



Rx Fly Fishing!

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Stockton, California

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Calendar

February 11--General Meeting

February 16--Presidents' Day

February 18--BOD

February 19-22--Pleasanton Show

February 23—70th Anniversary, Marines raising the flat on Iwo Jima.

February 28--Lower Stanislaus River Float from Knights Ferry to Horseshoe Bend (Mike N)

March 11—General Membership meeting

March 18—BOD meeting

President's Message: HERE WE GO 2015!!!!!!

Recaps:

1. Annual Moke Trip on New Years Day, Jan. 1, 2015, seemed to be a rousing success. Our turn out was outstanding and the fishing was respectable. This club never stops amazing me. The morning following the biggest drinking holiday of the year, we are out in force clear headed and functioning as unit! Bravo.

2. 1st General Mtg. Presenter and speaker Barbara Barrigan Parillia, was a spokesperson for "Restore the Delta" and provided the club an update on the progress of their efforts. The job of protecting the Delta is not one task, nor is it static, it is on going and dynamic. It is a task that requires something from all of us who care about it. It is the nature of politics to flutter in the wind of what is popular, which makes today's friend tomorrow's enemy. Such seems to be the case with Diane Feinstein and her corporate farming sponsors in the south of the San Joaquin valley. DFF presented Ms Parillia a donation check of \$1000. To lend support.

3. UC Davis Yuba outing. On Jan 10th, 18 DFF members were granted permission to fish the private shoreline along the Yuba River belonging to UC Davis. This is a once a year outing privy to the DFF members who sign up. See Bob Fujimara's

report in this news letter.

4. Lastly, for January our annual Dinner Auction was held at a new venue, the Moose Lodge, in Woodbridge and prove to be a perfect location. Please let me take this opportunity to thank those volunteers and donors for all you did to help put this dinner event together. In particular, Al and Cathy Smatsky for the appetizers, the two co chairs, Bruce Rollans and Charlie Reams, and Auction chair, John Highsmith. Well done! I should also add that it is our intent to improve our dinner offering in 2016. Enough said!

Annual award winners for 2014 were as follows:

Bruce and Sallye Rollans - President's Award for outstanding club service.
Jim Rich - Fly Fisher of the Year 2014. A unanimous selection and a two time winner. Too many nice qualities in one man.
Grady Lee - Incomplete Angler of the Year 2014. Grady's history with this Award made him the best candidate.

In February, our club functions are as follows:

1. International Fly Fishing Show in Pleasanton, CA- Watch for notices of caravanning in up coming emails.



(Continued from page 1)

2. Stanislaus Float to Knights Ferry on Feb 28th. Mike Nicolson, will Fishmeister, he personally knows the river inhabitants, he has probably caught them at least once if not several times.

I encourage you to join DFF, if your not a

member and if your already a member get out and get those lines wet.

Lastly, we have a sign up circulating concerning our June 6, Shad Outing. This is a paid for and guided fishing trip for one day on the North Delta. It requires \$150 per fisherperson, with payment due at the sign up. This is not refundable but can be

transferred to someone else. We need commitments. Shad fishing can be some of the most exciting and unique experiences a fly fisherman can have. If your new I highly recommend this trip. You will get some personal attention and lunch is included. We need as many as 6 members and a max of 12.

Conservation: Westlands is at it again!

"The charm of fishing is that it is the pursuit of what is elusive but attainable, a perpetual series of hope."

--- John Buchan

Several weeks ago, I was going through my storage shed to get rid of fishing gear that I have had for over 50 years. You know the stuff... rusted spinning lures, very old rods and reels, and gear that can no longer serve any useful function for anyone. I know I'm obsessive-compulsive saving fishing gear, but it was time to throw all the junk out. Then I came across my first fishing reel. It is a level wind reel that was old when my Dad put some line on it and attached it to a marginal bamboo rod (no, not a split bamboo rod) and took me fishing in a row boat on Potato Slough. We caught a lot of "shakers" and catfish. The largest catfish was wrapped in wet burlap, brought home and put in our "pond" and grew for several years till someone stole it and had it for dinner.

