



# Rx Fly Fishing!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Nationally known Hal Janssen is March speaker

Hal Janssen is a nationally known writer, artist, lecturer, and video personality. He has been fly fishing for over 50 years and has fished extensively throughout the North and South America for nearly every species of fresh and salt water fish. Hal's account of his first steelhead trip was wading wet in the winter because no one made waders for 9 year old kids in 1952. The old timers from the Golden Gate Casting Club adopted him, setting him up with a shooting head and teaching him to cast. Hal's self-



confidence and fiery enthusiasm seem to guide him in everything he does.

Hal is one of the very few special people in the world with naturally polarized eyes that allows him to see better, correctly analyze stream conditions, and take fish repeatedly when others are unsuccessful, adding to his great ability as a world class angler. I remember Hal putting on a program at our club, many years ago, and talking about the scent we carry on our hands. He said that unless you happen to have the right pheromones, you should carry a small vial of vanilla extract to rub on you hands to mask the transfer of your scent to your fly and leader.

Growing up in the 50's Hal became an active member of a fishing group of San Francisco area fishing greats that represents the history of our sport including people such as: Jack Alamillo, Mac McPheters, Lou Morrelli, Grant King, Bob Nauheim, Russ Chatham, Frank Bertania,

Bill Griswald, Scorpe Evans, and Bill Shaadt. This great group fished our Northern California waters when the runs were fantastic. They put in countless hours on the San Lorenzo, Pescadero, Gualala, Garcia, Eel, Smith, and Chetco Rivers.

Dan Blanton remembers Hal as a charter member "on the line" at the mighty Smith River in the quest for over 50 pound chinook and 20 pound steelhead. Dan also remembers fishing the San Lorenzo River with Hal in the 60's when there were still very large steelhead and salmon. Dan

tells us how well Hal took to fishing Costa Rica's tarpon and snook in the 70's and knows of no one more talented in every aspect of fly fishing. As a consummate stillwater authority, who fishes all waters, Hal has fished with notables Joe Di-Maggio, Ted Williams, Phil Harris, Bill Rigney, Joe Brooks, Ted Trueblood, John Goddard, Russ Chatham, Gary Howell, Ernie Schwiebert, and George Harvey. Because of their expertise, Hal and his compatriots led the way for all of us. As Ernie Schwiebert said about Lee Wulff, "Today's fly fishers stand on these guy's shoulders." The Alameda Creek Alliance has a photo of a 10 pound steelhead Hal caught under the Mission Boulevard **Bridge in Niles, California in 1957.**

Hal has been responsible for developing significant portions of the fly fishing equipment and concepts in use to-

(Continued on page 2)

## Calendar

March 5, 2014 Still water clinic, 6:30pm, Oak Grove Park

March 12, 2014 General Membership Meeting, John R. Williams School, Special start time, 6:30pm

March 15, 2014 New Member Stillwater Outing, Fuller Lake (Date and location subject to change)

March 19, 2014 DFF Board Meeting

March 26 -30 Pyramid Lake Outing-guaranty 21-23, 2014 The Fly Fishing Show, Pleasanton

March 15, 2014 New Member Stillwater Outing, Fuller Lake

June 7, 2014 Catfish Derby

(Continued from page 1)

day. He and Scientific Anglers founder Leon Martuch developed S/A's wet tip fly line. He and John Agnew worked on the development of Sunset Line Company's fly lines, Sunset's Cannonball, the first tapered lead core line, and the invention of the density compensated uniform sink line. Hal came up with the idea for the Mastery Stillwater series of clear fly lines, and was part of changing Amnesia from solid to fluorescent colors. In 1978 he created The Fly Tyer' Showcase Box to display flies, the Rac Wrench, a fly fishing shirt, as well as fly rods and nets. He designed a signature line of hooks with Partridge-U.K., and consulted with a number of companies including the J. Kennedy Fisher Rod Company, Cortland, and Rio Products.

In 1979, he was one of the first in the Umpqua Feather Merchants contract tyers program. Today, over 70 Janssen fly patterns are manufactured and have worldwide distribution. Hal's patterns are on display at the William Cushner Fly Fishing Museum, the University of Idaho, and the Forestry Museum in Elvermum, Norway.

Hal's series of three 1980 videotapes: "Fly Fishing Secrets", was the first collection of instructional fly fishing videos ever produced and were in part re-

sponsible for the explosion of fly fishing video titles available today. Hal founded the Hal Janssen Company in 1979, the first exclusively fly fishing equipment distributor. For almost thirty years, until they retired in 2007, Hal and his wife Jane, worked with fly shops around the world.

