



# Rx Fly Fishing!

Volume XXXVII Number II

February 2013

Jerry Neuburger, Editor

Stockton, California

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## Calendar

- February 2, 2013 Bob McMillan Trout Bout, Oak Grove Park**
- February 9, 2013 Lake Amador Outing**
- February 13, 2013 General Membership Meeting**
- February 16-17, 2013 Yuba River at Hwy. 20 (Skwala Stonefly hatch)**
- February 20, 2013 DFF Board Meeting**
- February 22-24, 2013 The Fly Fishing Show, Pleasanton, [www.flyfishingshow.com](http://www.flyfishingshow.com)**
- February 23, 2013 [NCCFFF Hall of Fame Dinner](#)**
- February 27, 2013 Fly of the Month Session, Details TBA**
- February 28, 2013 [Fly Fishing Film Tour](#) - Crest Theater Sacramento, Sponsored by Cal Trout**

## President's Message by Marty Kjelson

Greetings and thank you all for our enjoyable annual dinner. My wife Lockey and I were so pleased with the meal, fellowship with old and new friends, and the opportunity to recognize our members for the great support they provide to make our club so very special. Bill and Jean Laughlin received the Don Payne President's Club Service Award, Jerry Neuburger the Fly Fisher of the year Award and Bruce and Sallye Rollans, the Incomplet Angler of the Year Award.

Steve Cooper, Tony Ott and their crew outdid themselves with wonderful food, with meal coordination from the Rollans and overall dinner details by chair Charlie Reames. Our great raffle by the Laughlins again gave us some 100 plus super prizes and auction items. We were indebted to all the individuals and businesses that contributed those items, especially Al Smatsky and Jerry Neuburger in offering guided trips for the auction. As one of Bill Kiene's last efforts in the fly shop business, he gave a nice rod to the raffle.

We also honored retiring Bill and his wife Marilyn by giving them the Delta Fly Fisher's first Lifetime Achievement Award that evening for their many contributions to the northern California fly-fishing community. Earl Summers announced at the dinner that we received a donation to our club of \$400 from Dave's Bar to further our work as well as a donation by our cook Tony Ott of two special dinners to two lucky people. Finally, Leo Gutierrez thanked Al Smatsky, Jerry Neuburger and Bill Laughlin for their contributions to the club via gifts of his bass popper shadow boxes.

We experienced some mighty cold-water temperatures in January causing our outing catch levels on the Mokelumne, Yuba and Discovery Bay to be quite low. However, that did not deter attendance, a great time of sharing and some superb lunches provided by Earl Summers, Herman Spalinger

and the Rollans. Thank you. I'm sure the bugs and bait fish will become more active and up the catches as spring approaches.

We have some special events in February to include the Bob McMillan Trout Bout on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, and outings at Lake Amador on the 9<sup>th</sup> and the Yuba on the 16-17<sup>th</sup>, weather and flow conditions permitting. Stay tuned. In addition, I've always enjoyed the Pleasanton Fly Fishing show (Feb. 22-24) where I've learned new things about our sport. Call a friend and share a ride.

I enjoyed the talk on the Calaveras River given by Don Ratcliff from the USFWS. It is evident that he and his crew are learning some new and successful ways to improve salmonid migration. However I continue to be frustrated at the dismal flow conditions on the Calaveras. It seems apparent that to see any improved fish production on that river will require some minimum flow standards that meet the levels and timing needed to get the fish up and downstream. In addition, once any fish, particularly the young enter Delta waters, they face some very great survival challenges in the south Delta to make it to the lower Bays.

Another frustration is the dismally low flow releases from New Hogan reservoir in the winter (often 25 to 40 cfs) that makes one's winter resident trout fishing a challenge at best. That, along with the continued evidence of poaching on that stream has contributed to a major decline to what was once a valuable fishery.

Enough negatives, I would hope we could research some ways our club could take some effective actions to improve conditions for fish in that system that is so close to home.



(Continued on page 14)

## Tips for the Novice Fly Fisher

“Hunting for Stream Trout” – One fact that new fly fishers learn is that successful fly fishers will stalk and spot their fish. At first, this ability seems limited to those with “super-human” sight or vision. But with time and experience, new anglers can develop this valuable skill. Big fish got that way because they avoided predators and casting to sighted fish is always more productive than blind angling. Here are some tips adapted from MidCurrent.com...

“Stay below your target or low if approaching fish from the side or front” – fish can see distance objects well due to light bending at the water’s surface.

“Think Position First” – always spend time planning how to make the easiest cast and the best drift. Difficult casts or positions are usually not successful when you are a novice.

“Think Close First” – when approaching the stream remember to consider water near the shoreline first. Often fish will hold close to the bank to feed or to avoid excessive currents during high water flows. The latter was especially true during our recent Yuba River outing.

“Move Softly” – fish with their lateral line are sensitive to sound and vibrations. Walk softly on the banks and avoid pushing water when wading.

“Learn to See Fish” – spend time studying holding water before fishing; look for straight lines (body shapes or fins), shadows, wakes or bulges, and any movement in the water. Surface or sub-surface feeding can be very subtle sometimes and low-flying birds can signal insect hatches. When fishing with an experienced angler, ask them if they could tell you when they spot fish and what to look for.



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## Doug Ridgeway to speak on enhancing your outdoor experiences through photography at February 13th meeting

January 14, 2013—Doug Ridgeway, award winning photographer and Delta Fly Fisher member, will do a presentation on enhancing your outdoor experiences through photography. His presentation will cover the basics of what makes a good photograph and ten tips for making better photographs. You do not need to be a fly fisher to enjoy and learn from Doug’s expertise.

Doug bought his first SLR camera, a Pentax Spotmatic, in the late 60's. He took many pictures with it but not very many quality photos even though he was taking some darkroom photography classes. It was not until Doug retired, in 2006 that he decided that he wanted to start taking his photography more seriously.

