

The Barbless Hook

May 2023

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

May Meeting – Wednesday May 3rd 7pm

Luong Tam on Tenkara Fishing

Our May Speaker is Luong Tam, founder of Tenkara Tanuki. Luong will be speaking in person and sharing the Tenkara style of fly fishing with us, his company's approach, and his journey in the industry.

Luong Tam, trained as a design engineer by trade and the founder of Tenkara Tanuki, is a tenkara rod designer and builder. Luong has been passionate about fly fishing since the '90s and is a member of many fly casting clubs in California. For the last few years, he became hooked on tenkara and obsessed enough to start his company Tenkara Tanuki. He attends tenkara schools every year taught by Masami Sakakibara, a Japanese tenkara master who is a living legend. Luong has developed casting techniques and fly fishing methods that take advantage of simpler and more efficient tenkara rods. Over the years, He has been giving presentations, workshops, and on-water clinics all over the state.



Don't Forget!

Gary Turri's pre-meeting casting lessons are starting again. See the article in this issue for more information.

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President's Corner

Marty Loomis

Happy opening day to trout season. Here's some information that I copied from an online post that I saw the other day. Fishing experiences this year are likely to be different. As of April 14, the California Department of Water Resources shows the snowpack as 208 percent of normal in the northern Sierra, 241 percent in the central Sierra and 314 percent in the southern Sierra. Only a handful of lakes are expected to be open due to wintry conditions and public safety concerns. Rivers and streams are flowing at higher rates, shore ice may be a concern and historical access points may not be accessible. Some access roads are closed, flooded, or washed out. I would say that we will be having some short-term challenges to fishing this year. Probably the biggest takeaway in all of this is safety. Talking to several members who have been out, the rivers are raging. Be careful out there.

In last month's newsletter, I announced that we are now members of Fly Fishers International (FFI). I have been on several Zoom meeting meetings over the past month, and I think this is going to be a very good thing for the club with new and additional opportunities such as education, conservation, and closer ties to the fly-fishing community. One of the things that has caught my attention is the "Skills Development Program" that Gary Turri has written about and will be starting up this month. This is going to be an incredible opportunity to work on those skills we all need and it's free to all of us.

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

Upcoming Outings:

Hat Creek in May and **Truckee in June** are full with waitlists, however, if you are interested, sign up anyways. Often there are cancellations, the first person on the list will be contacted and so on.

2023 TVFF Board of Directors

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Newsletter	Mark Spruiell
Raffle	Steve Johnson
Refreshments	Gary Prince
Speakers	Dave Fontaine
Trout in Classroom	Daniel Kitts
Webmaster	Mark Spruiell

May Raffle

We have given away several fly rods in quarterly raffles, so this month you will have the opportunity to win a prize to purchase whatever you want. We will be raffling off a \$250 gift certificate to Lost Coast Outfitters in San Francisco. The gift certificate can be used in the store or online.

Tickets are \$10 each and will be available for purchase at the meeting. For a limited time you can also purchase online through the [TVFF store](#).

As always with the quarterly raffle, you will not need to be present to win.

June 16-18 – Lake Almanor – This is the time of the famous Hexagenia or Hex hatch. It is a fishing experience like none other. The fishing gets crazy just at dusk and you have about a half hour or so to catch a big lake trout. Hexagenia are the largest mayfly in North America and are filet mignon for the trout. It's exciting to watch the bugs swim up to the surface, rest once they have broken the meniscus, then take off in search of a partner for a night of fun. The wings look like little sails on the water and the trout gorge themselves on this feast. Sound like fun? Yes, it is. You will have to make your own reservations for transportation and lodging, but we will have a campsite on the lake to meet at for a community meal. If you are interested in this trip, sign up now and make your reservations for accommodations quickly. Motels and campgrounds fill up fast because this is such a unique fishing opportunity. For more information on this outing, contact the Fishmeister: Rob Farris.

September 26 – 27 – McCloud River at the Nature Conservancy – This is NOT a beginner trip. This outing requires difficult wading. If you are not in physical and mental shape for a long day of very difficult hiking, climbing over rocks, slipping and risk of falling, and battling currents this trip is NOT FOR YOU. The plan is to camp at Ah-Di-Nah campground. We have reserved spots on each day at the Conservancy. September is prime for the October Caddis hatch. Sign-ups will open soon for this trip.

Please check the [Events](#) tab frequently to see what's coming up. I am always looking for Fishmeisters to host new trips. Not sure what to do to become a Fishmeister? Contact me and I will help you! More outings coming soon!

Tight Lines!

Free Casting Lessons

Gary Turri – FFI Master Certified Casting Instructor

As we did last year, we will again have free casting lessons prior to the May-October club meetings. The lessons will be from 5pm to around 6:30 or 6:45pm. This will allow enough time to get to the club house before the club meeting starts.

