

President's Message - October 2025

President's Message:

Harvest season is still roaring along. I was blessed with an unexpected day off and I'll be joining Delta Fly Fishers and Santa Cruz Fly Fishers in the surf at Manresa State Beach. I'm really looking forward to some time in my waders with a rod in my hand. Next week I was able to schedule a couple vacation days for our Mono Hot Springs outing. I'm looking forward to my first guided trip in a long time. I'm hoping to learn a lot from Jimmy Morales and his crew!

We were scheduled to hear about Golden Muscles at the October Club meeting. Unfortunately, Pat developed a schedule conflict and had to cancel. I was really looking forward to hearing about this invasive species and I'd even invited a few related organizations. I enjoy Stanislaus Fly Fishers being a member of the larger community. John Driver has graciously stepped up to give his presentation on aquatic insect videos. I know I will learn a lot and that John will help us access some of the great information that is so hard to seek out myself.

The board is working on several current projects. Our new merch design is selected, and we'll have club vests for events soon. As well as new hats and shirts. Salmon Fest is coming in November; we'll have 2 booths there. And the following day is our showing of "A River Runs Through It" at the State Theater.

We got some rain this week, so the winter storms are coming. Get out there and get some time on the river before the winter flows swell and the rivers are unfishable!

Club Leadership News

Here's some ongoing conversations and news amongst the board and leadership. Bob Bullock is a candidate for Club President. Paul Wallace is a candidate for treasurer.

There are also a couple of positions the need to be filled for next year: Mike Hewitt is stepping down as Club Secretary. The primary responsibility of the secretary is producing the newsletter. There is a system of getting the newsletter published already established, but each editor will have their own style and will put in content they think is interesting. Probably most of the work is reminding contributors to write their article. Mike will be staying on as webmaster. That is not part of the secretary's responsibilities.

John Driver is willing to plan the major outings, but we need a local outings planner. Our local outings are our most popular and successful. There is a system in place to plan local outings, somebody just needs to execute the plan. The responsibilities for this are primarily picking a date and time, answering questions, and possibly packing some snacks or beverages. Enthusiasm and organization are the key to this position. This is a great position for a new member. You don't have to know how to fish, you just create an opportunity for us to fish together. In addition to starting the process of transferring leadership next year, the board has been working on a couple of major campaigns.

Jim Bowen has stepped up as a liaison with Rivers of Recover and we are actively working on our service to that organization and coordinating our efforts. The past couple of years we have relied on tradition from before COVID, now we are communicating and working synergistically to address recent changes.

The Board has also been looking at our status as a charter club of Fly Fishing International. We are considering the benefits our members individually and our club collectively gets for FFI dues. We are analyzing the cost and viability of doing our own taxes and purchasing our own insurance. FFI is a fine organization, and we encourage our members to join if it suits them. But having to pay the FFI dues in addition to Stanislaus Fly Fishers dues is burdensome. And there are a handful of members who would prefer not to cast their lot with FFI.

We are actively trying to spread the leadership around the membership, to ensure your club meets your needs and because "many hands make makes light work". So, if you have a hankering to help, we're here to make your experience stress free and fulfilling.

While some candidates have announced for next year, they are not yet elected. Officers are chosen by a vote of club members, and any member is welcome to offer themselves as a candidate for any position. Please don't hesitate to put yourself forward if you're interested in serving. All officers are members of the Board of Directors, which traditionally meets on the 4th Thursday of the month, at 6pm, at Track 424 Brewery. Although that is subject to change for the convenience of the board members.

Reminder: Board Meetings are open to all members. The board does not just "tolerate" members attendance, we enthusiastically encourage member participation!

Tight Lines! Paul

Link's Lines – September 2025

Golf and Fly Fishing, an observation:

Golf and Fly Fishing have more in common than you would think!

1. Simple concept:

Golf: Get that ball into that hole way over there.

FF: Get your fly on the water to tempt a fish.

Pretty simple eh? As we all know, it is the middle of that equation that gets complex. Not so simple to get that ball in that hole, not so simple to get your fly on the water and have a fish eat it. I don't golf, I already have a sport that takes up a large swath of time and \$\$'s. Also, I have tried golfing in the past, it was fun! I know myself, and if I am going to do something, I want to be decent at it. I could see spending LOTS of time (and \$\$!!) golfing. And still sucking at it!!