As I reminisced about those days and the fun I had as a kid, I thought about the Delta today. It's odd how my stream of consciousness flows. First, memories of the fun I had as a child, to the present harsh reality that the Delta, as we know it today. It is being destroyed. The Delta I knew as a kid doesn't exist. Nor does the Delta that existed generations before. Initially the Delta was tidal wetlands and tule marshes. In the 1850's, Chinese laborers started digging drainage ditches and levee's. By the 1860's long-boom clamshell dredges were operating and the Delta was changed forever. Today the Delta is 1,100 square miles (836,000 acres-500,000 of which is farmland). It has over 700 miles of waterways, over 1,100 miles of levees, 57 islands or tracts,

and provides some or all of the water for 24 million people. Its farmland yields \$ 5.2 billion annually, 1.4 \$ billion from its salmon fisheries, and over \$600 million in recreational use. Today the Delta contains over 750 different species plants and animals. Since John Sutter settled in Sacramento and gold was discovered, the Delta has never been static environment.



A river of carp

In December of last year, Dr. Peter Moyle of UC Davis professor of Wildlife, Fish, and Conservation Biology, presented a paper on the Delta titled: "Novel Ecosystem of the Suisun Marsh and the Delta-A New Reality". He started his talk by commenting that our aquatic ecosystems are novel. "They have a re-

and are a mixture of native and invasive species. Today, with the invasion of non-native species, there are more plants and animals in the Delta than there were historically. They are radically -altered ecosystems.



Water hyacinth now clogs the delta channels.

semblance to historic systems. They sort of look good but are irreversibly altered physically and chemically."They are radically different from the historic systems

In the North Delta today, only 20% of the

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Clearing a pump opening

(Continued from page 2)

fish caught in the Cache Slough area are native. According to Moyle, even if the native fish are now in low abundance, you can create an environment that will increase their numbers, but only with a lot of work. With the Delta's present environment, you still get a huge bias shift for the non-native species. He noted that there are also major shifts in seasonal abundance of different species. The shift in invasive species starts at the bottom of the food web. When you look at the abundance of zooplankton today you find that that most are non-natives.

Moyle noted that the Central Delta is about the most historically altered ecosystem you can find. It was altered by what he calls "ecosystem engineers"- the Brazilian waterweed and the over-bite clam. These species have changed the environment to the point where the Central Delta now favors invasive species over natives. As in the North Delta, only 20% of the fish caught are natives.

The study shows that there is more hope for native fish in the Suisun Marsh area. Moyle notes the saltier the area, the more favorable the environment for native fish. About 35% of the fish taken in Suisun Marsh are native. He also pointed out that the Suisun Marsh bears no resemblance to the historic marsh or a natural environment. Even though it looks okay, it's really a highly managed group of duck clubs and has many invasive species and about 200 miles of dykes. There is a wider fluctuation in invasive fish than in native species.

Suisun Marsh also shows just how fast things are changing in the Delta. In the

years 1980-1989 and 2002-2012, 10 species were studied and there has been a major shift in fish. Between 1980 -1989, longfin smelt and Sacramento sucker were among the top 10 species. Between 20002-2012, they were out of the top 10 species and had been replaced by black crappie and white catfish. The ecosys-

tem is constantly invaded by both macro and micro-invaders.. Some of the newest invaders have been Maeotias jelly fish, the overbite clam, goby, and the Siberian prawn. A lot of non-native invertebrates provide a food source for the fish this is highly variable and very complex. The estuary is constantly changing and never static. The tidal marsh of Suisun basin has been highly altered but, at present, seems to be working for the pelagic fishery.

The UC Davis study has come to several conclusions:

- . New invasive species will continue to invade all habitats of the estuary.
- . We will have to understand how to manage non-native desirable species like striped bass. The stripers are a desirable species that fits well in the Delta and should be treated as native.
- . Our present passive restoration of the Delta isn't working. It will not help native fish, especially pelagic fish. The environ-

ment has changed so much that active management and monitoring of all projects will be required.

. The management of duck clubs in Suisun Bay turns out to work well for fish management with good tidal circulation. It's an excellent location for larval and small fish. At present most fish are non-native. Dr. Moyle feels the system can be manipulated for natives like splittail or delta smelt.

The Delta we knew and grew up with can never be returned nor restored. Those days are gone forever. The biggest obstacle the Delta faces is not environmental. That comes from the political hacks we



The hyacinth can bring all boating to a complete stop

have elected, the South Valley corporate farms, southern water contractors, and southern water districts. At last month's meeting, Barbara Barrigan-Peralla, the Executive Director of Restore the Delta, gave us insight as to what is going on and how we can help. More on this later.

