



## President's Message - July 2025

### President's Message:

It's July, time to get out into the mountains and look for some trout. Or just be someplace so beautiful that you forget to fish.

I hope you remember to bring your lawn chair to the next couple of meetings. For July Lance Gray is speaking about streamers. I tie a lot of Buggers; I need to learn how catch some fish on them. A nice lawn chair will be much better than hard folding chairs. August you will need your lawn chair as Amy Terra will be here talking about casting, so we'll be on the lawn.

As we are about halfway through the year it's a good time for All Y'all to think about how you might help next year. Being president has been rewarding, and I'm so proud of our leadership team that has accomplished so much. But we all have further dreams and desires. John Driver has created a conservation program, and I know he's excited to continue improving our rivers. But he's still also the outing director. I know I would love to expand our education offerings (how about intermediate and advanced classes?!), but that's pushed back for president duties. I really want to celebrate people like Cristie, Monica, Derek and Hank. These folks brought a slew of new ideas and energy to our club.

So, what do you think you could do to help? This is the time of year that we can help you learn the positions. The stress of trying out something new is always daunting. But if you have any interest in helping, please tell any of the board members. give you a chance to see what's needed and help you gather the resources. I know John would be happy to have your help planning an outing. Mike does so much from being our secretary to web mastering he'd love to start training someone.

A truly thriving club has a good healthy turnover of the leadership. New ambition steps in to mold the club to their wants, needs, and desires. While the past officers have a chance to try something new themselves; or just return to being a regular club member.

The other thing a thriving club does is make the transition deliberately and painlessly. Take this chance to start learning how to be the change you want to see! Ask a board member to help you try out something!

Tight Lines!

Paul

## Link's Lines – July 2025

### What our tools say about us, or, have you hugged your rod today! Part Trois.

To sum up last month, we as fly fishers spend a LOT of time with our fly rods. How many gazillions of casts in my 30 years of fly fishing? It is a bit mind boggling.

Hence my theory that our rods take on a bit of importance in our fly fishing journey. I am not going to throw something I spend hours with carelessly in the back of the boat/truck/corner of the garage. While I do not name my rods (I do name my motorcycles and a few of my sewing machines!), they each have a different personality. I used to have a whole bunch of rods, but over the years I have culled my quiver down to the rods I use most, all but one built by yours truly. They all have a purpose; they all have a different "personality." My glass 7'6" 4-wt is my fav small stream rod ... what a joy! My 6 and the 8-wts are completely different, primarily used for bass these days. I love my 5-wt (first rod I built). I got to use it on the Fall River trip. My one commercially built rod, a 4-wt Redington Butterstick, is one of my most versatile rods (for smaller streams) hence why I hang on to it.

I don't cast my 6 or 8-wts with dries. Primarily I use them for large streamers or poppers. Mainly these rods are cast from a boat and water loaded. If I tried to dry fly cast them, I would wear myself out and get the lures horribly tangled. How do I know this? Oh boy, have I done that! But by doing this, I have figured out what the rod can and can't do. Has it taken time? You bet! Is there an adjustment time if I change rods? You better believe it! I often go from a 4-wt fishing for bluegills to a 6-wt fishing for top-water bass. The first dozen casts are always a re-learning experience!

Moral of the story: Use your gear for the intended purpose, treat it well, and please, don't throw your fly rods in the back of the boat!

### Witty quote o'the month:

Attributed to Izaak Walton (*The Compleat Angler*).

Rivers and their inhabitants are made for the wise to contemplate and for fools to pass by without consideration.

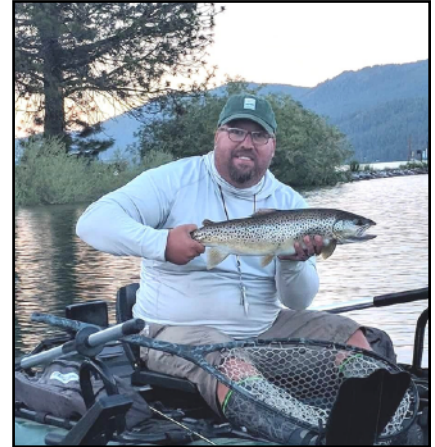
Tight Lines!

