



Rx Fly Fishing!

The monthly newsletter of the Delta Fly Fishers!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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Calendar

May 6, One Fly Contest, Arnold

May 10, General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

May 13, American River Shad Outing (Cancelled)

May 17, Fly of the Month, Oak Grove Nature Center

May 24, DFF Board Meeting, Oak Grove Park

June 14 DFF Barbecue, Oak Grove Park

June 15-18 Lake Almanor Outing, PG&E Campground

June 21, DFF Board Meeting

The club does not hold General Membership meetings during the months of July and August.

August 16, DFF BoD meeting, Oak Grove Park

September 13, DFF General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School

September 16-21, Bridgeport Outing

September 27, DFF Board Meeting, Oak Grove Park

Shad, swap meet, raffle and refreshments all at the May 10th DFF meeting

Stalking the silver slab of a fish called the American Shad migrating up our rivers and streams from April through July is a major activity of many of the valley's fly fishers. The fish, a transplant from the East Coast, can bend an eight weight rod to breaking if not handled properly and has the added lure of being prolific with as many as two dozen fish landed in an afternoon's outing when fishing is hot.

While shad are not feeding during their spawning migrations, they do readily take a fly if presented in their zone. Even better, the flies are big, easy to tie, and cast. Swinging that fly through the "zone" can produce a grab that turns into a run and ends with a seven pound female in a fly fisher's net.

One of the club's oldest members and long time shad guide, Al Smatsky will cover everything a novice shad fisher needs to know at the club's May meeting. Al will talk of where to fish, including all the major valley waterways, equipment necessary, stream reading, flies and presentations.

As a follow-up, Al will co-sponsor an outing on May 13th on the American (NOW CANCELLED) which will include an on the water seminar and additional individual

instruction to the shad newbie. President Jerry Neuburger will assist and the club will kick in the cost of a club lunch to sweeten the event.

The meeting's start time has been changed to 6:15 to allow for members to bring any gear they wish to sell or swap. Many of our members have been fly fishing a number of



Al with an incidental catch. Photo by Jerry Neuburger

years and their inventory can be excessive. The swap meet allows the opportunity to put this surplus gear in the hands of someone who will put it to use rather than have it collect dust.

The monthly raffle will continue with a dozen plus prizes offered including fly tying supplies and equipment, fly lines, flies, and other fishing gear.

Of course, Cliff and Linda Hoover will continue with their great refreshment and dessert offerings, making the meeting a social event as well as an armchair fly fishing adventure.

The meeting will take place on May 10 with a special start time of 6:15 at the John R Williams School, 2450 Meadow, Stockton. The meeting is open to the public.

It's time to speak out...

Politics! I usually defer to Ron Forbes, our conservation chair, to deal with the realities of how politics affect our sport but Ron's wife Elise is very ill and Ron has other things on his mind. Ron, before everything else, I hope that Elise is well on her way to recovery by the time you read this.

Before I launch into my tirade I also need to mention that long time member, Earl Summers recently had heart surgery and is home recovering. He's under the excellent care of his wife Nancy. Nancy, thank you for all the updates on Earl's condition and I hope he recovers so quickly that we'll see him on the May 10th membership meeting. Earl's one of the club anchors and we need that old quarter mile dirt tracker to get his wheels spinning for the upcoming fishing season.

So, now I need to fill the rest of this column and if anyone knows me, I don't hold in my opinions. If you're a Trump supporter, you may just want to skip the rest of this article, but I ask you, if you have an open mind, to read on.

When our president was still a candidate he loudly disclaimed the effects of climate change, saying it was a hoax started by the Chinese so they could take economic advantage of the cost of low cost coal energy. He also promised to put the miners back to work, regardless that coal mining employment had been diminishing for over 50 years. Those two things alone should have been a clue to his view of the environment and the country's natural resources.

The Art of the Deal maker views everything as to whether it is a possible money maker that can be exploited, regardless of any other attribute that it may possess, innate beauty, irreplaceable natural assets, fragile environments, diminishing impacted species, or geography so stunning and unique that it is a world treasure.

Since being elected he has turned his own views on climate and the environment into an assault worthy of J.P. Morgan or John D. Rockefeller.

