Fishing for Scouts

Wente Scout Reservation invites you to volunteer to teach fly fishing for one week between June 18 thru August 3, 2023

The teaching sessions are at the Wente Scout Reservation. There are 7 weekly sessions 6-18 thru 8-3-23. Teaching days are Sunday thru Thursday of each session. Staff tent is provided as well as all your meals. Classes are two hours in the morning and two in the afternoon. Scouting is coed and at times space permitting adults take the instruction.

Wente Scout Reservation is located 140 miles north of Oakland and 6 miles east of Willets The lake is called Winawa and has a healthy population of largemouth bass and bluegill.

Fly Fishing Instructors have full access to the lake after classes and dinner. You can bring your own watercraft or use the rowboats or canoes made available to those who would like to use them.

If interested email Gus Link at [flylink48@gmail.com](mailto:flylink48@gmail.com) and he can answer questions or send a link to the Sign Up Genius site.