~ Link

## Club News

### ... July General Meeting - Tuesday, July 8 , 2025

Our featured program this month is guide Lance Gray. Lance was introduced to fly fishing at an early age by his father and brother, and by the time he was a teenager he was tying flies for shops in NorCal. He began working for Powell's Fly Shop in Chico at 17, building rods and guiding. He conducted fly tying and fly fishing schools, and traveled. Lance Gray & Company, is a full-service outfitter offering guided trips, fly-fishing tours, workshops, and a travel agency. His program will be on streamers: "The presentation is all about streamer fishing. We cover not only the gear needed to fish streamers but also the when, why, and how for the audience. This presentation also covers the quarry the fish eat, from minnows to crayfish. Knowing how to stream fish will give the fly fisher an available tool for the quiver. This presentation has new and updated information, flies, and tactics. "



### ... GGA&C Club Free Casting Clinic

The free casting clinic is usually held the second Saturday of every month from 9:30 am - 12:00 pm at Golden Gate Park. The next event will be held Saturday, July 12th. The casting event is held rain or shine and is a great way to brush up or improve upon your casting skills. And you get a hot dog lunch! They have poles or bring your own. Please sign up in advance. <https://ggacc.org/event-5922118/Registration>.



Cathy and Paul Wallace have made this a "day in the city," casting in the morning and museum in the afternoon. Sometimes, a stop at Lost Coast Outfitters; always a nice lunch in the city! They've figured out the BART/Muni connection and it's easy!

## ... Outings and Events



The annual Family Dinner Night had a great turnout. Our thanks to chefs Paul, Gus, and Monica for the fantastic food. Certified casting instructor Amy Terra from Delta Fly Fishers was on hand with some games, challenges, and instruction. If you missed it, make sure to attend next year!

There will be a Kennedy Meadows Outing on Saturday, July 12th. General details for that are on our [website](#). Come up for the day or there are a number of campgrounds along Highway 108, including two after the Kennedy Meadows turnoff on to Kennedy Meadows Road, Baker and Deadman campgrounds. Baker is larger, but Deadman is closer to the resort and pack station. Both are first come, first served. Sign up [here](#).

Gus Link is leading the Fence Creek Outing August 22-24. The Fence Creek Campground is on the road to the Clark Fork of the Stanislaus. Those details are also under the Outings tab of the website.

September 20th will be the Stanislaus River float from Knight's Ferry to Orange Blossom (Gus Link leading again). Space will be limited as we host the Santa Cruz group. Details to come. Sign up [here](#).

John Driver is co-ordinating a guided Mono-Hot Springs outing October 7-8. This will be fee outing since it is guided and space will be limited. Sign up [here](#).

We have already secured our house the the Circle 7 Ranch for April 24-26, 2026!

The Knights Ferry Salmon Festival is on Saturday, November 8th from 10 am - 3 pm this year. We will have our usual information and casting booths there to promote the club. We can always use your help in manning the booths. It's really a fun day so plan on joining in the fun!

SSF is sponsoring a showing of *A River Runs Through It* Saturday, November 9th at the State Theater. Film starts at 2:00 pm, but come early to socialize. Bring a friend or two or three. Watching movies at home is ok, but there's nothing like the shared experience of seeing a film on the large screen. This film adaptation of Norman McClean's book spurred an interest in the sport and more than doubled the fly fishing industry within two years.

As always, the board is working hard to provide a number of group outings and your input and feedback is welcome and greatly appreciated.

### ... Open Fly Tying Night, Monday, July 21st

The fly night is held at Food Fix at 938 11th Street (between I and J Streets) in Modesto. This is easily accessible and food and beverages are available. These are loosely structured show-up-and-tie affairs with flexibility. Tie whatever you want, but there may occasionally be a target pattern for those interested in learning a new fly or in perfecting one.

