

August 2012

Delta Fly Fishers, Inc.

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Flyfishing

President's Message by Marty Kjelson, August, 2012

Greetings, Delta Fly Fishers. Bob Fujimura and I returned to the heat of Stockton after a cool week in Oregon and Washington fishing for smallmouth bass and trout. We enjoyed some great diverse country that included vast, high desert wheat fields, the Columbia River dams and fish ladders, small towns that make one wonder how people got there and how they are doing, abundant wildlife with deer, eagles and ospreys, bears, mink, rattlesnakes, numerous songbirds, interesting and nice people, good food with local flair, one star motels, and sore backsides from driving.

Yes, we did fish and had a nice time with Steve Cooper on the Grand Ronde River in southeastern Washington where we sought smallmouth bass. We were challenged a bit with unexpected rain storms that muddied the water on the day we arrived and when we left but Steve got us on the water as the stream cleared over two days.



We made good use of the time and call the float "the trip of a 1000 casts". We worked hard and found good numbers both days yet probably missed three-fourths of our strikes, partly due to the colored water or our excitement and inexperience. Steve told us that in clear water one sees the fish from 5 to 10 feet as they "come for dinner". Guide Steve captained his raft admirably with continual orders of mend, tip in the water, cast to the front, and strip set! The scenery was spectacular and we camped on a beautiful hillside with canyon walls and outcroppings surrounding us on three sides. We never saw another boat in two days and no other people as the area has only remote access to two ranches. As we ate dinner, we saw a pair of cedar waxwings building a nest, (uncommon as down here). We only see them down here as they migrate through in large flocks in the winter. We also explored some other waters in Oregon including the Deschutes. Enough details. I, with Bob's help, will share our trip photos and stories at our August member's meeting.

I hope each of you are getting out to wet a line with a friend and enjoying our many waters. Sierra streams are getting low but the high country lakes are always ready to produce early and late in the day. At this writing we have a Delta Challenge fly tying session with Joe Balderston. Give it a try. Bob and Steve Cooper are preparing a short program on the Challenge that will increase your chances of catching the six species and more. Early reports suggest that catching a salmon on a fly is a real possibility in the Mokelumne River delta above Highway 12.

We've had some informative articles in the Record lately on the Delta with its many water management issues. A thought-provoking interview with Bill Jennings was included in mid July, as well as several pieces by Record reporters. August 20th will see the showing of the Save the Delta's film of "Over Troubled Waters" at the Empire theater in Stockton. This might be a good film for the club to get for future use. We live in an interesting, challenging time. I encourage all of you to keep informed and get involved in some way to express your opinions and desires regarding our important estuary.

We've got some great outings planned for August (seabass at Santa Cruz) and September (trout at Bridgeport). So start getting ready and arrange for a buddy to share the enjoyment. A First Trout on a Fly story starring Bob Fujimura: Bob was in the process of working on the Heritage Trout Challenge and learned early that the fly rod was likely the more efficient tool to fish the small streams of Modoc County where several rare species exist. Well, Bob thought a yellow humpy would likely be a good fly to try and after multiple hookups in the brush (yes, we all do that) he hooked a nine-inch heavyweight that nearly took him into the backing. No gaff was needed nor the net, which was already landing in the brush behind him. Anyway, Bob carefully released the beauty and the rest is history. He had some slight withdrawals as he put up his spinning rod and salmon egg/bait cans of many years and stepped into the higher level of a fishing fellowship called fly fishing. His wife Jean is rapidly challenging him with the long rod, but they enjoy many hours on the water together.

A reminder: August is the time to renew your membership in the club. Try to get your dues in early to make it easier on our membership chair. I look forward to seeing each of you at our member meeting, August 8th at Oak Grove Park, 7pm. Until then "tight lines and good knots", Marty.