As a fine artist, Hal Janssen has illustrated all the fly drawings and paintings for Anglers' Calendar for over 20 years and has illustrated many magazine articles. When Hal gets involved in anything he usually gets "Best of Show," as has been the case over the past ten years that he has been actively involved in carving exceptional fish, mostly of trout in special woods. He calls them "Living Wood" to describe their unique life-like realism. In his spare time, Hal restores classic cars and has professional pin stripper status through his induction into their Hall of Fame.

As a pioneer of saltwater, steelhead, stillwater, and float tubing techniques, Hal has written over 25 articles for leading fly fishing magazines. His June 1979 Fly Fisherman Magazine article kicked off the popularization of float tubing and he has contributed to 21 books as both an artist and an author. Hal gained broad recognition as an instructor for his still water fly fishing seminars and

schools, for his many years of presentations to fly clubs, and for entertaining thousands as a member of the Coors Outdoor Team, and Ed Rice's International Sportsman's Exposition Pro Staff. He helped found the Diablo Valley Fly Fishers Club and is a fisheries consultant to Wilderness Unlimited, Cal Trout, the Smith River Advisory Council, Putah Creek Council, and the Alameda Creek Alliance.

Hal's book "Fly-Fishing Secrets Stillwater" is full of never before available Stillwater information and revolutionary fly patterns and instruction on how to tie and fish them. Hal is a member of the Federation of Fly-Fishing Hall of Fame and is a member of the prestigious California Outdoor Hall of Fame. He is an exceptional individual who has made significant contributions to the sport of fly-fishing.

This month's program will start early, at 6:30. Hal will tie some of his specialty flies before the meeting. As usual, the meeting will be held at the John R. Williams School, 2450 Meadow Avenue, Stockton on March 12th.

**Again, note the special start time, 6:30pm.**

The public is encouraged to attend.

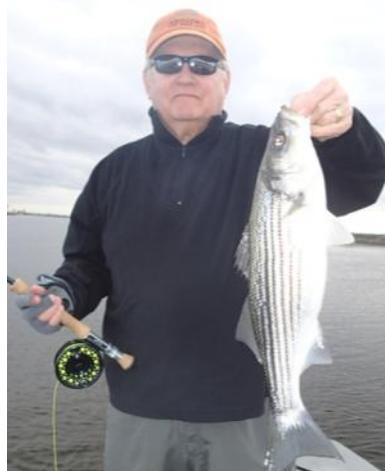
## Back in the Delta Again

by Bruce Rollans

Sallye and I have spent Valentine's Day fishing the delta with Mike Costello for the past 13 years. This year was no exception. The only difference was our conveyance. The motor on Mike's 22 foot Jet Craft blew up recently so we used his center console jet drive boat. Not having the walk through wind screen of the Jet Craft made for some pretty in your face cold weather.

We started fishing close to Tower Park Marina in Little Potato Slough. The tide was still dropping. I quickly had four stripers to the boat between four and five pounds. Sallye was still working hard for her first take throwing a type 7 high density sink line on her 8 wt. rod..

Next we moved to several locations on the San Joaquin River where Sallye began landing stripers including one ten pound fish. After a quick lunch we began fishing over a ledge along the rock wall at Hilton's Duck Club. While we landed about eight stripers here, all were not legal fish



looking like they came into this world as recent as last August.

Finally we moved back into Little Potato Slough to fish where we had during the out going tide, but now were had an incoming tide. Big difference. We started marking large numbers of fish and clouds of bait. Mike thought we were also seeing the steelhead smolts the Moke hatchery had released at New Hope earlier in the week.

Suddenly Sallye was on a fish that did everything it could to avoid the boat. As Mike watched, he saw her fish, a striper which turned out to be seven pounds, followed closely by dozens of stripers, one of which he guessed to be about 30 pounds. We ended the day at 4:30 p.m. with 32 stripers to the boat, 21 of them legal size. Oh what a gathering!

# Trout Bout 2014, weather better than expected, crowds small

By Steve VonBerg

Rain or Shine---mostly Shine! Unfortunately, the threat of bad weather kept the number of participants at this year's Trout Bout down from past years. Even though the weather was quite good for most of the morning, the weather probably had a lot do with the low turnout. For those hearty souls that came to fish, the fishing, espe-

cially at the east end of the lake, was quite good! A good time seemed to be had by all---even those with just a bite or two.

