



# Rx Fly Fishing!

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Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## President's Message by Marty Kjelson

Greetings friends,

Spring is finally coming and at least some of our "finned friends" are feeding again. I've found the winter tough, but "hope shines eternal" and I'm ready to go. We have some fun outings coming up that should heal one's "cabin fever". Unfortunately, we had to cancel our lower Sacramento outing last weekend as the flows were too high for pontoon boats. We look forward to the fall event up there when flows should be much lower. April brings Kelsey Bass Ranch, Pyramid Lake and, in early May, the One Fly Contest at Arnold, always a great event, fishing with our foothill buddies. Thanks to Al Smatsky, Larry Mettler and Bob Fujimura for coordinating those events. Make sure you sign up so we can plan efficiently.

Speaking of outings, we having a bit of a challenge this year in getting fishmeisters to volunteer to lead our trips, as well as having to cancel some outings. The latter made sense due largely to poor water conditions, but, in some case because we didn't have a volunteer to lead it. For the remainder of the year we need help to coordinate outings in May on the American for shad, lower Sac in Oct, O'Neil in Oct and Feather in Nov. We held an informal survey at our last member meeting, which gave us some helpful information to use in future outing planning. Thanks for those 25 or so that participated in the survey. Maybe we should call an outing leader an "Outing coordinator" as one need not be a guide to have this role. Fishmeister may infer too much to some folks. Basically, we simply need someone going on the trip to check the signups, alert those people as to when and where to meet, if any food is involved, safety issues, etc. Jerry Neuburger will continue to provide details on the outing on our web page

as he has done in the past. One need not be an officer or on the Board to be the coordinator. In those outings that we don't have a coordinator, we'll likely have to cancel them. Please consider volunteering, we need your help.



Another challenge the club faces is our need for a raffle chairperson or raffle committee. Raffle income provided the major percentage of our operating funds supplemented with member dues. We've been very fortunate over the past 15 years to have Bill and Jean Laughlin lead our raffles as well as the great support from member participation and donations from member guides and local fly shops. It is evident that we must find a way, as a minimum, to have good, solid raffles for our June BBQ and the January annual dinner. I am willing to help, but need a few others to step up and make it happen. Some of us are more comfortable in asking for donations, while others of you are ok with picking up or ordering prizes, and /or setting up the raffle. We also need ladies or creative guys, to make/buy/select prizes for the ladies raffle. I'm open to suggestions from the membership and seek help in this important task. Thanks in advance. *Continued on page 2*



## Calendar

April 3, 2013 Fly of the Month Session, Balsa Popper Class Session II: Instructor Leo Gutierrez

April 6-7, NCCFFF Fly Tying Expo

April 10, 2013 General Membership Meeting

April 17, 2013 DFF Board Meeting

April 20, 2013 Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing (Al Smatsky, Fishmeister)

April 22, 2013 Earth Day

April 23-28, 2013 Pyramid Lake (Larry Mettler, Fishmeister)

April 25, 2013 Fly Fishing Film Tour (Modesto)

(Continued from page 1)

Finally, my “first fish on a fly” story starring Sallye Rollans, one of our most experienced members and our club secretary. You know her, the one with the scar on her neck, though it’s pretty well healed. That’s another story. Suffice to say, it was not self inflicted! Sallye recalls, at age seven fishing with worms and a cane pole, in Lee’s creek in Arkansas, along with the water moccasins.

Brave girl! Fly fishing came in 1999, when husband Bruce gave her casting lessons on the lawn at lunchtime where they worked. That was “LOVE IN ACTION”, for sure. Her first fish on a fly, was a largemouth bass, from Pardee reservoir, in a float tube. Her photo won first place in the FFF Magazine in 2001. That initial experience followed with, on the water guidance, from many nationally known fly fishers and brought her and Bruce to many beautiful waters around

the world where they sought everything from trout to marlin. She has learned some great lessons to live by with fly rod in hand. 1) casting distance is not usually critical 2) keep your fly in the water, fish don’t live in the air 3) a guide is cost effective, particularly in new waters, and finally 4) find a partner that shares the fun with you.

Thanks Sallye for the story and good tips.