FUTURE EVENTS SCHEDULE

August 8 - General Membership Meeting

President's Meeting - OAK GROVE PARK
NATURE CENTER

August 15 - DFF Board Meeting

August 20 - Stockton Empire Theater -

Release of the new movie about the Delta
“Over Troubled Waters”

Narrated by Ed Bagley introduces the public to why
our Delta is so important to farmers and fisheries
without a “Chunnel”

August 22 - Fly of the Month Tying Session

Parachutes made easy - Instructor: Joe Balderston

August 25 - Monterey Bay Kelp Bass, Santa Cruz Pier

September 5 - Fly of the Month Tying Session

Bridgeport flies: To be determined. Instructor: Joe
Balderston

September 12 - General Membership Meeting

To be announced

September 19 - DFF Board Meeting – To be Determined

September 19 – 23 -Bridgeport Outing

October 7 - Steelhead Festival, University of the Pacific Support our Club's booth

October 10 - General Membership Meeting

Club potluck

October 17 - DFF Board Meeting

October 24 - Fly of the Month Tying Session

Feather River flies: Steelhead patterns - Instructor:
Al Smatsky

October 27 - Feather River Outing

November 3 – Striperfest - Sugar Barge, Bethel Island www.danblanton.com

November 14 - General Membership Meeting

November 17 - Striper outing, Paradise Point Marina

November 21 - DFF Board Meeting

December 12 - General Membership Meeting Members Program Night

EVENTS DETAILED

AUGUST 20 - STOCKTON EMPIRE THEATER

MONDAY - 7:00 PM

FEE: \$10 - Restore the Delta presents a just released movie “Over Troubled Waters” Narrated by Ed Bagley, Jr., produced by Media Creations that takes a look at the Sacramento and San Joaquin Delta water issues. Just released for public viewing, a short trailer can be viewed by Googling “over troubled waters” and clicking the third or fourth site down. It was released to coincide with Governor Brown’s announcement of Bay Delta Conservation Plan’s to forge ahead on plans to build a “conveyance” around the Delta to transport water south to Southern California farmers and cities. Guests include Jerry McNERNEY, congressman; San Joaquin County Supervisor Larry Ruhstaller; Mayor Ann Johnston and Councilmember Susan Eggman.

It is important that we inform ourselves of the issues whether we like it or not, and this is a great starting point. Ticket proceeds go to Restore the Delta organization. Please set aside time to attend the showing. The whole club should attend!

AUGUST 25 - SATURDAY

Fishing for Kelp Bass at Santa Cruz

Fishmeister: Jerry Neuburger

Location: Santa Cruz Pier

Directions: South on I-5 to I-205/580 then West on I-205/580 to I-680 then South on I-680 to Hwy 262 then West on Hwy 262 to I-880 then South on I-880 and continue south on tot Hwy 17 then left onto SR 1 at Santa Cruz. Continue on to Chestnut Street. Turn Left on Lincoln Street to Center Street then turn right on Center Street to pier area.



Distance: 107 miles. Estimated Driving time from Stockton 2 hours, 15 minutes. Start Time from Stockton approximately 5:00 a.m. unless you leave the day before.

Save gas, money, and the environment! Carpool! Arrange a ride with three other people. Except for the driver, the crew can sleep all the way down, and if someone else drives the morning driver can sleep all the way home.

PLEASE SIGN UP ON THE CLUB'S FACEBOOK EVENT PAGE IF YOU PLAN TO ATTEND: If you plan to go on this outing, PLEASE sign up using the Club's Facebook Event Page. Just click on the "join" tab at the right side of the outing.

It will make notifying you much easier since the fishmeister can use the Facebook facility to type messages including last minute instructions and a possible cancellation notice if high

winds or other problems exist to those that have indicated they are going.

If you have signed up, you will receive an e-mail on all notifications. In addition, you can use the comment section to ask questions about the outing that will stay under the outing heading. The Facebook Event signup is the only list the club maintains regarding those planning to attend an outing.

Boat Rental: Capitola and Santa Cruz Boat Rental - On the Pier at Santa Cruz (831-423-1739)



Our sturdy first-class ocean skiffs are equipped with 8hp outboard motors and are just about the best way to enjoy the beauty of Monterey bay – and maybe catch “the big one”! Your boat will be lowered to the water equipped with an outboard motor, fuel,

life vests, anchor, oars, gaff, a safety kit, and a ton of advice.

The price is only \$20 an hour or \$80 for the day! Boats can depart as early as 7:00am any day. Boats rented from each store must stay within rental boundaries. Boats must be back at the wharf by 3:00pm.

Call ahead and make a reservation. This is usually a good idea during holidays or whenever you want to be certain you’ll get a boat. It is suggested that you make your reservations at least two weeks in advance.