2. Both are life-long learning activities:

The basics, golf swing/fly rod cast, can be taught in a relatively short amount of time. You then spend the rest of your life improving and refining. There is always something to learn and ways to improve. This continues to motivate me to fly-fish. I may be slowing down, not able to charge up-river all day, but I am still learning the ways of the water and constantly refining my techniques.

3. You can golf or Fly-Fish at any age

Yes, mobility is an issue, but I plan to FF until I can't get out there anymore! I know a couple of golfers with the same attitude, still hitting the links at 80+!

Truth quote o'the month:

Attributed to Heraclitus (Ancient Greek pre-Socratic philosopher).

No man ever steps into the same river twice, for it's not the same river and he's not the same man.

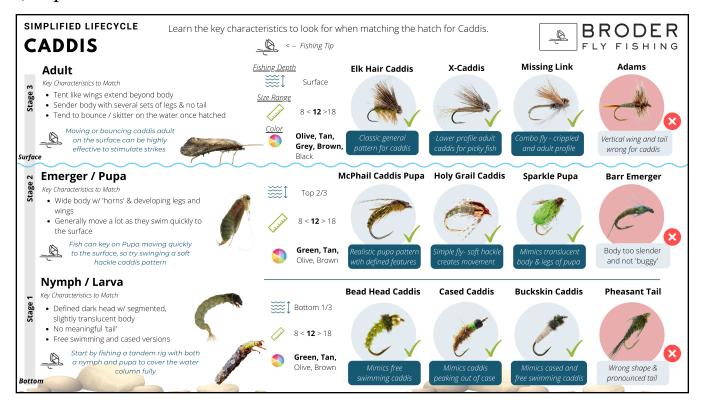
Tight Lines! ~ Link

Club News

... October General Meeting - Tuesday, October 14, 2025

Our featured program speaker for October unfortunately had to cancel, so instead of a program on the invasive mussels, John Driver will be presenting an entomologic look at caddisflies as they are an important source for trout food

and therefore an equally important part of a fly fishers flybox, or River Partners will present an overview of the development of the Dos Rios property that is now the new Dos Rios State Park near the confluence of the Tuolumne and San Joaquin Rivers.



... GGA&C Club Free Casting Clinic

The <u>free</u> 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, October 11th. 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.

... Outings and Events

September 20th was the Gus Link-led Stanislaus River float from Knight's Ferry. We hosted the Santa Cruz group. Look for a report at the October meeting.

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.

Mono Hot Springs Outing, October 7 & 8

"For any going, I recommend reservations at the resort ASAP, to be sure of the desired accommodations. Depending on the size of the group attending, different cabins are options.

I've already reserved one cabin, which sleeps 3. Paul and I are the only to date who have committed.

The presumed schedule:

- Drive to Mono Hot Springs Monday, Oct 6 (approximate 4 hour drive).
- Fish Tuesday Oct 7
- Fish Wednesday Oct8, and then drive home in the evening. (4 hour drive).

There is a restaurant on site. If we want to do our own cooking, some cabins have kitchens. BBQ spots are available presumably at all cabins. Some of the smaller cabins are pretty basic. Clean and have toilet. Tent camping is an option. RV's? I would not bring on the long 20-mile one-lane road to MHS.

We should make a decision of using Jimmie Moralas as a guide for the group or partial group. The cost is \$450 / person for the two days. There would be 2 persons per guide, and this price is a bargain, guide-wise.

If you ever want to use a guide, this is a prime opportunity to up your fishing game! Sign up *here*.

Regards, John Driver (209) 277-7432"

We have already secured our house the the Circle 7 Ranch for April 24-26, 2026! Signups will be taken after the first of the year. \$150 deposit holds your spot.

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. You can buy your tickets online *here*.

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

... DeltaFly Fishers Lower Sac Float Trip

Bob Fujimura, who is a member of both Delta and SFF clubs has extended and invitation to join their annual Lower Sac Trip. Details are below.

Lower Sacramento River Group Float Outing - Saturday October 11, 2025

"Your club is invited to join this annual Delta Fly Fishers outing with host Scott Sugimoto of On the Riffle Guide Service and his guides and support staff for another awesome day on this famous tailwater fishery for resident rainbow trout. Scott and his team have successfully hosted our club annually for several years during the prime fly fishing season. The Lower



Sacramento River fishing has been one of the reliable and renowned trophy trout fisheries of the West. Suitable for novice fly fishers but still fun and challenging for the more experienced ones.

"Participants will have a full day of guided indicator nymph fishing from a drift boat with an experienced guide per two anglers. Fishing gear, flies, shuttle service, and all you can eat group BBQ lunch are provided. The guide fee of \$300 per person (double occupancy per boat) includes the guide tip.

