



Rx Fly Fishing!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

In this Issue

Page 2—[Conservation: Two major court victories for the Delta](#)

Page 3—[One Fly Contest at White Pines Lake](#)

Page 3 -[More Outings: Pyramid Lake, Kelsey Bass Ranch and Shad fishing on the Sac](#)

April's program: Fly fishing The Upper Water Column For Large and Smallmouth Bass

Trent Pridemore's 50 minute Powerpoint presentation evolved from two feature articles on flyrod bass fishing that he wrote for California Fly Fisher several years ago. The program focuses on the upper water column where bass are reachable with a flyrod. He discusses the biology that brings bass into shallow areas, bass food items and the types of water that produce better inshore and topwater action, effective fly patterns and tactics. He also talks about the revolution in flyrod bass fishing tackle that includes specialty rods, lines and innovative new flies. California waters are covered as well as the spectacular Northern largemouth fishery at Oregon's Davis lake and Florida strain fish at Mexico's El Salto reservoir.

A bonus section at the end looks briefly at "Bugging For Browns in Chilean Patagonia", where Brown trout behave like bass and take Fat Alberts as well as dragonfly patterns and bass bugs.

Trent Robert Pridemore resides in Grass Valley and Carnelian Bay, California. His family emigrated from Fairbanks Alaska in 1946 and settled in the Bay Area. He received a degree in Field Zoology from UCSB and worked as a timber cruiser in Humboldt and Trinity Counties. After a Doctorate at UCSF, The Air Force sent him to the Philippines and other parts of Southeast Asia during the Vietnam conflict.

His zoological background stimulated an earlier interest in fly fishing that led him to involvement in angling conservation. He was Project Chairman and Biological Consultant for the Little Truckee River Trout Restoration Task Force in the mid "70's" that ultimately led to what has become a major and unique trout resource in the Wild Trout Program. In 2006 he orchestrated Regulation Proposal Changes that resulted in Wild Trout status for the Truckee River and its tributaries between

Trout Creek and the Nevada State Line. He was also involved in the implementation of winter angling on the Truckee and Yuba River systems and is a recipient of the "Black Hand" conservation award.

Other angling related activities include writing for California Fly Fisher, Sierra Heritage Magazine, Tahoe

Maritime Museum and guest appearances on radio and television. He has taught classes on fly tying, fly casting, and angler's entomology. Major interests are Stillwater angling for trout and bass. In the mid "nineties" he formed Angler's Education Service to expand his lecturing and educational programs. He is a member of Sierra Grape Growers Association and is currently working on a memoir collection of angling stories called *Chasing Rainbows...Tales of a Well Traveled Fly Fisherman* and a cookbook titled, "Recipes from Jack Rabbit Hill".



Calendar

April 3-6—Pyramid Lake Outing

April 9—DFF General Membership Meeting

April—12 Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing

April 16—DFF Board Meeting

May 3—One Fly Contest

Conservation: Two major court victories for the Delta

Only after the last tree is felled, the last river poisoned and the last fish caught, man will know you can't eat money.

An old Cree saying

In 2008 several lawsuits were filed against the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) protections that were implemented to stop the environmental collapse of the Delta. The USFWS's protection's were based on their biological opinions to protect the threatened Delta Smelt and other endangered fish. As you may recall, Judge Oliver Wanger supported the anti-environment position held by the Westlands Water District and Westlands won that case in 2010. In the middle of March however, the US Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals overturned Judge Wanger's lower court ruling. The court ruled with the Bay Institute, the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), Earthjustice Legal Defense Fund and the federal government in their attempts to protect the threatened Delta Smelt are necessary and justified "to restore the health and the water quality of the largest estuary on the west coast of the Americas."

The senior attorney for the NRDC got it right when she commented, "the court reaffirmed the facts and recognized that science needs to guide our management of the Delta in order for our farms, cities, and wildlife to thrive. Taking more water out of the delta is not going to solve our problems. The emergency drought is a state-wide problem that effects all of us - from farmers to fisherman to the average citizen. And it's the drought, not the Delta, that's affecting the water supply this year. That's why the farmers and the fisherman support these protections -- because their jobs and livelihoods depend on it."

As you would imagine, Thomas Birmingham, the district manager for Westlands Water District, was very angry with the decision. He agreed with the 2010 judgement of Judge Oliver Wanger who had decided in Westlands favor. As you may recall, shortly after Wanger's decision he retired, and was given a major retirement party by Westland's and hired by them to

represent Westlands in legal matters. Public outrage, however, prevented Wanger from accepting the position. Birmingham feels that the court ignored the "best scientific and commercial data available." Translation: they followed their responsibilities to the Environmental Protection Act. This ruling by the US 9th Circuit Court of Appeals is considered a major victory for the Delta.

The Delta had a second major victory in March when Delta farmers won their case against the Department of Water Resources (DWR). Over three years ago the DWR tried to gain access to Delta farms to drill core samples for the Twin Tunnels project. Many Delta farmers refused to let the state on their property. This litigation against the state sponsored by the South and Central Water Districts led by attorney Thomas Keeling. The trial was about the state being able to get temporary easement permits to gain entry to the Delta landowners property where they intended to drill core samples. Initially the DWR felt they would be able to gain entry to the property in about 6 months or less. However, in almost four years the state still has not obtained the easement permits they wanted and have now lost their case. The Court of Appeals has denied the DRW's ability to get temporary entry permits for three reasons:

1) What DRW wanted was actually "easement or other compensable interest in real property."

2) The DRW will only be able to get those rights through an eminent domain process.

3) Under these circumstances the DWR would actually be the unlawful taking of private property.