The location will be at the same place, Wattenberger Park in Livermore. This year I have decided to use the Fly Fishers International (FFI) Fly Casting Skills Development program at these pre-meeting casting sessions. The reason is that I have observed great improvement in the casting skills of the students that I have worked with using this program. Several of our club members that attended the Pleasanton Fly Fishing show this year did the Skills Development program there on that weekend. I know some of them have completed the Bronze Level Skills and are now working on their Silver Level Skills.

All the casting skills have a related and very useful fishing application. Bottom line is the more skills that you learn and can do with consistency, the more fish you will catch, which will make your time on the water much more enjoyable. Trust me on that one!

There are four casting skill levels: Foundation, Bronze, Silver, and Gold. I will set up three casting courses at each of pre-meeting casting sessions. If a member has completed Bronze and wishes to work on the Silver level skills, any of the courses can easily be set up to Silver.

I have all the necessary equipment to facilitate the FFI Fly Casting Skills Development program, including the fly casting courses and the supporting paperwork. I have been involved in this program since its inception in 2018 and had the pleasure helping many anglers achieve all the various casting skill levels.

I will also have our TVFF club loaner rods available if you wish to use one or bring your own rod if you wish. You just have to show up, be prepared to have fun improving your current casting skills and for sure learn some new skills to become a better caster and angler.

Don't worry "This is not a test or exam"rather it's about improving your current casting skills and learning new casting skills. You will leave each evening knowing what skills are great and which ones to practice!

Here's how to learn more about this great program between now and the first casting session in May.

Google FFI Fly Casting Skills Development, then click on the Angler Guide.

You can skip the Foundation level skills and mainly focus on the Bronze level skills as that's where we will start in May. Be sure to also read the Performance and Tackle Guidelines on pages 16 and 17.

I'm looking forward to helping any of our club member improve their casting skills, regardless of your current skill level. Don't miss this great opportunity to develop your casting skills while having fun with other club members.

Hope to see you there.

Rod & Gun Club Needs Volunteers

Our host organization, the Livermore-Pleasanton Rod & Gun Club, is preparing to hold their big annual shotgun shoot, the ATA Golden West Grand from May 10-14th. They are looking for adult and youth (11 years and older) volunteer help to run the event. If you have formal range safety or shotgun instructor training, they are looking for help with safety supervision. Those 14 and older can help with scoring hits and misses sitting at each trap house. Others can help with general tasks, picking up spent shells, etc. In the past they have given shooting time/tokens in exchange for help. We're not sure of the exact arrangements for this year.

If you're interested, please contact the Trap Range at (925) 449-8780 and tell them you're with our fly fishing club.

Bidders are Winners

Denis Haire – Auction Chairman

With good timing and anxious bidders, the 2023 TVFF auction was a resounding success! Raising over \$7,200, 40 bidders came well prepared, and even did some on-line pre-bidding before the event. With over 150 items available ranging from fly fishing equipment to buddy trips and fine wines, the evening was very lively.

The venue, Cornerstone Fellowship provided a space that was an excellent backdrop. With music and videos in the background, and microphones for calling out live auction items, the space provided plenty of room to

room. From the electronic check-in to the separate winning bid recording and payment area, the layout proved to be a real advantage to the flow of the evening.



The atmosphere seemed to be very inviting and interactive! With rods on display and available for a test wiggle, it was amazing to see the number of rods being tested. And the watercraft display on stage made it very easy to inspect. Some of the most impressive items were the range of fly boxes available. A special thanks goes out to Mitchie McCammon and Rob Farris for selecting and arranging the boxes, as well as descriptions.



The live auctions proved to be a spirited time. With five items available, including two lots of fine wines, a new Sage Reel, a competition Euro nymphing rod, and a guided trip with Jim Roberts, all were well received by the group. Bidding was fast and furious with bids being called left and right. A special thanks to Alan Wyosnick for his telling of the story behind the rod. If you were not there, be sure to ask him about it.



The unsung heroes of the night were the Board members working the back room. As tables were closing and live auctions ending, the real work of recording winning bids and preparing for payments began. With the skills of Mark Spruiell, Alan Wyosnick and Chris McCann the process was very smooth and efficient. Imagine first processing over 120 items in a short time and keeping it under control. Next was settling up with three different forms of payment. Well done by all.

Finally, thank you for the generous donations as well to the efforts that made it a special event! Although the technology was a big tool, the real work came from the club volunteers. Starting with the planning, the setup the day before, the food for the evening, the tear down, and working the back room the evening was concluded in a quick manner. I hope our next auction runs as well or even better.

