



# Rx Fly Fishing!

*The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!*

Volume XL

Number VIII

September 2017

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

## In this Issue

[Page 2—September's program...  
Bud Heintz on fly patterns for Sierra  
trout](#)

[Page 2—If it's September, it's time  
for the Bridgeport Outing](#)

[Page 2—Help wanted... We need a  
new Treasurer](#)

[Page 3—October's outing, the  
lower Sac at Redding](#)

[Page 3—Musings of an itinerant fly  
fisherman](#)

[Page 4—Conservation: Chuck Bon-  
ham signs a Delta Death Warrant](#)

## Calendar

September 13, DFF General Member-  
ship Meeting, John R. Williams School

September 16-21, Bridgeport Outing

September 27, DFF Board Meeting, Oak  
Grove Park

October 5-7, Lower Sac at Redding out-  
ing

October 11, Club potluck and swap  
meet, John R. Williams school

October 18, DFF Board Meeting, Oak  
Grove Park.

October TBA— Heenan Lake Outing

October 25, Fly of the Month fly tying  
session, Oak Grove Park



## President's message for September Still rolling along...

My wife and I are now in Florida and still afloat. It seems that almost everywhere we've been, from Galveston east has gone underwater or at least seen some impacts of Hurricane Harvey. By the time the hurricane struck Houston, we were already in New Orleans and doing the usual tourist things but the TV news was all about the coming storm and NOLA's preparations.

While my original plans were to fish here and there along the way, I had made only one attempt at this point, at Sea Rim State Park, near Port Arthur Texas. I launched my pram into some of the inland marshes in dark stained water, attached the small outboard but when I lowered it, found that the whole area was only 14 inches deep. Time to man the oars. I fished for about four hours, into the heat of the day with zip for results. I pretty much expected that though since, the area I was fishing was a very popular kayaking area and I was the only one on the water on a Saturday, a sure sign that fishing was not red hot.

In fact, speaking of hot, it was hot and muggy where we were, with temperatures close to 100 and humidity at 80%. Thankfully, state parks in the east all have electricity at the campsites so the air conditioner on the roof of our little travel trailer operated 24 hours straight.

The heat was not limited to the south. It had been an extremely warm drive from the start. To overcome the heat, we left our RV parks at 4 in the morning, hoping to be at our new destination before the oppressive heat of the mid to late afternoon.

We traveled east after leaving NOLA, and watched nightly as Hurricane Harvey decimated the homes and businesses of the people of North Padre Island and

Houston, and then bounced back and caused major flooding at Port Arthur and Beaumont. Places we had visited only days before.

Although we were safe and still "touristing" through the south, the hurricane news cast a somber pall over some of the fun we were having. I did have a second chance to fish at Mobile, fishing the Dog River for three hours in the afternoon, top water for LMB. Landed over a dozen but they were small in size when compared to our delta fish.

As I write, another hurricane is forming in the Atlantic, Hurricane Irma. Still a long ways away, some of the predictions are for a record setting catastrophic event if it continues on its path to Florida. Right now it's about ten days away. We had planned to drive down to the tip of the state so I could fish the Everglades but doing so could put us directly into the hurricane's path. Instead, we'll head east to the Atlantic coast, and hopefully watch a space launch at Cape Canaveral on September 7th, then visit St. Augustine. After that, who knows. A lot depends on Irma. Maybe we'll surf home.

In the mean time, the club is gearing up for the fall. September's meeting will feature our own Bud Heintz and the September outing is the biggest of the year. I should be back in time for the October potluck and back fishing the delta as well. Until then, we'll keep on "touristing" our way north and then west.

Being retired is hard work.

Jerry

# September's Program features our own Bud Heintz speaking about and demonstrating effective fly patterns for Sierra trout

Bud will be tying effective patterns for fall trout fishing in the Sierra Mountains for lakes, streams and river. He will also discuss and tie patterns for the Bridgeport area.

Bud has been tying flies for over 44 years. During that time has tied Custom Flies for Buz Buszek's Fly during the late 70's; taught Fly tying for Adult Education at Modesto Jr. College. Bud is a feature tier at the Fly Fishing Federation Conclaves, ISE Shows, the Fly Fishing Shows, and Fly Fishing Clubs.

He has been published in Fly Fishing Federation books and books authored by Al and Gretchen Beatty.

Bud has been a member of the FFI Fly Tier Group, Delta Fly Fishers, and the Stanislaus Fly Fishers Clubs for many years.

The meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School on Wednesday, September 13th, at 7:00pm. VP Cliff Hoover will have some special treats for refreshments. Bring a friend to this first meeting of the fall. And of course, the meeting is open to the public.

## If it's September, it's time for the Bridgeport outing

With the calendar turning to September, it must be time for the club's annual outing to Bridgeport. Fishmeister Don Gillette will be arriving on the 17 of September for a week at the Robinson Creek Camp Grounds. Members are invited to attend at any time during that week. Saturday night is known for the group potluck. Members should bring their favorite cut of meat to BBQ and a potluck side dish to share with others---BYOB..

For the first time in years, there is adequate water to fish the many streams,

creeks, and lakes in the region. For more info on fishing conditions visit [kenspport.com/fishing-reports.html](http://kenspport.com/fishing-reports.html).

Don can be contacted for more detailed information about camping and RV sites and how to secure a reservation. Please contact him at [redriderfly@aol.com](mailto:redriderfly@aol.com). Don will be attending the September 13 general meeting. September's bulletin will also include more info about this well attended club activity.

Have a nice Labor Day Weekend and stay cool!!!!

## Help wanted... We need a new Treasurer!

Jason Stapleton, our current treasurer has served the club in that position for the last five years. In that time he's done a fantastic job and has kept the books in perfect order and made sure the club was financially solvent. However, all good things must come to an end and Jason says that he just doesn't have the time any more to continue.

We've functioned as a club without a variety of officer's positions filled but the office of Treasurer is one that cannot be left vacant. The workload is fairly light and involves paying a few bills each month, mostly reimbursing other officers for expenses, making deposits from money taken in from memberships and

other club functions, paying the club's annual insurance and filing the club's 501c3 taxes.

Additionally, the office holder is asked to attend board meetings, and help in the preparation of the club's annual budget.

Jason currently uses a spread sheet to keep the books and a one write system for the checking account. He'll be available to assist in coaching the new treasurer in his or her duties.

I can't stress how important this position is to the club's well being and even it's continuance. Without proper record keeping we would not be able to continue as a functioning organization.

### DDF Officers



President	
<a href="#">Jerry Neuberger</a>	209-327-5993
Vice President	
Cliff Hoover	209-642-3809
Secretary	
Karen Keagy	
Treasurer	
Jason Stapleton	209-334-9201
Directors	
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Karen Keagy	
Larry Schmidt	209-482-8742
Sam Thompson	
Gary Tecklenburg	
Steve VonBerg	209-327-6161
Dena Mason	
Tim Costello	
Mike Nicholson	
<b>Committees</b>	
Beginner's Fly Tying	
Tim Costello	
Bob McMillan Trout Bout (March)	
John and Karen Keagy	
Catfish Derby (June)	
Earl Summers	209-957-6756
Conservation/Restore the Delta	
Ron Forbes	209-368-5767
Education	
Dena Mason	
Fishing Mentor Program	
Tim Costello	
Fly of the Month	
Mike Nicholson	
Membership	
<a href="#">Bob Fujimura</a>	209-339-0683
Monthly Raffles	
Jerry Neuberger	
Programs	
Al Smatsky	209-368-9261
Bob Sousa	209-368-2683
Property/Historian	
John Keagy	
Publicity	
<a href="#">Steve VonBerg</a>	209-327-6161
Rod Building	
Bob Fujimura	209-339-0683
Trout Bout (November)	
Vacant - Contact Jerry Neuberger if you are interested in hosting	
Webmaster	
John Keagy	
Rx Fly Fishing! is the monthly publication of the Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. is a public benefit 501c3 non-profit corporation registered with the California Secretary of State.	
Any correspondence regarding this publication should be directed to: The Delta Fly Fishers Inc. PO Box 77862 Stockton, CA 95207-7862	

# Our October outing features California's best blue ribbon trout water, the Sacramento River at Redding

DFF, Inc. will have an October, 2017 outing; floating the Lower Sacramento River out of Redding, CA. It is scheduled to cover Thursday, October 5, Friday, October 6 and Saturday, October 7. This should provide enough coverage for any member who plans to take part.

Keep in mind, Saturday will probably bring out the most boats on the river. If the salmon are in, this should prove a great time to be fishing for wild rainbow trout up to 24 inches!

If you want to join fellow members for dinner at a Redding restaurant on Satur-

day, October 7, please contact Bruce Rolans for inclusion in this no host meal.

Best to reach Bruce before October 5, 2017 at his email address [mbrsmr36@gmail.com](mailto:mbrsmr36@gmail.com), his home phone at 209 781 6408 or his cell at 209 781 5154.

