



## President's Message

"How do you do," fly-fishing enthusiasts—those who are, want to be, or are just considering it. We, your Board of Directors, have been working, thinking, and planning, and some of the results of that work are shared in this newsletter. Check it out and see if we've caught your interest.

Since our last communication, the fishing season opened on January 1 for catch-and-release fishing on some local rivers. Many of us grabbed our rods and gear and headed out. It was good to be on the water, out of the house, and back in the river environment. That said, for me—and for most others I spoke with—it wasn't very rewarding fishing. It was tough trying to figure out what the fish wanted to eat or how they wanted it presented. There has been some discussion about possible reasons—maybe environmental factors, maybe water flows—but nothing definitive. Oh well, that's why they call it fishing, not catching. Still, it did not diminish the enjoyment of getting out on the water.

On another note, I'd like to make a recommendation. We have had—and will continue to have—good presentations. These presenters share valuable information with you, some of it new, interesting, or simply a helpful refresher, and hopefully something you retain for future use. I encourage you to ask questions, take notes, and discuss what was presented with others. Most importantly, get out there and use that information.

I would also like to remind you that any dollars you spend here are donations to your club, Stanislaus Fly Fishers. Those funds, in turn, go back to you in ways we hope you will find valuable and enjoyable.

Finally, please note that we have a new newsletter editor, Monica Bourke. She is doing a fine job, along with her assistants—don't you think? If you have information, pictures, or stories you'd like to share, please contact her. She would be happy to hear from you.

That's all for now. Remember—tell a friend, bring a friend. - **Bob Bullock**

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## Link's Lines

Trout live in beautiful places

Holy Guacamole! February 2026? How in the heck did that happen? I just found some things I stashed away for Y2K!!! Yeah, I am old! Happy New Year and GET OFF MY LAWN!!!

One of the many things that keeps me fly fishing is our backyard, the beautiful and often mysterious Sierra Nevada mountain range. It runs 400 miles north/south and was formed less than 5 million years ago from uplifting granite formed deep underground more than 100 million years ago. This has led to a truly marvelous place! Nothing I enjoy more than hopping around the beautiful granite boulders of my favorite trout stream! Boulders that are unimaginably old, and often so smooth they are insanely slippery. Can you imagine something so hard being worn down to that level of smoothness by wind, weather, ice and flowing water? I have a few favorite spots that I like to just lay out on an expanse of this brilliant stuff, take a break and soak in the immenseness of a simple slab of granite. Impossibly old, change that takes eons, what am I, a humble human to the ponderous immensity of this ancient stone? It is a wonderful question to ponder!

Running through this construction of quartz, alkali feldspar, and plagioclase, is the river, and in the river the trout. If I am fortunate, I can entice a few to my fly. If not, then what have I lost? I have lost nothing, but gained another few hours in an almost magical arena.

I highly recommend taking some time out from fishing to just marvel at the beauty of the places we get to fish.

Truth quote o'the month:

"The Sierra Nevada is five hundred miles of rock put right. Granite freed by glaciers and lifted through clouds where water, frozen and fine, has scraped and washed it into a high country so brilliant it brings light into night." - Willard Wyman-Author

Tight Lines!

## Club News

### Signs

Perhaps you have been fishing on the Tuolumne River around La Grange, and noticed new fishing regulation signs. Stanislaus Fly Fishers working with California Fish & Game; Wildlife wardens developed very needed new signs. It's easy to be confused about current regulations, and these signs help everyone to be informed and in compliance. The success of the Tuolumne signs led to requests for signs on the Stanislaus River. So, you soon should start seeing new regulation signs on the Stanislaus River.

**Stanislaus River Fishing Regulations**  
T14 CCR §7.40 (b)(1)(B)(4) From Goodwin Dam downstream to the Highway 120 bridge in Oakdale

**Session:**  
January 1 through October 31. (Closed November 1 through December 31).

**Gear Restrictions:**  
Only artificial lures/fines with barbless hooks may be used.

Artificial lures (T14 CCR §7.17) may manufactured or made from any metal, fiber or plastic item(s) added to the manufacturing process or added afterwards) device complete with hooks, intended to attract. Artificial lures include, but are not limited to: spinners, spooners, articulated lures, and plugs, made of metal, plastic, wood, or any other material.

**Catch-and-Release Requirement:**  
If you catch wild trout or wild steelhead which is defined by an intact adipose fin, you must release it unharmed and should not be removed from the water.

**Bag Limit:**  
Hatchery trout or hatchery steelhead which is defined by missing adipose fin with healed scar:

- 2 fish per day, 4 fish in possession.

**Other Regulations:**  
Valid California fishing license in possession for all anglers 16 years and older.  
Anglers must have a Steelhead Report and Restoration Card in their possession while fishing for or taking Steelhead Rainbow Trout in streams with a steelhead regulation of 16 inches or larger.