Tying will usually start around 6:00 - 6:30 pm and the session will wrap up no later than 9:00 pm. BYO gear please.

### ... 2025 SFF Dues

Dues for 2025 were due and payable. January 1st. Please remit your dues ASAP along with your membership form and a signed liability waiver. Dues can be paid in person at any general meeting, by check mailed to Dennis Stambaugh, or by Venmo. Links to forms and mailing and Venmo info are [here](#).

Starting this year we are following the lead of other fly fishing clubs and requiring all members to sign a hold-harmless waiver when they join or renew their membership. Any guests attending an outing will be required to sign the same agreement before participating. A copy of the waiver can be downloaded [here](#) and mailed to Dennis Stambaugh at the same address linked above. Waivers will also be available at the general meeting.

### ... Classes/Workshops

The **Fly Fishing 101** class went quite well with several guest speakers and hands on casting instruction. The four-week course covered the basic skills, equipment, and knowledge needed to fly fish. Both the FF 101 and fly tying

classes are great opportunities for beginners to learn the basics. Watch for future classes to be announced.

### **... Bits & Pieces**

Tired of the hard seats at our monthly meeting? Bring a comfy camp chair! We're setting up a little differently to accommodate a new seating arrangement. We had several bring their chairs in May and expect to continue this. Of course, we'll be outdoors and down below the lodge this month and it would be wise to bring a camp chair for June as well.

### **... Club Communications**

The board is seeking some help with club communication and management. We always want to reach out to everyone interested in a club event. But we also never want to be a pest with the frequent marketing emails we despise. President Paul is looking for a software solution that would help with all aspects of managing our club, from announcements and signups for outings and events, to tracking our successes at volunteering and training, to soliciting donations and handling electronic payments. I know there are software products out there from Eventbrite to MailChimp to a variety of non-profit management apps. I'm sure there is a way to segregate our members by interests, so a person gets everything of interest, but no irrelevant annoyances.

My 2 requests of you:

1) Please share with me or any board member your desire for how the club would communicate and do business with you. Text vs email. Would you like to make online payments, and how credit/debit/Venmo? If you organize something, how would you like to interact with your fellow members? Any experience you have with other organizations for us to copy or avoid?

2) If you have any experience with these apps, please share it with me or another board member.

### **... Notes From the Club Inventory Meister**

Managing the Stanislaus Fly Fishers donated inventory is coming along. Slowly, but it is moving forward. My plan is to get the inventory managed in sections. We have quite a lot, and if looked at as a whole, it is a daunting job.

First order of business was to throw out a bunch of shtuff\*\*! We had quite a bit, rotting wading boots, 20+ YO tippets that broke at a touch (when you can easily break 8-10 lb line, yeah, it's old and done!) I have begun to sort on broad levels, just trying to get an idea of what we have.

On the list for this update:

For any float tubers, pontoon boat folks, if you need a set of fins, let me know.

We have 2 sets of Force Float Tube Fins. These things are beasts! New, they are quite expensive, we want \$100 per set. We also have 2 sets of over the boot fins, probably Caddis brand, \$20. Last thing is a nice fold up anchor, w/line and float, \$20.

Interested? Let me know, [flylink48@gmail.com](mailto:flylink48@gmail.com) or ask me at the meeting. I will schedule sell nights throughout the year. As always, prices are negotiable.

I will add sections as I can, and I hope to have the list posted in the near future.

Pictures? Not at this point, too much work just getting the inventory cataloged and organized. Any other questions? Please let me know.

**\*\*SHTUFF- Portmanteau of s#!t and stuff!**

### **... Door Prizes and Raffles**

At our monthly board meeting, we made a decision to do away with the door prizes. What?? Why?

Door prizes were instituted when the club was really struggling. It was a small draw to entice members into coming to meetings. The club is doing better now, and we have realized that the door prizes have reached the end of their lifespan.

