

President's Message - December 2025

President's Message:

Happy December everyone! I hope you're all being creative about where you can fish since the salmon have full run of our local rivers, un-molested by pesky fishers and their hook infested morsels. We seem to be having a nice return of salmon, here's to hoping they spawn well and send a nice year-class to the ocean. I am proud that we have returned conservation to the club. Rebuilding after COVID has been a big task and all y'all have taken up the challenge. We have brought back the film festival and welcomed a plethora of new members. Several of you stepped up to teach a variety of classes and lectures. I'm thrilled that our Fall River trip is filling up and some new personalities will be in the White-house with us. Outings have been kind of a secret, those of us attending had a great time, but attendance has been a bit lighter than we hoped.

What was not lightly attended was the Tuolumne River Campground clean-up. It was such a delight to see so many people show up and get to work. We had 16 people show up, mostly members and some guests. Special thanks to Turlock Scavenger who donated not only the dumpster but also the dump fees! This was our first conservation project in as long as I've been a member, a special "atta-boy" to John Driver for figuring everything out so well! At the end of the Day, tons of garbage are safely in the landfill and not polluting the Tuolumne River, hopefully contributing to success spawning and rearing fry!

The December dinner/meeting will include election for next year's officers. At this point Bob Is running for President and I am running for Treasurer. If you have a desire to be involved, please come ready to offer yourself up for office!

I was really blessed with a great outpouring of support in my year as President. I reviewed some of the accomplishments in the past few paragraphs. I had ambitious hopes for this year, and you stepped up to make them happen for our club. Regardless of the task, I found enthusiastic members ready to jump in and accomplish the task at hand. I think and hope this is not because you're just a great group of people (which you are!) But I think it's because this is what you want as a member of a fly club. The opportunity to learn at meetings, contribute to veterans in need at the film festival, get out and fish together, and spend time with some like-minded wonderful people. This is why you joined our club! When I asked people to teach a lecture in Fly fishing 101 your heart poured into passing on your passion to the

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newbies. Embracing, supporting, and welcoming newbies is how our club supports the future of fly fishing!

I've been doing a lot of thinking about where everything fits into the world of fly fishing and conservation. As President of our club, I was asked to serve on the board of Trout Unlimited Central Sierra Section. This led me to think strategically and search my soul about each organization's role in making the world a better place. Fly clubs are the center of the effort, supporting existing fishers and welcoming newbies. Fly Fishers International excels at providing training for fly fishers, their casting program and the Gold, Silver, Bronze casting medals are a great foundation to a fisher's skills. Trout Unlimited seems to be the leader in conservation and supports our desire to protect the rivers and fish we love. So, moving forward I hope to see synergy amongst all these organizations bringing you great fly fishing, welcoming new fishers, and supporting the environment together. I hope to see TU and FFI support our local clubs' efforts to serve their members.

I realized early in my term, that this is a social club ... we are a club because we enjoy each other's company. I know I thoroughly enjoy the time I spend with each one of you, and I look forward to the next time we get to share a river!

– Paul

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/Membership.

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. Secretary duties include: putting out the monthly newsletter; send periodic mass mailer emails as needed to announce outings, events, and other activities; request insurance riders from FFI as needed; provide written copies of general meeting minutes as needed for administrative purposes, particularly detailing the election of officers. Fulfill other administrative tasks at the request of the president as needed.

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 - December 2025

Changing things up! I am going to start with a quote this month! And postpone Act II of Motorcycling and Fly Fishing.

"Eventually, all things merge into one, and a river runs through it. The river was cut by the world's great flood and runs over rocks from the basement of time. On some of the rocks are timeless raindrops. Under the rocks are the words, and some of the words are theirs.

I am haunted by waters."

— Norman Maclean, A River Runs Through It and Other Stories

It was GREAT to see everyone at "The Movie"! I love this movie, and more so the book that it is based on. I am re-reading it for the...umpteenth time!

I have touched on this quote previously in my President's notes, it resonates with me. Especially as I age and dream of places once fished, there is a haunting quality to those dreams.

Am I haunted by waters? I don't know, but I may be when I cannot fish them any longer.

I was not fly fishing in 1992, though it was only a few years in the future. I do remember going to see the movie in the theatre though, the gal I was dating wanted to go for Brad Pitt (I mean, can you blame her?!!) I liked the movie, but it had yet to resonate, that was still a decade or more in my future.

Why does this resonate with me? Simply, I understand it. I am not a church goer, not even particularly religious, but I know the voice of a higher power. I hear it every time I fish, in the river, in the woods, in the breath of the wind sighing through the riverside brush. Is it the voice of God? I don't know, I think God has many voices, and many ways to speak. When I fish, that is my church, my connection to a higher power. Nature, water, wind, silence from the sounds of mankind, that is my church.

This is my interpretation of this quote, and why it resonates with me.

