

FLY LINES & FISH TALES



October, 2013



General Membership Meeting (Tracy Fly Fishers)

Our next meeting of the Tracy Fly Fishers will be on Wednesday, October 16. Meeting location is the Transit Station at 50 E. Sixth St.. Meeting starts at 7:00. Our guest speaker for October will be Ken Hanley. (see bio below)

Prez says:

The Fall salmon and steelhead runs are in progress in the Central Valley rivers and the returns look good. I'm looking forward to our steelhead outing to the Feather River next month. This is a good outing for anglers who have not fished for steelhead before. More information will be coming at this month's meeting.

I know we are all hoping for a winter with plenty of rainfall. Mother Nature is sending out signals that it may be a hard winter. The oaks in Northern California have dropped their acorns 2-3 weeks earlier than

normal and deer hunters in the woods report that the bears have thick, heavy coats. After a rather dry winter we need a good, rainy winter. Be sure to squeeze in those last few trips to the mountains before the snow starts flying and the passes close. The trout are active fattening up for the winter.

Since the Tracy Dried Bean Festival we have added a number of new members. I would like you all to welcome Victor Garcia, Ann Mooney, Alex Lombard, Ken Johnson, Mark Church, Richard Chandler, and Don Siegal. Say

hello at the meetings and think about including them if you are going out for a day of fishing.

-Steve



October's Guest Speaker:

Ken Hanley has been conducting fishing and adventure specialty programs since 1970. His award-winning instructional programs are well respected throughout the adventure industry.

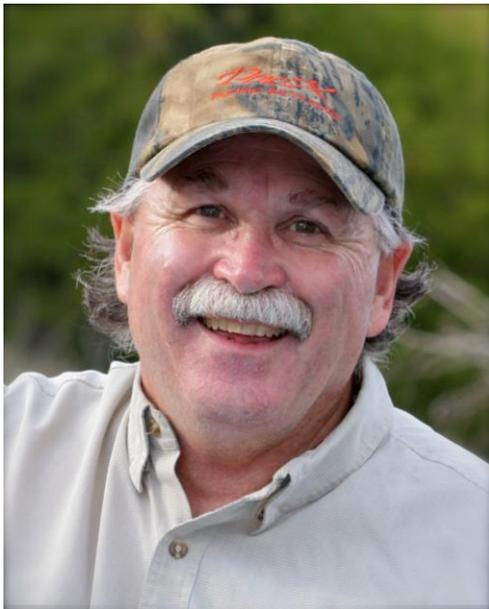
Ken's instructional DVD's cover a variety of game fish; from saltwater salmon to largemouth bass. He's the author of seven books. His latest book, *Tying Furred Flies*, was awarded the 2008 "Book of the Year Award" for the Outdoor Writer's Association of California. Ken also writes and photographs for national and regional publications in the outdoor industry.

Ken was chosen as the 2005 inductee into the NCC/FFF Fly Fishing Hall of Fame. For more than thirty years The Hall of Fame award has been presented to the individual who has made outstanding contributions to the sport of fly fishing. The criteria for this distinction include the improvement of the art, science, literature, techniques, enjoyment and conservation of fly fishing and the resource.

He holds numerous Pro Staff positions, and is sponsored by the following companies: SAGE, SIMMS, Patagonia, Daiichi, Renzetti, and Umpqua

Show Description.....

If you live in California – and I know you do – there's no reason to put your gear away for the off season. The Great Golden State doesn't have an off season! Freshwater, warm water, saltwater, coldwater, all combine to give a great opportunity to explore year-round with a fly rod. Ken will present his ideas on staying in the game all year long and tipping the scales in your favor.



The Tracy Fly Fishers' Board of Directors meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the Safeway grocery store's Community Room at 1801 W. 11th Street. The next board meeting will be held on Nov 6th, 2013, at 7:00 pm. The Board meetings are open to all TFF members. Stop by and see what goes on "behind the scenes" of your club!

Wish to make a difference locally? The Delta is our backyard. Check out the CSPA website and sign up for their action alerts at:

[CSPA, California Sportfishing Protection Alliance](http://CSPA.CaliforniaSportfishingProtectionAlliance) or www.calsport.org/

Events, Outings & other news

Flies needed for TFF Fly Plates, we are requesting the following sizes, size 12 dry flies, size 14 nymphs, and size 10 streamers. If we could get 2 for each plate (1 for president, and 1 for auction), that would be great. We'll need them no later than the November meeting. Flies can be picked up if fly tyers cannot make the meeting to bring them.

Installation dinner (crab feed) for 2014 board members.