We will still have small items for awards; however, we are going to do these items by raffle. \$1.00 per ticket, you can buy as many tickets as you want.

I am going to try to have a Mystery Prize at each meeting, I intend to have some fun with this! Be forewarned!

Please, if you have a comment, let me know. If you think we should keep the door prizes as a free bonus, let me know. We on the board always welcome input.

[flylink48@gmail.com](mailto:flylink48@gmail.com) Talk to me at a meeting or message through Facebook.

## **NCCFFI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**July 2025**

It's July and .....

Summer has arrived, and to tell you the truth, I'm not really ready for it. I always enjoy spring and the cooler weather that comes with it. The good thing is that many of our rivers and streams will come into fishing shape with reasonable flows. I've been doing a bit of traveling in June, a fishing trip to the Provo River in Utah, and a more family-oriented trip to the area of Stanley, Idaho. The trip to Utah was to fish the Lower Provo River. It was great timing, and the fishing for rainbows and browns was very good. The fishing in Idaho was on the South Fork of the Payette River. The fishing there was also productive. Both rivers were running high due to run-off, but fishable in certain spots. I'll detail some of this in an included article.

### **NCCFFI Board Retreat**

On council business, the NCCFFI Board attended a retreat on the Fall River in June to spend quality time together and map out end-of-year goals, as well as discuss longer-term objectives. It was fun and productive. Some of the items on the agenda were:

- We reviewed the goals established and presented at the President's lunch at the Fly Fishing Show and feel that we have achieved or are achieving our goals.

- We started our initial planning for Yuba Fest, which will take place on Saturday, September 6th, at Sycamore Ranch on the Lower Yuba River. Mark your calendar.
- We discussed the upcoming election of our 2026 board in November. I have served as President for the past two years and will be stepping down from the position. I will continue on the board as Past President and will continue as Editor of the RiverMouth. Ron Beltramo, our current 1st Vice President, will be nominated for President in 2026. We extend an open invitation to club leaders to volunteer to request a nomination to join the NCCFFI board.
- We reviewed the successful Hall of Fame Dinner in 2024, and plan on the next Hall of Fame dinner for the fall of 2026.
- We discussed our everyday operations of the council and how to improve them.
- We discussed the importance of the Club Leaders' Happy Hour Zoom Meeting on the last Thursday of every month. It is a fun hour, and I encourage our club leaders to attend. It is also the one chance a month that club leaders get to meet and discuss essential projects, ideas, or address questions pertinent to fly clubs.

### **Yuba Fest**

Yuba Fest 2025 is scheduled for September 6th. The organizers would like to invite clubs to set up a booth and encourage their members to join in the fun, especially those from the Foothill areas.

- Amador Fly Fishers
- California Fly Fishers Unlimited (CFFU)
- Chico Area Fly Fishers
- Fly Fishers of Davis
- Gold Country Fly Fishers
- Granite Bay Fly Fishers
- Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers
- Members of the old EC Powell Fly Club

Marketing for Yuba Fest will begin as soon as our organizing committee defines the event's scope. We would love to have a representative from each of the clubs mentioned above be represented on the Yuba Fest Organization Committee. We will be in touch with you soon.

### **Rally at Yuba Fest**

As you are likely aware, the Nature-Like Fish Bypass (NLFB) has been approved and is scheduled to begin construction soon. There is nothing that concerned fishers can do about stopping it at this point. What we can do as fishers is to share our concerns about allowing predatory Striped Bass access to the salmon spawning areas above Daguerre Point Dam. We want Yuba Fest to be an opportunity for all fly fishers to rally and put pressure on the NLFB design committee to integrate a barrier for striped bass. I hope that our voices will be loud and heard to make a difference. Come to Yuba Fest and make the difference.