- Enter date & location code (20) before fishing begins.
- Enter all catch on card for Steelhead Rainbow Trout 16 inches or larger.

Scan this QR code for my updated fishing regulations.

**Respect the River**

- Handle fish gently and release them quickly.
- Remove all trash and gear from the river.
- Be mindful of private property and respect landowners' rights.

**Report Violations**

Call the California Department of Fish and Wildlife at (888) 334-2258

Sign Donated by Stanislaus Fly Fishers

### February 2026 Meeting

We would like to welcome the Tuolumne and Stanislaus wardens, Christian Weaver and Harley Radcliffe to share interesting stories and pertinent updates.

## Fly Fishing 201

Stanislaus Fly Fishers announces a new fly-fishing class. Fly Fishing 201 is a four-session, on- water program designed to help intermediate anglers build skills. This class will be limited to 3-4 persons to allow individual instruction. Dates to be announced as each class fills. The first class is full.

Participants should have basic fly-fishing (intermediate) skills and experience. The class will meet for four days over 2-3 months, fitting participants schedules. There will be 4 modules:

- Dry Fly Fishing.
- Indicator and Dry Dropper Nymphing.
- Float-and-Fly & Streamer Bass Fishing.
- Euro & Tight Line Nymphing.

Cost: Payment Required Before First Class Begins.

Fly Fishing 201 – Curriculum Packet & Cost

### Module 1 — Dry Fly Fishing

- Objectives: Accuracy, presentation, surface feeding behavior.
- Gear: 4–5 wt rods, floating line, 9–12 ft leaders.
- Knots: Clinch, Surgeon’s, Perfection Loop.
- Flies: Mayflies, caddis, attractors, terrestrials,
- Water: Reading the water, currents, feeding lanes.
- Techniques: Reach cast, slackline, mending.
- On-Water Practice: Presentation drills, rig adjustments.

### Module 2 — Indicator & Dry-Dropper Nymph Fishing

- Objectives: Depth control, drift skills.
- Gear: 5–6 wt rods, nymph lines, indicators, 10–12 ft leaders.
- Knots: Blood, Triple Surgeon’s, Non-slip loop, Tag-dropper.
- Flies: Hare’s Ear, Pheasant Tail, Prince, Rainbow Warrior., Chubby + Perdigon.
- Water: Reading the water, currents, feeding lanes.
- Techniques: Mending, roll cast, indicator reading.
- On-Water Practice: Two-fly rigging, drift tracking.

### Module 3 — Float-and-Fly Bass Fishing

- Objectives: Stillwater bass methods, structure reading.
- Gear: 6–8 wt rods, long leaders, balanced flies under float.
- Knots: Uni, Loop, Surgeon’s Loop.
- Flies: Balanced leeches, craft-fur minnows, Delta Bass Bug flies.
- Water: Finding structure, structure (rocks & docks).
- Techniques: Depth control, slow retrieves, structure approach.
- Techniques: Streamer fishing methods.
- On-Water Practice: Float rigging, casting.

## Module 4 — Euro &amp; Tight-Line Nymphing

- Objectives: Contact nymphing, sighter tension.
- Gear: 10–11 ft 2-4 wt. euro rods, mono rig or thin euro line.
- Knots: Blood, Surgeons, Davy, tippet ring connections.
- Flies: Perdigon, Frenchie, Walt's, Duracell, Blowtorch , TJ Hooker.
- Water: Reading the water, currents, feeding lanes.
- Techniques: Pocket water tactics,sighter reading, high-stick depth control.
- On-Water Practice: Tag rigging, drift control circuits.

For more information email: [learn@stanislausflyfishers.org](mailto:learn@stanislausflyfishers.org)

## October Outing

Our plan is to return to the Central Sierra for dry fly fishing. We will go either to Mono Hot Springs or Kings Canyon NP, to fish for very willing native trout. The first week of October is the time, finding the trout looking up for ants or other dry flies. 3 or 4 weight rods give lots of fun action. Stay tuned for more information as our plans develop.