Skiff Rental University is accepting students! Get your diploma and save time getting on the water. Tuition is free!! Take this ON-LINE test and print your Diploma to save time. **IF YOU BRING YOUR DIPLOMA, YOU WILL NOT HAVE TO TAKE THE REQUIRED BOATING OPERATIONS COURSE ON THE PIER.**

Fish Species:

Kelp bass run from about a half pound to six to eight pounds with two pounders being an average fish. Olives and blues are the most prevalent but other species are present.

White sea bass can exceed 40 pounds and are excellent eating!

Equipment:

- 7 to 9 weight rods
- Reel with decent drag
- A selection of lines from express to floating
- #20 six foot straight leader
- A Buddy II if you have one
- Sun block
- Sun glasses
- Light jacket or coat

Flies:

Clousers, deceivers, other streamer patterns 2 to 1/0

Details: Although this outing is only a one-day event, it is a totally different experience for our DFF members and can be a whole lot of fun! **The day starts early with a 5:00 am or earlier departure time from Stockton unless you want to drive to Santa Cruz the day before and enjoy some of the sights.**

Once on the pier, bring your Skiff Rental University Diploma with you and secure the boat you reserved two weeks before. Load your stuff in, get the handout map of skiff boundaries and fire up that engine.

The outing date was selected because it features a neap tide and low water in the morning. The neap tide means that there will be very light currents throughout the bay allowing the fish to move away from the rocky structure they routinely cling to, and the low tide means that the fly fisher will be closer to the rocky pinnacles that these fish are drawn to. High tide is around 6:45 in the morning and low tide at about 11:00 am with less than one foot of water exchange. The next high tide is at 5:30 pm but is greater in volume. However, fishing should extend for at least two hours beyond low tide before the flow really starts moving. it’s like from a member’s prospective, talk to Grady Lee or Charlie Reames. They bagged some white sea bass on the last club outing.

Suggested Reading: Fly-Roding Monterey Bay Kelp Bass by Dan Blanton.

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Fishing the North Woods

by Bruce Rollans

The last week of June Sallye and I left Sacramento via Southwest Airlines for what would be our target destination; the North Woods of Wisconsin, aka Marty’s country, for what we anticipated to be an exceptional fishing trip for such things as very large smallmouth bass, northern pike and the ever elusive musky. We chose to go to Chicago then drive north through very green farmland until we got to a small town named Hayward, Wisconsin, where we planned to get essential food items, such as bourbon, before traveling the last 22 miles to Boulder Lodge, our destination.

We were sidetracked in Hayward, a small town of less than 10,000, by their annual Musky Festival, but we finally reached our destination about 3 hours and 22 miles



later. The woods are amazingly green and dense. The deer and elk populations are a danger to all highway traffic. At times I felt like I was back in grade school playing dodge ball with deer and turkey being the ball. The Wisconsin Natural Resource Agency is placing electronic transmitters on as many elk as possible and installing receivers along major highways. Once an elk gets within 100 yards of a receiver caution lights alongside the road begin flashing to warn of an elk nearby. One problem: Some elk get close enough to transmit then lay down and sleep for hours.

We were scheduled to fish five days and did so. The fishing for all six of us in the group was - TERRIBLE! After arrival we learned they had thunderstorms every day for the week prior to our arrival resulting in over eight inches of rainfall.

Sallye and I worked hard, as did some excellent guides named Brad and Brian, but the fishery was just not there due to high water. We wound up the week with but six fish to the boat; one musky, two smallmouth, two northern pike and one largemouth bass. The other four in our group had much the same experience. While the fishery was nowhere near cost effective, the scenery helped to assuage the pain.

We fished three different drainages; one west of the Continental Divide that drains into the Gulf of Mexico and two east of the divide that drain into Lake Superior. They were only 12 miles apart. These drainages start as rain runoff, become creeks, streams, rivers then lakes then rivers and lakes over and over. We saw a lot of wild rice which can only be harvested by the native Ojibwa method from a canoe using wooden sticks (do not ask me how this is done).

The flies used for musky are very large and colorful. The outfitter, Brad Bohlen, actually learned how to dye tying material from a beauty school instructor in order to get the colors he wanted. Now he is selling his dyed tying material as far away as Europe where there is a large musky population.

Per one of our guides, musky are definitely an elusive fish. I missed two strikes before landing one and then missed one more. When an old Ojibwa was asked the difference between a northern pike and a musky, he paused then explained, "Once in a while you can catch a northern pike."