Tight lines! Marty

## Sallye and Bruce fish the Sac on March 15-16 for red hot rainbows!

**Only two club members fished the Lower Sac on the scheduled outing dates, March 23&24, although the dates and conditions were seen as the absolute best of the spring. Flows, 3850CFS, high of 72 deg., wind speed 6, fishing fantastic! See the article by Mark Delabarre on [page seven](#)**

By Bruce Rollans  
Lower Sac at Redding—Sallye and I arrived home from our Washington steelhead trip the evening of March 13. We quickly unpacked then re-packed in preparation for the next day’s departure. We were scheduled to float the Sacramento River at Redding March 15 and 16.

The weather was warm with just enough of an occasional breeze to make both days comfortable.

We used 6 weight nymphing rods with indicators. There were always two or three bugs on the leader, usually Pheasant Tail and March Brown Nymphs.

The rainbows were exceptionally cooperative with over 30 fish to the boat each day ranging from 17” to 23”. We are already looking forward to doing this two day float in mid-October.



*Their guide with one of the many fish Bruce and Sallye caught on their Lower Sac float trip.  
Photo by Bruce Rollans*



*No, this is NOT a wall mount but a real live Rainbow from the Lower Sac. This sleeper river is probably the finest water in the state for large, feisty rainbows and in quantity. Photo by Bruce Rollans*

## Outing coordinators needed:

The following outings currently have no fishmeister (outing coordinator) and may be cancelled if no one steps up and volunteers. This is easy work folks, YOU can do it. Call or e-mail [President Marty](#)

May 25– American River, Shad

Oct 12-13—Lower Sac at Redding

Oct 26—O’Neill Forebay

November 9-10 Feather River at Oroville

**Now you can access the club’s website and the club’s Facebook page right from the newsletter!**

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# Our Annual Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing will be held on Saturday April 20th, 2013

By Al Smatsky

Our Annual Kelsey Bass Ranch Outing will be held on Saturday April 20th, 2013.

The Kelsey Ranch is located about 28 miles east of Turlock, and east of Snelling, CA. Kelsey Lake is a 125 acre impoundment stocked with trophy size Florida Black Bass. For those members that have not been there before, please [contact Al](#) and he will send you directions.

Every year this outing is very well attended by our Club members and I don't think that it will be any different this year. The lake is full and in very good condition. By the time we fish the lake in April, the bass will have already spawned, and the water temperature

should be in the mid to upper 60's. The lake should be perfect for all of those Leo's Poppers that you have been making.

You may sign up any time by emailing [al-gofish@softcom.net](mailto:al-gofish@softcom.net) or calling Al Smatsky at (209) 368-9261, please do so by April 17th. Bob Sousa will have a sign-up sheet available at the March and April meetings. The cost for this year outing is \$85 per person. A barbecue lunch provided and prepared by Al is included in your entry fee.

Hope to see you all there!



Larry Schmidt with an average Kelsey Bass Ranch Largemouth. Photo courtesy of Bob Fujimura.



Take the Keyes Road exit from Hwy. 99. Drive approximately 30 miles east to the town of Snelling, continue east another 5 miles on Merced Falls Road. Kelsey Ranch will be on the left hand side of the road and well signed. Please sign in when entering.

## May 1 is the Evening for New Members

By Bob Fujimura

Club officers are planning a special reception for new members to the Delta Fly Fishers

on Wednesday evening from 6:30 to 8:00 pm at the [Nature Center](#) in Oak Grove Park on Eight Mile Road.

This event is an informal session designed for new members to meet some of the other members and officers of our

club and answer your questions about the fly fishing, the club and its activities including our fly tying sessions, casting practice and the club's annual outing

schedule. Dessert and refreshments will be served during this meeting

Organizers will be contacting recent members and get their input on their interests and agenda items. For more information, contact Bob Fujimura,

Membership Chair at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or Gil Parker at [Gil-parker@me.com](mailto:Gil-parker@me.com)



This group is not near as scary when not wearing rubber pants. They'd love to get to know you. Photo by Bob Fujimura

Your newsletter is now totally integrated with the World Wide Web. You'll find many clickable links throughout the newsletter to the [club's website](#), the club's [Facebook page](#) and other external links.