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Westlands Water District and the Bureau of Reclamation have again negotiated a deal at taxpayer expense

In the current proposed deal, Westlands water loan will be forgiven and they will assume the clean up of 100,000 acres for highly -toxic land. In the 1960's, Westlands Water District (WWD) and the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) were involved with loans to South Valley Farmers for the state's water project and with concerns about 100,000 acres owned by Westland farmers. This acreage is laced with selenium, boron and other toxic minerals. This land should never have been farmed. The Westland's loan with the federal government was truly amazing. First, the taxpayers money they borrowed was interest free and there were no penalties attached for default of payment! Secondly, the BOR was responsible for any clean up of contamination to the environment caused by irrigation of the 100,000 acres of the selenium-boron-laced soil by the Westland farmers. In other words, Westlands would farm the land, but taxpayers were responsible for its cleanup.

In typical negligent fashion, the BOR did not perform its duties. The waste water project was only partly finished and stopped at the Kesterson Wildlife area.

The continuing build -up of toxic waste water flowed into the Kesterson Wildlife area and created an environmental disaster. The wildlife, including ducks and geese were killed or malformed . Kesterson was closed, but for 32 years neither WWD nor the BOR has come up with a solution to the problem. As part of the current deal, Westlands proposes to assume the responsibility of the clean - up. However, in researching this proposed deal, I have not been able to find any mention of liability that Westlands would be charged with for non-performance of their duties. At this point we have to assume there are none. You can assume Westland's will once again look for creative ways for taxpayers to assume Westlands burdens, just as they are in this agreement.

For 65 years, Westlands has not paid for its taxpayer loan on the water project. They have defaulted on their last two payments. They still owe \$342 million 1960 dollars. Today a 1960 dollar is worth \$8.14. In other words, taxpayers are being ripped of by Westlands by \$ 2.78 billion. This proposed deal follows Westlands typical MO.

If this deal goes through, Westlands, will follow its tradition al pattern of making a promise, defaulting, and again having taxpayers pay for their responsibilities. This strategy has worked for them in the past, and they are trying the same strategy again.

Ron Forbes
Conservation Chair

The Fly of the Month is back. February's patterns, the Snow Cone and Mahalo Midge

After a year's absence, the Fly of the Month is back as part of the club's programs. The time, place and cost will be the same, fourth Wednesday of the Month,, 7:00pm, Oak Grove Nature Center, cost, \$3.00.

These two patterns were chosen for three reasons, they aer simple to tie, representative of many midge pattern and are just the ticket for catching those giant Pyramid Lake trout, something that fits well with our scheduled March outing.

The class is limited to ten tiers, first come,

first serve. Those participating will get enough materials to tie four flies. The club has fly tying equipment for those people who don't have their own.

You can view a video of the pattern being tied at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MgZngdDDWWc>



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February's Program: "Alternative Species of the Tahoe Region."

Dan LeCount is a long time guide in the Truckee area of Lake Tahoe for Truckee River Outfitters and Matt Heron Fly Fishing. He is a contract fly-tyer for Umpqua Feather Merchants and is well known for his creative fly patterns. He is also a board member of Trout Unlimited Chapter #103, the Tahoe Trout Bums. He is a 4th generation fly fisherman and has been fishing since he could pick up a rod. He has been fly fishing the Sierras for over 25 years, from Truckee to Lone Pine. He loves chasing a multitude of species from fresh to salt, but is especially fond of sight fishing for trout and bass.

Dan will be giving a presentation called "Alternative Species of the Tahoe Region." Much of the trout fishing in Truckee has been covered in-depth, but there are a ton of other angling opportunities in the area. Dan will cover how to catch Small-mouth bass, Mackinaw (lake trout) and Carp on a fly. He will cover the whens, the wheres and

how to's, and will tie some of his favorite flies beforehand. It should be a fun and informative night, we hope you guys and gals can find the time to join us!



