President’s Message - Frank R. Pisciotta

As I write this message, it is raining. We’ll take any precipitation right now, but, hopefully this dampness is a precursor of a bountiful, water-laden snow-pack…the fish need it.

Here’s hoping everyone has a pleasant holiday season. Most especially TTFF is thankful for its fishing outings, great presentations, participation in community activities and a financially prosperous 2014. Your board of directors promises 2015 will be just as great, knowing that is the club’s challenge. The key is membership participation; the litmus-test for success during the coming year.

Per the board’s unanimous decision I will continue to be our group’s president for another year. The reality is being president is easy because your TTFF board is so talented dispensing its sage advice and forward-thinking.

Mark your calendar for these early 2015 events; TTFF’s annual Pot-Luck/Social (1/15) and Yuba River GroupFish (1/31). Our February 19 meeting will feature Mike Sevon whose presentation will be a fishery biologist’s perspective on Pyramid Lake in addition to fly fishing some of northern Nevada’s desert lakes. New for 2015 will be out-of-state extended adventures to Utah’s Green River (late-April) and southwest Montana’s Dillon area drift-fishing the Big Hole and Beaverhead Rivers (September). Rest assured, I personally am seeking the best “package” pricing. Details will be accessed via our web-site and newsletter, the Fly Line.

Remember, this is your club; we welcome input from all members. So contact me or any board of directors member with your advice, comments or suggestions. If you want to attend a board meeting you are encouraged; merely contact one of us for the venue, date and time.
Trout Unlimited - Making a Difference on the Little Truckee
By Dave Lass, California Field Director for Trout Unlimited (and TTFF Past President)

2015 is shaping up to be a great year for wild trout in the North Lake Tahoe region. I’m not talking about another 2010/11 snow season; I’m talking about significant facelifts for three of our most beloved fisheries. For those of you that care about the places you fish, continue reading.

Trout Unlimited is leading the Little Truckee River Fish Habitat Improvement Project – located between Stampede and Boca Reservoirs – which is a large project that will go to construction in September of 2015. As many of you know so well, 90% of the fish live in 10% of the water in the Little Truckee, and this project seeks to change that. TU will hire a contractor, using heavy equipment, to add 250 boulders and 100 adult trees to the channel, to create deeper and more complex habitats that support vibrant wild trout populations. New backwater habitats will be excavated for juvenile trout rearing. Spawning gravels will be strategically placed. Adult willows will be planted to line the banks with shade.

A considerable amount of work goes into making a project like this happen, so let me take a second to explain what’s been done to-date. In 2010, Trout Unlimited completed an assessment and an advanced conceptual restoration design for the lower 2-miles of the river and meadow, between Boyington Mills campground and the middle fishing access. TU coordinated with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to complete pre-project biological monitoring in 2011/12, and raised funds for the United States Forest Service to complete NEPA (EA) for the project in 2013/14. TU then completed permitting for the project in 2014, raised significant private funding, and it is ready for construction with some additional fundraising.

Two significant resources came to the project in November 2014. On the same day, the California Wildlife Conservation Board awarded TU $190,000 for the project (matched by another $70,000 from National Forest Foundation), and Squaw Valley/Alpine Meadows donated and transported a large amount of the massive trees required to build the project at no cost, which were materials left over from the Red Dog Forest Health Project. To say these projects take partnerships is an understatement. It’s a good thing people love to fish. Click HERE for a map of the project location.

Two other projects worth mentioning that have been in the works for a number of years are the Lower Prosser Creek Restoration Project, located below Prosser Creek Dam, and the First Four-Mile Restoration Project, located between Tahoe Dam and the River Ranch Resort. Both of these projects are championed by the Truckee River Watershed Council, who has been gracious enough to work with TU and the TTFF over the years to shape project designs to include habitat enhancements for wild trout. These projects are also slated to go to construction in the fall of 2015 [and will be the subject of a Flyline article in the January issue.]

If you find yourself in a funk thinking about current drought impacts to the Truckee, spend a little more time thinking about the bright future of this watershed and what these three projects will contribute to your fishing experience in the long-term. 2015 is going to be a great year for wild trout. Please visit www.tahoetoutburn.org to donate, or send checks addressed to Trout Unlimited, 10356 Donner Pass Rd. Truckee, CA 96161

January General Meeting - Thursday, January 15
Our 2015 Kickoff event will be held on Thursday, January 15 at the Truckee Community and Rec Center from 6 pm to 8 pm. This will be a social/potluck event as we did last year. Please plan to bring an appetizer, snack or dessert to share and your beverage of choice (alcohol is ok). Spouses and new potential members are encouraged to attend. We will have a brief presentation from The Truckee River Watershed Council, a group that TTFF has been supporting for years doing great things for our local waters.