## 2026 SFF Membership 2026 update

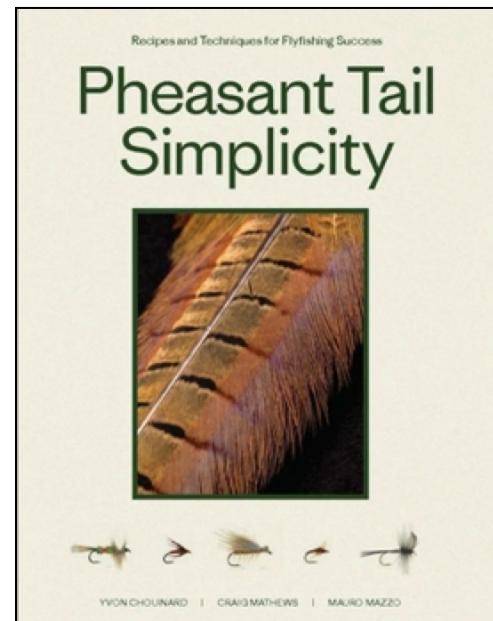
At our January meeting I was impressed with how eager those in attendance wanted to help with keeping their membership info up to date. When you attend your next meeting, it would be a big help if you would bring your Fly Fishers International card with you so that we can update our records.

~ Barry Kutz

## Flytyer's Corner

This will be the first in a series of posts addressing items of interest to flytyers. I recently viewed a video featuring Brian Flechsig (Mad River Outfitters) and Tim Flagler (Tightline Video) tying a Pheasant Tail wet fly/nymph (often called a flymph). You can view the video here. Their conversation included a discussion of a recently published book, *Pheasant Tail Simplicity*, authored by Yvon Chouinard, Craig Matthews, and Mauro Mazzo. I was intrigued by their referencing the book and the Flagler-tied lymph that was featured in the book so I ordered a copy from Mad River (\$25). I haven't read everything in the book yet, but these are my initial impressions,

First of all, this book seems to try to be three things simultaneously: a book of recollections by some hard core, life



long fly fishers, a book of fly fishing photography, and a fly tying manual. And to me, it scores on all fronts.

The authors have a combined 200 years of fly fishing experience which is plenty to draw from as they recount their individual and joint adventures, relating them to a particular area of focus in the book. The stories are brief, not intrusive, and complement each section and provide background for their choices in the flies being presented as well as the circumstances and techniques involved in fishing them. Each section includes a lot of details regarding pheasant tail-based flies (nymphs, wets, and dries) and how the three authors incorporate them in their fly fishing approach. These sections are full of informative material you should find useful and offer plenty for you to think about when on the water. Then there's the photography. The book is full of gorgeous images of scenic locations, portraits, fish, and insects, not to mention the flies. It could almost stand on its photography alone. Last, but not least, are the flies, their patterns, and the step-by-step tying instructions with detailed photos. Fourteen PT patterns in all, covering wets, nymphs, dries, and a salt water bonefish pattern. There are all kinds of illustrations detailing fishing strategies and techniques for the flies presented, most accompanied with related anecdotal stories from the authors.

If you're a tyer who likes reference books, this is a great choice. If you're a non-tyer, this is still a great book with plenty to offer. It gets my two thumbs up.



## Fly Tying 101 Class

The Fly Tying 101 class will begin on March 18th from 6:00 – 9:00 pm in the Ceres Schools District Office, Conference Room C, 2503 Lawrence St., Ceres, CA. The cost for the class is \$100 for Stanislaus Fly Fishers members or \$125 for non-members. It is highly recommended to have your own tools, but club tools can be provided for a \$50 deposit, refundable upon their return. Materials for the flies will be provided. Advance registration required. Venmo link at the bottom of the page. Class size is limited to 8 participants.



The class schedule will be as follows:

- March 18 – “Nymphs”
- March 25 – “Streamers”
- April 1 – “Wet Flies”
- April 8 – “Dry Flies”
- April 15 – “Terrestrials”

### Attention Fly Tyers!

We'll have all the feather materials (saddles, capes, etc.) from our donated material inventory for sale at our next meeting. Bring a few extra bucks and grab what you need!

**NCCFFI President's Message**

We got off to a great start in 2026 with the **Putah Creek Restoration Project on January 10th**. We had **80 people** that participated in this effort (74 from Fly Fishing Clubs & locals, plus 6 Team Leaders). Leadership for this event included John Feaster (Project Leader/Local Fishing Guide), Matt Wong (Fish & Wildlife Lead), Cole Ogando (Owner of Preserve Restaurant) and NCCFFI Leadership that coordinated the project.



Thirteen Fly Fishing Clubs from Northern California were represented in this effort (15 people from Diablo Valley, 11 from Peninsula Fly Fishers, 8 from Flycasters of San Jose, 7 from California Flyfishers Unlimited, 7 from Gold Country Fly Fishers, 7 from Granite Bay Flycasters, 5 from Grizzly Peak Fly Fishers, 4 from Mount Tamalpais Fly Fishers, 2 from Russian River Fly Fishers, and 1 each from Tahoe Truckee Fly Fishers, Delta Fly Fishers, Fly Fishers of Davis, and Golden Gate Angling and Casting Club...plus 4 with no club affiliation/locals).