He has always worked on the premise that to do something well, it is good to go back and start with the basics so he went back to school and started taking photography, back to the darkroom and Photo-shop classes at Delta College. He has attended many seminars and workshops regarding photography and joined the Stockton Camera Club 5 years ago. Join-

ing the Camera Club was a great way to have his photographs critiqued in an unbiased way. He has entered, and placed, in several completions around the area.

Doug started fly-fishing in 1974 and joined the American Sportsman's Club, now [Wilderness Unlimited](#). They offered a Fly Fishing school at the Bidwell Ranch, in the Hat Creek Valley. Doug has been a member of DFF for nine years.

Doug’s fishing background extends to working for the Department of Fish and Game, starting in February 1972 at the Mokelumne River Hatchery. Over the next 33 years, Doug worked at the Feather River Hatchery, Hot Creek Hatchery, on the Klamath River Salmon and Steelhead Study (Yreka), Moccasin Creek Hatchery, at the Bay-Delta Division (Stockton) and retired in 2006 supervising the Tuolumne River Restoration Shop (La Grange).

His outstanding power point presentation will be held Wednesday, February 13, at 7:00 pm at [John R. Williams School at 2450 Meadow Ave. in Stockton](#). The public is invited. [Three examples of Doug’s work are on page ten](#).

## Only 60 days left to sign up for the Orland Outfitters Sacramento River shad trips June 2nd and 8th

January 15, 2013—The slots for the club’s guided shad fishing trip on the Sac on June 2nd and 8th are still wide open. Those wishing to attend must have their payment (\$140) in by March 31st to reserve their seat.

For those not already familiar with the trip, Wayne Syn of [Orland Outfitters](#) operates four jet boats on the Sacramento out of Hamilton City. Each boat is capable of taking four anglers on the Sac to the day’s best locations for catching shad. Once the fish are found, the anglers fish from shore, casting and swinging for these hard fighting fish.



*John Highsmith scoring on last years shad blast. Club photo*

Sixteen spots have been reserved for Sunday, June 2nd and another eight spots have been reserved for Saturday, June 8th.

Those wishing to attend must have full payment to our treasurer, Jason Stapleton or to Jerry Neuburger by March 31st. Any seats not taken by that date will be released back to Wayne for sale to other anglers and clubs.

More information on the trip can be found on the club’s website at [Delta Fly Fishers June 2nd and 8th 2013 Shad Trip Outing with Orland Outfitters](#).



# Lake Amador outing scheduled for February 9th

January 14, 2013—The club's first lake fishing outing of the year will take place at Lake Amador, a medium sized (325 acres) reservoir in the foothills. The Jackson Valley Irrigation District owns the lake and its main feeder source is Jackson Creek.

The Lockhart family who have been operating the fishing access since 1973 operate the lake as a pay for play concession. While the lake has always been known for the quality of its big rainbows, the Lockhart family says this about the current stocking practices for the lake.

"...we realized early on that Trout thrived in Lake Amador! So many people flocked to our lake in search of quality Trout fishing we needed more fish than the Dept. of Fish and Game could ever plant. At first we bought from private hatcheries, but the quality and the price did not allow us to plant the numbers our anglers yearned for. Dozens of books on aquaculture, extensive construction, and the belief that we could raise better fish led us into the fish business. We imported expensive Trout eggs all the way from Sweden at the cost of 5 cents each just to get a better fish. We built 50,000 gallon octagon shaped cement tanks. Utilized water treatment technology and liquid oxygen injection, all in order to raise a hard fighting, better eating and full finned Trout. For over fifteen years this process has evolved to the point that today, Lake Amador has the best Trout fishing anywhere!"

Currently the outing has no fishmeister (We could use a little help here folks! Please contact President Marty if you're willing to step up) for

this outing. In other words, you are on your own other than a rendezvous location and no club lunch is planned. The concessionaires operate a café at the lake headquarters.

## Outing Details:

Date: February 9th  
Time: Sunrise is 7:00am

Location: Lake Amador, Off Hwy, 88 south of Ione. Take Jackson Valley Road to the lake.

Entry Rates: See below

Rendezvous location: West side of Canyon arm.

Species: Planted rainbow trout

## Equipment:

4-6 weight rods,  
Floating and sinking lines  
Flies: BWO, nymphs, streamers

Shores are steep sided, floating craft recommended. Rates for launch below.

Carpooling is suggested to save entry fees. See below for rates.