---

## Musings of an itinerant fly fisherman

Recently my son got married near San Diego. Just prior to that he and his new bride change residency from SD to Portland OR. All the festivities were in and around SD. So all their wedding and shower gifts were in SD. After the wedding in June. I hauled the gifts to Stockton, and then stored them in my garage for my son who swore to retrieve them in a couple weeks. The wedding was in June. This is August with no real pickup plan for anytime soon. My new daughter-in-law was longing to fill their apartment with the new items. Long story short I volunteered to drive Portland. What a pushover! So I announced that if I do this I would want to stop and fly fish on the way back. My wife quickly said I was on my own.

My journey took me to Ashland, (stayed with friends), then to Portland, where I emptied my car which was full enough to not be able to use my rear view mirror. Stayed one night and headed towards Sisters, OR. I followed the Santiam River using Hwy 22. A beautiful River and a beautiful drive. It seems as if every time I drive to Oregon I find a reason to come back. It's almost all well maintained two lane roads that winds through thick green forests of mostly low rolling hills and mountains. I know little about the Santiam River but what I saw of it seemed both wadeable and accessible.

I arrived in Sisters then drove north to Metolius River near Camp Sherman, OR. The Metolius River is a spring fed River and mostly, a fly fishing only River. It is approximately 11 miles and long, and eventually exits into the

Deschutes River which eventually empties into the great Columbia. At its source, it is an 80 ft spring where the water volume coming out of the ground is large enough to produce a River fifty foot wide within a hundred feet. There are many campgrounds along its shores. Well equipped camps \$16 a night and half that with your Senior card. I fished the evening using golden stone attractor with several options of bead heads, flies recommended in an Ashland Fly shop. Aside from connecting with one beautiful River, I was not able to connect with an elusive trout!

Understand, I had arrived in the middle of Oregon, remote but literally the nucleus of Eclipse watchers, on Saturday two days before the world going dark. Sleeping in my car, without much more than my sleeping bag and a pad to sleep on. I was reliant on using the local fare for my meals, I had dinner at camp Sherman, in a comfortable park like setting, outside BBQ with cold beer on tap, set up special for the multitudes of eclipsers? The next morning I took advantage of a community fundraiser breakfast for local volunteer fire house. Oregon had a serious economic boost around the eclipse event.

On the road again, determined to find the headwaters of the famous Deschutes River. Due to some poor planning on my part I didn't turn early enough and missed the turn which would have put me on a section of the Deschutes north of Crane Prairie Reservoir. Instead, I turned off and began following the Fall River. The tourist book on the Bend area describes the Fall River as being gin

clear. They weren't lying. Crystal clear and steady but having a nice sustaining easy current. The River is very conducive to walking or hiking and mesmerizingly beautiful. After some local direction I was able to find the spillway for the Deschutes on the edge of a giant and mostly treeless reservoir, called Wickiup. Here I used nymphs and fished in and around the rocks. Major current made it difficult to fish the River itself.

After a couple of hours of mid afternoon fishing once again I managed to be skunked. At this point I was getting hungry, and decided to return to Hwy 97 preparing to return and find a campsite. As I got to 97 it became glaringly obvious that the Eclipsers were still pouring into the state. It was Sunday afternoon, and I needed gas so I found a Shell on the left side of the road at the next available town. It took about ten minutes to make the turn crossing traffic into the station. I was beginning to realize that Monday, soon after the eclipse event, that the state of Oregon with its two lane blue highways was going to be in gridlock. So I headed south on 97 knowing I was headed to Weed, CA.

Had Dinner in Redding and powered home. Had I had more time, there was much to explore in Oregon! I am really high on the quality of what is there. From the tree lined streets in downtown Portland, or following the Columbia Gorge, the famed Oregon coast, or where I was, which was from Sisters Oregon south or north in the middle of the State. I recommend it!

# CDFW Director Chuck Bonham signs death warrant permit for the Twin Tunnel project

*"Water is the driving force of all nature."  
... Leonardo da Vinci*

In a recent Facebook article, Dan Bacher revealed that the Dept. of Fish and Wildlife (DWF) Director, Chuck Bonham, has signed the controversial "incidental take permit." This permit will allow the state to kill as many fish as they deem necessary in the construction and continuing operation of the Twin Tunnels/Water Fix Project. This permit was required before the project could proceed under Section 2981 (b) of the California Endangered Species Act (CESA). The permit will allow the state to kill both spring and winter-run salmon, Central Valley Steelhead, Delta Smelt, and any other fish species. The permit was signed with little fanfare to avoid drawing the public's attention. Initially, the Twin Tunnel project was to take 10 years to complete, working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Regardless of the construction time, the incidental take permit will allow the state to decimate the Delta's fisheries.