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Back in the Saddle Again



Sallye and I fished the delta with Mike Costello July 13. A bad omen? Absolutely not. Our primary target was the

smallmouth bass in the North end of the Delta, Minor, Steamboat and Sutter Sloughs. We did well.

We began fishing for stripers in Hog Slough. We must have been rusty because we each missed the first two grabs. We did end up with two legal stripers each before moving North.

The smallmouth were especially helpful in Steamboat and Sutter Sloughs. We used a popper as an indicator with a dropper crayfish pattern in Steamboat and brought 16 smallmouth to the boat. In Sutter we used



only the popper and landed five more bass. In Minor Sallye landed a largemouth bass. As it turned out, Sallye landed four species on this day. She had Stripers, smallmouth bass, one spotted bass and one largemouth. This has reinvigorated her interest in the Delta Challenge. She has landed 5 species (if she can find her photo of a salmon in Frank's Track) and is in the hunt for number 6.

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You don't have to be a star baby to be in our show!

By Jerry Neuburger - July 21, 2012

We need you! More specifically we need your writings and photos. Especially now that the "travel" season is upon us and many of you are fishing in exotic places, we'd love to publish your article about your adventure along with any photos you might have. Your "article" doesn't have to be as talented as Dickens or as graphic and detailed as Melville. Just answer the old six W's of writing you learned in school, the who, what, why, when, where and how of your fishing adventure and send it to Herman for the newsletter and Jerry for the website.

Photos help tell the story so don't forget those shots of the water, the big fish, the lucky shot of your buddy falling in! Send some captions along with the photos to help explain what the reader is looking at.

Don't worry about spell check or context. Editors deal with that stuff all the time. You write it, we'll clean it up. If things really need a little work, we may bounce it back to you with a few questions.

Herman usually has a deadline of about the 25th for publication in the newsletter. You can submit articles to him at pontuber36@att.net. No deadline exists for the website since an article can be published the day it is submitted. Once published on the web, a lead-in to the article will remain

on the home page for at least a week, usually more, and the article will be indexed in the archives and searchable via the Google website search. Send the article and any photos to our webmaster, Jerry Neuburger at gneuburger@yahoo.com.

Don't be shy. We WANT to hear from you! Send in those fish stories and photos, humor, screw-ups, diamond days or stones. As the headline says, "You don't have to be a star baby to be in our show!"

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Membership



Summer greetings and wishes to our club members – August is the time for thoughts of fishing outside of our local area; perhaps in the high Sierras, summer run steelhead in the Pacific NW rivers, or even hopper fishing for Cuts in Montana. As we reflect on recent fishing trip past or future, August is also the month for early renewal of your annual membership dues. The 2012 membership year ends this month.

In 2012 our club has been fortunate in providing a number of new and diverse outings and trips; Jerry Neuburger and Herman Spalinger has done an awesome job of improving club communications through our enhanced website, new Facebook wall, and our monthly newsletter. Ron Forbes has increased our conservation efforts in his educational articles, activities, and donations. Your membership dues are the major source of funds that supports these worthy activities in 2013.

So renew your membership now and enjoy the next 13 months of club benefits. Remember that new members are the life-blood of any worthwhile institution; please consider inviting your friends or relatives to join as well. Renewals for existing members are simple: just mail your annual dues and any changes to your contact information to Bob Fujimura, PO Box 1562, Lodi, CA 95241. If you need any new or existing membership forms, you can download them from the Internet web site <http://www.deltaflyfishing.com/membership.html> or contact Bob Fujimura by e-mail (deltaflyfishers@gmail.com) or by phone at 339-0683.

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Eastern Sierra Focus By CJ Webb

Experts always lecture size, shape and color as essential keys to imitating the trout's food, but motion is also an important aspect to consider in your fly selection. In order to be more successful, chose your fly by size first, then shape and lastly by color. Often we do this in reverse, and if the fish does not recognize the shape as natural,



trout will turn their attention to something that does have the correct silhouette or shape.

Weather Conditions

Typical Eastern Sierra low-pressure system moved into the area dropping the temperatures slightly with several days of very windy conditions and starting mid-week it looks like a great summer at high elevation lakes is going to be the norm. All rivers are low, and there is virtually NO snow above 9800.