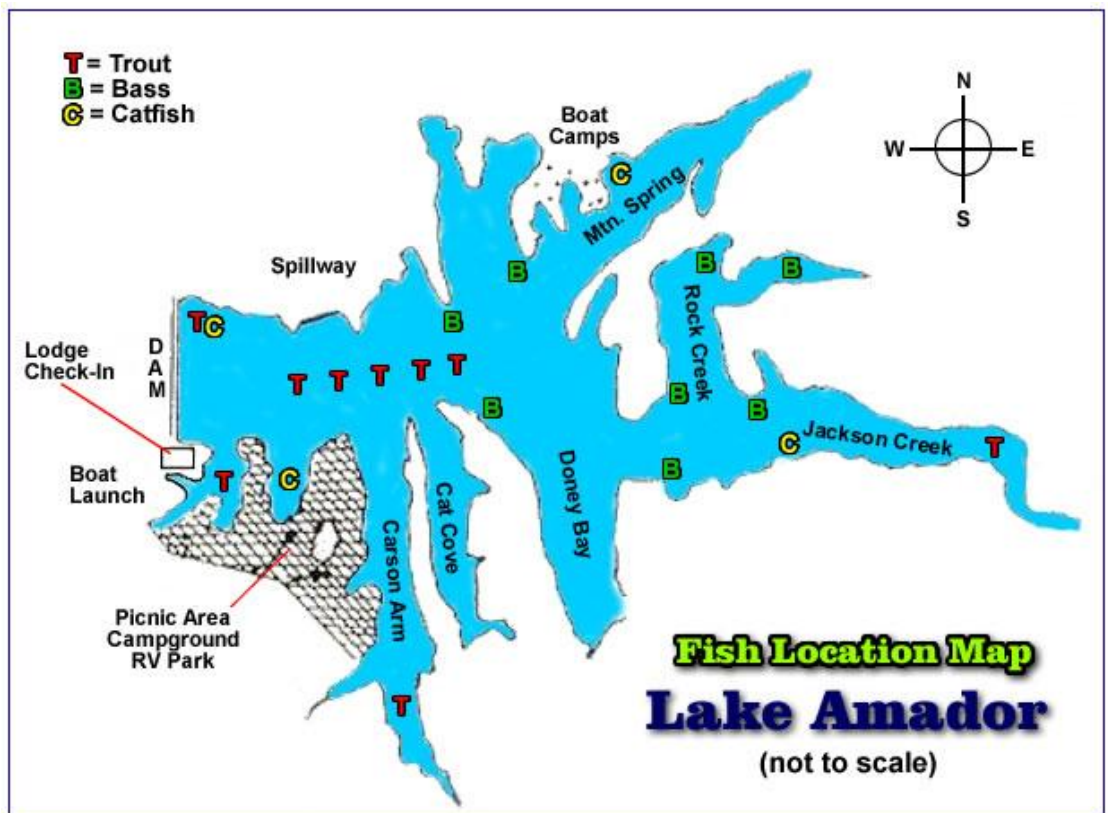


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Fishing per person **\$8.00** (Sr. Fishing **\$7.00**)  
Boat Use: **\$7.00** Kayak, Canoe, Float Tubes: **\$3.00**  
Boat & Motor Rental: Half Day: **\$60** Full Day: **\$80**

# Club returns to the Yuba for February 16-17th outing

January 15, 2013—Apparently steelheading is in DFF's blood since the club chose by ballot to fish the Yuba for the second time in two months as part of the monthly outing schedule. While the first outing was at the U.C. Davis property and restricted to a small number of anglers, the waters on this outing are open to the public.

The club will be fishing the six miles of Yuba below the Highway 20 Bridge, and the access at [Hammond Grove Park](#), five miles downstream.

For the hardy, the opportunity to drift the river is offered, with a put in at the bridge and a take out six miles downstream at the Yuba County owned [Sycamore Ranch R.V. Park](#). The river is practically flat between the two locations with only a few class one riffles to pass through. Pontoon boats, kayaks, canoes and drift boats should be able to navigate the river with

no problem.

The take out location is rather tricky to locate since it is up Sycamore Slough on the north side of the river and is partly concealed by brush. It's suggested that those drifting the river check out the take out location at the county owned park when drifting the river the first time.

Currently there is no fishmeister for this outing and no club lunch is planned. Camping facilities exist at [Sycamore Ranch R.V. Park](#). The park offers sites with electric and water and a pump out facility. Sites are \$20 per night.

Date: February 16-17, 2013

Time: Sunrise is approximately 7am.

Location: Yuba River at Hwy. 20 Bridge, 19 miles east of Marysville.

Species: Rainbow trout, steelhead

Equipment:

5-7 weight rods

Floating lines for dries and nymphing  
Intermediate to type 2 lines for swinging  
2x—3x tippet

Flies: Blue Wing Olive, March Browns, Pale Morning Dun, both dries and nymphs. Skwala Stoneflies, both dry and nymph patterns. Glo bugs

An excellent hatch chart with recommended patterns can be found on line at [Fly Fishing Traditions](#)

Waders and boots

Wading stick imperative. Warning, the Yuba is deep and swift, wade with care!  
Sunglasses or protective eye covering  
Sun Block

Warm clothing for early morning fishing

If drifting the river:

Pontoon boat, kayak, drift boat, canoe.  
River anchor. Life Jacket, oars or paddles.



*The Yuba at Hwy. 20. Note the numerous dirt access roads on the south side of the river. WARNING, roads close to the river are soft gravel. Only four wheel drive vehicles should attempt these roads. Photo via Google Earth*



*The Sycamore Ranch R.V. Park take out point on Sycamore Slough. The park features an improved ramp for easy take out with parking for vehicles and trailers. The ramp is barely visible from the river proper. Anglers planning to use the ramp should have a good idea of its location and be on the north side of the river when approaching Sycamore Slough. Photo via Google Earth*



# Changing of the guard at DFF annual dinner takes place to a full house

January 26, 2013 Stockton, CA -- Close to 100 people came to celebrate the annual changing of the officers, directors and committee chairs at the Delta Fly Fishers Annual Dinner at the Eagle Lodge in Stockton on Saturday night. Al and Cathy Smatsky provided appetizer plates to start the banquet while Steve, his wife

dinner Tony Ott had attached a ticket to the underside of two plates with the winners receiving a delicious looking T-bone steak. When special guest Bill Kiene turned his plate over both he and Marilyn were shocked to see that he had won. As the huge steak, covering the plate was served, he let be known that a T-bone was his favorite cut of meat. Bill dug in with fervor and soon the only thing visible on his plate was a bare bone.



*Sally Rollans providing some direction in the kitchen*

Amy and son Nathan Cooper, Tony Ott, and volunteer crew of two firemen did a fantastic job preparing the dinner of salad, tri-tip, barbecued chicken, baked potato, string beans, and carrot cake for dessert with vegetarian lasagna for the few non-meat eaters.