There were two issues settled in this case. First, this victory means no sample drilling can be done by the state, and second, the state will not be allowed environmental entry that would have let "DWR personal, vehicles and equipment to enter delta lands for a period of one year for the purpose of conducting biological, botanical, archaeological and other surveys to support the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP). This win has really slowed down the states ability to proceed on Delta lands with the BDCP. The state can proceed with an appeal. However, instead

of the six months process the state intended, they face a process that will take many more years. The state acts as if they are not concerned with this victory for the Delta landowners. They claim to be "proceeding pursuant to the eminent domain process to conduct geotechnical drilling." However, according to Tom Keeling, "There are no pending eminent domain proceedings by DRW in connection with BDCP access to Delta lands or, for that matter, with respect to the BDCP at all."

Both of these victories are major wins for the Delta. The DWR and Westlands Water District will try to move forward with appeals and other legal techniques. However, it will cost them more time. The more time they lose, the more the proposed project will cost and the more negative issues will be brought to light.

The US Fish and Wild life Service changes it mind

In last month's conservation article regarding the federal Coleman fish hatchery, the USFWS was set to release 12 million, 3-6 inch Chinook salmon smolts to almost certain death. The states drought has caused low flows in the Lower Sacramento River, with higher than normal water temperatures and predation factors that have the potential annihilate this years smolt population. California Sportfishing Protection Alliance(CSPA) pointed out that we have already lost 40% of the fall-run fish on the Lower Sacramento River and as much as 25% run on the American River because of dewatered redds. Any addition loss of smolt would have meant the loss of the 2016 salmon run. Initially the USFWS main concern was that if the fish were not released into Battle Creek to be imprinted they would not find their way back to their river of origin.

Fortunately, the USFWS has listened to the concerns of many groups like CSPA and decided transport the juvenile salmon 180 miles by truck rather than having them face almost certain death on their 260-300 mile trip to the ocean. A news release March 24th from the USFWS

(Continued on page 4)

One Fly Contest at White Pines Lake

By Robert Fujimura

Come see Delta Fly Fishers anglers vie for continued dominance at this friendly fishing competition hosted by the Calaveras Fly Fishers annually. Always held at White Pines Lake near the community of Arnold just a short distance from Highway 4 (see map).

This event is a lot of fun and well-attended by DFF members of various skill levels. The lake is a relatively small and no motorized crafts are allowed on this lake making

it a very beginner-friendly and a good learning situation for basic still water fishing. If the lake has been recently stocked, this can be an excellent location for easy fishing for novice anglers. Wild and hold-over trout can also provide more challenging angling for more skilled fishers. The event will be similar to previous years. After registering fly fishers have the morning to catch either the largest fish or the most trout with a single fly. The contestant fee (\$25) includes a

great lunch serving BBQ tri-tip sandwiches, side dishes, soft drinks, and dessert. Funds from the event go to a local education fund. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Bob Fujimura at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com or (209) 339-0683 by April 29. The Calaveras Fly Fishers need a head-count of members who are coming so they can have plenty of food for lunch. More information on this event later this month.

More Outings: Pyramid Lake, Kelsey Bass Ranch and Shad fishing on the Sac

Pyramid Lake

The outing to **Pyramid Lake** has been delayed to this coming weekend, April 3-6, because of the inclement weather last week. . If you plan on going and need details about the outing, please contact **Jerry Neuburger at gneuburger@yahoo.com**. Jerry is planning a lunch and needs firm numbers to prepare.

Kelsey Bass Ranch

The **Kelsey Bass Ranch** outing is scheduled for **April 12**. If you plan on attending, please let Al Smatsky know. Cost of the outing is **\$85**. All checks should be made out to **Excellent Adventures, 619 West Pine St., Lodi CA 95240**. **Deadline for paying is April 9**.

Shad fishing on the Sac

The club has secured 12 seats with Orland Outfitters for our annual shad trip on the Sac, Sunday, June 1st. 10 members have already signed up and we have only two seats left. The club has paid for the seats and can only hold them until this month's board meeting, April 16th. The trip is bargain at \$150 for a full day of guided fly fishing for shad, "the poor man's tarpon",

a jet boar ride up and back on the Sac and and a full day of cooked snacks, a barbecue chicken dinner and the great fellowship of being part of the Delta Fly Fishers. The day's fishing starts at 11:30 at the Hamilton City boat ramp and ends about 8-8:30 that evening, time enough to get home before midnight.

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(Continued from page 2)

explained the process. The project will include the USFWS, California Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Fisheries Foundation of California. This will be a massive effort to transport the 12 million smolt. The project will take 22 days, using from 4 to 7 USFWS and CDFW trucks. Each truck will hold 2,800 gallons of water at 55-60 degrees F and will carry 130,000 smolt.

Along with the the federal hatchery, four CDFW hatcheries will also transport 18.4 million smolt. The Mokelumne River, Feather River, Merced River, and the Nimbus hatchery are involved. The smolt from hatcheries will be transported to an area in San Pablo Bay near Vallejo and held in floating net pens until they acclimate to the salinity and temperature. Because of the transport they will also not have to face predator, pollution, or water diversion issues.

Even though transporting the fish will cause potential problems with straying and possible genetic issues, the USFWS feels that it is the best option available under the existing circumstances. Without

the transporting of this years smolt, we would have lost all of 2013 Chinook production and potentially lost the entire 2016 salmon season. It may not be the perfect answer to the problem, but it's the only answer we have.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair

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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 similar ad on our website monthly articles equal to the number of newsletter advertising months. (App. Two per month.)

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](mailto:Jerry.Neuburger), Editor 209-369-5752



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