Strategic Vision

The Blue Ribbon Citizen Commission (BRCC) and Stakeholder Advisory Group (SAG) a 47 member committee, in accordance with AB2376 (Huffman, 2010) for the purpose of improving the ability of California Department of Fish and Game and the Fish and Game commission to "tackle" the challenges of the 21st century. The California Fish and Wildlife Strategic Vision (CFWSV) appointed the BRCC and SAG to assist in developing the Strategic Vision through working groups and joint meetings along with the DFG employees who were closely involved in the processes affected by policies. Meetings were held around the state and on-line resources were made available. Eight main topics from previous recommendations and audits along with a number of comments emerged from interviewers and survey respondents were discussed with barriers to organizational change with eleven items of concern related to protecting and managing Fish and Wildlife.

In addition, the literature generally found that the problems to implementation of previous changes at both agencies were listed as three external barriers; mandates and procedural conditions, shifts in demographic values and constituent interests and funding sources.

Five internal barriers were identified in the hierarchical structure, leadership, technical expertise, communication and collaborative processes. Any long-term change to both agencies will require legislative support along with recommendations to produce a working relationship with all involved.

"Examples of the recommendations in the CFWSV include to: ensure successful recruitment and retention of Fish and Game wardens, build capacity within DFG to address the complex role that science plays in resource management, establish an inter-agency coordination process to ensure consistency and efficiency in the review of multiple permits, remove barriers to small-scale restoration projects, increase penalties for wildlife crimes, create a permanent stakeholder advisory group to periodically advise DFG and F&GC, and require open and transparent accounting practices in order to improve public confidence in how funds are managed.

More info available at www.vision.ca.gov

Lawsuit – Nothing current on the horizon to date.

ROCK CREEK LAKE has been good, and fish are hitting black woolly buggers, olive Matukas and a number of dries. Mosquito Flats is slowing and the mosquitoes are not as bad as expected.

CROWLEY LAKE is down below mid-level and continuing to drop. Temps on the bottom are getting above the ideal 57°. Algae in McGee is done and water is clear again over most

of the lake except the Marina where it is swampy. Windy as usual so look for fatties in the 18-22" range in the McGee area as they are chasing all the dinks out. The big fish are chasing Tui chub fry up from the bottom and whacking them on the surface. Nymphs and streamers have been the main course so try Black Optimidge w/green flashback #16, copper tiger midge, blood worms, ultimate damsel, purple leech or bird's next up top. Tie streamers as top fly with a bird's nest as the bottom fly, and watch the action.

UPPER OWENS water conditions are around 64cfs with temps in the 80-90's and wet wading is comfortable. Mud snails are around so clean all your gear with care and help prevent the spread. Trico hatch early with some caddis, PMD's and midges. Try Stimulators, Adams, Elk hair Caddis, Missing Link and Griffith's Gnats in 16-18's. Nymphs working are western coachmen #12-14, red copper John #14, Tungsten Zebra midge #18-20, copper Zebra Midge #20-22, reddish/brown San Juan worm and Prince #14-18

CONVICT LAKE has been producing nice Alpers on large woolly buggers in black and dark brown #6 or 8. Also the Marvel is truly a wonder fly for this lake, be sure and ask at the store the color of the day. The Marvel is a flash-body woolly bugger with a small prop at the head with a slender body. Some standard midges for top water near the southwest bank where the bugs show off their best.

MAMMOTH LAKES BASIN water conditions are clear and starting to warm up. Watch for fish cruising the warmer shallow water. Patterns working are Griffith's Gnat #20-22, parachute Adams #20, Brook's sprout midge \$20-22, and flying ants sizes 16 to 18. Nymphs: black zebra midge \$20-22, Olive Bird's nest #18, and Callibeatis nymphs. Streamers: The infamous Doc Randol's Twin Lakes Special in black or olive size 10-12, Rickard's seal bugger, olive Matuka, and Pop's bugger in Olive. Trail your streamers with a nymph (bird's nest, hare's ear or pheasant tail).

HOT CREEK – Water is clear and fairly low (64cfs) compared to the same time last year and weeds are growing. Mostly dries and hoppers have arrived so fish the far bank and whack it on the water so it makes noise. Constant afternoon breezes so be ready to change up when conditions change. New Zealand Mud Snails are still around so it's imperative that fly fishers help prevent the spread by NOT WADING in Hot Creek.