The new family style service with the food being brought to the table on platters and in bowls by the Rainbow Girls worked out well with everyone getting their fill and able to select their particular favorite cut of beef or section of chicken. And it should be mentioned that while most of the club members were enjoying their dinners, a core of DFFers worked in the kitchen, including Bruce and Sallye Rollans, making sure that everything was just right.

In a remarkable coincidence, prior to the



*Steve Cooper introduces the chefs, the ladies in the kitchen (to the rear) were too busy to take a bow!*

Following the dinner, President Marty called out the kitchen crew headed by Steve Cooper and Tony Ott for a thank you and then quickly moved to a welcome and recognition of special guests Bill and Marilyn Kiene. Marty acknowledged past officers, directors and committee chairs and moved to the changing of the guard, with the 2012 crew of officers, directors and committee chairs giving



*Bill Kiene with his surprise T-bone steak as his wife Marilyn looks on!*

way to the 2013 crew. In reality, most of the 2012 volunteers stayed on to serve with the exception of Treasurer John Keagy turning over the books to Jason Stapleton and Bill Laughlin stepping down as Raffle Chair after many years of service.

The awards presentation started with the Don Payne Memorial President's Club Service Award being accorded to Bill Laughlin for his many years of service as the club's Raffle Chair. Jerry Neuburger was presented with the Fly Fisher of the Year award for his efforts with the club's website and newsletter and, to many laughs, both Bruce and



*The Rainbow girls receiving pre-dinner instructions.*

Sallye Rollans were presented the Incomplete Angler Award, Bruce for hooking Sallye through the neck with a shad fly and Sallye making the error of standing anywhere near Bruce when he was casting. After receiving the award from Grady Lee, Bruce admitted that Sallye was his third victim and cited two other occasions where his fly had ended up in someone's flesh rather than a fishes' mouth.

*(Continued on page 13)*

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

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## Bob McMillan Trout Bout coming February 2nd, your hands are needed

January 15, 2013—Action starts early for the Bob McMillan Trout bout with a small group of club members picking up the needed equipment at 5:45am from the club's storage shed at Oak Grove Park. The hot dog cooker, stove for chili and nacho cheese, a coffee pot and hot water for chocolate hauled to the Boat House and fired up. The buns, condiments, chips, and paper products unloaded from the club members trucks and prepared for sale.

The second wave of helpers should arrive at between 7:30 and 8:00 to assist Sandy from Parks and Rec. in signing up partici-

pants and sales of the foodstuffs. Another two crews are needed to operate the golf carts for shore side sale of food to the participating anglers.

The Bob McMillan Trout Bout is one of three San Joaquin County/Delta Fly Fishers fishing events at Oak Grove Park. Members are asked to participate as a community service project and as a thank you to the county for use of the Nature Center and other park facilities.

The Chairman for the event is [Steve Cooper](#), 209-956-1032. Please give him a call if you can lend a hand.

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## Discovery Bay: The Beef Stew Was Delicious

January 19, 2013 Discovery Bay - And that's about the best that can be said for this outing as far as the fishing was concerned! While the day started a little chilly with some gazing hesitantly at the water before pulling on waders and gearing up, hopes were high. Rumors existed that a few fish were being caught in the bay and while not considered red hot, expectations for the day were positive.

Bruce and Sallye Rollans with assists from other club members including Earl Summers, Bob and Jean Fujimura and Larry Schmidt, set up the Delta Fly Fishers pavilion and soon had hot coffee and Danish ready for the 20 or so DFFers that

showed up for the outing. The early morning fog had lifted and the sun shined brightly on the crew as they assembled their pontoon boats or launched their boats down the launch ramp.

By 8:30am a mosquito fleet could be seen in the area of the launch ramp with fly rods waving back and forth and fly lines shooting out to different areas of the many coves. Those in sturdier craft mo-

tored around to the north and west sides of the bay looking for fish. However, although the anglers worked hard to bring a few fish to the net, only two, a 14 and 16 incher were reported as being caught, one by Joe Balderston and the other by Mark DeLaBarre.



*It's too bad the fish weren't as eager as these anglers. Photo by Bob Fujimura*

Around noon the crowds started to assemble at the staging area, some rowing and some powering back to the docks and launch ramp. Bruce and Sallye had their home made beef stew hot and ready to serve, along with generous slices of sour dough bread, some Cabernet Sauvignon in picnic crystal, and Biscotti and cookies for dessert.

With the fishing being so slow, most club members lingered around the lunch area, trading fish stories and exchanging plans for fishing excursions in the coming year. Bob Fujimura called the clan together for a group picture, some documentation of a good effort on a slow fishing day. A few members returned to the water after lunch but most packed up and headed home.

Discovery Bay had the reputation of a great winter fishery in years past with boils of stripers chasing threadfin shad all around the launch ramp area. However, as the recent fish survey reports verify the threadfin shad population has diminished drastically in the delta

along with the striper population. With almost no baitfish in the bay, the few stripers in the system have no reason to cruise the waterway. The outing schedule calls for a second outing to this fishery on December 7th of this year. That idea will probably be revisited at one of the future board meetings and a change made unless a sudden upturn in the fishery is evident.

[Visit the club's on-line photo album.](#)



# Expert angler Joe Balderston amazes novice fishers on Yuba outing

January 5, 2013 -- The second attempt at the Yuba River had a much better outcome than the March 2012 outing. This time almost everyone catching fish and some doing so well it became a skills demonstration. The morning started off bright and sunny with some anglers heading down river, others fishing just down from the barbecue and another group heading up river. The crew fishing the river below the barbecue, the "Irish Brigade," led by Barry O'Regan with friends David O'Connell and Liam Keane were some of the first to score, picking up some nice fish on large rubber legs. Jeanette and Jerry Neuburger, Jean Fujimura and Steve Von Berg headed downstream and struck out fish wise but Jeanette discovered a fresh blood trail at the river that lead up into the brush along with some cougar tracks to go with it. In addition to that scene, deer tracks covered the road and at least one bear track and some scat were also discovered.