DFF was well represented for the day. Charlie Reames deserves a lot of credit for his leadership for the event. With the help of a very dedicated work crew, DFF served food, demonstrated fly tying, signed up participants, weighed

fish, and provided fishing tips when needed. All in all, a great day to help the County, and at the same time, a great opportunity to connect with fellow DFF members. The next event at Oak Grove Park will be the Catfish Derby in June.

Thanks again to all who volunteered.

## Stillwater clinic targeted for new fly fishers to be held March 5th at the Oak Grove Park Nature Center

On March 5, at 6:30 pm at Oak Grove Nature Center, long time member and delta guide, Jerry Neuburger will be presenting a stillwater clinic designed to get the new fly fisher started fishing the Sierra lakes.

The clinic will cover lake stratification

and turn over, trout behavior, lake insects and presentations. .

Jerry has been a member of the Delta Fly Fishers for over 28 years and has fished the western hemisphere from Alaska to Costa Rica. Jerry's knowledge and expertise will be invaluable for those new club

members wanting to improve their stillwater fishing.

A Stillwater outing will take place sometime in March at a location to be announced where new members can practice the skills learned in the clinic.

## Tips for the Frugal Fly Tyer: Low cost UV flashlight

By Bob Fujimura

A few months ago DFF Treasurer Jason Stapleton shared his discovery of a low cost ultraviolet (UV) LED flashlight. As many fly tyers know that the latest fad is using UV curing resins as an alternative to epoxy or cyanoacrylate resins for clear coating or body material. Unlike these older resins, UV resins can set in a few

seconds when exposed to an UV light source. Until now, the UV light sources for using these resins were relatively expensive when purchased from ven-

dors who market to fly tyers. Jason found that Walmart sold an inexpensive UV flashlight for...\$10.

Although I had already purchased one of the more expensive light source, I had to check this tip out for myself. When I went my local Walmart, sure enough there were many of these flashlights for sale in the Outdoors Sporting Goods section. When I tried it at home it set several

types of UV resins that I use...just as well as my expensive Deer Creek Co. UV laser pen. Although I still use the laser for the smaller flies, I would definitely recommend this light as your primary UV device especially if you need to illuminate a large fly or surface.



Ten bucks at Walmart! Wow!!!

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# Conservation: The drought, it's here, it's severe and it's bad for fish

*"The man who coined the phrase 'Money can't buy happiness' never bought himself a good fly rod."*

Reg Baird

## The potential effects on our native fish and trout in the changing climate and drought -

In early February Drs. Peter Moyle and Rebecca Quinones of UCD gave a webinar on "Climate Change Vulnerability of Native and Alien Freshwater Fish in California: A systematic Assessment Approach."

Dr. Moyle is a well known professor of Fish Biology and Dr. Quinones is a postdoctoral researcher. All of us involved in fishing are aware of the stress our fish are under and the decline in their populations. Three years of drought have only exacerbated the situation. Much of the presentation was of the stress that climate change will have on the fish. At the present time, almost 50% of the state's 121 native fish are at high risk of extinction. If the climate changes predicted occur, 82% of our native fish will be at high risk of extinction by the year 2100. Alien or non-native fish are not as sensitive to a warming climate as native fish. Their predicted loss is only 19% and they will become the state's dominate species. At this point, 80% of our native fish are in decline with only 27% listed as being reasonably secure. The rest of the native species are either listed as having protection or are recommend to be given protection listings.

The temperature increases by 2100 are expected to be from 4-6 degrees C. Depending on a stream's elevation and size, the water temperature is expected to increase 3-5 degrees C. and will have much lower flows in late summer. The tempera-

ture increase will result in a net loss of from 60-90% of the state's cold water habitat. The colder water will shift to the north state and be at higher elevations. Unfortunately, the warmer climates will favor non-native species such as bass and carp. Along with warmer climates, we will have a rise in sea levels. By 2100, the sea level is expected to rise 1.4 - 1.7 meters. Some scientists feel that these estimates are too conservative. Along with the higher sea levels, we can expect more extreme tides and losses of our estuarine habitat such as marshes, mudflats, and habitats for rearing migratory fish like salmon.

We are acutely aware of the problems the drought are causing our fish. The pro-

pack.