Our Installation dinner is coming up fast, January 11, 2014. This is a week later than normal. Sorry if it causes any inconvenience for anyone but we hope you can all adjust your calendars to make it. Remember, this is our major fund raising event of the year.

Sign up sheets for volunteers needed for this event, including the dessert auction, will be posted at our general meeting.

Thanks again for your support.

TFF Club Outings For 2013:

We still have a couple nice outings remaining for this year:

- 1) ~~Season Opener at White Pines Lake on 4/27.~~
- 2) ~~Fishing at Eagle Lake Bass Pond on 5/18. Moved to 5/25.~~
- 3) ~~Davis Lake June 20 – 23.~~
- 4) ~~North Fork of the Stanislaus River in July 27th. Rick to provide details.~~
- 5) ~~Alpine Lake Sept 27 – 29. Pinecrest Lake September 28th. (one day trip)~~
- 6) Davis Lake Oct 18 – 20. **Next weekend!**
- 7) Feather River in November.

Great unplanned outings also result from joining us at the monthly general meetings and just talking to other members about common interests and the opportunity to get in some fishing and share gas expenses.

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Education:

Casting in the Park with Chuck , the second Wednesday of the month. Oct 9th was the last session this year.
Thanks Chuck!

A priceless benefit included in your membership! Remember, your membership includes the whole family.



TROUT in the Classroom;

Our Trout in the Classroom program will be starting up in a couple of months. The program's tasks will be handled as individual events allowing individuals to participate in whatever part of the program they are interested in or available for.

Stay tuned for additional information and sign up sheets.

Fishing with a buddy:

Pat Ferguson, Rod Buchanan, Bob Kiffin, and Ed Hough had a great time on their trip to Alaska. Hopefully we'll hear more about it at Our December meeting during the member's presentations.



What can you say?!



Bob joining in with a nice catch.



Rod looks content.



Beautiful fish Ed!

Support your local Parks and Recreation District

Parks Make Life Better! Parks and recreation make lives and communities better now and in the future by providing access to the serenity and inspiration of nature; outdoor space to play and exercise; facilities for self-directed and organized recreation; positive alternatives for youth which help lower crime and mischief; and activities that facilitate social connections, human development, therapy, the arts, and lifelong learning.

Check out our Parks and Community Services Video:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwFAe7V8pio&feature=channel_page

Conservation:

Climate Change Spells Trouble for Anglers

Ben Jervey
for [National Geographic](#)

Published September 18, 2013

This month, anglers who flock to Montana in search of their own authentic [A River Runs Through It](#) experience are out of luck. On September 4, the Blackfoot River, centerpiece of Norman Maclean's beloved story (and its film adaptation that gave the entire fly-fishing industry a boost in the early 1990s), was closed to fishing by officials from Montana Fish, Wildlife, and Parks. They cited "an effort to protect fish from the stress of low stream flows." (The river has since been reopened to fishing, but drought conditions remain.)

Such river closures have become more common in recent years, in Montana and beyond. They've become necessary as coldwater fish populations struggle to deal with low flows and warmer waters, symptoms that scientists link to the rising global temperatures brought about by climate change.

Last year, for instance, stretches of the Madison, Gibbons, and Firehole Rivers—all prized fishing destinations in the Yellowstone region—were closed in August. Scientists and anglers are in agreement: Climate change is already impacting the sport of fishing, and it's likely to get a whole lot worse.

"We've seen huge shifts here in Montana," said Todd Tanner, a lifelong fisherman who spends 200 to 250 days a year on the water, and who has been living in Montana for over three decades.

"Over the last 20 or so years, we're seeing this litany of shifts in weather patterns, and with them, a steady degradation in many of our rivers," said Tanner. "It's directly related to the snow going early, then to warmer springs and summers."

A few years ago, Tanner started the nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization [Conservation Hawks](#), and he argues that fishermen are the best equipped to see firsthand the impacts of climate change. "You can't be out fishing for trout or bass around here and not notice the change," he said.

Swimming Upstream

A new report, published September 4 by the National Wildlife Federation (NWF)—one of the country's largest environmental groups—backs up the anecdotal evidence and explains the variety of threats that climate change poses. Besides the closures themselves—which are typically the result of droughts and earlier than normal melt of alpine snowpack—many rivers are simply getting warmer. According to the NWF report, half of the major American rivers surveyed in a 2010 study experienced "significant warming trends over the past 50 to 100 years."

Fish are sensitive to temperature, explained Jack Williams, a senior scientist with the conservation group [Trout Unlimited](#) and a co-author of the NWF report, who describes a massive geographical shift in fish species already underway. "Already, native trout have been pushed around," Williams wrote in an email.