Joe Balderston with a, "fish on." Photo by Bob Fujimura

When the upriver crew came back for lunch, new member Ed Barich reported that he had some excellent results fishing egg patterns, landing five fish and LDRing quite a few more. Other fly fishers reported mixed success with president Marty saying he had stuck a few but didn't bring any to the net.

Herman, in the mean time, had been cooking up a storm and had a lunch of Polish sausage, hamburgers, pork and beans, potato salad, chips, a big bag of oranges and even some miniature chocolate bottles of cognac, brandy and Kentucky bourbon.

Pretty much everyone checked in for lunch with the exception of hard-core fishers Joe Balderston, Bob Fujimura and novice angler Steve Specht. They had brought their lunch with them and with the success of the upstream fishing, didn't make the

walk back for lunch.

Lunch over, the crowd headed back up river to join the three since that's where the fish seemed to be congregated. Al Smatsky reports that, "Everyone that walked up river caught fish. Some one or two, others five, six, or more. Steve von Berg had a very nice steelhead, probably 20 inches plus, but it came off before he could bring it to the net. Joe Balderston brought a steelhead in that was in the "pounds".

Steve Specht hooked several nice trout, maybe one big enough to be a small steelhead. I had a very nice steelhead on for a short time that made a few jump and came off, probably four pounds."

Bob Fujimura states that, "After learning a few tips from Joe Balderston, Steve Specht and I were pleased in locating an overlooked holding water and caught a nice fish each. After we were finished fishing this small section of shoreline, our "instructor" caught several fish from the same spot."

In addition, here's a rather cryptic report from Dan McDaniel. "Pink was reported to be the color of the day, and I was using pink most of the day without any success. Yet hope springs eternal. A few maybe grabs, then one headshaker - and then it happened around 3:30 to 4:00 - I had a fish! I knew he was a good fish, and after crediting himself worthy of the battle, the anadromous beast revealed himself to the net - he was about a 20" mint bright

adult steelhead. Not big mind you and I did not even notice if he was a wild fish. Das macht nichts. My curiosity was directed solely at the fly yielded effortlessly from his mouth, Glo bug no, but pink yes. Another secret weapon to be revealed only to those who inquire."

Jerry and Jeanette Neuburger stayed behind to give Herman a hand cleaning up lunch. The bread loaf sized boulders downstream had aggravated some of



Fresh blood on the rocks. A cougar's kill? Photo by Jerry Neuburger

Jerry's old foot injuries and Herman said he was just too out of shape to make the hike upstream to where the others were fishing. In the mean time, Jean Fujimura fished the riffle below the picnic area and caught a nice little rainbow.

Bob Fujimura summed up the outing fairly well when he posted on Face book, "Weather, company, and food were great...most anglers I spoke to touched or landed fish including new or novice anglers. Joe Balderston was a fish-catching machine and several others were into fish. Red egg patterns were the hot ticket for the high scores. Hats off to Herman for leading this long-awaited event."



Herman at the barbecue tending the tube steaks and beef patties. Photo by Jerry Neuburger

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**Making plans for the summer? Put this place on your short list.**

## **Fishing the Missouri in Lewis and Clark Country**

*“I wrote this article intending to place it in the August 2012 newsletter but it somehow was lost along the way. Unfortunately, the photographs that were to accompany the article were wiped out when my computer crashed. I’ve grabbed some from [bigskyfishing.com](http://bigskyfishing.com) off the web instead.”*

By Jerry Neuburger

Mid July, 2012 — It was our first full day in Wolf Creek, Montana. The heat wave that had been plaguing the nation was predicted for one more day so we decided to tour Helena rather than sweat our way down the Missouri in our pontoon boats. We left the 7R Ranch and RV Park early so we would have a full day, walked through the Helena state capitol building (really worth a visit), took the elephant train tour of the city, (again, at \$7.50, worth doing), visited the state museum, (yeah go), and stopped and picked up some groceries.

Prior to the drive to the state capitol, we had checked into the local fly shop to arrange for a car shuttle the next day. The shop guy recommended that we hit the water early to beat all the drift boats for our slide down the river but also recommended we try wading in the evening. Well, wouldn't you know, we arrived back at our trailer from Helena in time for a quick dinner and some evening wading below Holter Dam.

Jeanette was worn out from the day's



**Holter Dam on the Missouri. Photo courtesy of [BigSkyFishing.Com](http://BigSkyFishing.Com)**

activities so I headed out by myself, driving the five miles from our RV Park to the river. As I drove along the bank, I could see the rings of working fish. I found a spot to pull off with soft water near the bank and lots of rises further out. While some fish were feeding on top, I suspected that others would take a well presented nymph and set up my rod with thingamabob, shot and a #16 mayfly nymph pattern with some crystal flash for legs and a body wrap.

An easy path down to the water, a series of roll casts and I was watching my indicator drift through rise rings. No takes. My indicator was drifting unimpeded, no bottom ticks. I lengthened the line between my thingamabob and fly and tried again. My indicator raced underwater and sideways. I lifted and felt a good-sized

fish. The fish stripped off three quarters of my fly line before stopping, gave a headshake and was off again. Since I was using 5-x tippet, I dared not put too much pressure on it. Dropping my rod to my side, I slowly worked the fish to the shore. It gave a few more strong but shorter runs before I finally slid it into my net. A big fat 20-inch rainbow and this was my first Missouri River fish!

I fished for another hour and in that time landed three more rainbows, none as big as the first but none smaller than 18 inches and picked up two Mountain Whitefish as well.