Presently we are facing problems of native fish declines. Dr. Moyle commented that of our native fish, only 27% are reasonably secure, 28% are vulnerable, 23% are listed, and 22% are recommended to be listed as either threatened or endangered. The major cause of native fish declines is their loss of habitat and its degradation. Drs. Moyle and Quinones commented that we must decide what species we want to save and determine how we can protect the best species of what we have left. Presently, UCD is using a program to track changes in fish populations. It is called PISCES

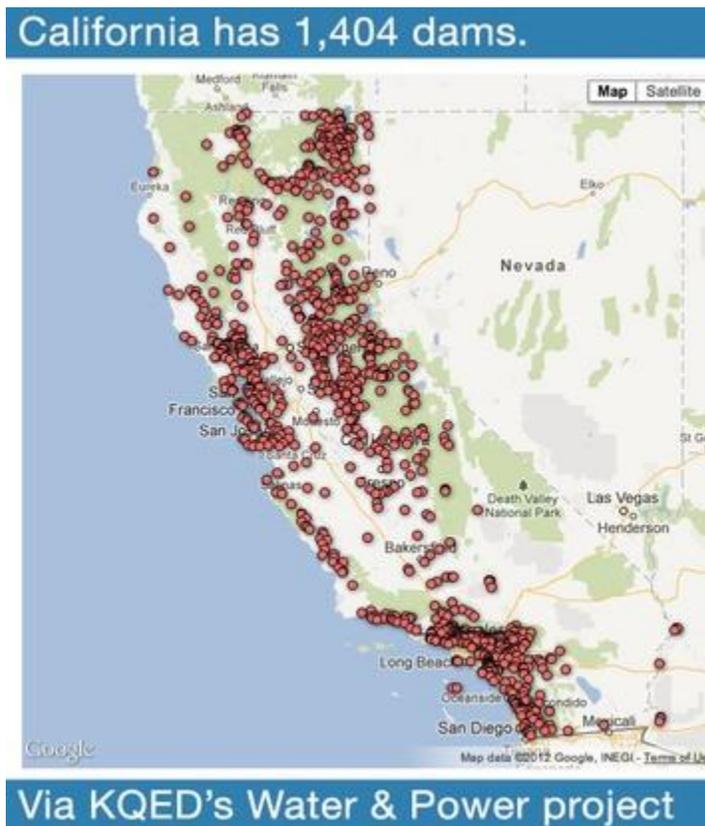
(Programmable geographic Information System Cataloging and Encoding Species observations). They believe ways to enhance our naive species include :

- . Improve the quality of the tail waters environmentally.
- . Manage floodplains more effectively for floods, farmers, fish, and wildlife.
- . Take a reconciliation ecology approach to management.
- . Removal of dams.

In California we have over 1,400 dams. These dams have caused the loss of 70% of our anadromous salmon and steel-head spawning habitat.

People who approach issues from a scientific viewpoint make their observation using the best science available. They don't interject politics. The presenters followed that format in their presentation. They, however, did comment on how the issues could be approached to save our native species with

dam removals. They listed: 1) Section 5937 of the Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Code, 2) The Public Trust Doctrine (PTD), and 3) enforcement of both the state and federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). Unfortunately both the California Fish and Wildlife Code and the Public Trust Doctrine are routinely unenforced or ignored by both the state and federal governments. The presenters reliance on protection of native species under



gram also emphasized the major changes in our precipitation. Most models predict approximately the same amount of total precipitation in the future. However, the difference will be in a shift from snow to rain, especially in the mid-levels elevations of the Sierra's. They expect a 60-90% loss in our snow pack. This will have a huge negative effect in the state's stream flow which is fed by the snow



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CDFW and the PTD is naive. Our best chances for protection of our fish will probably occur in a court under the ESA.

**Hydro-politics, our fish, and our water -**

Moyle's and Quinones's webinar didn't talk about the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and the Twin Tunnels concept. Scientific papers avoid politics. However, it was evident that what they proposed to save the fish populations will be lost if the BDCP is implemented. Over the years I have met many fine, intelligent people working for CDFW, USFWS, and NFS, and other agencies, who work hard to preserve our fisheries and the environment. They are well-trained and use science to make their decisions. Unfortunately, many times their decisions are over-ruled by political hacks like Gov. Brown and legislators like those who authored HR3964.