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# The Pyramid Lake outing, April 23-28, it's no coincidence this lake is in Nevada, the gambling state

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 stripping 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 preparing 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 April 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 packages 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.

## Just the facts:

Fishmeister: Larry Mettler, 209-481-6478.

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, and at the Nugget smorgy on Friday.

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](http://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.
- Artificial 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.

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# The Calaveras Fly Fishers One Fly Contest to be held May 11th, a DFF favorite.

Come join the fun!

By Bob Fujimura

Arnold, CA—The One Fly Contest is a friendly fishing event hosted by the Calaveras Fly Fishers. It is held at White Pines Lake near the community of Arnold just a short distance from Highway 4 (see map below).

The May 11th event starts with registration at 7 am. The fishing competition starts at 9 am and ends at 1 pm. Anglers must pair up and verify each other catches. If you lose your fly during the contest, you can continue your fishing but any additional fish do not count toward the contest. Awards for the most trout caught and released and the biggest fish, regardless of species, caught and released. The contestant fee (\$25) includes a great lunch serving BBQ tri-tip sandwiches, side dishes, soft drinks, and des-

sert. Funds from the event go to a local education fund. 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 craft are allowed, making it very beginner-friendly and a good learning situation for basic still water fishing technique. Usually, a short time before the contest, this lake is stocked with hatchery rainbows that can ensure catches by novice fishers. But it can be also challenging for intermediate level fishers since some of the best club anglers compete. Wild and hold-over trout can also provide more challenging angling. Beginning fly fishers can learn a lot about lake fly fishing by just watching the expert fishers and this event is one of the



*The One Fly Contest at White Pines. Beautiful surroundings, good fishing, and a great lunch. Can it get any better?*

best ways to get to know the other members of the club. A float tube or personal watercraft is necessary to be competitive in the contest. Although fly anglers can catch fish from the shore especially near the inlets, the best fishing is from a watercraft. A basic trout rod (8.5 or 9 foot, 4-6 wt) with an intermediate or slow full sinking line (Type I or II) for subsurface nymph

ing can be excellent through mid-June. Late spring carpenter ant falls and Callibaetis hatches can produce exceptional dry fly fishing. Other species that can be fished during the summer and fall include largemouth bass, bluegill, crappie, and common carp. If you are interested in attending this event, please contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or (209) 339-0683 by May 8. The Calaveras Fly Fishers need a head-count of members who are coming so they can have enough food for lunch. This is Bob's personal favorite lake for new fly fishers.



*Larry Schmidt in the foreground, Ron Forbes behind. Both looking for the big fish prize, 2012. Photo by Jerry Neuburger*

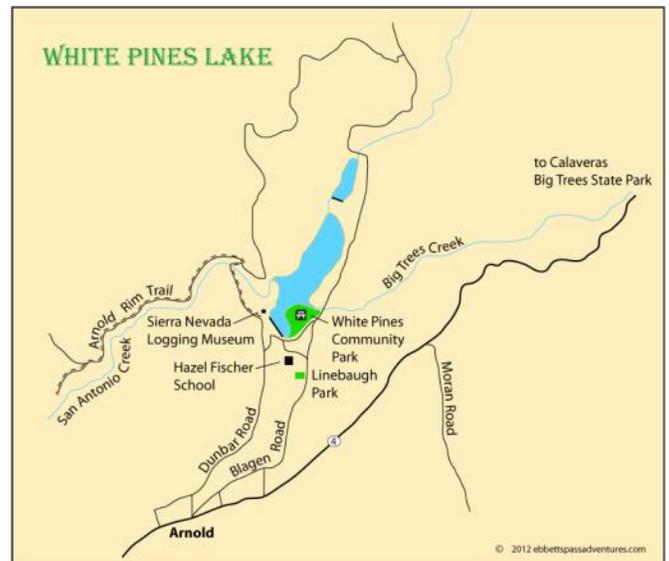
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streamer patterns are the most commonly used set up with 7.5 or 9 foot 4x leaders. Small wooly buggers, damsel fly nymphs, Red Ryders, or Sheep Creek Specials are some of the popular choices. Personal floatation devices are a must. No fish-finders are allowed during the contest.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife and the local businesses usually keep this lake well stocked and fly fish-



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*An adult drinking establishment*

2/14

The Delta Challenge certificate is open to all fly fishers regardless of club affiliation...