"Please contact Bob Fujimura to register and pay your guide fee before September 15 or earlier (email [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com] or voice or text message to (209) 329-1692). Early registration will help ensure that we reserve our guides in advance – so don't delay in registering if you are interested in this annual crowd pleaser. Registration requires prepayment of guide fees and submission of a DFF liability waiver form. All guide fees are non-refundable in the case of you cancel your trip – however, you can sell your spot to another club member.

"Our annual outing is a fun event for our club members with a long history of repeat participation. Registered participants will be provided with additional detailed information (via email) on pre-event fishing conditions, recommended fishing equipment or gear for optional use during or outside of the guided day, local group dining or lodging options, and other trip activities. On request, non-DFF club registrants can be provided with a Zoom orientation session prior to the event. Scott also welcomes inquiries about the guided itinerary and technical questions about this event (email: scott@ontheriffle.com or phone: (530) 276-1612)."

... Open Fly Tying Night, Tuesday, October 21st

Starting in August the fly tying night was moved to the third Tuesday of each month to avoid a conflict with other programs at Food Fix. Hank Olson and the FF staff have been great to work with in providing us space, great food and tasty libations for our nights. 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 8:30 pm. BYO tying gear please.

... 2025 SFF Dues

Dues for 2026 will be payable January 1st. Please remit your dues early 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 <u>here</u>.

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

Stay tuned for info on any upcoming classes or workshops.

... 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

have had several members brings their chairs and it's worked out well so we expect to continue this.

... 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

On the list for this update:

- Wading boots in 6-8-9 & 11
- Small size (W) waders, kid waders.
- 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 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.

~ Link

... 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 Talk to me at a meeting or message through Facebook.

NCCFFI PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE October 2025

It's nice to experience some fall weather lately. The fall fishing season is just around the corner. I fished the Lower Sacramento River earlier this week on a drizzly day. The fish were willing, and the conditions were excellent. I always look forward to the fall fishing season.

At this time last year, we were getting prepared for Yuba Fest. Now I am reflecting on the Yuba Fest 2025 event with fond memories. This year's event was successful in many ways. The Conservation Rally, featuring discussions about the impact of the Lower Yuba Nature-like fishway, was lively and well attended. The Fly Casting Skills Development program was also well attended. A thank you goes out to all the fly-casting mentors who helped run the program. The event has never been about the number of people that attend; it is always about the quality and passion of the people that attend. This was a very satisfying event for everyone who came and participated. The evenings at the campground were once again memorable, marked by lots of camaraderie.

We have already started discussions for Yuba Fest 2026 and have established a date. The event will take place on September 12th and possibly 13th, 2026. For Sunday, September 13th, we are considering holding a Presidents' Fly Club Leaders conference, similar to our Presidents' Lunch at the Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton. This will give our fly club leaders the opportunity to meet in person and discuss common interests. More information will be shared as we move forward. If your club is interested in having a representative participate in the Yuba Fest 2026 organizational committee, please let me know.

Our NCCFFI Election will take place soon. All FFI members in our council will be emailed a ballot, allowing them to vote on the slate of nominees. I will be stepping down as NCCFFI President, and Ron Beltramo has been nominated to succeed me as President for 2026. There is more information about the election in this newsletter. As a note, the NCCFFI's goal is to have representation on the board of all our 28 fly clubs. This support can be provided through volunteering as a director on the NCCFFI Board or as a liaison to the board from your fly club. We will continue to work on fulfilling this goal in 2026.

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The Ah Di Nah campground restoration has been completed and has been a fantastic and inspirational project. The energy and support from fly clubs and fly club members deserve a big thank you. The project would not have happened without the vision and leadership of Scott Harrison. Kudos to all.

Have a great fall season, NCCFFI President, Clay Hash Northern California Council of FFI, President | clayhash.fft@gmail.com

... 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 lead 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 or aeichert@amnh.org

Take the Angler's Survey

... For Sale

Past President Jim Bowen has an Outcast OSG Stryker for sale. Original equipment includes seats, oarlocks and oars. After market goodies are Cataract oars, Scotty anchor system, Scotty rod holder, trolling motor plate, new 12volt battery in a case and a Minn-Kota 55lb thrust trolling motor. Trolling motor is almost new. Used once. Can be car topped or broken down and stuffed in a trunk or pickup bed. Asking \$3,250.00. Contact Jim @ 209-604-5826