The drought does have a silver-lining. It has shown the state how vulnerable we are to the coming climate change. And it is also showing the public how badly broken our water system really is. Nationally, articles are being written about our failed water system. Articles criticizing our water policy have even appeared in the New York Times from a Pulitzer Prize winning writer Bettina Boxall. Negative press about our failed water policies are also mounting from both the north and south state. Gov. Brown's myopic views and his adherence to the badly-flawed BDCP will jeopardize the state's environment and

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economy for the benefit of a few self-serving wealthy farmers in the South San Joaquin Valley, who's wealth comes from federal and state subsidizes of crops and water at taxpayers expense. Fortunately, the drought is showing us just how unsustainable their farms are. It also shows us how poorly prepared we are for a drought. About 70-75% of the state's water is used for agriculture. In the South Valley, 40% of the water is wasted on poor practices such as flood and overhead irrigation. California is also one of the few western states that still does not have a ground water policy. But the beat goes on and Gov. Brown and the other political hacks continue to use band aids for treat a hemoraging patient.

In the meantime we continue to lose of our fisheries. Since the 1970's, 7 native fish species have become extinct.

Ron Forbes  
Conservation Chair

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# More on the drought, five positive steps

A summary by Marty Kjelson

Drought – What will we do about it?

I recently received my copy of the Streamkeeper's log from CalTrout and found an excellent article by their Executive Director, Jeff Thompson. I thought it would be useful to briefly summarize Jeff's thoughts which we can use to help educate folks we meet on ways to better manage our valuable water resources. He emphasized that a) flows to sustain fish populations need to be committed even during periods of drought, b) that it

is foolish to assume that more water and increased supply is on the horizon, and c) 50+ year old water management policy/philosophy is not effective, particularly when these policies have little sound biological or ecological foundations. Here are his list of top water management actions that need to be more fully reconsidered. 1- Groundwater management. California needs a groundwater policy to avoid overdraft and aquifer depletion. 2- Water storage. The cost effective surface water storage options have already been build. More effective is storing water

under ground, refilling aquifers, and banking the water for the future. 3- Storm water capture and reuse. It's done in some regions but needs to be done statewide. 4- Regional water infrastructure. Large metropolitan areas have the resources, expertise and technology. We need to leverage progress in urban areas more broadly across the state. 5- Desalination. We've been reluctant to pursue this challenging option, but at some point, the sooner the better, we need to find a way to make it work.

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## Pay your dues early and you might win a new fly rod

By Bob Fujimura

Good news for those many DFF members whose ticket wasn't drawn for the free fly rod raffle last fall...They have a second chance to win this rod if they pay their 2015 DFF annual dues before the end of the 2014 membership period this August 31. The 2014 renewal incentive raffle was so successful that we are limiting this raffle to those who pay their membership before the end of the membership year expires.

For more information on this year's renewal raffle or how sweet this rod is, please contact Membership Chair Bob

Fujimura. Many thanks to Ken and Helen Mefford so generously donated last year's

prize back to the club.



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## Pyramid Lake outing scheduled early this year! March 26-30th

*Details from last year... Things haven't changed that much!*

By Jerry Neuburger

Sutcliffe, Nevada—It's no secret that fishing Pyramid can be a crap shoot. Numbers can be as high as 80 fish per rod on very good days and zero on very bad ones. However, even with these widely varying results the lake has a certain draw and mystique that cannot be denied.

Perhaps it's the topography, a large lake in a moonscape like setting, high desert and tufa towers. Perhaps it's the fishing technique so different than any other fishing, casting a long sinking line with foam beetles and woolly worms, and slowly strip-

ping in while standing on a ladder in three feet of ice cold water. Perhaps it's the fish themselves, ancient Lahontan cutthroat trout, a species dating to the ice ages over 40,000 years ago. Or perhaps the possibility of catching (and releasing) one of the remaining giants of this species, a fish in excess of 20 pounds, on a fly.

What ever the draw, it can't be denied that at certain times of the year, the lake's shores, especially the western side are swarming with fly and spin fishers, some loners and others in large camps, generally club based, all hoping to catch their share of this beautifully marked fish.

Although fly guys fish the lake all winter long, February through April are the prime months since the fish are cruising the shore, looking for inflow while pre-paring to spawn. The three most popular beaches for fishing during this time are Pelican and the North and South Nets. Pelican has the additional advantage for the camper since it's slightly sheltered by the mountain rim from the sometimes fierce winds blowing in from the west.