The California Water Fix website comments, "Issuance of this permit represents another significant milestone in the Water Fix planning process." Although the permit is necessary for the project to move forward, it guarantees little and is flawed. The 200 page document is being closely examined by attorneys representing environmental justice groups, conservation organizations, and fishing groups. The initial examination of the incidental take permit reveals three major problems. First, the state's operation plan differs from the operation plans for the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) and the Dept. of Water Resources (DWR) regarding points of diversion. It also differs from the "no jeopardy" biological opinions of both the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS). Second, there is neither a signed nor committed adaptive management plan in the incidental take permit nor is there a financial plan proposed as required by law. And third, the biological opinions for the tunnels must



*Chuck Bonham, director of the Department of Fish and Wildlife*

be followed by more biological opinions so the tunnels can be connected to the Sacramento River.

Bacher pointed out that four fishing organizations and two environmental groups have filed lawsuits saying the Trump administration's opinion's allowing the construction of the tunnel project are, "arbitrary, capricious, and abuse of discretion." If this permit is allowed to move forward, these groups warn that the Twin Tunnels/Water Fix, "would not only hasten the extinction of the Central Valley Steelhead, winter and spring run chinook salmon, Delta and long fin smelt, green sturgeon, and other fish species, but would also imperil the salmon and steelhead populations of the Trinity and Klamath Rivers that have been an integral part of the culture, religion, and livelihood of the Yurok, Karuk, and Hoopa Valley Tribes for thousands of years."

Over fifteen years ago when I became involved with fisheries and environmental issues, I suffered with a case of extreme naivety. I quickly learned how political our fisheries and environmental issues have become. Case in point: How can the

head of the DFW sign a permit that will exterminate the Delta's fisheries. The answer is simple and straight forward. Chuck Bonham is a political appointee whose appointment was based on his willingness to acquiesce to Gov. Brown's Twin Tunnels project that will destroy the Delta. The DFW mission statement is, "to manage California's diverse fish, wildlife, and plant resources, and the habitats upon which they depend, for their ecological values and the use and enjoyment of the public." Unfortunately, that is not Bonham's agenda and he does not base his decisions on the best science available. Rather, his decisions are based on political expediency

Who is Chuck Bonham? Bonham was raised in Georgia and attended the University of Georgia. He joined the Peace Corp. When he returned to America, he became an instructor and trip leader in the Smokey Mountains before returning to college. He became a lawyer in Portland Oregon, attending Lewis and Clark's Law School. He specialized in conservation and natural resources law. He is also a member of Trout Unlimited. He was appointed to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Conservancy by then-governor Arnold Schwarzenegger. Gov. Brown appointed Bonham as director of the DFW in 2011.

Over the years I have had the pleasure of meeting many people who work for various local, state and federal agencies that deal with fish, wildlife, water and the environment. They are well trained in their respective fields. They enjoy their work and make good, progressive contributions to our environment. We have had some of these people give programs on our conservation night at club meetings. Unfortunately, these people are almost never selected for the head positions in our state agencies. Chuck Bonham was selected as the Director of DFW, not because of his skills or progressive thinking, but rather because he will never oppose Gov. Brown's Twin

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4)

Tunnels/Water Fix agenda. In his term in office he has made decisions that have been detrimental to the fisheries. He has not taken the lead in protecting our declining salmon population. And now, by signing the incidental take permit, he has signed a death warrant for the Delta's fisheries. Once again he has chosen the protection of his job rather than the moral and ethical high ground required by DFW's mission statement. And he will continue to do so.

#### THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION HAS ILLEGALLY SPENT \$32 MILLION AND NO ONE IS HELD RESPONSIBLE

Federal investigators recently confirmed that for 8 years the Bureau of Reclamation (BR) knowingly misappropriated \$ 32 million. Originally these funds were made available to protect the fish and wildlife and the environment of the Klamath River Basin in both California and Oregon. Instead of using the funds as intended, the BR gave the money to a Klamath water project controlled by private irrigators. However, two whistleblowers, Keith Schultz and Todd Pederson have brought the issues to the public's attention. Schultz is a retired fish biologist and Pederson is a natural resource specialist.