Happy Holidays Folks! Tight Lines! ~ Link

Club News

... December General Meeting - Tuesday, December 9, 2025

Our December meeting will be our Annual Dinner. Reservations are REQUIRED and the deadline is today. We need to have a firm headcount so that SFF member Hank Olson of Food Fix can plan accordingly. There's a flyer at the bottom of the newsletter with full info and a Venmo link. This is a fun event with dee-licious food and a great opportunity to mingle with our SFF family.



There will be a voluntary gift exchange this year. If you choose to participate, bring a gift and get a gift. Hope to see you all there!

... 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, December 13th. 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

Once again the SFF had booths at the annual Salmon Festival at Knights Ferry. We hostied our usual fly casting booth as well as an information booth to spread the word about our growing club and promote the SFF-sponsored film showing of *A River Runs Through It* at the State Theater. Several members showed up to help man the booths. We gave older children and

adults an opportunity to try casting a fly



rod, and this year for the younger ones we had a salmon-fied corn hole game they could play and receive Save Our Salmon badges. It was a great day!

As usual, it was fun to take a spin around the other booths and vendors and check out all the cool stuff going on. Of course, the day wasn't complete without a trip down to the bridge and count the salmon migrating up to spawn, which sadly was still not the numbers we'd like to see.

SSF sponsored a showing of *A River Runs Through It* Saturday, November 9th at the State Theater. Is was nice to se the film on a big screen again. Those that attended had a good time.

As always, the board is working hard to provide a number of group outings and your input and feedback is welcome and greatly appreciated. Please be free to share your ideas for possible group outings.

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. There is space for ten at the ranch and we need to fill all ten spots to keep the price as low as possible. \$275 covers two nights



lodging. Pram rentals are \$100/day which can be split between two people. This is a great trip and worth the drive!

... Open Fly Tying Night, Tuesday, December 16th

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.

... 2026 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 information regarding a possible Fly Fishing 101 class to be announced. Unfortunately, the casting clinic we announced was canceled due to a lack of interest.

... 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.

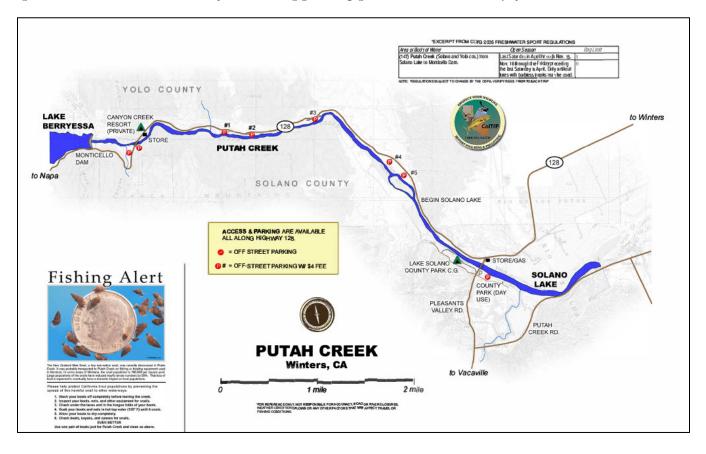
Any other questions? Please let me know.

~ Link



Putah Creek - Background Information

The Heritage and Wild Trout Program (HWTP) of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife designated the Putah Creek Interdam Reach (IDR) from Monticello Dam to Lake Solano (with five public access areas) as a Wild Trout water in 2014 and added Lake Solano in 2015. During the evaluation of the Putah Creek IDR and Lake Solano for Wild Trout designation, which took several years, Putah Creek Trout and its partners have provided volunteer resources and support to HWTP, including angler use surveys, population monitoring, fish movement telemetry, and spawning and gravel scarification studies. As a Wild Trout water, CDFW has implemented a resource management plan to monitor and protect the wild trout fishery, while supporting public access and enjoyment.









Putah Creek Cleanup/Restoration Project (January 10, 2026)

Over the years, Putah Creek Trout and its partners have undertaken a series of cleanups on Putah Creek, the latest being on September 20th on National Cleanup Day. In conjunction with California Fish and Wildlife (and Yolo County), NCCFFI (Northern California Fly Fishers International) is planning a general clean up at Putah Creek on Saturday, January 10, 2026, that will cover key access points and include garbage clean up as well as other restoration work to be done. Since Putah Creek is the closest Heritage and Wild Trout stream to the San Francisco Bay Area and Sacramento, we are asking local fly clubs to put the word out and solicit volunteers to help with this effort on January 10th. We will send out additional information about this cleanup effort in December and ask people to sign up on the NCCFFI website at that time (complete details to be announced in the December RiverMouth). The general plan is to start working early in the morning on January 10th and finish early in the afternoon...at which time lunch will be served to all the volunteers (details pending). Please save the date (January 10th) and join us to care for Putah Creek.

To sign up, go to the NCCFFI Website (<u>www.nccffi.org</u>).