## April is the Month of the Delta Fly Fishing Challenge

By Bob Fujimura

April marks the 2nd anniversary of the launch of the club's Delta Fly Fishing Challenge – its mission to encourage anglers to fly fish the Delta and its many sport fish species. The goal is to catch and release six out of fifteen resident sport fish from the Delta using fly fishing gear. The reward is a personalized certi-



*Al Smatsky just started on his Delta Challenge certificate this March with a willing Delta catfish. Yes, catfish WILL hit a fly. Photo by Jerry Neuberger*

cate with a visual and written description of your catch. The list of qualifying fish includes the popular and plentiful striped bass and largemouth bass, however, the real challenge is targeting and catching the lesser fished species from the Delta.

April is a prime month for fishing for many of these fish species although anglers can accomplish their certifications during most months of the year. Water temperatures should rise to a level that encourages active feeding or movement into shallower waters. Much has been written on Delta fishing for its two most popular sport fish, striped bass and large mouth bass, so we will not focus on these species. Anglers working on their first certificates should focus on the two sunfish: bluegill and red ear sunfish. Both are fairly common along the vegetated levee banks or near boat docks. Subsurface damsel fly nymphs or small poppers are reliable patterns for



*Veteran fly fisher Rich Greene with a largemouth bass. Rich earned his certificate in September, 2012.*

bank or boat fishers. The fifth and sixth fish species will be most challenging since the remaining species are not typically targeted by fly fishers and will require more research and planning than the aforementioned fish species.

The list of anglers who have completed their Delta Challenge is growing and after a quiet winter there is no better time than April to start or complete your certificate. More information on the program can be found at the Delta Fly Fishers web site at:

<http://www.deltaflyfishers.com/deltachallenge.html> or contact Bob Fujimura at [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com)

## Want to know more about the Northern California/Nevada Council of the Federation of Fly Fishers (NCCFFF)? [Read their quarterly newsletter, "The River Mouth"](#)

By Jerry Neuberger

The NCCFFF has had its ups and downs over the years, sometimes shining and at other times, barely eking it out until the next election cycle. Its membership has had its high and low points as well. However, through it all, the good and the bad years, it has survived.



*Roger Miller, NCCFFF prez for 2 years, board member for 11.*

Perhaps it's the lofty title or the

fact that it has a relationship with a national organization that raises expectations. Of the many fly fishing clubs in northern California, (over 40), few are 100% FFF clubs. Over half the clubs don't regularly send representation to the NCCFFF's quarterly meetings. It has no paid professional staff. Its core is a group of volunteers probably numbering less than 30. And yet, through dedication and hard work, these small group is at the forefront of the defense of California fisheries, especially those species that drive the passion of fly fishers.

Take a few minutes to read their newsletter, especially this issue since it contains the obituaries of two people who gave so

much of themselves so that we can enjoy the art, science and joy of fly fishing.

Additional articles cover the coming Fly Tying Expo, Veterans First Fly Fishing, a Smith River update, a report from the Bay/Delta Committee and numerous other articles.

And the DFF is once again a member!



*Bill Carnazzo championed California fisheries both on the water and in the courts.*

# The adventures of Bruce and Sallye: Fishing the Olympic Peninsula



*Sallye Rollans with a silvery Washington state steelhead.*

By Bruce Rollans

Forks, Washington—Sallye and I both suffered our first morning on the Hoh River out of Forks, Washington. Our fingers were so cold they ached. The sun just would not come up over the nearby mountain ridge for several more hours. This was the first of four scheduled floats with two different guides hoping to put us onto some of the famous 20 pound plus Olympic Peninsula steelhead.

The Hoh is a large glacier fed river whose clarity is rare due to the high clay banks that regularly sluff off into the water. It is also full of log jams and tree roots to snag your flies. We shared it with over a dozen other boats both days, but everyone was very considerate of fellow fishers so we never had a problem sharing the water.

float on the Bogachiel River with the second guide. This snow-melt river is smaller than the Hoh and very clear. We almost had it to ourselves, coming across three other boats all day.