The Klamath Basin, like the Delta, is a point of contention about its water use. In 2001 the BR cut off water to 1,000 farmers to maintain the threatened salmon fishery in the Klamath River Basin. As in many areas of California, the basin's water is also subsidized. The BR wanted to reduce the need for federal water so it paid farmers to fallow their land or use ground water. This freed water for the salmon but the results satisfied few. There were complaints from the farmers and their elected officials in Washington and involved bureaucratic red tape. In 2008, the BR negotiated a water contract with a newly formed water district. The



*Snow geese flying in the Klamath River basin.*

water district was comprised of California and Oregon irrigation districts. The agency was called the Klamath Water and Power Agency (KWAPA) which had neither directors nor staff! KWAPA was later replaced by the Water Users Mitigation Project (WUMP). By the time the BR terminated the water contract in 2016, the water district had received \$ 41.25 million.

Schultz and Pederson began to question the legality of BR's arrangement with KWAPA and WUMP when their superiors tried to force them to use their budget funds for fisheries to fund the water bank. Schultz noted that for years the BR would take money from other projects and financed the water bank. Pederson became involved through his role as president of the National Federation of Federal Employees Union. Schultz resigned his post in 2014. Schultz and Pederson put together thousands of pages of proof verifying the BR's illegal activities. Their evidence shows that the BR did not have statutory authority to transfer federal funds to KWAPA. Next, they proved that the BR money, which was allocated for public use, was used to enrich private interests. They enlisted the legal help of the Public Employees for Environmental Justice who took their information to the Interior Office of the Inspector General (OIG). The OIG started an audit of the

BR. The BR immediately suspended its payments to the KWAPA, and terminated its contract with the water agency. Subsequently, the KWAPA failed.

The OIG discovered that KWAPA had illegally received \$32 million from the federal government. It used \$28 million to compensate framers for using groundwater rather than federal water. The OIG also found that "\$4 million was used for salaries, rent, travel and other expenses that the OIG considered to be both questionable or unallowable under the law." The OIG also asserts that BR diverted public money and water that was to be used for our fish and wildlife to the private sector.

Sally Jewell, former head of the Dept. of the Interior, failed to enforce the law and take action against BR employees who carried out these illegal acts. Heads of the BR have, once again, given public money to enrich the private sector. The BR has consistently violated the Doctrine of Public Trust and our laws with impunity. At this point, no one is stepping forward to stop the BR's illegal acts. Perhaps because of Schultz's and Pederson's whistleblowing justice will finally take its course.

Ron Forbes

---

## Have you paid your 2018 dues yet? Dues were due in August

### Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

2 column inches each newsletter issue for the year for \$400, six months \$200, quarter \$100, one month \$40. The ad may include artwork and will link to the advertiser's website.

Additional column inches of ad space may be purchased at \$200 for the year, \$100 for six months, \$50 for a quarter year, \$20 per month.

Included:

A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

Permission to post specials and other advertising on the [club's Face book page](#), 2 per month.

For additional information please phone or e-mail [Jerry Neuburger](#), Editor 209-369-5752



*"Our mission is to provide you with a total experience, not just a fishing trip."*

*Kelsey Bass Ranch, Mulege Baja, Isla Blanca, Pesca Maya, Xcalak, Picacho Lodge, Chile, Trinity & Klamath River Steelhead, Yuba, Feather & American River Shad,*

[www.excellentadventures.org](http://www.excellentadventures.org)

[Al Smatsky, Proprietor](#)

619 W. Pine Street, Lodi, CA 95240  
(209) 368-9261, (209) 601-0819 cell 1/14



Elevation 9770' Established 1923

The Heart of the High Sierra  
Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest

Fishing, Hiking, Camping, Cabins, Restaurant, Lodge

<http://www.virginialakesresort.com>

HC 62 BOX 1065,  
BRIDGEPORT CA 93517-9602  
760-647-6484 Tel/Fax 1/14

## SAVE MART SUPERMARKETS

*Higher* produce standards  
than the USDA.  
Fresh comes first

The Delta Fly Fishers are proud to participate in the Save Mart Shares program. Each purchase, once signed up, nets the club 3% of your purchase. To sign up, go to the [SaveMart website](#) and fill in the appropriate boxes.

Help put on some great programs for our members and work for better fisheries..

Ask John Keagy about the program today.

**[Save Mart Store Locator](#)**

## Rx Flyfishing!

[Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.](#)

P. O. Box 77862  
Stockton, CA 95207-7862  
[www.deltaflyfishers.com](http://www.deltaflyfishers.com)