Because the lake can get crowded on weekends, fishmeister, Larry Mettler likes to fish this body of water during the week. Rather than camp on the lake shore, Larry arranges a group of rooms for those that want to fish Tuesday, Wednesday and

Thursday. Larry asks that you contact him at least two weeks ahead of time, before March 11.

Those who can't make the midweek schedule usually arrive on Friday and fish through Sunday. Both tent and RV camping is available on the lake shore, a \$9 fee is required for each night. A Nevada State fishing license is NOT required to fish this lake. Instead, anglers are required to purchase a special Pyramid Lake license from the Paiute Tribe since the lake is on Paiute Reservation property. The license runs \$9 per day with multiple day pack-ages and season licenses available.

The two principal presentations when fishing Pyramid are either casting a sinking line while standing on a ladder in three to four feet of water, and then slowly stripping the attached woolly worm and beetle in, setting up on any line hesitation. The second is indicator lake fishing with a variety of dedicated Pyramid lake flies as well as brassies and Copper Johns.

While the average size Lahontan runs about 20 inches, you might be lucky enough to hook up to a fish in the ten pound class. However, as big as that sounds, it's not near the lake record of a fish weighing over 41 pounds.

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## Membership Report

By Bob Fujimura

Let's welcome our latest new members of our club:

Tim Costello from Lodi who joined our club in February and first visited our club over 30 years ago. He is eager to brush up on his casting and fly tying skills and is looking for mentor to help him with field skills.

Denny Frischkorn and Kevin Canwell are also new members from Stockton.

Peek Steven lives in Walnut Grove but said he is eager to attend our meetings and activities.

Gary Tecklenburg of Lodi is a long term friend of Board Member Ron Forbes since the days that they met as seasonal fire fighters.

Tate Mckenzie is one of our youngest new members who was recruited by his friend and long term director Earl Summer.

Another younger member who recently rejoined our club after completing his college courses is Anson Skaggs. Anson is awesome caster who was coached by Board Member and teacher Joe Balderston.

Tate lives in Manteca and Anson is currently living in Stockton.



## Just the facts:

**Fishmiesters: Larry Mettler, 209-481-6478, Jerry Neuburger, 209-327-5993**

Website: <http://www.pyramidlake.us>

Species: Lahontan cutthroat trout

Fishing license: \$9 one day, \$74 season, other combinations available on-line.

Hotel Accommodations: Larry will arrange accommodations at the Nugget in Reno at a special rate for DFFers attending this outing, cost somewhere between \$30 and \$40 per night, two to a room. Plans for dinner Thursday night are at the Basque restaurant in Sparks.

Camping: \$9 per day, permit available on-line.

The western lake shore is open to dry camping. An RV park with hookups, seldom used, is available at Sutcliffe Pyramid Lake Store

Carla & George Molino 29555 Pyramid Highway Sutcliffe, NV 89510 775-476-0555 FishPyramid.com

Supplies: Fishing licenses, flies, fishing supplies, snacks and some groceries, gasoline and propane are available at the Pyramid Lake Store on Hwy. 445, as you approach the lake.

Recommended Equipment:  
7 weight rod, floating and quick sinking lines. 6 foot ladder.

Flies:  
Pyramid Lake Woolly worm  
Pyramid Lake Beetle  
Pyramid Lake Tadpole  
Snow cone midge  
Mahalo nymph  
Damsel and Dragon fly nymphs

Fishing regulation highlights:  
2 barbless hooks per line.  
Artificials only.  
Check for closed areas  
Fishing permitted from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset.  
Two fish may be kept, see the slot limit for sizes.

# Fly Fishing Helpful Hints

By Bruce Rollans

Desiccant is sold in fly shops and from fly fishing catalogs as a drying agent for dry flies that become water logged. Common product names are Frog's Fanny, Cortland DRY-UR-FLY and Loon Top Ride. Like Frog's Fanny, most are in a powder or fine granular form. The Loon product is a larger crystal look-

ing material. All of these products are sold in containers that are small enough to weigh about one half ounce, container included. The price ranges from \$6 to \$10.

An option is to go to a craft or archery store and purchase what appears to be the same product. Craft stores sell desic-

cant for drying flowers. Archery stores sell it to maintain arrow fletching. You can get it significantly cheaper and in larger quantities than what you get at a fly shop or from a fly fishing catalog. I like to put desiccant in a plastic container with a wide mouth screw-on lid. This makes it much easier to dry large deer hair flies such as bass poppers.

## ***Rx Flyfishing!***

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