Again, we used indicators and egg patterns. The size of steelhead on the Bogachiel was pretty much the same as those on the Hoh. I landed a

We fished it indicator style using a single egg pattern made of yellow and red yarn on an 11 foot leader. The leader was wrapped with a small strip of tungsten for weight. We both hooked very hot, bright fish; wild and hatchery raised. All were between 10 and 12 pounds.

Our third day was a

summer run fish that was the first of the year according to the fish counter at the take out. Sallye had on a fish she brought almost to the net that our guide thought was about 18 pounds. It threw the hook and proved to be the last hooked fish for the day.

The rain started just as we left the water and was predicted to drop almost 5 inches in the next 24 hours so we scrubbed the next day's float and went back to Seattle for some site seeing around Pike Place Market and the first good meal in days.



*Bruce releases a handful of wet lightning!*

## Two club members take on the Lower Sac in pontoon boats on the scheduled outing weekend.

### A learning curve is definitely in order when moving from lakes to running water

By Mark Delabarre

March 24, 2013 Lower Sacramento at Redding — Sam T. and I went up to Redding this weekend and did 5 hour floats in our pontoons Saturday and Sunday on the lower Sac. We didn't get any fish on Saturday but I did have a ten second hookup that straightened the hook on a size 18 Micro-mayfly.

Today was a little better, I netted a nice 18 incher this morning. As a result of trying to unhook the fish, take a picture,

and trying to get lined up for the upcoming riffles, my Olympus 3000 Tough now swims with the fishes. Apparently they're no longer waterproof when they're on the bottom of the river. I also landed a 20 plus inch beauty 100 yards before our takeout.

All of the guide boats seemed to be catching fish, we saw dozens of hookups. It took some practice but we finally started to figure out the rowing and fishing at the same time, which is harder than it looks.

There were caddis flies everywhere and we saw lots of rising fish including a few caught on dries by passing drift boats. We also saw a number of huge salmon. Overall, not a bad weekend.

### Photo of Mark's fish here

(You'll have to use your imagination, Mark's camera's at the bottom of the river)

# Will the BDCP create the River of No Return?

*One thing becomes clearer as one gets older and one's fishing experience increases, and that is the paramount importance of one's fishing companions.*

— John Ashely-Cooper

The Bay Delta Conservation Plan: Two

In the middle of April, Gov. Jerry Brown's administration released the first of a four part series on the building of what he envisions to be the answer to our state's water problems. The Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) is the long touted plan to build a conveyance system around the east side of the Delta. Presently the plan consists of putting two or three tunnels, 40 feet in diameter, 150 ft. underground for between 35-42 miles at a cost that goes from \$11 billion to \$28 billion. The cost depends on what report you read and when you read it. However, it is not the total cost of the entire project, rather the estimated cost of building the tunnels. Gov. Brown had blocked a bill in committee that prevented the Legislative Analyst from giving the people of California a well researched cost analysis. The \$11 to \$28 billion listed as the cost of the project is undoubtedly much lower than the real cost would be. Neither the cost of debt-service, nor other parts of the plan have been included, so the true cost is expected to be \$50 billion or higher.

Several newspapers quoted the director of the state's Dept. of Water Resources (DWR), Cowan, as saying, "This isn't about waging war. It's about resolving some of the most critical resource management conflicts in California". They look at



*A photo of one of the tunnel borers used for the Chunnel in 1985. This borer was just under 29 feet in diameter. In contrast the borers to be used in the peripheral tunnel will be four feet GREATER in diameter, 33 feet total. The cost of the Chunnel was 21 billion in 1985 money. The peripheral canal tunnels will be almost twice as long and four more feet in diameter but the "guesstimate" for the cost is similar to the cost of the Chunnel, 21 billion. Really?*

this as an "important milestone". However, when reviewed, the planning seems full of conflicts. To use an analogy, it is seen more as a football game with a 15 yard penalty on every play. This section of the draft is over 2,400 pages in length, is filled with serious problems and is badly flawed with errors. It is obvious to anyone reading a summary of this first stage of the BDCP, that more questions are raised than are answered.