SAN JOAQUIN – Water is great with flows around 42cfs and much lower than normal due to lack of snowpack. Reports state the Stock truck has not hit the area but there are a lot of wild fish and holdovers. Flies working are Royal Wulff #14-18, Stimulator's #14-16, Yellow humpy #16-18, Chernobyl Ant #12, parachute Adams #16, and Elk hair caddis #16-18. Nymphs are all sizes 16-18, copper John (red and green), BH micro mayfly, prince and bird's next. Streamers, black Twin lakes special #10, and #10 Crystal bugger

Get in early so you can drive your car and not take the shuttle. JUNE LOOP – has been doing great on black, and olive woolies, grey ghosts, and spruce flies. Silver Lake has also been stocking extra Alpers due to the bad publicity. Also try

some stones, mayflies and caddis near Rush Creek for best results when water is high. Never forget the bridge on the access road to Mono Lake.

LUNDY LAKE beaver ponds have been great with small dries early and late with a slight breeze on the water. Flies doing well are olive crystal flash buggers, olive leeches, grey ghosts, and my Carey bugger (peacock body version).

VIRGINIA LAKES has been a hot ticket for tubers and waders using olive Twin Lake special. Midges are working very well. The bugs have arrived early in droves from gnats to mosquitoes but have died. Use sparse Griffith Gnats, small mosquitoes and Adams females all #18-20. Some emergers have worked over the past week, but this will increase with the temps as have the flying ants and blue damselfs.

EAST WALKER – Current flow is 132fs (cubic foot per second) and the mosquitoes are down. Hopper-dropper is the best method now and fish below the 1st mile (crowded). Nymph under an indicator would be the best choice but also try emerging Caddis early and late. The first mile is getting pounded like Chicken Kiev.

WEST WALKER – Water is at 53cfs, so look for pools and use a two-fly rig with large attractor/indicator and tiger, crystal or flashback Zug as the bottom fly. This is standard for most of the summer until the terrestrials hit the air.

See you on the water! CJ (12.7)

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Conservation by Ron Forbes

Never doubt that a small group of dedicated people can change the world; indeed, it is the only thing that has.

--- Margret Mead from the Foothill Conservancy website

The gauntlet has been thrown

Wednesday, the 25th of this month, Gov. Jerry Brown and Ken Salazar, the Secretary of the Interior, made their anticipated announcement of their plans to proceed with the building of a peripheral canal. Although the announcement was expected, its time and location had been kept



secret. Late Tuesday evening we found out that location of the press conference was to be held in the state's Resource Building. Although the Resource Building has an auditorium that will hold about 250 people, the announcement was held on the 11th floor in a room just large enough to hold Brown, Salazar, their staffs, and selected members of the press. As with previous major announcements of this proposed project only the select few were in attendance.



Restore the Delta planned a protest to the announcement on the same day Brown planned to go public. On Wednesday the 25th, approximately 300 people gathered on the west steps of the Capitol Building to let Brown and Salazar know they face major opposition on all fronts. The opposition was made up of many factions including Delta farmers, business from the Delta and

surrounding communities, cities that will be economically effected, commercial and sport fishers, recreational users, and state and federal legislature members. An impressive group of speakers voiced strong opposition to a peripheral canal including US Rep. John Garamendi, California Senator Lois Wolk, Assembly member Bill Berryhill, Mayor Ann Johnson of Stockton, Jim Metropulos of the Sierra Club, Jonas Minton of the Planning and Conservation League, Zeke Grader of the Pacific Coast of Fisherman's Associations, Kristin Lynck from the Food and Water Watch, Nick di Croce from the Environmental Water Caucus, Conner Evert from the Southern California Watershed Alliance, John Herrick representing the South Delta Water Agency, and Bill Jennings from the California Sport Fishing Protection Alliance. Delta Fly Fishers were represented at the rally by Charlie Reames, Bruce and Sallye Rollans, and myself. The speakers described some of the major economic, environmental, fisheries, and legal issues Brown and Salazar have chosen to ignore. They ignored these issues on Wednesday also, but their problems will not magically go away.

Some, but certainly not all, of the major problems they face in building this canal are:

- After spending over a \$1/4 billion on the failed Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), they are still in violation of both the state and federal Environmental Protection Acts. They are no closer to compliance now than when they started the BDCP.
- The state has been trying to gain entry to many of the Delta farms since 2008 and have yet to do so. Many farmers successfully have kept the state off their land.
- The BDCP presently violates the state and federal Clean Water Acts.
- The plan violates California's historic Water Rights laws.
- The plan violates the State's Public Trust Doctrine
- The plan is also in violation of the Delta Reform Act itself.

