

The Barbless Hook

October 2023

Edited by Mark Spruiell



tri-valleyflyfishers.org

October Meeting – Wednesday Oct. 4th, 7pm

Steven Cochran from Alameda Creek Alliance

Steven will be joining us to talk about the geography, geology, plants, animals, fish and people in the Alameda Creek Watershed. He is the Stewardship Coordinator for the Alameda Creek Alliance and will enlighten us regarding this amazing watershed and provide insight into the ambitious efforts to make this once again a thriving area where salmon and steelhead can return to their historical origins. Dams that have been removed and other restoration work can help make this a reality. Steven has had important roles in many nature, conservation, and environmental efforts throughout California. We are fortunate to have him join us.



Last year the Tri-Valley Fly Fishers began to help the Alameda Creek Alliance monitor the Arroyo de la Laguna, from Sunol to Pleasanton, for hopeful visual observations of salmon migration and spawning activity. We had a wash out for most that time due to the unprecedented rainfall that kept us off the stream. We will learn in coming weeks, what ways we may be able to help this next season.

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| President's Corner | 2 |
| Special Raffle | 2 |
| Outings and Activities | 3 |
| Member Reports | 6 |
| Conservation | 6 |
| Items for Sale | 6 |

President's Corner

Marty Loomis

I guess it's no surprise that fly fishing manufacturers are taking up the call for sustainability and becoming more supportive of waste within the sport. RIO has just announced their 100% compostable spools for their fly lines. The claim is that it will help keep 20,000 pounds of plastic out of the landfill. Great idea, now if someone could come up with compostable fishing line. We all have dredged up lost fishing line out of rivers and lakes.

For those who subscribe to California Fly Fisher magazine, you may have noticed that the October 2023 issue is the last. Many of us have come to rely on the stories and fishing locations that are in each issue. The magazine was launched in 1992 and has become an important staple to many of us. Hopefully, someone will come along and take over publishing of the magazine. As a side note, the publisher, Richard Anderson is a graduate of Livermore High School.

Don't step on the Redds!, it's that time of the year again when the spawn begins. I can't begin to tell you how many times I've heard that from a guide. It is a pretty wonderful thing to see in the rivers and I have gone out of my way to stand next to them just to look them. Looking at the thousands of eggs laid and realizing just a small fraction reach adulthood for our pleasure. Don't step on the Redds!

November Special Raffle

Steve Johnson – Raffle Director

We will be raffling off an **Orvis Clearwater 6 wt., 9'0", 4 pc. fly rod** at the November meeting. This is an excellent rod that normally sells for \$290. It can be yours for only a \$10 ticket. Tickets will be sold at the monthly meetings through November or online at the [TVFF store](#).

Additional information on the rod follows.

Designed in Vermont with a focus on affordability that doesn't sacrifice quality and performance, Orvis' line of Clearwater Rods is ready for anything from tiny mountain brooks to a wide open flat. Made with a medium-fast action, the Clearwater offers solid feedback and casting presentation whether you're just starting out or have decades of fly fishing under your belt. Performance-driven, the Clearwater has enough power to launch large flies, handle gusts of wind, and make those lengthy casts at cruising fish. Whether you need a 2 weight for small panfish, a 4 weight for Euro nymphing, or a 12 weight to handle the tarpon of a lifetime, Orvis makes

2023 TVFF Board of Directors

Officers

| | |
|-----------------------|---------------|
| President | Martin Loomis |
| Vice President | Alan Wyosnick |
| Secretary | Al Mansky |
| Treasurer | Chris McCann |
| Past President | Jim Broadbent |

Directors

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------|
| Auction | Denis Haire |
| Conservation | Gary Prince |
| Education | Rob Farris |
| Outings | Mitchie McCammon |
| Fly Tying | Jim Broadbent |
| Membership | Greg Blandino |
| Newsletter | Mark Spruiell |
| Raffle | Steve Johnson |
| Refreshments | Gary Prince |
| Speakers | Dave Fontaine |
| Trout in Classroom | Daniel Kitts |
| Webmaster | Mark Spruiell |

their Clearwater series in a range of different line weights and lengths to accommodate just about any fish you're chasing.

Blank – Made from high modulus graphite with a medium-fast action, the Clearwater blank makes for smooth and versatile casting. With its graphite core, you get a lightweight feel with this blank, while its medium-fast action provides instant feedback so that you can feel every flex this rod makes. The Clearwater Rod also comes with a clean black finish. This blank has a timeless look and brings just enough stealth whether you're pursuing tough trout or bonefish in a shallow channel.