Those who oppose this draft, including



*The Harvey O. Banks pumps at Tracy. Powerful enough to make the delta run backwards.*

the residents of the five counties surrounding the Delta, environmental and fisheries groups, Delta farmers, and those who use the Delta for recreation, have been carefully excluded from the planning process. They find the draft to be, "deeply and fatally flawed." In this newsletter it is not possible to list all the flaws in Gov. Brown's Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), however, these are just a few of the issues that stand out.

## The Loss of Farms

This BDCP draft calls for the establishment of 100,000 acres of wetlands by converting existing, sustainable Delta farms to wetlands. This will be at the expense of local farmers who will lose their

farms. At present, the Delta has 500,000 acres under cultivation. The proposed 100,000 acre wetland conversion represents a loss of 20% of the Delta's farms and their production. However, if the water exports under the proposed draft occur, the Delta, as we know, will no longer exist and be neither nor fishable. The best farmable land and our outstanding fishery will no longer exist. And what will we get in return? We will get a water project that gives subsidized water for subsidized crops on arid, unsustainable farms laced with selenium that will only return 0.2% to 0.3% of California's gross state product. The southern water districts will receive about the same amount of water they now receive, but their rate payers will be asked to pay for 75% of the project through their utility bills. Again, to put things in perspective, no Delta Fly Fishers reading this newsletter will be alive to see the debt service on



***The "restoration" plans call for flooding 100,000 acres of delta farmland, some of the most productive in the world, so that the water can be used to irrigate corporate farms in the west San Joaquin desert. Since the islands are now close to 20 feet below river level, will the tailings from the tunnel boring be used to fill them. No one knows what those tailings might consist of since few bore samples have been taken.***

this project paid. The estimates are that my 8, 6, and 4 year old grandsons will be approaching old age when the debt service paid off.

#### The Loss of Water from the Sacramento River

July of 2008, local attorney Dante Nomellini, wrote one of the best articles on the history of water issues in our Delta. The State Water Project (SWP) and the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) were to include water from north coast rivers when the SWP and CVP were conceived. However, these rivers had Wild and Scenic status and could not legally be dammed. But the project proceeded in spite of loss of the 5 million acre-feet from those rivers. Even so, current water contracts are issued as if the north coast river's water does exist and can be used. More water has been contracted by the state than exists in reality, as much as 7 times more. Those who understand the reality of the situation refer to the state's water contracts as being supplied with "paper water".

The proposed BDCP conveyance draft calls for taking 9,000 cubic feet of water per second from the Sacramento River but will have the capability of taking 15,000 cubic feet per second. To put this in perspective, on last year's Delta Fly Fishers outing on the Sacramento River, I asked one of our guides what the flow on

the Sacramento River was that day. The river was flowing at 4,000 cubic feet per second. From the proposed intakes, all located between Clarksburg and Courtland, the two or three proposed tunnels would take more water from the Sacramento River than was present the day we fished. Under the present BDPC draft, no water would exist to maintain the Delta. There is much talk about the co-equal goals between the environment and water for irrigation. History has shown the water contractors, corporate agribusiness, and utilities have not honored their promises and agreements in the past. With the amount of money involved in this project, what would make us think they will now?

#### The Loss of our Fisheries

, Bill Jennings, of the California Sport-fishing Protection Alliance (CSPA) recently wrote a white paper entitled, "The BDCP and Fish Loss at the Pumps: peripheral tunnels will not eliminate massive fish kills at export facilities." points out that the BDCP estimates that both state and federal water projects, will export 50% of the water from the existing facilities in normal years, and up 75-84 % in drought years. Some of the exports, unfortunately, will occur during critical times in the life cycle of some species that live in the Delta. Between the years of 2000 and 2011 it's estimated that 130 million fish have been salvaged near the CVP and SWP's export area. Due to the

1950s-technology fish screen's in place, its estimated that between 5-10 times more fish were lost than salvaged. This is due to massive predation near the facilities and the inability of the antiquated fish screens to prevent the losses of eggs and larval stages of the fish, as well as the enormous losses of the zooplankton and phytoplankton through that comprise the basis of the food chain." According to Jennings, the loss of the zooplankton and phytoplankton is neither publicly acknowledged nor counted. Even though the loss of both the zooplankton, the phytoplankton, fish larva, and eggs are inestimably high, this BDCP does not address the issue except by asserting that new-space age screens will be used. No one has seen these screens; many believe they don't exist. Since the mid 50's both the state SWP and CVP, along water contractors and water districts have successfully avoided using screens that would have prevented these major fish losses. Again they assure us high-technology screens will now be used. They ask us to trust them and believe the screens exist and will be installed. No one has seen these screens nor will they tell us their where they exist. Evidentially, the screens are another part of the proposed BDCP proposal that does not exist in reality. This is another example of their philosophy that first they will build it, and then try to figure out how it works.