I spent the next four days drifting the river in my pontoon boat and in those four days caught even bigger fish, some on nymphs and some on a stripped black woolly bugger. I can say with all honesty, the Missouri below Holter Dam is one of the nation's finest trout waters, big strong fish willing to take a fly. I'll definitely be back!

### **Just the facts:**

**Location:** This stretch of the Missouri is approximately 40 miles northeast of Helena Montana. The portion of the river fished is the six miles from the base of the dam, to Craig, Montana, a fly fishing Mecca with four fly shops all within a block of each other.

**Species:** Large wild Rainbow and Brown Trout, app. 6,500 per mile, Mountain White Fish

**Season:** While the river is open 365 days a year, it fishes best from spring through early summer and in the fall.

**Hatches:** The Missouri has numerous mayfly, stonefly and caddis hatches as well as a good midge population. The river fishes well for the dry fly purist, nymph angler and the streamer throwing big fish hunter.

### **Fly shops and guide service at Craig:**

[Head Hunters Fly Shop](#)

[The Trout Shop](#)

[Cross Currents Fly Shop](#)

### **Fly shop and guide service at Wolf Creek:**

[Missouri River Outfitters](#)

### **Camping:**

BLM operates three campgrounds, one at the base of Holter Dam, one at the bridge two miles below the dam and one at Craig. All are small and busy. No hookups. Water only.



***This is truly just an average fish for the Missouri below Holter Dam. If you're dialed in and the fish are cooperating, you might expect as many as 30 of these a day. Photo courtesy of [BigSkyFishing.Com](http://BigSkyFishing.Com)***





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Rx Fly Fishing! is the monthly publication of the Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. Delta Fly Fishers, Inc. is a public benefit 501c3 non-profit corporation registered with the California Secretary of State.

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# The Fly Fishing Film Tour, sponsored by Cal-Trout, is coming to Sacramento February 28th

January 15, 2013, San Francisco — If you’ve ever dreamed of fishing Alaska, this year’s F3T should be the stuff of inspiration. The premier film in this year’s fly fishing odyssey is “Magnetic North”, a film, according to the tour that, “...tells the story of the draw of Alaska, told through the voices of guides and anglers who live and work there. For anyone who has spent time in the Last Frontier, you know that there is an intangible connection to the

land, wildlife, water, and culture.”

The tour has not announced the remaining



films that will make up this year’s program but if past years are any clue, they will be outstanding cinematic presentations.

The local showing of the film will take place at the Crest Theater, 1013 K Street, Sacramento at 7:00

on February 28th. A pre-film event (featuring Cal-Trout’s Fly Fishing Ambassador, Mike E. Wier) will take place at Fly Fishing Specialties. For details about this event, please contact Fly Fishing Specialties @ (916) 722-1055.

Last year about a dozen club members carpooled down to Modesto to view the 2012 f3t show. Some were inspired to visit some of the waters featured in 2012. If interest is shown at the February GM meeting, another carpool arrangement can be made.

## NCCFFF to hold Hall of Fame Dinner on February 23 in Fremont. Event celebrates 30th Anniversary Reunion of HOF inductees.

January 15, 2013— The NCCFFF will take advantage of the presence of the Fly Fishing show in Pleasanton this year in its scheduling of the 30th Anniversary Reunion of the Hall of Fame inductees. This year’s dinner will be held in Fremont, on Saturday, February 23 at the Fremont Elks Lodge. Cocktails at 6pm, dinner at 7pm followed by a live auction. The distance between the two venues is less than 15

miles.

Those wishing to attend the dinner should have their reservations in by February 8th since seating is limited. Dinner tickets for the event are \$50 each. [A reservation form can be found on line.](#)

It is suggested that late registrants should check availability with Harold Whitmore at [whitmore\\_harold@yahoo.com](mailto:whitmore_harold@yahoo.com) before sending in their reservations and payment.

### Rx Fly Fishing! Advertising Rates

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.

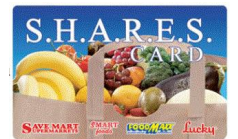
Permission to post specials and other advertising on the club’s Face book page, 2 per month.

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



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**Three examples** of Doug Ridgway's award winning photography. To learn more about Doug, our February guest speaker, read the article on [page two](#) of this newsletter.



*The Grand Canyon. Photo © Doug Ridgway*



*Sandhill Cranes. Photo © Doug Ridgway*



*Silhouettes. Photo © Doug Ridgway*

**Conservation by Ron Forbes**

## “Young Frankenfish,” a 2013 remake of the classic, “Young Frankenstein,” but this time it’s for real!

Last November's election had many interesting and complex issues decided by California voters. One that was particularly interesting was Proposition 37. Had it passed, California would have required that all genetically engineered (GE) food products would require mandatory labeling and prohibit labeling those foods as organic. Initially, polls showed Prop 37 passing. However, by November 3, the food and chemical industry and spent over \$45.6 million on its "No on 37" campaign. The "Yes on 37" group had \$8.7 million for its campaign and they lost. This was California's attempt to have its citizens know what they are eating. With the loss of Prop 37, you will not have any idea if you are eating GE or

naturally produced foods. Up until now, only plants have been available as a GE food. That will probably change on the last week February.

On February 26, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will end its public input session and make its decision whether or not to allow [Aquabounty Technologies](#) (AT) to raise, farm and sell Atlan-



*It's alive! It's alive!*

tic salmon. Farming salmon is not new idea; it has been done successfully for years. AT salmon are,

*(Continued on page 11)*



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however, not your typical hatchery, farm-raised salmonid. They are a genetically engineered product. In fact, they will be the first GE animal produced for food in the history of the United States. AT is a biotechnology firm from Massachusetts started in 1991 and is interested in the huge potential profit from improving the production of aquatic species for sale. The commercial aquaculture industry is the fastest growing part of the world's food industry. At present, the aquaculture products are valued at \$86 billion.