These are only the tip of the iceberg of problems Gov. Brown and Interior Secretary Salazar face in trying to build a canal. Yesterday's announcement was just the start of a very long process that will take years to settle.

The largest dam-removal project in America's history

In the state of Washington the removal of two dams, the

Elwha and the Glines Canyon Dams on the Elwha River are nearing completion. The Elwha dam is gone and the removal of the Glines Canyon Dam is nearing completion. They were built 100 years ago and produced hydroelectric power for a mill in Port Angeles that is no longer in existence. Their maximum output was only 19 megawatts of power. The cost of the removal project is \$325 million. The Elwha dam was finished in 1913 and was 33 meters high; the Glines Dam was 64 meters high. The dams blocked access to Elwha River five miles from its mouth and destroyed what is thought to be one of the finest runs of fish in the state.



Journals of early explorers talk about the abundance of salmon in the summer and fall. Pvt. Harry Fisher made a comment that it was almost impossible to sleep near the river

at night because of the noise of the "great salmon threshing the water all night long in their efforts to ascend the stream. Wild animals which I could not see snapped the bushes in all directions, traveling up and down in search of fish. At every few yards was to be seen the remains of fish where cougar, coons, otter, or eagle had made a meal." The dam destroyed the fish runs and over 70 miles of prime spawning habitat in the Olympic National Forest was lost. This is always true when dams are built without regard for the consequences. Before the dam the Elwha Dam hosted large populations of all five species of Pacific Northwest salmon, steelhead, native char, costal cutthroat trout, and bull trout. Beside a major fish loss, the dams promoted serious erosion to the river's mouth and hurt natural flow cycles.

Just removing the dams is not the final solution to the problem. The dams have created over 24 million yards of sediment 40 feet deep on the lakes' bottoms that must be dealt with. Biologists have had major concerns that the silt will make the river uninhabitable for years by clogging the fish's gills and killing them. Divers were sent to investigate the flows and found to their surprise that there is fish passages and the sediment is not being deposited at the mouth of the river but drifting above the ocean floor as fine silt carried out to sea and dispersed by the very strong ocean currents. The erosion problems also seem to be correcting themselves.

To the biologist's delight, a 35 inch unmarked male steelhead was found in a tributary of the Elwha River upstream from the location of the former dam. However, there is ongoing litigation about the use of hatchery fish versus natural fish in the re-establishment of the run. Some biologists want the hatchery fish to help re-establish the fishery and other biologists want the fishery to re-establish itself naturally. Biologists from NOAA have relocated 600 adult coho salmon between the two former dams and about half have spawned at that location. Biologists have also taken 45 steelhead to a primary tributary of the Elwha and now see 36 redds in that tributary. The reaches of the Elwha are now showing

emerging salmon and steelhead fry and, as of the middle of June, spawning steelhead have moved upstream for the first time in 100 years. A great sign!

To re-establish the flora the former lake bottoms are being restored with native plants only. Some areas are naturally reseeding and this fall 30,000 native plants will be planted on the lake bottoms. A strong effort is being made to use native plant genetic materials only and keeping out non-native species. It is felt many of the plant species will come back on their own in several decades but it may take 200 years before the soil can fully re-establish itself.



Getting ready for the Saturday July Mokelumne River drift.



The Elwha River will never be what it was 100 years ago. George Press, a NOAA fisheries biologist on the project, has made the comment that "Ecology happens; natural systems know how to function, and they do if you just get out of the way."

Ron Forbes



Someone always has to show off their fish.



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Joe Balderston helping a young fisher to be identify a bug.

DFV VISUAL ODDS & ENDS TO DATE



July 25th Restore the Delta rallye at the west steps of the state capitol.



Larry Schmidt listening to a young fisher to be tell him what bug she's looking at.

An Old Saying

Ever hear the old saying "wind in the east, fish bite least"? Like many proverbs, this one is generally not true. But it's not necessarily the wind that affects the fish bite, it's the weather that accompanies the wind, such as barometric pressure and storm conditions.

Mentor Program

Are you interested in joining our club and getting individualized help in learning fly fishing?