The next three parts of the current attempt at a BDCP will be all be delivered in July of this year. That will be one year from the time that the Governor and the Secretary of the Interior announced the plans for a conveyance system. Brown has done everything in his power to prevent the public from voting on this issue, knowing it would be defeated just as the peripheral canal was defeated in the 1980's. No one expects the three remaining sections to be less flawed than the first section. Using the best science available has never been a concern of Gov. Browns.

Now the real work begins to stop this project. If we don't we will lose the Delta, lose our fisheries including our salmon and steelhead populations, and cities like Stockton will see further unavoidable economic decline. For us who live in this area, there are no positives.

Ron Forbes

Conservation Chair



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**This year's Fly Fishing Film Tour (f3t) will feature fly fishing adventures on three continents and two California locations**

Modesto, CA — Over a dozen club members attended the 2012 version of f3t last April and were entertained by some spectacular fly fishing films. In fact, at least one of our members, after seeing the films, fished one of the featured venues, the Missouri at Craig, Montana and found it as good as represented in last year's show.

This years' show looks to be just as spectacular with a total of 12 possible feature films and a series of vignettes of not so great moments in a guide's life. The most distant location, fishing in Thailand focuses on a legendary fish, the Mahseer, known for its fighting capabilities since the time of the Raj. Two other exotic and distant locations include Bolivia and the country of Georgia.

North America is well represented with films from Alaska to Newfoundland to the southern Coast of California. The closest local water in the show is Northern California's legendary McCloud, the ancestral home of the world famous Rainbow trout.

The tour is sponsored by the Stanislaus Fly Fishers with the profits going to Rivers of Recovery, supporting Veterans and Active Duty Military through innovative recreational rehabilitation programs.

The show will be held on April 25th at the State Theater, 1307 J Street, downtown Modesto. Last year the theater opened at 5:30 pm with SFF hosted activities, food, refreshments, and a giant raffle before the start of the screening.

For more information on the showing, activities and prices, contact Bob Nakagawa at Sierra Anglers (209) 572-2212. Bob can provide advanced tickets for the showing.



DFF members interested in driving down to the theater or carpooling as a group should contact Bob Fujimura at (209) 339-0683 or [deltaflyfishers@gmail.com](mailto:deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) by Monday April 22. Bob will have a sign-up list at the April 10th general meeting and afterwards identify drivers and a local ride-sharing location.



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A digital subscription to the club's monthly newsletter.

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## Salmon Can't Swim in the Desert

More water in the San Joaquin would increase salmon health and population

California's Central Valley salmon populations remain at near-record lows, mainly due to water being diverted for agricultural and residential use. But, there is a glimmer of hope. This is your chance to positively impact the long-term future of California's salmon.

The California State Water Resources Control Board is currently considering adopting a policy that 60 percent of the San Joaquin River's springtime flows would be unimpaired which would significantly boost the upstream migrations of salmon. At this rate salmon populations would be able to recover and double in population within these waters.

If trends continue and natural spring flow is not increased, the economic benefits of the recreational salmon fishery on bait and tackle shops, boaters, marinas, hotels, and restaurants will further erode.

[Please send your message today to urge the State Water Board to increase natural spring flows benefiting the steelhead, salmon and other fish of the San Joaquin River.](#)

This email was sent by: [American Sportfishing Association](#)  
1001 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 501, Alexandria, VA 22314

To ensure delivery of [KeepAmericaFishing](#) Communications, please add [Info@KeepAmericaFishing.org](mailto:Info@KeepAmericaFishing.org) to your email address or Safe Senders List.

**TAKE ACTION NOW**

## ***Rx Flyfishing!***

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