2015 Dues are now payable: Click HERE for the membership form
Lower Yuba River GroupFish - January 31

We will make our annual trip to the Lower Yuba River on Saturday, January 31. This is a tailwater fishery below Englebright Dam near Marysville. We fish out of the UC Sierra Field Station which gives us access to the best water on the river above the Highway 20 bridge. There is a nice pavilion right on the river for lunch and the club will provide the charcoal for the grill. We should be right in the midst of the Skwala Stone fly hatch.

Wading on this stretch of river while good, can be challenging due to the large gravel and rocks. A wading staff is highly recommended. Access is very good both up and downstream from the Field Station on well established trails with a few miles of river available.

We will meet at the north end of the Highway 20 Bridge as it crosses the Yuba at 7:30 am, about 1 ½ hours from Truckee. All attendees must be members in good standing for insurance purposes. We have a maximum of 20 anglers for this event and there will be a $15 charge per person to cover expenses (collected at the river). Click HERE to sign up for this great event. Click HERE to see who else is going.

NEW - TTFF Fishing Connection - Sign up and fish with other members

Many members have asked for membership contact information to be posted on our website so they can contact others interested in going fishing. We have not done that to date as we did not have a way to manage privacy concerns - until now! Using a new form, you can elect to post your email address to our new TTFF Fishing Connection worksheet so other members can contact you or you can reach others. The worksheet will be available to anyone with the link as shared in The Flyline. Click HERE to register. Click HERE to see the TTFF Fishing Connection.
TTFF in 2015: 2015 Calendar

As you can see from the Key Dates column on the first page, we have a full calendar for 2015. As usual, our general meetings will be held on the 3rd Thursday of the month for Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, and Oct for 2015. The meetings will be held at the Truckee Community Center unless otherwise noticed from 6 pm to 8:30 pm.

Given the importance of stillwaters to our fishing - especially in our continuing drought, we have arranged for an outstanding set of speakers to cover all aspects of lake fishing. These speakers are the best at their game and will share knowledge to make you a better stillwater fly fisher.

- In February, Mike Savon, a former Nevada Fisheries Biologist that advised the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe on their fishery will share his deep knowledge of Pyramid Lake and other high desert waters.
- In March, Doug Ouellette, owner of Calvada Fly Fishing, will present on fishing the 5 Dot Reservoir (which the club is visiting in early June, see below) and other stillwater strategies. This is a must attend to improve your stillwater skills.
- Our April program will be by Brian Slusser, owner of Four Seasons Fly Fishing on Truckee area lakes. Brian is one of the best and again this will be a must for learning the best techniques for our lakes.
- Our May program will round out this series with Lance Gray, of Lance Gray and Company, discussing northern California lakes such as Lake Almanor, Manzanita Lake, Butt Valley Reservoir and others within a days drive of Truckee.

Our GroupFish events will include: Pyramid Lake, The Lower Yuba, Davis Lake, Milton Lake, Webber Lake and four new destinations: 5 Dot Reservoir (see below), a backpack trip in August, Virginia Lakes in September and Crowley Lake in October. A few of these will include overnight camping.

As Frank mentioned, he is also planning a trip to the Green River in April and Montana in September. Contact Frank for more details (cyberfly@cyberfly.com).

Mark your calendars now for the 31st Annual BBQ on August 8 at the Regional Park and for volunteering for the Cliff Frazier Memorial Youth Program at the San Francisco Fly Casters Club again this year - targeted for June 23, 24 and 25. Click HERE to volunteer. This was a great time for all the volunteers last year. Contact Mike Brugh for more information.

John Marcacci has volunteered to teach another Fly Tying class. Tying your own flies is perhaps the biggest thing you can do to advance to the next level of fly fishing. This is a great class - look for more information on the times/location starting in January. Click HERE to register for more information.

2015 Membership Renewals Now Due

The Board voted to simplify our membership fees to combine the new member and renewal fees to a single amount so for 2015, renewals will be $30 for single and $35 for family membership. You can download the form by clicking HERE.

Early Announcement: 5 Dot Reservoir - June 1 & 2, 2015

Larry Heywood has arranged for the club to have exclusive access to the private 400 acre lake on the 5 Dot Cattle Ranch near Susanville. Click HERE for their website. The lake is managed for trophy trout and sits in the middle of the largest working cattle ranch in California.

We will arrive at the ranch on the evening of Sunday, May 31 and fish both Monday and Tuesday, June 1 & 2. Camping is appropriate for tents and campers and more details will follow. In addition, we plan to have Doug Ouellette give us a presentation on 5 Dot for our March 2015 meeting.
Doug runs a number of clinics at the lake and is the booking agent for it. Doug is an expert stillwater fisherman so his presentation will apply to any lake.

We have a minimum of 10 anglers and a maximum of 25 for the trip. The cost will be $100 per angler per day or $200 for the trip. Non-anglers are welcome to share your camp and may hike, mountain bike or just hang out. Click HERE to reserve a spot. A deposit of $100 will be required prior to March 1 to hold your spot. Click HERE to see who else has signed up.

Please frequent our sponsors and let them know you appreciate the support!

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For more information about TTFF click HERE to visit our website.