"Non-native species are pushing up from downstream and have sent the

native trout into the higher elevation streams," Williams explained.

"Unfortunately, these streams are going to be hard hit as wildfire, drought, and increased storm intensities hit these isolated high-elevation areas hard."

"In the Southwest," said Williams, "the evidence is in your face each time you survey a stream." Small streams in New Mexico, home to Rio Grande cutthroat, Gila, and Apache trout, are particularly susceptible to temperature increases.

Making things even worse are the wildfires, which Williams says the Southwest is seeing "at scales that we have not seen before." Wildfires rip through trout habitat, and the increased runoff that results when the riparian areas burn eventually leads to siltation effects. "It's a killer one-two punch in these small streams," said Williams.

Across the country in New England, coldwater rivers and streams are similarly threatened. In July 2011, Eric Orff, then a New Hampshire fish and game commissioner, was stunned to find water temperatures of over 80 degrees Fahrenheit (27 degrees Celsius) in Indian Stream, "a wonderful, classic trout stream in prime fishing season." According to Orff, the waters were so warm that the trout left, heading for the colder, deeper pools in the Connecticut River.

"So here you are as far north as you can go in New Hampshire," said Orff, "literally looking into Canada, and you have a stream that was fatal to brook trout."

The warming trends are only getting worse. Doug Inkley, a senior scientist at the NWF, points to a study quoted in the group's report. "The science is telling us that in the lifespan of a child born today, 50 percent of the habitat suitable for coldwater species of fish will no longer be suitable for them."

Another study anticipates that brook trout, the official state fish of Virginia, will be gone from that state's rivers entirely by mid-century, due mostly to warmer and more oxygen-depleted streams. Williams co-authored yet another study that predicted a further 77 percent decline in brook trout habitat nationally by 2080, and a 58 percent loss for cutthroat.

Impacts Beyond Coldwater Species

It's not just coldwater species—the trout and salmon, for instance—that are struggling to adjust. In 2005, the first large-scale die-off of smallmouth bass was witnessed in the Susquehanna River. The culprit: a bacterial disease called [columnaris](#) that, according to Williams, "becomes a problem and highly contagious at warmer temperatures, and so is becoming a problem associated with climate change."

Since that first event, these summer die-offs have become the "new normal" in the Susquehanna, and outbreaks are being reported with increasing regularity all across the country.

Lake populations, too, are reeling in this new normal. Temperatures in the Great Lakes, where native species like lake trout, whitefish, walleye, catfish, and sturgeon are popular prey for sport and commercial fishermen, have increased nearly 5 degrees Fahrenheit (nearly 3 degrees Celsius) over the past three decades. Even if these temperate water species can

deal with some warming, the higher temperatures bring another risk: an invasion of [sea lamprey](#).

Lamprey survive by latching onto a host fish and sucking its blood. They also grow larger and lay more eggs in warmer waters. The bigger, hungrier parasites are already wreaking havoc on the fisheries of the Great Lakes, explains Inkley, and the invasive species is only going to be harder to control as waters continue to warm.

Angling: An Industry at Risk

All of these impacts of climate change—the warmer streams and earlier melts; the droughts, floods, and wildfires; and the bacterial disease and invasive species—add up to a lot fewer opportunities for anglers to cast a line. And that means that the business of fishing is also taking a hit.

Craig Mathews runs [Blue Ribbon Flies](#) out of West Yellowstone, Montana. He's also something of a legend in fly-fishing and environmental circles, winning Fly Rod and Reel's [Angler of the Year Award](#) in 2005 and co-founding [1% for the Planet](#) with Patagonia's [Yvon Chouinard](#) in 2001. Mathews says that the past several years have been rough on the area's rivers, and that the changes definitely impact his business.

"Last year we were off close to 5 percent in sales," he said, noting that he doesn't expect things to get better in the future. "When you look at the projected trends in warming, the science is telling us that we'll lose as much as 50 percent of coldwater habitats," said Mathews. "It's unimaginable what could possibly happen to the fly-fishing business."

The NWF report does the math: By 2030, the number of days that anglers will fish is projected to decline by

more than one million days every year. By the end of the century, it's over six million days. That would translate to a roughly \$6.4 billion loss for the fishing industry annually.

Mathews and other anglers in the Yellowstone region were lucky this year. "We've been blessed with a little more moisture," Mathews said, and his outfit has actually seen a bit of benefit from the climate-driven misfortune of others. "As a result of fires in Sun Valley and smoke in Jackson and closures in other parts of Montana, we saw a spike in our business as people tried to escape those parts."

Not that Mathews is thrilled about the situation. "This year, it benefited us. But certainly it's benefiting no one in the long run."

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