All new members are eligible to enroll into the Mentor Program; this program will assist them get acquainted with the other club members, the club's activities, and have knowledgeable members share their fly fishing skills by:

- New members will complete interest and skills survey application (link below)
- Based on this information, a mentor will be assigned to each new member
- The mentor will work with the new member to gather the skills that they requested by fishing local waters, accompanying them on club outings, help with gear purchases, teaching basis casting or fly tying skills, or sharing expertise or destination knowledge.
- The mentor will also help introduce each new member to the club officers and membership

For more information, please contact Steve Cooper, Mentor Program Chair, 956-1032, or e-mail: repooc3@sbcglobal.net
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Take the Delta Fly Fishing Challenge

The Delta Fly Fishing Challenge is DFF's program to promote fly fishing in the Delta and to foster appreciation of its fisheries and natural resources. Successful applicants must catch, photograph, and release 6 different sport fish (from a list of 15 species) from the Delta using fly fishing gear. The applicant will need to properly identify to species, complete the application form, submit verifying photographs of these fishes, and enclose a check for \$5.00 to cover printing and postage costs. Awardees will receive a personalized 11" x 14" color certificate suitable for framing.

The Delta Fly Fishing Challenge is a great way to learn the fastest growing segment of local fly fishing. Experienced fly fishers can demonstrate to others that they have caught the wide variety of sport fish that the Delta offers. For more information, go to our web site at www.deltaflyfishers.com/deltachallenge.html or contact Bob Fujimura by email at deltaflyfishers@gmail.com.

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John Highsmith 209-369-3251

Secretary

Sallye Rollans 209-274-0448

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John Keagy 209-369-5690

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Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

Jerry Neuburger 209-369-5752

Mike Riley 209-483-9534

Bruce Rollans 209-274-0448

Jason Stapleton 209-334-9201

Larry Schmidt 209-482-8742

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

COMMITTEES

Education

Joe Balderston 209-649-0291

Newsletter

Herman Spalinger 209-477-3412

Conservation/NCCFFF Member

Ron Forbes 209-368-5767

Historian/Property

John Highsmith 209-369-3251

Membership

Bob Fujimura 209-339-0683

Outings

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

Larry Schmidt 209-482-8742

Programs

Al Smatsky 209-368-9261

Bob Sousa 209-368-2683

Publicity

VACANT

Raffles

Bill Laughlin 209-477-6644

Catfish Derby (June)

Earl Summers 209-957-6756

Trout Bout (November)

Charlie Reames 209-369-6053

Bob McMillan Trout Bout

(February)

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

Fishing Mentor Program

Steve Cooper 209-956-1032

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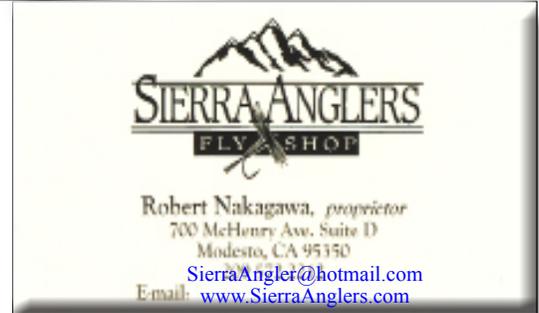
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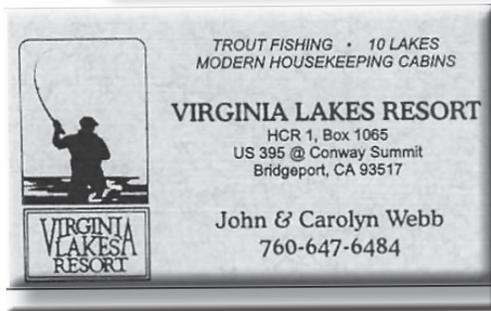
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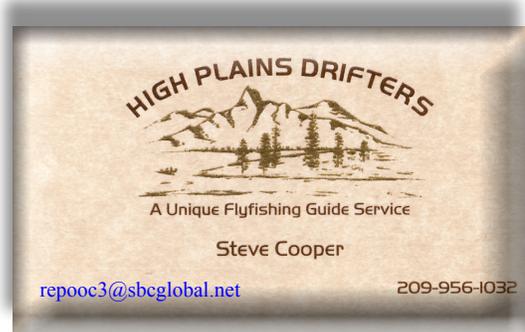
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