Fishing is opening up, and I hope you all get out to feel a tug.  
Clay Hash, NCCFFI President

## Family Dinner Night, June 10, 2025



## ... Salmonfly Project

“Have you noticed a favorite aquatic insect hatch disappear or decline? We have too. We started The Salmonfly Project after finding widespread salmonfly declines across the Western US. But it’s not just salmonflies – many of our favorite mayfly, stonefly, and caddisfly hatches have weakened or been lost. **We are here to solve that problem.**

“It all began with a simple question asked by two graduate students: ‘Why are salmonflies disappearing from some rivers and not others? What can we do about it’ Answering this question became the main driver of our graduate research and now, our life’s work. Like most good science, our research has led to many important insights (read about them, [here](#)), and even more questions. Ultimately, our work shows that aquatic insect declines, including those of giant salmonflies, are caused by complex combinations of subtle stressors that vary from river to river. This is why establishing new, widespread research and monitoring programs is so important — without good data, we won’t be able to ‘Save the Hatch’.”

Here is a link to a requested survey regarding your experiences and observations regarding aquatic insect activity in the waters that you fish. The project is looking for experienced fly fishers to complete and submit this five-minute survey. The requirements are:

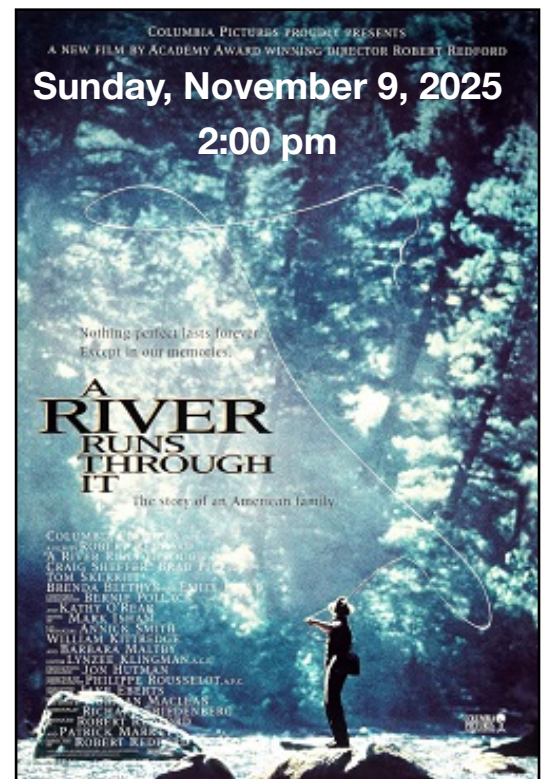
- Regularly fly fish
- 10 years experience fishing the same water(s)
- Ability to identify common hatches.

Questions or comments can be directed to:  
[conservation@salmonflyproject.org](mailto:conservation@salmonflyproject.org) or [aeichert@amnh.org](mailto:aeichert@amnh.org)



**Take the Angler's Survey**

N  
O  
V  
E  
M  
B  
E  
R



## Upcoming Outings and Events

[Click here for a link to our Google Calendar.](#)

- General Meeting - July 8, 2025 - Tuolumne River Lodge
- Kennedy Meadows - July 12, 2025 - Highway 108
- Board Meeting - July 24 - Track 424
- General Meeting - August 12, 2025
- Fence Creek Weekend Outing - August 22-24 - Highway 108
- Board Meeting - August 28 - Track 424
- General Meeting - September 9, 2025
- Stanislaus River Float - September 20 - Knights Ferry
- Board Meeting - September 25 - Track 424
- Mono-Hot Springs Outing (Guided)- October 7-8
- Knights Ferry Salmon Fest - November 8, 2025
- "A River Runs Through It" - November 9 - State Theater
- Annual Holiday Dinner - December 9, 2025
- International Sportsmen's Exposition - January 15-18, 2026 - Cal Expo Sacramento
- Pleasanton Fly Show - February 27-28, March 1, 2026
- Fall River Outing - April 24-26, 2026



**STANISLAUS FLY FISHERS IS A CHARTER CLUB OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL AND MEMBER OF THE NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF FLY FISHERS INTERNATIONAL**