Gary Prince – Conservation Director

Here's the latest news from the [Alameda Creek Alliance](#). Note that the Alameda Creek Alliance will be the keynote speaker at our October general meeting to update the Fall campaign. An in-field session will also be scheduled shortly thereafter to prepare us for a successful season of monitoring returning fish.

State of the Alameda Creek Watershed Conference - May 4

The 2023 State of the Alameda Creek Watershed Conference will be held on Thursday, May 4th, from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm, at the Fremont Downtown Event Center. There will be presentations by the Alameda Creek Alliance as well as agency fisheries staff that are monitoring salmonids in the watershed. The conference is hosted by the Alameda Creek Watershed Forum, a group of stakeholders interested in protecting and enhancing water-related beneficial uses and resources within the Alameda Creek watershed.

Field Tour of Alameda Creek Restoration Sites - May 6

The Alameda Creek Alliance will host a half day tour of steelhead restoration sites in the lower watershed, on Saturday, May 6. We will start at 10 am at Niles Community Park, then walk downstream to view the new fish passage facilities in the lower creek; we will end with a picnic lunch and question and answer session at 1:00 pm in Sunol. RVSP to Jeff Miller, jeff@alamedacreek.org.

Anadromous Fish Bonanza

Since the completion and beginning of operation of the new fish ladders in lower Alameda Creek, several species of anadromous fish have been documented migrating through the new fish passage facility. Within the first two months of the lower ladder's operation, upstream migrating adult Chinook salmon and Pacific lamprey were observed using the new structure to bypass a former barrier known as the BART Weir.

On December 5, Alameda Creek Alliance volunteers observed about 30 Chinook salmon attempting to ascend the BART weir; in mid-December some of these Chinook were documented by ACWD inside the new fish ladder at Rubber Dam No. 1 and BART weir. On December 18 and 19, about two dozen Chinook were photographed upstream of both of ACWD's rubber dams, in lower Niles Canyon. This was the first documentation that salmonids had ascended both new ladders and, for the first time in over 50 years, have volitional access to the Alameda Creek watershed. Adult steelhead are expected to use these ladders as well.

In late February, ACWD staff observed at least several dozen adult lamprey in the BART weir fish ladder; and 8 more lamprey were observed on April 1. In October, SFPUC biologists tagged juvenile trout in the upper watershed using Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) technology. Last week, one of those tagged fish was detected 15 miles downstream by specialized antennae located in ACWD's fish ladder in lower Alameda Creek.

New Regulations on the Fall River

CalTrout

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

What changed?

Previously, the Fall River had different regulations for its tributaries. These new regulations treat the Fall River complex as a single unified system with the same regulations across all water, including Bear Creek, a major spawning tributary. Regulations previously applied during a set time period, approximately Memorial Day to September 30. Now, catch and release angling will be open all year. How anglers can fish also changed with the new regulations mandating artificial lures with barbless hooks be used to protect this important wild trout fishery. Previously, anglers were allowed to catch and take home two trout, but these new regulations reduce that number to zero, meaning all angling will be catch and release.

Why does this matter for fish?

CalTrout and UC Davis have spent decades studying the populations and genetics of Fall River fish in partnership with California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW). The data collected on this fishery showed that fish move throughout the various springs, tributaries, and ponds of the Fall River complex throughout the year, necessitating a single regulation across all areas. This research allowed us to give informed advice to CDFW on their new fishing regulations that will better protect wild and native trout.

How will this affect angling on the Fall River?

The regulatory changes we won are based on years of scientific study. These changes reflect the protections we need on the Fall River to ensure that these wild fish remain healthy and thriving, while providing catch and release access for recreational anglers. This change will ensure that the blue-ribbon wild trout fishery in the Fall River will be protected into the future.

Say Hello To Happy Trout & Goodbye to Hoot Owl Hours!