Guides – For their Clearwater series, Orvis outfits each rod with chrome snake and stripper guides with ceramic inserts. With the chrome outer, you get excellent durability without excess weight, and a ceramic insert ensures that every cast you make is shooting nice and smoothly.

Reel Seat – A versatile reel seat that lets you rest easy knowing that your reel is always secure, Orvis' Clearwater Rods have a black nickel aluminum reel seat. With the aluminum composition, this seat is nice and light while resisting corrosion, and its black nickel finish offers additional stealth for those spooky fish that get put down over any reflection of light.

Rod Tube – Safe and sound is exactly how your rods should rest when you're not using them, and Orvis outfits their Clearwater series with a solid rod tube. This tube will protect your Clearwater whether you're flying to a different country or just drop it on the ground early in the morning before you've had your coffee.

Warranty – As of July 2022, Orvis' Clearwater Fly Rods are backed by their 25-Year Guarantee. This is a straightforward and excellent warranty that lasts for 25 years. It doesn't matter whether you slam it in a door, step on it, or you encounter a manufacturer defect, Orvis will repair or replace your rod. If the rod can't be repaired and it's out of production, Orvis will choose a newer model of at least equal value.

Outings and Activities

Mitchie McCammon – Outings Director

After-Outing Responsibilities

This topic is not one that anyone likes to think about, but it is very important. It is also our responsibility to protect our waterways as much as possible. I'm talking about minimizing the transfer of invasive species from one watershed to another. Sadly, a report came out that Lake Tahoe has now become one of those beautiful waters that has been affected by the New Zealand mud snails. Once these snails invade a watershed, they are virtually impossible to eradicate.

Recently, Lance Gray spoke at our meeting about fishing Putah Creek. One of the things he mentioned was how he used one set of waders and boots exclusively for Putah Creek due to the high concentration of New Zealand mud snails. Most of us are not in the position to own multiple pairs of equipment, so what do we do? Let me first tell you a bit about this specific species to highlight why we need to be so careful.

This past week, I went on a scouting trip to see how Putah Creek has changed after the high water we had this past year. (The changes I saw are a discussion for another time.) As I entered the water, I noticed lots of dark spots on the rocks that looked like caddis cases and didn't give it a second thought; until the end of the day when a rock was picked up and realized those were not caddis, but the highly invasive New Zealand mud snail. The photo on the right shows how many of these snails can fit on a dime. If this many can fit on a dime, imagine how many can reside in a watershed and how easily these can be hidden in creases and folds of wading gear.



In addition to their rapid reproduction, they are highly adaptable to different water conditions and climates and feed on not only detritus, but also algae. They reproduce in the summer and fall. In California we have milder temperatures which could mean more favorable conditions for most of the year. Here is a quote from a research article I read that explains why these snails invade so quickly (Status and Strategy for New Zealand Mudsnail Management).

“Because of its high reproductive capabilities, the New Zealand mudsnail can spread rapidly, consuming large amounts of primary production within an ecosystem (Alonso and Castro-Diez 2008). When at high densities, New Zealand mudsnails compete with native macroinvertebrates, like the caddisfly, for food and space. Dense populations of mudsnails could also reduce the abundance and alter the distributions of native species (Kerans et al. 2005). In a field study done by Kerans et al. (2005), the number of New Zealand mudsnails was the strongest predictor of the number of macroinvertebrates. This study suggests that the colonization of New Zealand mudsnails interferes with the ability of other native macroinvertebrates to colonize invaded systems. When at high densities, New Zealand mudsnails also dominate carbon and nitrogen fluxes within the environment while sequestering a large fraction of the available carbon needed for invertebrate production (Hall et al. 2006, Davidson et al. 2008). Krist and Charles (2012) found that New Zealand mudsnails removed as much or more periphyton than native grazers. The mudsnails also altered the diatom assemblage to a greater extent than native species (Krist and Charles 2012).

As they rapidly invade new freshwater systems, the New Zealand mudsnail could have negative impacts on native fish species. A study done by Vinson and Baker (2008) showed that rainbow trout subsisting on New Zealand mudsnails actually lost weight, serving as evidence that the snails have little to no nutritional value compared to native species. Additionally over half of the New Zealand mudsnails passed through the digestive system of rainbow trout alive (Vinson and Baker 2008). Aside from offering little nutritional value, the New Zealand mudsnail can physically cover egg sites or masses, while attracting the predators of native fish (Zaranko et al. 1997). Given their potential to alter community food webs and dominate available space the New Zealand mudsnail could negatively impact native plant species, fishes, and macroinvertebrates (NZMS Management and Control Plan Working Group 2007).”