## SFF 2025 Board of Directors

President: Paul Wallace • Vice-President: Bob Bullock • Secretary / Webmaster: Michael Hewitt • Treasurer / Membership: Dennis Stambaugh • Outings: John Driver  
F3T Chair / Outings: Derek Coelho • Programs: Janice Rinehart • Classes Co-ordinator -  
Cristie Crawford • Roger Ringsted • Past President: Gus Link

## SFF Membership Information

Membership fees for 2025 currently \$45/year, are now due. For your convenience, we can accept a credit card for your dues for an additional fee of \$2.00 to cover the cost of the transaction. All SFF memberships are "Family Membership" status; spouses, significant others, and/or children must also be Fly Fishers International 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. Application and liability waiver links are below.

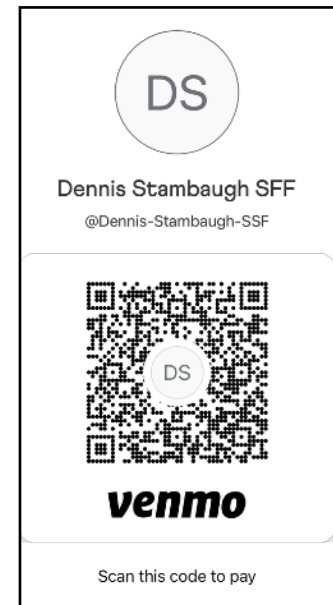
Venmo or Mail Membership Dues to:

Dennis Stambaugh  
3833 Blue Bird Drive  
Modesto, CA, 95356

[SFF Membership Form](#)

[FFI Membership Link](#)

[SFF Liability Waiver](#)

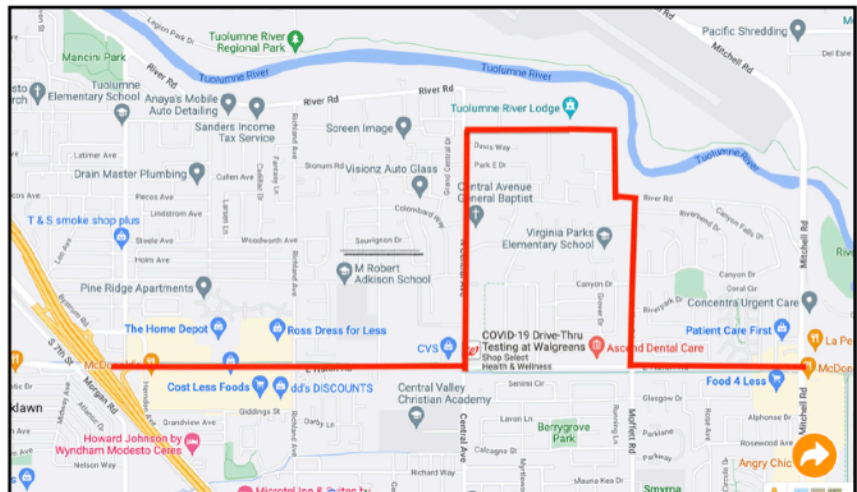


## Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge

**2429 River Rd, Modesto, CA**

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.



# Aquatic Invasive Species

## A Guide to Identifying Threats to California Freshwater Environments



### Quagga and Zebra Mussels

*Dreissena rostriformis bugensis* and *D. polymorpha*



Quagga mussel showing 'threads.' Photo by Steve Wells, Portland State University



Zebra mussels attached to native mussel. Photo by USFWS

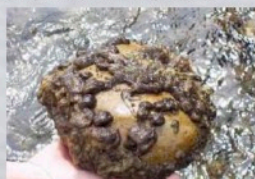
**Shell** – 2-shelled (bivalve), may have dark colored "threads" on one edge.

**Size** – From microscopic to up to 2" long. Free-floating (planktonic) larvae are microscopic and cannot be seen by the unaided eye.