Shortly after being elected he removed protections for streams near coal mining

operations, allowing the dumping of mine tailings next to pristine waterways. He's continued since with the approval of the Keystone Pipeline, a pipeline that allows the Canadians to ship their sulfur laden shale oil through the U.S. to American refineries in Texas and Louisiana for refinement before being shipped overseas. What do we get besides a refining fee? No additional petroleum products, a risk of a major oil spill, and additional pollution on our southern coast rather than the west coast of Canada.

He has since signed executive orders intended to remove restrictions on off-shore drilling for oil, and has just asked that all National Parks and National Monuments be reviewed for possible opening of access to commercial exploitation in the form of drilling and mining. He is working with the cattle industry to expand the federal lands open to range leasing, a practice that has caused grave damage to



The Raging Grannies at the Climate Change Rally

many western waterways in the form of cattle breaking down stream banks and greater nitrogen pollution in the waterways.

His appointments for Secretary of the Interior and the EPA were people who actively campaigned against those agencies prior to their appointments. And, possibly, the yet greatest impact, he may withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

If you are a climate change denier, I probably won't be able to change your mind but I do ask you to look at just one thing, the [acidification of our oceans](#). If you're still a denier after reading, I give

up on you. However, for myself, I can no longer just sit home and shake my head. And I'm not the only one. In fact, in many ways, I've been dragging my feet.

Many of the corporations that deal with outdoor sports and the enjoyment of our natural resources have already become involved. REI and Patagonia have become a leaders in the "Resistance" with a number of grants to local environmental organizations. More are stepping up every day, especially in the fly fishing industry.

While the corporations many of us support with our purchases have stepped up, that's no excuse for my not getting involved. I've already sent a few dollars here and a few dollars there, depending on how compelling the I viewed the need. But dollars alone can't get a job done. People are necessary to make the phone calls, engage others, spread the word, help with the planning, hold informational events, fold and stuff envelopes, knock on doors. So, I'm going to join the effort.

This last Saturday in April I went to my first rally, the Climate Change rally at the east steps of the State Capitol. My wife and I visited the booths, listened to the speakers, and joined the chants. I was surprised to see how many people my age, (I'm going on 74) were present, and we were joined by an equal number of younger folks. Being a member of the Sierra Club, I was pleased to see that the MC for the event was a Sierra Club member.

The rally is just a beginning. I need to decide where I will focus my small efforts to turn things around and have our government become once again, a protector and good steward of our environment rather than the major pimp for its exploitation. I'm leaning towards the Sierra Club because of their permanence and reach on a state/federal level, and possibly the Foothill Conservancy on a local level. Both of these will probably take some time away from my club participation and fishing but I can't wait any longer, I have a seven year old grandson and two great granddaughters, both under three. They are too young to step up so grandpa has to do it for them.

The May 13th Shad outing on the American

The outing that never happened...

Fishmeister Al Smatsky and I had a great outing planned for the American on May 13th but the river is not going to cooperate. With 11 days to go before the outing, the river is flowing at 15,000 CFS with the possibility that flows may be increased to 20,000 CFS in the next few days to accommodate Sierra runoff.

While all that water is great for ending the drought, the flows are five times what is

fishable water. The river fishes best at flows under 3,000 CFS and even if the flows were ramped down over the next week, the river would not settle down in time to turn into fishable water.

That doesn't mean the shad season is over. Al will explain how to handle this year's flows when he addresses the club at the May general meeting. Just another reason to show up on May 10th.

Lots of new members; say hello and volunteer to be a mentor to these new folks

We want to acknowledge some of our newest DFF members:

Brendon & Crystal Goldberg of Valley Springs

Thomas Mason of Stockton

Barry & Barbara McCandless of Stockton

Mike Dempewolf of Lodi

Most of us have had a long wait for better fly fishing conditions and are eager to spend some quality fishing time. But I would like you to consider inviting a new

member or novice fly fisher to fish with you. Most new fly fishers need help learning the basic skills necessary to start enjoying this sport. And a little volunteered time can really make a difference to new members who may not know how to start by themselves. Few things are more satisfying as seeing new fishers develop their skills. If you are not familiar with our newer members, try volunteering to be a DFF Mentor. Tim Costello is the chairperson for this program that matches experienced members with new members.