The Lower Yuba provided a quality experience for the 12 DFFers who attended

Prepared by Bob Fujimura

The annual outing to the UC Davis Range Conservation Center property started the previous day of this event when host Bob and Jean Fujimura, Charlie Reames, and Ed Barich arrived. Bob, Jean, and Charlie set up their trailers at the very nice RV park at Sycamore Ranch Park which the Yuba County spent over \$10 million to improve. Charlie checked out the waters downstream of the Highway 20 Bridge in the afternoon. We took Ed to the south bank of the UC Davis section of the river through a private club access route. Ed was able to pre-fish the river before sundown. On the morning of the outing, total

of twelve members met at the entrance of access road and after donning on their fishing gear the



Bob and Jean provided the fuel to power some hungry anglers.

members spread out among the 3 mile section of the river approximately 3 miles upstream of the Highway 20 Bridge. The participants were Joe Balderston, Tony Ott, Barry O'Regan, Dan McDan-

iel, Harvey Hamlow, Ricky Ortiz, Mike Nicholson, Carlo Proto, Charlie, Ed, Jean, and Bob. The weather was cool and overcast in the morning with muted sunlight in the afternoon. Flows were descending to about 650 cfs and water clarity was between 2-3 feet. Most fishers got at least a few fish - some approaching 17-18" in size. Egg or mayfly nymph patterns were the most commonly mentioned successful patterns. Fishing seams near vegetated banks or below salmon redds were areas where fish were often caught.

During the lunch break the fishers shared tips which improved the

(Continued on page 6)

afternoon catches. The host served a hardy lunch of 1/3 pound bacon cheese burgers. Mike Nicholson mentored new member Ricky Ortiz. With Mike's help Ricky hooked into a nice trout on his first cast. The Lower Yuba is Mike's home waters and he was

the top angler with 16 trout landed. Mike credited a custom mayfly nymph fly for his success that day. Conversely, Joe Balderston who had successful fished this section the previous week said he focused his time fishing salmon alvin patterns in slower river sec-

tions. Joe said he really enjoyed the violent near surface takes using this technique. Although the average number of fish landed was not high, the DFF members did fairly well for that time of year.



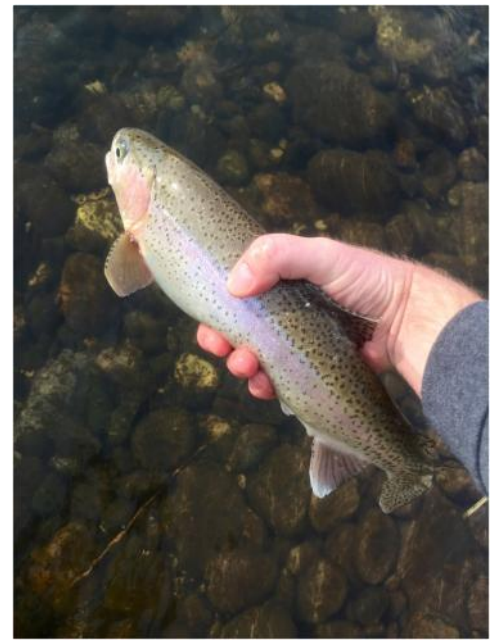
One of Carlo's fish.



Another, this one from Ed Barich



Mike Nicholson working the water.



One of the many fish Mike caught.



Barry O'Regan trying his hand at mid river.



Charlie calling Mike Nicholson for fly recommendations

Installation Dinner Photos



Al and Cathy Smatsky's appetizer table was a big hit.



The number of raffle and silent auction prizes seemed endless.



Ron Forbes, "So many choices, so little time."



Mark, DeLaBarre, "I really need this."



A great venue with lots of room to tell some fish stories.



President Gil Parker takes control.



Sallye Rollans received a special award for her years of club service as Recording Secretary.



Bruce and Sallye receive the long overdue President's Award for Club Service.



Jim received the Fly Fisher of the Year award.



Grady Lee received the Incomplete Angler award



Earl Summers received a special, "Lost Wheel" award



John Highsmith, Bob Fujimura and Jason Stapleton, the raffle!



Larry Smith won one of the two super prizes, a float tube.



Ed Sill won the grand Prize, a very nice pontoon boat.

Photos from the New Years Celebration at Van Assen Park



The hospitality tent, a good place for a hot cup of coffee.



No fog this time!!!



This looks like a serious discussion!



Some of us actually fished!



Is Mark DeLaBarre a fashionista or what



Some left their waders at home.



Some didn't.



A mini drift boat, just right for the Moke!



Getting rigged up.



We weren't the only ones on the river.

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