

RRFF Casting Pond – 2015 Summary

Russian River Fly Fishers Members – 2014/2015 Fiscal Year: 175 members

Number of participants – RRFF Fly Casting Clinics are held every Thursday evening (during Daylight Savings Time) from 4:30 until 7:00 pm. The clinics are FREE and are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. Beginners are always welcome and encouraged to attend. Our Thursday evening clinics vary in attendance, but usually includes 12 to 20 participants. Some are RRFF members and some are community members.

When Daylight Savings Time ends, we move to our Winter Fly Casting Clinic schedule – the first and third Saturday of each month from noon until 2:30 pm. All fly casting clinics are held weather permitting. Depending on the weather, the winter clinics usually have a similar level of participation as our Thursday evening clinics...although cold temperatures are more inclined to be a limiting factor in attendance.

The RRFF also holds an annual picnic and at least one club meeting at the Casting Pond every year. These are also open to the public and usually draw 35 to 50 participants. Events like our RRFF Steelhead Instruction Clinic are sometimes held at the Casting Pond as well, when Russian River conditions are not conducive to holding the event on the river. Various other RRFF instructional programs are held at various times (usually weekends) throughout the year. Youth Group programs and Beginning Fly Fishing programs utilize this area for fly casting instruction and as an event venue.

Outside of the structured RRFF Casting Pond events, other individuals and groups use the Casting Pond during regular Dan Galvin Park hours. It is utilized for private instruction programs and for personal fly casting practice purposes by current RRFF members, former RRFF members and other fly fishers in the Santa Rosa community.

Casting Pond Funding – The Russian River Fly Fishers is a non-profit organization.

The RRFF Casting Pond was constructed over a four year period in the early 1980's. Funding was raised by RRFF members to complete construction, and when the Casting Pond was completed it was donated to the City of Santa Rosa for public use as part of Dan Galvin Park. The RRFF agreed to maintain the Casting Pond itself and the City Parks agreed to maintain the grounds. The RRFF Casting Pond is one of only four casting venues in California, and the only casting pond north of the Golden Gate Angling & Casting Club in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco. In year's past, we have hosted events with other fly casting and fly fishing clubs at the pond.

The RRFF has a special account with the City of Santa Rosa for casting pond maintenance. This account currently has over \$8,000.00 dollars in it for maintenance related expenses.

Additional funding for the RRFF Casting Pond is provided by the Russian River Fly Fishers annual membership dues, monies dispersed as needed from our RRFF general account. Membership fees are: Single Member - \$50.00 per year, Family Member - \$55.00 per year and Junior Member (Ages 16 – 18) - \$20.00 per year. We also offer a Gold Membership @ \$1,000.00, a one-time donation that forgives all membership dues thereafter.

Work Projects Completed - As noted above, the RRFF takes care of the maintenance of the RRFF Casting Pond in Dan Galvin Park. This requires pond cleaning, formerly an annual event that involved draining the pond and cleaning the liner. The liner is a special material that lasts approximately 20 years and was last replaced in the mid 2000's.

This past year, the RRFF purchased a recirculating pump and filter system that enables us to vacuum the pond liner, filter out contaminants and return the filtered water back into the casting pond. This has significantly reduced water usage for the cleaning process and has resulted in a much cleaner venue overall – a very important consideration in our drought-impacted environment. Our maintenance crew is on-site weekly to monitor the pond condition and run the filter. The cleaning equipment is stored onsite.

The RRFF also provides picnic tables within the pond enclosure for use by those enjoying the casting pond. These tables are maintained at club expense and by various RRFF volunteers.

As a non-profit organization, all work performed at the RRFF Casting Pond is done so on a volunteer basis. All RRFF fly casting instruction and RRFF sponsored special programs are also the result of volunteer efforts. All of our events and programs are OPEN TO THE PUBLIC and we receive a good number of new RRFF members from this community interaction.

Marketing & Outreach - The Russian River Fly Fishers publishes a monthly newsletter for our members and this newsletter is available online at www.rrflyfisher.org. We advertise our Casting Clinics and special events in this newsletter (and on our website) and also provide hard copies of this to various fly shops/sporting goods stores in Sonoma County.

We are looking for additional outreach through Santa Rosa Parks & Recreation Department literature and events listings. As stated previously, the RRFF Casting Pond is always open for public use and we heartily encourage non-members to utilize the facility. The RRFF would also like to explore the possibility of placing additional signage at the Casting Pond outlining the usage requirements for the pond and giving more information about our organization. The RRFF Casting Pond is a unique venue, and offers a peaceful spot to spend summer mornings and evenings whether fly casting or just enjoying the space.

Casting Pond Liner - Our Casting Pond liner is not resistant to sharp objects (hooks, glass, etc.) or strenuous activity, so wading is not allowed in the Casting Pond and dogs are not allowed in the pond at any time (their claws can destroy the liner). We have tried on two separate occasions in the past to share the RRFF Casting Pond space with dog owners, but problems during both attempts influenced us to donate a portion of our casting facility for the

construction of the current Dog Park adjacent to our site. For the most part, this has alleviated the problems with dogs playing in the Casting Pond (the water is typically less than one-foot deep).

General Information - The Russian River Fly Fishers was formed in 1977 and is one of the largest and oldest fly fishing clubs in Northern California. It has boasted membership (at times) of over 200 annual members, including some of the fly fishing legends of the Northern California Coast. In recent years, our membership has averaged around 180 members annually.

Our monthly club meetings are held on the second Wednesday of each month at the Lodge Room of the Santa Rosa Veteran's Memorial Building. These begin at 7:00 pm and usually host a noted fly fishing industry speaker who offers a slide-show presentation. The meeting includes club business, upcoming outings and a raffle. The RRFF also puts on an annual Cioppino Dinner at the Vet's Hall, usually in February or March.

Monthly outings are announced at our General Meetings and in our newsletter. Fly casting instruction, fly tying instruction and outings for the RRFF Women's Group and Day Fishers are also promoted monthly.

This is the first time we have ever been required to file any kind of report with the Recreation & Parks Department. Hopefully, the information you are looking for is included. Please let me know if there is anything else you require.

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