Some last minute stuff for those planning to fish the One Fly Contest

By Bob Fujimura

Our Calaveras Fly Fishers hosts said that temporary bridge will not be in place until mid-May so it is confirmed that we will meet and launch from the western portion of the park (see figure). CDFW agreed to move up its schedule trout delivery a week earlier, sometime before this event. If so the lake should be good for new or novice fly fishers when they hold this year's event. We have a good starting collection of new and experience DFF members who



will be joining you at this event.

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Trout Bout (November)	
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Bring your duplicate fly fishing and camping gear to the swap meet at this month's May 10th General Membership meeting. The meeting starts at 6:15 and the swap meet extends to 7:15. VP Cliff Hoover and his wife Linda will have snacks and drinks for you early birds to make the event even more fun.

Notice: Board members and fly tiers, a reminder,

The dates for the fly of the month and the Board of Director's meeting have been reversed with the Fly of the Month to be tied on May 17th and the Board of Director's Meeting on May 24th.

Both start at 6:30pm and will be held at the Nature Center at Oak Grove Park.

(Why? Because the president has been given permission by the board to go with his buddy Sturmer White and 10 other Granite Bay Fly Fishers to fish the Fall River on May 15th through the 17th. The president greatly appreciates this consideration by the board and promises to do his best to bring honor to the Delta Fly Fishers by holding his own against all the other grey hairs on this California blue ribbon fishery.)



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Kelsey kicks out over 70 LMB to club members on the annual outing

By Bud Heintz and Bob Souza

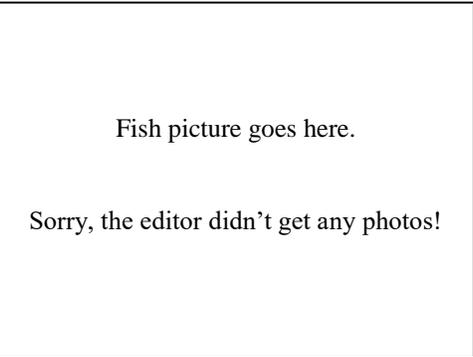
The morning weather started out with sunshine and calm waters. Fishing was slow for most fisher persons. Grady Lee was the most successful in the morning, catching 5 or 6 Bass, 3 to 5 lbs.

Bob Souza put on a great lunch that everyone enjoyed!

During lunch time the weather changed slightly! A breeze came up and clouds developed, which gave us overcast skies for the rest of the day. Fishing picked up from 2 PM until 6 PM or later.

The fishing action was good and many bass and perch were caught. We had our

best fishing on the edge of the lilly pads by the pump and the flats across the lake.



There were also fish caught along the rock wall and along the entrance road.

The few guys I was fishing with did not

get any top water action. We fished along the lily pads and site fished looking for bass movement along the edged of the pads. Most of the fish were caught on the "Red Ryder" and weighted damsel fly nymphs. The majority of the bass caught were 16 to 20+ inches long and weighed 3 to 5 lbs. The perch, on the other hand, were the biggest I've seen! Most of the perch were 10 to 14+ inches long, the size of a dinner plate, with the largest perch weighing approx. 2 lbs.

All-in-all, the day was a good experience! Fishing fellowship was good and the food was great.

DFE club members assist EBMUD at Kid's Fishing Day

EBMUD Ranger Scott Wiemerslage extended his appreciation to club members Karen Keagy and Cliff Hoover for their help on EBMUD's Kid's Fishing Day. The event was held on April 22nd at the pond at the south entrance to Lake Camanche.

Unfortunately, the date conflicted with the club's annual outing to Kelsey Bass Ranch, where another dozen of our members concentrated their efforts for the day.

An effort will be made on next year's calendar to separate the two events so that the club can do both without conflict.

Ranger Scott said he hopes to continue to work with the club, perhaps with a fly fishing day at the pond including fly fishing , casting and fly tying. He'll be invited to attend

a board meeting in the fall where the ideas can be expanded into an action plan.



How to make a youngster smile! EBMUD photo



Everyone is having a good time. EBMUD photo

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



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