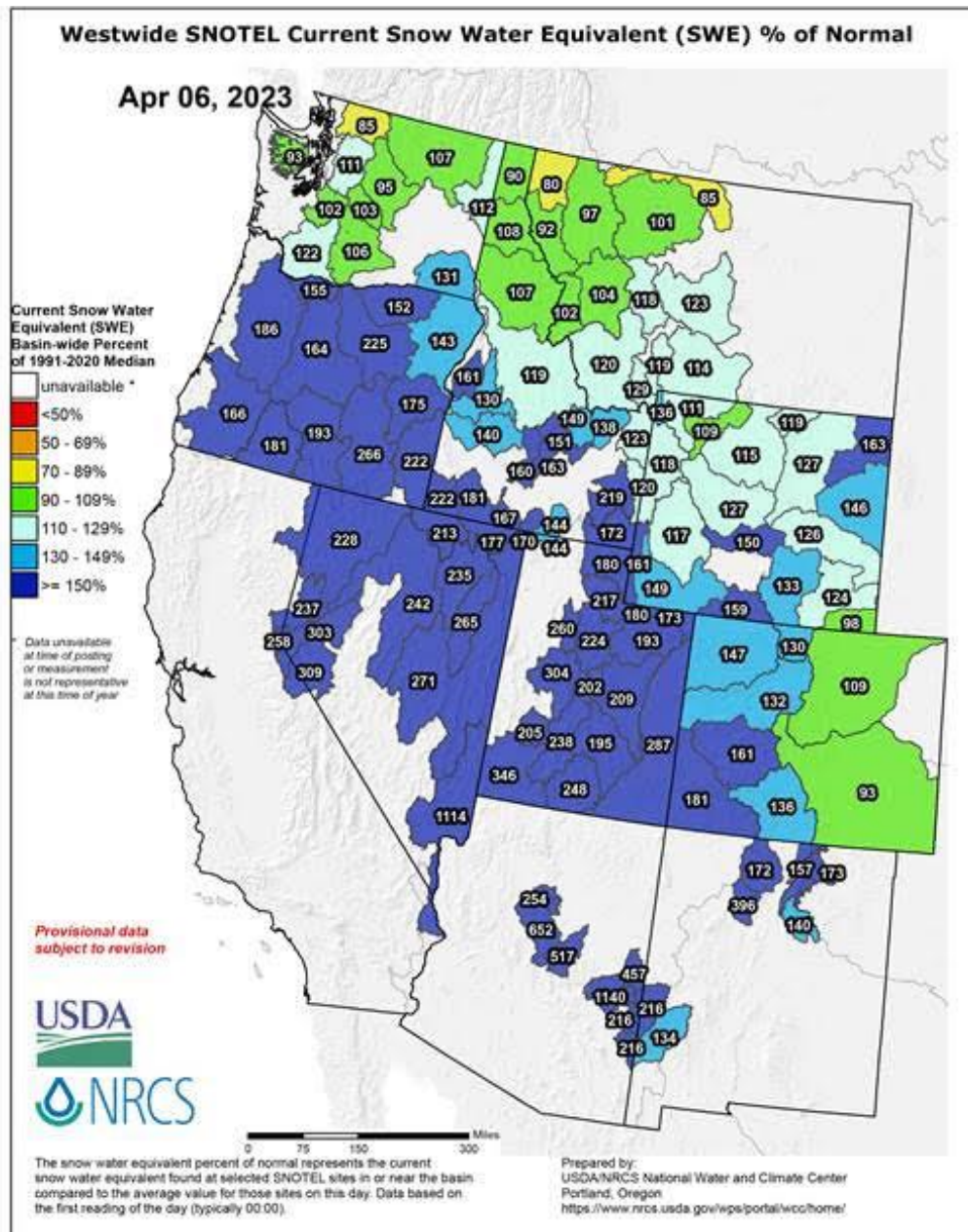
Rob Farris

After years of drought across the west, reservoirs draining down to dangerous levels, and regular river closures due to high summer temperatures, we are entering the spring of 2023 with **record snowpack** across the region! High winter snows = healthy summer flows! With stored water levels in snow across the west ranging from 140% - 300% of the average, we can expect several things, all of which are ultimately going to be good for trout:

1. Low reservoirs will be recharged with deep, cold water!

2. Tailwaters will have plenty of cold water to feed them throughout the summer!
3. We will have a prolonged and/or higher than normal runoff, but this runoff will help to scour and clean the rivers!
4. Hatches will be delayed 1-2 weeks and will likely come off during shorter windows due to the late, cold flows.
5. No Hoot Owl (early river closures) due to hot water temps!

This snow is the best thing a fly fisher could hope for: invertebrate numbers and diversity increase after big runoff years, spawning gravels get cleaned and well aerated, and trout thrive!



Items for Sale

If you need contact information for a member, use the club's online [roster](#).

Gary Turri

New in Box Floating Fly Lines at 40-50% Off:

- Sage Fly Rod, 796-4 RPL, 7 weight 9 foot 6 inch, comes with Lamson Litespeed 3 with RIO 7 weight Indicator fly line. All in excellent condition. A perfectly balanced Steelhead Outfit ready to fish. \$500
- Sage Motive Fly Rod, 1190-4, 11 weight 9 foot, new in tube with Orvis Hydros SL-V reel and RIO Tarpon Line WF11-F. New condition \$560
- Scientific Anglers Spey Lite Scandi Integrated 240 grain, \$40
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-6, \$30
- Scientific Anglers Frequency Magnum Glow WF-7, \$30
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-5, \$40
- Cortland Trout Boss Double Taper DT-6, \$40
- RIO Single Hand Spey 6wt line \$60