Afterwards, volunteers met at Preserve Restaurant in Winters for a great end to the workday gathering, joining together over food & drinks to commemorate the great progress made at Putah Creek.

**Special thanks to all the volunteers that came together to make this happen. We do have a Putah Creek follow up cleanup/restoration project planned for Saturday, June 13th, so please mark your calendars for that date...more information to come on this shortly.**

Note...If any of our Northern California FlyFishing Clubs have cleanup/restoration projects planned in their local area, please let us know and NCCFFI will be happy to help facilitate the effort.



[NCCFFI Newsletter](#)

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

### **Upcoming Outings and Events**

- General Meeting – February 10 – Tuolumne River Lodge – Brian Pultz, Delta Bass Bugs – “Bass”
- Open Fly Tying Night – February 17, 2026 – Churchkey, 910 12th St., Modesto
- 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 – TBD
- Fly Tying 101 Class Starts – March 18, 2026 – Ceres Schools District Office – 2503 Lawrence St., Ceres
- Board Meeting – March 26, 2026 – Track 424
- General Meeting – April 14 – Tuolumne River Lodge – “FishBio”
- F3T/Rivers of Recovery Fundraiser – April 18, 2026 – State Theater
- Open Fly Tying Night – April 21, 2026 – TBD
- Fall River Outing – April 24-26, 2026 – Circle 7 Ranch, Fall River Mills
- Flyfishing 101 Class Starts – May 8, 2026 – Central Valley High School, 4033 Central Ave., Ceres
- FFI FlyFest - September 25-26 - Redding, CA

### **SFF 2025 Board of Directors**

President: Bob Bullock • Vice-President: John Driver • Secretary: Monica Bourke • Webmaster: Michael Hewitt • Treasurer: Paul Wallace • Outings: John Driver • Membership: Barry Kutz

- F3T Chair/Outings: Derek Coelho • Hospitality Coordinator: Janice Rinehart • Inventory Chair: Gus Link• Learning Coordinator - Cristie Crawford • Past President: Paul Wallace

### **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-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:

**Paul Wallace**  
**722 Mt Rushmore Dr**  
**Newman CA 95360**

**Paul Stan Fly Fish Wallace**

@Paul-StanFlyFish



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

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

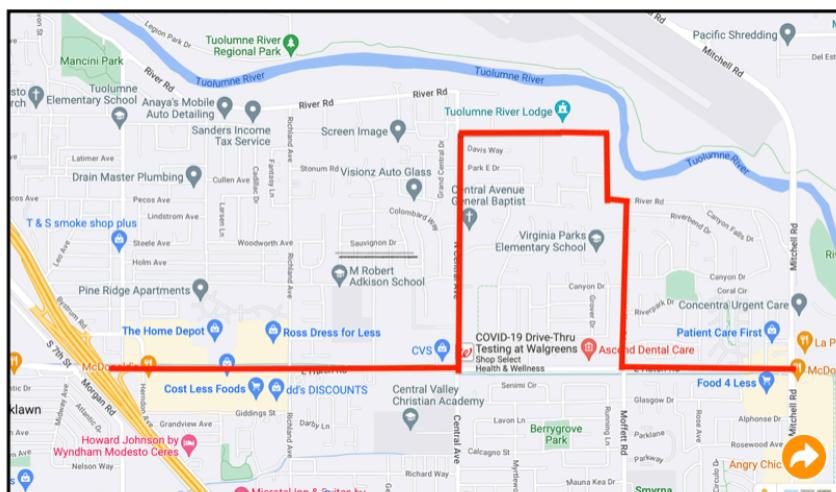
[\*\*SFF Liability Waiver\*\*](#)

#### 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.



## Salmon in the Classroom

Some of our members were involved in the preparation and delivery of salmon eggs to area classrooms to be hatched and raised, and then later in March released into the Tuolumne or Stanislaus Rivers. Members John Driver and Paul Wallace aided in the gathering of eggs into cheesecloth bundles of 30 eggs each. These eggs were then delivered via volunteers to 19 area schools and 37 classrooms. Members making deliveries were John, Bob Bullock, Janice Rinehart and Mike Hewitt. Meeting in Snelling early Thursday morning, drivers were given strict instructions on the handling of the eggs and procedures for depositing them into the classroom aquariums. Egg bundles were distributed to the drivers and placed into ice chests on layers of river water-wet paper towels over bags of ice to keep them wet and cool, and then were transported to the assigned schools and classes. Several SFF members will be participating in at least one salmon release day this spring by providing fly casting demonstrations to the students releasing the salmon fry. Brief video links below showing egg bundling and classroom delivery.

- [Bundling Eggs \(Narrated\)](#)
- [Bundling Eggs 2](#)
- [Eggs Delivery](#) (larger file ... slower load time)