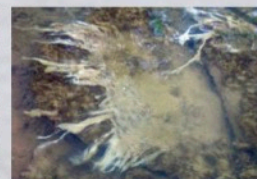
**Color** – Usually alternating light and dark brown stripes, but can also be solid light brown to dark brown.

### Didymo or "Rock Snot"

*Didymosphenia geminata*



Clumps (early stage) of colonized didymo. Photo by Department of Conservation, NZ



Thick mat (advanced stage) of didymo attached to rock. Photo by Tim Daley, PA Department of Environmental Protection

**Algae** – Appears slimy, but feels coarse, like damp wool. Can look like wet toilet paper in streams.

**Size** – Starts as small clumps and grows to form thick mats that can cover river and streambeds.

**Color** – Pale yellowish-brown to white.

### New Zealand Mudsnaill

*Potamopyrgus antipodarum*



Elongated shell with 5-6 whorls. Photo by Dan Gustafson



Dense colony of New Zealand mudsnails attached to the underside of a rock. Photo by Robyn Draheim

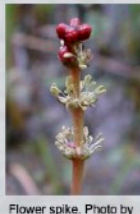
**Shell** – Single, elongated, right-handed coiling shell, usually consisting of 5-6 whorls, and an operculum (flap covering the shell opening).

**Size** – From microscopic up to 1/4" long.

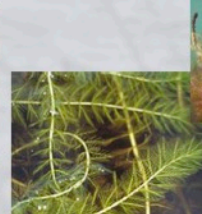
**Color** – Variable, light to dark brown.

### Eurasian Watermilfoil

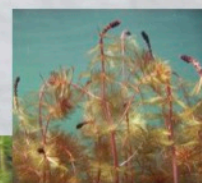
*Myriophyllum spicatum*



Flower spike. Photo by John Somerville, UK



Stems are densely branched. Photo by Allison Fox, University of Florida, Bugwood.org



Stems and flower spikes. Photo by Idaho State Department of Agriculture

**Stems** – Branched and 20-30" long, reddish-brown or whitish-pink.

**Leaves** – Arranged circularly around the stem in groups of 3-6 (usually 4). Each leaf is less than 2" long, soft, and feather-like.

**Flowers** – Form spikes 2-4" long that are held above the water. Individual flowers are 1/8-1/4" long, reddish.

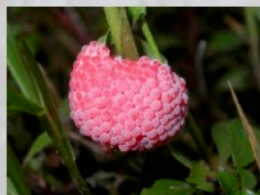
**Roots** – Fibrous, often develop from small pieces broken off larger plant.

### Channeled Apple Snail

*Pomacea canaliculata*



Adult channeled apple snail shell. Photo by Georgia DNR, Wildlife Resources



Egg mass. Photo by Pete Corradino

**Shell** – Single shell with compact, deeply grooved whorls.

**Size** – Adult shells can reach up to 3" long.

**Color** – Yellowish to brown.

**Eggs** – Eggs laid in masses of 200-600, bright pink to reddish.

### Hydrilla

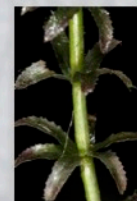
*Hydrilla verticillata*



Root tubers. Photo by Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org



Hydrilla stems. Photo by Vic Ramey, University of Florida/IFAS Center for Aquatic Invasive Plants



Saw toothed leaves. Photo by Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org

**Stems** – Slender, branched, up to 25' long, and green.

**Leaves** – Arranged in groups of 2-8 around the stem, spear-shaped, 1/2-3/4" long and 1/16" wide. Often 1-2 sharp teeth along the underside of the leaf rib.

**Flowers** – Grow on long stalks and float on the surface of the water. Individual flowers are 1/8-1/4", white or reddish brown.

**Roots** – 1/2" long, white, and may have yellowish, potato-like structures, or tubers, on the ends.

To report invasive species, call 1-866-440-9530 or email [Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Invasives@wildlife.ca.gov)