### A Super Salmon or a Frankenfish?

Why genetically engineer a fish? According to AT some of the advantages are:

. Genetically engineered Atlantic salmon will grow twice as fast and reach maturity much faster than natural fish.

. They are as safe to eat as natural fish and biologically identical, containing the identical nutrients as Atlantic salmon.

. They will reduce the decline of natural fish due to over-fishing.

. The Frankenfish will all be female and sterile. They will not interbreed and hybridize native fish.

. Their production will relieve stress on our natural fisheries environment.

Some of their claim are however, open to serious question.

Those opposed to a genetically engineered Frankenfish are concerned because:

. Despite AT



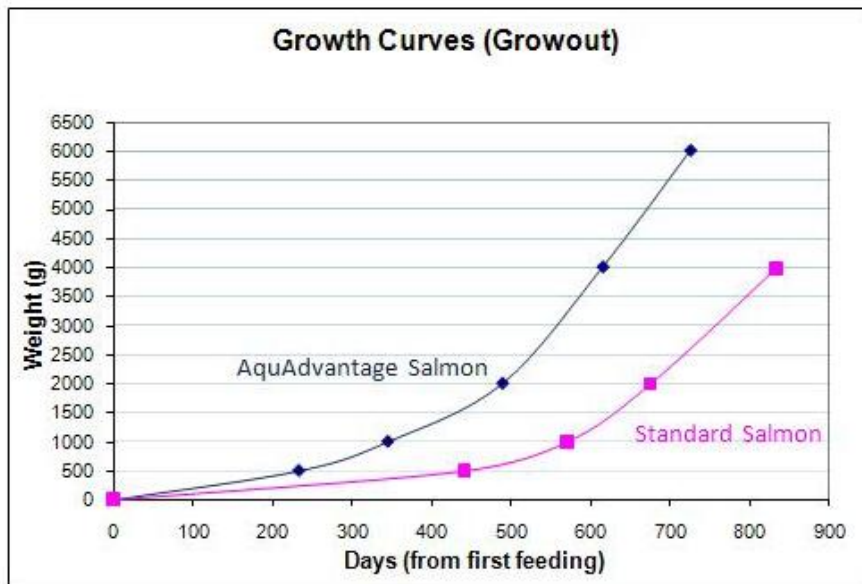
claims, not all eggs treated in their triploid process are sterile. If crossbreeding occurs it could be a disaster for the natural fish and the



A Frankenfish vs. a normal Atlantic Salmon.

environment

. There is a possible allergic effect on the human autoimmune sys-



tem. No research has been done on this issue.

. If these fish do escape, their effect of the natural food supply for native fish is a potential disaster.

### So let's make a Frankenfish.....

Salmonids are diploids. That is they have two chromosomes. A female salmonid has two chromosomes (2n) and a male one (1n). After the egg is fertilized initially, it has three chromosomes (3n). In the early stages for cell division, one chromosome is removed from the egg to leave a diploid egg, which produces the salmonid of which we are familiar. Frankenfish are triploids. They have three chromosomes. These fish are not clones. Clones are copies of the same species. In the Frankenfish, the DNA has been altered to produce desirable traits such as rapid growth and sterility. The gene for growth was taken from a Chinook salmon and another gene was taken from another fish, the ocean pout.

The pout's gene acts to inhibit the salmonids reproductive cycle. In a normal salmon, growth and reproduction both require metabolic energy. With the inclusion of the pouts gene, the metabolic energy is directed solely for growth.

To commercially produce triploid trout, the eggs, sperm, and water are placed in a pressure chamber. The pressure in the chamber is increased to 7,000 psi for 40 minutes, and

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

the water temperature is 49 degrees F. What you get from this process is a triploid trout, the so-called Frankenfish.

Soon the FDA will decide if the triploid is to be made available for food production. If this occurs, the Atlantic salmon will be the first GE



animal in America. In watching the process unfolding this will probably happen.

### The Frankenfish among us

In 2006 I received several e-mails from friends on the BOD of NCCFFF discussing the implications of a lawsuit against the Dept. of Fish and Game (DFG). [The Center for Biological Diversity](#) (CBD) and [Pacific Rivers Council](#) (PRC) brought an action against

DFG because they had not done the research required to see if their stocking fish program complied with California's Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Most of us in Delta Fly Fishers were angry with the suit because it would interfere with our fishing, especially our still water fishing since some of our local lakes would not be stocked. At first I did not understand the reason for this suit. In talking with Dan McDaniel, he correctly pointed out that Delta Fly Fishers needed to "take the high road" on this issue. When the facts became known and understood it was clear Dan that was right. The DFG's stocking program has been responsible for hybridized native trout to the point some no longer exist and

some species of amphibians are now threatened with extinction.

Because of the actions initiated by CBD and PRC, we are going to have a chance to see just how successful the triploid trout-

stocking program will be in the west. In during research for this article I spoke Jose Setka (chief biologist for East Bay Mud) and Eric Barrow from the Mokelumne River Fish Hatchery. They both told me that at this point no triploid trout have been planted in our

river systems, currently the planting is limited to lakes. Locally you can catch Frankenfish at both Lake Camanche and Lake Amador.



As of last March, in Washington state, 117 lakes have been stocked with 47,300 triploids weighing approximately 1.5 pounds each. In order to prevent further hybridization of their three native strains of cutthroat,

Idaho is stocking streams with self-sustaining cutthroat populations. However, the triploids are now being stocked in lake waters across the state.

In ten years of farming fish in British Columbia, it is estimated that a minimum of 400,000-farmed salmon have escaped. The actual number is probably closer to one

million. Given the fact that the commercial process of triploidy is less than an exact science and that non-sterile females are produced and can escape, their effect on our fisheries is still an unanswered question.