... Tuolumne River Clean-up

Stanislaus Fly Fishers coordinated 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, SFF members and friends got together to remove the debris. Turlock Scavenger provided a large dumpster at no charge, Dennis Stambaugh and Paul Wallace showed up with trailers, and John Driver brought a tractor with front loader. We pretty much filled them all! Sadly, thee are still some areas that need cleaning, but we did clear everything that was in danger of being washed down during high water periods.

NCCFFI President's Message - December 2025

Fall and winter are the time of change. The NCCFFI elections have been completed, and my term as NCCFFI president will end at the end of the year. I have been president for two years, and I believe we have made progress in connecting with our fly clubs and fly club members. Ron Beltramo will become the new NCCFFI president in January. I will continue to support him and the NCCFFI as we continue forward. He is a capable leader, and I encourage everyone to support his efforts.

I will continue my support of the NCCFFI as the past president, remain on the board, continue as the co-editor of the RiverMouth, and help develop our website content.

Looking back, the three things that stood out to me this year were the President's Lunch at the Fly Fishing Show, the Ah Di Na campground restoration project, and Yuba Fest.

The President's Lunch was well attended, and there was a good connection between the NCCFFI Board and club leaders. We were able to communicate our goals and field questions from the attendees. It set the tone for 2025. We will have the President's Lunch again at this year's show. It will be on February 28th at 12:00 pm. For club leaders, please Save the Date.

The Ah Di Nah project was a collaborative effort spearheaded by Scott Harrison and supported by financial and volunteer contributions from many fly clubs. This was a model project that I hope to see more of in the coming years. We have another project, the Putah Creek general cleanup and trail maintenance, scheduled for January 10th, 2026. We are looking for about 50 - 60 volunteers to help. See the article inside this issue. Volunteers can register on our website and join the effort. www.nccffi.org

Yuba Fest this year was the most successful event we have had to date. I hope we can build on the successes for 2026. Save the date for September 12th, 2026. This year's Yuba Fest was attended by people who really wanted to be there, and the spirit ran high. The conservation rally was a high point as information was shared about what is happening with the Daguerre Point By-Pass. There were quality speakers, discussions, and great engagement from the attendees. The fly casting program was also well attended. The organizers of the event always stress about the number of attendees. I've realized that it is not about the quantity, it's about the quality of those who attend. There is a lesson there.

I will continue to support the idea that "Clubs Helping Clubs" makes a difference. Working together, we can get important things done.

I thank everyone who has helped the NCCFFI achieve its 2025 goals.

Clay Hash, NCCFFI President Northern California Council of FFI, President | clayhash.fft@gmail.com

Read full NCCFFI newsletter here: <u>The Rivermouth</u>































... 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











"As 2026 nominee for president of the Stanislaus Fly Fishers, I am looking forward to serving the membership, with guidance, suggestion, attention, and enjoyment for you, the members, and will be very thankful for your support."

Bob Bullock

Upcoming Outings and Events

Click here for a link to our Google Calendar.

- Board Meeting December 4 Track 24
- Delta FF Fly Tying Day December 6
- Annual Holiday Dinner December 9, 2025 Tuolumne River Lodge
- Fly Tying Night December 16 Food Fix
- General Meeting January 13, 2026 Tuolumne River Lodge Doug Rodricks, Sierra Drifters Guide Service
- International Sportsmen's Exposition January 15-18, 2026 Cal Expo Sacramento
- Open Fly Tying Night January 20, 2026 Food Fix
- Board Meeting January 22, 2026 Track 424
- General Meeting February 10 Tuolumne River Lodge Brian Pultz, Delta Bass Bugs "Bass"
- Open Fly Tying Night February 17, 2026 Food Fix
- Board Meeting February 26, 2026 Track 424
- Pleasanton Fly Show February 27-28, March 1, 2026
- General Meeting March 10, 2026 Tuolumne River Lodge "BSA Camp" & "Insect Presentation"
- Open Fly Tying Night March 17, 2026 Food Fix
- Board Meeting March 26, 2026 Track 424
- F3T/Rivers of Recovery Fundraiser April 18, 2026 State Theater
- Fall River Outing April 24-26, 2026 Circle 7 Ranch, Fall River Mills



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

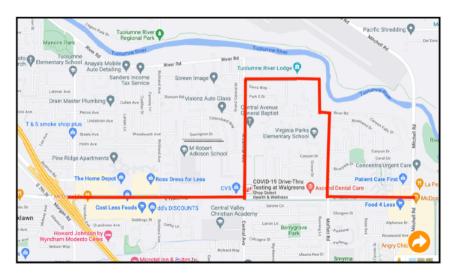


Directions to Tuolumne River Lodge

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 mussel Photo by USFWS

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

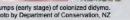
Size – From microscopic to up to 2" long. Free-floating (planktonic) larvae are microscopic and cannot be seen by the unaided eye.

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

Didymo or "Rock Snot"

Didymosphenia geminata







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.

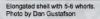
Eurasian Watermilfoil

Myriophyllum spicatum

New Zealand Mudsnail

Potamopyrgus antipodarum







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

Flower spike. Photo by John Somerville, UK



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



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

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.

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, 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