How can I prevent the spread of New Zealand Mudsnails?

1. Soak your boots, waders and gear in equal parts water and Formula 409 degreaser/disinfectant . . . NOT regular Formula 409!

2. Or soak your boots, waders and gear in 3/4 tsp (3.8 grams) of 99% Copper Sulfate Pentahydrate in 1 gal. of water
3. Or freeze your boots, waders and gear solid. This might take 6-12 hours or more.
4. Or completely dry your boots, waders and gear. This isn't as easy as it sounds, a slight damp spot under the insole can harbor live snails for over a month. Heat will assist in killing snails during drying.
5. Or consider dedicating a set of wading gear to waters known to harbor New Zealand Mud Snails.
6. Avoid visiting more than one watershed before your gear has dried out and been treated.

While taking the time to clean and disinfect your gear takes effort, it is our responsibility to protect the waters and the fish. Yes, I thoroughly cleaned my wading gear, and it is in my outside freezer as I write this. Please do your part after outings and help to minimize the transfer of invasive species.

Upcoming Outings

Feather River Steelhead Trip – Alan Wyonsnick, Fishmeister - This coming season we are going to change from a walk and wade outing to using a drift boat. The heavy rains and releases from Oroville dam have had a negative impact on the stretch of river where we have had our outings in the past four years. Unfortunately, the areas that were most productive and provided easy to moderate level wading have been filled in with gravel resulting in less spots to fish and requiring more challenging wading.

We have made a discounted-price arrangement with an experienced guide on the Feather River for multiple days in October, November and December. The cost is \$175 per person, and he will take you in a 2-angler drift boat on various sections of the Feather between Oroville and Gridley. These will be one day up and back trips. Based on this very favorable pricing you will have to bring your own lunch and assist with shuttling. He can provide rods and flies if you need them. We also recommend you bring your waders if you have them, as it may be advantageous to get out of the boat a few times to more thoroughly fish some riffle spots.

We have the following dates reserved and could possibly open others if the demand is there: 10/17, 10/24, 10/25, 10/31, 11/1, 11/7, 11/15, 11/28, 12/5, 12/12 and 12/19. Sign up on the TVFF website. If the date you want shows that it is filled, please sign up on the waitlist in the event someone cancels. You can sign up as a single person and we can pair you up with someone or contact Alan if you have another person you want to go with.

Fall/Winter Striper Trip – Martin Plotkin, Fishmeister – A questionnaire was recently sent out for this annual club tag-along trip. Martin is organizing participants based on an available date and the number of members with boats. Additional information will be on the TVFF events page. Stay tuned!

Yuba River Annual BBQ – Rob Farris, Fishmeister – Last year it was canceled due to weather, but this year it's back! Mark your calendars for February 24 and 25, 2024. Watch your email for more details and sign ups coming soon!

Member Reports

Ken Tetzl

My report..... uhhh..... well, my wife and I just returned from a 10-day tour in Alaska and..... the 2 days we booked for fishing were both canceled due to high water!! I can't fish anywhere this year because of high water!!??

Conservation

Gary Prince – Conservation Director

Please take a look at the following opportunities:

Truckee River Day and Fair, Sunday October 15

Many of us have enjoyed this great fishery and now there is an opportunity to help improve this important river. Volunteers are requested from the Truckee River Watershed Council. Work activities begin at 9am and 11am. Please consider joining in their efforts by going to www.truckeeriverwc.org to register or contact Patricia Prestowitz at 530-550-8760 x4 or mprestowitz@truckeeriverwc.org.

Also, that afternoon there will be a Fair hosted at the Granite Flat Campground, one mile south of Truckee on Highway 89 from 1-4pm for live music, art, food, drinks, and fun presented by the Sierra Watershed Education Partnerships.

Sunol Heritage Festival, Saturday October 21, at Sunol Regional Preserve Visitors Center

Interpretive Staff on hand. Come celebrate the diverse heritage of this wilderness at this fun festival for all ages. Games, activities and music throughout the day, 10am to 4pm. No food available, so bring your lunch or picnic. It's \$5 to park.

Items for Sale

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

Bob McCollum

Humminbird Fishin Buddy 120 Fish Finder. With mounting clamp. Monochrome display. Down and forward scan. Fish ID feature. Good condition. Perfect for prams as well as pontoons and float tubes (with optional strap-on holster). \$100.



Crestliner 14 foot aluminum boat. With trailer and Mariner 2-stroke motor. Good condition. Three swivel seats. Partial wooden deck with new carpet. Engine tuned. Transom rebuilt. Trailer rewired. Lots of extras. \$1250/OBO