*The endangered California Red Legged Frog. Photo courtesy of the National Park Service.*

A man listening to his marine radio at Lake Camanche heard another angler say that he had just caught one of those "tri-tip" fish. It seems we have a lot to learn about triploid trout.

Ron Forbes  
Conservation Chair

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*The center of Northern California fly fishing* 4/13

Remember, if you haven't been fishing since Christmas, it's a new year. Don't forget to purchase your 2013 fishing license. You can now buy your license on line at the [Department of Fish and Wildlife website](#). Make sure you have last year's license ready since you'll need your GO number on the face of the license when filling out the form. And, if you fish "steelhead" waters, don't forget to purchase your steelhead report card.



(Continued from page 5)

### Changing of the guard at DFF annual dinner takes place to a full house



*Marty presenting the Don Payne Memorial President's Club Service Award to Bill and Jean Laughlin*

Bill and Marilyn Kiene were called to the podium as Guests of Honor in recognition of their over 30 years of service to the Northern California fly fishing community. When asked, Bill spoke about his



*Jerry Neuburger was presented with the Fly Fisher of the Year award*

years in the industry and talked about the early years of the Delta club and his remembrances of members present and past. It was the club's honor to recognize



*Grady Lee held court, exhibited the unique prize that goes with the Incomplet Angler's award*

both Bill and Marilyn with the Delta Fly Fishers first Lifetime Achievement Award honoring his years of service and dedication to the fly fishing clubs and fly fishing community of Northern California.

President Marty had some personal thanks for some of those that went the extra mile during the year including Earl Summers for his years of service as Outing Chair, Herman Spalinger for stepping in when the club needed some special help and direction, John Keagy for his years as Treasurer, Ron Forbes for his conservation efforts, Charlie Reames for his efforts in making the annual dinner a success and Bob Fujimura for his outstanding work as Membership Chair.

Leo Gutterres, the club's last active founding member from 1976, asked

Marty if he could make a special presentation of his famous poppers, mounted in shadow boxes, to three people he wished to recognize for their efforts in club affairs. Leo presented his special awards to Bill Laughlin, Al Smatsky and Jerry Neuburger for their continued support to the club.

The awards presentation over, Bill Laughlin started one of the club's largest raffles in awhile with a number of ladies' gift baskets prepared by his wife Jean. Bill then moved on to the general raffle with Grady Lee being the grand prizewinner of a brand new pontoon boat. The evening's formal activities ended with the silent auction winners claiming their prizes. A large number of guests stayed behind to help in the hall's clean up, clearing tables and stacking chairs, while others cleaned the kitchen and collected all the utensils, plates and glasses to be returned to their rental locations.

This year's event, the 37th annual dinner, according to founding member Leo Gutterres, accomplished all it was intended to do, celebrate the



*Bruce and Sally Rollans exhibit their supreme pleasure at receiving the club's most difficult to earn award, The Incomplet Angler Award, from Grady. Their names will be entered on the club's perpetual honor roll.*

activities of the last year and inspire the club's members and officers to work to make the coming year the best ever. If you did not attend you missed out, but you can plan to attend then next one, roughly same time, same place with a



*Marilyn and Bill Kiene, recipients of the Delta Fly Fishers first Lifetime Achievement Award*

slightly different cast but just as inspiring and as much fun.



*Grady Lee with the grand prize, a brand new pontoon boat*

*(Continued from page 1)*

### **President's Message by Marty Kjelson**

I again ask each of you to provide some fly fishing articles for our Newsletter. Some ideas are something you've recently learned on the water, at the tying bench or simply an outdoor adventure you've experienced. A short example: I recently managed to hook two good fish over 20" in length on a small prince nymph. I landed the first but had my hook bent straight on the second and lost him. Unfortunately I think the hook type was a fine dry fly hook, #16. Lesson learned: use the right hook for the species and size of fish you likely will catch. Also I didn't have a camera with me to document my experience (another goof up). Lesson learned: Take a camera with you always!

Regarding photos, I look forward to member Doug Ridgeway's talk at our

February meeting where he'll share ways we can improve our photography efforts. Doug has done some great work, some of which we enjoy in our home. Hope to see you all there to learn from Doug.

I enjoyed attending another fly tying session with Joe Balderston who guided us on tying the Bird Nest pattern. Joe shared not only how to tie the pattern but added his subtle tips that make the fly more successful. He says it's his go-to fly under many conditions, as it can represent mayflies, caddis and even stoneflies depending on conditions, color and size. There are a number of tried and true patterns that should be in our vest, including the Birds Nest. I'd like to have any of you share your favorite patterns in an article in our newsletter. We'd all benefit. I've found that I go back to those patterns I have confidence in and, while I try new patterns, it is evident I could get by very well with about four to six patterns or less

each time I'm on the water. How about you?

Finally, ones "first fish on a fly". I spoke with our new mentor chair, Gil Parker, who has been in the club for only two years, but is sold on our avocation of fly fishing. Well, Gil was at our Bridgeport outing in 2011 and was "guided" by mentors Bob and Jean Fujimura on Robinson Creek. They rigged him up with a proven #16 pheasant tail under an indicator, placed him in the ideal casting position on a nice hole and the rest is history. The 18" trout (or was it 8") nearly yanked the rod from Gil's hand to the delight of Gil and maybe more so, Bob and Jean. The gaff (no, the net) brought the beauty in prior to release. A memory each will not forget!

See you on the water.

Marty

## **A few more annual dinner photos!**



*The vegetarian lasagna was rated five star!*



*Bill Kiene wondering just what creature this was cut from?*



*Bill Laughlin, Al Smatsky, Leo Gutterres and Jerry Neuburger*



*Bill Laughlin's last raffle ticket!*