Tuolumne River Clean-up

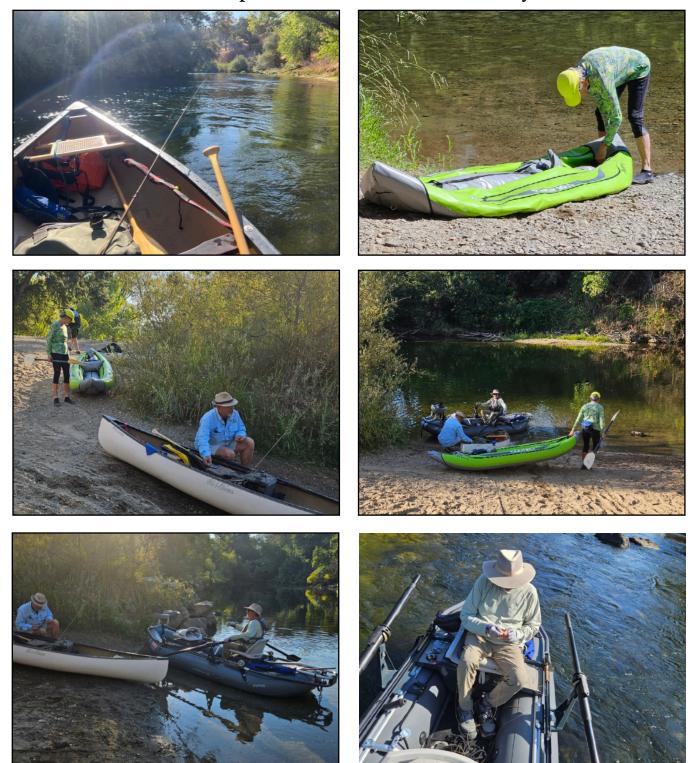
Join Stanislaus Fly Fishers for a cleanup day on the Tuolumne River, Saturday November 22 2025. The Site is the former campground below Turlock Lake. This campground is closed, but has experienced illegal dumping. When high river flows occur, this debris will flow downriver.

So, Stanislaus Fly Fishers is leading a cleanup day to remove the debris. We plan to start at 9:00 am. All are invited to join with us in this cleanup project. For further information, email me at jadriver@aol.com.

We are looking at options for equipment to facilitate the cleanup, ie., dumpsters, trailers, frontloaders, etc., so if you have access or know someone who has access to anything that could help, please let us know.

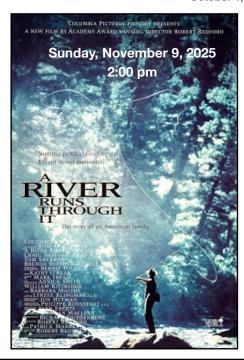


Tuolumne River Float - September 20, 2025 w/ SantaCruz Fly Fishers



N E M B E R





Upcoming Outings and Events

Click here for a link to our Google Calendar.

- Mono-Hot Springs Outing (Guided)- October 7-8
- General Meeting October 14 John Driver "Caddisflies" or River Partners "Dos Rios" Project
- Fly Tying Night October 21 Food Fix
- Board Meeting October 23 Track 424
- Knights Ferry Salmon Fest November 8, 2025
- "A River Runs Through It" November 9 State Theater
- General Meeting November 11 -
- Fly Tying Night November 18 Food Fix
- Board Meeting December 4 Track 24
- Annual Holiday Dinner December 9, 2025
- Fly Tying Night December 16 Food Fix
- International Sportsmen's Exposition January 15-18, 2026 Cal Expo Sacramento
- Pleasanton Fly Show February 27-28, March 1, 2026
- F3T/Rivers of Recovery Fundraiser April 18, 2026 State Theater
- 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 are currently \$45/year. 2026 dues will become payable January 1, 2026. 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-habitating 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
SFF Liability Waiver

FFI Membership Link

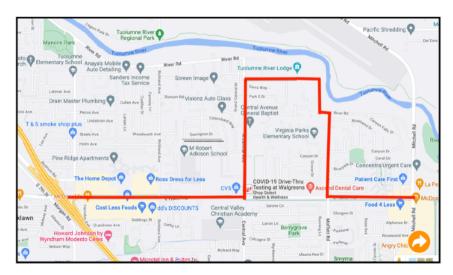


Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge

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 musse

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



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 Mudsnail

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



Stems are densely branched. Photo by Alison Fox, University of Florida,



Bugwood.org

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



Robert Vidéki, Doronic 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